FMG PUBLICATIONS

You Can WIN!

KAHR PM9 9MM

& CRIMSON TRACE LASER!

$4.95
OUTSIDE U.S. $7.95
FEBRUARY 2011

GUNS MAGAZINE

GUNS MAGAZINE

THE MODERN SPORTING RIFLE

Remington R-15/30 .30 REM AR

BURRIS 4X-12X LASERSCOPE

CALCULATES RANGE & HOLDOVER! Pg 22

BIG-BORE DEFENSE

STOEGER COUGAR .45 ACP

SURPLUS BONUS!

WWII SNIPER RIFLE SHOOTOUT
HOW GOOD WERE THEY?

SLAY IT WITH IRON

SIGHTS, THAT IS

SHOTGUN SPECIAL

- REMINGTON VERSA MAX 12 GAUGE, 3-1/2" Pg 26
- FIOCCHI 12 GAUGE CHEMITRACER AMMO Pg 28

TSR
TOTAL SIGNATURE REDUCTION

Muzzle blast impairs or destroys hearing and mission-critical communications. Flash and dust signature can give away your position, drawing enemy fire. With a SureFire suppressor all these factors are minimized—significantly—to increase operator lethality. And at only 4 inches—adding just 1.75 inches to your weapon—and 12 ounces, the new SureFire MICRO won't bog down your weapon. It also offers negligible shift in point of impact from unsuppressed zero, attaches/detaches in seconds, and with its high-temp alloys and redundant welds, it will typically outlast the barrel it's attached to.

SUREFIRE®

See the video at: www.surefire.com/ReinventingtheSuppressor

THE MOST ADVANCED GUN CARE SYSTEMS IN THE WORLD!

OTIS®

OTIS TECHNOLOGY

THE Mongoose

Dual Technology Brush

Just like a mongoose with fangs up front and fur in the back, the Otis Mongoose™ brush/swab features the speedy best of both worlds! With both copper bristles and a cotton composite cleaning swab, a single pass through your barrel can provide a quick speed clean in less than 5 seconds!

If during a hunt you get some snow/water/dirt or debris in your barrel, a quick pass with the Mongoose™ will have you shooting again in no time. The SupraTine™ bristles mechanically dislodge any hardened fouling and the swab sweeps it all clean. A drop of Otis 085™ Ultra Bore™ Cleaner and you have the benefit of a chemical cleaning and rust protection. Its a great end-of-day quick cleaner to handle condensation that may have built up during the day, or before the hunt when your gun goes from your warm trunk to the chilly morning air.

The cotton swab is specially woven to hold shape and wont dissolve under harsh chemical solvents, leaving dissolved brush residue in the bore. Otis' SupraTine™ bristle construction has three times the number of bristles of typical brushes, making each pass through the bore equal to three passes with a conventional brush. Custom short-brush design allows access for limited breech firearms and automatics. Tufcor™ Proprietary Binding wire holds the bristles and swab securely and can't break off in the bore, rendering the weapon unshootable, as often happens with lesser designs.

The Mongoose™ is available in .17, .25, .30, and .38 calibers and is sold in packs of 5. Integrates seamlessly with all Otis kits for Breech-to-Muzzle™ cleaning. Think of it as a high speed "Dual Action Cleanse" for your gun barrel! 100% Made in America.

Call Today for a free Catalog!

OTIS 25th Anniversary

Otis Technology 6987 Laura St. Lyons Falls, NY 13368 (800) OTIS-GUN WWW.OTISTEC.COM

© Pyramont GMC 2010

GUNS MAGAZINE

FEBRUARY 2011

Vol. 57, Number 2, 663rd Issue

You Can Win This Kahr PM9 & Accessories Worth $1,653.90 *Pg 76*

COLUMNS

6 CROSSFIRE
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

8 RIFLEMAN
DAVE ANDERSON

10 HANDLOADING
JOHN BARSNESS

14 RANGING SHOTS™
CLINT SMITH

16 GUNSMITHING
HAMILTON S. BOWEN

18 HANDGUNS
MASSAD AYOOB

20 MONTANA MUSINGS
MIKE "DUKE" VENTURINO

22 OPTICS
JACOB GOTTFREDSON

26 SHOTGUNNER
HOLT BODINSON

58 KNIVES
PAT COVERT

60 VIEWS, NEWS & REVIEWS
RIGHTS WATCH: DAVID CODREA

78 ODD ANGRY SHOT
JOHN CONNOR

82 CAMPFIRE TALES
JOHN TAFFIN

8

22

18

DEPARTMENTS

30 OUT OF THE BOX™
BIANCHI LEATHER

32 SURPLUS LOCKER™
HOLT BODINSON

35 QUESTIONS & ANSWERS
JEFF JOHN

71 QUARTERMASTER
FEATURING GUNS ALLSTARS!
THIS MONTH:
- **MIKE CUMPSTON**
- **JOHN TAFFIN**

73 GUNS CLASSIFIEDS
73 CUSTOM CORNER
74 NEW PRODUCTS
76 GUN OF THE MONTH
80 ADVERTISER INDEX

GUNS Magazine (ISSN 1044-6257) is published monthly by Publishers' Development Corporation, 12345 World Trade Drive, San Diego, CA 92128. Periodicals Postage Paid at San Diego, CA and at additional mailing offices. SUBSCRIPTIONS: One year (12) issues $24.95. Single monthly copies, $4.95. CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Eight weeks notice required on all changes. Send old address as well as new. SUBSCRIPTION PROBLEMS: For immediate action write GUNS Magazine, Attention: Circulation Dept., 12345 World Trade Drive, San Diego, CA 92128 or call (858) 605-0250. CONTRIBUTORS submitting manuscripts, photographs or drawings do so at their own risk. Material cannot be returned unless accompanied by sufficient postage. PAYMENT will be made at rates current at time of publication and will cover reproduction in any or all GUNS Magazine editions. ADVERTISING RATES furnished on request.

Reproduction or use of any portion of this magazine in any manner, without written permission is prohibited. All rights reserved. Title to this publication passes to subscriber only on delivery to his address. The opinions and recommendations expressed by individual authors within this magazine are not necessarily those of Publishers' Development Corporation. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to GUNS Magazine®, ATTN: Circulation Dept., 12345 World Trade Drive, San Diego, CA 92128. Copyright © 2010 by Publishers' Development Corporation.

40

ON THE COVER

REMINGTON'S R-15/30 & .30 REM AR CARTRIDGE

46

36

FEATURES

36 **STOEGER COUGAR .45 ACP**
A reliable, affordable big-bore defensive pistol.
MIKE CUMPSTON

40 **A TRULY MODERN SPORTING RIFLE**
Remington's R-15/30 and .30 Rem AR cartridge delivers.
HOLT BODINSON

46 **SLAY IT WITH IRON**
Iron sights for hunting rifles.
JOHN BARSNESS

52 **MYTH MEETS FACT**
World War II sniper rifles—how good were they?
MIKE "DUKE" VENTURINO & DAVE EMARY

NEW ONLINE EXTRAS ONLY AT WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM

SEE WHAT YOU'RE MISSING IN THE 2011 GUNS ANNUAL!

L'il Leverguns
Today's Trappers
John Taffin

Go to: www.gunsmagazine.com/productindex.html for complete product info and manufacturer's links for products featured in FMG magazines!

WARNING: Firearms are dangerous and if used improperly may cause serious injury or death. Due to the inherent variables in the reloading of ammunition, be sure to verify any published loads with manufacturer's data. Products mentioned or advertised may not be legal in all states or jurisdictions. Obey all firearms laws. Always consult a professional gunsmith when modifying any firearm. Be a safe shooter!

CROSSFIRE
LETTERS TO GUNS

GUNS Magazine® welcomes letters to the editor. We reserve the right to edit all published letters for clarity and length. Due to the volume of mail, we are unable to individually answer your letters or e-mail. In sending a letter to *GUNS Magazine*, you agree to provide Publisher's Development Corp. such copyright as is required for publishing and redistributing the contents of your letter in any format. Send your letters to *Crossfire, GUNS Magazine*, 12345 World Trade Dr., San Diego, CA 92128; www.gunsmagazine.com; e-mail: ed@gunsmagazine.com

John Taffin

I grew up reading my Dad's *GUNS Magazines* and later we also subscribed to *American Handgunner* when it first came out. I still read and enjoy both of these magazines, although it's hard to believe it's the 35th anniversary of the *Handgunner!* I enjoy reading the work in both magazines by John Taffin. I read *GUNS* "backwards" and start with "Campfire Tales."

I wish John the best! Glad to read all is going better for him! Take Care John!

Mike Gawrysiak
Geneseo, Illinois

Get Out Of The Way

I read with great interest John Taffin's "Campfire Tails" in November's issue concerning Col. Flagg and I thank him for his tribute to this outstanding gentleman. However, as a Viet Nam veteran, his last paragraph really caught my attention because he focused attention on the fact that, like the Korean, Iraq and Afghanistan vets, we were not allowed to win. If our government is going to put our personnel in harms way, they should get out of the way and let them win and come home with minimal casualties.

Thank you bringing attention to this issue. Let's pray we have no more wars, but if we do, lets win and come home.

Brian McNally
Sherman, Maine

Safety

Just finished reading Mas' "Reflections On Safety" and hopefully, my experience may save someone else from an accidental or negligent discharge.

While at the range, the slide on my 1911 started sticking to the rear for a split second before chambering a round. Well, I'd put several thousand rounds through this pistol so I figured it was time to change the recoil spring. With that done, the same thing is still happening—the slide is sticking to the rear for just a split second before moving forward. So I figured I'd try to see what is making the slide stick. With my finger *off* the trigger, along the frame, I move the slide to the rear (luckily by the rear cocking serrations), full magazine, and release the slide. *BOOM!* My 1911 discharged! Real quick, magazine out, clear the chamber, boxed up & sent back to the manufacturer!

Luckily, I was at the range and the pistol was pointed downrange. However, many a time I have chambered a round in my basement or bedroom—Scary! My next firearms related purchase is a "Safe Direction" pad to load and unload my firearms when not at the range! Lesson re-learned: "Never cover anything with the muzzle you are not willing to destroy."

Kevin Hoag
New Jersey

If you can't find one locally, contact Safe Direction, LLC, 900 S. Kay Ave., P.O. Box 1249, Addison, IL 60101, (630) 628-3178, www.gunsmagazine.com/safedirection.html.—Editor

Jack O'Connor

I enjoyed the story about Jack O'Connor's rifles in the December issue. I've been a Jack O'Connor fan since the middle '50s. Most of my beliefs about rifles, and rifle shooting were strongly influenced by O'Connor, and P.O. Ackley. Both took a common sense approach to the subject. Turpin mentions O'Connor also loved the 7x57 cartridge. As described in many stories, Jack's wife, Eleanor, used a 7x57 rifle on a Mauser action for much of her hunting. In one article about an African safari, he stated the trackers and gunbearers nicknamed her with a term that translated as "one shot woman" to describe her performance with the 7x57. Thanks for bringing back many pleasant memories of O'Connor's writings.

Don Wittenberg
Phoenix, Arizona

Check out www.gunsmagazine.com for our digital edition, news, our exclusive Product Index, Web Blasts, on-line features, to enter the Giveaway Package and more! And if you have any news about hot new products you've found, or anything you think we need to know about, drop me a line at editor@gunsmagazine.com!

GUNS MAGAZINE
THE FINEST IN THE FIREARMS FIELD SINCE 1955

BOARD OF DIRECTORS Thomas von Rosen, CEO; Thomas Hollander, Randy Moldé, Marjorie Young

PUBLISHER Roy Huntington
Editor Jeff John
Managing Editorial Assistant Stephanie Jarrell
Editorial Assistant Mckenzie Whitmer
Art Director/Staff Photographer Joseph R. Novelozo
Advertising Sales Director Anita Carson
Advertising Sales Assistant Dana Hatfield
Production Manager Linda Peterson
Website Manager Lorinda Massey
Promotions Coordinator Elizabeth O'Neill

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS
John Taffin, Holt Bodinson, Dave Anderson, Clint Smith, Massad Ayoob, Mike "Duke" Venturino

FIELD EDITORS
Sam Fadala, David Codrea, John Morrison, Glen Zediker, John Sheehan, Jacob Gottfredson, Mike Cumpston, John Barsness, Dave Douglas

FMG PUBLICATIONS

SHOOTING INDUSTRY — shootingindustry.com
Publisher & Editor: Russ Thurman
Advertising: Delano Amaguin, 888.732.6461
email: delano@shootingindustry.com

AMERICAN COP — americancopmagazine.com
Editor: Suzi Huntington
Advertising: Denny Fallon, 800.426.4470
email: denny@americancopmagazine.com

HANDGUNNER — americanhandgunner.com
Publisher & Editor: Roy Huntington
Advertising: Steve Evatt, 800.533.7988
email: steve@americanhandgunner.com

GUNS — gunsmagazine.com
Editor: Jeff John
Advertising: Andrew Oram, 866.903.1199
email: andrew@gunsmagazine.com

FMG Special Editions — fmgpublications.com
Editor: Sammy Reese
Advertising: Scott McGregor, 800.553.7780
email: scott@gunsmagazine.com

ONLINE ADVERTISING MANAGER: Tracy Moore, TEL: 888.651.7566, FAX 858.605.0205 tracy@fmgpublications.com
NATIONAL ADVERTISING: 12345 World Trade Dr., San Diego, CA 92128, TEL: 866.972.4545, FAX 858.605.0211, anita@shootingindustry.com
CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING: Lori Robbins, TEL: 800.633.8001, FAX 858.605.0247, classads@fmgpublications.com
FMG EAST COAST SALES: Sig Buchmayr, Buchmayr & Associates, 28 Great Hill Rd., Darien CT 06820, TEL: 203.662.9740, sigbuch@optonline.net

CUSTOMER SERVICE
www.gunsmagazine.com

SUBSCRIPTION SERVICES **858.605.0252**
Express Service . . . . www.gunsmagazine.com and click "contacts"
EDITORIAL **858.605.0243**
Email: . . . . . ed@gunsmagazine.com
PRODUCTION **858.605.0216**
Email: . . . . . production@gunsmagazine.com
BOOKS/MERCHANDISE **888.732.2299**
Email: . . . . . rachelle@fmgpublications.com
General Counsel/Legal Affairs: Steele N. Gillaspey
Email: . . . . . .sng@g-glaw.com

PRODUCED IN THE U.S.A.

2GUNSIN1

13 ROUNDS CONCEALED CARRY

19 ROUNDS HOME DEFENSE

THE NEW XD(M) COMPACT

13 + 1 ROUND FLUSH FITTING MAGAZINE

19 + 1 ROUND MEGAZINE™ WITH XD(M) GEAR® MAG X-TENSION™
(USPAT.7191556)

1.800.680.6866 | WWW.THE-M-FACTOR.COM

YOUTH RIFLES

It's a matter of fit and there are plenty of options.

When I started hunting and shooting half a century ago there were no special "youth" firearms, at least not where I lived. We were expected to get along with adult-sized rifles and shotguns and be grateful for the opportunity. We were, too.

The rifles we kids wanted were the light, compact Marlin 336 and Winchester 94. We couldn't afford either one but my dad borrowed a 94 from a neighbor. At age 12 I could handle it, though the stock was a bit long for me. It also had a lot of drop at heel which made even the mild .30-30 cartridge kick fairly hard. At least that's how I remember it. The snow was deeper then, too.

Currently there are a number of bolt-action rifles made specifically for young shooters (or for that matter small-statured adults). Nothing builds enthusiasm like success. Everyone shoots better with a rifle which fits them.

My favorite cartridges for youth rifles are based on the .308 case: .243 Win, .260 Rem, 7mm-08 Rem and .308 Win. I have a soft spot for the 7mm-08, but for deer and antelope hunting I'd be happy with any of them. Actually if someone would build a light .250 Savage on an appropriately sized action they'd have a perfect deer rifle for youngsters. Or women. Or big strong men, for that matter.

I don't use centerfire .22s for deer hunting, for the very good reason they are not allowed where I usually hunt. Others who use them tell me they have excellent success with .223s, .22-250s and .220 Swifts, generally using Nosler Partition or Barnes bullets.

Carly Alm was still a preschooler when the Winchester 94 celebrated its 100th birthday. It worked then and it still works today. Given reasonable care it could still be collecting deer for some young hunter a century from now.

Browning Micro Hunter

Not promoted as a youth model since the stock length of pull is 13-1/2", I include it because it is light, compact, well made and accurate. Having the stock shortened an inch or so should not be a traumatic or expensive operation.

Back in the early '90s my 5'4" wife wanted a new rifle. At the SHOT Show one year we looked over a bunch of compact models. She selected the (now discontinued) Micro Medallion A-Bolt in 7mm-08. With 120-grain bullets loaded to 2,700 fps, it has little recoil and more than adequate power and trajectory over 200 yards or so. Works so nice I borrow it once in a while.

CZ 527

This neat little mini-Mauser action rifle weighs under 6 pounds and is just over 37" long. Like the Browning, above it has a 13-1/2" length of pull and for most young shooters will need the stock shortened. It's available in .223 and in 7.62x39, a cartridge on the order of the .30-30.

Mossberg 100 ATR

Mossberg offers this in a youth model. Stock length of pull can be user-adjusted to either 12" or 13". With walnut stock it weighs 6-1/2 pounds, has a 20" barrel and is offered in .243 or .308 Win.

Remington 700

The flagship 700 is currently offered for young shooters as the

MAKE	MODEL	BARREL LENGTH	LOP*	OVERALL LENGTH	WEIGHT	CALIBERS	RETAIL
BROWNING	MICRO HUNTER	20	13-1/2	39-1/2	6.25	.243, .308	$739
CZ	527	18-1/2	13-1/2	37.4	5.9	.223, 7.62x39	$727
MOSSBERG	100 ATR	20	12-13	38-3/4	7	.243, .308	$424
Remington	700	20	12-1/2	39-5/8	7	.243	$754
Remington	770	20	12-3/8	39-1/2	8-1/4	.243	$452
Ruger	77 Compact	16-1/2	12-1/2	35-1/2	6	.223, .243, 6.8SPC, 7mm-08, 7.62x39, .308	$827
Savage	Edge 20	12-1/2	40	6.2	.243	7mm-08	$349
Savage	11FYXP3	22	12-1/2	41-1/2	6.5	.243, .308	$659
Weatherby	Vanguard Youth	20	12-1/2 - 13-5/8	38	6-1/2	.223, .22-250 .243, 7mm-08, .308	$529

Notes: All lengths in inches, weight in pounds. *LOP is Length of Pull.

SPS Buckmasters Edition. It has a 20" barrel, 12-3/8" length of pull, a synthetic stock finished in Realtree Hardwood Camo and is available in .243 Win. A left-hand version is also offered.

As an option Remington offers a set of three spacers (two 1/4" thick, one 1/2" thick) which can be fitted beneath the butt pad to adjust length of pull. As your youngster grows, spacers can be added.

The youth version of the compact Model Seven is not currently listed on the Remington website but the value-priced 770 is available in a youth version (.243 Win.) with 12-3/8" length of pull.

Carly Alm is holding Dave's Ruger 77 Sporter in .300 Win Mag in her right hand, a Ruger Compact model .308 in her left. Guess which best fits her 5' frame?

Ruger 77 Hawkeye Compact

I've never known anyone, youth or adult, who didn't like this little rifle. It has a 12-1/2" length of pull and with its 16-1/2" barrel, overall length is a under a yard. Weight is just 6 pounds.

This is one sweet-handling little carbine. It's offered in a wide range of cartridges from .223 to .308. May as well order two or the kid isn't going to get a chance to use it!

Savage

Savage offers several youth models. For pure value it's hard to beat the Edge youth model. Just over 6 pounds with synthetic stock, it has a 20" barrel and is available in .243 Win or 7mm-08 Rem.

The 11FYCAK has a 12-1/2" lop and 22" barrel with muzzlebrake. The 11FYXP3 is a "package" deal with 3-9X scope mounted. Available in .243, 7mm-08 and .308, it has the excellent AccuTrigger.

Weatherby Youth

The Vanguard line offers exceptional value, and the Synthetic Youth model is no exception. Stock length of pull is 12-1/2" but a spacer is included which extends length of pull to 13-5/16". Barrel length is 20" and weight 6-1/2 pounds.

A "feature" more people should take advantage of is the Weatherby Custom Shop. If your youngster gets this rifle at age 12, by the time he's in his 20s it will have gathered a lot of memories. But now he wants something a little fancier. Borrow the Vanguard back and ship it to Weatherby to have a nice walnut or synthetic stock fitted, maybe even a bit of engraving. There's a rifle that won't get traded off.

I've limited my list to bolt actions but if you like other actions consider the Thompson/Center or NEF single shots, or a Marlin 336 with shortened length of pull.

Kimber Montana

This light rifle is one of the sweetest hunting rifles available. I didn't show it on the chart as it has a 13-1/2" lop and its synthetic stock can't be easily shortened. Still, once you've handled a bunch of light rifles, and helped select one for your youngster, you probably want a lightweight of your own. A thoughtful parent deserves a reward. GUNS

RIFLE BULLET SEATING DEPTH

When deeper is better.

Back in Handloading 101 most of us were taught to seat rifle bullets as close to the lands as possible. This supposedly resulted in the best accuracy because the bullet wasn't allowed to rattle down the chamber throat before entering the rifling, ending up pointing in who-knows-what direction.

Most advice suggested .03" off the lands, about 1/32", instead of the bullet actually touching the lands. A bullet jammed into the lands, we were warned, not only raised pressures but could result in a real mess if we attempted to eject an unfired round. The bullet could stick in the lands and only the case would be extracted (if the round could be extracted at all), dumping powder all over the inside of the rifle's action.

Well, as with many introductory courses, we afterward learned the exceptions to this rule—or at least most of them. It turned out that many handloaders do seat bullets into the lands, in particular benchrest competitors. However, benchrest shooters hardly ever go anywhere without a cleaning rod, so they can knock an unfired case out of the chamber with no danger of spewing 8208 into their Stolle action. Black powder cartridge shooters also frequently seat bullets into the lands, but cast bullets are soft enough so they don't get stuck.

The magazines of repeating actions also create an exception, especially with many of today's bullets with very long tapered ogives. Often we have to seat the bullet more than .03" away from the lands, simply to allow rounds to fit into the magazine.

This also applies to any rifle where bullets must be crimped. Many lever actions with tube magazines will only function with bullets seated in a relatively narrow range, the reason round- and flat-nosed bullets designed for cartridges like the .30-30 have their cannelures placed at a certain distance from the nose of the bullet.

Also, once recoil surpasses the .375 H&H level it's a good idea to crimp bullets for use in magazine rifles, because repeated firing can pound the rounds in the magazine so severely that bullets get pushed deeper into the case. This is why most bullets for really powerful rounds of .40 and above also feature crimping grooves or cannelures. While the crimped bullets may not seat exactly the right distance from the lands for the finest accuracy, in rifles designed to really shoot Cape buffalo or Alaskan brown bear we don't much care whether groups are consistently sub-MOA.

Then there are Weatherby rifles, with their very long chamber throats called "freebore." There's no way to seat bullets anywhere close to the lands in any Weatherby rifle chambered for one of Roy's rounds. This can also happen with some other rifles and cartridges as well. In my modest collection are a CZ 550 9.3x62 Mauser and a Remington 760 .35 Whelen. In both rifles the throat is so long, standard spitzers can't be seated anywhere near the lands and still fit into the magazine.

Despite this long jump, however, many such rifles shoot remarkably well. I own three Weatherby rifles, chambered in the .240, .257 and .270 Weatherby Magnums, and all group well under a MOA. The CZ 9.3x62 and Remington 760 .35 Whelen also shoot very well. The reason is that all five rifles have throats barely wider than bullet diameter, so bullets don't get a chance to wobble before entering the rifling.

There's also another exception to the seat-'em-out rule: Many rifles actually shoot better if bullets are seated deeper. This is a hard one for many older handloaders to bend their minds around, but it's true. I've seen it most often with the long-ogive spitzers often used these days, especially those "monometal" bullets without cores such as the Barnes Triple-Shock X-Bullet and the Nosler E-Tip. In fact, the manufacturers of such bullets often recommend the starting distance from the lands be a little deeper than .03", giving the "hard" bullet a little more run before entering the lands, reducing peak pressures. However, deeper seating also often works with bullets as soft as the Berger VLD, with very thin jackets and almost pure-lead cores.

A recent example occurred with my new

The .270 Wby Mag delivered a group just more than 1/2" after the bullets were seated a little deeper.

IMR
8208
XBR
The Smallest Targets Better Run For Cover.
Whatever you're aiming at, it's no match for new IMR 8208 XBR.
Unbeatable consistency. Extreme accuracy. The legend is back.
IMR
LEGENDARY POWDERS
6231 Robinson | Shawnee Mission, KS 66202 | Phone 913-362-9455 | www.imrpowder.com

Weatherby Mark V Sporter in .270 Weatherby Magnum. I recently started "downsizing" many of my hunting rifles, having learned over the years it doesn't take as much cartridge to cleanly take big game as many he-men like to believe, partly because of the super bullets now available. (Plus, my 58-year-old right shoulder isn't as recoil friendly as it was when I was 38.) The vast selection of great 130-grain bullets makes any .270 rifle a sure-enough elk cartridge these days, especially in open country where more elk have started living, due to rapid population increases in the last few decades across the West.

I'd had such good luck on elk with the Nosler E-Tip that I decided to start with the 130 grain in the .270 Weatherby. Before blowing a bunch of expensive E-Tips into sandbanks, however, I loaded some 130-grain Ballistic Tips, using Ramshot Magnum, a powder that had proven very accurate and fast in previous .270 Weatherbys. In any new (or new-to-me) rifle it's always seemed like a good idea to begin load development with a cheaper bullet, in order to determine if the rifle will shoot well.

The results of the first range session were very encouraging, to put it mildly. The starting load was 75 grains

The 130-grain Nosler E-Tip (right) needed to be seated much deeper than the 130-grain Ballistic Tip to achieve the same accuracy, with the same load, in the same rifle.

and as is often the case with many of today's powders, each increase in powder charge shrank groups. The final 80-grain load grouped three shots into 1/2", at just about 3,400 fps, my target velocity.

The switch to the 130-grain E-Tips, however, was at first disappointing. They were seated to the same depth as the 130 Ballistic Tips, as far out as rounds would fit in the magazine. I also started out lower in powder charges, because E-Tips can sometimes produce a little more pressure than lead-cored bullets. Once again, groups shrank with increased powder charges, but the 80-grain group measured a little over 1-1/2".

There were also obvious fliers in each group. Interestingly, such fliers are often an indication that bullets are seated a little too far out.

Hmm. Back in the loading room I put together a few more 80-grain rounds, half with the stem of the Redding die twisted a full turn deeper than with the original Ballistic Tip loads, and half with the stem turned two turns deeper. At the range the 1-turn-deeper handload showed immediate improvement, putting three shots into just about an inch. After allowing the barrel to cool, I fired the loads with bullets seated two turns deeper. Bingo! Three shots clustered into slightly over 1/2", just about like the Ballistic Tips. Another range session confirmed this was the seating depth the rifle liked with the very long E-Tips.

The handy thing about seating bullets deeper is that if you start with bullets seated all the way out, any increase in seating depth reduces pressures. So if your rifle doesn't shoot all that well with bullets seated as close to the lands as possible, try seating them a little deeper. This isn't the traditional way to look for an accurate load—but targets, not tradition, are the real arbiter of accuracy. GUNS

FOR WEB LINKS, GO TO
WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/NOSLER.HTML

THE NEW AUTO-PRIME XR

Still the fastest, most convenient way to hand prime —now useable with any brand primers. Patent pending design safely separates a single primer from the others reducing the likelihood of a chain fire.

New, large square tray accepts the largest primer boxes and a new unbreakable comfort curve lever.

The Auto-Prime XR uses special but inexpensive shellholders, eliminating the need to endlessly swap shell holders from your press.

AUTO-PRIME XR

LEE

LEE PRECISION, INC. | DEPT 402
4275 HIGHWAY U | HARTFORD WI 53027
www.leeprecision.com

Send $1 for your 32-page catalog full of reloading bargains!

SMALL IS THE NEW BIG.

THE SLEEK P239 COMPACT

A small package that casts an imposing shadow. It's not just a Classic, it's a SIG.
www.sigsauer.com/classic

SIG SAUER

RANGING SHOTS™

• CLINT SMITH • PHOTOS: HEIDI SMITH •

LIGHTS
More on use and deployment.

There has been much improvement in the quality of lights, now called illumination systems, over the last decade even though methods of deployment have pretty much stayed the same. Consideration should be given now to upgrading the way we think about using the lights to have our skills step up to the improved quality of the light systems. I personally am not interested in gimmicks like strobes and such when most times the application of good basic techniques for most regular people will solve most problems where illumination systems are required.

"Pieing" the corner with the light allows you to find the threat before overly exposing yourself.

The idea of turning a light on in the middle of a fight is probably a bad idea, but the reality of shooting the wrong person like another family member or my partner is even more disturbing, as well as dangerous to others. So I turn the light on to identify the target or clarify what I think is the target before I fire. I would also turn my light on to find a wall light switch as an illuminated room will always be better to fight in than a dark room. It is duly noted here when the room lights are turned on the "threat" could see me also but then I prefer to confirm a target before shooting (see the above) and I plan on practicing my shooting and I can't know if the threat has bothered.

The lights of today come in two forms: weapon mounted or handheld. As students of weapons craft we—you and I—should be skilled with both systems in case of the failure of either system or the need to use either one or both lights, sometimes separate or often together, as two lights are better than one.

The light actually has two sources of light projection: the arc of light, which is the widest light source, and the one that surrounds the brighter spot of light centered in the light pattern when the light is activated. The goal is to center the spot often choreographed with the muzzle by the weapon's mount or by adjusting alignment with the hands while holding the hand-held light on the target when shooting. If searching or making contact with a potential, but not yet determined threat, I would place the spot low at their feet allowing the arc light to confirm hands and help in positive identification.

The action of pointing it at the feet means I am not "pointing" the weapon at a person until I have confirmed that they are in fact a threat. As an example, I find someone who is in a place they shouldn't be. I place the spot on or near their feet and ask for compliance while the arc allows me to see any potential threatening movement. If compliance is refused or the suspect turns into a threat, I simply raise the spot and hence the muzzle onto the target and get compliance by gunfire as required by their failure to do the correct thing.

Clint's three favorite lights by SureFire include the X300 (bottom), which he believes is the best light out there for the money. The M620VScout (middle) is the newer white and IR model, which is a solid piece with stout mounting system. The SureFire hand held is the economical G3 LED polymer body light that is also a good buy and a good light.

The Clock Face Search

This is easy stuff. Simply surgically place the light "spot" into the area to be searched with the whole spot being aligned inside the doorway or hall as an example. This placement keeps the light forward and prevents the spot from back blasting or blowing light back into the flashlight operator's eyes. If I was clearing a doorway, moving in from the left side, I place the 9 o'clock edge of the spot on the left edge of the doorway which in turn places the bulk of the light into the passageway I am clearing. The arc of light will often illuminate much of the surrounding area. You only need to be aware that it

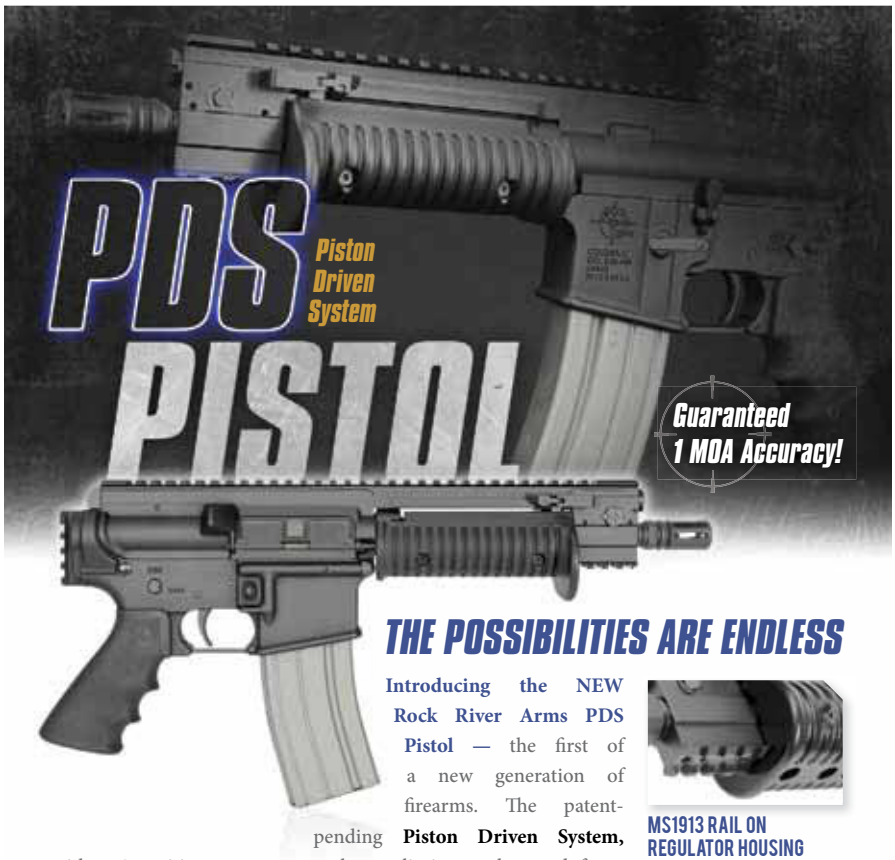
Showing the spot of light off a potential threat (above) while asking for compliance. If the threat fails to comply the light attached to the weapons system can be brought onto the target (below).

does and take advantage of this fact. Using handheld systems, the light can be moved from the right or left side of the weapon based on which placement puts the most light into the area being searched.

All of this is good, so to speak, but ultimately the target is engaged with the sights of the weapon not the light. Activate the light with the mindset to fight not to look, otherwise if you go looking you'll find the threat and the muzzle won't be placed to protect you. I turn light systems on to fight, seeing is a residual benefit of the light coming on, but I turn the light on to find and engage threats. If there isn't one I am not at any loss except for the effort. If you turn the light on with the mindset of "I'm looking," one of these days you'll find what you are looking for and the "shift" from look to fight will be pretty exciting!

Light use is just like gun use. It is a physical manipulation skill and as such it requires thought in application and practice… and practice and practice. GUNS

FOR ALL WEB LINKS, GO TO WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/SUREFIRE.HTML



THE POSSIBILITIES ARE ENDLESS

Introducing the NEW Rock River Arms PDS Pistol — the first of a new generation of firearms. The patent-pending **Piston Driven System,** with a 2-position gas port regulator, eliminates the need for a traditional AR-style recoil mechanism. The multiple mounting rails also include **RRA's exclusive full-length top rail system.**

MS1913 RAIL ON REGULATOR HOUSING

FOLDING AMBIDEXTROUS NON-RECIPROCATING CHARGING HANDLES

REAR SLING / ACCESSORY MOUNTING RAIL

PDS CARBINE ALSO AVAILABLE

LE
HOME
HUNT
TARGET

ROCK RIVER ARMS®

DISCOVER THE POSSIBILITIES AT WWW.ROCKRIVERARMS.COM

QUICKIE HANDGUN GRIP REFINISHING

It's necessary, not so hard on the wallet and adds the final touch.

All the parts, painstakingly polished and prepared, are fresh out of the bluing tanks. The receiver, resplendent in color case hardening from Turnbull Restorations, fairly glows. Carefully, you assemble the revolver's bits and pieces and now you install the original grips. Aw heck, this thing looks like crap now. It's those dang grips! Sure enough, the old grips are missing half the finish, covered with dings and nicks and missing half the paint in the medallions. This will never do.

Refinishing the grips seems like the obvious course until visions of days spent waiting for each coating of stock finish to dry leave you crouching in the corner, hoping for a brighter tomorrow. Cheer up! How does working a few minutes here and there over the course of a day sound to refinish a set of grips? There is a down and dirty way to get a job out the door, freshen up a gun to bring top dollar at the gun show or put a better face on the contents of your gun cabinet.

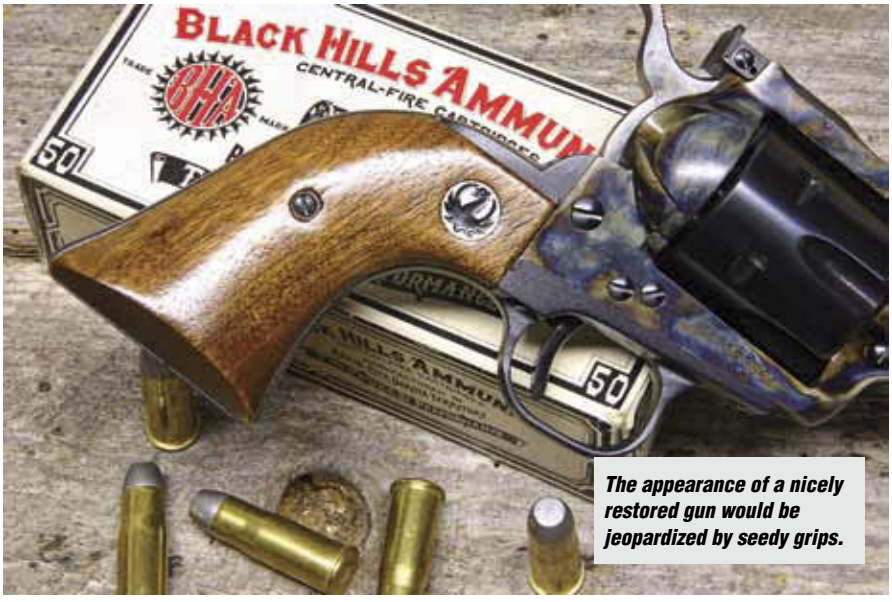
Before I do anything to the grips, I'll want to protect any medallions that might be present. Lay a piece of masking tape over the medallion, mashing it down for good adhesion. Then, cut around the edges with a sharp X-acto knife and peel away the excess. A couple layers won't hurt a thing. This will minimize damage from scrapers, sandpaper, etc.

Get It Off

Quickest way to remove the built-up production finish on most factory grips is to scrape it off. My scraper is a piece of spring steel about 2"x6", around, .050" thick, which is kept razor sharp with the resident belt grinder. Held just past perpendicular and gently and carefully dragged over the grip panel contours will have all finish off in about two minutes. Once done, I'll carefully sand the grips, backing up the paper with blocks, files or dowels to help preserve edges and contours. Start with 100/120, going to 150/180 and finishing with 220 or thereabouts. Wet down the panels, let them dry for an hour or so and re-sand to de-whisker.

Once the wood is dry, we take out the secret weapon: hardware store low-gloss spray lacquer. Most of these will squirt and dry within minutes. I try to achieve a nice, smooth, filled finish so will apply at least three to four thin coats, 15 or 30 minutes between coats (or as directions advise). Once hard, I'll carefully sand any runs or drips to get everything back to grade. The last step is to rub out the finish with 0000 dry steel wool. Take care not to cut through the finish. With a little practice and experimentation,

If you don't have refinishing supplies under the sink, everything can be found at any good hardware store.



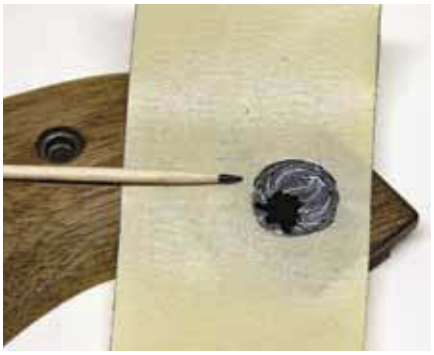
The appearance of a nicely restored gun would be jeopardized by seedy grips.

you can easily and quickly achieve a handsome, smooth professional finish in no time.

Poke Around

Refinishing the medallions is all that's left. In our example, we have a set of grips from an older Ruger single-action revolver. The medallions are made from aluminum and with the intaglio eagle symbol painted black. Often as not, the paint is chipped and worn, in want of touching up. Since I don't know how fast the original paint is to the metal (or even what sort of paint it is), it must be removed in the interests of adhesion for new paint. The easiest way to get it off is with a sharp scribe applied gently. A dental pick works well. A good sharp point will enable you to run up into the feather tips and get all the paint out. If you can't open a can of paint without getting half of it on you, at least mask off the wood around the medallion in the interest of sanitation.

Even if you are not primed with six to eight cups of coffee, holding a brush steady enough to paint in this small symbol will be a challenge. But we can outsmart most aluminum birds with the hand grenade approach. I use a toothpick to daub on and herd around the paint without regard to coloring within the lines. As long as engraving below grade is filled with paint, the little bit of overflow above grade will scrape off easily when the paint is dry. The side of your scribing tool tip will do nicely. Just take care to keep the point out of the cuts. I use Plasti-kote brush-on enamel, available in local hardware stores and hobby shops.

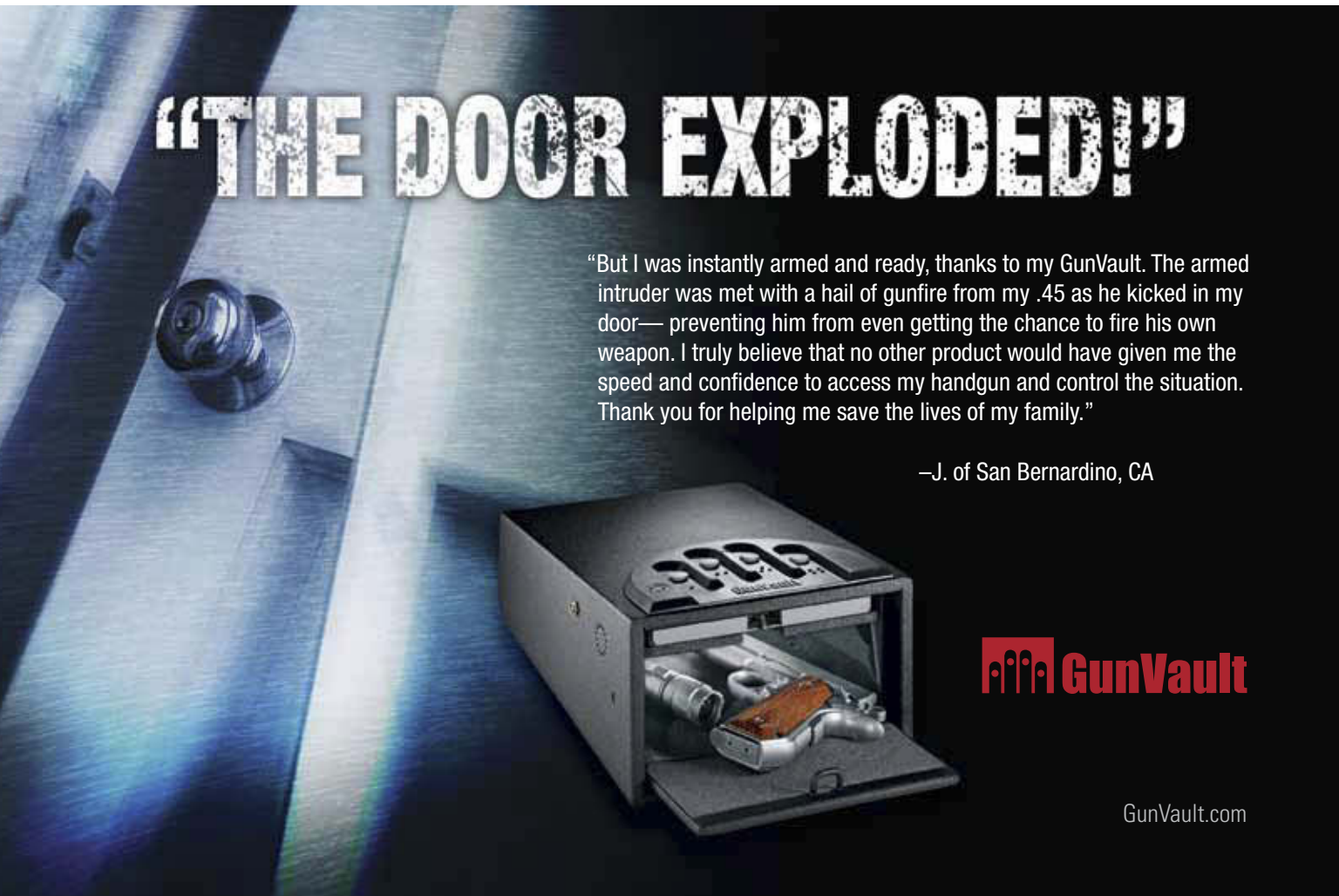


No. 0000 disposable single-bristle pine brushes (above) are available in handy 1,000 packs and are perfect for scaring paint into tight corners. Scraper pilot's view of the action (below). This tool will save more time than any other in refinishing grips.

Some medallions—such as those on some Smith & Wesson revolvers—are made of brass and will come to you a bit tarnished. A simple slurry of salt or baking soda and lemon juice worked into them with a Q-tip will usually brighten them up OK. A lead pencil eraser carefully rubbed on the relief portion will also help.

Speaking of S&W grips, many are checkered so you may want to lay hands on a single-point checkering tool for cleaning and chasing the checkering. Unlike medallion painting, this is a good place to keep the tool within the lines. Go slow and think ahead.

Refinishing ordinary factory grips is a simple procedure and a great way to quickly spruce up a handgun without much expense. Anybody who can safely handle a handgun can safely handle this job. GUNS



THE SHOULDER HOLSTER

Ostentatious Anachronism or useful accessory?

The real Eliot Ness wore a first-issue Colt Detective Special in a shoulder holster. Robert Stack in TV's mid-20th century show *The Untouchables* portrayed him with a bigger Colt Official Police 4" .38 in what appeared to be a Lawrence shoulder rig, and Kevin Costner in the movie of the same name played Ness as wearing a 1911 .45 in the same type of rig. Whether in the pages of the novels or on the screen, Mickey Spillane's popular private detective Mike Hammer just wouldn't have been the same with his .45 automatic in anything but a shoulder holster under his trench coat.

These days, a lot of folks think shoulder holsters are way too "Hollywood," and not as fast or as practical as a modern belt holster in any case. They'll get little argument from me; I rarely wear one these days. That said, though, I think a complete modern "holster wardrobe" should contain a good shoulder rig, if only for special purposes.

Back in the '60s, Richard Gallagher conceptualized the Shoulder System, a figure-8 harness which carried the gun under one arm and ammo and even handcuffs on the opposite side. It came to market as the Jackass Shoulder System, and was the foundation of Gallagher's current gunleather empire, Galco. The system lives today in Galco's Miami Classic design and others, and has been widely copied throughout the holster industry.

There are certain detectives and federal agents who seem to feel their desk or briefcase is their best holster. At least some of them realize that at any moment an emergency might require their immediate response, prompting them to keep a shoulder system in the drawer instead of just a gun. As quickly as donning a vest or jacket, they can slip their arms through the harness of the shoulder system and have gun, spare ammo and cuffs on their person quickly. Similarly, it makes sense as part of a home defense setup.

Twenty years ago, I discovered this setup can also serve as an "orthopedic holster." I had managed to pull my lower back big time, and the doc told me "No weight around the waist, not even a belt!" He knew my job required me to be armed, even on "light duty/Medical," and I asked, "How about a shoulder holster?" He replied it would be OK if I wore one on each side. I thought he was joking until he explained that if upper body weight tilted one way or the other due to extra load, the lower back would never get right. I wound up with a cobbled together rig (Jackass holster and mag pouch, Rogers harness and Seventrees handcuff case). With a Spyderco knife clipped to the equipment side and a lightweight Colt Commander .45 auto in the holster, weight balanced to the ounce on both sides. It was an unexpected benefit from shoulder holster design.

Twin shoulder holsters by Galco with a pair of identical weight Glock 26 9mms exactly balances weight and eases pressure for "sore lumbar" patients. Horizontal carry high under armpit(s) allows maximum draw speed.

Another way to equally balance is to simply get twin holsters with an identical gun on each side. The subjective fashion statement might be "paranoid" to some and "ostentatious" to others, but for those of us who recognize the advantage of a backup gun that works like the primary, it's one effective way to implement the concept. I've found it awfully heavy with a pair of loaded all-steel 1911s, but not at all uncomfortable for a week at a time of all-day wear with featherweight Baby Glocks. The late, great Skeeter Skelton had holster makers of the day create twin shoulder rigs for him—to carry 1911s in one case and Ruger service revolvers in the other—and seemed pleased with the results.

Other Needs

There are other special needs which the shoulder holster fits well. You're a bodyguard/chauffeur, spending much of your working time in a seated position wearing a seat belt? If you can manage to keep a cover garment on all the time, a shoulder holster will give you quicker access in that position than the typical belt scabbard worn behind the hip. Police pilots love shoulder holsters, for similar reasons, and they are still extremely common among them. On some departments, the pilots are the

only armed personnel authorized to wear shoulder rigs and are sometimes even issued them.

Handgun hunters out in inclement weather often choose shoulder holsters, normally those that carry the gun butt high and forward. The gun is reachable through the upper front of the garment, but the coat shields it from scratchy brush, rust-inducing rain and snow and icy cold that can turn the lubricant inside gelid and compromise the handgun's function.

Men wearing bulky rifle-grade body armor find conventional hip holsters hard to access. Before the current popularity of tactical thigh holsters, many police SWAT teams used shoulder rigs for their sidearms. So, to this day, do some members of our armed forces. Galco has a program they call "Holsters for Heroes." If you donate the retail price of a regular Galco Shoulder System that holds the military Beretta M9 vertical, they'll send two such systems to our young men and women in Iraq and Afghanistan. I'm sure our troops are putting them to good use.

A cop who attaches a backup gun's holster to the side-strap on the ballistic vest under his uniform shirt is practicing a type of shoulder-holster draw. So is the armed citizen who carries a small pistol or revolver in a purpose-designed gun pouch on a T-shirt, as in Greg Kramer's defining Confidant design, or who wears the gun in a bellyband wrapped high on the body at ribcage level. The only difference is the "harness" that carries the holster.

It's not a style thing or a showoff thing, or an "age of the technology" issue. The simple fact is, there are special handgun carrying purposes which, at least for some users, are best accomplished with certain types of shoulder holsters. GUNS

Classic Bianchi X-15 keeps this Para-Ordnance SSP .45 under the outdoorsman's coat and away from the elements. Vertical carry (butt high and forward) makes it easy to reach under heavy coat.

BIANCHI INT.
100 CALLE CORTEZ
TEMECULA, CA 92590
(909) 676-5621

GALCO GUNLEATHER
2019 W. QUAIL AVE., PHOENIX, AZ 85027
(800) 874-2526

KRAMER HANDGUN LEATHER
P.O. BOX 112154, TACOMA, WA 98411
(253) 564-6652

FOR WEB LINKS, GO TO
WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/PRODUCTINDEX.HTML

MONTANA MUSINGS

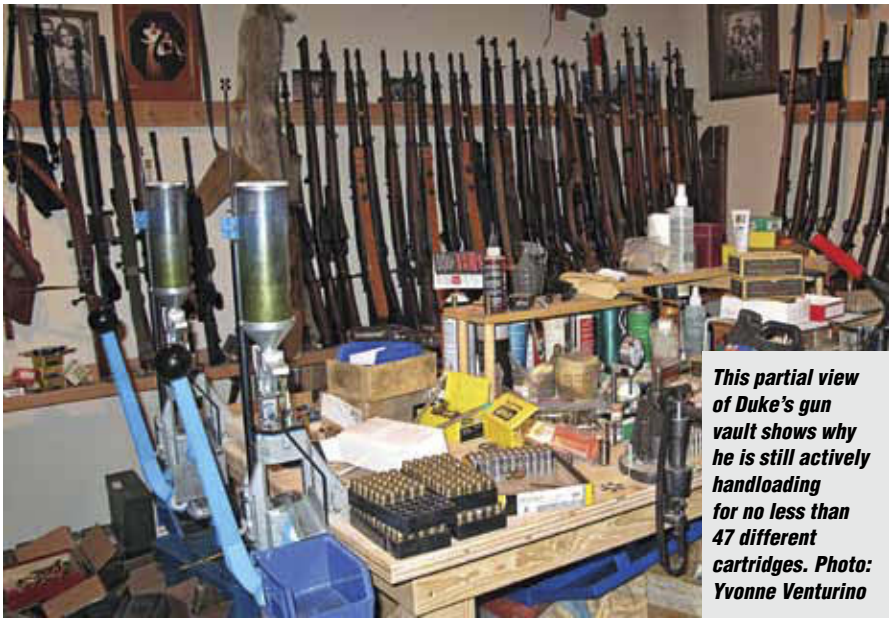
• MIKE "DUKE" VENTURINO •

TIME WELL SPENT
A life of handloading.

Recently on a cold rainy morning I was trying to avoid doing anything productive. While dallying, for some reason this odd thought popped into my mind, "I wonder how many different calibers I've handloaded for since starting in December 1966?" So I sat down with *Cartridges Of The World* and began tallying them. To my surprise the total was about 120 different ones. They divided up into about 90 rifle and 30 handgun types but nary a shotgun gauge.

For rifles, they ranged from the .17 Remington to the .50-90 Sharps. I've never actually owned a .17 Rem rifle, but a friend loaned me his decades ago along with the reloading dies and components. He forgot to factor in a powder funnel, therefore I had a heck of a time getting powder into the few dozen .17 Remington rounds assembled. At the other end, I have fired several thousand rounds of .50-90 Sharps in the two Shiloh Model 1874s, which have passed through my hands. In fact, upon getting the first one in 1981, I went at shooting it so avidly that when Yvonne spotted the huge, deep purple bruise on my right shoulder she asked me to give it a break for a while.

In handgun cartridges, my small end one has been the .32 Auto with my first pistol, so chambered, also coming in 1981. It was a Walther PP. My most recent one is a Colt Model 1903 purchased mid-year of 2010. (Actually I've reloaded for several other cartridges that on the surface sound smaller than the .32 Auto. Such would be .30 Luger, .30 Mauser, 7.62x25mm Tokarev and 7.65mm French Long. However they all will take the same cast bullet as the .32 Auto and it has the smallest case capacity of all.)



This partial view of Duke's gun vault shows why he is still actively handloading for no less than 47 different cartridges. Photo: Yvonne Venturino

Because he has always favored very heavy bullets in his BPCR (Black Powder Cartridge Rifles), Duke estimates he has fired more than 3-1/2 tons of lead through that genre of firearm since starting in 1981. Some of his favorite .45-70s include (from left) the 520-grain roundnose, 513-grain roundnose, 555-grain roundnose and 560-grain Creedmoor. Photo: Yvonne Venturino

On the big end, I've handloaded a couple hundred rounds for a Freedom Arms .454 Casull, but freely admit never enjoying a single pull of the trigger on that cannon.

When my handloading career began at age 17, so too did I become a bullet caster. In reviewing that list of 30 handgun cartridges for which I've assembled handloads, only one did not get loaded with home cast and/or commercially cast bullets. That was a .357 SIG, a pistol I had on consignment specifically to write about. The other 29 handgun calibers of my experience were either predominately or exclusively loaded with lead alloy bullets. For my own pleasure shooting, even nowadays, seldom is any other type of projectile used in my own handguns.

The reverse is true of rifle cartridges of .30 caliber and below. Although I've fired many thousand cast bullets in rifles from the .222 Remington up through .300 Weatherby Magnum, the majority of my rifle shooting for those bore sizes has been done with jacketed bullets. Get above .30 caliber and then the table reverses once again with home poured lead alloy bullets dominating. In fact, I

estimate the amount of lead alloy I've fired through BPCRs (Black Powder Cartridge Rifles) since 1981 is over 3-1/2 tons.

The Big End

When the BPCR bug bit me back in the '80s, like most everyone else, I wanted to only shoot them with smokeless powders. After all, who in their right mind wants to contend with cleaning up after shooting black powder? Then the NRA began their BPCR Silhouette game allowing only black powder (and Pyrodex) for propellant and that very addictive sport soon showed just how many of us were not in our "right minds."

That rule made the competitors get busy in figuring out how to make dirty, smelly, black powder perform. And brothers and sisters, will it! It is my experience-based opinion, now, that in the rifles and cartridges designed around it, black powder outperforms smokeless powders, and rifles fired with it are far easier to clean thoroughly than with either smokeless powders and/or jacketed bullets. By conservative estimate I feel my shoulder has been pounded by well over 100,000 rounds from BPCRs in the past 30 years.

So what about other numbers?

In 1966 Duke started his handloading career with .38 Specials to be fired in a Smith & Wesson K-38 revolver. In 2010 the most recent caliber addition to his handloading career has been the 7.92x33mm Kurz to be fired through an original WWII select-fire German MP44. Photo: Yvonne Venturino

From the very first day of my handloading career until 1980, I kept detailed records of every round assembled. At that time the total was about 120,000 with over 50,000 being .38 Specials. After that year I got too busy and was reloading too many different cartridges to keep records. For cartridges that have been handloaded solely for the purpose of writing articles the amounts have totaled from a few dozen (.17 Remington) to a few hundred (.375 Winchester, .444 Marlin, .35 Remington, .375 H&H, etc.). In fact, I've never even owned guns for those calibers: I've just relied on borrowed ones or consignment guns from the manufacturers.

For others I shoot for my own enjoyment, the totals are in the tens and scores of thousands. Here's a for-instance: I reloaded my first 9mm Luger cartridge for a S&W Model 39 in 1977. A few hundred were put together before that pistol was traded. However, starting in 2007, coinciding with building my World War II firearms collection, I began loading many more 9mms for Lugers, P38s, Browning Hi-Powers and even vintage submachine guns. I know in the past two years I've assembled no less than 10,000 9mm rounds on a Dillon Square Deal press. The same is true for .45 ACP.

As time passes so my interests change. In 1966 I began reloading with the .38 Special for use in a S&W K-38. In 2010 the most recent caliber I added to the list was 7.92x33mm Kurz; the rounds being fired in a WWII vintage German MP44. At the time of this writing I reload for 47 cartridges. Interests might change but for me handloading has never grown boring.

GUNS

OPTICS

• JACOB GOTTFREDSON •

BURRIS ELIMINATOR

This 4X-12X scope ranges and tells you where to shoot!

I came across the most innovative and revolutionary solution for hunters I have seen in many years—maybe ever seen—maybe ever will see. It was something scope manufacturers have been trying to accomplish for years. Burris has done it.

Walking the halls of 2010's SHOT Show, I was amazed at the new riflescopes, binoculars and spotting scopes, representing myriad price ranges, from those for the budget-minded buyer to the best of glass with class.

Then, quite by accident, I stumbled on it.

I was visiting with Pat Beckett, an old friend, at the Burris booth. We talked for a moment and he steered me to a display near the corner of his area and handed it to me.

But let me back up a moment. Let's review the past 50 years for a bit. In my youth I began hunting with a 4X Weaver. It had a very fine crosshair and a dot at the intersection of the crosshairs. The wire was so fine I often could not see it. It worked OK, and I took a lot of game with it. My next acquisition was a Plex reticle with somewhat thicker wires and it was a little more useful. In the military I was introduced to the Mil-Dot reticle, which was even more useful.

About 15 years ago, a man named Tom Smith approached me with a new reticle incorporating holdover bars below the main horizontal crosshair, designed to take advantage of the ballistic flight of bullets with a factor designation. Quite ingenious, it was used in both Swarovski and Kahles scopes for several years and has since been emulated by more than one manufacturer.

The chase to design holdover bars of various configurations was on. While they greatly improved the ability of hunters to put game on the ground out to 600 yards and more, there were still drawbacks. The typical scenario went thus: The hunter sees his target, ranges it with some rangefinder or his stadia bars. He then looks at a table taped to his rifle or residing in his pack or pocket… or maybe he was gifted with a memory to remember it all, even in 10 of his different rifles and calibers. Once he decides on the appropriate holdover bar, he reengages the target and fires away.

The Burris Eliminator Laserscope is shown here on one of Rock River's ARs. The standard mounting system that comes with the scope required a high mount on the AR platform.

While this capability is far and above that of my old Weaver with the fine wire and dot, and also the plex, it still presents some problems: First, you have to put your rifle down and use the rangefinder. Next, you have to look at a table or ballistic software on your iPod. Finally, you take the rifle and begin aiming, using the holdover bar the table designates for that range. During this time, the animal might have moved out of the range taken or disappeared altogether. And it all took valuable time.

About three years ago, maybe longer, Zeiss, Burris, Nikon and Bushnell introduced rangefinding riflescopes that allowed the hunter to range the target while still holding it in the scope's image. They went a step further and included holdover bars on the horizontal crosshair. The speed with which a hunter could take the shot was greatly improved. But one step remained unsolved: The hunter still had to take his eyes from the target to find out which holdover bar to use. Granted, the Zeiss has numbers on the holdover bars, but they vary according to conditions, so a card with an appropriate holdover chart was still needed. Wouldn't it be great if….

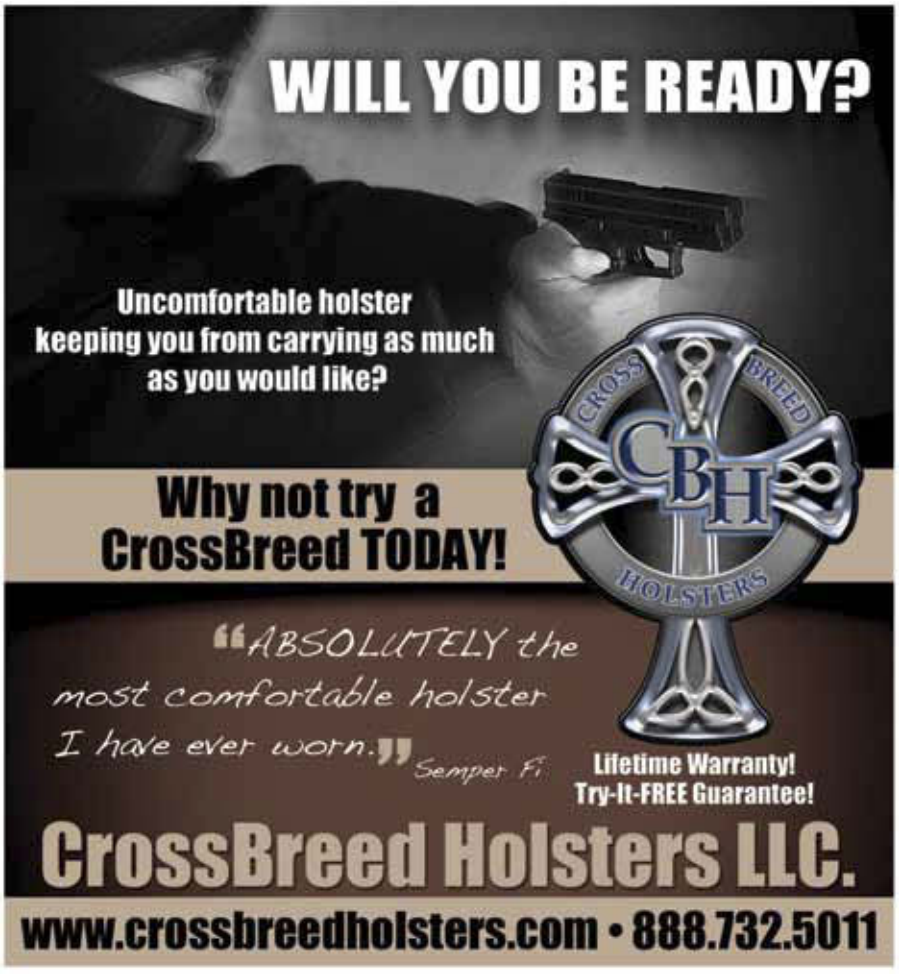
So, back to the Burris booth. Pat handed me a rangefinding riflescope and stepped back. I looked through it. It ranged alright, but that was not new. Then I saw a small yellow/red dot appear below the main vertical crosshair. Was this what I thought it was?

In the evolution of riflescopes several things remain to be solved. First, after ranging, a red or yellow dot or some other easily readable color would appear, representing the holdover required. Burris had done

After pressing the wireless remote on the steel silhouette target, the Burris Eliminator Laserscope (above) shows the output in yards—in this case 397 yards—and the status of the battery. It is difficult to photograph a reticle, but the red dot appears on the vertical crosshair in the grass just below the silhouette. Raising the rifle until the dot is on the center of the silhouette will result in a center hit. The first group was shot at 200 yards and is in the red dot on the LaRue silhouette (below). Moving back to 397 yards, ranged again and with the wind blowing wickedly left to right, Jacob put the red dot on the Burris scope about 2" off the left side of the target. That group printed just to the left of the bull. Note both groups hit at the same elevation on the target. What could be easier or faster?

it! Will the next generation make the holdover dot change locations based on environmental conditions and compensate for uphill and downhill shooting? If you have read my earlier columns on both, you will know that you can do that now.

Let's pause for a second and run our scenario again. The hunter sees his target, raises his rifle and ranges.



GUNS MAGAZINE ONLINE!
www.gunsmagazine.com

Alloy
Steel Targets
Built to Last
Police, Military, IPSC, Cowboy
For Shapes & Prices See:
www.ArntzenTargets.com
800-821-3475
ARNTZEN CORPORATION
T-ad1H

Thinking About Reloading?
RELOADING.COM

GUNS MAGAZINE ONLINE!
www.gunsmagazine.com

OPTICS

The elevation and windage adjustment turrets (above) are just forward of the Burris name plate. Just to the left of the name plate is a button that allows the scope to be programmed for yards or meters, sight in at 100 or 200, and the number representing the bullet's flight characteristics. On top, just in front of the 4X-12X power ring, is the battery compartment. Burris claims it is good for 1,100 cycles. The diopter adjustment is the European type. The button used to range is located on the left side of the scope (below). Burris provides a wireless remote button that can be attached at various places for easy access. Attaching it to the forearm and activating it with the thumb works well.

Immediately, a dot appears for the holdover. The hunter raises the rifle slightly so that the dot appears at the point the hunter wants the bullet to strike and fires. He never moved from his rifle. He never lost sight of his quarry. More importantly, the time to range and fire was greatly reduced.

Certainly, the dots simply represent the bars Burris previously used and is supplied with a great many pre-programmed cartridges, or is programmable for your cartridge.

Testing

I mounted the scope on a Rock River Arms .223 AR-15 Varmint rifle. On the right side of the scope is a 4-way button that allows mode changes, for example, from yards to meters. It also allows you to input any one of a great many different cartridge/bullet flight paths supplied by Burris. I used it to select the cartridge and bullet I thought most closely emulated the flight path of a 55-grain bullet Rock River had supplied, choosing No. 51 of the Burris preprogrammed cartridges.

I sighted the rifle in at 100 yards, then began shooting targets from 200 to 400 yards. The scope has a button on the left side to activate ranging and the appearance of the aiming dot. Using it is rather awkward, making it difficult to activate the ranging feature without moving the rifle and scope. Burris has solved that problem by providing a remote switch you can place elsewhere on the rifle. The system worked flawlessly.

The first runs of rangefinding scopes from various manufacturers seemed rather large and somewhat top heavy, making the rifle cumbersome and ill balanced. Burris has produced a smaller and more streamlined package, nearly the same size as conventional scopes.

The optics are good. Light transmission, color balance, resolution and contrast are excellent. Aberrations are kept at bay as well.

This scope/rifle combination would be great for fast engagement in dog towns as well other forms of hunting. Rock River sent along a rifle that will deliver rapidly in such a rich field of fire. I am running out of real estate for this article and will review the rifle in an upcoming article. GUNS

FOR WEB LINKS, GO TO
WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/BURRIS.HTML

ELIMINATOR

MAKER: BURRIS COMPANY
331 E. 8TH ST.
GREELY, CO 80631
(970) 356-1670

POWER:
4X-12X
LASER RANGE (YARDS REFLECTIVE):
800
LASER RANGE (YARDS DEER):
550
BATTERIES:
CR2
BATTERY LIFE:
1,100 cycles
OPERATING TEMPERATURE:
14- to 122-degrees F
DOT SIZE @100 YARDS:
.33 MOA
CLICK VALUE:
.25"
ADJUSTMENT RANGE:
50"
WEIGHT WITH BATTERY & MOUNT:
26 ounces
EYE RELIEF:
3.5" (4X), 3" (12X)
LENGTH:
13"
PRICE:
$1,298

Smith & Wesson

HOMEOWNER'S INSURANCE

NEW SD9™ & SD40™ SELF DEFENSE PISTOLS

Specifically designed for home defense, both the 9mm and .40 S&W caliber SD pistols include a number of features for improved control and precision. A front tritium night sight improves targeting. The SDT™ Self Defense Trigger provides consistent pull from first to last round. An ergonomic, textured grip firmly places confidence in the palm of your hand.

NASDAQ: SWHC

smith-wesson.com

MADE IN THE USA

SHOTGUNNER

• HOLT BODINSON •

REMINGTON'S VERSA MAX
Meets HyperSonic Steel.

At times, there is serendipity between the appearance of a new shotgun and a new shotshell. Hot off the production lines, Remington's new 12-gauge, Versa Max shotgun wedded to their radical, 1,700 fps, "HyperSonic" shotshell proved to be a scorching combination for an early season waterfowl hunt at Ameri-Cana's Battle River Lodge in Alberta, Canada. Remington's gun and shell combination worked together as a steel shot delivery system, that should forever put to bed any doubts about the effectiveness of steel in the field. It's innovations like these that really keep the shotgunning world on its toes and competitive.

Opening up the factory supplied, green hard case, I had my first glimpse of the Versa Max. There has been so much hype about this gun that even the Custom's officer, who registered it before I left for Canada, urged me to return to his office and tell him how it performed. I haven't had a chance yet, but I can tell you I've never shot as well over decoys in my life. Inside that green hard case was a very technically advanced scattergun.

While the Versa Max may look like a conventional autoloader, the design team at Remington has done a remarkable job of developing a new gas-handling system that both softens felt recoil and minimizes routine maintenance, while tweaking its overmolded stock to separate flesh from recoil impulse as much as possible. The result is a shotgun that digests every payload, from light 2-3/4" target loads to those heavy 3-1/2" Roman candles interchangeably, while being unusually comfortable to shoot with magnum loads. The key to this versatility is the VersaPort.

The Versa Max + HyperSonic Steel = a terrific waterfowling combination. Geese were brought down cleanly at 40 yards with HyperSonic Steel at 1,700 fps.

Located below the chamber is the VersaPort gas block fitted with two pistons which drive the bolt assembly to the rear upon firing. The VersaPort system self-regulates the gas pressure depending upon the length of the shell, by way of seven small ports drilled along the bottom half of the chamber. When a 2-3/4" shell is fired, all seven ports are exposed and feed the resulting gas into the gas block and pistons. Firing a 3" shell results in only four ports being exposed and available for gas transfer and with a 3-1/2" shell, only three ports are open. But there's more to the system.

The VersaPort design also moderates recoil by venting off gas right at the chamber and up through slots on both sides of the handguard. This means excess, high-pressure gas is bled off immediately, reducing recoil and minimizing piston fouling. In fact, if absolutely necessary, it only takes a couple of minutes to pull both pistons and clean them and the gas block cylinders in which they operate. It's an ultra low maintenance system.

Also helping to moderate felt recoil are the Versa Max's long, 2" forcing cone and generously overbored barrel measuring .735" inside diameter. Remington labels it their "Pro Bore," and it takes a new, Pro Bore diameter choke tube. Yes, our old RemChokes just won't fit. Rounding out the recoil reduction package are its padded cheek comb and an extra thick SuperCell recoil pad.

The Versa Max stock is interesting and highly functional, as well as being adjustable for length of pull, drop and cast. The LOP can be adjusted from 14-1/4" to 15-1/4" with the use of a spacer kit. Through the use of stock-to-receiver inserts and replaceable padded comb inserts, the drop at the heel and comb can be adjusted for any average shooter. Because I have high cheekbones, cast off is critical to me for good shooting. When mounting the Versa Max, I immediately noticed that the middle bead was offset to the right

858-402

Cheaper Than Dirt!®

America's Ultimate Shooting Sports Discounter

FREE CATALOG!

When You Call or Go Online!

Magazines

AK-47 7.62x39
30 Rounds, Gray Steel
MAG-0202 ... $11.97

AR-15 .223 Bushmaster
30 Rounds, New, Aluminum
MAG-066 ... $15.97

Beretta 92FS 9mm
18 Rounds, Not Factory
MAG-129 ... $19.97

Charles Daly AR-15 .223
30 Rounds, Blued Aluminum
MAG-093 ... $13.97

Eagle 10/22 .22LR
30 Rounds, Smoke
MAG-416 ... $8.97

GLOCK 17 9mm
17 Rounds, Factory
MAG-240 ... $24.97

H&K G3 .308
20 Rounds, German Factory, Steel, Used
MAG-303 ... $1.97

LR .308
19 Rounds, Black Steel
MAG-523 ... $21.97

M1 .30 Carbine
15 Rounds, Blued
MAG-343 ... $5.97

M14, M1A .308
20 Rounds, Parkerized Steel
MAG-3572 ... $9.97

Sig P226 9mm
18 Rounds, Not Factory
MAG-490 ... $19.97

S&W Model 5900 9mm
15 Rounds, Blued Steel
MAG-641 ... $16.97

Taurus PT92, 99 9mm
15 Rounds, Blued
MAG-700 ... $14.97

BVAC .22LR
HP, 36 Grain, 500 Round Brick
AMM-055 ... $22.19

DRT .380
HP, Powder Core, 85 Grain, 50 Rounds
AMM-3271 ... $33.89

American Eagle 9mm
FMJ, 124 Grain, 50 Rounds
AMM-436 ... $12.19

TulAmmo 9mm
FMJ, 115 Grain, 50 Rounds
AMM-4700 ... $8.29

Winchester Ranger 9mm
FMJ, +P, 124 Grain, 50 Rounds
AMM-4310 ... $16.59

Winchester Ranger .40S&W
JHP, 155 Grain, 50 Rounds
AMM-564 ... $19.79

American Eagle .40 S&W
FMJ, 155 Grain, 50 Rounds
AMM-534 ... $17.59

DRT .223
79 Grain, 20 Rounds
AMM-268 ... $22.29

Ulyanovsk .223
FMJ, 55 Grain, 20 Rounds
AMM-2907 ... $3.59

Ulyanovsk 7.62x39
FMJ, 122 Grain, 20 Rounds
AMM-6407 ... $3.59

American Eagle .308
FMJBT, 150 Grain, 20 Rounds
AMM-65970 ... $14.19

12 Gauge DDupleks Dupo 28
HP Slug, 2¾", 5 Rounds
AMM-829 ... $12.19

Visit our website for the largest selection of firearms, ammunition, magazines, and shooting gear. **800-421-8047**

Note the smoky residue above the VersaPort indicating the release of excess gas at the chamber end of the barrel.

Fully-adjustable, the Versa Max overmolded stock sports some racy, contemporary lines.

Located under the chamber, the VersaPort moderates recoil while being self-cleaning.

of the front bead. I added 1/4" cast off to the buttstock, and my shooting improved noticeably.

Adjustable stocks are becoming more and more common across all brand lines. Stock fitting that was once the exclusive province of the most expensive gunmaking establishments is now available to anyone who can turn a screwdriver. Yet, I find few shooters take the time to fit the stocks to their physique and shooting style. A little tweaking here and there, only takes a few minutes, and the benefits will become obvious the next time you're afield or at the range.

The 12-gauge Remington shell I was shooting for ducks and geese in Alberta's vast grain fields was as innovative as the Versa Max itself. Labeled "HyperSonic Steel" and available in 2-3/4", 3" and 3-1/2" loadings, the velocity of the new shell is rated at a sizzling 1,700 fps, which may be conservative. Based on his chronograph data and sophisticated computer programs, my hunting partner, L.P. Brezny of Ballistic Research and Development, calculates that muzzle velocities are running in

FIOCCHI FIELDS A COOL TRACER

Carlo Fiocchi, vice president of sales and marketing for Fiocchi Ammunition, holds up the new 12-gauge ChemiTracer shotshell, its Cyalume capsule activated by falling to the concrete pad on the 5-stand range. Note the Cyalume capsule sits above the shot charge. Photo: Jeff John

When the Cyalume caplet hits a hard surface like a rock, it opens up in an impressive burst of light. The chemiluminescent fades and disappears soon after, leaving no residue for cleanup. Photo: Jeff John

Members of the USA Shooting Team all fire the new Fiocchi ChemiTracer round at dusk. All three shots are converging on the just visible gray streaks, which are clay pigeons. Photo: Jeff John

It's the answer to a shotgunner's prayer—a tracer shotshell that is non-pyrotechnic, non-toxic, biodegradable and safe for any modern gun.

Through a wedding of technologies, Fiocchi and Cyalume have combined a high-quality target shotshell with a short, cool light stick called the ChemiTracer. That's right, a small light stick emitting cold, chemical light right out there in the middle of your shot column.

There have been many attempts to develop a practical shotshell tracer round. The last one I can recall was the "Tru-Tracer" shell that contained a highly reflective, metallic ball that blew the choke tube right out of my Cutts Compensator. Fortunately, that won't happen with Cyalume's flexible, chemical-light capsule.

As loaded by Fiocchi, the light capsule is seated on top of the shot charge and is activated by setback when the shell is fired. In flight, the illuminating capsule tracks the trajectory of the shot column out to 50 or 60 yards and is visible to the shooter and coach in daylight, and highly visible when shot against darker backgrounds like trees or during the early morning and evening hours.

The capsule is biodegradable once on the ground and may provide a splash of cold, chemical light should it strike a rock.

Initially, Fiocchi is introducing the ChemiTracer in a line of 12-gauge ammunition loaded with No. 7-1/2 shot with No. 8 and 9 shot following. It will be packaged as part of Fiocchi's new "Canned Heat" line, in which the ammunition is sealed in a nitrogen filled container to keep it fresh for long-term storage.

This stuff is a hoot! GUNS

FOR WEB LINKS, GO TO
WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/
FIOCCHIAMMUNITION.HTML

Mike Love, Fiocchi's area manager, launches a 12-gauge Cyalume illuminated ChemiTracer round at a clay pigeon. Photo: Jeff John

the 1,900s. Simply stated, Remington's HyperSonic loads are the fastest steel loads on the market, period. The secret is in the wad, and here's how it works while keeping pressures within SAAMI limits.

Rocket Science

The 1-piece HyperSonic wad incorporates a short, hollow tube at its base, called the "ignition chamber." As the wad is seated over the powder charge, a small amount of powder is forced inside the ignition chamber which comes to rest in direct contact with the primer flash hole.

When the primer fires, the powder in the ignition chamber is the first part of the powder train to be ignited. This small, captive charge drives the wad and its payload forward in the barrel milliseconds before the full impact of the main charge kicks in. Think of the ignition chamber as a miniature booster rocket that jump starts the payload.

As the wad is boosted out of the shell, the increasing internal volume behind the wad permits the primary powder charge to burn fully without generating excessive pressure in the barrel. Finally, the wad breaks away from the shot column as "stress concentrator" holes around the base of the wad fracture the sidewalls. The wads I recovered in the field are picture perfect examples of ideal wad performance and clearly show the little ignition chamber protruding from the wad's base.

The HyperSonic load I was hunting with was Remington's 3" Magnum holding 1-1/4 ounces of No. 2 shot. Shooting a modified choke, I couldn't have asked for a better performing steel-shot waterfowl load. Whether the incoming ducks and geese were at 15 or 40 yards, the fast, high energy shot from the new shell hammered them. Remington calculates that the delivered pattern energy from their 1,700 fps shell is approximately 16 percent greater than existing steel loads, shortening leads by 11 percent. Field autopsies on our geese showed a significant amount of radial tissue damage around the shot holes, symptomatic of high velocity impact.

A very unique wad is the key to the HyperSonic steel load's ability to achieve 1,700 fps.

Personally, over three days of hunting, I've never shot better. While the Versa Max was soaking up recoil, I wasn't consciously changing my leads, but I was connecting more than normal. In fact, during the hunt, I shot two honest doubles and three times, I had three dead ducks in the air with three rapid shots. Speed kills, and it sure makes you look good. In the 3" loading, the HyperSonic steel carries a suggested retail price of $23.99, and at that price, it will give the more exotic alloy shot types some stiff competition.

High tech guns, high tech ammunition, as shooters, we've never had it so good. And the innovations in guns and ammunition just keep coming. Stay tuned. GUNS

FOR WEB LINKS, GO TO
WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/REMINGTON.HTML

VERSA MAX

MAKER: REMINGTON ARMS
P.O. BOX 700, MADISON, NC 27025
(800) 243-9700

ACTION TYPE:
Semi-auto, gas operated
GAUGE:
12, 2-3/4", 3", 3-1/2"
CAPACTIY:
3+1 (2-3/4" or 3"), 2+1 (3-1/2")
BARREL LENGTHS:
26" or 28"
OVERALL LENGTH:
49-15/16"
WEIGHT:
7.7 pounds
FINISH:
TriNyte coated barrel, black oxide receiver, black or camouflage
SIGHTS:
HiViz
STOCK:
Overmolded synthetic
ACCESSORIES:
Choke tubes; HiViz sight tubes; Stock adjustment hardware
PRICE:
$1,399 to $1,599

HYPERSONIC STEEL AMMUNITION

GAUGE:
12
TYPE:
Steel
LENGTH:
2-3/4", 3", 3-1/2"
SHOT SIZE:
1, 2, 4, BB
SHOT LOAD:
1-1/8 to 1-3/8 ounce
VELOCITY:
1,700 fps
PRICE:
$22.99, $23.99, $32.99

SmartReloader
Reloading & Shooting Products
ADJUST YOUR iSD SPEED!
MAKE IT FASTER AND MORE ACCURATE!
53 GRAINS IN 10 SECONDS!
Visit SmartReloader-USA.com for the video tutorials about the iSD's speed adjusting and all the great features included!
MSRP $289.95
(2011 MSRP $319.95)
iSD
Automatic Powder Scale & Dispenser
Make your loads faster and more accurate!
•Stores up to 50 records.
•Maximum Scale Capacity: 1,500 grains
•Accuracy: .1 grains
•Hopper capcity: over 1lb.
•Just few minutes for the warm-up
•Easy and fast to set-up
•Large and visible display
•The same version can work with 110V or 220V power supply.
•Not for use with black powder
•Sizes: 8.3"(W)x12.6"(L)x11"(H)
•ADJUSTABLE SPEED!
All of the SmartReloader® products are Covered by a 2 Years Warranty
The Smartreloader® products are imported and distributed by Helvetica Trading USA, LLC.
701 Lawton Rd. Charlotte, NC 28216
To learn more about our products, to contact us or ask for a free catalogue please visit us at www.SmartReloader-USA.com
VISIT THE NEW WEBSITE
www.SmartReloader-USA.com

OUT of the BOX™

JOHN TAFFIN

HIDE FOR HANDGUNS
Bianchi Leather.

Necessity is definitely the mother of invention and an excellent example of this is Bianchi Leather. John Bianchi was a young police officer in Southern California in the 1950s. The duty holster at the time was the ill-conceived clamshell, which wrapped completely around the revolver. It was necessary to push a button inside the triggerguard before it would open up and allow access to the duty revolver. If the officer couldn't find the button (for whatever reason), the revolver stayed locked in place and no amount of cursing could make it release.

Sometimes it worked just the opposite and the revolver could not be put back into its proper place and closed. When Bianchi's partner could not get his gun back in the holster but instead had to put it in his waist belt while cuffing a prisoner, John decided it was time for something better.

In 1958, John Bianchi began making holsters out of his garage for fellow officers. The part-time business did not last long, as by 1960 Bianchi was offering a catalog which included such innovations as the X15 shoulder holster and the first thumb snap holster. I have used both successfully at times during the past 50 years. By 1975, Bianchi had not only made his 1-millionth holster, he also purchased the old Berns-Martin company which specialized in breakfront holsters. He did not want to produce the Berns-Martin, but rather to acquire the patent to be able to produce The Judge, a breakfront police duty holster which became standard equipment for many law enforcement agencies.

Three great guns in three great Bianchi holsters include (from left to right) a Colt 1911 in a Model 120 Covert Option, Smith & Wesson .44 Special 1950 in a Model 111 Cyclone and a Colt Single Action in a 1L Lawman.

John Bianchi eventually left the company and retired for a short time before starting John Bianchi's Frontier Gunleather, specializing in Western-styled, traditional holsters and belts. The original company still exists as Bianchi International offering a wide range of holsters for civilian and police use. At one time I had an original of the first Bianchi catalog and it was one of my standard dream books back in those days when I couldn't afford to purchase holsters. The two I liked the best in Bianchi's catalog were the 1L Lawman for the Colt Single Action and the same basic holster made for the Colt 1911. The first Bianchi holster I ever saw in person was a basket-stamped holster for a friend's 1911 and at the time I thought it was just about the prettiest thing I had ever seen.

Tom Threepersons

Let's look at three Bianchi holsters. Tom Threepersons set the standard for a holster that was, as Jerry Burke once described it, "Leather Quick, Leather Deadly." Threepersons took the basic Mexican loop holster, popular from the 1880s until after World War I, and radically altered it. The voluminous back flap was removed in favor of just enough leather to fold over and sew to the back of the holster to make a belt loop. The triggerguard was completely exposed with the front of it riding on a heavy welt sewed in back edge of the holster and the hammer was also totally exposed riding high and easily accessible. Virtually everyone who has ever made holsters, whether a large company or a 1-man shop, has offered some version of the Tom Threepersons. Bianchi's is one of the best.

Bianchi's version, the 1L Lawman, is even more compact than the original in that it has an open end which results in nearly 1" less total length for the holster body. The holster itself is made of high quality cowhide, suede lined and fitted with a safety strap. It rides high on the belt, out of the way and carries a single action just about perfectly. A Colt SAA 4-3/4" .45 or .44 Special rides high enough to be concealed under a jacket, while a Ruger 7-1/2" .44 Magnum carries easily while hunting. I would not be surprised to learn it is their best-selling civilian holster.

John Bianchi, as stated, introduced the thumb-snap holster. A current

version is the 111 Cyclone. Like the Lawman, it is also constructed of quality cowhide with a suede lining. Made to carry a double-action sixgun, it has a thumb snap and also a completely covered triggerguard. The belt loop itself is an ingenious affair allowing the holster to be carried strong side or crossdraw with the proper slant found with each carrying mode.

In the early episodes of *Walker, Texas Ranger* it appears to me Chuck Norris is carrying a 4" Smith & Wesson stainless steel or a nickel-plated .44 Magnum in a Cyclone worn crossdraw. With its dual carrying ability, a 4" N-frame .44 Special, .44 Magnum, .45 Colt or .41 Magnum can easily be carried under a coat strong side and equally easily switched to crossdraw while driving. It is an excellent design equally well carried out.

One of the latest holsters from Bianchi is made for concealment use, however it is almost too pretty to hide. This is another very well thought out design made for inside the pants carrying. The Model 120 Covert Option Holster, made for concealing a 1911, is constructed of two pieces of leather sewn together at both the front and back edges. This results in a more compact profile than afforded by folding over a piece of leather and then stitching along only one edge. The front half of the holster is lined and there is a large cut out of the basic part of the holster where only the lining can be seen. This results in a nice contrast between the very dark brown of the holster body itself and the light tan of the suede lining.

Two snap-on, snap-off belt tabs are provided to secure the holster to the belt. An inside the pants holster rides against the body and this can be quite uncomfortable over the long haul. The fact it is made for the 1911 results in a flat surface against the body and a large tab on the back of the holster also prevents the back of the slide and the hammer from digging into the body—another excellent design from Bianchi.

I will always have a soft spot in my heart for Bianchi leather. Not only did I start getting serious about shooting about the same time John Bianchi started making holsters, I also visited the old Temecula plant and Bianchi Museum back when I was getting serious about being a gun writer and no one really knew who I was. I had called Bianchi earlier to make an appointment for a tour of the plant and museum and, when I arrived, there was a large banner across the front entrance welcoming me by name to Bianchi. I was then ushered into John Bianchi's office, which was loaded with beautiful guns and leather, and we talked for quite a while. I've always appreciated the way I was treated that day so many years ago. GUNS

The Bianchi Model 111 Cyclone (above) fully protects the triggerguard of the revolver, in this case a S&W Model 1950 Target .44 Special, and can be worn strong side or crossdraw. The Bianchi Model 120 Covert Option (below) is designed to be worn inside the belt or waistband and be an easy-on/easy-off holster. Note the generous flap to protect the safety and the wearer from the ivory gripped Colt 1911.

BIANCHI INTERNATIONAL
3120 E. MISSION BLVD., ONTARIO, CA 9176
(800) 347-1200

JOHN BIANCHI'S FRONTIER GUNLEATHER
P.O. BOX 2038, RANCHO MIRAGE, CA 92270
(877) 877-4704

WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/PRODUCTINDEX.HTML

KWIK-SITE CO.

TOMORROW IS HERE NOW!

Check out the new SUPER LONG BASE from Kwik-Site.

Made from aircraft aluminum, solid & strong!

Good looks at a fantastic price!

See it at your favorite dealer.

NOW ON SALE!

Retail Price $17.94 or less.

Available in Matte, Brite or Stainless.

SUPER LONG BASE

KWIK-SITE CO.

Leading U.S. Manufacturer of Scope Mounts

5555 Treadwell
Wayne, MI 48184
Phone: (734) 326-1500
Fax: (734) 326-4120
E-mail: kwiksiteco@aol.com
www.kwiksitecorp.com

SURPLUS LOCKER™

HOLT BODINSON

NORMA

The mother lode of milsurp ammunition.

If it weren't for Norma's pioneering efforts to supply us with some weird and wonderful metric cartridges for our milsurp rifles in the 1950s and '60s, the whole field of military surplus arms may never have reached the proportions it has today. The modern surplus bonanza for military arms really began just after WWII when returning GI's brought home hundreds of thousands of "liberated" rifles, shotguns, handguns and who knows what.

Feeding the Mausers, Lugers and P.38s was simple. Cartridges like the 9mm Luger and 8mm Mauser were familiar trade items and often available at the local hardware store. What stumped so many potential shooters was foreign metric calibers many had never been seen before Johnny came marching home bearing a few, oddball souvenirs.

There was also an associated problem you had to experience to appreciate. During and immediately after the war, sporting ammunition of any caliber or gauge was in extremely short supply, and you could simply forget about component brass, bullets or primers. When the Korean War arrived uninvited at our doorstep in 1950, the ammunition and component situation deteriorated for several years.

Yet, resting in closets, attics, garages and mud rooms around the country were tens of thousands of Japanese Arisakas, and there were thousands of young men yearning to shoot them. If your family didn't own one, the going price for a Jap rifle was $10 to $15, but only the most well read shooter had ever heard of the 6.5x50 or 7.7x58.

Without any ammunition to feed them, various attempts were made to make them shoot. Jap 6.5s were rechambered for the .257 Roberts case, creating the 6.5x257 wildcat. Handloaders began forming the 7.7x58 cases from .30-06 brass, only to discover that the case head was undersized and swelled noticeably when fired in the Arisaka. It wasn't a happy state of affairs.

Then in the early 1950s, a little known Swedish firm, Norma Projektilfabrik of Amotfors, Sweden, began importing newly manufactured 6.5x50 and 7.7x58 ammunition loaded with their steel-jacketed, Tri-Clad hunting bullets. That one step ignited an interest in foreign surplus arms that has only grown with time. Shooters suddenly began to notice those odd military rifles stuck in closets and attics. They were cheap, often free for the asking, and now with Norma taking the lead in manufacturing hunting ammunition for them, they had a useful purpose, or at the very least, they were fun to shoot.

Until the American market was penetrated, Norma was highly focused on supplying new and reloaded 6.5x55 target ammunition to the many shooting clubs in Sweden, and the primer used was the Berdan. Switching over to the Boxer primer for the American market was a first for Norma—and as important—Norma was able to supply the American handloading market with unprimed brass with the added touch of drilled, not punched, primer holes.

American component brass at the time was all primed brass, because the primer was automatically inserted as one of the final machine operations in making cases. The problem with primed cases for the American handloader was the high cost of transportation through the Railway Express system. To keep costs affordable, large dealers were actually de-priming bulk lots of cases so they could ship small quantities via parcel post to the consumer.

New Era

Norma can take the credit for heralding in the era of unprimed cases for American handloaders. Equally important, Norma began supplying the American handloading

Holt used a Schultz & Larsen in .358 Norma Magnum to win the running moose competition.

market with properly sized metric bullets and, later, reloading powders, including their sensational MRP Magnum powder.

The early '60s witnessed an explosion in military surplus imports. These were the days of the $9.95 Carcano, $13.95 Model 1911 Swiss rifle, $19.95 Argentine Mauser, $24.95 Jungle Carbine, $24.95 Model 1917 Colt or Smith & Wesson, $34.95 M40 Russian Tokarev, $79.95 original Pattern 14T scoped sniper, $89.50 Johnson and, yes, Sweden's very own mint condition 6.5x55 Mauser rifles and carbines.

Norma didn't miss a heartbeat. Overnight we had Norma ammunition, cases and bullets for the 6.5x52, 6.5x55, 7.5x55, 7.62x54 and 7.65x53. As the brand became better known, Norma developed an enviable reputation for the quality and uniformity of their brass and bullets, and the accuracy of their ammunition. Being selected as the OEM manufacturer for the complete line of Weatherby cartridges didn't hurt Norma's reputation one bit either at the time.

Recently, I had the opportunity to visit the Norma plant in Amotfors, Sweden, which is just across the border from Oslo, Norway. Now owned by RUAG of Switzerland, Norma focuses on civilian hunting and target ammunition. It currently occupies 4th place in worldwide annual production just behind Remington, Winchester and Federal.

Loading 85 calibers, from the .222 Rem to the .505 Gibbs and 300 different loads, the company also is a major player in the OEM field having made cases for Dakota, Jarrett, GECO, Nosler, Kynoch, SAKO, RWS, Winchester, Federal, Gehmann and Weatherby. Norma also now loads bullets from Nosler, Swift, Barnes, Speer, Sierra, Berger, Hornady and Woodleigh as well as their own lines of classic hunting and target bullets.

Yes, Norma's still on top of military surplus cartridge offerings, but their increasing emphasis is on high performance, big game cartridges under the African PH line that includes the .375 H&H and Flanged, .404 Jeffery, .416 Rigby and Remington, 500/.416 N. E., .450 Rigby Rimless, .458 Lott, .470 N.E., .500 Jeffery, .500 N.E. 3" and the .505 Gibbs and on high tech, match target rounds like the 6mm Norma Benchrest, 6XC, 6.5x284 and, of course, their national icon, the 6.5x55.

There is also a renewed emphasis on promoting and expanding the original Norma Magnum proprietary line, which still includes the .308 Norma Magnum and the .358 Norma Magnum. In fact, I won the running moose competition with .358 Norma

The Norma gunroom displays a rare Colt revolving rifle presented in 1855 to Col. William F. Cody from Colt. If it was indeed presented in 1855, that would have made Col. Cody 9 years old!

It may look like an antique phone part, but Norma sections brass case heads to continually test for hardness at multiple points.

Still going strong, milsurp Krag and Swedish Mausers employed as pressure gun actions.

Premium hunting ammunition is rigorously inspected and actually hand packaged.

A vast trove of treasure indeed! Not gold, but the brass discs Norma uses to create the reloadable cases for hundreds of rifle calibers.

ELITE SPORTS EXPRESS

Visit one of our three traveling showrooms at a dealer near you and get your hands on the hottest new products from today's top manufacturers.

See our 2011 show dates online at www.elitesportsexpress.com
To book the ESE or get your products on board, call Don at 702-528-6771

De Santis GUNHIDE

SOF-TUCK™
Style #106
$25.99

- Fully adjustable cant for strong side, small of back or cross draw carry
- No-slip suede
- Tuck-able "J" clip
- Reinforced top allows for easy one hand reholstering

(800) GUNHIDE DEPT GM21 431 BAYVIEW AVENUE, AMITYVILLE, NY 11701
www.desantisholster.com

The use of suppressors on big game rifles is not uncommon in Sweden. The suppressors reduce recoil and noise, which keeps hunters and neighbors happy.

Magnum chambered in an elegant Model 68 DL, Schultz & Larsen sporter.

Touring the plant, I was impressed with the constant testing and gauging carried out during Norma's production process. Down in the ballistics laboratory, you will be glad to know military surplus Krag and Swedish Mauser actions are still doing daily yeoman service as pressure gun actions.

In a couple of days of moose hunting, I saw no Swedish moose except those being hauled out of the woods on a unique, Swedish, hand-guided tractor. What did catch my eye was the use of suppressors on several of the big game rifles being carried afield. I was informed the suppressors saved one's hearing, reduced felt recoil and kept the neighbors happy!

While recently our declining dollar has not been kind to the retail pricing of Norma products, Norma is still the quality source for milsurp caliber ammunition loaded with premium hunting bullets as well as for premium quality, metric reloading components. Norma's contributions to the military surplus community are unequalled. They got us shooting 60 years ago and have kept us shooting ever since. GUNS

NORMA PRECISION AB
AMOTFORS, SWEDEN

BLACK HILLS SHOOTERS SUPPLY
P.O. BOX 4220
2875 S. CREEK DR., RAPID CITY, SD 57709
(605) 348-4477
(THE NORTH AMERICAN DISTRIBUTOR FOR NORMA PRODUCTS. WHOLESALE ONLY, BUT THEIR WEBSITE IS AN INVALUABLE RESOURCE FOR VIEWING AVAILABLE NORMA AMMUNITION AND COMPONENTS.)
FOR WEB LINKS, GO TO WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/BHSHOOTERS.HTML

Q&A

Questions & Answers

• JEFF JOHN •

Due to the volume of mail received, GUNS *cannot offer a personal reply. Please e-mail your question to ed@gunsmagazine.com or snail mail to:* GUNS *Q&A, 12345 World Trade Dr., San Diego, CA 92128*

Safe Carry

Q: Recently, a friend and I were talking about 1911 autoloaders. I prefer a cocked-and-locked carry, with a round in the chamber, hammer back and safety on. He says he prefers to carry with a round in the chamber but the hammer down and safety off. The disagreement (there always is one isn't there?), is I say the hammer down on a loaded round is dangerous from a drop or hammer strike and he says the grip safety prevents that. He says the chance of sweeping off the safety unawares is more dangerous.

Glen Thompson
via e-mail

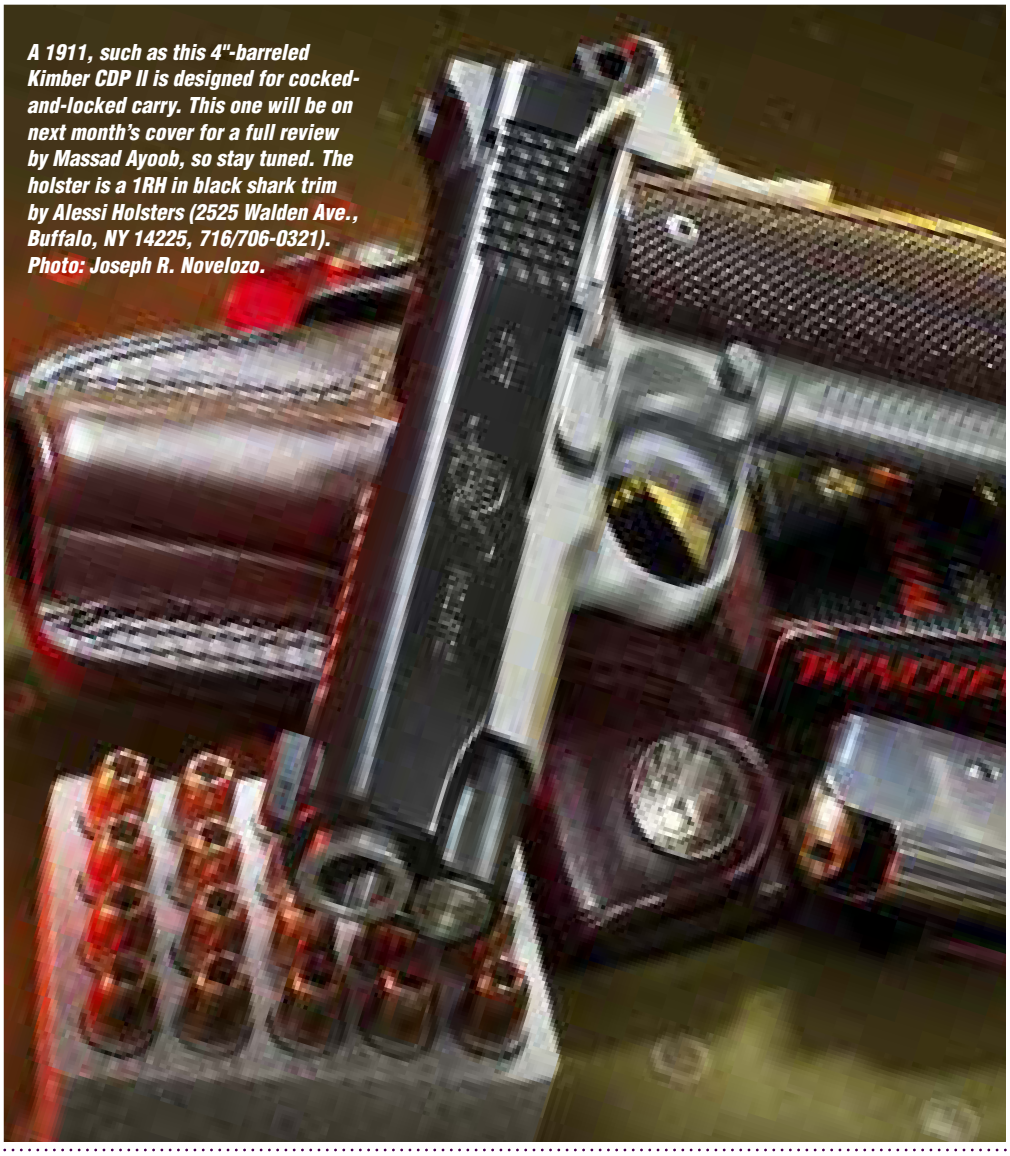
A: The 1911 has an inertial firing pin. The firing pin itself is shorter than its tunnel in the slide and the full force of the blow from the hammer is required to fire the cartridge. When the hammer is at rest against the firing pin, the firing pin tip does not protrude or contact the cartridge in anyway (if everything is working right). If the hammer is at rest on the firing pin and the pistol falls on the hammer, an accidental discharge is unlikely.

There is much greater chance of the gun being accidentally discharged *as* the hammer is being lowered from full cock, which is one of the reasons your friend's method of carry is discouraged. As an aside, lowering the hammer to 1/2 cock is even worse, because if the pistol is dropped on the hammer, the notch can break and the hammer can strike the firing pin with enough energy to fire the pistol.

Your method of carry, with the hammer cocked and the safety applied, is the correct way to carry the 1911 loaded. If you use a properly designed holster, there is little chance of the safety being scuffed off. This is where the grip safety comes into play, because the grip safety must be fully depressed before the pistol can fire. The grip safety does not do anything to prevent a discharge when the hammer is at rest.

There is a greater chance of the 1911 accidentally discharging if it is dropped on the muzzle. If the firing-pin spring is weak, the firing pin can get up enough steam to strike the primer if enough force is applied to the muzzle. It is a good idea to change the firing-pin spring when you change the recoil spring.

Many companies have begun to put firing-pin blocks in the 1911s. The Kimber method is one of the best, where depressing the grip safety frees the firing pin to travel. In the Colt Series 80 method, the trigger itself raised a bar to unblock the firing pin for travel. GUNS



A 1911, such as this 4"-barreled Kimber CDP II is designed for cocked-and-locked carry. This one will be on next month's cover for a full review by Massad Ayoob, so stay tuned. The holster is a 1RH in black shark trim by Alessi Holsters (2525 Walden Ave., Buffalo, NY 14225, 716/706-0321). Photo: Joseph R. Novelozo.

Stoeger Cougar .45 ACP

A reliable, affordable big-bore defensive pistol.

Mike Cumpston

The original Cougar series emerged under the Beretta marque in the mid 1990s as a compact alternative to the Model 92/M9 service pistols. It was available in 9mm, the then-new .40 S&W, .357 SIG and .45 ACP and eventually a "Mini-Cougar" variation emerged. Basic fire controls were the same as the 92 and action variations included the standard DA/SA with hammer drop safety, hammer drop only and full-time double action.

Marketplace and associated vectors lead Beretta to shelve the series in favor of the current polymer-rich Storm series. Realizing the Cougars had proven themselves in terms of functional reliability, durability and excellent shooting characteristics, the companion company, Stoeger Industries moved the original tooling to Turkey and began producing the pistol to the same standard of quality as the originals. Reduced production costs resulted in a substantial reduction in price.

The Stoeger product is billed as a "pistol designed for affordability (sic)." This does not mean the current Cougar is, in any respect, a second tier pistol. It is fully equal to top-level service pistols selling for double the cost. The Stoeger Cougar entered the marketplace in 9x19mm and .40 S&W, standard SA/DA with the other action variations optioned in the future. Recent variations include a non-glare Bruniton silver-steel slide with an anodized alloy matte-silver frame and a 2-tone style, featuring a matte Bruniton black-steel slide combined with an anodized alloy matte-silver frame. Bruniton, whether basic black or otherwise colored, is the ubiquitous Polymer/Teflon bake-on finish applied over phosphate used throughout the industry. It is standard on the Beretta M9 service pistols. The news of the day of course, is the recent addition of the Cougar in .45 ACP.

The Stoeger Cougar, heretofore chambered for 9x19mm and .40 S&W, is now available in .45 ACP. The Cougar is identical to the original Beretta series originally fielded in 1994. It has developed a solid reputation for ease of use, ultra reliability and durability. Now manufactured in Turkey on the original Beretta tooling, the Stoeger Cougar is the standout bargain among the top-quality service and concealment pistols.

Like the service standard Beretta M9/Model 92, the Cougar dismounts for cleaning in mere seconds. With the introduction of the .45 ACP, the Cougar series now has a sturdy stainless steel guide rod supporting the recoil spring within the steel-action block. The rotary locking sequence and recoil bearing action block minimize recoil impact on the alloy frame.

The Cougar .45

The .45 ACP Cougar is the first of the series to feature the frame-front accessory rail—standardized for mounting the broad array of laser sights and tactical lights. It also pioneers a very important feature now being applied to the entire Cougar line. Whether generated by functional concerns or resulting from consumer rebellion, the plastic recoil-spring guide is no more. In its place is a very substantial stainless steel unit. The .45 comes in black Bruniton over the black anodized aluminum frame—the meld of finishes complementing each other very well. Metal work under the finish is without visible flaw.

Other features are common across the Cougar Line. The hammer drop safety is ambidextrous and the magazine release is reversible. The rotating barrel concept has been

COUGAR
MAKER: STOEGER INDUSTRIES
17603 INDIAN HEAD HWY
ACCOKEEK, MD 20607
(800) 264-4962

CALIBER:
.45 ACP (tested, 9mm, .40 S&W)
CAPACITY:
8+1
BARREL LENGTH:
3.7", chrome lined
MATERIAL:
Stainless steel slide, aluminum frame
OVERALL LENGTH:
7"
FINISH:
Black Bruniton slide, anodized frame
WEIGHT:
32.6 ounces
SIGHTS:
Fixed 3 dot
PRICE:
$499

around for over a century and, in the Stoeger Cougar, is very well engineered. An angled slot on the underside of the barrel mates with a cam in the steel action block. The barrel remains aligned with the slide, its rotation abating some of the recoil impulse, which is largely absorbed by the breechblock instead of the alloy frame. The rotating barrel and related aspects of the design facilitates manufacture of the pistol in different calibers and are likely compatible with the extended service life claimed in the promotional material.

The .45 has the wide body magazine of the same dimensions as the 9mm and .40 S&W. The smaller calibers boast enhanced magazine capacity due to staggered loading. The .45, on the other hand, while appearing wide-bodied is actually a single stack and holds 8 rounds. Dismounting the pistol for cleaning is, like the Model 92, quite easy, as is reassembly, however, be aware it is very easy to feed the spring/guide rod assembly backwards into the action block, and then wonder why the thing will not go back together.

Shooting

The helical barrel and its recoil characteristics are credited with a reduction in perceived recoil. The very favorable grip shape may actually play the major role but whatever cheerful synergy is in place, recoil is exceedingly soft even when shooting the +P CorBon loads from the bench. Testers frequently posit that the rotating barrel has a noticeable influence on torque during recoil. Some say it moderates or eliminates it and others say it makes it perceptibly more pronounced.

In shooting the sample .45, I noted

VIRIDIAN GREEN LASER C5L

The Stoeger Cougar in .45 ACP is the first of the 8000 series to incorporate the Picatinny Accessory rail. Its advent on the market coincides with the ultra compact Viridian C5L Laser light—a multi-mode programmable combination of green laser target designator and a 100-lumen LED white light. The C5L seems tailor-made for the compact Cougar. The C5L supercedes the larger X5 series and, in addition to substantially reduced size, it features simplified operation and a battery compartment accessible without removing the unit from the weapon.

Activation and programming are all accomplished by manipulation of the single, large button on either side of the body of the sight. The buttons primarily function as an ambidextrous on/off switch and, with ideal mounting, is just in front of the triggerguard and reachable by either trigger finger. Depressing both buttons simultaneously moves the laser and flashlight from one operating mode to the next allowing selection ranging from laser or flashlight only, to both units on and can set either or both features on strobe. Depressing the buttons for three seconds accesses the "deep programming" mode and allows adjustment of the pulse rates and the intensity of the lumen output. The last selected mode of operation becomes the default activated automatically when the shooter presses the "on" button.

In subdued lighting, the C5L with both lamps set to strobe bids fair to fill any miscreant downrange of the display with a special sick feeling of dread. The green laser projects a visible needle beam through the dust and pollen and the 100-lumen light is strong enough to dazzle. Shooting under the most adverse of bright daylight conditions, we found the laser designator to be highly visible against the popular deep green B27 target providing rapid and precise target acquisition out to 25 yards or so. GUNS

The 2.1-ounce C5L mounted to the Stoeger 8045 Cougar. The package is a prime choice for home defense. The accessory kit contains three universal rail sets and all the tools needed for mounting and sighting in the unit. The on-switch, ideally mounted, is activated by the right or left trigger finger without shifting the grip. The buttons working together govern all of the program modes for the unit.

C5L GREEN LASER
MAKER: VIRIDIAN
GREEN LASER SIGHTS
5929 BAKER RD, SUITE 440
MINNETONKA, MN 55345
(800) 990-9390

TYPE:
Laser, with constant or strobe and white light
BATTERY:
1 CR2, 3V Lithium
BATTERY LIFE:
4 hours (steady), 7 hours (strobe)
WEIGHT:
2.1 ounces
PRICE:
$357

The "R1 Rail Set" is generally used for the Springfield XD and the S&W M&P and also fits the Stoeger Cougar. R2 fits the Glock with rails or the standard Picatinny. R3 is designated for "most Taurus Models." The CR2 battery is rated for 4 hours with the strobe option extending it past 7. The steady laser beam is considered the most intense and works well for bright daylight 25-yard sight-in. Setting the laser on strobe in bright daylight seemed to enhance visibility.

WICKEDGRIPS.COM

The ONE....
The ONLY....
The ORIGINAL....

Creating custom, one of a kind grip sets for the 1911, S&W revolvers, and the SIG 238

Wickedgr@WICKEDGRIPS.COM

From the highest grade woods, to our signature custom inlays, We are a TRUE Custom Grip Maker!

Be sure to check out our new handgun accessory company at:

GRIPWERX.COM

810-412-4037

This is a 5-round group fired from the isosceles stance at 25 yards. The shot at 10 o'clock in the center ring was double-action delivered in 1.57 seconds from the beep on Mike's Club Timer. Subsequent single action shots broke at an average of 1.33 seconds. The load was a 200-grain Oregon Trail cast SWC over 4.5-grains of Bullseye. The offhand result wasn't a great deal larger than most of Mike's bench groups with that load.

the pistol seems to recoil straight backward with little deviation in upward climb and no twisting effect. The long-standing consensus is the Cougars are extremely reliable and the sample gun delivered perfect function with the ammunition on hand. The sample gun has a 6-pound, single-action trigger pull, and nothing in my observations affirmed the claim the rotating barrel tends to produce superior accuracy.

The grip circumference and shape is ideally suited to medium and large hands allowing instant acquisition of a solid shooting grip. Systems redundancies include the highly corrosion-resistant Bruniton finish applied over a stainless slide and a half-cock safety notch, rendered supernumerary by the positive passive firing pin block.

.45 ACP FACTORY AMMO PERFORMANCE

LOAD (BRAND, BULLET WEIGHT, TYPE)	VELOCITY (FPS)	ENERGY (FT-LBS)	GROUP SIZE (INCHES)
CorBon 185 DPX	*946*	*368*	*2.6*
CorBon 230 JHP	*893*	*407*	*3.4*
Sellier & Bellot 230 FMJ	*772*	*304*	*3.9*

Notes: Groups the product of 5 rounds at 25 yards

.45 ACP HANDLOADED AMMO PERFORMANCE

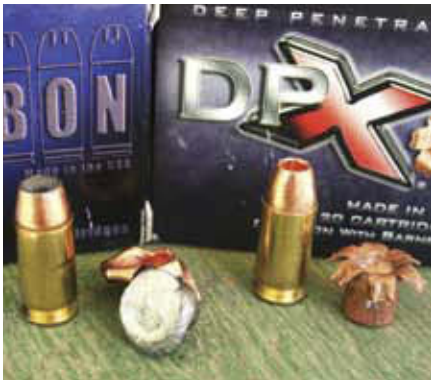
BULLET (BRAND, BULLET WEIGHT, TYPE)	POWDER (BRAND)	CHARGE (GRAINS WEIGHT)	VELOCITY (FPS)	ENERGY (FT-LBS)	GROUP SIZE (INCHES)
Oregon Trail 200 SWC	*Bullseye*	*4.5*	*789*	*277*	*3.6*
Meister Cast 230 RNL	*Bullseye*	*4.5*	*765*	*299*	*2.8*

Notes: Group size is the product of 5 rounds at 25 yards

Several of the loads on hand produced unremarkable 25-yard groups verging on the euphemistic "Combat Accurate." The pistol did like my two lead-bullet handloads and produced a consistent series of 2.6" and 2.7" groups with the CorBon 185-grain DPX load. Most loads hit 2" to 3" to the left of the sight setting but my 200-grain SWC load struck near dead center. (Both front and rear sights are dovetailed and amenable to windage adjustment.)

The double action is smooth and free of stack but heavy and long compared to several other DA pistols. Stand-up shooting revealed both triggers much more user friendly than the measured releases suggested. My 2-handed, 25-yard groups were only marginally larger than the bench groups with the same ammunition. One 5-round cluster fired in just less than 6 seconds measured a bit over 4" with the double-action shot hitting closest to the center of the target. At maximum speed—that is, shooting faster than my level of competence at 7 and 10 yards—I tended to throw my initial double action a bit wide of my subsequent single-action group though this improved with practice and most of my rounds stayed within the 9 ring of the B-27 target.

Multiple 25-yard bench groups with the CorBon 185-grain Deep Penetrating X-Bullet landed in amazing consistent 2.6" to 2.7" clusters. In contrast, the 230-grain standard JHP, a load of proven accuracy in other pistols, was prone toward 4" groups widened considerably by occasional fliers. Prospective Cougar owners should be aware of a tendency toward "load sensitivity."



CorBon markets a wide choice of loads that should fit anybody's personal theory of stopping power. Both the 230-grain JHP and the 185-grain DPX exhibited profound expansion fired from the 3.6" barrel of the Cougar compact and stopped by a water container after passing through a slab of lean beef brisket. The expansion is typical of the CorBon loads. As is often the case, the DPX displayed optimal accuracy from the test pistol.

Dedicated holsters for the railed Cougar are not yet available but, drawing from the basic generic-fit, Uncle Mikes Belt Slide demonstrated the hand falls naturally into a good shooter's grip providing repeatable fast singles and pairs at close range. This basic rig also affords secure and comfortable concealment under an untucked sports shirt. I believe shooters who adopt a practical approach to their handgun practice will find it easy to deploy the Cougar with speed and efficiency and will properly assign it to the short list of optimum service and concealment sidearms. GUNS

FOR WEB LINKS, GO TO
WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/STOEGER.HTML
WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/VIRIDIAN.HTML
WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/CORBON.HTML

A TRULY Modern

REMINGTON'S R-15/30
.30 REM AR CARTRIDGE COMBO DELIVERS

Holt Bodinson Photos: Robbie Barrkman

It's short, fat, efficient, a 30-caliber, effective on light big game and fits in an AR-15 rather than an AR-10 platform. All that's needed is a drum roll for the introduction of Remington's unique, proprietary .30 Remington AR cartridge now offered in their successful R-15 model.

After Remington's corporate parent, the Freedom Group, acquired two prominent AR makers—DPMS/Panther Arms and Bushmaster—something had to give and give it has. DPMS and Bushmaster continue to dish up an endless variety of intriguing ARs for us, while Remington has been the recipient of their combined talent and tooling with Remington's branded lines of R-15s and R-25s.

For the last couple of years, Remington's R-15 has been offered in .223 Remington, .204 Ruger and this year in .450 Bushmaster while their beefed up R-25 (an AR-10 platform) has assumed the big-game slot with chamberings like the .243 Win, 7mm-08 Rem and .308 Winchester. Designing a cartridge for deer-sized game that would mate handily with the familiar AR-15 lower, Remington engineers took a blank piece of paper, or should I say, computer screen, and went to work.

Short Case Pioneers

Remington has been in the centerfire, short business for a long time. Remember Remington's earlier benchrest shorts—the .22BR, 6BR, 7BR and .30BR? Initially, the factory would only sell the benchrest clan thin-walled, .308 Win forming brass, manufactured with small primer pockets and carrying the "BR" headstamp. Using forming dies and BR stamped brass, benchrest shooters

With both hunter and rifle dressed in full camo garb, the semi-automatic R-15 is a great calling-in rifle.

SPORTING RIFLE

had to fashion their own cases. Later 6BR and 7BR were briefly offered as factory brass and loaded ammunition.

Conjecture is, the parent case to the BR series was Frank Barnes' .308x1.5" wildcat he developed in 1961. Barnes' .308x1.5" was simply the .308 case cut to 1-1/2" and reformed. It immediately captured my imagination, and it didn't take me long to order a set of chambering reamers and RCBS loading dies for the cute, little wildcat.

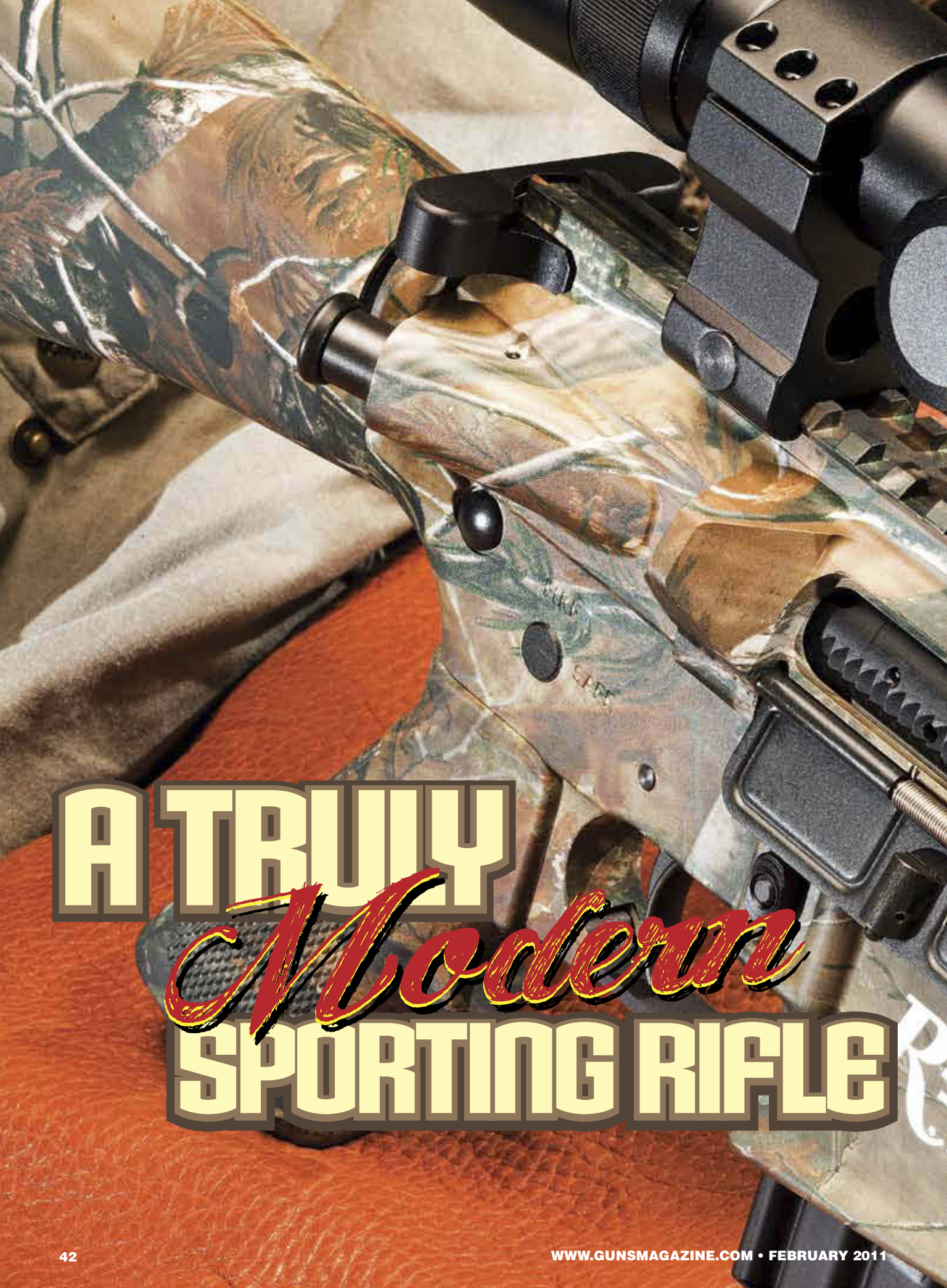
I built the rifle on a SAKO action using a pulled-off Remington .308 barrel. Cases were formed from .300 Savage brass because it was thinner and easier to work than .308 brass. Loaded with 27 grains of IMR 4198 and a 125-grain Sierra, the .308x1.5" would deliver sub-MOA groups out to 200 yards routinely. Plus the little wildcat was cheap to feed and a delight to shoot. This was before the days of shooter-owned chronographs, so I took Barnes' word for it that this load was generating approximately 2,557 fps.

Could Remington have used the .308x1.5" as their short .30? Yes. They might have even taken a second look at the .30BR, which is still burning up the benchrest circles and is now being formed from Lapua 6BR brass, or their own field-proven AR-15/16 cartridge, the 6.8 SPC. And there were other existing successful AR-compatible cartridges like the 6.5 Grendel, J.D. Jones' .302 Whisper and maybe even the 7.62x39 to consider. No, Remington decided to create a unique, proprietary case, the .30 Remington AR.

According to Remington's official specs, the overall length of the .30 Remington AR case is 1.530"; rim diameter is large at .492"; base diameter is .500"; shoulder diameter is .488"; shoulder angle is 25 degrees; neck length, a generous .305", which is a real plus for holding bullets in place in a semi- or fully-automatic weapon.

A number of involved shooters theorized the case was derived from the .450 Bushmaster, which is simply a chopped down .284 Win case. However, the only similarity the .30 Remington AR shares with the .284 Win and .450 Bushmaster is its base diameter of .500". No, the .30 Remington AR is a unique case.

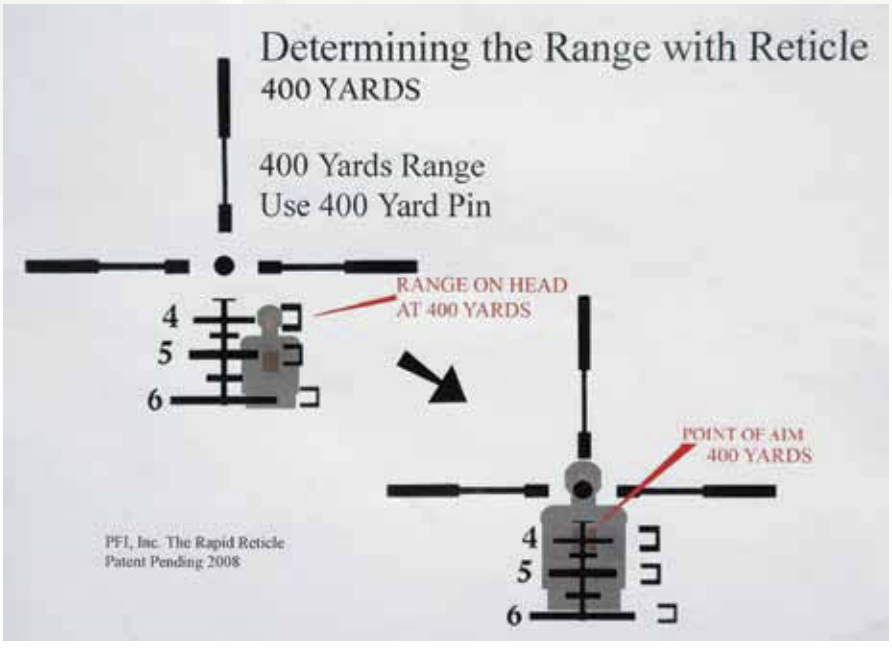
Factory ballistics are 2,800 fps with your choice of either a 125-grain AccuTip, Core-Lokt or FMJ bullet. Currently, catalogued is a 150-grain Core-Lokt loading at 2,575 fps, but as we went to print, it was not yet available. In the hierarchy of big-



A TRULY *Modern* SPORTING RIFLE

GUNS
MAGAZINE

Other classic shorts include (above, from left to right) the 7.92x33mm Kurz, 7.62x39mm, .308x1-1/2" and now the .30 Remington AR. The Rapid Reticle 1-4x24 Close Quarter-Long Range scope (below) features a cramp-type range finding system. This particular version is not in the hunting rifle realm as are many scopes from Pride-Fowler, but its magnification range is perfect for the new .30 Remington AR and the round's trajectory was close to the reticle's hashmarks.



The short and squat, yet powerful, .30 Remington AR (center) is flanked by the .308 Winchester (left) and the .223 Remington (right).

game cartridges, the efficient, little .30 Remington AR comes closest to the .300 Savage in terms of field performance.

Remington's platform for their .30AR medium-game cartridge is a rather unique Remington R-15, which uses a modified .308 Win bolt head and barrel extension. Why was the R-15 platform selected rather than the R-25 for a 30-caliber round? Weight, the availability of a jillion AR-15 accessories and being able to bring to the market a .30 Remington AR upper, existing AR-15 owners could purchase and fit to their lowers.

Made by DPMS, Remington's dedicated R-15 Hunter model includes a free-floated, fluted, 22" barrel, a flattop receiver, a tubular fore-end, a bolt assist, a 4-1/2- to 5-pound single-stage trigger, 4-round, single-stack magazine, a hinged triggerguard and trap butt. Dressed out in Realtree AP-HD camouflage, Remington's R-15 Hunter is one handsome rifle and a truly modern sporting rifle.

Coincidentally, with the arrival of the R-15 Hunter, I received a brand new concept scope designed and marketed by Pride-Fowler, Inc. "Pride-Fowler" represents the combined thinking and optic designs of two world-class

shooting champions, John Pride and Mickey Fowler. Their specialties are high-quality scopes with trajectory and windage calibrated reticles placed in the first focal plane. They call their lines "Rapid Reticle," and indeed they are. Once you've determined the range, all you do is place the numbered aiming point on target and squeeze. I've used the Rapid Reticle models in every caliber from .17 HMR to .300 Win Mag, and I can recommend them highly—impressive optics, precision made, tough and affordable.

Their new 30mm scope, called the Rapid Reticle 1-4x24 Close Quarter-Long Range, is unique. The illuminated reticle is calibrated for the NATO 5.56 and 7.62 cartridges. Set at 1X and shot with both eyes open, the scope serves as a close quarters, reflex optics system with an incredible field of view. Cranked up to 4X, it uses the length of a human head to determine range. It's a "cramp" type reticle with scaled, head-size boxes at the 400-, 500- and 600-yard reticle points. You match an exposed head to the proper sized box and use that "ranged in" aiming point for a center-of-mass shot. Testing the reticle system on paper silhouettes, I found you had to have a very stable rest (I used a bipod) to accurately fit the profile of a head to the ranging box.

If you don't have a laser rangefinder handy, it's certainly an effective backup system. Like all calibrated reticle systems though, you must shoot the scope in to verify zeroes with your rifle and your ammunition. Usually, there's a slight offset in one direction or another.

How'd the R-15 Hunter perform? Not surprisingly, the 125-grain AccuTip (2,669 fps) proved to be the most accurate load, averaging 1" to 1-1/4" for 3-shot groups at 100 yards. Surprisingly, the 125-grain FMJ (2,677 fps) averaged 1-1/4" to 1-1/2" and out shot the 125-grain Core-Lokt (2,625 fps) by a 1/4" or so on a consistent basis.

Recoil was minimal. The single-stage trigger was a delight, breaking at 4-3/4 pounds. One modification to the R-15 I would make immediately, would be to replace the existing charging handle with an extended design you can conveniently grasp and operate under the ocular of a scope sight.

Going from tactical to sporting designs, the one challenge AR designers are going to have to pay much more attention to is weight. As scoped, my R-15 Hunter, fully loaded, weighs 10 pounds, 2 ounces on a Sunbeam scale. An R-25 (AR-10 platform) could exceed that by a pound or two. Manufacturers need to begin shedding AR ounces to keep these reliable, accurate rifles in sporting trim. It's not hard. Maybe we just need to trot some of those CAD-fixated Remington engineers up the mountain a time or two.

The R-15 in .30 Remington AR is a classic. Creating a potent 30-caliber cartridge for the universal AR-15 platform was a stroke of genius. It was needed. It was timely, and the result could not have been better for sportsmen buying their first AR-15 or for us enthusiasts who seem to accumulate an armful of uppers for our lowers. GUNS

FOR WEB LINKS, GO TO
WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/REMINGTON.HTML
WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/PRIDEFOWLER.HTML

R-15

MAKER: REMINGTON ARMS COMPANY, INC.
P.O. BOX 700
MADISON, NC 27025
(800) 243-9700

ACTION TYPE:
Semi-auto, direct gas impingement
CALIBER:
.30 Remington AR
CAPACITY:
4+1
BARREL LENGTH:
22"
OVERALL LENGTH:
40-1/4"
WEIGHT:
7-1/2 pounds (unloaded)
FINISH:
Realtree AP-HD camo
SIGHTS:
None, Picatinny rail provided
STOCK:
Polymer
PRICE:
$1,255

1-4X24 CQB

MAKER: PRIDE-FOWLER IND.
P.O. BOX 4301
SAN DIMAS, CA 91773
(909) 599-0928

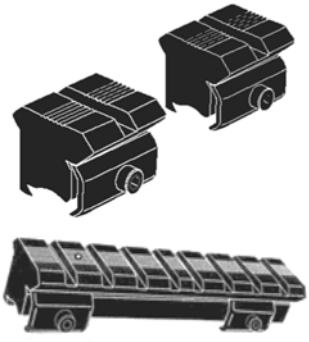
POWER:
1X-4X
TUBE DIAMETER:
30mm
EYE RELIEF:
4" (1X), 2-1/2" (4X)
RETICLE:
Illuminated, range finding, etched, first focal plane
EYE PIECE:
Fast focus
ADJUSTMENTS:
1/4 MOA
BATTERY:
1 CR2032 3V
LENGTH:
11-1/2"
WEIGHT:
14 ounces
PRICE:
1,299.99

KWIK-SITE CO.

DOES IT AGAIN!

With The *NEW* One And Only
Don't Be Fooled By Imitations

KWIK-MOUNT®/
22 ADAPTER FOR RIFLES
with GROOVED RECEIVERS



New Long Adapter Works For Air Rifles

Universal mounts enabling scopes to be interchanged easily onto a variety of receivers.

Satin smooth finish available in brite black, silver, and black matte, all at the same price.

Sets the standard for looks in the industry.

If you can't find our bases at your favorite distributor or dealer, contact KWIK-SITE and we'll make SURE you get them.

KWIK-SITE CO.

Leading U.S. Manufacturer of Scope Mounts Since 1967

5555 Treadwell, Wayne, MI 48184
(734) 326-1500 Fax (734) 326-4120
www.kwiksitecorp.com

SLAY IT WITH IRON SIGHTS, THAT IS.

IRON SIGHTS FOR HUNTING RIFLES.

John Barsness

Telescopic sights have dominated rifle shooting for so long many American hunters have never even fired a rifle without a scope. This explains why so many have vast misconceptions about what are usually called "iron sights."

The most common notion is iron sights are inaccurate. Proof to the contrary occurs each year during the 1,000-yard shooting competitions for the Wimbledon and Leech Cups held at Camp Perry, Ohio. The Wimbledon is shot with rifles using "any sight," meaning scopes, while the Leech is iron-sight only.

First everyone in the competition shoots, then the top scorers compete in a shoot-off. A perfect total score, combining the two stages, would be 300 points. If iron sights are so inaccurate, we'd expect Leech Cup scores to be much lower—but they aren't. In the five years from 2006-2010 the Wimbledon (scope) winner averaged 298.6 points, while the Leech (irons) winner averaged 297.6 points, a difference of about 1/3 of 1 percent.

Even so, scopes are normally a better hunting choice than irons. They allow us to see the animal better, and the reticle provides a sharp, precise aiming point—but this doesn't mean irons are obsolete. Despite the development of modern lens coatings that repel water, iron sights work better than scopes in really nasty weather, especially when hunting in thick woods where trees constantly drop wet pine needles and leaves or dump snow all over our scope.

Backups

Irons are also very useful backups. Despite increased reliability, scopes are the most delicate part of a hunting rifle. Most of us don't carry a spare scope in our daypack, but if our rifle is equipped with both iron sights and a detachable scope, when the scope

This old caribou bull was taken at over 300 yards with a pre-'64 Winchester Model 70 in .270, and a Lyman aperture sight. The .270 shoots just as flat with iron sights as it does with a scope.

If a rifle is set up so that it fits like a shotgun, very quick and accurate close-range shooting can be done by aiming only with the front sight. This water buffalo (above) was in cover so thick it couldn't be seen until John was within 17 yards. On one safari, John's primary rifle was a .375 H&H Ruger No. 1 (right) equipped with an NECG aperture sight. It took six animals, including Cape buffalo.

breaks we can simply switch to irons.

Also, if anything goes wrong with iron sights we'll immediately see it. In contrast, scopes often act like teenagers, carrying inner secrets. The first suggestion of any problem comes when we take an easy shot at a deer and miss.

Aside from practicality, there are certain esthetics to iron sights on a hunting rifle. First, a scopeless rifle will normally weigh at least a pound less. This doesn't mean much when sitting in a treestand, but does when carrying one all day, especially when still-hunting thick woods where the rifle should be in our hands, not slung across our back. And some rifles just look or feel wrong with a scope. Certainly a lever-action .30-30 was never meant to be scoped, even though these days many are inflicted with 3-9X variables.

Freedom In Sturdiness

There's also a certain freedom in using iron sights. You don't have to worry about banging a scope on the landscape, or cleaning lenses. I've taken iron-sight-only rifles on expensive hunts in Canada and Alaska. In Canada the rifle was rained on constantly during a search for caribou, but I never even covered the aperture sight on my .270. In Africa I didn't have to wipe dust off lenses every day, or shoot the rifle now and then to see if constant bouncing in the Land Cruiser had shaken the zero. Instead I just went hunting, without worrying about a relatively fragile contraption of glass, tiny screws and thin aluminum.

Master The Rifle

There's also the notion of the late Col. Jeff Cooper, who I became acquainted with in his later years. Jeff firmly believed nobody was a complete master of the rifle unless they were competent with iron sights. For most scopes-only hunters this is a huge leap of faith. They're used to aiming with a precise reticle and simply don't believe that the bullet will land where a relatively crude front sight is pointing.

This mistaken notion is curable. The first rule of iron sights is the target should contrast with the sights. Most of today's paper targets are designed for scopes. Sometimes they even have blaze-orange bull's-eyes, a mediocre choice even for a 4-12X scope, but almost impossible with typical hunting irons. This is because the front sight is normally white or some pale metallic color, such as gold, because most game animals are relatively dark.

Neither color of front sight provides sufficient contrast on a mostly white target.

The traditional solution has been to "smoke" the sight with a match or candle, holding the flame below the sight, leaving a dark film over the pale sight. After sighting-in the smoke-film is wiped off. The trouble with this technique is that some of today's "iron" sights have plastic beads, and plastic tends to melt near flame.

Another solution is a sight hood, a piece of sheet-steel forming a cover for the front sight. Hoods both protect

and shade the front sight, making it darker. This is good when shooting at paper but not so good when shooting at game—though a detachable hood is still handy when going back and forth from paper to game.

Few front sights come with detachable hoods these days, but a temporary hood can easily be made out of cardboard or even target paper, and attached with tape. I always carry a roll of masking tape in my range kit anyway, for taping targets to the backstop.

Another solution is to use a dark target with a pale bull's-eye. A sheet of black paper, with a small circle or square of pale paper taped in the middle, works very well. You can even make the bull's-eye out of masking tape.

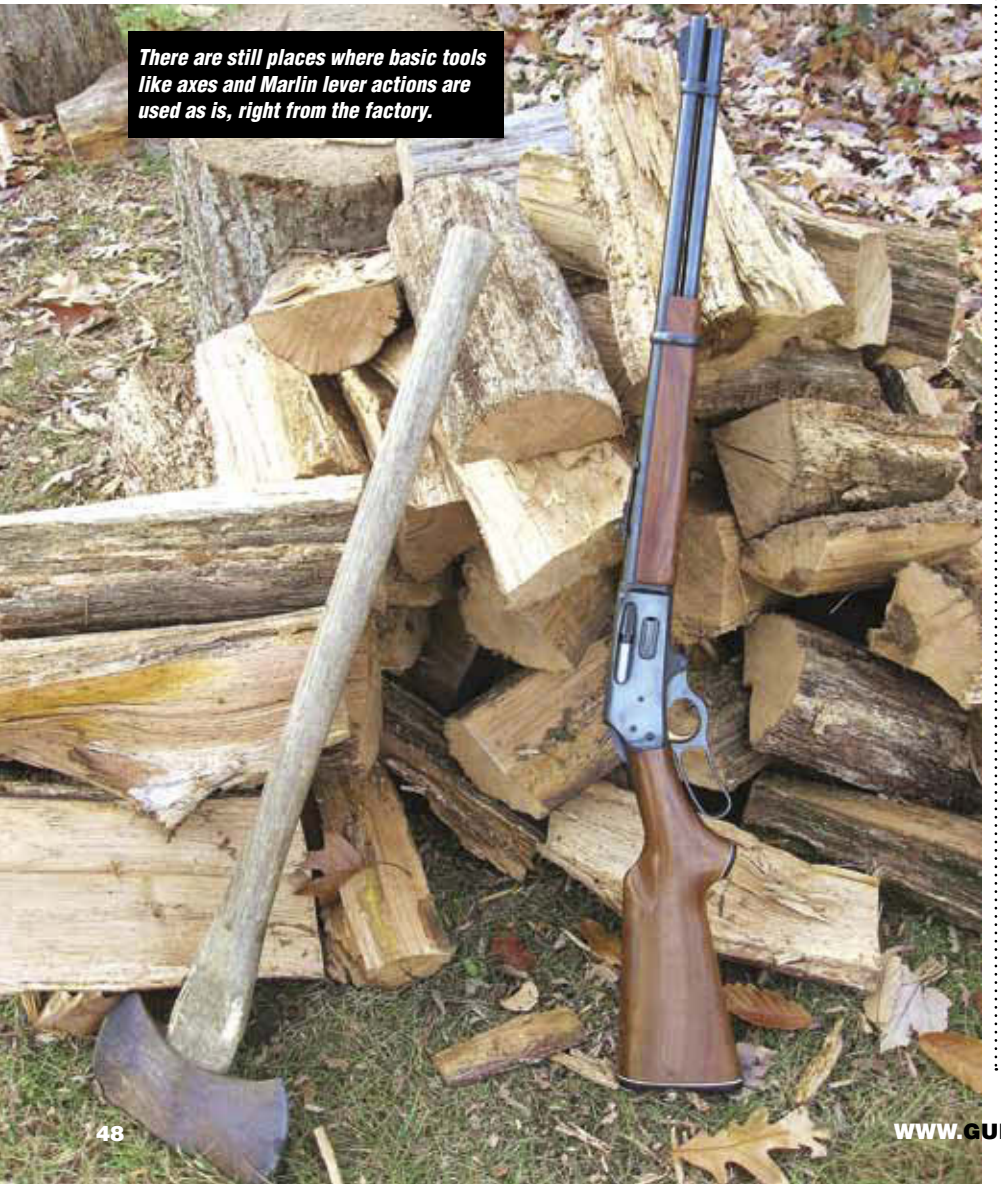
Yet another solution is to use a front sight that contrasts with either a dark or pale target. This is probably the place to point out "iron" sights aren't usually made of iron, though they're often made of steel. These days the beads on front sights are often fiber-optic. Red is most popular, but green and yellow are also common. Unless we're color-blind, a red fiber-optic bead stands out against any background.

Some hunters prefer a flat-topped blade for a front sight, claiming it allows more precise allowance for elevation. This is true—*if* we can plainly see the top of the blade. Some of us can't, especially in the dim light of piney woods. Plus, I don't know of any fiber-optic front sight that comes in blade form.

Bead sights have the advantage of being very easy to use, particularly at close range: Just put the round bead where the bullet should go and pull the trigger. This is probably the main reason hunters who go after animals in thick cover prefer bead sights, often big beads.

Beads also provide a method of quick range estimation. Let's say the sight on our rifle measures the typical 3/32" in diameter. If our rifle is a typical bolt-action with a 24" barrel, at 100 yards this bead will apparently cover ("subtend") about 10".

A typical buck deer's chest measures 16" from top to bottom. If a 3/32" front bead appears smaller than a deer's chest, then the deer is something like 150 yards away—and well within iron-sight range. If the front sight appears larger than the deer's chest, then the deer is 200+ yards away, a long shot with iron sights for most hunters.



There are still places where basic tools like axes and Marlin lever actions are used as is, right from the factory.

Receiver sights like this old Lyman were at one time very popular on hunting rifles—and they still work today.

Utah gunsmith D'Arcy Echols fitted these NECG express sights to John's .375 H&H. Both feature a red fiber-optic bead.

Aiming Point

Another advantage of a bead sight is that, unlike a blade, a bead provides more than one aiming point. Only the top of a blade sight is typically used for sighting: The shooter uses the classic "6 o'clock" hold, placing the flat top of the blade at the bottom of the bull's-eye.

A bead, on the other hand, can be either used with a 6 o'clock hold or sighted so the bullet lands in the middle of the bead. Middle-of-the-bead sighting is most commonly used for close-range hunting, but a 6 o'clock sighting at close range also becomes a middle-of-the-bead sighting at longer range.

An example is an iron-sighted hunt I made for caribou in Quebec. My rifle was a pre-'64 Model 70 Winchester chambered in .270. The front sight was the factory "gold" bead and the rear sight a steel Lyman 48, at one time the most popular aperture sight in America. I sighted-in the rifle at 100 yards, so that handloads with 150-grain Hornady Spire Points grouped 2" above the top of the bead. (Five 3-shot groups, by the way, averaged 1.49" in diameter. This is not the 1/2" many 21st century hunters apparently believe necessary for hunting big game, but for most of the 20th century 1-1/2" accuracy

was considered plenty good, even for pronghorns at 400 yards.)

The bead subtended around 8" at 100 yards. An average caribou bull measures around 21" to 22" from top to bottom of the chest, so the front sight on the Model 70 would completely "cover" a bull's chest at around 250 yards. With the rifle sighted-in 2" high at 100 yards, the bullets landed close to the top of the bead anywhere out to 250 yards, and in the middle third of the bead from 275 to 350 yards.

The migration hadn't started yet and caribou were scarce. Several days into the hunt I finally found a very old bull with stumpy antlers. I like caribou meat too much to go home without any, and also had a second tag, just in case a real trophy showed up later. So I lay down on a tundra ridge and held the bead on the bull's chest. The bead appeared a little larger than his chest, indicating a range of over 300 yards, so I centered the entire bead right on his ribs and pulled the trigger.

At the shot he turned and started trotting away, but in the same moment I heard the thump of the bullet striking his chest. I wanted to be sure, so placed another shot in the middle of his rump, between the steaks. He went down and stayed down, and it took over 350 long paces to reach him.

That's the longest game shot I've ever made (or attempted) with iron sights, but I've taken many other animals out to 200 yards or so. Out to 200 yards, using iron sights isn't all that different than shooting with scopes as long as there's sufficient light to see the sights, despite the objections of hunters who've never really used irons.

Too Fuzzy?

The two most common objections are "the rear sight's fuzzy" and "the front sight covers the animal." The reason I've emphasized the front sight so heavily is that's what we use to aim. If we can see the front sight and the target clearly, then precise shooting is relatively easy. The rear sight can be very fuzzy, but that doesn't matter as long as we can see equal amounts of light on each side of the front sight.

An aperture (peep) sight is more easily used than an open-rear sight because we look through the fuzzy hole at the front sight, but even people on the far side of 40 can use open-rear sights if they just accept that the sight will be somewhat out of focus. I'm 58, and use open sights for shooting small varmints every year here in Montana, usually with my Winchester Model 62A .22 rimfire, and can still hit ground squirrels and prairie dogs consistently out to 50 or more yards. This practice makes shooting deer (or really big game, such as Cape buffalo) relatively easy.

However, placing the rear sight further forward on the barrel can help. This makes the sight radius smaller, theoretically reducing accuracy, but also makes the sight less fuzzy. This makes up for any theory.

No, the front sight does not cover up an animal, not unless we're using it wrong. If the animal is very small, such as a rabbit or prairie dog, then we aim with the very top of the sight, using the 6 o'clock hold. If we're hunting big game the bead only covers part of the animal. We only think it's covering up too much animal because we're scope-wimps, used to being able to aim at one particular hair with a fine reticle. The vital area of a deer is a *lot* bigger than one hair. All we have to do is put a bullet in the middle of a deer's ribs, not part hair.

Plus, when hunting either small or large game with iron sights, we should be shooting with both eyes open. This allows us to still see the entire animal with our "off" eye, even if the bead apparently covers a caribou's chest.

It used to be universally accepted that iron sights were quicker than scopes, though as more shooters switched to scopes, they discovered that a single sharp aiming point made scopes faster. However, if the stock of our rifle fits like a shotgun's, extremely

Fifty years ago scopes weren't nearly as reliable as they are now. Many hunters used detachable mounts so they could switch to iron sights, as with this old Savage 99 (above). Some even had scopes mounted high enough so they could switch to irons without even removing the scope, as on this Mauser-action sporter built by Bill Sukalle (below).

Many older German rifles featured built-in, flip-up tang sights for more accurate aiming at longer ranges, such as this double rifle in 9.3x74R (left) and hammer drilling in 12 gauge and .30-30 (right).

So many Savage 99s were made during a century of production that several companies still make iron sights. The rifle in the rear has an XS Sights receiver sight, while the rifle in front has a Marble tang sight.

US Military Contracts:
W91CRB-09-D-0074
M20133-07-M-3125
N00244-06-P-1971

PFI RAPID RETICLE

It's never been EASIER to shoot at

300 yards, 400 yards, 500 yards, 600 yards, 700 yards, 800 yards, 900 yards

Competitions

Mike Voigt:
2009 & 2010 Superstition Mountain Mystery 3 Gun
2009 USPSA Multi-gun Nationals
2010 MGM Iron Man 3 Guns
2010 Surefire International Tactical Rifle Championship

Maggie Reese:
2009 & 2010 USPSA Multi-gun National Champion

John Pride:
4-time Bianchi Cup Champion

Since 2004, the patented Rapid Reticle Ballistic Reticle System by PFI has helped riflemen shoot multiple distances without manual adjustments and zeroing only once. Combat tested and renowned by militaries, law enforcement teams, and competition shooters across the globe, the Rapid Reticle family of optics makes shooting long distances easier than ever. Although many imitators try, nothing comes close to the original Rapid Reticle. Please see our full line of optics at www.RAPIDRETICLE.com

SOPS-33MM SOPS-COMPACT RR-CQLR-1 RR-800-1 RR-900-4

877-817-6019 www.RAPIDRETICLE.com SALES@RAPIDRETICLE.com

El Paso Saddlery Co.
Since 1889
Finest Quality Holsters and Belts

1920
"Tom Threepersons"
• lining standard
• forward cant standard
Available for most Single Actions, Double Actions and Semi-Automatics.
$72

1930
"Austin"
• forward cant standard
• suede lined
Available for Single Actions Double Actions, and Semi-Automatics
$112

Shown in Basketweave Stamping

Shown with Floral Carving.

www.epsaddlery.com
2025 E. Yandell, El Paso, Texas, 79903
Ph. (915) 544-2233, Fax (915) 544-2535

George Tichbourne
KNIFEMAKER

RIVERBOAT GAMBLER

http://www.tichbourneknives.com
(905) 670-0200

7035 Maxwell Rd., # 5, Mississauga, Ontario L5S 1R5 CANADA

Iron sights are coming back somewhat these days. The Ruger Hawkeye African model features very good front (above) and rear sights.

quick shooting can be accomplished by aiming only with a bead front sight. I set up my CZ .416 Rigby this way, rasping down the Bavarian comb of the buttstock until my eye lined up with the sights, every time the rifle came to my shoulder. With this rifle I can hit a softball-sized rock every time out to 50 yards, simply by mounting the rifle like a shotgun and concentrating on the front bead. This came in very handy during an encounter with a wounded water buffalo, in brush so thick I couldn't see the buffalo until it was 17 yards away. So yes, iron sights still have definite uses in the 21st century. GUNS

BROWNELLS
200 S. FRONT ST., MONTEZUMA, IA 50171
(800) 741-0015

D'ARCY ECHOLS & CO.
(GUNSMITH INSTALLATION)
98 W. 300 ST., MILLVILLE, UT 84326
(435) 755-6842

LYMAN
465 SMITH ST., MIDDLETOWN, CT 06457
(800) 225-9626

MARBLE ARMS
420 INDUSTRIAL PARK, GLADSTONE, MI 49837
(906) 428-3710

NEW ENGLAND CUSTOM GUN
438 WILLOW BROOK RD., PLAINFIELD, NH 03781
(603) 469-3450

WILLIAMS GUN SIGHT
P.O. BOX 329, DAVISON, MI 48423
(800) 530-9028 OR (810) 653-2131

XS SIGHTS SYSTEMS
2401 LUDELLE, FORT WORTH, TX 76105
(888) 744-4880

FOR WEB LINKS, GO TO
WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/PRODUCTINDEX.HTML

THAT'S SAVAGE ACCURACY.

When James Italiano of Mission Viejo, CA cuts the deck, he likes to show off a little bit. He uses his Savage Model 12 F-Class target rifle to split them edge-to-edge at 100 yards. Of course every one of our hunting guns has that Savage target-gun heritage built in; like the new Model 10 Predator Hunter Max 1 with AccuStock. This revolutionary system gives you the same stability and bedding of a target gun in a lightweight field gun. Best of all, it makes coyotes fold like a bad hand.

Card courtesy of James Italiano, Mission Viejo, CA

Model 10 Predator Hunter, Max-1

Savage® Arms
The Definition of Accuracy

savagearms.com savageaccuracy.com

Myth Meets Fact

World War II Sniper Rifles—how good were they?

Mike "Duke" Venturino & Dave Emary
Photos: Yvonne Venturino

A couple of very popular World War II movies would have viewers think that a sniper could put a bullet right through his enemy's rifle scope. Such was shown in both *Enemy At The Gates* and *Saving Private Ryan* made in the 1990s. Not! It's Hollywood nonsense.

If such ever did happen, it was an accident. WWII sniper scopes were weak in power. In the European Theater of Operations (ETO) they ranged from a mere 1.5X with the German's Zf41 to 4X, with that same nation's ZF4. Coupled with coarse crosshairs and/or post reticles, such allow at best a decent aim point on a human body at modest to moderate ranges. Perhaps the most limiting factor in WWII sniper marksmanship was the issue ammunition was just not of high enough quality in many cases.

For the British test, Duke provided an original No. 4, Mk I (T) sniper rifle with original a 3.5X No. 32 scope in .303 British.

Duke's rebuilt US M1903 .30-06 is fitted with a 3X Leatherwood scope (top) and the original German K98k 8mm Mauser is fitted with Numrich reproduction 1.5X Zf41 scope.

Duke's US sniper rifles include an original US M1903A4 with original 2.5X Weaver 330 scope (top) and a new reproduction by the Gibbs Rifle Company of the M1903A4 with reproduction 2.5X scope.

Last summer, I traveled to Nebraska for some special shooting with my friend Dave Emary, ballistician at Hornady. We are both into WWII history, and, between the two of us, we rounded up a variety of sniper rifles to test fire. Some were all-originals, some were facsimiles and some combinations thereof. For instance, my German K98k with Zf41 1.5X scope is an as-issued German rifle, even shown in the book *Backbone Of The Wehrmacht Volume II*. However, its original scope was too dim to use, so I've fitted it with a modern replica from Numrich Arms.

In Nebraska, Dave has access to a private rifle range all the way to 1,000 yards. We had suitable rifles and a nice place to shoot. The trick was to find proper ammunition. From prior experience with modern ammo, we knew the rifles collectively were capable of good accuracy. What about wartime production ammunition? With some difficulty we searched out some modest amounts of proper military ammunition dating either from the 1939-1945 period, or in the case of the '06s, we used some from the Korean War.

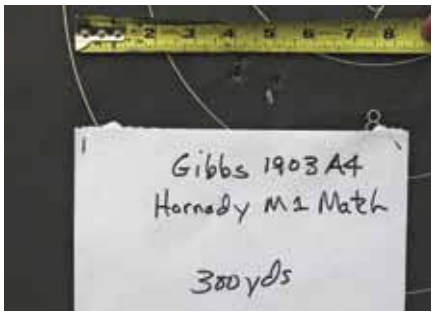
Has such old ammo deteriorated? That's where Dave being a ballistician was beneficial. He test fired our vintage military loads for pressure and velocity in the lab. The results can be seen in his charts. The .303-British stuff gave some problems in the form of hangfires. Therefore we pulled powder and bullets from the .303s and reloaded it in Winchester brass primed with Federal 210s. Nothing really changed in the rifle's performance, so we attribute its relatively mediocre showing to the quality of the bullets. For comparison, in a couple of '06

The original US Model 1903A4 shot poorly at 300 yards with original M2 ball issue ammunition dated 1953, with a 3-shot group of 17.5".

Even with mildly defective original .303 British military issue ammunition, the No.4, Mk I (T) sniper rifle performed fairly well out to 300 yards.

The original German K98k 8mm with much clearer optics of the Numrich reproduction 1.5X Zf41 scope delivered good accuracy at 200 yards.

Dave Emary's original Soviet Model 91/30 7.62x54mm sniper rifle with original Soviet PU 3.5X scope was the star performer of their project.



Original US Military ammo shot poorly overall. To ascertain the true accuracy potential of some of the .30-06 rifles they were fired with new Hornady match ammunition. This group was fired at 300 yards with the Gibbs reproduction US Model 1903A4.

Using the Soviet Model 91/30 with 3.5X PU scope, Dave Emary made four consecutive hits on this 44" steel plate at 1,000 yards with friend Truman Burch spotting for him.

caliber rifles we fired some Hornady match ammo.

Being true-blue Americans, Dave and I both thought the Springfield '06s would be the top dogs in this little exercise. We felt German rifles would be next. Then the crudely made and finished .303 British and 7.62x54mm Russian rifles would vie for last place.

Again, *not!* Indeed the Brit No. 4(T) .303 did end up in last place. Reliable hits on a man-size target could not happen past 300 yards. That could possibly be the fault of the hangfires. The big disappointment was with our Springfields. With *some of the ammunition* tried, they would not reliably stay on a man-size target past 300 yards. Only once—with my '03 Springfield fitted with a 3X Leatherwood scope—did we get precision suitable to 500 yards. The German K98k rifles did relatively well. Mine, with its tiny 1.5X Zf41 scope, shot a 6" group at 300 yards. I tried it at 400 yards, but because of aiming problems the result was a huge 20" group.

The top shooting rifle/ammo combination was that crude Mosin/Nagant Model 91/30 with 3.5X PU telescope. At the distance of 600 yards, it still delivered a 7" group. Then, just moments before I had to start driving back to Montana, Dave teamed up with his friend and our host Truman Burch to shoot at a 44" steel plate at 1,000 yards. Both of those gents are Camp Perry match shooters, so Truman called wind as

TEST RIFLES

MODEL	CALIBER	SCOPE	POWER
UK No. 4 (T)	.303 British	No. 32	3.5X
USA M1903 Springfield (dated 3-42)	.30-06	Leatherwood	3X
USA Remington M1903A4 (dated 4-43)	.30-06	Weaver 330C	2.5X
Gibbs M1903A4 (repro)	.30-06	Repro 330C	2.5X
German K98k AC42	8x57mm	Numrich Zf41	1.5X
German K98, BCD 45, (Krieger barrel)	8x57mm	Numrich ZF4	4X
USSR Mosin/Nagant Model 91/30 (Ishvisk 1944)	7.62x54Rmm	PU	3.5X

AMMUNITION			
CALIBER (TYPE OR DATED)	BULLET (WEIGHT, GRAINS, STYLE)	TYPE (FPS)	VELOCITY PRESSURE (PSI)
.303 British 1943 Mk VII	175 FMJ flatbase	2,498	50,100
.30-06 Denver 1943	150 M2 FMJ	(No pressure testing, limited quantity)	
.30-06 Lake City 1944	162 M2 FMJ-AP	2,800	61,600
.30-06 Lake City 1953	150 M2 FMJ	2,740	50,300
8x57mm German 1940 & 1945 (steel case)	198 FMJBT	2,494	50,000
7.62x54Rmm Russian, 1945	147 FMJBT	2,832	41,400*
7.62x54Rmm Bulgarian 1953	147 FMJBT	(No pressure testing done)	

*Notes: *Pressure measured in Copper Units of Pressure (CUP)*

Dave shot. To my utter amazement, once Dave put a bullet on steel, he kept them there for three more tries. Those four shots were in 16"—with a 1944-dated rifle, original optics and 1945-dated ammunition.

So there's one bit of WWII sniper lore that seems perfectly true. That is that the Soviet Union was the only combatant nation of the ETO to enter hostilities with a fully developed sniper program.—*Duke Venturino*

The Test—Dave Emary

I have always been keenly interested in WWII firearms, particularly sniper rifles and their employment. My father served in the 101st Airborne 506th regiment in WWII from Holland until the end of the war. It came as a surprise to me about 10-years ago, when he told me he trained in England with a scoped Springfield and jumped into combat in Holland with it as the first scout for I Company.

Several years ago, I finally got my father to relate some of his experiences with sniping in WWII. From his description of the rifle and scope it was a 1903A4 with either the Weaver 330C or M73 scope. He said there was never any special ammunition, just whatever they had—ball or armor piercing (AP). He had zeros to 500 yards, but most of his practice was 300 yards and closer. He said all the guys training with the scoped Springfields felt if they could ever fire three shots at 100 yards and cover them with a quarter, they would have reached the Mecca of shooting. He then stated no one ever did it. I asked how he used the rifle in combat and at what distances he engaged targets. He stated most of his shooting was at 150 yards or less and he never would have considered taking a shot beyond 200 yards against somebody who would shoot back.

In order to try and establish what was reasonably expected of WWII European Theater of Operations sniper rifles, we wanted to be as authentic as possible, including the ammunition. We encountered all kinds of information, such as snipers preferred AP ammo because it was more accurate, or Denver arsenal ammunition was more accurate and coveted by snipers, or British snipers preferred Winchester manufactured

ammunition, etc. We found some of the information seemed to have credence in our small test sample and some was likely false.

The details of the ammunition we test fired are in the table. Most of it was fired in SAAMI specification test barrels and found to be within specs for the ammunition. It should be noted the .30-06 AP was loaded to significantly higher pressures than the M2 ball. Although the AP ammunition tested over the SAAMI spec of 60,000 psi maximum average pressure; the original military specification called for a maximum operating pressure for AP of approximately 64,000 psi. (From this I would not recommend a regular diet of AP ammunition through a prized collector-grade M1 Garand.) Except for the comments made by Mike in his section of this article concerning the hangfires with .303 British, we encountered no functioning problems with any of the ammunition.

Regarding the actual shooting test, all groups fired were 3-shot groups unless otherwise noted. This is a very limited test. We didn't necessarily set out to do a definitive test, but more to establish a baseline for what could be expected from the various weapons and ammunition combinations. Our criteria was, when we could no longer hold on a human-size silhouette we had essentially reached the end of the effective range of the rifle and ammunition for sniping purposes. Most of the .30-06 rifles were tested with current match ammunition to show their true accuracy potential.

Summing up, several things are obvious when looking at the results. First, wind drift certainly made some groups larger. Several showed the windage component of the group was much larger than the elevation component. We tried to avoid shooting in gusts but time constraints did not allow for serious wind doping. In addition, most of the scopes are not capable of doing serious dialing for windage adjustments.

The original military issue ammunition from either World War II or the Korean War Duke and Dave Emary used for this informal test included (from left to right) US .30-06, USSR 7.62x54Rmm, British .303 and German 8x57mm Mauser.

This elevated bench allowed shooting all the way to 1,000 yards.

Limitations

American and British snipers were very limited by the ammunition available to them. It is unlikely either did much serious work beyond 400 yards unless an exceptional lot of ammunition was encountered. My father's words of not considering shots beyond 200 yards were probably pretty close to the mark.

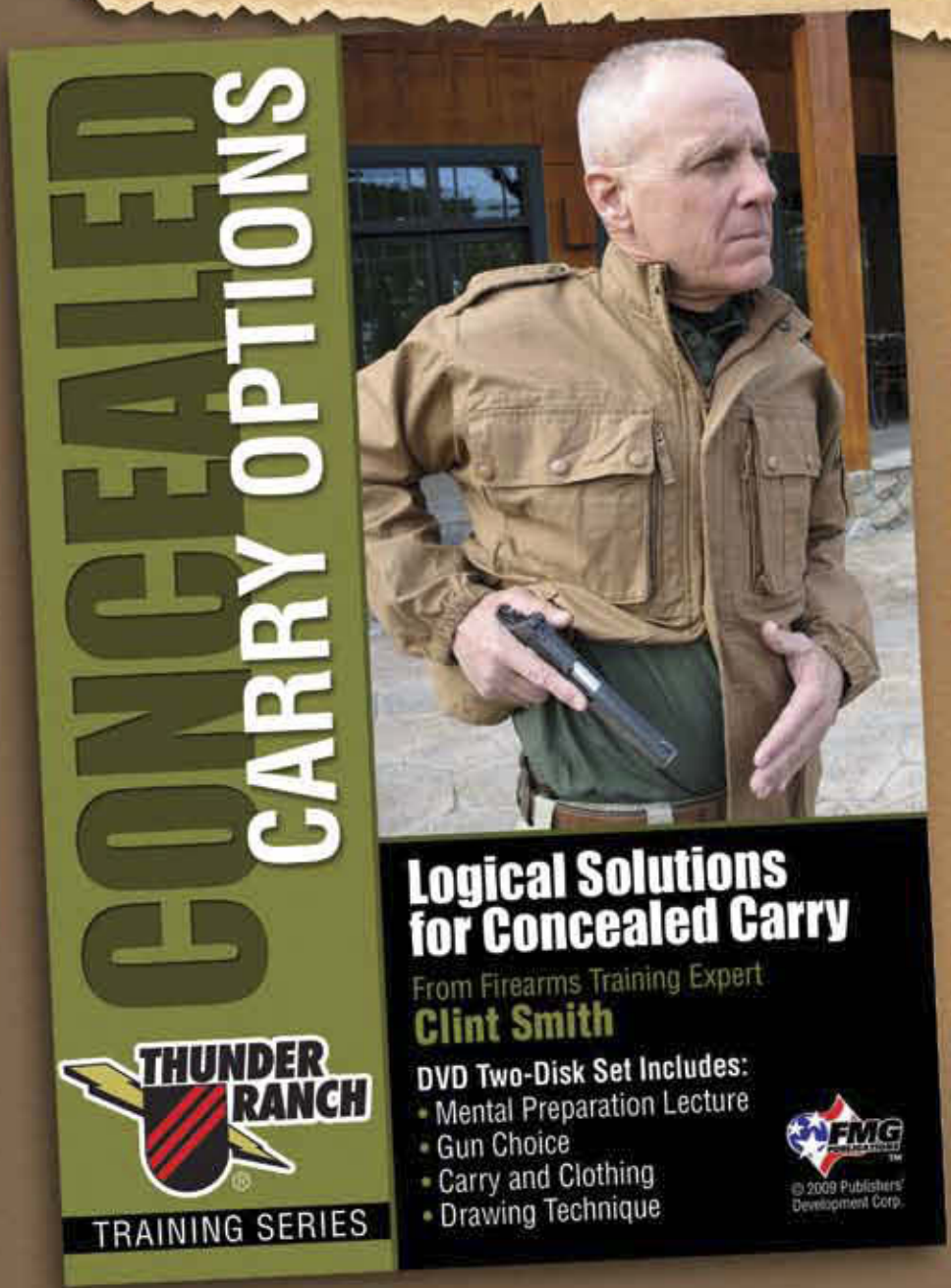
The German snipers appear to have had access to more accurate and uniform performing ammunition than American or British snipers. The Zf41 mounted K98k was limited by the 1.5X optic. Out to 300 yards it proved very useable and deadly accurate, but beyond that its post completely covered a human size silhouette. The ZF4 4X-mounted K98 provided very good accuracy to 400 yards and would certainly have been effective on a man-size target to between 500 and 600 yards. It would appear as though the German sniper had a significant effective range advantage on his American or British counterpart. Likely German wartime ammunition also varied but the two samples we had represented early and late war production. It tested very uniformly for us in both accuracy and point of impact.

This is a view of the range used for this test, looking over the top of Duke's German K98k with Zf41 1.5X scope.

Duke with Dave Emary at the shooting bench. The rifle, which proved to be the best of the bunch as far as accuracy at longer range with original ammunition, is an original Soviet Model 91/30 with PU 3.5X scope.

"Clintism" No. 7:

"Carrying a gun is not supposed to be comfortable, it's supposed to be comforting."



You've decided to carry a concealed handgun. **Now what?**

Clint Smith of Thunder Ranch can help you adjust to this change in your lifestyle through the NEW Concealed Carry Options two-disc DVD set.

Clint will help you choose which gun to carry, how to carry it, what to look for in clothing and how to draw the gun correctly.

He also discusses the assets and liabilities of a concealed handgun and how they affect you.

Would you bet your life on your equipment and skills?

Clint Smith has taught thousands of students how to think defensively and refine their skills with all types of firearms.

The Thunder Ranch Concealed Carry Options DVD set will help you discover logical solutions that fit your lifestyle.

Order your copy today!

Two-disc set only

$49.95

Includes over two hours of video!

(800) 628-9818 (M-F 8am-3pm PST)

www.americanhandgunner.com/TRvids.html

Allow 4-6 weeks for delivery

"Clintism" No. 3:

"The gun that's with you is better than the one that's home in the safe."

SHOOTING TEST

AMMUNITION / RANGE (YARDS)	RIFLE / GROUP SIZE (INCHES)
.303 British MK VII	**No. 4 (T)**
200	5.75
300	8
400	16
.30-06 LC 1953 Ball M2	**M1903, Leatherwood 3X**
200	7
300	10
400	5.75*
500	5*
*Different box of ammunition than 200 and 300 yards	
.30-06 Hornady M1 Garand Match	**M1903, Leatherwood 3X**
300	2.5
.30-06 LC 1953 Ball M2	**Remington M1903A4**
200	5.25
300	17.5
.30-06 LC 1953 Ball M2	**Gibbs M1903A4**
200	5
300	9.5
400	8
500	16
Notes: 200 and 300 yards were the same box of ammunition, 400 and 500 were each different boxes of ammunition	
Denver 1943 Ball M2	**Gibbs M1903A4**
200	2.75
300	7
400	11
Hornady M1 Garand Match	**Gibbs M1903A4**
300	1.25
8x57mm 1945-dated Ball	**K98k Zf 41 1.5X**
200	6.25
300	6
400	20
Note: At 400 yards it was nearly impossible to see the human size target, aiming was very difficult.	
8x57mm 1940-dated Ball	**K98 ZF4 4X**
200	2.25
300	5
400	8
500	12
7.62x54Rmm Russian, 1945	**Mosin/Nagant 91/30 PU 3.5X**
200	4
300	4.75
400	5.25
500	10
600	7
1,000	16 (4 shots)

Notes on Test Conditions: Lexington, Neb.: Elevation 2,350', Temp: 70 to 83 degrees F, Winds: Full value cross wind 15 to 25 mph at 200 and 300 yards; 6 to 12 mph at 400 yards; 3 to 8 mph at 500 to 1,000 yards. (Out to 500 yards no effort was made to make wind calls. We tried to shoot in the nominal condition and not to shoot in big gusts or let offs.)

The results we obtained with the Russian 91/30 PU 3.5X and our 1945 sample of ammunition were stunning to us. We did not expect such good performance from what looks to be a rather crude rifle and scope. The trigger takes considerable getting used to, as it is more like a cannon lanyard than a trigger. That aside, with some familiarization, this system is capable of serious long-range sniping. Even today with good ammunition it would be a formidable sniper rifle. A Soviet sniper certainly would have enjoyed considerable success to 600 yards and would probably have been deadly to ranges on the order of 800 yards with some regularity.—*Dave Emary* GUNS

The Wishbook Of Gunsmithing Supplies
BROWNELLS® CATALOG ALL NEW
SELECTION. SERVICE. SATISFACTION.®
Everything You Need To Work On Guns
Repair, Maintain and Accurize Handguns, Rifles and Shotguns Now!!
Includes 157 Pages of Factory, Original-Equipment Parts

Over 30,000 In-Stock Items: Tools To Work On Handguns, Shotguns and Rifles; Gun Parts; Hot & Cold Bluing, Parkerizing & Spray-On Finishes; Cleaning Supplies; Sights, Scopes & Mounts; MAGNA-TIP® Screwdrivers; ACRAGLAS® Bedding Products; Magazines; Holsters; AR-15/M16, Model 1911, & Other Shooting Accessories.

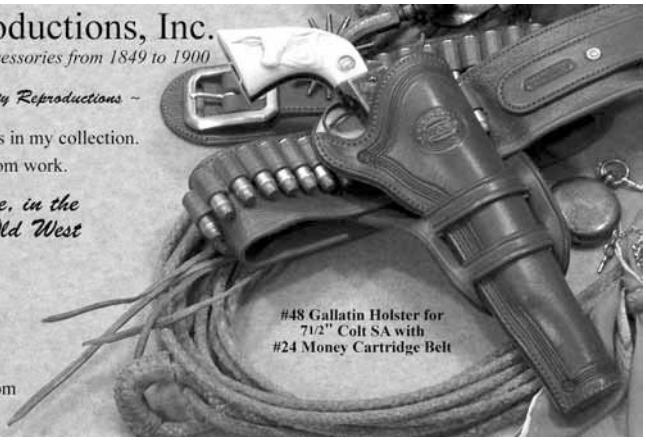
The Brands You Want & Need: Aimpoint - A.R.M.S. - Beretta - Blackhawk - Brownells - CMMG - Dewey - DPMS - Ed Brown - EO-Tech - Glock - J.P. Enterprises - Leupold - Magpul - Manson Precision - Novak - Pachmayr - Remington - Shilen - SureFire - Timney - Trijicon - Troy - Vltor - Volquartsen - Weaver - Williams - Wilson Combat - Wolff - Yankee Hill and More.

Uniquely Brownells®

656 Page Catalog only **$5.00 ($10.00 Overseas)**, refundable on first order, **FREE** to full and part-time gunsmiths or any other business; discount pricing available. Everything we sell is **100% GUARANTEED - Period.**

GSA **800-741-0015** **brownells.com** Source Code: CPZ

Old West Reproductions, Inc.
Frontier Gun Leather and Accessories from 1849 to 1900
~ Affordable Museum Quality Reproductions ~
Patterned from original pieces in my collection.
Specializing in custom work.
...Montana made, in the tradition of the Old West since 1978...
Rick M. Bachman
446 Florence South Loop, G
Florence, MT 59833
(406) 273-2615
www.oldwestreproductions.com
Catalog $5.00



GUNS MAGAZINE ONLINE!
www.gunsmagazine.com

KWIK-SITE
has taken Weaver® style rings to new heights and new lengths
Our Caps Will NOT Scratch Your Scope Or Rust

Special aircraft alloy metals won't scratch your scope, and they are ***kwik-detachable*** for easy remounting.

A satin smooth finish available in brite black, silver, and black matte. They set the standard for looks in the industry.

If you can't find our rings at your favorite dealer or distributor, contact KWIK-SITE and we'll make SURE you get them.

We can fit any scope in a 1" tube, long or short, low or high, with our new extension rings. Adjustable extension rings are the same quality as our top mount rings.

Up to 64 mm objective lens
KS-305
4 HOLE CAP

Up to 52 mm objective lens
KS-304
AIRCRAFT ALLOY

Up to 44 mm objective lens
KS-303
GREAT PACKAGING

Up to 32 mm objective lens
KS-302
AND THE BEST PRICE!

Up to 64 mm objective lens
Extended offset base

Up to 64 mm objective lens
2 position, extended offset adjustable base

Patent Pending

KWIK-SITE CO.
Leading U.S. Manufacturer of Scope Mounts Since 1967
5555 Treadwell, Wayne, MI 48184
(734) 326-1500 Fax# (734) 326-4120
www.kwiksitecorp.com
Weaver® is a trademark of the ATK Co.

KNIVES

• PAT COVERT •

TWO FOR THE TRAIL

TOPS' Wind Runners are two handy knives in one sheath.

I'm one of a group of knife nuts who believe in the "Twofer Rule" of toting more than one knife in the field: a large one for heavy duty chores and a smaller one for finesse work. TOPS Knives' Wind Runners duo fits the rule to a "T," combining two hard-working knives on one easy-to-pack or carry sheath. The heavy cutter of this fixed-blade pair is the Wind Runner XL, 9.8" of knife with 5.25" of that in deep-bellied re-curved blade. The identical but smaller Wind Runner is 6.4" in length with a 3" cutting edge. You can use the big guy for man-sized cutting chores like chopping and butchering, and the little fellow for detail work such as shaving, skinning and notching. Add to that the fact that the Wind Runners can handle a camp full of grub preparation and this is one versatile set.

When you're done with your chores, both knives tuck away nicely into a heat-formed Kydex sheath that can be carried on the belt or packed away. The Wind Runners feature Tactical Gray hybrid powder-coated steel blades (the small model in 440C stainless, the larger in 1095 carbon steel) with durable black and white G-10 laminate handles, and the styling looks great to boot. The XL has a beefy blade thickness of 1/4", the smaller Wind Runner checks in at 3/16", so there's plenty of cutting power behind each knife.

TOPS offers the set for $258, a savings of $63 if bought separately. If you're a member of the Twofer Club, the Wind Runner set can do everything you need and with just one sheath to deal with you won't be grappling around looking for the right knife when duty calls. GUNS

TOPS' Wind Runners big and little one-sheath-totes-all duo can cover a broad range of fieldwork. At top is the XL model, at bottom the standard Wind Runner. The sheath is made from Kydex.

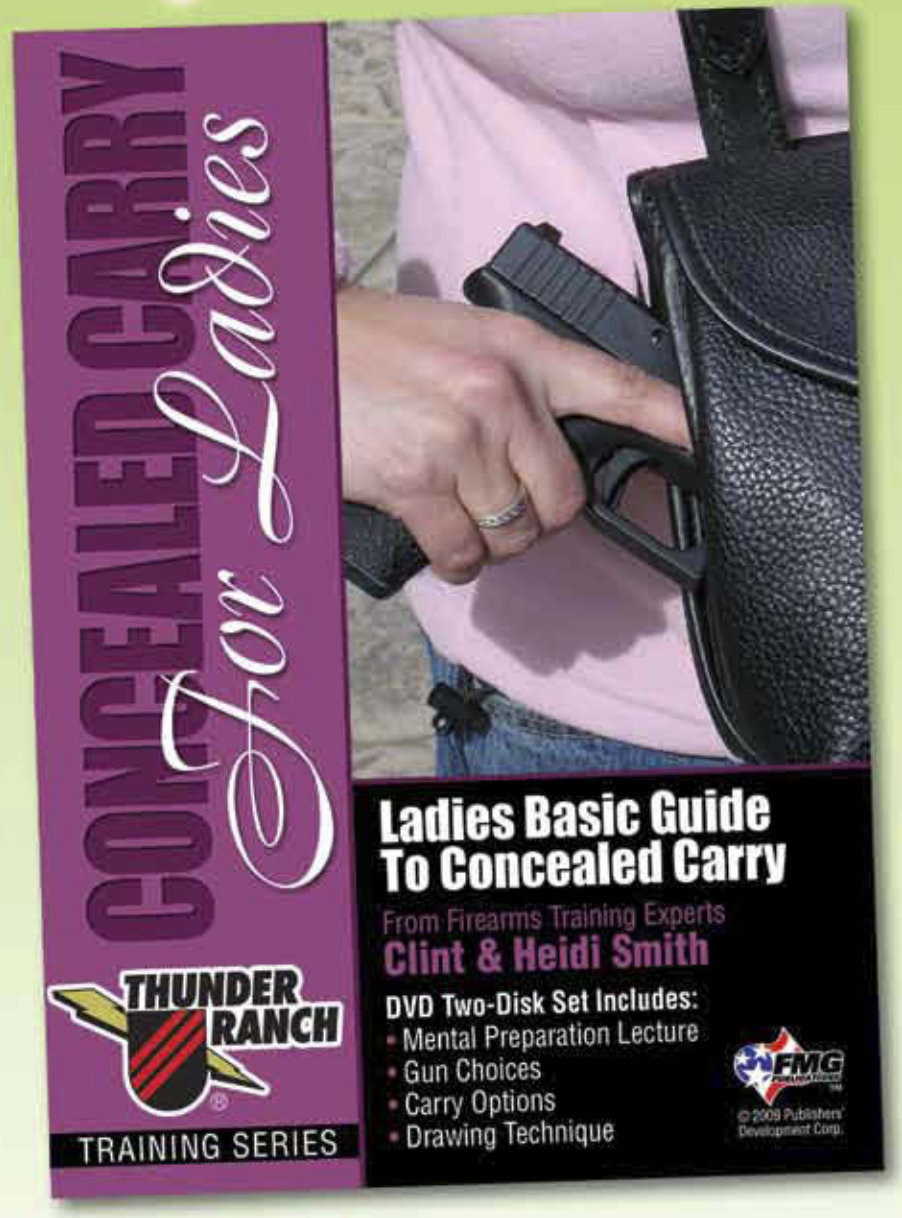
WIND RUNNER DUO
MAKER: TOPS KNIVES
(TACTICAL OPERATIONAL PRODUCTS)
P.O. BOX 2544
IDAHO FALLS, ID 83403
(208) 542-0113

	WIND RUNNER	XL
BLADE MATERIAL:	440C	1095
BLADE LENGTH:	3"	5-1/4"
OVERALL LENGTH:	6.4"	9.8"
WEIGHT:	3 ounces	12 ounces
SCALES:	G-10	G-10
SHEATH:	Kydex	Kydex

PRICE: $258 FOR THE PAIR

FOR WEB LINKS, GO TO
WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/TOPSKNIVES.HTML

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

Expert 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.

"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

NEW Special Offer!

Two-disc set only **$29.95**

Includes nearly two hours of video!

Order Today! (800) 628-9818 (M-F 8am-3pm PST) • www.americanhandgunner.com/TRvids.html

GUNS VNR

VIEWS • NEWS • REVIEWS

RIGHTS WATCH

DAVID CODREA

Open Carry Still Dangerous—Even Where "Legal."

Officer: "Look guy, just show some ID and that just proves who you are."

Brewster: "Open carry is legal in Washington... Unless you have reasonable articulable suspicion to detain me, you don't need to request ID."

"In the end," KING 5 News informs us, "Brewster showed his ID. Deputies did not detain him."

The official response? "If they're carrying guns around, there's a strong possibility that somebody is going to come talk to them."

Police are free to do that—as long as it's understood we're free to not talk back. That's not how some Wisconsin open carriers at a restaurant were treated, though.

"When police arrived," the *Milwaukee-Wisconsin Journal Sentinel* relates, "two of the men refused to provide ID and were ticketed for obstruction of justice. Later, those tickets were rescinded but all five men were then cited for disorderly conduct."

"Respect is a two way street," a *Journal-Sentinel* editorial declares. "[R]esidents are not legally required to hand over an ID simply for possessing a visible weapon, but we suggest they do it anyway."

What's to respect about charges being filed over activity the police have no legal say prohibiting? And is the best course to ensure law enforcement is educated on its legitimate authority, or to become a culture where a demand for "your papers" is complied with out of fear?

Because official ignorance endangers open carriers, as one in Willowick, Ohio, found out when, per Ohioans for Concealed Carry, he "was ordered to his knees at gunpoint by several police officers." And the chilling account they relate includes no small amount of disrespect by the enforcers, including blasphemies directed at the detainee.

It happened again in Cleveland. *The Plain Dealer* reported officers with drawn guns forced a "surprised group to… hit the sidewalk belly-down"—and then arrested an open carrier for a *concealed carry* violation!

And that treatment is officially (and illegally) sanctioned: "Cleveland has a local ordinance prohibiting open carry, and police are under orders by Mayor Frank Jackson to continue enforcing the local rules despite the state law."

Also disturbing was a statement an East Palo Alto Police detective made on his Facebook page, laughing because most Californians can't get concealed carry permits, and must open carry (with unloaded guns) to remain "legal."

"Should've pulled the AR out and prone them all out!" he wrote. "And if one of them makes a furtive movement... two weeks off!!"

Despite open carry being legal in many states, some in the "pro gun" community condemn attempts to normalize the practice, worried that public backlash will prompt moves to enact laws against it—as was recently unsuccessfully tried in California. The irony of such "logic," that we must forego exercising a right lest we lose it, appears lost on them.

As for the danger open carriers face from police: Affected state attorneys general must direct all sworn personnel be informed of the law. Require them to sign a form, just like they do when they acknowledge understanding other training policies, and put it in their files.

Before someone gets killed. GUNS

Visit David Codrea's online journal "The War on Guns" at waronguns.blogspot.com or visit DavidCodrea.com to read his Examiner column.

FOR WEB LINKS, GO TO WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/PRODUCTINDEX.HTML

Potterfields Donate $250,000 to Missouri Junior Trapshooters

Larry and Brenda Potterfield of MidwayUSA recently donated $250,000 to the Foundation for the Junior Trapshooters of Missouri, Inc.

"Thanks to generous support from people like Larry and Brenda Potterfield, the Foundation for the Junior Trapshooters will continue to serve as a youth shooting program for Missouri," says William Fienup, Foundation President. "This donation from the Potterfields and MidwayUSA will help us accomplish our vision of developing young trapshooters, the future of our sport."

Continuing a long-standing tradition of supporting the shooting sports, Larry and Brenda Potterfield donated $250,000 to the Foundation for the Junior Trapshooters of Missouri.

Established in 1967, the Foundation for the Junior Trap Shooters of Missouri was created to fund instruction and training of trapshooting to Missouri youth and also assists with shooting supplies and safety training. The Foundation is associated with the Missouri Trapshooters Association in Linn Creek, Mo., where hundreds of young Missourians experience and learn the sport of trapshooting each year.

Larry Potterfield, Founder and CEO of MidwayUSA remarked, "Brenda and I are excited to support Junior Trapshooters. This organization, in our home state, is focused on developing tomorrow's shooters today. Changing the future requires us to make the commitment in time and money to support these efforts, and Brenda and I are pleased we can help."

For more information about the Potterfields or MidwayUSA, please visit www.midwayusa.com or call (800) 243-3220.

$28.2M Rifle Contract

Remington Arms has won a 5-year, $28.2 million contract for upgrade work on 3,600 M24 sniper rifles, the *Utica Observer-Dispatch* reports.

1-800-351-8900
JANTZ SUPPLY

FINGERPRINT SAFE

Uses fingerprints giving you the control of who can or cannot have access. Store papers, firearms, knives or anything you want hidden. 16 1/2" x 14 1/2" x 7", weight 31 lbs.

BX100 Fingerprint Safe.....199.95

LEATHER SHEETS

Top quality vegetable tanned leather. We offer a complete line of leather making tools and supplies.

AG512 12" x 12".....11.95
AG524 12" x 24".....22.95

RIVETS, PINS, DRILLS

Corbys are precision machined with 5/16" slotted heads. Cutlery rivets have 5/16" heads, 1/2" long shanks.

CP601 12 Brass Corby Rivets.....15.95
CP611 12 NS Corby Rivets.....27.95
RD3 Corby Rivet Drill.....19.95
RV125 25 Brass Cutlery Rivets.....7.95
RV225 25 NS Cutlery Rivets.....9.95
RD4 Cutlery Rivet Drill.....19.95
AB118 12 Brass 1/8" Pins.....2.95
AN118 12 NS 1/8" Pins.....3.50

MOSAIC PINS & TUBES

5/32" diameter x 12" length

MP510	MP530	MP520
$19.95	$19.95	$19.95

7/32" diameter x 12" length

MP972	MP976	MP785
$29.95	$29.95	$31.50

1/4" diameter x 12" length

MP945	MP485	MP465
$34.95	$36.50	$36.50

KNIFE KIT DVD

VL125 Gene Osborn
VL126 Gene Osborn
VL127 Gene Osborn

VL125 Kit 1-Taper Tang Hunter...19.99
VL126 Kit 2-Hidden Tang Hunter.19.99
VL127 Kit 3-Lockback Folder.....19.99

550 PARACORD

Sold in 100' bundle. Genuine 550 lb. Type III, 1/8" diameter nylon Paracord has a seven strand core.

PC102 Black..... 9.95
PC103 Olive Drab..... 9.95
PC104 Coy. Brown..... 9.95
PC108 Burgandy..... 9.95
PC112 Deep Red..... 9.95
PC116 Colonial Blue..... 9.95
PC118 Neon Orange..... 9.95
PC120 Neon Pink..... 9.95
PC126 Woodland..... 9.95
PC127 Desert Camo..... 9.95
PC128 Foliage Camo..... 9.95

PRE-SOLDERED GUARD KIT

8A Stainless Steel Blade with a pre-soldered nickel silver bolster. Kit includes blade, pins, dymondwood handle material and instructions.

Bearcat

8 3/8" overall, blade 3 3/4" x 7/8", 1/8" thick.
SS874 Blade Only.....19.95
SS874K Bearcat Kit.....25.95

Nevada Drop Point

8" overall, blade 3 3/8" x 1", .144" thick.
SS650 Blade Only.....19.95
SS650K Nevada Drop Point Kit.....25.95

WEEKEND PROJECTS

440C Stainless Steel Blades. Kits include blades, pins, dymondwood handle material and instructions.

Renaissance Dagger

6 1/4" overall, blade 3 3/4", 1/8" thick.
SS167 Blade Only.....11.95
SS167K Renaissance Kit.....14.95

Cobra

7 3/8" overall, blade 3 3/4", 1/8" thick.
SS166 Blade Only.....12.95
SS166K Cobra Kit.....14.95

Sportsman

7 3/8" overall, blade 3 1/2", 1/8" thick.
SS164 Blade Only.....12.95
SS164K Sportsman Kit.....14.95

Ringtail

7" overall, blade 2 5/8", 3/32" thick.
SS873 Ringtail Only.....12.95
SS873K Ringtail Kit.....14.95

STERLING SILVER BEADS

LY101 LY102 LY103 LY104

Sterling Silver beads used to accent lanyards and many other craft projects. Approx 3/8" dia. with 5/32" - 3/16" center holes. Each marked with the 925 sterling stamp.

LY101 Aztec Bead.....4.95
LY102 Cobble Stone Bead.....4.95
LY103 Meteor Bead.....4.95
LY104 Rose Bead.....4.95

BISON SKINNER KIT

Pioneer style skinner ground from high carbon stainless. Includes blade, dymondwood handle material, pins and nylon sheath.

8 1/2" overall, blade 3 3/8" x 1/8" thick.
SS635 Bison Skinner Kit.....12.95

WYOMING HUNTER KIT

High carbon stainless blade has a false top edge and thumb notches. Includes blade, handle material, pins and nylon sheath.

8 3/4" overall, blade 3 1/2" x 7/8" thick.
SS642 Wyoming Hunter Kit.....12.95

KNIFEMAKING BOOKS

BOK101 Richard W. Barney, Robert W. Loveless
BOK117 Wayne Goddard
BORSSK David Boye

BOK101 How To Make Knives.....11.95
BOK117 $50 Knife Shop.....15.95
BORSSK Step - Step Knifemkg.....19.97

KNIFEMAKER FORGE

Regulator and Hose included, uses a standard 20lb propane tank. Reaches 2350 ° Heat Chamber 4" x 4 1/2" x 13 1/2". Exhaust port on one door is 3" x 2". Weight is 48lbs.

NC111 Knifemaker Forge..... 525.00

STEEL

Call for other steels and sizes available.

440C Flat Stock

CF118 1/16 x 1 1/2 x 18" 440C.....17.95
CF518 1/8 x 1 1/2 x 18" 440C.....17.95
CF618 5/32 x 1 1/2 x 18" 440C.....19.95

D2 Blanchard Ground

XD318 1/8 x 1 1/2" x 18" D2 Blanchard.....15.95
XD518 .150" x 1 1/2" x 18" D2 Blanchard.....19.95

NEW! 15N20 Steel

XN152 .049 x 1 1/2 x 12" 15N20 Steel.....2.95
XN252 .049 x 2 x 12" 15N20 Steel.....3.95

evenheat

The Knife Makers Brand

Heat treat your own blades with ease.

240 volt

KF135 13.5 Depth 240vt.....899.00
KF180 18.0 Depth 240vt.....948.00
KF225 22.5 Depth 240vt.....999.00

120 volt

KF414 13.5 Depth 120vt.....979.00
KF418 18.0 Depth 120vt.....999.00

KNIFEHOLDERS

KF688 Fits 120 & 240vt Ovens....22.95
KF689 Fits 240vt Ovens.....28.95

BEAR PAW HATCHET

Stainless hatchet with 3/16" tang holes. Kit includes hatchet, handle material and pins. 9-5/8" overall, blade 2 5/8" x 3/16" thick.

SS631 Bear Paw Hatchet.....14.95
SS631K Bear Paw Hatchet Kit.....18.95

ALASKAN ULU BLADE

U-Style Ulu

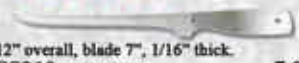
440 stainless steel. Blades 3 1/4", cutting edge 6", 1/16" thick with 7/32" holes.

SS271 U-Style Ulu.....6.95

FILLET BLADES

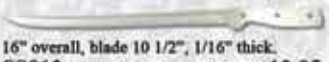
8A Stainless steel fillet blades. Kit includes blade, pins, handle material and instructions. Optional leather sheaths sold separately.

Fisherman's Fillet



12" overall, blade 7", 1/16" thick.
SS910 Blade Only.....7.95
SS199K Fisherman's Fillet Kit.....10.95

Alaskan Fillet



16" overall, blade 10 1/2", 1/16" thick.
SS912 Blade Only.....12.95
SS912K Alaskan Fillet Kit.....15.95

Trout Fillet Blade

Thin, flexible 8A Stainless fillet blade Overall 10-1/2", blade 5-3/4" x .045" thick. Kit contains blade, pins and dymondwood.

SS920 Blade Only.....9.95
SS920K Trout Fillet Kit.....12.95

JANTZ SUPPLY
309 W MAIN, DAVIS OK 73030
www.knifemaking.com

ADD $9.95 FOR SHIPPING

PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE

"Gun Fit"

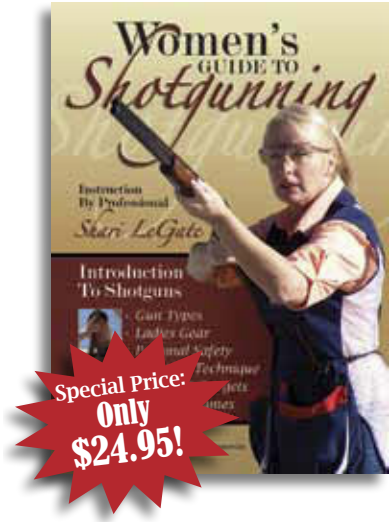
It's NOT something she does after missing a target.

Choosing the right gun and making sure it fits a lady is important.

Shari can help.

Shooting champion Shari LeGate provides all the information needed for any lady to get started in shotgun sports through her new DVD, *Women's Guide To Shotgunning*.

Order Today!
(800) 628-9818
(M-F 8am-3pm PST)
www.gunsmagazine.com/fmgvideo.html



Remington has produced some 15,000 M24 sniper rifles since 1988. Of the 900 employees at the company's Ilion, NY, facility, some 500 would work on the M24 upgrade.—*Courtesy NSSF*

Marines Help Save Wounded LBPD Officer

Pfcs. Anthony S. Roldan, Christopher M. Smith and Ryan J. Shuey, combat engineers with 1st Combat Engineer Battalion, 1st Marine Division, stand at parade rest in front of 1st CEB's HQ. The Marines were presented with 1st CEB Sapper Coins by Lt. Col. Andrew Niebel, commanding officer of 1st CEB, for their actions assisting a police officer with the LBPD who was violently attacked and wounded by a knife-wielding suspect. Roldan, is an 18-year-old from Long Beach, Calif., Smith is a 20-year-old from Lemoore, Calif., and Shuey is a 20-year-old from Huntingdon County, Penn. Photo: Pfc. Glen Santy

Pfc. Christopher M. Smith holds a 1st CEB Sapper coin given to him by Lt. Col. Andrew Niebel, commanding officer of 1st CEB. Niebel presented a coin to Smith and fellow Marines Anthony S. Roldan and Ryan J. Shuey in recognition for their actions last Oct. 6, when they assisted a Long Beach Police Department officer who was violently attacked by a suspect wielding a knife. Photo: Pfc. Glen Santy

While sitting on the porch waiting for a home cooked meal in Long Beach, Calif., last Oct. 6, Pfc. Anthony Rolden and his two friends and brothers in arms, Pfcs. Ryan Shuey and Christopher Smith, hear a gun fire in the distance. Without hesitation the three Marines spring into action, with nothing but raw instincts and Marine Corps training leading them. They race down an alley behind the house where they find a police officer fighting for his weapon and his life.

The three Marines were taking a break from the mess hall, and having a relaxing night with family

Clint on Vehicle Defense:

"Either Drive Or Draw ... not BOTH!"

Learn how to defend yourself from inside the car with help from Clint Smith's NEW Thunder Ranch DVD course.

Three Course **BONUS** Includes:
- Concealed Carry Options
- Home Defense
- Vehicle Defense

Two-disc set only $49.95 — Order Today:
(800) 628-9818 (M-F 8am-3pm PST)
www.americanhandgunner.com/TRvids.html

and friends before their deployment to Afghanistan in the next few days. When they heard the gun shot the Marines reacted instantly. The Marines rushed to get Rolden's younger brothers and sisters inside the house, then made their way to the noise. What they found was a Long Beach Police Dept. officer, who had been stabbed in the ear fighting for his life and his firearm with another man, and struggling to hold on.

"It looked like David vs. Goliath," said Pfc. Anthony Rolden, 18, from Long Beach, Calif., a combat engineer, with 1st CEB, 1st Marine Division.

"He was a big guy," said Pfc. Christopher Smith, 20, from Lemoore, Calif., a combat engineer, with 1st CEB, 1st Marine Division. "I don't think I could have taken him down myself, so I'm glad all three of us were there."

"They saw what was going on and didn't stand by, they jumped in and assisted," said Jim McDonnell, LBPD chief of police. "Had this intervention not been done, it's anybody's guess how it would have turned out."

The Marines immediately proceeded to help the officer. Using their skills from the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program and detainee handling; the three quickly subdued the suspect. They then administered first aid on the officer by checking for bullet wounds and stopped the bleeding from the his stab wound.

"We knew what we had to do," said Rolden. "When we heard the gun shot we did what we were trained to do—which was to run toward the fight, not from it."

For service members the job isn't over just because you take off the uniform. For these Marines that reputation was put to the test by having to go above the call of duty by literally running into the face of danger to save the life of a fellow defender of freedom.

"This is a perfect example of Marines being Marines 24/7," said Lt. Col. Andrew Niebel, 43, from Silver Spring, Maryland, battalion commander of 1st CEB, 1st Marine Division. "Even after the uniform is taken off they are still living up to Marine Corps standards." *—Pfc. Evan Santy, 1st Marine Division, MCB Camp Pendleton, Calif.*

ATK's $50M Army Ammo Contract

Alliant Techsystems (NYSE:ATK) has received an order valued at more than $50 million from the US Army to produce multiple variants

PROTECT YOUR NUTS

And vegetables, fruits and flower gardens with AirForce Airguns

The popular Talon SS provides quiet and accurate backyard pest control.

Call us today at 877-247-4867 and start protecting your nuts right away.

Visit us at **www.airforceairguns.com** for more information or to find a dealer near you.

made in the usa

AIRFORCE airguns

GET YOUR *GUNS* CAP!

Team *GUNS* Baseball-Style Cap

You'll be shooting with the best when you wear this custom designed cap from GUNS Magazine. This comfortable flex-fit cotton/polyester blend cap is available in two sizes as listed below. Cap in black only.

(Sizes: S/M, L/XL)

$18.50 each ($24.00 Outside U.S.)

(Price includes shipping)

ORDER TODAY!

Call Toll-Free

800-628-9818

Order at www.gunsmagazine.com

12345 World Trade Drive • San Diego, CA 92128

GUNS MAGAZINE ONLINE!

www.gunsmagazine.com

REST ASSURED

Call Us Today For Your Free Brochure
1-800-821-5216
993 North Industrial Park Road
Orem, Utah 84057

FORT KNOX
SECURITY PRODUCTS
"THE MOST TRUSTED NAME IN SECURITY"

www.FtKnox.com

DIXIE 2011 CATALOG ONLY $5.00!

DIXIE
Everything Blackpowder

From replica firearms of yesteryear to today's blackpowder hunting and sport equipment... **Dixie's 2011 catalog** is packed with more than 10,000 items including blackpowder shooting supplies, antique gun parts, and accouterments.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AND EXPERTISE **GUARANTEED**

VIEW ITEMS AND ORDER ONLINE!
www.dixiegunworks.com
Major credit cards accepted
FOR ORDERS ONLY (800) 238-6785

DIXIE GUN WORKS, INC.
P.O. Box 130 Dept. 2 Union City, TN 38281
INFO PHONE: (731) 885-0700 FAX: (731) 885-0440
E-MAIL: info@dixiegunworks.com

of 20mm PGU ammunition. This is the second order under a contract originally signed in September 2008. If all options are exercised, ATK's contract is expected to exceed $170 million by 2013. —*Courtesy NSSF*

Congressman Rush Tries Ammo Ban

Following a strong grassroots campaign led by NSSF, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) last month denied a petition by the Center for Biological Diversity (CBD)—an established anti-hunting group—to ban the production and distribution of traditional ammunition under the Toxic Substance Control Act (TSCA) of 1976. The EPA was forced to deny the petition based on language in the TSCA that specifically exempts ammunition from being considered a "chemical substance." Now, a well-established anti-gun politician is attempting to change or remove that exemption.

United States Representative Bobby Rush (D-Ill.), known for sponsoring H.R. 45 (Blair Holt's Firearm Licensing and Record of Sale Act), has introduced legislation (H.R. 5820) to remove the ammunition exemption within the TSCA, thereby allowing the EPA to ban all traditional ammunition.

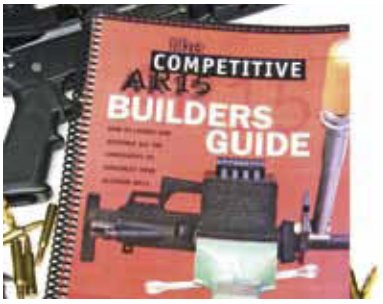
NSSF is actively opposing H.R. 5820. We encourage you to do the same. Pick up the phone and call your senators and member of congress today. Tell them enough is enough. Our firearm and hunting rights are not negotiable! US Capitol Switchboard: (202) 224-3121. —*Courtesy NSSF*

REVIEWS

The Competitive AR15: Builders Guide

With the possible exception of the ubiquitous M1911 autoloading pistol, no service weapon used by the United States has gathered such an enormous following as the AR-15 rifle, the commercial variant of the full-auto M16. Much of its appeal is it's a military rifle and what is good enough for the troops is good enough for civilians. But there is more to it than that. The AR platform will do about anything reasonably well from killing varmints on the farm to varmints hiding in the caves of Afghanistan. It now dominates formal hi-power rifle competition and is a staple with recreational shooters and hunters.

Not surprisingly, an enormous cottage industry of small manufacturers grew to satisfy the demand for parts and accessories for the AR-15, including sights, barrels, stocks, triggers and all manner of furniture and gadgetry, much to the delight of gunsmiths and armorers everywhere. But in every crowd there are guys who want to do things for themselves and can with a little guidance. That guidance comes in Glen Zediker's latest installment of his trilogy on AR-15s, *The Competitive AR15: Builders Guide.*



Want to put together your own AR? Here's how. Clear, concise directions for the do-it-yourselfer on building or modifying the AR, and what tools are needed.

Contributing editor to *GUNS Magazine* ("Up On ARs" column), Mr. Zediker brings 35 years of experience to building and shooting AR-15 rifles. His first two books in the series—*The Mouse That Roared* and *The Ultimate Technical Guide*—are dedicated to hi-power shooters and techies but invaluable to all enthusiasts. His latest, however, is aimed at the self-help crowd.

Well organized and heavily illustrated with nearly 800 photos, the 272-page *Builders Guide* takes you step by step through ground-up construction of several AR variations. Each section covers the necessary tools and makes recommendations on the best parts for the application. The "sources" list is extensive. Armed with this book and a modest tool kit, building an AR your way is eminently feasible and affords not only a better understanding of your favorite gun but the satisfaction of doing it yourself. $34.95 plus $7 postage from Zediker Publishing.— *Hamilton S. Bowen*

ZEDIKER PUBLISHING
P. O. BOX 1497, OXFORD, MS 38655
(662) 473-6107, WWW.ZEDIKER.COM

NEWS

IED Parts Hidden Near Village Bazaar

Special Operations Task Group soldiers cross a river during OP MAKHA NIWELL 09 in Uruzgan province, Afghanistan. The Soldiers faces have been obscured by the ADoD. Note the troopers are carrying M4 carbines rather than Australian F88 (Steyr AUG) rifles. Photo: ADoD

Ammunition (above) recovered by SOTG during OP MAKHA NIWELL 09 in Uruzgan province. Anti-personnel mines (below) recovered by SOTG during OP MAKHA NIWELL 09 in Uruzgan province. Photos: ADoD

Dorafshan locals can breathe a little easier following an operation by Australian and Afghan forces which found and removed a large number of Improvised Explosive Device parts from locations close to a market.

The operation, conducted last month, involved Afghan forces of the Provincial Response Company partnered with Australian soldiers of the Special Operations Task Group.

The joint operation succeeded in removing Improvised Explosive Device components, ammunition, and anti-personnel mines found near a village bazaar.

"These Improvised Explosive Device parts and ammunition would have been used to target Afghan locals and security forces and ISAF forces," Commander of the Special Operations Task Group, Lieutenant Colonel C said.

"The fact that these items were hidden near populated areas shows that the insurgents continue to disregard the safety of innocent Afghan civilians."

Some of the recovered items were destroyed in place while other devices were rendered safe and transported to the Multinational Base - Tarin Kot.

Provincial Response Company members are invaluable to Special Operations Task Group operations as they have community connections and local knowledge of the areas in which the Special Operations Task Group operates.—*Courtesy ADoD*

US Marines Clear Northern Marjah

Engines roaring, a massive convoy charged toward Sistani, a region in Marjah, Afghanistan, notorious for remnant Taliban fighters who harass the local population.

The enemy got the message. Without any resistance, 2nd Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment cleared the area last Oct. 21. They set up 360-degree security while Marine engineers converted an abandoned bazaar into a fully-operational outpost.

After setting security and beginning construction, the unit launched into the counter-insurgency operation. Marine squads, partnered with the Afghan National Army, swept across the surrounding farmland and engaged the local populace one compound at a time.

Local villagers in the area embraced the Marines, welcoming them into their homes and allowing them to search for weapons, bomb-making materials, contraband and Taliban propaganda.

"It was ANA led on all the searches of the compounds," explained 1st Lt. Jason N. Quinn, battlefield commander during the operation. "There were no forced entries and the operation was strictly non-kinetic. We used soft knocks to try and get invited in. We searched the compounds with the families and invited them up to a security shura we were hosting to let them know what was going on. We discussed the patrol base we were building and how it would affect them, their crops, and improve security as

FREE* Gunsmithing School DVD

The Fastest Way To Become A Certified Gunsmith!

Make Money Part-time, Full-time, Or As A Retirement Income Doing What You Love -

Puts Freedom and Control In Your Life!!

You will learn how you can **get Certified as a Gunsmith in as little as 90 days** through ***AGI's Exclusive Professional Gunsmithing Home Study Course*** taught step-by-step by Master Gunsmiths on DVD video. It's the ONLY Professional Gunsmithing Course using this up-to-date and proven method. **The information package and 1 hour DVD are FREE, we only ask that you cover the $3.97 shipping, which is FULLY REFUNDABLE!* **Call 1-800-797-0867 Today!**

For FREE DVD go to:
www.agiguns.com/b02
AGI AMERICAN GUNSMITHING INSTITUTE

KIRKPATRICK LEATHER COMPANY

- FBI-style cant
- Narrow profile
- Double straps for stability
- Reinforced opening
- Leather shirt guard
- Molded sight rail

Available For Medium & Large Frame Semi-auto Pistols

T-CC
$78.00 + S/H

www.kirkpatrickleather.com
1-800-451-9394
P.O. Box 677GM Laredo, TX 78042

Need Bullets?
RELOADING.COM

Lance Cpl. Anthony J. Macozzie, a Marine with Weapons Company, 2nd Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment, exits a local's compound after searching for weapons, bomb making materials, contraband and Taliban propaganda during a clear, hold, and build operation, in Northern Marjah, Afghanistan. The main purpose of the operation was established security for the construction of a new patrol base while conducting searches of local's compounds in the area. They received no enemy resistance. Photo: Lance Cpl. Andrew D. Johnston, RCT 1

well. They all understood it and they all agreed on why we were searching their compounds. The outcome and the number of local nationals who got involved in the area is the most we have ever seen. The atmospherics were very, very positive."

Throughout the day, Marine engineers constructed walls, guard posts and vehicle entry points. The abandoned bazaar began to take the form of fully-operational patrol base. Sgt. Michael E. White, the lead combat engineer with 2/9 during the construction in Sistani, said every Marine lent a helping hand, contributing to one of the fastest builds he has seen here.

By the end of the operation, children were seen running up to Marines who were handing out candy and toys in an area that was virtually a ghost town due to enemy activity weeks prior.

"There is a lot of Taliban in that area, which a lot of elders and families fear," said White. "Based on what I know, the patrol base is going to provide the needed security to local nationals there, hopefully allowing the families and children to move more freely and attend schools. It should allow elders the opportunity to be involved in more shuras and key leader engagements in hopes of putting the

Lt. Col. James R. Fullwood, commanding officer of 2nd Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment, hands toys out to local Afghani children outside a shura in Northern Marjah, Afghanistan. The main purpose of the operation was to establish security for the construction of a new patrol base while conducting searches of local's compounds in the area. Locals were invited to a centralized location where key Marine leaders were present to answer any questions or concerns they had about the operation. Photo: Lance Cpl. Andrew D. Johnston, RCT 1. Cpl.

Taliban on the move."

Quinn said the operation ran more smoothly than anyone anticipated, especially based on the amount of enemy resistance they have encountered there before. "Everybody that participated brought something special, some unique characteristic and combat-multiplier to the mission," said Quinn. "Everybody, from the female

CW Series: Uncompromised Performance

Made with Pride in the U.S.A.

The Kahr CW series (available in 9mm, .40 S&W and .45 ACP) has the combination of features that makes it the best Concealed Carry Pistol in the market.
It has the ideal combination of stopping power and shooting comfort, and is smaller, slimmer and lighter than competitive brands.
Its smooth double-action trigger reduces flinch, improving shot placement, and is safer.
In stressful situations, fine motor control is impaired contributing to the possibility of accidental discharge with traditional single-action triggers found on many semi-autos and revolvers. The CW Series' natural point of aim and low-felt recoil make them the ideal guns to shoot and carry.

CW9093
CW4043
CW4543

With the introduction of new manufacturing processes in the production of the CW series, the Kahr pistol represents an unrivaled value.

KAHR ARMS®
KAHR ARMS: 130 Goddard Memorial Drive, Worcester, MA 01603
Sales Support & Service: 508-795-3919 Websites: www.kahr.com / www.kahrshop.com

Aneidie E. Crespo, a machine gunner with Weapons Company, 2nd Battalion, 9th Marine Regiment, searches for weapons, bomb making materials, contraband and Taliban propaganda at a local's compound in Northern Marjah, Afghanistan. Photo: Lance Cpl. Andrew D. Johnston, RCT 1

engagement team all the way to our non-kinetic fire teams, had something to offer.

For 2/9, Operation Sistani had added meaning. Not only does it disrupt terrorist activity in the region, it's a reminder of the sacrifices made by men of the battalion. Dubbed Patrol Base Zaehringer, it's a tribute to the late Sgt. Frank R. Zaehringer, an assaultman with Weapons Company. Zaehringer made the ultimate sacrifice last Oct. 11, while conducting combat operations in Northern Marjah.

In Sistani, smiling children and merchants slowly return to the streets once inhabited by the ghosts of Taliban oppression.—*Lance Cpl. Andrew D. Johnston, Regimental Combat Team 1*

17 States Receive Funding

The Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation reports US Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack has announced funding for 17 state public access projects under the "Open Fields" program passed in the 2008 Farm Bill. Vilsack's announcement was made at the first meeting of the newly formed Wildlife and Hunting Heritage Conservation Council, made up of many industry and conservation leaders, including NSSF President Steve Sanetti.—*Courtesy NSSF*

Excise Tax Down

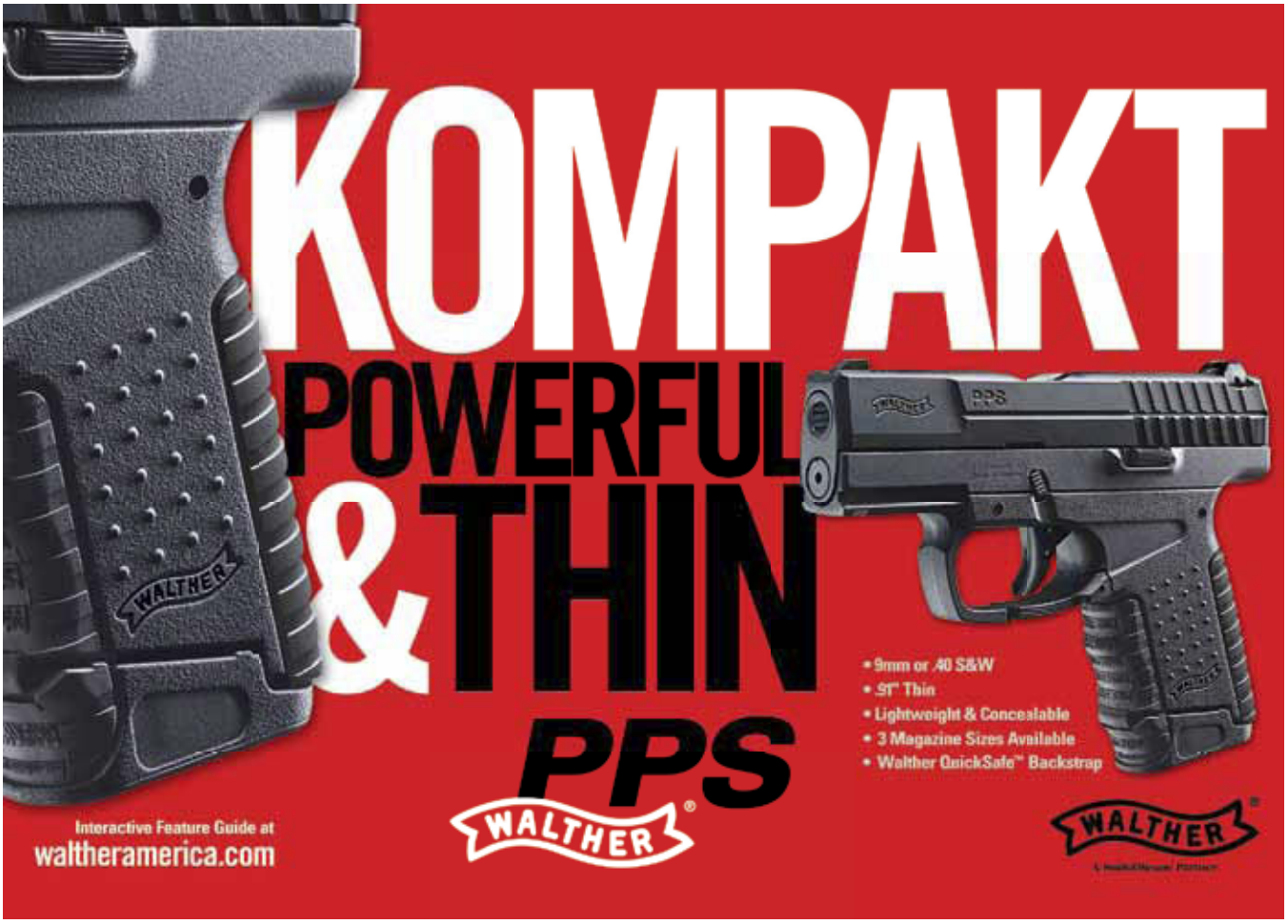
The latest Firearms and Ammunition Excise Tax Collection report released by the Department of the Treasury indicates firearm and ammunition manufacturers reported excise tax liabilities of $102.20 million in the second calendar quarter of 2010, down 16.29 percent compared to the same period in 2009. The report, which covers April 1 through June 30, 2010 shows that $31.84 million was due in taxes for pistols and revolvers, $28.71 million for firearms (other)/ long guns and $41.65 million for ammunition (shells and cartridges). Compared to the same period in 2009, tax obligations were down 5.1 percent for pistols and revolvers, down 32.25 percent for firearms (other) long guns and down 9.77 percent for ammunition (shells and cartridges). Please note these figures reflect what excise taxes the manufacturers have filed and do not reflect retail mark up and final retail sales. —*Courtesy NSSF.*

National Firearms Museum Receives Petersen Collection

More than 400 firearms from the collection of California hunter, shooting sportsman and publishing magnate Robert Petersen have been donated for display at the National Firearms Museum in Arlington, Virginia. The museum staff has spent the last 18 months setting up a new gallery for the exhibit, which opened in October, 2010, reports *Connection Newspapers.*—*Courtesy NSSF*

Iraq Army M1AI Tanks

Iraqi and US senior leaders gathered at Camp Iraqi Hero last Oct. 14 to commemorate the Iraqi Army's expanding inventory of M1A1 Abrams



12 ISSUES + ONE CD

GUNS MAGAZINE YEAR SUBSCRIPTION AND FREE DIGITAL EDITION

ONLY $24.95

Plus **FREE 2010** Digital Edition CD with your paid order

Every issue of GUNS Magazine can help you identify the next worthy candidate to take to the range or into the field.

A team of writers that includes Dave Anderson, Clint Smith, John Taffin and Mike Venturino can help make the decision easier. Their insightful reviews and countless hours of research have refined the selection process. They've spent a lifetime moving from grip to trigger, one gun at a time.

Now it's your turn.

Subscribe for **ONLY $24.95**
Call toll-free (888) 732-2299
M-F 8am-3pm PST ($44.95 outside U.S.)
www.gunsmagazine.com
P.O. Box 509094, San Diego, CA 92150

Use GUNS Magazine Today to Stay Informed for Tomorrow.

tanks, increasing its conventional defensive capabilities.

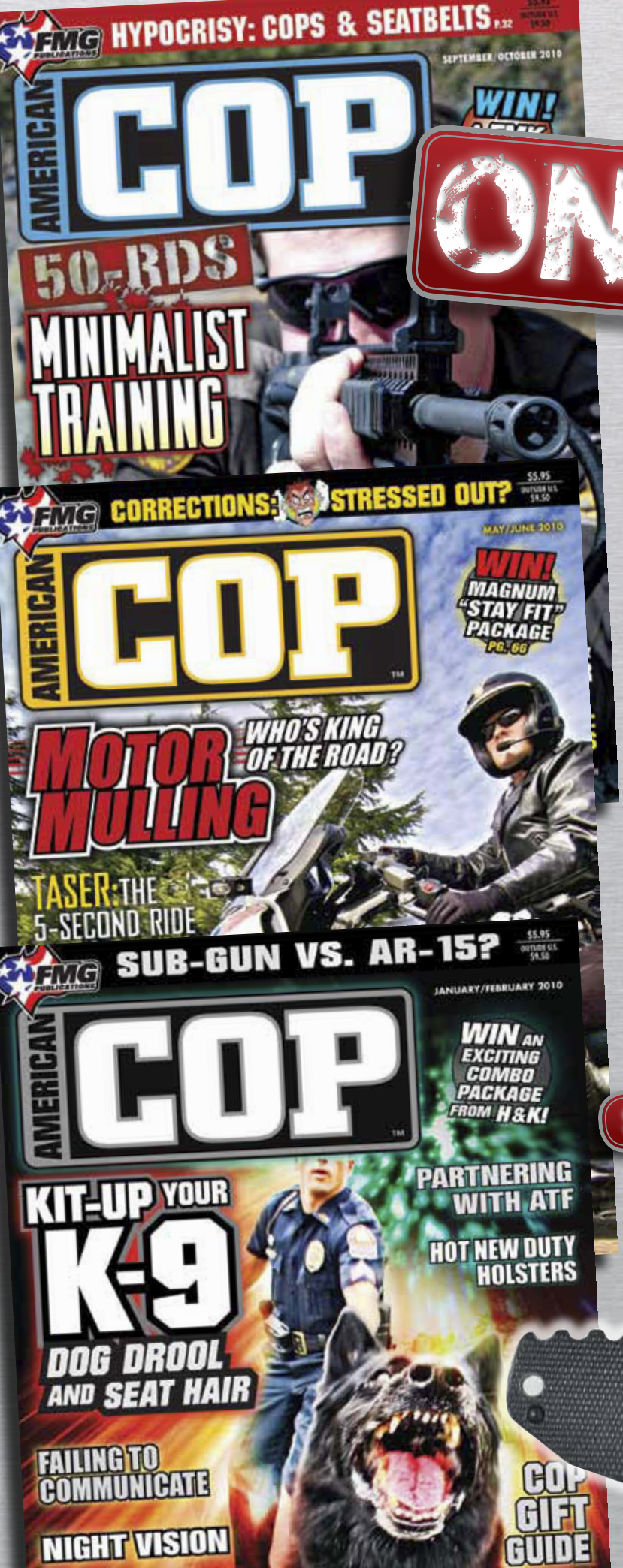
To date 35 tanks have arrived at the Besmaya Combat Training Center as part of a larger, comprehensive program to modernize Iraq's conventional defensive capabilities. The package also includes eight M88A2 recovery vehicles, training courses, maintenance training course, and training ammunition. The remaining 105 tanks and recovery vehicles are scheduled to arrive by December 2011.

The beginning of Operation New Dawn in September marked a critical transition in the American-Iraqi partnership. The remaining 50,000 US troops in Iraq are now dedicated to the Advising and Training mission, said United States Forces-Iraq Deputy Commanding General for Advising and Training, US Army Lt. Gen. Michael D. Barbero. US troops are partnered with Iraqi Security Forces to assist them in strengthening their conventional defensive capabilities.

Iraqi soldiers with the 9th Iraqi Army Mechanized Division, located in central Iraq, demonstrate the capabilities of M1A1 Abrams tanks during an M1A1 demonstration at Camp Iraqi Hero last Oct. 14. The ceremony marked the transfer of the first two of 140 M1A1 Abrams tanks scheduled for fielding by the Iraq Army. Photo: Sgt. Eunice Alicea Valentin, DCG A&T PAO.

The US and Iraqi Armies collaboratively developed a training program in beginning of 2009 to help familiarize Iraqi crewmembers with the Abrams tank in anticipation of the Iraqi tanks' arrival.

"The Iraqi Army has been the fastest growing Army in the world," Barbero said. "These tanks represent this growth and will help strengthen the Iraqi Army's ability to protect the sovereignty of Iraq."— *Eunice Alicea Valentin, DCG A&T PAO.* GUNS



ALWAYS ON DUTY

ONE TOOL
You Can Rely On

Whether you're a 20-year veteran or new recruit, American COP has something for you.

Inside each issue is the best mix of new gear, humor and in-your-face features available — by cops, for cops.

Street smart

Officer survival tips and weapon options give you the edge when you're nose to nose with trouble.

Detailed reviews of the latest guns and gear help you choose the best tools to get the job done.

Just what you need

A lighthearted look at the job, life and events only a cop can understand — inside when you need it most.

American COP
Always on duty for YOU

SPECIAL OFFER:

Two Year Subscription
Only $19.95
Plus FREE Tactical Knife!*
(Regular Price $39.95) Includes 12 bi-monthly issues
Outside U.S. $64.95 for two full years

Order Online!
www.americancopmagazine.com
Call toll-free (888) 732-2299
**With your paid subscription*

QUARTER MASTER

.22 Rimfire Chamber Ironing Swage

Mike Cumpston

Traditionally, owners of .22 rimfire rifles and pistols are warned against dry-firing these arms to avoid chamber damage from the impact of the firing pins. Nevertheless, many older .22s present sticky extraction from burred chambers. For the most part, modern rimfires are pretty good about isolating the firing pin strike from the chambers, thus making dry-firing an acceptable practice. This is not always the case. My model 617 developed burrs after a moderate amount of dry-firing. The sticky extraction and visible dings were a constant reminder I had screwed up and a warning that more serious chamber damage could be waiting in the wings. A friend put me onto the T.W. Menck Chamber Ironing Swage available through Brownells. The tapered, hardened chamber swage is introduced to the damaged chamber with the flat aspect facing the dent. Rotating the swage pushes the displaced metal back into proper register. There are several options for accomplishing this simple sequence. The most straightforward involves using the handle of the tool to rotate the instrument. Full directions are included in the package.

I applied the Ironing Swage to my revolver chambers with subsequent live firing demonstrating the tool completely eliminated my extraction problems. The Swage costs only $21.95.

The hardened swage is tapered to fit .22 chambers of variable diameter. The tool head is threaded for use with a cleaning rod or can be used with an appropriate ratchet wrench. In most cases, the handle provides the easiest means of rotating the swage.

The swage enters the chamber with the flat portion aligned with the dent.

T.W. MENCK GUNSMITH INC.
5703 S. 77TH ST., RALSTON, NE 68127

FOR WEB LINKS, GO TO
WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/BROWNELLS.HTML

Shooters Ridge Gorilla Bag

John Taffin

Back in the ’70s and early ’80s I did a lot of shooting out in the sagebrush desert using what my friends started calling the “Taffin Machine Rest.” Using a long 3' wide piece of carpeting I would roll it up tight and then put several wraps of duct tape around both ends. It worked well for rifles and especially well for pistol shooting off the hood of a vehicle. It was also tough, lightweight and cost practically nothing.

Once I got a good solid bench, I started using sandbags covered with a piece of leather for handguns, graduated to a Pistol Perch and then a few years ago my friend Denis built the ultimate handgun rest. It is adjustable, very solid, weighs about 25 pounds and works great off the bench, however, I would never put it up on the hood or heavy-duty cover over the bed of my pick up. The three adjustable legs with their sharp points would wreak havoc on the finish.

For shooting in the desert I packed sandbags around for a while but that got to be a nuisance. Now there is a much better way—the Shooters Ridge Gorilla Range Bag. This bag is actually four cylindrical filled bags all attached to each other with a carrying strap. This is definitely not a lightweight affair so the carrying strap comes in very handy. The Gorilla can be used with either handguns or rifles and, while it is a little heavy to place on the hood of my pickup, it works just fine on the EZ-Rider reinforced bed cover.

The Gorilla Range Bag can be used with either handguns or rifles and provides a stable platform for either.

One of the beauties of the Gorilla is how many different ways it can be used. All four cylinders may be laid out on the same level, or two on top, or one on top. A rifle can be used parallel to the cylinders with the forearm snuggled in between two of them, or the bags can be turned 90 degrees with the forearm resting across the center of one cylinder.

With handguns the hands can be nestled in between two cylinders or the cylinders can be turned 90 degrees just as with a rifle. It stays in the back of my pickup and when needed, all I have to do is unlock the cover and bring it up top. Even when shooting rifles off the bench I no longer mess with sandbags, but rather just put the Gorilla Bag in place and I’m ready to shoot. The Gorilla Range Bag retails for $85.49.

GUNS

BROWNELLS
200 SOUTH FRONT STREET
MONTEZUMA IOWA 50171-1000
(800) 741-0015

SHOOTERS RIDGE
ONALASKA OPERATIONS
N5549 COUNTY TRUNK Z
ONALASKA, WI 54650
(800) 635-7656

FOR WEB LINKS, GO TO
WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/
SHOOTERSRIDGE.HTML

FOR WEB LINKS, GO TO
WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/BROWNELLS.HTML

AMERICAN HANDGUNNER

ONE YEAR SUBSCRIPTION ONLY $19.75!

Includes a FREE Digital Edition CD

Subscribe Now to enjoy last year's fun and this year's "WOW!"

If you've experienced the "cool" factor of American Handgunner and want to see what you missed last year, you're in luck.

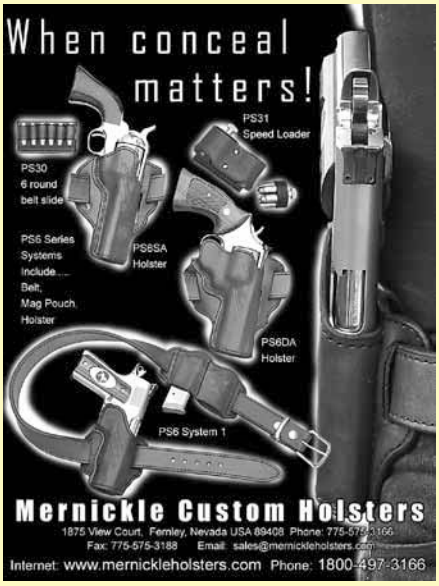
Get all six 2010 issues in digital format on one easy-to-use CD-ROM when you subscribe to American Handgunner through this offer.

Catch up on a year's worth of Clint Smith, John Connor, Massad Ayoob, Dave Anderson, "Duke" Venturino and others. And with a subscription you can count on even more in the months ahead.

One Year ONLY $19.75
Call (888) 732-2299
www.americanhandgunner.com
M-F 8am-3pm PST ($59.76 outside U.S.)
P.O. Box 509093, San Diego, CA 92150

Classified ads $2.00 per-word insertion. ($1.50 per-word insertion for 3 or more) including name, address and phone number (20 word minimum). Minimum charge $40.00. **BOLD WORDS add $1.00 per word.** Copy and rerun orders must be accompanied by **PAYMENT IN ADVANCE. NO AGENCY OR CASH DISCOUNTS ON LISTING OR DISPLAY CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING.** All ads must be received with advance payment BY NO LATER THAN THE 1st OF each month. **EXAMPLE:** Closing for DEC. 2008 issue (on sale NOV. 5th) is SEPT 1st, 2008. Ads received after closing will appear in the following issue. Please type or print clearly. **NO PROOFS WILL BE FURNISHED.** Include name, address, post office, city, state and zip code as counted words. Abbreviations count as one word each. Mail to GUNS MAGAZINE CLASSIFIEDS, 12345 World Trade Drive, San Diego, California 92128. **NOTE: WE NOW HAVE DISPLAY CLASSIFIEDS IN BOTH GUNS MAGAZINE AND AMERICAN HANDGUNNER. ASK FOR OUR NEW RATE CARD. (858) 605-0235.**

ACCESSORIES



FREE CATALOG! Make your own kydex gun holster or knife sheath. Over 1200 items. Visit www.knifekits.com or call 1-877-255-6433 today.

APPAREL

THE BELTMAN makes sturdy, top quality, **DUAL LAYER,** Bull Hide belts for dress wear, concealed carry, or competition. Options include: Horse, Shark, Elephant, Velcro, tapering, stiffeners, etc. Handmade in three widths, and five colors from $69.95, any length! Catalogue - $3.00 (refundable) PO Box 1302, Apex, NC 27502. 919-387-1997. www.thebeltman.net.

GUNSMITHING

GUNSMITHING INSTRUCTION AT PCC. Two-year hands-on program; excellent facilities; financial aid available; VA approved. Piedmont Community College, P.O. Box 1197, Roxboro, NC 27573 (336)599-1181; www.piedmontcc.edu

INSTRUCTION

KNIVES & SWORDS

FREE POCKET KNIVES. Collectibles, Bowies, Swords, Tacticals, And Much More. For More Information Visit Our Web Site And Click On The Featured Product For The Week. www.dovadistributors.com

MISCELLANEOUS

BEAR HUNTS - ALASKA, CANADA, CALIFORNIA & IDAHO; 100% SUCCESSFUL BROWN BEAR, GRIZZLIES & BLACK BEAR SPRING AND FALL HUNTS; CHASE's (THE BEAR GURU) 435-881-2143 EMAIL: CHASESHUNT@AOL.COM

CUSTOM CORNER

GUNS MAGAZINE

NEW PRODUCTS

For more information on seeing your product featured in New Products, Contact: Andrew Oram (866) 903-1199. For more New Products visit us online at www.gunsmagazine.com/productindex

UNIT INFRARED DIGITAL ZOOM VIDEO RECORDER
STEALTH CAM

The new UNIT is a 640x480 video trail camera with audio capabilities, recording 10-180 seconds of footage. Digital Video Stamping allows the user to review the time-coding of the captured video by monitoring the time, date, temperature, and the moon phases of the footage. The new microprocessor optimizes trigger time and the Burst Mode Technology reduces trigger gap time. The UNIT captures between one and nine images per triggering and has 2X or 4X digital zoom making it possible to see features of game clearly. Stealth Cam, LLC, P.O. Box 539504, Grand Prairie, TX 75053, (877) 269-8490, www.gunsmagazine.com/stealthcam.html.

G2X AND 6PX FLASHLIGHTS
SUREFIRE

With these tough economic times, SureFire's new series of LED Flashlights are the most affordable the company has ever offered. The G2X and the 6PX are available in a single output for tactical configuration, and there is a dual-output line for general use. The G2X Tactical has a retail of $55, while the 6PX Pro tops the series out at $79. (800) 828-8809, www.gunsmagazine.com/surefire.html.

KIWI BOOT PROTECTOR
KIWI

KIWI Boot Protector provides superior water resistance on heavy-duty outdoor boots and footwear used for work, hiking, fishing, hunting and a variety of other outdoor activities. The KIWI Boot Protector is formulated with an advanced silicone polymer that helps repel water, dirt and stains. Safe to use and odorless when dry, boots treated with KIWI Boot Protector not only withstand wet weather conditions, and last longer, but makes it easier to clean and maintain as well. Suggested retail is $6.99 each, www.gunsmagazine.com/kiwi.html.

NEW .40 S&W LOAD
DOUBLETAP AMMUNITION

DoubleTap's newest defensive load features an exclusive 125-grain TAC-XP bullet made by Barnes. It's made to match the .357 Mag, 125-grain ballistics, yet still defeats barriers and retains 100 percent of its weight. It is truly an effective fight stopper for your .40 S&W. Bare Gel: 13.75" penetration and .75" expansion. Clothed Gel: 14.25" penetration and .72" expansion. (866) 357-1066, www.gunsmagazine.com/doubletap.html.

COZY PARTNER FOR THE SPRINGFIELD XD9, XD40 SUB-COMPACT 3"
DESANTIS HOLSTER & LEATHER GOODS CO.

The new Cozy Partner for the Springfield XD9, XD40 Sub-compact features a tension device and precise molding for handgun retention. A memory band retains the holster's shape for easy one handed re-holstering. The1-3/4" split belt loop is standard. The Cozy Partner must be worn with a belt and is available in tan or black unlined leather. Belt loops are non adjustable and one size only. DeSantis Holster & Leather Goods Co., 431 Bayview Ave., Amityville, NY 11701, (800) 486-4433, www.gunsmagazine.com/desantisholster.html.

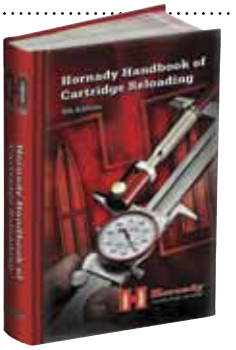
SIGHTING DISCS
CLEAR2TARGET

Clear2Target's new sighting discs are especially designed for shooters using iron-sighted rifles/handguns who can no longer focus clearly on the sights.The principle is the same as a peep sight, but instead of a complicated apparatus, you look through a simple static cling disc attached to your glasses for a clear sight picture. They can be used on any eyewear and are non-marring. Retail price is $5.95 for a sheet of eight discs. Clear2Target, (800) 735-4422, www.gunsmagazine.com/clear2target.html.

MAGNETIC LASER MOUNT
ARIETE LLC

Ariete LLC has developed a compact, magnetic laser mount and sight for pistols with and without the necessary rails. The Ariete Laser Mount allows the user to mount a laser sight on pistols that previously would not easily accept them. The "no-rail" Ariete mount is now available for 1911s and clones, Browning Hi-Power and variants, CZ 75s, and Tokarevs (Russian and Chinese). Ariete LLC, 12034 N 61st St., Scottsdale, AZ 85254, (602) 999-0382, www.gunsmagazine.com/arietellc.html.

BATON HOLDER
DESANTIS HOLSTER & LEATHER GOODS
This ambidextrous holster was designed to fit the thigh pocket of most cargo pants. It is built from a very viscous material. The M53 will absolutely not move out of position in the pocket. This model is reinforced and stiffened at all areas that need it. The M53 keeps your ASP baton at arms reach. The inside is made of slick pack cloth for a no friction draw. Currently available for the ASP collapsible 21" baton. DeSantis Holster & Leather Goods Co., 431 Bayview Ave., Amityville, NY 11701, (800) 486-4433, www.gunsmagazine.com/desantisholster.html.

HORNADY 8TH EDITION HANDBOOK OF CARTRIDGE RELOADING
HORNADY


The new *8th Edition Hornady Handbook of Cartridge Reloading* is the most comprehensive Hornady Handbook ever printed. It contains over 1,000 pages of data for all of the NEW Hornady bullets including: FTX, GMX, DGS, DGX and all the favorites like V-MAX, InterBond, SST, InterLock and XTP. There is data for recently released Superformance and LEVERevolution propellants from Hodgdon, RL 17, 4007SSC, 8208XBR, Hybrid 100V as well as some others. New cartridge additions include the 6.5 Grendel, 6.5 Creedmoor, .30 TC, .300 RCM, .338 RCM, .308 Marlin Express, .338 Marlin Express, .375 Ruger, .416 Ruger, .450 Nitro Express, .470 Nitro Express, .500 Nitro Express and many more! Hornady Mfg Co., (308) 382-1390 ext. 263, Fax: (308) 382-5761, www.gunsmagazine.com/hornady.html.

RAPID ACCESS DEFENSE STORAGE SYSTEM
CARON FORENSICS
Caron Forensics introduces the Rapid Access Defense (RAD2). RAD2 is designed for the storage and fast presentation of defensive weapons. It can be mounted horizontally or vertically in various concealed locations throughout your home or office. It's designed to accommodate handguns and other tactical weapons, such as flashlights, knives, etc. by means of a dual-rail mounting system. RAD2 comes standard with a handgun holder, flashlight holder and magnetic clip holder. The RAD4 is the larger version, designed to hold rifles and shotguns. Caron Forensics, P.O. Box 715, Marietta, OH 45750, (800) 648-3042, www.gunsmagazine.com/caronforensics.html.

SOLO-VAULT
SHOTLOCK
The new ShotLock Solo-Vault is designed to hold a single shotgun, keeping it both secure and accessible. Constructed of 14-gauge steel, the Solo-Vault can store a semi-auto, pump or over/under shotgun. The small and compact size allows it to be mounted securely anywhere in the home or a vehicle. It features a 5-button inline programmable lock and can easily be opened and put a weapon in hand in less than 3 seconds. ShotLock, (800) 967-8107, www.gunsmagazine.com/shotlock.html.

HR SERIES SAFES
CANNON
The HR Series features a 1" steel composite door, 1" active-locking bolts, truelock internal hinges and surefire multiple re-lockers. Its uni-body construction from heavy 12-gauge steel provides superior protection. Safe contents are accessed with the high-security commercial grade Type 1 electronic lock and 5-spoke handle. The HR Series has a verified fire rating of 12 degrees F for 60 minutes by Intertek ETL. It features the TruRack shelving system that offers barrel down or barrel up gun storage. Further customization is available. Cannon, (800) 222-1055, www.gunsmagazine.com/cannonsafe.html.

LONG RANGE BALLISTICS CALCULATOR
VORTEX OPTICS
Use the new Long Range Ballistics Calculator to generate ballistic drop charts and compare various loads and environmental conditions, such as temperature and incline (slope). Once you set up a personal account to use the Vortex Long Range Ballistics Calculator (LRBC), you'll be able to store your favorite rifle/loads as well as multiple range or hunting conditions. The Vortex LRBC is an invaluable tool for the serious long-range shooter. Vortex Optics, 2120 W. Greenview Dr., Middleton, WI 53562, (800) 462-0048, www.gunsmagazine.com/vortexoptics.html.

ENTER T

PM9
MAKER: KAHR ARMS
130 GODDARD MEMORIAL DRIVE
WORCESTER, MA 01603
(503) 795-3919
WWW.KAHRARMS.COM

Action Type: Semi-auto, double-action-only, Caliber: 9mm Luger, Capacity: 6+1 or 7+1, Barrel Length: 3", Overall Length: 5.3", Weight: 14 ounces, Finish: Black polymer frame, stainless steel slide, Sights: White Dot, Grips: Textured black polymer, Value: $786, Value of Package: $1653.90

LASERGUARD
MAKER: CRIMSON TRACE
9780 SW FREEMAN DR.,
WILSONVILLE, OR 97070
(800) 442-2406,
WWW.CRIMSONTRACE.COM

Activation: Instinctive Activation, Beam Intensity: 5mw peak, 633nm, class IIIa laser, Dot Size: .5" diameter at 50', Power: One 1/3N 3v Lithium or two 357 Silver Oxide batteries Duration: 4 hours on-time, 5-year shelf life, Value: $209

EAGLE TALON
MAKER: AL MAR KNIVES
P.O. BOX 2295, TUALATIN, OR 97062, (503) 670-9080, WWW.ALMARKNIVES.COM

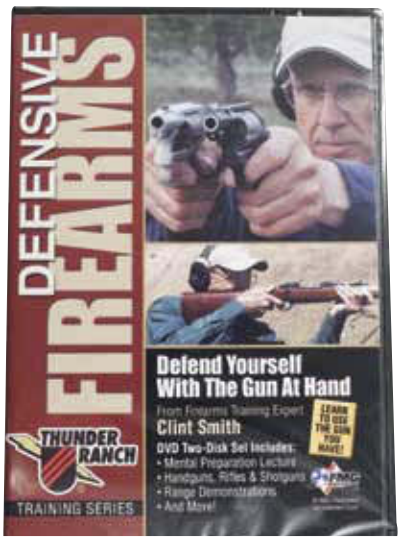
STEEL: AUS 8. Rc 57-59, BLADE LENGTH: 4", OAL: 9", WEIGHT: 4 ounces, ACTION: Al Mar Front Lock, SCALES: Honey Jigged Bone, Value: $259

PERSONAL
BIOMETRIC SAFE PBS-001
MAKER: LOCKSAF
8117 W. MANCHESTER AVENUE, SUITE 200,
LOS ANGELES, CA 90293
(877) 568- 5625, WWW.LOCKSAF.COM

Dimensions: 13.98" (W) x 10.24" (D) x 4.57" (H), Weight: 22 pounds, Material: 9-Gauge Steel, Power: (1) 9V battery, 2 Mechanical keys, Features: Non-volatile memory for up to 10 fingerprints, Foam padding, Value: $349.95

THUNDER RANCH
DEFENSIVE FIREARMS TECHNIQUES
DVD FEATURING CLINT SMITH

Value: $49.95



TO WIN!

GUNS MAGAZINE FEBRUARY 2011 GUN GIVEAWAY!

FOR WEB LINKS, GO TO WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/PRODUCTINDEX.HTML

You Can Win This Free Package Worth $1,653.90

John Taffin wrote about the Kahr PM9 9mm with Laserguard grips last July and now just one of you lucky readers will win one of these fine self-defense pistols. John called the PM9 7-shot 9mm "Pocket Pistol Perfection" and we'd have to agree, especially with the inclusion of Crimson Trace Laserguard mounted underneath.

If that weren't enough, let's add an Al Mar Eagle Talon folding knife with honey-colored jigged bone scales and a LockSAF Biometric Gun Vault. It takes one press of a button and a programmed fingerprint to open the PBS-001. Made with 9-gauge steel, it's twice the thickness of other products to provide a strong, tamper-proof box. Four pilot holes in the bottom panel make it easy to mount inside a drawer, a wall, or to any flat surface.

You can't win if you don't enter, so send those postcards in pronto or take the survey and enter online at www.gunsmagazine.com. Photos: Joseph R. Novelozo. GUNS

This contest is open to individuals who are residents of the United States and its territories only. Agents and employees of Publishers Development Corporation and their families are excluded from entering. Contest void where prohibited or restricted by law. Winners must meet all local laws and regulations. Taxes and compliance with firearms regulations will be the responsibility of the winners. Winners will be notified by CERTIFIED MAIL on official letterhead. ATTENTION DEPLOYED MILITARY: USE STATESIDE ADDRESS! No purchase necessary to enter.

TO ENTER CONTEST:
Use YOUR OWN postcard (no envelopes, please)
Follow sample card to right. Mail postcard to:
GUNS Magazine, **GOM FEBRUARY**
P.O. BOX 502795, San Diego, CA 92150-2795.
Entries must be received before **MARCH 1, 2011**.
Limit one entry per household.
QUESTION OF THE MONTH: Do you plan on purchasing a Centennial Collector's Edition 1911 in 2011?
(A) Yes
(B) No

SAMPLE ONLY

Name _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
Email Address _____
CIRCLE ANSWER(S) TO QUESTION OF THE MONTH FEBRUARY 2011:
(A) (B)
IF I WIN, SHIP MY PRIZE THROUGH:
FFL Dealer _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
Phone # (____) _____
Store Hours: _____ ___a.m. thru _____p.m.
Attention Deployed Military: USE STATESIDE ADDRESS!

ODD ANGRY SHOT

• JOHN CONNOR •

NOT-SO-FAMOUS QUOTES
Lines you won't read anywhere else.

"Try never to run out of smokes, ammo and luck all at the same time. But remember, if you have ammo, you can always get more smokes, and make your own luck."—G.K. Shirpa

One of the oldest folders in my jumbled files is titled "Things Said & Done." It's kind of a catch-all of quotes, quips and lines from places bright and dark. Now and then that file needs airing out, you know? Like now….

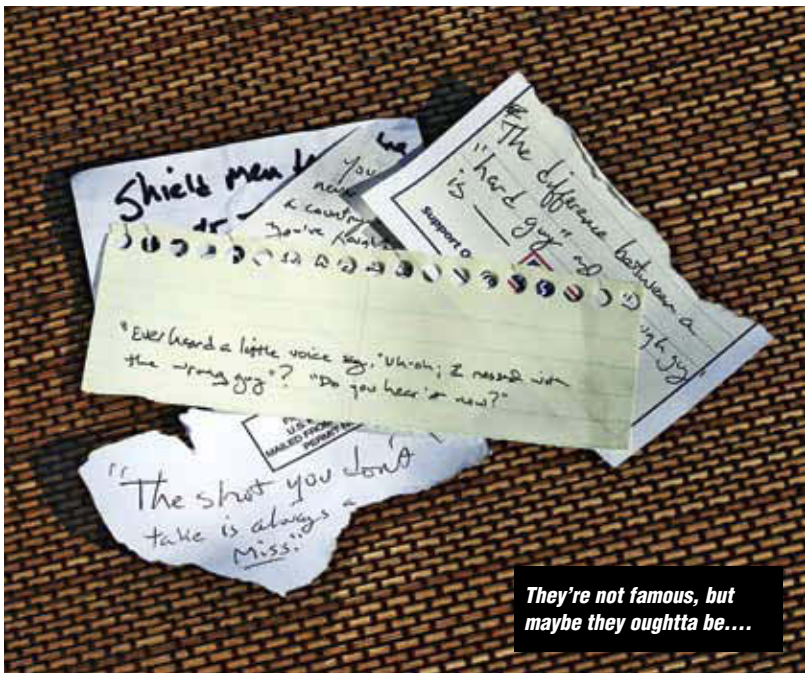
The challenge posed to Shirpa was, "From your long life of combat, select just one piece of advice you would give young warriors."

I thought that was a pretty simplistic answer for a man who had been fighting communists over two continents for more than half a century, since he was about 9 years old. Knowing a little about him, I suspected there was more to it; a more metaphysical meaning. I was right.

He explained that everyone has something—literally, some *thing*—they need in their body and soul to sustain them in battle and to keep them going through a long campaign—or a longer life of soldiering. Ask any smoker, he said, how important tobacco can be before and after a fight. For others it may be their bible, their prayer beads, a treasured photo, a talisman of clan or tribe, a sweetheart's scarf, their father's knife, their mother's last letter. Those are the "smokes."

"Ammo" is the means and ability to defend your life, your possessions and your loved ones; whatever it takes to fend off or attack evil. And "luck"? Certainly, he said, there is an element of fate or karma woven through all war, all life, because, he smiled, "Indeed, God blinks," but all too often, he said, isn't it odd how *fortes fortuna adiuvat*—fortune favors the bold? In his experience, Shirpa said, a man who is smart enough to know that bold, decisive action and belief in oneself are event-shaping forces in and of themselves, will indeed be "luckier" than the wavering and timid.

Another gem he gave me was this: "A warrior should not try to see or imagine 'the end of his trail.' Do not imagine a hero's welcome, adoring crowds, grateful comrades or even a long, peaceful rest. While you wake, with every word spoken and every act taken, live so that when you lay down your head, to sleep or to die, you may say to yourself and your God that you have acquitted yourself honorably this day. Do this and sleep will welcome you as a hero; your bed of rocks will comfort you more than fur and feathers, and there will be no end to your trail, or any need or desire to end it."



They're not famous, but maybe they oughtta be….

Warriors & Waiters

My Uncle John has given me a few good ones too. One of my favorites is, "Some men have an inner warrior. Others have an inner waiter." Now to me, that's just funny as heck on its own, but he had a thoughtful follow-up.

"I think it has more to do with genes than with experience, though some only discover their *inner warrior* or *inner waiter* with hard experience. The point is, you should know what your core dynamic is—and be honest about it." He said you owe it to your family and associates to tell them either, "Look, if trouble comes, I may react with sudden violence. I may not be able to take care of you and the threat at the same time, so *if you're not in the fight with me,* you should get outta my way and flee," or, "If trouble comes, my instinct is to get away from it, fast. I'm not into violent confrontation; I don't deal with it well. I can't move fast if I'm carrying or dragging you, so do what you want but I'm *outta there,* understand?" For many people, Uncle John said, either way, that kind of honesty demands courage—and is potentially life-saving.

Clint on Concealed Carry:

"It's a BIG gun when I put it on and it's a BIG gun when I pull it out."

Learn how to choose a gun, carry concealed and draw carefully. Get Clint Smith's NEW Thunder Ranch DVD.

Three Course BONUS Includes:
- Concealed Carry Options
- Home Defense
- Vehicle Defense

Two-disc set only $49.95 — Order Today:
(800) 628-9818 (M-F 8am-3pm PST)
www.americanhandgunner.com/TRvids.html

Another great quote came from a silly, stupid confrontation between him and a rude 20-something dipstick blocking a passageway and intimidating folks who just wanted to get by. When this dummy gave 'em his best mirror-practiced mad-dog look, others turned and took the long way around. Uncle John didn't. The exchange deteriorated quickly and the idjit asked, "So you think you're some kinda tough guy, huh?" Uncle John smiled.

"No," he laughed, "I'm not a tough guy. But I'm an *ex-professional tough guy,* and I remember a few tricks. So if you feel the need to bleed, give it your best shot, sonny." The kid gave him a long look, then silently turned his back and got as thin as he could against the passageway wall.

Another great line came from a sorta-related situation. In a smallish town in a warm sub-tropical place, half a dozen nominally white dudes were having lunch and beer in a cantina. The locals took them for Yankees or Euros connected with a nearby bridge project. They weren't, but that was the intent. The atmosphere was generally friendly, but that didn't extend to the village bullyboy, who looked like a swarthy version of Andre the Giant.

He came in with a sneer lifting his bushy moustache and a machete dangling from one hand. It rapidly became apparent that his aim was to cow the foreigners—get 'em to squirm—and he'd done this before, successfully. A series of insults followed. The oldest and smallest of the group sat at the head of the table, and BullyBoy focused on him, crudely challenging him to fight and prove his doubtful manhood.

"No," the elderly gentleman demurred, "My fighting days are past." BullyBoy advanced, his machete swinging up. "You *will* fight, or die like a dog!" It may have been any empty theatrical threat—but who knew? Anyway, it's doubtful he had time to realize his error.

Suddenly a shorty AR appeared which had been slung from the gent's shoulder under his rain slicker, and several rounds dropped BullyBoy backward like a church door blown from its hinges. The old man got up, surveying the room and his voided antagonist. Leaning over a man who couldn't hear the words, he stated clearly, "I said my *fighting* days were past, not my *killing* days—fool!"

I don't think any line in any movie could be better than that one, do you?

Oh, boy; here are some great 1-liners—but there's no more room! Another time, OK? Connor *OUT* GUNS

"Try This."

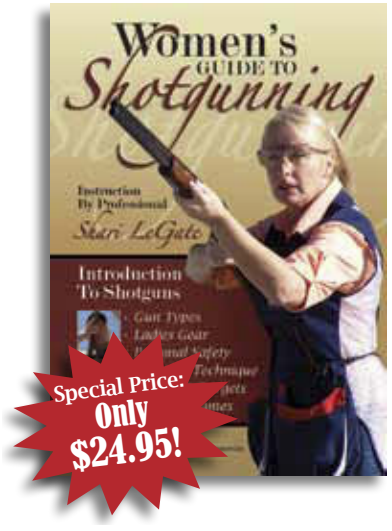
Just because you can shoot, doesn't mean she'll want to learn from you.

Getting involved in the shooting sports can be really scary for a lady.

Shari can help.

Shooting champion Shari LeGate provides all the information needed for any lady to get started in shotgun sports through her new DVD, *Women's Guide To Shotgunning.*

Order Today!
(800) 628-9818
(M-F 8am-3pm PST)
www.gunsmagazine.com/fmgvideo.html



GUNS MAGAZINE

FEBRUARY 2011

ADVERTISER'S INDEX

The companies listed have featured advertisements in this issue. Look to them first when you are ready to make a purchase.

ADVERTISER	PAGE
AirForce Airguns	63
Al Mar Knives	15
American COP Subscription	70
American Gunsmithing Institute	65
American Handgunner Subscription	72
American Handgunner T-Shirts	80
Arntzen Corporation	24
Blade-Tech Industries	57
Bond Arms	23
Brownells	57
Cannon Safe	9
Cheaper Than Dirt	27
Crimson Trace Corp.	69
CrossBreed Holsters LLC	23
D & L Sports	73
DeSantis Holster	34
Dixie Gun Works	64
El Paso Saddlery Co.	50
Elite Sports Express	34
FenixLight Limited.	39
Fort Knox Security	64
GUNS Magazine Subscription	68
GunVault	17
Helvetica Trading USA.	29
Hodgdon Powder Company	11
Jantz Supply	61
Kahr Arms.	66
Kimber Manufacturing Inc.	C4
Kirkpatrick Leather Company	65
Kwik-Site Co.	31, 45, 58
LaserLyte	21
LaserMax	54
Lee Precision Inc.	12
Old West Reproductions Inc.	57
Otis Technology Inc.	3
Pride-Fowler	50
Rio Grande Custom Grips	73
Rock River Arms.	15
Savage Arms.	51
SIG SAUER	13
Sinclair International	24, 65
Smith & Wesson.	25
Springfield Inc.	7, C3
SureFire LLC	C2
Ten Ring Precision	73
Thunder Ranch Training DVDs	56, 59
Tichbourne Knives	50
Triple K Mfg.	24
Walther USA	67
Wicked Grips.	38
Winchester Repeating Arms.	19

continued from page 82

Highway Patrolman and headed for Keith Country nine years later, three other Smith & Wessons were added to my shooting collection. When the .44 Magnum first came out, a local gun shop rented out a 4" .44 Magnum and when I shot it I knew I didn't want one. Instead I bought a Ruger .44 Magnum Flat-Top Blackhawk and then found it was even harder to handle than the Smith & Wesson.

First Article

As I became a more experienced sixgunner, growing a little older and wiser, I did learn to handle the Ruger and branched out to Smith & Wesson's .44 Magnums first adding a 6-1/2" version and then a 4" Packin' Pistol. Then the addition of a Ruger Super Blackhawk in .44 Magnum gave me an excellent quartet. I spent the summer of 1967 with my family and these four .44 Magnums in the Payette National Forest. I wrote my first article, Four x .44 = Fun, at that time. It was the first of what is now close to 2,000 articles and five books. You can bet I still have these four .44 Magnums and they are very special to me.

My other very early 1960s Smith & Wesson was one of the best ideas S&W ever came up with (actually they were nudged into it by Bill Jordan). I got a copy of Bill's *No Second Place Winner,* read it and re-read it. There was no way at the time I could ever even begin to imagine I would someday be able to call Bill Jordan friend. When I headed up The Outstanding American Handgunner Awards Foundation, Bill was my vice president and allowed me the honor of writing his presentation speeches. We spent some very special times together. I think of him every time I shoot my .357 Combat Magnums. By using the basic M&P frame and cylinder size S&W was able to come up with a smaller and much easier to carry all-day .357. Bill called it "The Peace Officer's Dream."

Another very special fellow also comes to mind connected to the Combat Magnum or as it is most commonly known today, the Model 19. Kent Bellah was an early writer for this magazine and also very fond of the Combat Magnum. From him I picked up the idea of "a pair and a spare," which meant for any true using sixgun one should have two plus one more as a backup. It took me quite a while, however I eventually had a pair and a spare of Combat Magnums. I also learned an awful lot from Bellah about reloading and regret never having met him.

The Only

Writers often use the term "arguably." I won't argue, I will just say there are only two types of double-action sixguns, Smith & Wessons and all others. The pre-War models with their old long actions are found by most sixgunners to be the easiest revolvers to shoot double action. These include the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Model .44 Special Hand Ejectors and the .38/44 Heavy Duty, all of which are now regarded as N-Frames; and the first K-Frame, the .38 Special Military & Police. All of these are superb double-action sixguns and the .38/44, which became the .357 Magnum, is probably the easiest of all double actions to handle. Of course, this is all subjective, however again I won't argue the point.

Perfect Packin' Pistols S&W-style: 4" .44 Magnum and .44 Special 1950 Target.

Over the years I've been able to add all of the .44 Specials as well as the .38/44 to my shooting collection. My first Model, the Triple-Lock, is a very special Special as it came from an old-time gunwriter and the man who turned over the reins of OAHAF to me, Hal Swiggett. Men just do not come any finer than Hal and, although he is 6" shorter than I am, I still look up to him. Hal was born in 1921, and passed away in 2009.

Smith & Wesson 4" .44 Specials are just about as Perfect as a Packin' Pistol can be. In recent years Smith .44 Specials have taken a huge jump in price and what was $900 a few years ago, is now closer to $1,900, $2,900 even $3,900. Thanks to readers I have been able to come up with three like new 4" .44 Special Smiths for exceptionally reasonable prices. One, a 3rd Model, also known as the 1926 Model, with fixed sights in absolutely excellent condition, came thanks to a reader in Washington who spotted it in a small gun shop and put me in touch with the owner.

In 1950 the 1926 Model became the 1950 Model and with this .44 readers came through for me again finding both a fixed-sighted Military Model and a Target Model with 4" barrels. I have less invested in these three than one of the more easily found 6-1/2" 1950 Target Models will bring today. S&W's Mountain Gun, which has been offered in both .44 Magnum and .45 Colt, as well as both blue and stainless finishes, uses the slim barrel profile of the 1950 Target.

In recent years Smith & Wesson has begun issuing reincarnations of the old classic sixguns. No they are not dead ringers, however they shoot just as well, or better, and also maintain tighter tolerances. The only drawback is that little hole slightly above the cylinder release latch; it is part of the 21st century and a whole lot easier for me to deal with than a liability warning label found on the barrel or frame of so many handguns today. At least shooters can have access to brand new Smith & Wessons following the form of the old sixguns and offered in .44 Special, .45 Colt and .357 Magnum. Even the .44 Magnum has been returned to the catalog, offered in both blue and nickel finishes.

The fondest memories of sixguns come from times spent with family and friends or when the gun kept us from harm. Twenty-five years ago I was hunting antelope in Wyoming and apparently violated the territorial space of a wild mustang who challenged me at close range, pawing the ground and tossing his head. The 4" Smith & Wesson .44 Magnum in my hand made me feel awfully secure. The old boy must have sensed it as with a few snorts and a bit more pounding the ground with his hooves he turned around and ran off. I have no idea what the law at the time or in that area was concerning wild horses, I was simply happy I did not have to shoot him. GUNS

CAMPFIRE TALES

BY JOHN TAFFIN

A HALF CENTURY WITH SIXGUNS:
Smith & Wessons

The year was 1955. The first advisers are sent to Vietnam, Churchill resigns as Prime Minister of the United Kingdom and a bomb explodes on Flight 629 killing everyone aboard. Disneyland opens, *Gunsmoke* begins its long reign on TV and Elmer Keith writes *Sixguns*. This is also a year for great guns: Colt introduces the .357 Magnum Python, Smith & Wesson comes forth with the .357 Combat Magnum, the .45 ACP 1955 Target and in the last days of December, the .44 Magnum arrives. I had just started my senior year in high school and could only dream about sixguns.

By 1957 I had my first and second double-action sixguns, however, I can't remember which one was the chicken and which was the egg. They were both Smith & Wessons. One was a WWI surplus M1917 .45 ACP and ammunition was $1 for 50 rounds, which gave a lot of cheap shooting. In those days I never saw a half-moon clip, let alone one of the full-moon versions so prevalent today. That old Smith worked just fine without the clips although it was a nuisance to pick out the empties.

A pair and a spare of 4" .44 Specials: Ivory stocked Model 24-3s and a 1950 Target. The carved leather is El Paso's Tom Threepersons.

The Highway Patrolman

The brand-new Smith & Wesson was a .357 Magnum Highway Patrolman which soon after my purchase became the Model 28. In those days the Ruger .357 Magnum Flat-Top Blackhawk sold for $87.50 while Smith & Wesson's premier .357 Magnum, the original dating back to 1935, carried a price tag of $120. The Highway Patrolman was nothing less than a .357 Magnum in working clothes. No carefully polished surface, no checkering on the top of the barrel rib and rear sight assembly and no bright blue finish. The Patrolman was just a plain-Jane matte blue that not only became popular with law enforcement but outdoorsmen as well.

A very much younger Taffin with a pair of Smith & Wesson .44 Magnums in 1967.

The .357 Magnum was offered in several barrel lengths from 3-1/2" to 8-3/8", however, the Highway Patrolman came only with a 4" or 6" barrel; I went with the easier packing short-barrel. The great thing about the Highway Patrolman was not having to worry about hurting the finish in bad weather. Just as with the .357 Ruger Blackhawk the Highway Patrolman was used with the Keith 358429 loaded over 13.5 grains of 2400 in .38 Special brass.

Between the time I purchased that

continued on page 81

INTRODUCING THE NEW "RANGE OFFICER™"

RO™

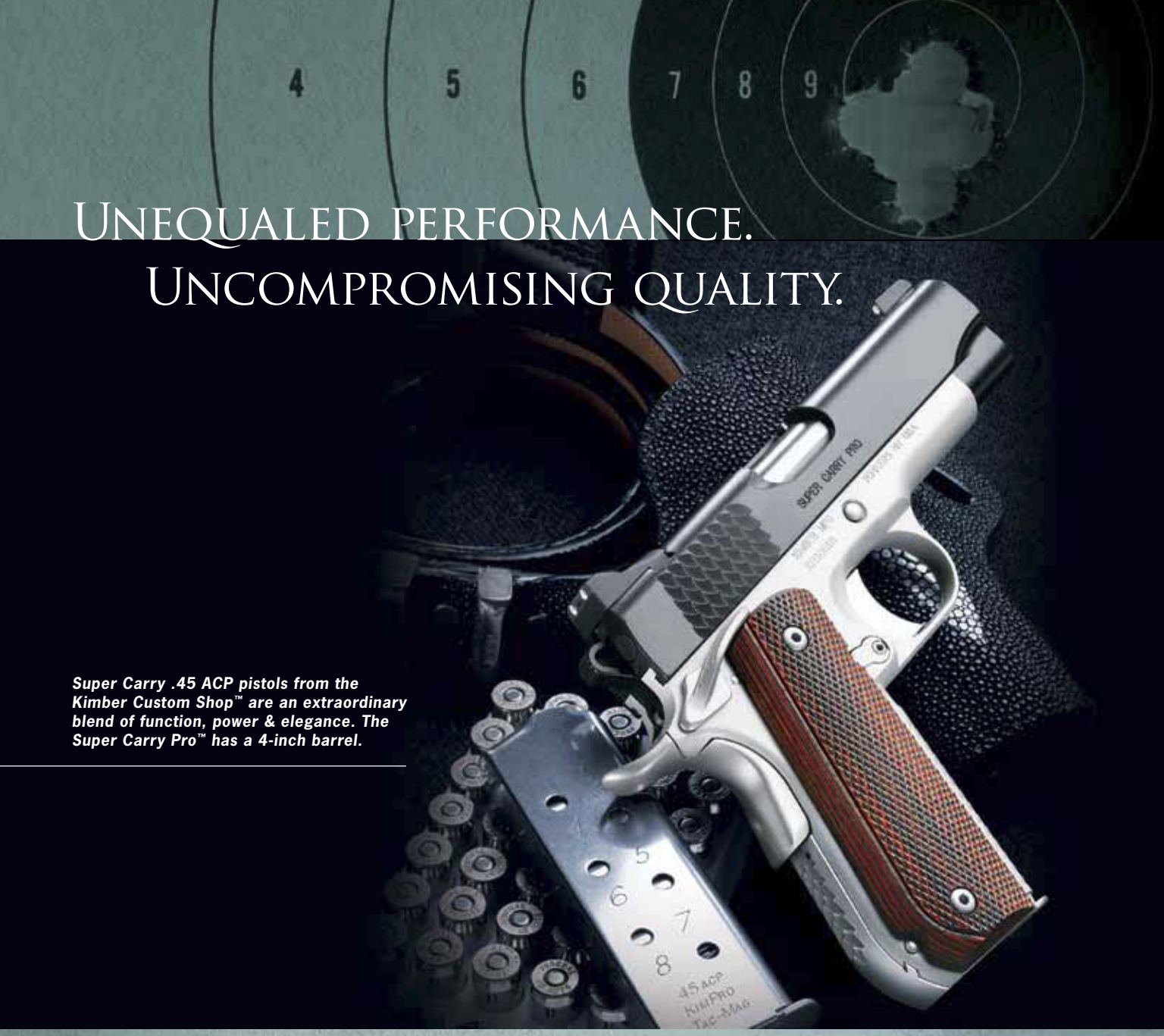
ARE YOU READY?™

WHEN YOU'RE READY TO START COMPETING, THIS IS THE 1911 TO START WITH.
DESIGNED TO BE AN AFFORDABLE 1911 FOR COMPETITION, THE NEW RO™ (RANGE OFFICER™) PISTOL IS MADE TO THE SAME SPECIFICATIONS AND QUALITY AS OUR TROPHY MATCH™ AND TRP™ MODELS.

AVAILABLE NOW

1.800.680.6866 | WWW.SPRINGFIELDARMORY.COM

Unequaled performance.
Uncompromising quality.



Super Carry .45 ACP pistols from the Kimber Custom Shop™ are an extraordinary blend of function, power & elegance. The Super Carry Pro™ has a 4-inch barrel.

Super Carry pistols have specialized features like night sights with cocking shoulder, round heel frame and unidirectional serrations.

Super Carry Ultra™ .45 ACP weighs just 25 ounces, and a 3-inch barrel makes it easy to conceal. Magazine capacity is 7 rounds.

Super Carry Custom™ .45 ACP has a 5-inch barrel but weighs just 31 ounces. As a full-size carry pistol, it has no peer.

Kimber® designed the Super Carry series with singular purpose – to be the finest concealed carry pistols available today. Special frame and slide serrations engage directionally, locking the grip and ensuring flawless slide operation. A round heel frame provides snag-free comfort. Stainless steel slides and light weight aluminum frames wear KimPro II,™ a proprietary high-tech finish that is self-lubricating and extremely durable. Night sights, ambidextrous thumb safety and match grade barrel, chamber and trigger are included. Super Carry – the new standard of personal defense.

Kimber®

Continuing the Legacy

©2010 Kimber Mfg., Inc. All rights reserved. Kimber names, logos and other trademarks may not be used without permission. Names of other companies, products and services may be the property of their respective owners. Kimber firearms are shipped with an instruction manual and California-approved cable lock. Copy of instruction manual available by request.

Kimber, One Lawton Street, Yonkers, NY 10705 (800) 880-2418

THE CHOICE OF AMERICA'S BEST

kimberamerica.com