



Win a **FREE**

**DIAMONDBACK DB9 9MM!**

**AND MORE!**

**GUNS**  
MAGAZINE

# GUNS

GAZINE

\$4.95  
OUTSIDE U.S.  
\$7.95

**DECEMBER  
2011**

**SIGSAUER**

**P226 EXTREME**

**.40 S&W**

**ESSENTIAL AR**

RUGER'S  
SR-556E  
**.56MM NATO**

**VARMINT  
LEVERAGE**

CUSTOM MARLIN 94  
**.17/23 SMC**

**LONGSLIDE**

HK P30L **9MM**

**BONUS!**

CHRISTMAS  
GIFT GUIDE

**STYLISH  
STACKBARREL**

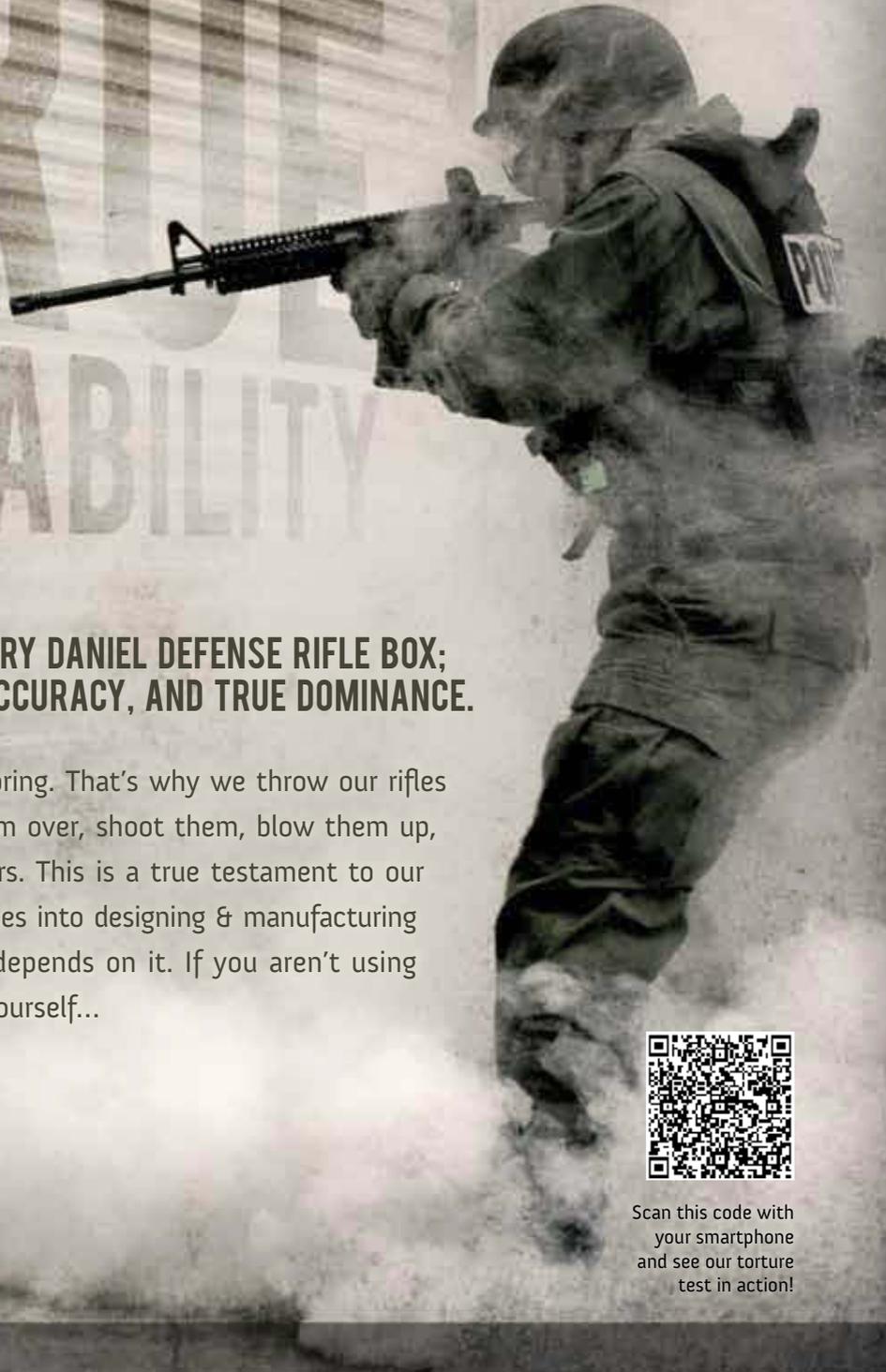
BASSERI MARI **12 GAUGE** Pg 18

**THUNDER RANCH  
SPECIALS** Pg 8

- MOSSBERG  
TR M500 **12 GAUGE**
- NOVESKE  
TR AR-15 **.223**



TRUTH  
RELIABILITY



**WE DELIVER TRUTH IN EVERY DANIEL DEFENSE RIFLE BOX;  
TRUE RELIABILITY, TRUE ACCURACY, AND TRUE DOMINANCE.**

Traditional torture tests are boring. That's why we throw our rifles from moving vehicles, run them over, shoot them, blow them up, and drop them from helicopters. This is a true testament to our products and the heart that goes into designing & manufacturing them - All because your life depends on it. If you aren't using Daniel Defense products, ask yourself...

"Why the hell not?"



Scan this code with  
your smartphone  
and see our torture  
test in action!

**DANIEL  
DEFENSE**

**LIGHTER, STRONGER, BETTER™**

Daniel Defense, Inc | 866-554-4867 | DanielDefense.com

# XPM-5.25

COMPETITION SERIES  
AVAILABLE NOW!



ONCE AGAIN, RAISING YOUR EXPECTATIONS OF WHAT A POLYMER PISTOL CAN BE.

1.800.680.6866 | [WWW.THE-M-FACTOR.COM](http://WWW.THE-M-FACTOR.COM)

# GUNS

MAGAZINE

DECEMBER 2011

Vol. 57, Number 12, 672nd Issue



**92**  
**YOU CAN WIN!**  
**DIAMONDBACK ARMS**  
**DB9 SUB-COMPACT**  
**DAO 9MM**

## COLUMNS

- 6** CROSSFIRE  
**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**
- 8** RANGING SHOTS™  
**CLINT SMITH**
- 14** OPTICS  
**JACOB GOTTFREDSON**
- 16** RIFLEMAN  
**DAVE ANDERSON**
- 18** SHOTGUNNER  
**HOLT BODINSON**
- 22** MONTANA MUSINGS  
**MIKE "DUKE" VENTURINO**
- 26** HANDGUNS  
**MASSAD AYOOB**
- 28** HANDLOADING  
**JOHN BARSNESS**
- 30** GUNSMITHING  
**HAMILTON S. BOWEN**
- 70** KNIVES  
**PAT COVERT**
- 72** VIEWS, NEWS & REVIEWS  
**RIGHTS WATCH: DAVID CODREA**
- 94** ODD ANGRY SHOT  
**JOHN CONNOR**
- 98** CAMPFIRE TALES  
**JOHN TAFFIN**

**8**



**18**



**26**



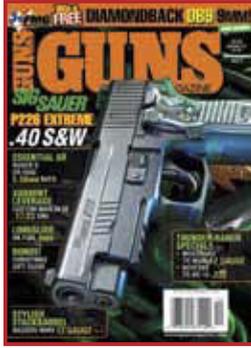
## DEPARTMENTS

- 32** SURPLUS LOCKER™  
**MILSURP MISCELLANY**  
**HOLT BODINSON**
- 34** OUT OF THE BOX™  
**Pg 34 THE HK P30L 9MM**  
**MASSAD AYOOB**  
**Pg 36 UMAREX MP5K-PDW AND STEEL**  
**STORM BB SHOOTERS**  
**J.I. GALAN**
- 42** QUESTIONS & ANSWERS  
**JEFF JOHN**
- 84** QUARTERMASTER  
**FEATURING GUNS ALLSTARS!**  
**THIS MONTH:**
  - **JACOB GOTTFREDSON**
  - **JOHN CONNOR**
  - **JOHN TAFFIN**

- 88 GUNS CLASSIFIEDS
- 89 CUSTOM CORNER
- 90 NEW PRODUCTS
- 92 GUN OF THE MONTH
- 96 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 © 2011 by Publishers' Development Corporation.

# 48



**ON THE COVER**  
**SIG SAUER P226**  
**EXTREME**  
**.40 S&W**



PHOTO: JOSEPH R. NOVELOZO

# 44!



## FEATURES

**44 THE "ESSENTIAL" AR**  
Ruger's SR-556E 5.56mm NATO.  
**MIKE CUMPSTON**

**48 GOING EXTREME**  
SIG SAUER P226 Extreme  
.40 S&W, that is.  
**JOHN BARSNESS**

**56 A CENTURY OF US**  
**ARMY INFANTRY RIFLES**  
All in wood and steel.  
**MIKE "DUKE" VENTURINO**

**62 VARMINT LEVERAGE**  
This custom Marlin 1894 shoots as  
precisely as a bolt-action or single-shot rifle.  
**M.L. MCPHERSON**

**66 THE 2011**  
**CHRISTMAS GIFT GUIDE**  
Better than fighting the mobs at the mall!  
**JOHN CONNOR**

# 56



NEW ONLINE EXTRAS ONLY AT  
[WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM](http://WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM)

SEE WHAT YOU'RE MISSING  
IN THE 2012 GUNS ANNUAL!

**KIMBER CAPRIVI IN .375**  
THE M'BOGO PROJECT  
**JEREMY D. CLOUGH**

Go to:  
[www.gunsmagazine.com/product-index](http://www.gunsmagazine.com/product-index) for complete  
product info and manufacturer's links for products fea-  
tured 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  
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** Megan Reed

**Art Director/Staff Photographer**

Joseph R. Novelozo

**Art Assistant** Jennifer Lewis

**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

**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

### Good issue

Massad Ayoob on the Kimber Solo, John Taffin on the Ruger SR1911 John Barsness on lever and pump rifles, Holt Bodinson on the Century C39, Dave Anderson on stock fit and Mike Venturino on why he doesn't work on guns (God bless 'em, me too).

But the icing on the cake was John Connor's column about the two Gurkha soldiers, "Just Another Day at the Office...." The sheer bravery of these two men was inspirational. But one line in the article was absolute gold. And it seems Connor didn't even write it! "Fighting the dacoits, he said, was '...my duty as a human being.'"

Rarely, no, *never*, have I seen the cure for all the worlds ills more succinctly and truthfully stated. Imagine. How good the world would be if we *all* did our duty as human beings.

Thanks, *GUNS Magazine*, John Connor, Sergeants Dipprasad Pun and Shresthra. Thanks for a great magazine, great articles and the cure for all the world's ills.

Terry Kelly  
Falkville, Ala.

### Gurkha

Thanks to John Connor for the excellent article on two Gurkha heroes and one unfortunate Gurkha scapegoat in the October issue. I hope the soldier who got in trouble for doing his duty will be exonerated. The Gurkhas are to be admired for their fighting qualities but also for their character and humility. The Gurkhas have fought for Britain for many years but are just recently being recognized in meaningful ways by the government they served. We should all be grateful that they are on our side in Afghanistan.

Lin Robinson  
via e-mail

### Duke PC!?

I hope I'm wrong, but it appears the foul stench of Political Correctness has finally invaded

*GUNS Magazine*—via one of Duke's writings. In his otherwise great article titled "VIMBAR/VIMSAR" (October issue), he says, "...the competitor could fire the rifle as many rounds as he/she could get off...."

He/she? Were there actually female participants at the VIMBAR match firing high-powered M1 Garands, '03 Springfields, M1917 Enfields, et al? I find it hard to believe a gal shooter could enjoy the tremendous recoil, muzzleblast, and weight of those heavy-duty, shoulder-bruising battle rifles.

Please tell me, in all honesty: were there in fact *any* lady markspersons at this match, or has *GUNS* really caved in to PC? PC has no place in a publication whose content has historically been conservative, honest, pro-American, pro-military, pro-Constitution, and pro-Second Amendment.

Jim Walker MSgt, USAF, Retired  
Dayton, Ohio

*Duke replies, "Sure enough, there were two women shooting the VIMBAR match. Not only the known range part but the long walk-about part. I wouldn't have written "helshe" if there hadn't been "shes" in attendance. Good grief, Jim, do you live in a hole? Woman are shooting every kind of match and doing some winning, too, as I point out in my "Rifle WOMAN" column in this issue."*

*The editor adds: Perhaps you've never heard of Lyudmila Mykhailivna Pavlichenko, who was a Soviet sniper during World War II and credited with 309 kills with her scoped 7.62x54R Mosin-Nagant.—Jeff John*

GUNS

Check out [www.gunsmagazine.com](http://www.gunsmagazine.com) for our digital edition, news, our exclusive Product Index, Web Blasts, online 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 [ed@gunsmagazine.com](mailto:ed@gunsmagazine.com)!



## FMG PUBLICATIONS

SHOOTING  
INDUSTRY

[shootingindustry.com](http://shootingindustry.com)

**Publisher & Editor:** Russ Thurman

**Advertising:** Delano Amaguin, 888.732.6461

email: [delano@shootingindustry.com](mailto:delano@shootingindustry.com)



[americancopmagazine.com](http://americancopmagazine.com)

**Editor:** Suzi Huntington

**Advertising:** Delano Amaguin, 800.426.4470

email: [delano@americancopmagazine.com](mailto:delano@americancopmagazine.com)

HANDGUNNER

[americanhandgunner.com](http://americanhandgunner.com)

**Publisher & Editor:** Roy Huntington

**Advertising:** Steve Evatt, 800.533.7988

email: [steve@americanhandgunner.com](mailto:steve@americanhandgunner.com)

GUNS

[gunsmagazine.com](http://gunsmagazine.com)

**Editor:** Jeff John

**Advertising:** Jason Moreau, 866.903.1199

email: [jason@gunsmagazine.com](mailto:jason@gunsmagazine.com)

Special  
Editions

[fmgpublishings.com](http://fmgpublishings.com)

**Editor:** Sammy Reese

**Advertising:** Scott McGregor, 800.553.7780

email: [scott@gunsmagazine.com](mailto:scott@gunsmagazine.com)

ONLINE ADVERTISING MANAGER:

Tracy Moore,

TEL: 888.651.7566, FAX 858.605.0205

[tracy@fmgpublishings.com](mailto:tracy@fmgpublishings.com)

**NATIONAL ADVERTISING:** 12345 World Trade Dr.,

San Diego, CA 92128, TEL: 866.972.4545, FAX 858.605.0211,

[anita@shootingindustry.com](mailto:anita@shootingindustry.com)

**CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING:** Lori Robbins,

TEL: 800.633.8001, FAX 858.605.0247,

[classads@fmgpublishings.com](mailto:classads@fmgpublishings.com)

**FMG EAST COAST SALES:** Sig Buchmayr, Buchmayr &

Associates, 28 Great Hill Rd., Darien CT 06820,

TEL: 203.662.9740, [sigbuch@optonline.net](mailto:sigbuch@optonline.net)

### CUSTOMER SERVICE

[www.gunsmagazine.com](http://www.gunsmagazine.com)

**SUBSCRIPTION SERVICES** ..... 858.605.0252

Express Service ..... [www.gunsmagazine.com](http://www.gunsmagazine.com) and click "contacts"

**EDITORIAL** ..... 858.605.0243

Email: [ed@gunsmagazine.com](mailto:ed@gunsmagazine.com)

**PRODUCTION** ..... 858.605.0216

Email: [production@gunsmagazine.com](mailto:production@gunsmagazine.com)

**BOOKS/MERCHANDISE** ..... 888.732.2299

Email: [lori@fmgpublishings.com](mailto:lori@fmgpublishings.com)

**General Counsel/Legal Affairs:** Steele N. Gillaspay

Email: [stng@g-jlaw.com](mailto:stng@g-jlaw.com)



PRODUCED IN THE U.S.A.

# MTM SPECIAL OPS



**BLACK COBRA**

ALSO AVAILABLE IN BRUSHED STEEL FINISH

[WWW.SPECIALOPSWATCH.COM](http://WWW.SPECIALOPSWATCH.COM)

The MTM Special Ops line of tactical time pieces is exclusively available through **MTM**.  
Toll free at 1 800 284 9487 outside of USA 1 213 741 0808 1225 South Grand Ave. Los Angeles, CA. 90015.

**GSA** FOR MILITARY, FEDERAL AGENCY, GOVERNMENT AND GSA PURCHASES, PLEASE CONTACT US DIRECTLY.

# RANGING SHOTS™

• CLINT SMITH • PHOTOS: HEIDI SMITH •

## CONCEPTS TO REALITY The Mossberg TR M500 and Noveske TR AR-15.

Over the years, I have had several opportunities to see some things I thought were good ideas come to reality. I thought affordable training by competent instructors might be a good thing. Like it or not, Thunder Ranch helped change the firearms training industry. TR importantly made for a place where people could get training from teachers and instructors based on concepts anchored in reality instead of pie-in-the-sky gimmicks and outright fraud (at least I thought so).

Also, I liked being part and parcel of the reintroduction of the big Smith & Wesson N-frame Model 21 and 22 Thunder Ranch revolvers as nurtured by Mr. Roy Cuny and Mr. Antonio Miele. These first retro guns led to the now popular and growing Classic Series line of handguns made by the iconic “King of the Revolving Handgun.”

Les Baer’s TR 1911 was (and still is) another good idea; Les, Karen, Brenda and the “shop” have made nearly 5,000 1911 pistols based on a simple concept I wanted. Les turned it into a reality by building the Thunder Ranch Special the way a 1911 should really be built for use as a defensive handgun. A new formula

comes to mind: Dependability + Durability = Economy.

### Mossberg TR Model 500

This is a simple shotgun for a simple purpose: personal defense. It has no frills and everything on the gun is there for a reason. From butt to muzzle the stock has a short 12" length of pull solving the shotgun’s often biggest problem of being too long. The overall length of the shotgun is 37" with the barrel measuring in at 18-1/4" long. The thumb safety, as inherent in Mossberg’s design, is centered on the action rearward making the gun suitable for right- or left-handed shooters.

Twin-action bars aid the action



Strong mounts on the forearm allow for light systems to be mounted for both left and right hand shooters.



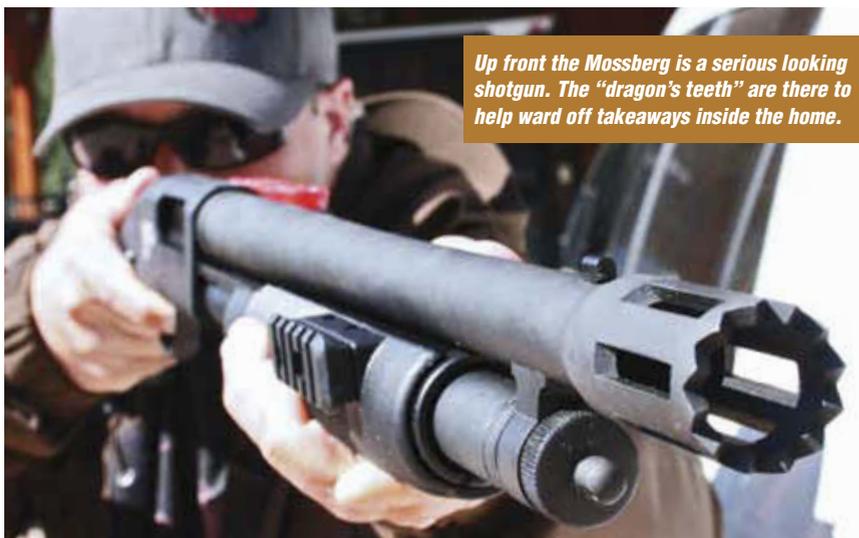
The Model 500’s short length of pull addresses a major shotgun issue in that many stocks are too long for close quarter use.



The new Noveske Generation II action is an improvement over older styles. Note the enlarged magwell.

in reciprocating smoothly—often a helpful point in a bad spot. The gun will hold six rounds, five shells in the magazine and one chambered. A large, white bead sight helps with sighting acquisition in all lighting conditions. A home-defense shotgun in most cases gains no true edge by having the all-the-rage ghost-ring rear sight. Any illumination tool mounting issues are resolved by the placement of strong dual mounts on the forearm placed at 3 o’clock and 9 o’clock. A solid full-length rail also runs across the bottom of the forearm on the underside, or 6 o’clock position, for lighting requirements, as the owner may deem necessary.

The TR Model 500 is chambered for 12 gauge as would be appropriate. The gun has sling swivels mounted front and rear that readily accept the quick detach sling systems. Two oddities may catch the eye, one being



Up front the Mossberg is a serious looking shotgun. The “dragon’s teeth” are there to help ward off takeaways inside the home.

**FN SLP**

# RAMP UP YOUR WORKOUT

Three-gun shooting offers a physical way to build your target acquisition skills. And, the FN SLP offers a great way to hit the target and keep on moving — no jams, low recoil, and highly precise. The FN SLP is the world's fastest cycling tactical shotgun, winner of the NRA American Rifleman Golden Bullseye Award in 2009, and a shotgun worthy of your consideration.



FN SLP



**FNH USA**

**DISTINCT  
ADVANTAGE**



@FNH\_USA\_LLC



FACEBOOK.COM/FNHUSA



FNHUSA.COM

# WARNING



**MatchKing**

## Want to win?

Sierra MatchKing bullets are used by more shooting champions at more long-range matches than any other rifle bullet in the world.

In fact, 49 out of 60 NRA Hi-Power Rifle Champions used MatchKing bullets in 2010 to win at Camp Perry and 105 out of 151 champions used them at the 2010 NRA Silhouette Nationals.

MatchKing's hollow point Boat Tail design provides that extra margin of ballistic performance match shooters need at long range, under adverse conditions.

Put MatchKing to work for you, but be warned; winning has interesting side effects.

Contact your favorite dealer for the complete line of Sierra bullets or visit [www.sierrabullets.com](http://www.sierrabullets.com)



**SIERRA**  
The Bulletsmiths®

1400 West Henry Street  
Sedalia, MO 65301  
Tech support: 1-800-223-8799  
Other calls: 1-888-223-3006

# IMPACT TARGETS E E L



Patent-Pending Rolling Steel Targets Actually use the bullet energy to roll downrange!

1-800-891-3660 [RollingSteelTargets.com](http://RollingSteelTargets.com)



Get the free mobile app at <http://gettag.mobi>

RANGING SHOTS

## THUNDER RANCH MODEL 500

MAKER: O.F. MOSSBERG & SONS  
7 GRASSO AVE.  
NORTH HAVEN, CT 06473  
(203) 230-5300

[WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/MOSSBERG](http://WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/MOSSBERG)

### ACTION TYPE:

*Pump action*

### CALIBER:

*12 gauge*

### CAPACITY:

*5+1*

### BARREL LENGTH:

*18.5" (with standoff)*

### OVERALL LENGTH:

*37.5"*

### FINISH:

*Matte black*

### SIGHTS:

*White bead*

### STOCK:

*12.5", synthetic*

### PRICE:

*\$460*

## THUNDER RANCH AR

MAKER: NOVESKE RIFLE WORKS

P.O. BOX 1401

GRANTS PASS, OR 97528

(541) 479-6117

[WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/NOVESKE-RIFLE-WORKS](http://WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/NOVESKE-RIFLE-WORKS)

### ACTION TYPE:

*Gas operated, semi-auto*

### CALIBER:

*5.56 NATO, .223*

### CAPACITY:

*20 or 30*

### BARREL LENGTH:

*14.5", 16" with Vortex*

### OVERALL LENGTH:

*36"*

### WEIGHT:

*6 pounds, 3 ounces*

### FINISH:

*Matte black*

### SIGHTS:

*Flip-up front and rear iron sight,*

*Picatinny rail*

### STOCK:

*Magpul CTR*

### PRICE:

*\$2,195*

the breaching-style muzzlebrake with rank-looking dragon-like teeth. Bluntly, I do not advocate breaching and such without proper training and proper ammunition. The reason for the selection of this muzzle configuration on the Thunder Ranch Model 500 was to potentially aid in weapon retention in short range contacts as might be found in the home—and I strongly doubt that anyone will successfully hang on to the muzzle end of the shotgun with the combination of the teeth and or gunfire applied.

The second odd thing is a small Thunder Ranch logo placed on the right side of the action. The logo may or may not appeal to perspective buyers but the TR logo at least

# DOUBLE THE FUN!

*The MP94 might be called an odd duck in a modern gun collection, but it is really a great idea.*

*Baikal  
MP 94  
Combo  
Rifle/Shotgun*

*Rimfire  
410/22LR,  
410/22WMR  
BBL-23.75"  
OAL-38"  
Wt-8 lb  
\$340 MSRP*

If you are out hunting and you wound your prey with the shotgun but don't have time to get another shotgun round off, simply move your finger to the rifle trigger or selector and you have the accuracy and distance of a rifle without changing guns or even swapping

barrels like other so-called combo guns. Previously imported as EAA's IZH94. The MP94 is reasonably priced and a good looking combo. What are you waiting for? It is time for the MP94 combo.

*2010  
Feather*

*Baikal  
MP 94  
Combo  
Rifle/Shotgun*

*Centerfire  
12/223  
12/308  
12/30-06  
BBL-23.5"  
OAL-42"  
Wt-10 lb  
\$620 MSRP*

**SEE IT ALL**

*If your dealer cannot get you a Baikal, have them call us at 321-639-4842 or write us at: P.O. Box 560746, Rockledge, FL 32956*

**EAA** CORP  
AMERICAN ARMORY CORPORATION  
Imported by USSG for EAA

[www.eaacorp.com](http://www.eaacorp.com)



USA  
PROUD

©2011 BENCHMADE KNIFE CO. OREGON CITY, OR, USA. BENCHMADE.COM



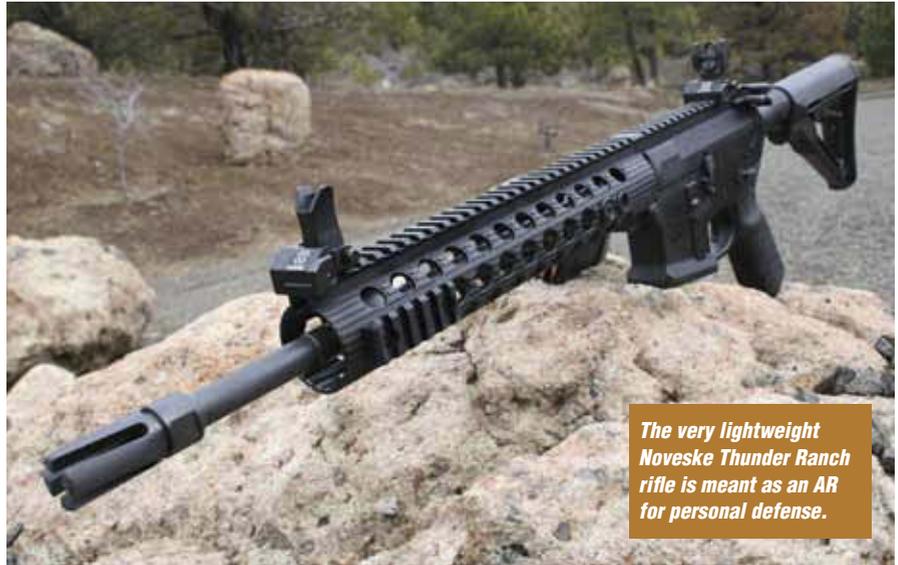
915 TRIAGE™

**BENCHMADE**

*a thing of beauty*

N680 CORROSION RESISTANT BLADE  
FOLDING HOOK SAFETY CUTTER  
CARBIDE TIP GLASS BREAKER

RANGING SHOTS



*The very lightweight Noveske Thunder Ranch rifle is meant as an AR for personal defense.*

shows lineage to the source of this configuration of the Model 500 and the Mossberg folks graciously allow its placement on their receiver. Simply, it is a good shotgun for home defense at an affordable price.

### **Noveske Rifle Works**

A true rifle pet peeve of mine nurtured over the last 40 years has at last been resolved by Noveske Rifle Works. Working under the premise that there is *no* reason for a .223 AR barrel—unless it is primarily designed for belt-fed fire and/or sustained full-automatic fire anyways—to be heavy and/or long. Arguably—by lawyers, and experts—there is absolutely no reason for the AR rifle to be heavy in weight, and none when applied to its true purpose. NRW has stepped up to the plate and built an AR rifle that will serve every purpose required of this platform without being “overbuilt, over equipped, overdone and/or over stupid.”

The rifle wears a 14.5" cold hammer forged 5.56mm barrel with Vortex flash suppressor pinned for 16" overall length acceptable for NFA regulations. The barrel is made from the same material as is used in the M249 machine gun barrel to include the heavy M249 chrome lining for extended durability.

The barrel has extended feed ramps and, an important salient point, a skinny barrel contour that makes the barrel weigh in at 1 pound, 4 ounces. The barrel has a 1:7" twist and is finished in a matte phosphate finish and mid-length gas system attached in a low-profile pinned gas block. The forged Vltor upper has no forward assist—another important salient point because it doesn't need one. Why would you “force/pound” a cartridge into the chamber if it will

not willingly go on its on?

The rifle has an 11" free-floated handguard with a 1913 top rail with the capability of other small rail mount pieces being added at the need or requirement of the shooter. Flip-up front and rear sights are on the rifle for iron-sight shooters. The rifle also has the new Noveske Generation II lower with flared magazine well and solid triggerguard. A QD end plate is present along with a Magpul CTR Stock and MOE Grip.

To aid buyers, the Thunder Ranch Urban Rifle DVD is included along with a signed certificate of authenticity. The DVD and paperwork doesn't make the rifle shoot any better but it is a nice touch for some people. The very best part for me personally, is it is a well made metal rifle weighing in 6 pounds, 3 ounces. In case it comes up, this rifle/barrel combination is very, very accurately. If you shoot 400 rounds in 10 minutes the barrel would heat and group size may open a bit. Then again if you're in a fight that requires 400 rounds to be fired in 10 minutes, 1/4-MOA accuracy isn't your problem.

### **The Pitch**

Although it might seem like a sales pitch to some reading this, it isn't. After many years and a bit of experience these two long guns meet standards in quality and affordability. The California people can get a good shotgun without having to fall down a diamond mine to pay for it. Rifle people can finally get a light rifle that works and then use left over energy for carrying ammunition or gaining mobility for applications in built up areas or around vehicles. It was the goal to build these guns to help people solve potential problems. I believe the goal has been met.

**GUNS**

# — OTHER GUN COMPANIES START — WITH PARTS. — WE START WITH — MOLECULES.

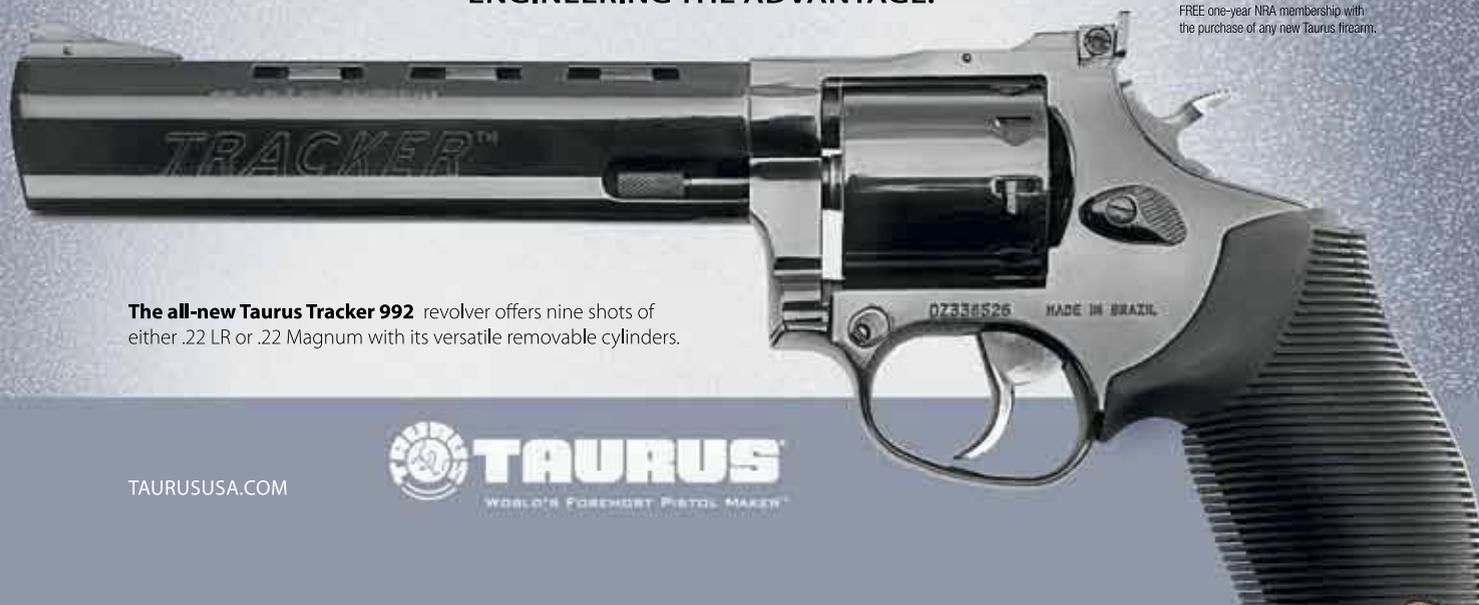


As the last integrated firearms plant in the world, we start with the building blocks. Literally. We forge the key metal components that make up our firearms, and the power of forging is in the strength of the molecular alignment. After each part undergoes stringent metallurgy tests, they are measured and re-measured to maintain the tightest tolerances before becoming one of our prized firearms. After all, if it isn't built from scratch, it isn't a Taurus.

**ENGINEERING THE ADVANTAGE.**



FREE one-year NRA membership with the purchase of any new Taurus firearm.



The all-new Taurus Tracker 992 revolver offers nine shots of either .22 LR or .22 Magnum with its versatile removable cylinders.

TAURUSUSA.COM

 **TAURUS**  
WORLD'S FOREMOST PISTOL MAKER™

# OPTICS

• JACOB GOTTFREDSON •

## GLASS CARE

### Some mistakes are very avoidable.

**I**f you're anything like me, you appreciate fine glass. Some people, however, like the inexpensive stuff that comes in that tough bubble wrap and takes a chain saw to open. You can buy one of them every year, throw the old one away and have a new one. But for those who step up to the plate for the good stuff, ruining them can be a heart breaker.

Leica sent a very nice binocular for evaluation and an article. I was testing the quality of the image when my wife told me the back fence had just blown over. The bino was still hanging from my neck as I ran outside to rescue the fence and keep the dogs at bay. As I bent over, the bino hung from my neck, swinging like a church bell. The objective lens met its match with a nail, and the resulting ding ruined my day. I ended up buying the glass, which happened to be quite expensive.

That experience taught me much about the value of lens covers. Many top binoculars are now sold with covers that can be quickly removed, but retained so you don't lose them in the excitement of the moment. Every tactical shooter I know protects their riflescope lenses with Butler Creek-style covers. Jacob Bynum of Rifles Only harps on every student at the end of an event: "Protect your glass"; by this he means, replace the lens covers.

I have the bad habit of stabbing

the ocular lens of a prized riflescope now and then with the sharp end of a cleaning rod. I hope no one is as spastic as I am. Both lenses should be covered when cleaning a rifle. Most scopes and lens' coatings don't care much for the solvents we use.

I used to like to hike into bad country after some elusive trophy. In doing so, I have twice fallen from the sides of mountains. I was bumped a little, mostly embarrassed, but found the rifle more damaged than I. On both occasions, I noticed rather large dents in the scope body. And both times the zero had changed a foot or more, if the scope was still usable at all. Now, I bring a backup scope, pre-sighted in, using quick detachable mounts.

I have also discovered riding in an air conditioned vehicle then exiting on a humid day, fogs the glass so thoroughly it is impossible to see anything for several minutes. That same wetness in the air will affect the electronics of cameras. I now put them in a zip lock bag in order to let the condensation form on the bag instead of the glass and electronics. Once they equilibrate to the atmosphere, I can remove the optic.

I was at a rifle match a few years ago when I noticed some guys making a fuss about a riflescope, so I wandered over to see. I was thoroughly amazed at appearance of the objective lens. It was a hot, dusty shoot that day, and the fellow had used a can of compressed air to blow away the dust. He let the nozzle come a little too close to the lens, and the coldness of the liquid crystallized the lens' coatings. Strangely enough, you could not see the effect when you looked through the scope, but the outside was a mess.

At another match, I noticed a guy picking up his rifle by the scope's bell... must have been the balance point. This went on for several days of shooting. The scope was an expensive, tactical job but had been assembled in three pieces: the body, objective lens and ocular lens. The objective lens finally took its leave of the rest of the scope. That ended his match.

Remember the bubble wrap bins? Those sold for less than \$40, hang-on-a-hook at the local store, but oblige you to put yourself in danger trying



*Swarovski, for example, provides lens covers for both the objective and ocular lenses. A flick of the little fingers removes the objective lens cover for viewing. The rubber-retaining ring remains on the body so they are not lost. The ocular covers are attached to the carrying strap so that they are not lost either—use them. A huge ding in the lens of a binocular that runs just shy of \$2,000 is not good!*



*This guy was using lens covers at a recent match, but decided to blow the objective lens off with canned air. The day was exceptionally hot, the canned air super cold and the lens coatings on this expensive riflescope took exception to the situation.*

to get them out of the bubble wrap? After average treatment, the barrels often become misaligned, making you wonder if you have developed some evil, crossed-eyed ailment—or the twist-out lenses no longer twist out. You have got to be careful with those babies.

Most of the better bins these days are armored and come with some kind of lens covers. Many spotting scopes and riflescopes come with lens covers as well. Still, the lenses accumulate dust and grit. Many cloth and paper products scratch the delicate coatings on the lens or damage the perfectly ground glass. Small lens cloths obtained from optics companies or those who sell glasses are easily carried in the field. At home, you can clean the glass well with brushes made to remove dust and grit. Then a solution is applied and the glass wiped clean with the lens cloth. In the field, most people don't bother to carry the brush, though it is very small, or the liquid. The best you can do is remove most of the dust by blowing on it, fog the lens with your breath, then wipe it clean with the cloth. If water is available, a dab of that helps. But never wipe a lens that is dry!

I see people cleaning very expensive lenses with the strangest of things; the end of their shirt, a paper napkin, paper towel or some foreign, dirty cloth. If you don't carry a lens cleaning cloth, make sure the cloth you do use is pure cotton.

Unlike yesteryear, glass has become most rifleman's mainstay, whether scanning the area with binoculars, aiming at a target, using a spotting scope to identify a distant animal or ranging it with one of the new rangefinders. Bottom line is if your glass goes, so does that part of your hunt, your competition or the mission. A little care goes a long way. So does a backup.

**GUNS**

**223 CAL. OR 6.8MM SPC**  
**STOPS COYOTES**  
**DEAD IN THEIR TRACKS**  
**CHROME MOLY HBAR BARREL**  
 ACCURACY BEST DESCRIBED AS "MICROSCOPIC"  
**HOGUE RUBBER GRIP**  
**PRA TWO STAGE MATCH TRIGGER**  
**DEADLY IS AN**  
**UNDERSTATEMENT**  
**HOGUE FREE-FLOAT HANDGUARD**  
**WINTER TRIGGER GUARD**  
**PRA OPERATOR A2 STOCK**  
**HUNTING TACTICAL**

**FRED EICHLER CHOOSES THE ROCK RIVER ARMS**  
**COYOTE CARBINE MODERN SPORTING RIFLE**  
 BUILD YOURS NOW AT [WWW.ROCKRIVERARMS.COM](http://WWW.ROCKRIVERARMS.COM)

LE HOME HUNT TARGET

**ROCK RIVER ARMS**

**Tested and Proven On Five Continents**

**Reduce Recoil • Reduce Muzzle Jump EDM Porting • Muzzle Brakes**

Since it's introduction over 30 years ago, more hunters have used the Mag-na-port process worldwide than any other recoil reducing system. Mag-na-port's E.D.M. porting process assures the gun owner of smooth incisions of exact dimension leaving the finish to the metal surrounding the ports undisturbed. After a generation of experience in recoil reduction, the Mag-na-brake was introduced. In keeping with the Mag-na-port reputation, it has rapidly become the finest muzzle brake on the market. The Mag-na-brake provides the serious shooter a maximum reduction in recoil. Whether you send a gun for Mag-na-port or Mag-na-brake, expect the finest in quality, delivery, and recoil reduction.

**Mag-na-port**  
 International, Inc.

41302 Executive Drive  
 Harrison Twp., MI 48045-1306

Phone: 586-469-6727 • Fax: 586-469-0425 • Internet: [www.magnaport.com](http://www.magnaport.com) • email: [email@magnaport.com](mailto:email@magnaport.com)

# RIFLEMAN

• DAVE ANDERSON •

## CARTRIDGE X VS. CARTRIDGE Y

Except, it doesn't matter.

What really matters is... well, read on.

**R**eviewing hunting and shooting forums on the Internet, I learned: (1) no one wants to read cartridge-comparison articles (contemptuously known as .270 vs. .30-06 stories), and (2) cartridge comparisons are almost always the most popular threads on the forums. People are funny.

Actually, the only .270 vs. .30-06 articles in my extensive magazine files date to around 1950. Today, you have to go to Internet forums to find them. Well, it's all good clean fun.

If what you want is to use a centerfire rifle to kill big-game animals, cartridge choice is one of the least important issues. Here's what matters (let's take it for granted that safe gun handling precedes all else).

Shooting ability: I know, we all shoot sub-MOA groups from the bench. A hunter also needs to be able to hit a reasonably-sized target, say 6" to 8" in diameter, in a reasonable time frame, while out of breath, cold, hot, tired, maybe a wee bit excited and with your hunting partner hissing

“Shoot! Shoot!” in your ear. As an old African professional is supposed to have said, “I don't care if you can hit a pea at 300 yards. Can you hit a buffalo from 6'?”

Rifles matter. The features I harp on in columns and gun tests, such as weight, balance, fit, reliability and trigger pull. Other subsets are knowledge of anatomy of the game you are hunting, so you know where to aim; hunting ability, and to get within range. Actually with the current high deer population (and current popular hunting methods) about the only “hunting” skill needed is the ability to stay awake and not fall out of the tree stand.

Place the first shot accurately.



*These 180-grain Barnes TSX bullets (above) were fired from a .300 Win Mag and recovered from wildebeest and zebra. All expanded, stayed in one piece and retained virtually 100 percent of original weight. On lighter game such as deer they almost always exit. This is fairly typical performance from standard cup-and-core bullets such as Hornady Interlock and Speer Hot Core (below). Core and jacket stay together though some of both are lost, these weigh around 50 to 60 percent of original weight. Deer hit solidly with such bullets at fairly high velocity generally drop quickly.*



Make the first shot good and you likely have your game. Wound with the first shot and the game gets a huge adrenaline dump. Adrenaline is what enables small-framed women to lift enormous weights, soldiers to stay up and fighting even with mortal wounds, game animals to run (or attack) even if the subsequent shots hit vital organs.

If the first shot hits the heart/lung area the game usually falls on the spot, or after a short run. Break a leg with the first shot, get the adrenaline pumping, and a second shot in the lungs has little effect. Now you're going to have to smash major bone structure, or keep shooting until the game finally runs out of blood. Then you'll have a good story to tell about how it took seven shots from a .30-06 to kill a scrawny whitetail. What the heck, blame it on the bullet.

You hear a lot of stuff about how species X is easy to kill, or species Y is hard to kill. Actually they are all easy



*This gemsbok was running hard at about 140-yards, angling away. Dave shot it with this Ruger .300 Win Mag with a 180-grain Barnes TSX loaded by Black Hills. The bullet angled through and smashed the shoulder on the opposite side.*

to kill if you hit them well with the first shot, and they're all hard to kill if you don't.

Bullets are important. Game animals don't care if your rifle's stock is made of fancy walnut or of cheap injection-molded plastic. Nor are they impressed by the headstamp on the cartridge.

A common mistake is to draw sweeping conclusions on the basis of limited data. Long ago when my work involved statistic analysis, a statistics instructor told me it was ridiculous to analyze a database of fewer than 30 examples, and even then only the most general conclusions could be drawn. Another very human reaction is to blame the bullet when the culprit is poor shooting.

In North America, we mostly hunt deer. Deer are fairly small, light-boned animals. Just about any hunting bullet in the range of 120 to 150 grains, with impact velocities of around 2,500 fps and up kills deer quickly. With solid chest hits the game often (certainly not always) falls in its tracks, and dies of rapid blood loss without regaining its feet.

The problem comes when we expect similar dramatic results with bigger animals like elk or moose. Big animals have bigger internal organs



**Even cow elk and smallish bulls such as this one are a lot bigger than deer. The hunter needs a bullet which will maintain its integrity, break heavy bone if necessary and still penetrate to the vital organs.**

and a bigger blood supply. Even with similar tissue damage the supply of blood to vital organs doesn't run out as quickly. Elk are maybe four times bigger than deer. If we want a cartridge four times as powerful as Pop's old .270 we'd have to go to a .50 BMG or maybe a 20mm cannon.

Bullets which easily break deer bones may well break up on the massive shoulder blades of elk or moose. Naturally, we conclude we need a bigger rifle when maybe what we need is a different approach to bullets and shot placement. It's better to use a tough bullet, learn game anatomy, wait for the right target angle and aim to break one or both shoulders.

There's not much downside (other than cost) to using premium bullets on light game. Over the past five or six years I've mostly used Barnes TSX and TTSX bullets in various cartridges, on game varying in size from 100-pound antelope to 800-pound zebra. There may be game bullets just as good but I'm darned if I know of any better.

I'm sure the .308 vs. .30-06 debates will continue, and why not—this is a hobby, after all. I just don't see a difference. In fact, I can't see much difference between .270 and .300 Win Mag. Offer me a choice and I'll select the one with the better trigger—provided I get to specify what bullets are loaded in the cartridges. **GUNS**

# "THE DOOR EXPLODED!"

"But I was instantly armed and ready, thanks to my GunVault. The armed intruder was met with a hail of gunfire from my .45 as he kicked in my door— preventing him from even getting the chance to fire his own weapon. I truly believe that no other product would have given me the speed and confidence to access my handgun and control the situation. Thank you for helping me save the lives of my family."

—J. of San Bernardino, CA



**GunVault**

GunVault.com

# SHOTGUNNER

• HOLT BODINSON •



**Holt, Steamer and the lightweight Baserri Hunter patiently awaiting opening day.**



**Baserri's "Hyperbolic" choke tubes are designed to minimize shot deformation and deliver denser patterns.**

## BASERRI SHOTGUNS

**"Tested for strength  
—admired for beauty."**

**T**hat's what Baserri is saying about their new line of O/Us. The Italians have a way, you know—a way—with fine shotguns. The Baserri's are just beginning to be more visible on the range and in the field as the dealership network expands. It's a well-designed line with some excellent and unusual engineering features plus it's priced to be very competitive with other quality stack-barrels. Before you buy the next Browning, Beretta, SKB or Weatherby, Baserri's Mari Hunting and the Mari Elite sporting clays model are worth considering.

The Italians in Brescia and the American owners, Alan Thompson and Wayne Rodrigue, also have a way with words. According to their literature, the word "baserri" stands for "a rustic European country home—smart in design, built to last for generations and a beautiful part of the environment." I think we would call it a classic hunting lodge.

The name "Mari" refers to the Goddess of Thunder—"known as being strong in spirit, powerful in action, very beautiful to behold and a bit noisy." Now putting "Baserri" and "Mari" together, we have something like a strong, well-built, beautiful and thunderous shotgun. The Baserri Mari's are indeed that.

In most ways, the Mari Hunter and the Mari Elite follow the traditional form and function of an O/U. Both are ejector, box locks. To

keep the weight down to 6.2 pounds on a field gun, the receiver of the 12-, 20- or 28-gauge Mari is made of aluminum coated with titanium while the sporting clays version, the 12-gauge Mari Elite, sports a solid steel, silver nitrite finished receiver, accented with false sideplates and tips the scales at a little over 8 pounds. Both models sport a single, selective trigger. The Hunter has an automatic safety while the safety of the Elite must be manually applied. The barrel selector switch is incorporated into both safeties.

The Mari receivers are laser engraved. The pattern on the Mari Hunter is simple and crisp. The full coverage on the Mari Elite is so lavish, detailed and well executed that I had to use a magnifying glass briefly to convince myself that the hands of a skilled engraver hadn't played a role,



**The Baserri Elite: "Tested for strength—admired for beauty." Heavier at 8+ pounds as befits its role as a sporting clays gun, the Elite is also quite a looker, too. The Elite incorporates a full-palm swell on the right side of the grip.**

especially around the small panels framing the top lever. The large side plates of the Mari Elite are suitably engraved in an ersatz Bulino style depicting a retriever and pointer flushing pheasants and quail.

### Measurements

Appropriately, the two models are stocked somewhat differently. Stocked



*The Elite features a manual safety and standard barrel selector switch (above), while the Hunter has an auto safety. The LOP of the Elite (below) can be easily changed by its adjustable trigger.*



in oil finished, Grade 2 Turkish walnut, the Mari Hunter has a length of pull of 14-1/4", a drop at comb of 1-5/8" and at the heel, 2-1/2" finished off with a 1/2" pad. The sporting clays Mari Elite features upgraded walnut, an LOP of 14-3/4", drop at comb of 1-9/16", at the heel, 2-3/8" and a 1" pad. The LOP of the Mari Elite can be changed approximately 3/8" via its adjustable, single trigger which has eight LOP settings. The Mari Elite pistol grip also features a competition-type, palm swell on the right side of the grip.

Speaking of adjustments, the opening tension of both models can be adjusted by changing the pressure of the fore-end bracket on the barrel tenon via an eccentric screw. It's a nice touch and explained clearly in the owner's manual

The barrel and choke system of the Baserri is intriguing. The barrels are produced by deep drilling bars of chrome-moly steel that have been left out in the elements for a year or more to normalize the steel. The Baserri barrels have no forcing cones. They are taper bored from .740" at the end of the chamber to .724" at the beginning of the choke tube recess and are fitted with either normal or extended choke tubes provided by Baserri or Briley.



*Today, on production guns, careful laser engraving rivals handwork.*



According to Baserri, the effects of the long tapered bore are an increase in shot velocity, reduction in recoil and improved patterns. Extending this design concept to gently ease and shape the shot charge while in the barrel, the five, 3-5/8" long, extended choke tubes supplied with the Mari Elite are bored with a gentle curve described as being hyperbolic. The overall taper bored/hyperbolic tube system works because all the

TRIVY DESIGN

# SmartReloader®

## Reloading & Shooting Products

SmartReloader-USA.com  
Store.SmartReloader-USA.com

### Modular Ammo Can #50

- Matches the inner sizes of the original M2A1 Military .50 cal. Ammo Can
- Dry Box
- Holds up to 70 lbs
- Comes with 3 Modular Organizer Trays included!
- Can be stuck
- Can be Locked for Privacy or Shipping Ammo for Hunting Trips
- Made of Strong and Heavy Duty High-Density Polyethylene
- OD-Green color (#VBSR625)  
Desert-Tan color (#VBSR625-1)
- MSRP: \$29.95



#### Home Hand Tools

How many times you looked for a tool but you could not find it? With the Ammo Box #50 you will be able to organize properly every screw, clamps, hammers, measuring tools etc. you always need from time to time at home!



#### Carry Your Ammo Everywhere

Fill the Ammo Box #50 with as many ammo as you can and carry them on your hunting trips or ship the Ammo Box #50 securely locked by air!



#### Modular Tray (#VBSR626)

Adapt our trays to virtually any size and organize your parts, ammo, tools etc. IMPORTANT: Our trays (3) will perfectly fit in the original M2A1 Military .50 cal. Ammo Can, so if you already own a surplus .50 Ammo Can you can buy our spare trays at a great price and start organizing everything you will like!  
MSRP: \$5.95

All of the SmartReloader® products are covered by a 2 Years Warranty

SmartReloader-USA.com  
Contact Us  
Learn Where to Buy  
Request a Free Catalogue

Buy online at Store.SmartReloader-USA.com

or find all of our Dealers at  
Smartreloader-USA.com

extended, thin-walled, choke tubes, including the modified and full tubes, are approved for steel shot and under warranty for three years. Warranty work, by the way, on the whole Baserri line is being handled domestically by Briley in Houston, which is a big plus for American owners.

Either 30" or 32", ventilated side rib, matte-finished barrels are supplied with the Elite, having a .4" ventilated top rib, gold mid-bead and red fiber-optic front bead. The Mari Hunter sports 28" matte-finished barrels, a ventilated .3" top rib and a single, white bead. Both the Elite and the Hunter are furnished with 3" chambers.

One of the interesting talking points about the Baserri line, is each gun is purposely over-proofed for steel shot to a pressure of 1630 BAR (18.9 percent over normal) by the Italian proof house. The proof documents accompanying each gun state that, at the specific request of Baserri, each gun was subjected to the over-pressure test. Is an over-proof test necessary? Probably not, but it does prove that the overall Baserri system is sound, strong and capable of handling the stoutest, commercial steel shot loads.

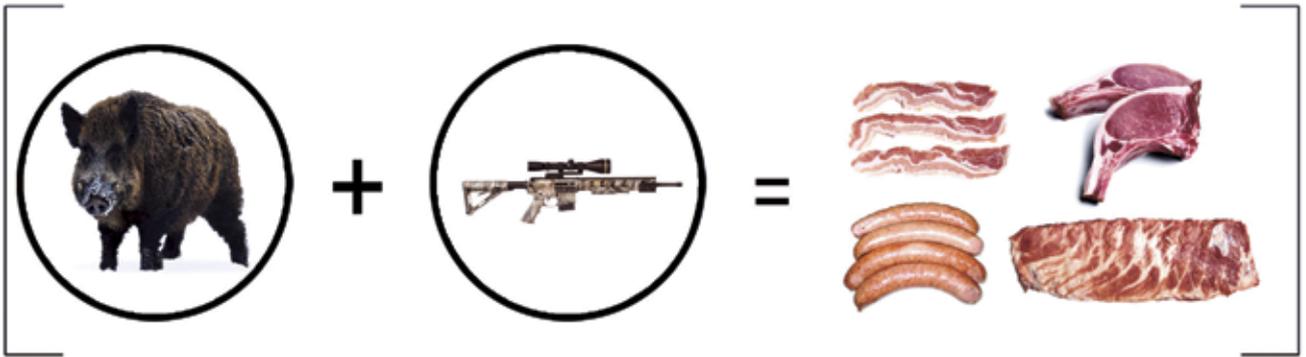
Both the Hunter and the Elite were well regulated and shot to the point-of-aim. Using the IC and M

THE MARI		
IMPORTER: BASERRI SHOTGUNS 116 OAK DR., FRIENDSWOOD, TX 77546 (281) 686-3544 WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/BASERRI-SHOTGUNS		
GUN:	HUNTER	ELITE
<b>ACTION TYPE:</b>	O/U	O/U
<b>GAUGE:</b>	28, 20, 12 (tested)	12
<b>CHOKE TUBES:</b>	IC, M, IM, F	C, IC, M, IM, F
<b>CAPACITY:</b>	2	2
<b>BARREL LENGTH:</b>	28"	30" or 32"
<b>OVERALL LENGTH:</b>	45"	47" or 49"
<b>WEIGHT:</b>	6 pounds, 10 ounces	8 pounds, 2 ounces
<b>FINISH:</b>	Blue barrels, Titanium finished, roll engraved receiver	Blue barrels, Silver Nitrite, laser engraved receiver and side plates
<b>SIGHTS:</b>	White bead	Red fiber-optic front, Gold mid bead
<b>STOCK:</b>	Turkish walnut	Grade 2.5 Turkish walnut
<b>LENGTH OF PULL:</b>	14-1/4"	14-3/4"
<b>DROP AT COMB:</b>	1-5/8"	1-9/16"
<b>DROP AT HEEL:</b>	2-1/2"	2-3/8"
<b>RETAIL:</b>	\$2,395 (12 gauge); \$2,595 (20 gauge); \$2,695 (28 gauge)	\$3,395

tubes and Remington's 1,145 fps, STS Light Target load of 1-1/8 ounce of 7-1/2s, I shot a round of sporting clays with both guns. Being a hunter, I appreciated the 6-pound weight of the Mari Hunter but even more, the smooth swing, follow through and reduced recoil of the heavier, 30" barreled, competition Elite.

The Baserri website is very informative and includes a state-by-state listing of current stocking dealers. Priced to be competitive for a quality, Italian-made O/U, the Baserri Mari's with their interesting taper-bored barrels and hyperbolic chokes may just liven up the shotgunning world a bit.

GUNS



# YOU DO THE MATH.



Check us out on facebook

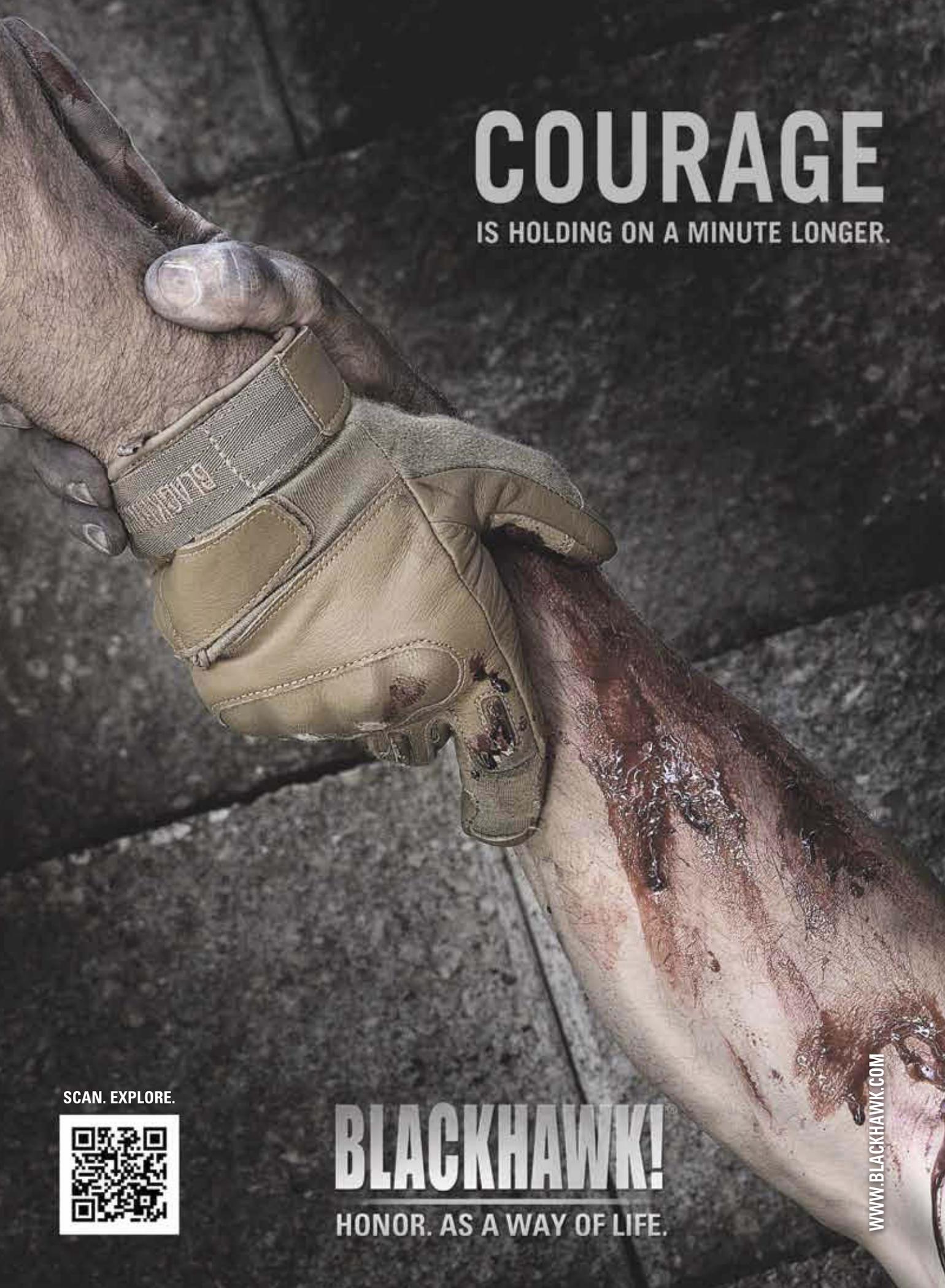
<http://www.facebook.com/AmbushFirearms>



From Black Creek, GA, Ambush Firearms™ unleashes the premiere 6.8 SPC hunting rifle, delivering 6.8 takedown power in a package light enough for the most mobile hunter. No longer do you have to compromise weight for takedown power, now you can have both. The Ambush 6.8 is not only lightweight, it's modular. At Ambush Firearms™ we have taken everything into consideration. We carefully researched and configured this rifle to suit the needs of modern hunters. With our life time guarantee the Ambush 6.8™ is your next family heirloom.

**Ambush**  
FIREARMS™

101 Warfighter Way Black Creek, GA U.S.A. 31308 | 1.855.AMBUSH2 | Fax: (912)-851-3248 | [www.AmbushFirearms.com](http://www.AmbushFirearms.com)



**COURAGE**  
IS HOLDING ON A MINUTE LONGER.

SCAN. EXPLORE.



**BLACKHAWK!**  
HONOR. AS A WAY OF LIFE.

WWW.BLACKHAWK.COM

# MONTANA MUSINGS

• MIKE "DUKE" VENTURINO •

## RIFLEWOMAN And can she shoot!

**I**nitially, I was going to title this column, "A Modern Annie Oakley." But that doesn't really fit because Annie was a trick shot. The lady I'm writing about isn't that; instead she's a darn good competitor, leaving lots of long-experienced men in the BPCR Silhouette game in her figurative dust.

Her name is Jen Griffis of Anaconda, Mont., a mother of two, a pediatric psychological therapist and in 2011 the setter of five BPCR Silhouette national records in the scoped category. And get this: she only fired her first silhouette match in March of 2011. That said, it is true Jen did have a good instructor. Her brother-in-law Mark Griffis of Belgrade, Mont., has been in the shooting game for several years, and won the 2011 Montana State Championship for iron-sight BPCR Silhouette.

Jen is quite noticeable on the silhouette line with her long blonde hair, but where she gained her first true fame was in beating one of Montana's top shooters for the title of 2011 Montana Regional Champion for scoped BPCR Silhouette. That was Ted Tompkins of Big Arm, Mont., who holds several state and regional champion titles won in both Montana and Arizona.

### Shoot Off

Here's how it played out in June 2011 at the Montana Regional



*Jen with one of her prizes and awards for her several feats at the 2011 National Championship for scoped BPCR Silhouette.*

Championship for scoped BPCR Silhouette held near Missoula. At the end of the 40-shot match, Jen and Ted both had scores of 32. What was surprising about Jen's 32 score was that she managed to hit all her targets fired at from prone position. Those were pigs (300 meters), turkeys (385 meters) and rams (500 meters). That is a feat in itself. Then Jen hit two of the chicken silhouettes (200 meters), which were required to be fired at offhand.

With Ted Tompkins being one of Montana's best chicken shooters, a majority of the crowd figured Jen didn't have a chance, as they went shoulder to shoulder for the tiebreaker. It was the best out of five at dinner-plate-size chickens. In the first run, each hit two so there was a repeat. To make a longer story short, by chicken number four Jen had hit three and Ted finished his run of five with only two. Jen had it won but her spotter, Mark, said, "Go ahead and take the fifth shot." The crowd howled, as did Ted, when she downed it. Not only was Jen the 2011 Regional Champion for NRA Scoped BPCR Silhouette, but her score of 32 set a national record for women.

After that match in June 2011, I intended to write this column about her but didn't have enough photos. That was a good thing because the



*Jen Griffis (right) with her brother-in-law Mark Griffis, set national records on both pigs (300 meters) and turkeys (385 meters) in her very first year of BPCR Competition. The rifle is a CPA Stevens 44-1/2, chambered for .40-65.*

# WE OFFER ALL THE GEAR YOU WANT!

- AMMUNITION
- FIREARMS
- MAGAZINES
- AR-15 GEAR
- MOLLE GEAR
- LASERS
- TACTICAL GEAR
- OPTICS
- HOLSTERS
- LIGHTS
- KNIVES
- GUN CASES

858-412  
**Cheaper  
Than  
Dirt!**<sup>®</sup>  
America's Ultimate  
Shooting Sports  
Discounter

**800-421-8047**

The largest selection of firearms,  
ammunition, magazines, and shooting gear.

Front Sights  
Sight Tools

Handguard Tools  
Quad Rails  
Lasers and Lights  
Barrel Nuts

Conversion Kits  
Scopes  
Magnifiers  
Mounts  
Rail Risers

Carry Handles  
Rear Sights  
Targets

Charging Handles  
Sling Adapters  
Stock Wrenches

.223 AR-15 Firearm

Flash Suppressors  
Compensators  
Flash Hiders  
Muzzle Covers

Barrels  
Complete Uppers  
Rifle Cases

Gas Blocks  
Bayonets

Sling Swivels

Handguards  
Rail Covers  
Flashlight Mounts  
Foregrips  
Bipods

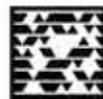
Magazines  
Couplers  
Dust Covers  
Loaders  
Ammunition

Triggers  
Lower Parts Kits  
Firing Pins  
Trigger Guards

Grips  
Rifle Buffers  
Receiver Rugs  
Brass Catchers

Collapsible Stocks  
Buffer Tubes  
A2 Stocks

Buttpads  
Slings



[www.CheaperThanDirt.com](http://www.CheaperThanDirt.com)

# CZ P-07 DUTY



Today's Most  
Versatile Handgun!

## FEATURES

- Convertible  
(safety or decocker)
- Compact size
- New Omega trigger system
- Polymer frame with light rail
- 16+1 9mm, 12+1 .40 S&W
- Two magazines



P.O. Box 171073, Kansas City, KS 66117-0073  
Toll-free: (800) 955-4486  
Phone: (913) 321-1811  
E-mail: info@cz-usa.com

[www.cz-usa.com](http://www.cz-usa.com)

MONTANA MUSINGS



*Jen (above) first demonstrated her shooting prowess by winning the 2011 Montana Regional Championship for Scoped BPCR Silhouette. Here she is spotting for brother-in-law Mark. Jen accepts one of her many awards (below) at the 2011 National Championships for BPCR Silhouette at the NRA's Whittington Center near Raton, New Mexico.*

### Long Run Record

At the nationals, we shot 60-round matches, meaning instead of 10 each of the four types of silhouettes, 15 each were fired at. At the end of the first day, Jen's score was 43. That's plenty good and a national woman's record for a 60-shot match, but even more she also managed to run all 15 of the pigs and turkeys. When that happens the competitor has the option at the end of the day to go for a long-run record. Jen went for it.

When the dust had settled that evening Jen Griffiths had hit 74 pigs at 300 meters without a single miss. That was not only a woman's record for Scoped NRA BPCR Silhouette but an "open record," meaning nobody of either gender has done that. That wasn't all. She next lay down at the turkey line and proceeded to hit 28 of those in a row at 385 meters. Again, that was both a woman's and an open record.

She still wasn't finished. The next day, Jen scored 41x60 in the second half of the scoped championship. Her aggregate score of 84 set another national record for a 120-round course. (For those who would like to know such things, get this. After many years of trying, I won AAA Class in the scoped championship with a score of 85x120. In her very first year, Jen Griffiths was only one point behind me.)

Now, some readers think Jen is just pulling the trigger on black-powder cartridge loads crafted by her brother-in-law Mark. That's not the case. Mark taught her how to do it but Jen



cast all her own bullets and loaded all her own ammunition. For a rifle she used a CPA-made replica of a Stevens 44-1/2, chambered for .40-65 and mounted with a Montana Vintage Arms 6X scope. Her 425-grain bullets were cast in a custom Steve Brooks mould, and loaded over 57 grains of Swiss 1-1/2 Fg black powder in Winchester brass.

Jen Griffiths may not be a new Annie Oakley, but she darn sure deserves the appellation of RIFLEWOMAN!

CPA CORP.  
RR 2 BOX 1012, DINGMANS FERRY, PA 18328  
(570) 828-1669  
[WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/CPA-CORP](http://WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/CPA-CORP)



# ONESHOTONEKILL

They say having a rabbit's foot brings good luck. Explain that to the unlucky bunny that has four of them on the wrong end of a Savage rimfire.



**MARK II FV-SR**

"Suppressor-Ready" threaded barrel



**Savage Arms**

SAVAGEARMS.COM SAVAGEACCURACY.COM

# HANDGUNS

• MASSAD AYOUB •

## THE .357 SIG IN PERSPECTIVE

Rising in popularity, this round has proven itself for more than 17 years.

About 20 years ago, SIG executive Ted Rowe noticed police departments switching from .357 Magnum revolvers to SIG's 9mm and .45 ACP pistols. The one thing said about trading in their old sixguns was they missed the devastating stopping power of the 125-grain Magnum round. Texas Department of Public Safety personnel said they'd found the SIG P220 .45 ACP to be a decent manstopper, but it lacked the "lightning bolt effect" some of their personnel had reported when they shot armed felons with the 125-grain .357 Magnum.

Rowe brought SIG together with Federal Cartridge, and the result was the .357 SIG round of 1993. Its bottlenecked case allowed enough power to drive a 125-grain .355" 9mm bullet 1,350 to 1,450 fps out of a service pistol. Led by Delaware State Police, LE agencies started buying it. Today, there are more state police/highway patrols issuing the .357 SIG than issuing .45 ACP, and the .357 round is second only to .40 S&W in popularity among the state trooper agencies. Texas DPS adopted it, for one, and has been delighted with its performance since. Apparently, so have the others.

Felt recoil is a subjective thing, and shooters debate whether the .40 S&W or the .357 SIG kicks more—proof positive they're in the same ballpark in that regard. The .357 SIG can be tougher on the gun, though. Glock suggests armorers replace recoil springs on the .357s every 2,000 rounds or so. By simply purchasing a new barrel, you can swap from .40 S&W to .357 SIG or vice versa. Magazines will usually interchange between the two calibers, though the little SIG P239 is a notable exception.

The .357 SIG is a remarkably accurate cartridge. SIG's own P226 in that chambering has put five



*The beginning: The SIG P226 with 125-grain .357 SIG Gold Dot ammo designed to replicate the .357 Magnum 125-grain JHP load long proven as a manstopper with PDs across the country.*

125-grain Speer Gold Dots into 1" at 25 yards for me (slightly better than I've ever gotten from the same model in 9mm, and distinctly better than I've ever achieved with any SIG in .40). In service-size Glocks, my G31 in .357 SIG clearly outshoots my G22 in .40 S&W.

In addition to SIG and Glock, S&W makes their M&P in .357 SIG (carried by New Mexico State Police and North Carolina Highway Patrol), and the most accurate S&W Sigma I ever benched was the short-lived .357 SIG version. HK and Springfield XD .357s are out there too; Beretta used to chamber the Cougar for it; SVI Infinity and Steyr have made .357s, too, and I may have missed some. Most any other brand of .40 can be made a .357 SIG with a quality aftermarket barrel. A good friend of mine cherishes his 1911 in this caliber.

A downside to .357 SIG is that ammo is thin on the ground, a particular problem if you're traveling with one. Bringing a .40 barrel with you goes far toward fixing that.

### Downrange Effect

It took me a long time to get comfortable with the .357 SIG round. One reason was recurrent case neck separations I saw on the range, with some brands of ammo more than others. The gun didn't blow, but before another shot could be fired, it had to be disassembled to remove the little brass collar that usually remained trapped in the chamber. That problem pretty much disappeared over the years as the ammo industry learned the subtleties of containing high pressure in this little, bottlenecked case.

*The .357 SIG is controllable. Bottleneck case (inset) fly, but the muzzle is still on target as Herman Gunter III shoots an IDPA match with his daily carry Glock .357.*





*Velocity is high enough to prematurely open and even fragment JHP bullets made for 9mm Luger, so .357 SIG projectiles like Speer's Gold Dot (left) and Remington Golden Saber (right) have shallow cavities.*

My other initial concern was that while the paper ballistics were similar, the wound profile in gelatin was markedly different than that of the 125-grain .357 Mag hollowpoint—considerably deeper (enough to worry about over-penetration it seemed) and narrower. I didn't think .357 SIG would have the "stopping power" of the revolver round that inspired it.

Time and collective experience proved me wrong. In shootings all over the country, particularly in Virginia and Texas where .357 SIG became extremely popular with cops, the 125-grain round earned an awesome reputation for putting bad guys down fast, with the bullet usually being recovered in the body or the clothing on the far side.

These .357 slugs pocked steel targets impervious to .38 Super, 9mm, and .45. When David DiFabio tested them for his late, lamented AmmoLab website, they expanded the ballistic gelatin blocks so violently they broke the plywood retaining plates, something only a particularly hot 10mm round had also done in his testing of service pistol loads. When some friends and I cleaned out a pond infested with cottonmouths, hot 9mm rounds and .45 slugs blew decent-size holes through the big snakes, but .357 SIG hits repeatedly cut them in half.

When one of the other rounds barely missed the snake's head, the venomous serpents just wiggled away. Yet when a .357 SIG missed close to the moccasin's head in the water, the snake shuddered and died. These weren't things you could see coming from the ballistics tables, or from measuring gelatin penetration depths and bullet expansion, but it was happening, and only those who couldn't face that reality could deny it. Ammo makers like Speer (Gold Dot) and Remington (Golden Saber) had to make .357 SIG bullets with much shallower hollow cavities than the 9mm Luger bullets, so they wouldn't break up at the higher velocity. The .357 SIG cartridge seems to be here to stay—for good reason.

**GUNS**

**EXPANDING THE WALTHER FAMILY**

Shoots BBs or Pellets

**NEW! PPQ™**

ROTARY MAG 9 ROUNDS

**CP99 COMPACT**

REALISTIC BLOWBACK

DROP-FREE MAG 10 ROUNDS

**UMAREX**  
ZEROED IN  
www.umarexusa.com

©2011 Umarex USA

**GUNS MAGAZINE ONLINE!**  
[www.gunsmagazine.com](http://www.gunsmagazine.com)

**BOND ARMS**

THE SMALLEST, MOST POWERFUL PERSONAL PROTECTION YOU CAN CARRY!

**50% OFF**

MADE IN TEXAS BY TEXANS!

Buy a Bond Arms handgun this month & get your 2nd barrel for 1/2 price!

4.25 inch 3.5 inch 3 inch

With just a quick turn of an allen wrench, you can change it to one of 16 barrels & 22 different caliber combinations!

**817-573-4445 • www.BONDARMS.com**

CALL FOR FREE BROCHURE!

Not available in California or Massachusetts.

# HANDLOADING

• JOHN BARNES •

## MORE SHOT PLEASE! Heavy loads for the .410.

**T**he poor, little .410 bore is the most misunderstood shotgun “gauge” in North America. Some people think it’s absolutely useless for any sort of wingshooting, while others, like the Montana rancher I worked for on my first job out of high school, firmly believe a .410 kills just as far as any larger gauge, as long as the shooter “aims” accurately. (A book could be written about his firearm delusions, but the world is better off without it.)

In reality, a .410 can be an effective game gun, but requires more understanding than many hunters are willing to provide. Its biggest limitation is thin patterns due to a lack of shot. Many hunters try to “help” the .410 by using tight chokes and bigger shot. Tighter chokes do help but bigger shot doesn’t, often because of tighter chokes.

When shotgun bores shrink in diameter, larger shot doesn’t flow as smoothly. You can demonstrate this effect by pouring shot through funnels of various sizes. Smaller shot flows easily through about any funnel but large shot will often jam in smaller spouts.

Jiggling a funnel will free the jammed shot, but there’s no jiggling in shotguns. When large, lead shot gets squeezed through a small bore at 12,000 pounds per square inch, the shot deforms because steel is harder than lead. Deformed shot don’t fly as straightly as

round shot, so fewer pellets end up in the pattern, especially at longer ranges.

A .410’s bore only has 55 percent of the cross-sectional area of a 28-gauge bore. A full choke constricts the muzzle even more. Deformation can be limited by using harder shot, but even the hardest No. 6 shot will deform some when forced through a .410’s tiny bore and choke.

The problem is compounded by a lack of shot. Most .410 loads use 1/2 to 11/16 ounce of shot, though Winchester introduced a 3/4-ounce load a few years ago. An average full-choke .410 will only put 50 percent of a No. 4’s 3/4-ounce load into the same 30” circle at 40 yards—around 50 pellets. This means about one pellet per 14 square inches—about as much vital area as a departing pheasant. The rooster may be hit with one pellet... and may not be hit at all.

Even at 25 yards, where practically



*A light .410 excels where shots are close.*

all the shot lands in a 30” circle, a .410 with 3/4 ounce of No. 4 shot only has a pattern density of one pellet per 7 square inches. A rooster might get hit with two pellets in the vitals or it might not. So no, “aiming more accurately” with a .410 doesn’t allow us to kill pheasants as far away as with a 12 gauge.

Winchester’s 3/4-ounce load works pretty well but, like almost all .410 ammo, is somewhat pricey, running about \$18 to \$20 a box—when you can find it. The shot-size selection is also slim: 8-1/2, 7, 6 and 4. I can only guess 4s are included because of demand from misguided hunters, because as we’ve seen 4s are about as effective as a box of rocks. It would be nice to drop the 4s and include a couple of sizes smaller than No. 6; .410s can be extremely temperamental about the shot sizes they handle.

My own .410 is a Huglu side-by-side, purchased in 2004, several years before CZ took over their importation from Turkey. It was originally choked full-and-full, but I opened the right barrel to modified.

The 3/4-ounce handload I use came from Ballistic Products Inc.: a 3” Fiocchi shell, Fiocchi 616 primer, 11.5 grains of Hodgdon Li’l Gun and a BPI Stump wad. Unlike most modern plastic wads, the Stump doesn’t have any “sidewalls.” Instead, the shot just sits on top where it can rub against the bore. Theoretically, this also tends to deform shot, but .410s should be loaded with hard shot anyway.

All the shot in the handloads was



*The .410 is a tiny shotgun shell, but works pretty well with 3/4 ounce of hard, small shot.*

## .410 PATTERN DATA

### SHOT SIZE: 7-1/2

RANGE (YARDS)	CHOKE	PELLET COUNT	PATTERN PERCENTAGE
25	Modified	211	80
35	Full	138	53

### SHOT SIZE: 7

RANGE (YARDS)	CHOKE	PELLET COUNT	PATTERN PERCENTAGE
25	Modified	159	71
35	Full	93	41

### SHOT SIZE: 6

RANGE (YARDS)	CHOKE	PELLET COUNT	PATTERN PERCENTAGE
25	Modified	97	62
35	Full	70	45

Notes: All loads consisted of 3/4 ounce of Lawrence Magnum shot in 3" Fiocchi cases, with Fiocchi 616 primers, 11.5 grains of Hodgdon Li'l Gun and the Ballistic Products Stump wad. Percentages are the number of shot landing inside a 30" circle.

high-antimony "magnum" shot from Lawrence, the No. 6 shot copper-plated. The bare 7-1/2s and 7s did lead the first few inches of the bores, until I installed Dyna Bore-Coat, a ceramic bore protectant. After that the leading diminished considerably, and cleaned up easily with a little brushing of Hoppe's No. 9.

Each load was patterned at 25 and 35 yards, using the modified-choke barrel at 25 and the full-choke barrel at 35. You can see from the results the gun preferred No. 7-1/2 shot from the full-choked barrel. There wasn't all that much difference in the patterns from the modified barrel, probably because of the open choke, although the No. 7-1/2 shot did beat out the larger shot sizes by a little.

The No. 7-1/2 shot also, of course, provided the most pellet density, about one pellet per 3.3 square inches at 25 yards, and one pellet per 5.1 square inches at 35 yards. The densities with No. 7 shot were 4.4 at 25 and 7.6 at 35. With No. 6 shot the densities were 7.3 at 25 and 10.1 at 35.

After all that pellet counting, another couple of patterns were fired with the No. 7-1/2 load through the full-choke barrel at 30 yards. I didn't count the holes, but the patterns were adequate for anything from Hungarian partridge to pheasants, and at 30 yards hard 7-1/2s penetrate plenty on pheasants.

For quail I'd use even smaller shot, No. 8 at the largest, and keep my shots within 25 yards. This load would work fine for brush shooting, whether for bobwhites, Mearns or California valley quail. For doves I'd leave the .410 at home and use at least a 28-gauge loaded with 1 ounce of shot. A lot of doves have been killed with the .410, but a lot more have been missed, because there are too many dove-sized holes in its patterns.

A few years ago, I performed an experiment with the 28 gauge. Here in

Montana, the upland bird seasons start on September 1, except for pheasants, which open in mid-October. In September, the cover is thick and most birds are young-of-the-year, so many shots are close. Later on, the cover is thinner and the birds older and wilder, so shots get longer.

I started the season with the 28, promising myself I'd put it aside for a larger gauge only when it proved inadequate. I never did put it down, killing wild pheasants out to 40 yards and sage grouse out to almost 50, along with a bunch of doves, Huns, ruffed grouse and sharptails.

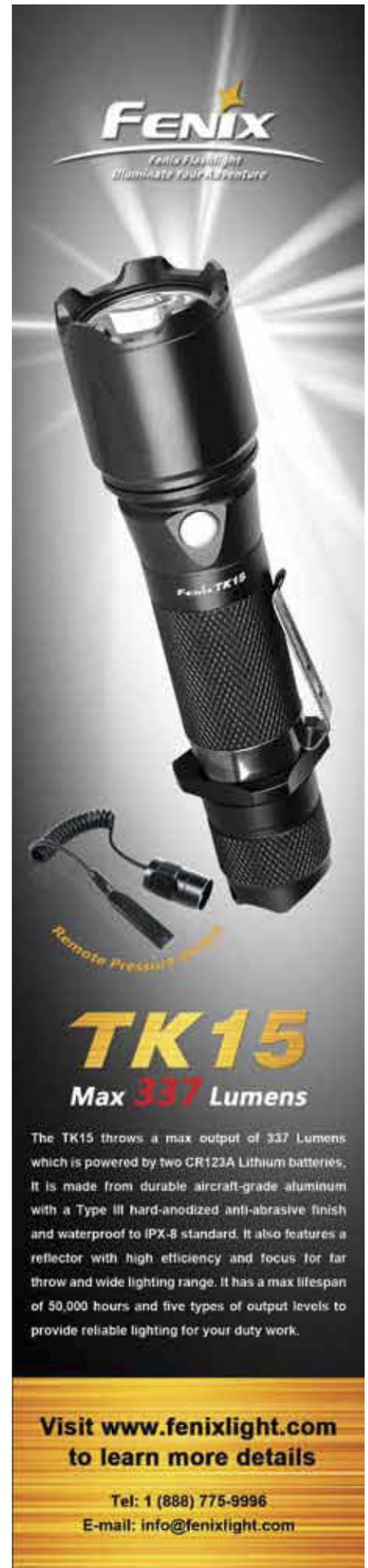
In 2010, I performed the same experiment with the .410. It proved just fine for September Huns and ruffed grouse, and would also have worked on sharptails if I'd been able to find any. But I decided to put it aside long before the pheasant opener, because as the weather turned cooler, both the Huns and ruffed grouse started flushing far enough out that shots over 30 yards became more common. Thirty yards is about it with the .410, even when loaded with 3/4 ounce of shot.

But it was fun carrying the little Huglu, especially in ruffed grouse thickets, because with a pair of handloads in the chambers it weighs a mere 5-1/2 pounds, and still doesn't kick much at all. A light, little shotgun is pretty handy when a grouse gets up 15 yards away and can disappear behind the leaves within a few wingbeats. **GUNS**

BALLISTIC PRODUCTS INC.  
20015 75TH AVE. N., P.O. BOX 293  
CORCORAN, MN 55340  
(888) 273-5623

WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/  
BALLISTIC-PRODUCTS

DYNA BORE-COAT  
DYNA-COATINGS GROUP  
5000 E. 59TH ST., KANSAS CITY, MO 64130  
(816) 444-1255  
WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/DYNA-COATINGS



The advertisement features a black Fenix TK15 flashlight with a textured grip and a lens cap, set against a dark background with light rays emanating from the lens. The Fenix logo is at the top, with the tagline "CENTRO FOCUS LIGHT ILLUMINATE YOUR ADVENTURE". Below the flashlight, the text "TK15 Max 337 Lumens" is prominently displayed in yellow and red. A small inset shows the flashlight's tail cap and a coiled cable. The bottom section of the ad contains detailed text about the flashlight's specifications and a call to action to visit the website.

**Fenix**  
CENTRO FOCUS LIGHT  
ILLUMINATE YOUR ADVENTURE

**TK15**  
Max 337 Lumens

The TK15 throws a max output of 337 Lumens which is powered by two CR123A Lithium batteries. It is made from durable aircraft-grade aluminum with a Type III hard-anodized anti-abrasive finish and waterproof to IPX-8 standard. It also features a reflector with high efficiency and focus for far throw and wide lighting range. It has a max lifespan of 50,000 hours and five types of output levels to provide reliable lighting for your duty work.

Visit [www.fenixlight.com](http://www.fenixlight.com) to learn more details

Tel: 1 (888) 775-9996  
E-mail: [info@fenixlight.com](mailto:info@fenixlight.com)

# GUNSMITHING

• HAMILTON S. BOWEN •

## THE SMARTEST MAN I KNOW

And why everybody needs  
to know one.

**W**hen most of us ponder gunsmithing shops, we conjure up visions of a building chock full of machines, tools, fixtures, vats of unappealing liquids, hoppers of gun parts, corners occupied by stands with firearms in various states of disrepair, and maybe a poster or two of some guns up on the wall. Out of this physical plant emerges the finished product, typically produced along the lines of sausage—which nobody should ever watch done. While it is true physical resources are critical to the proprietor's success, his human resources are just as important, because without them the enterprise will surely fail.

No matter how smart your pet gunsmith is, he will inevitably encounter problems that are simply insurmountable with his equipment and skill. No amount of study of manual or gunsmithing text will get you through some difficulties with uncooperative guns, tools or processes. What separates the men from the boys is the wisdom to recognize their limitations, and have written by the phone the numbers of vital human resources to call upon in time of crisis.

I may not be the brightest star in the firmament but my momma didn't raise no fool, so I have spent a lifetime accumulating friends who are sources of skills, gear and knowledge which I do not have. You should, too. My gang has done a lot of bacon saving during my career. I'll tell about a few of them but you can't have their phone numbers; some names have been changed to protect the guilty and innocent alike.

The smartest human being I know



*An example of astonishing welding; these tiny beads admit no caffeine shakes.*

we'll just call Norman. And I know lots of smart people. My wonderful pa-in-law is a physician with a PhD in neuroanatomy from the University of Chicago; my friend Dusty D. is a Guggenheim fellow and worked for the Smithsonian National Museums; lawyer pal Bill H. is whip sharp and a terror before the benches of Kentucky courts. But Norman is much smarter than these dullards. He is a tool-&-die maker of incredible skill, experience and imagination. Lucky for me, he is also a real gun junky, which may account for why he takes pity on me and constantly bails me out of the situations into which I seem to blunder from time to time. An utterly unassuming chap who looks like Santa Clause on spring break, Norman probably has an IQ of 278.

Aside from the innumerable broken taps he has removed and counsel given on materials and heat-treatment, he also has several Holy Grail machines in the form of wire EDM (electro discharge machining) equipment and burns out our 5-shot moon clips for the .50 Redhawks we build occasionally. True enough, other people have these and do fine work with them but Norman buys them at surplus, then repairs and reconditions them. This is akin to preparing the space shuttle for launch for most of us.

Our wizard welder Bill M. from Texas is another resource who enables us to produce some fairly sophisticated work. The most skilled TiG welder I know, he works in the oil industry and



*Jerry Kuhnhausen's excellent manual notwithstanding, for most of us, the bowels of a Colt New Service are terra incognita. Thar be dragons.*

for medical instrument manufacturing firms. Much of his welding is done under an industrial microscope on very tiny parts. I am in the process of restoring for myself an extremely rare Smith & Wesson export Target Triple Lock, which some knuckle-head (a pox on his house) had re-chambered from .455 to .45 Colt. At least this criminal did not face off the back of the cylinder. The new rim seat cuts were about .015" to .020" deep and put the gun out of headspace in .455 caliber. Bill welded these up in grand style and, once re-machined, it will be impossible to detect the sacrilege except for the deeper chambers. No way am I skilled enough to undertake such an effort.

My uncle JR was another fantastic resource until he retired from General Motors a decade ago. Not only a marvelously skilled tool-&-die maker in his own right, he had access to millions of dollars worth of GM's machinery, including a fabled Cincinnati Monoset tool and cutter grinder. In idle times on his shift, he was kind enough to entertain outside tool grinding commissions for one-off tooling from a certain gun shop in Tennessee. Time after time, I would receive in the mail all manner of complicated tools, many of solid carbide, that must have



*You can't go down to the moon-clip store and get these .50 AE clips. You have to have friends in high places. The wee 6-shot clips are for a .25 ACP J-frame S&W. These GM-brand base-pin hole reamers (below) were custom made for Hamilton.*



cost GM a fortune. For those of you who own GM stock, on behalf of our family, we apologize but will not make reparations since the Statute of Limitations has expired. Besides, you GM shareholders have far bigger problems now.

The only thing between us and many otherwise savable Colt New Service revolvers is a wrecked action. Devilishly difficult to tune or repair in good style even if you have a pile of new original action parts, most of us simply do not have the experience or skill to put one aright. My old friend pistolsmith George Wessinger was one of the few I knew who could, but he had the audacity to up and die a few years ago. Mercifully, we recently discovered Grant Cunningham who has vast experience with these things and can usually save them. He still walks this earth and may be the last man I know who can unravel the Gordian knot that is a New Service Action.

My list could go on and on. Without my roster of truly bright and capable friends, my business would have foundered early on or, at best, existed in a perpetual muddle of confusion and terror. It matters not what path in life you walk, you don't have to tangle it alone.

GUNS

# Precision Starts With Case-Gard™

**NEW**

**Made In USA**

**NEW**

**Tactical Range Box**

\*KSR-40

\*TRB-40

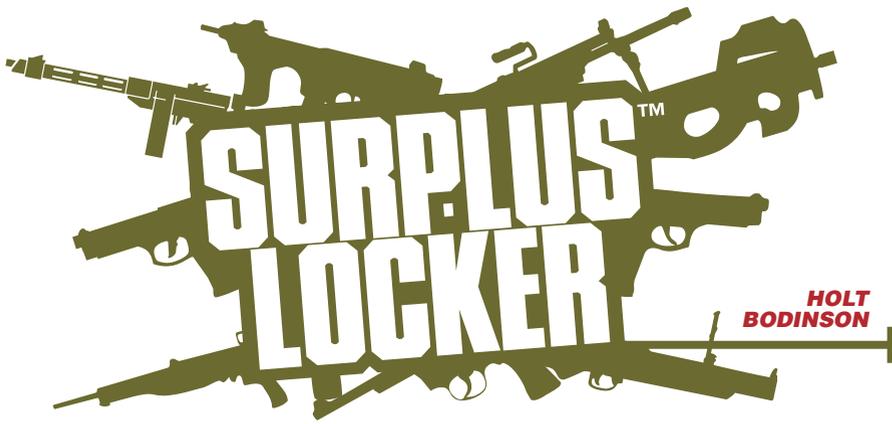
MTM CASE-GARD QUALITY SHOOTING SPORTS ACCESSORIES

K-Zone Shooting Rest

100 YDS 500 YDS 600 YDS

QR Code

MTM Molded Products Company - (937) 890-7461 - [www.mtmcasgard.com](http://www.mtmcasgard.com)



## MILSURP MISCELLANY

**The military surplus world is so diverse that some valuable pieces of information fall between the cracks when articles focus on one milsurp model at a time. Here are some of those gems I wanted to commit to paper before they get shoved aside once again by another project.**

Why corrosive primed, surplus ammunition gives most milsurp shooters a tizzy is beyond me. If it's cheap, buy it, love it and, by all means, shoot it. That's my motto. There's nothing inherently wrong with corrosive priming, and frankly, there's a lot to be said for it. If it were as bad as some would like us to believe, does anyone think the world's nations would have used it in the very ammunition made to defend their turf or to grab someone else's?

### Shooter's Choice "Aqua Clean"

Look at the facts. The German firm of RWS developed a non-corrosive primer in 1901 and the Swiss in 1911 by substituting barium nitrate in place of potassium chlorate. You see, upon ignition, potassium chlorate changes to potassium chloride—a salt very similar in chemical behavior to common table salt, sodium chloride. Drawing moisture in from the atmosphere, the salt is indeed corrosive and attacks metal if not properly removed with an aqueous cleaner.

Yet, countries, including the United States, kept loading small arms ammunition with corrosive primers through WWII and even later. Why? Because the corrosive primer proved to be more stable and had a longer storage and shelf life than the non-corrosive primers of the day.

Any surplus military ammunition, whether the vendor labels it corrosive or non-corrosive, should be considered to be corrosive, just in case! The proven cleaning ingredient that will remove corrosive primer salts is water so I was delighted when

Shooter's Choice recently came out with a new, water-based bore cleaner called "Aqua Clean."

Don't let the name fool you. Aqua Clean is not mouthwash. In addition to water, its ingredients will attack

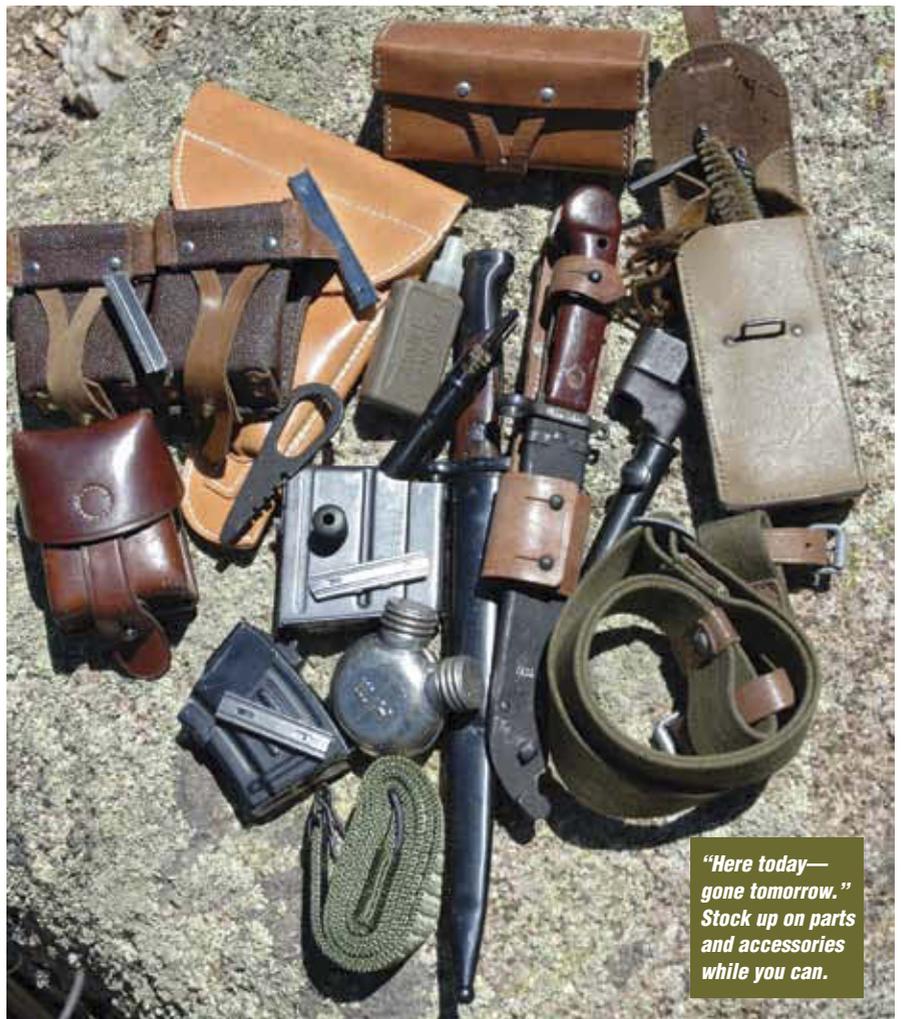
copper and other forms of fouling. Like many modern cleaners, all it needs is a little dwell time to get the job done. When cleaning a milsurp, remember to use a solvent and preservative on the chamber, bolt, pistol frames and slides and any action parts exposed to combustion residues, especially the gas system, if it has one. Being water based, Aqua Clean is also an excellent black-powder solvent.

Just don't let the term "corrosive" keep you away from some of the last great bargains in milsurp ammunition.

### Tools

I'm an inveterate collector of milsurp tools, especially the small, foreign-born ones designed for the average grunt to use in the field. Probably, the most common milsurp tools in circulation are those designed to adjust the windage and elevation of an SKS/AK-47-type front sight. There is no way to zero an SKS/AK without them. The tool can either take the form of a combination tool or two separate tools.

Fortunately, if the real deal can't be found, there are dozens of aftermarket sight adjustment tools on the market.



*"Here today—  
gone tomorrow."  
Stock up on parts  
and accessories  
while you can.*



**Small, issued hand tools are essential to keep your milsurps properly adjusted and maintained.**

The only problem I've run into with the cheapest aftermarket units is that they're machined from low carbon, cold roll steel and not hardened and tempered. In short, they deform when the going gets tough. You get what you pay for.

Another example of a desirable front sight adjustment tool is the little, folding combination tool for the Spanish CETME, FR-7 and FR-8. The front post of the Spanish models is eccentric and as it is adjusted up-and-down for elevation, it also changes the windage. The little adjustment tool unlocks, locks and turns the front post. Just by luck, I found one in the hollow accessory tube located under the barrel of my FR-8 along with an original arsenal test target.

Another find, this time at a gun show, was the Russian multi-purpose tool for the Mosin-Nagant. Looking like a single-blade screwdriver with notches cut out on both sides of the blade, this one tool will disassemble and assemble the M-N and, most importantly, gauge and set the protrusion of the firing pin from the bolt face. This is the essential Mosin-Nagant tool.

If you have one or find one, the two notches in the middle of the blade are the protrusion gauges. One is marked "95" and the other "75." The firing pin should protrude to the depth of "95." If it gauges in the "75" notch, it is adjusted too short. Another notch on the blade is dimensioned to use as a wrench to turn the firing pin in-and-out of the cocking piece to adjust

overall protrusion. The M-N multi-purpose tool is an excellent example of Russian military engineering—make it simple, make it tough.

Keep your eye out for milsurp tools on the web, in the print ads and at the gun shows.

### Accessories And Spares

Akin to picking up tools is collecting issued accessories and stashing away some spare parts for your favorite milsurps. Some models come ordnance packed with essentials. The Yugoslavian Model 24/47 and Model 48 Mausers are a recent example. The Model 48 I bought came packaged with a bayonet, sling, pull-through bore cleaner, cartridge pouch and oil and solvent bottles. Neat stuff.

Keep your eye out for inexpensive, yet essential, items like magazines, clips, stripper clips, bayonets,

bandoliers, holsters, web gear, parts kits, barrels, firing pins, springs, cleaning equipment and sighting systems.

The best buy I ever made in the accessory category was an issue scope sight for the French Model 49/56. Today, I still see ads for original Eastern Bloc sniper scopes and mounts at very reasonable prices.

Don't let these goodies slip through your fingers because of procrastination and inaction. They aren't being made anymore.

The one abiding truth in the milsurp field is "Here today—gone tomorrow."



**Shoot that inexpensive corrosive ammunition. Just clean it up with "Aqua Clean."**

**When you need it most, will you have access?**



**LockSAF™**  
safe guard your life. safe guard your rights.

The LockSAF PBS-001 Personal Biometric Safe is designed to protect and give quick access to your firearm and valuables. Easy to program and use, it takes one press of a button and a programmed fingerprint to open. The PBS-001 is made with 9 gauge steel that is twice the thickness of other similar products and four pilot holes in the bottom panel make it easy to mount in a drawer or any flat surface. Secure and reliable in every way, it is the fast access safe you can depend on.

- No more keys or combinations • Safe and secure
- Instant Access • Non-volatile 10 fingerprint memory
- CA DOJ Approved Firearm Safety Device

For more information, please visit your local dealer or [www.LockSAF.com](http://www.LockSAF.com)  
Toll Free: (877) 568-LOCK  
Email: [customerservice@LockSAF.com](mailto:customerservice@LockSAF.com)

**GUN CARE**  
ALL IN ONE STEP  
*If you're not using Prolix® you're working too hard!*

Dry Lube Technology

**Prolix®**  
LUBRICANT  
TOTAL GUN CARE PRODUCT  
BIO-TECH

DISCOVER ITS MANY USES

Prolix® has been used by millions over 30 years and in the field where it counts! Longer lasting for better service and protection! Keeps working without freezing due to its superior technology and quality.

ProChemCo LLC  
PO Box 1466  
West Jordan UT 84084-8466

801-569-2763  
1-800-248-LUBE (5823)  
Fax: 801-569-8225

Check us out @ [www.prolixlubricant.com](http://www.prolixlubricant.com)  
[prolix@prolixlubricant.com](http://prolix@prolixlubricant.com)

# OUT<sup>TM</sup> of the BOX

MASSAD AYOUB

## ON TARGET LONGSLIDE The HK P30L 9mm.

**B**y popular demand, HK has produced their P30 pistol with a longer barrel (4.45" compared to 3.85" on the service model), designated with a "L" suffix. Our test sample P30L came with HK's LEM (Law Enforcement Module) trigger group.



Spent brass shows shot has just been fired (above), but Herman Gunter III has P30L back on target. This pistol proved extremely controllable. Shooter's have a choice of three backstraps and three sets of "palm fillers," (below) allowing ample adaptation to the individual hand.



No de-cocker as provided on the traditional double-action P30, the P30L (above) has a dedicated manual safety. Mas likes this optional setup. Notice Mas' finger pinched by the guard-mounted magazine release (below). This doesn't happen to most shooters, though.



More than 20 years ago, demand arose in police circles for an auto pistol requiring a long, heavy trigger pull for each shot, like a double-action revolver. The rationale was it would eliminate the likelihood of an officer failing to de-cock under stress, and be more resistant to an index finger that violated training and made its way to the trigger at an inappropriate moment.

Rank and file cops were dissatisfied with the very heavy, sometimes grating trigger pulls that resulted when conventional designs were rendered DAO. The companies worked on that. SIG SAUER's answer was the DAK trigger system; HK's was the LEM. It gives a lighter DA pull for every shot, and if there's a misfire, there is a "second strike" capability if you just pull the trigger again, although the pull will be heavier now.

Working as intended, the 9mm P30LS pistol's LEM trigger had a pretty consistent pull weight that averaged 5 pounds, 13.8 ounces on a Lyman trigger pull gauge. Tested in dry fire only, since there were no misfires that would have called it into action, the "default pull" in the LEM-equipped pistols went off the scale, indicating at least "more than 12 pounds," which is certainly what it felt like and was as high as the gauge went.

I much prefer the LEM on the P30 in comparison to its conventional format, TDA (Traditional Double Action) in which only the first shot is DA, and the gun has to subsequently be de-cocked. Unfortunately, the P30

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

Creating custom, one of a kind grip sets for the 1911, RUGER, BERETTA, 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



**Best accuracy in HK P30L equipped with the LEM trigger was this 2" group at 25 yards (above) delivered by Federal Classic 9BP 115-grain JHP. This 2.75" 25-yard group from the HK P30L (below) was delivered by the 9mm, 124-grain JHP load from Wilson Combat.**



de-cocking mechanism appears to have been designed by long-thumbed, double-jointed elves from the Black Forest, because it takes the form of a button located on the back of the slide, to the left of the hammer, which has to be pressed firmly forward toward the muzzle. This requires a distinct breaking of hold right-hand only, and a dramatic breaking of hold left-hand only. Doing away with this feature makes the LEM system all the more welcome to this reviewer.

**On The Firing Line**

As I've come to expect from HK handguns, the sights were well registered and put the shots pretty much where they were aimed. I tested with the three most popular 9mm bullet weights. The 147-grain, subsonic Remington-UMC FMJ put five rounds into 3.10", the best three forming a 1.65" group. Wilson Combat's new 1,200 fps, 124-grain JHP round delivered 2.75" for all five shots, 1.05" for the best three. Federal 9BP 115-grain JHP lived up to its long-standing reputation for accuracy with five shots in 2.00", with four of

those in 1.45" and the best three in a sweet .50" group. Shooting was done from 25 yards off a Matrix rest on a concrete bench, measurements were to the nearest .05", and the "best three" measurement was taken to factor out some human error and give a better idea of inherent accuracy.

The ambidextrous-paddle magazine release on the underside of the triggerguard allowed very fast reloads, but also grated mercilessly on my trigger finger with every shot. If I bought this gun, I'd take a Dremel to that component. However, that doesn't happen to most shooters with the P30 series, and a little dry fire in the gun shop will determine whether or not it will happen to you before you put your cash on the counter.

Our test sample came with dedicated, ambidextrous thumb safeties. Working like a 1911, they proved optimum and natural in action. This is insurance that buys you time in a struggle for your pistol with an attacker, but does require the shooter to ingrain on-safe/off-safe in the manual of arms.

Interchangeable backstraps and palm inserts give it broad flexibility to fit most any hand. The P30L with LEM trigger is now issued to HK's shooting team, as company spokesperson Angela Harrell tells me, and I can see why. Reliability was 100 percent. This gun will be worth its \$1,234 retail, as configured to the shooter whose hand it fits and who appreciates its attributes.



**P30L**

**MAKER:** HK  
5675 TRANSPORT BLVD.  
COLUMBUS, GA 31907  
(706) 568-1906  
WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/  
HK-USA

**ACTION TYPE:**

Locked breech semi-auto

**CALIBER:**

9x19mm

**CAPACITY:**

15

**BARREL LENGTH:**

4.44"

**OVERALL LENGTH:**

7.56"

**WEIGHT:**

275 ounces

**FINISH:**

Matte black

**SIGHTS:**

Fixed

**GRIPS:**

Integral polymer,  
with interchangeable backstraps

**PRICE:**

\$1,234

# OUT<sup>TM</sup> of the BOX

J.I. GALAN

## FUN GUNS

### The Umarex MP5K-PDW and Steel Storm BB Shooters.

**T**he world of airguns has changed dramatically as an ever-growing variety of highly-sophisticated models arrive on the market. One area where there is huge change is in the number of airguns mimicking the looks—and, in many cases, the operation as well—of real firearms. Most of the airguns in this group are superbly-designed repeaters employing CO<sub>2</sub> (carbon dioxide) gas as their source of power.

One of the really big names currently in the area of CO<sub>2</sub>-powered guns is Umarex USA. This Arkansas-based company imports and distributes an impressive selection of CO<sub>2</sub>-powered look-alikes. From stunningly faithful BB and pellet pistols—as well as some long guns—the Umarex lineup gives a new meaning to “fun gun.”

Two of the top CO<sub>2</sub> models in the Umarex line are actually BB repeaters that are light years from the traditional

BB guns most of us grew up with. These BB blasters are dubbed Steel Storm and MP5K-PDW, respectively. Although the Steel Storm is not a look-alike of any specific firearm, most folks who know anything about modern police and military firearms will recognize the MP5K-PDW as the HK 9mm sub-gun of outstanding design and performance. In fact, Umarex’s MP5K-PDW is manufactured under license from



*The integral magazine can take 30 BBs directly from 300 BB reservoir (above). An integral Picatinny-type rail allows for mounting an after-market forward-folding grip. Since it is a BB gun and not a firearm, no tax stamp is necessary. If you ever wanted to know if such an accessory was worth the money, this is the cheapest way to find out. Sliding the front sight rearward (below) reveals a reservoir with capacity to store 300 BBs.*



HK, and bears the famous German company’s logo.

Thus, the BB-firing MP5K-PDW is a faithful likeness of the ubiquitous Personal Defense Weapon in widespread use by many paramilitary and personal-protection professionals all over the world. Power is provided by one disposable, 12-gram CO<sub>2</sub> cartridge. The latter



*The Umarex MP5K-PDW is an ideal BB plinker for backyard use. Suitable eye protection is a must to guard against ricocheting BBs.*

is housed in the rear of the receiver. Access to the CO<sub>2</sub> compartment requires the removal of the folding stock. This model also features a drop-free magazine with capacity of 40 standard 4.5mm steel BBs, fed to the breech by a conventional, spring-loaded follower. Construction of this amazing BB spitter is molded ABS throughout, including the sturdy, folding buttstock.

The Umarex MP5K-PDW has all the bells and whistles found on the real deal, including sights, manual safety/selector and cocking mechanism. Like the real thing, this BB version also fires from a closed bolt—the latter cycles in a most impressive manner. However, unlike its real 9mm counterpart, this superb BB-firing copy works in semi-auto mode only. Although it would have been nice to go all the way and give it fully-automatic capability as well, I have no complaints, as this compact beauty can still unleash a hail of BBs in a jiffy.

As far as performance goes, the BB MP5K-PDW is also tops. At a distance of 10 yards with the stock extended, it dumped the entire contents of the magazine into an area roughly 6" across, in quick semi-auto fire. Not target performance by any means, but sufficient for plinking



*The MP5K-PDW (top) and Steel Storm offer tremendous shooting fun at reasonable prices. The Umarex MP5K-PDW is a faithful look-alike and licensed copy of the real 9mm HK MP5K sub-gun.*

and even dispatching mice and other small pests. With a muzzle velocity of 400 fps, this model is certainly quite potent for a BB gun. Empty tin cans were regularly drilled and bounced by this sub-gun wannabe.

In sharp contrast to the preceding model, the Steel Storm is not a close

look-alike of any specific firearm. It does, however, bear a slight resemblance to a large autoloading pistol, since it lacks any sort of buttstock. With an overall length of 15" and a 7.5" smoothbore barrel, the Steel Storm does have a particularly interesting feature: a 6-shot automatic-

**TLR-1<sup>s</sup>**  
C4<sup>®</sup> LED technology with 160 lumens and 8,000 candela peak beam intensity that won't burn out or break. With (STROBE)

**TLR-2<sup>s</sup>**  
All the same great features as the TLR-1s with a laser sight for accurate aiming. With (STROBE)

**TLR-3<sup>s</sup>**  
90 lumens and 4,100 candela peak beam intensity, yet weighs only 2.32 oz. Fits more handguns than any light on the market – from subcompact to full size. USP models available.

**LET US SHED SOME LIGHT ON YOUR 2<sup>ND</sup> AMENDMENT.**

**STREAMLIGHT**  
Heroes Wear Streamlight

30 Eagleville Road, Eagleville, PA 19403  
800.523.7488 | www.streamlight.com/126

WWW.STREAMLIGHT.COM/126

**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



Adding a forward grip is a great help for a steady hold with the Steel Storm.



The folding stock must be removed in order to load a single, 12-gram CO<sub>2</sub> cartridge. The MP5K-PDW sports an adjustable rear sight, basically identical to that of the real McCoy. The fire selector is also like that of the real MP5K and magazine capacity is 40 BBs.

burst capability.

The Steel Storm is powered by two 12-gram CO<sub>2</sub> cartridges. These are housed in a magazine-like dropout housing that fits in the pistol grip. There is a BB reservoir with capacity for 300 BBs. In addition, there is a built-in 30-round magazine, fed directly from the reservoir by shaking and tilting the gun until sufficient BBs are transferred to the magazine.

This decidedly exciting BB gun

has a pivoting, 2-position fire selector located on the left side of the receiver. The uppermost position of the selector allows normal semi-auto fire, while flicking the lever to the second position will give 6-shot, full-auto bursts. (Both positions are clearly marked on the receiver, by the way.) There is a sliding trigger safety also located on the left side of the receiver, just above the pistol grip.

Now, the Steel Storm also features

**FUN GUNS**

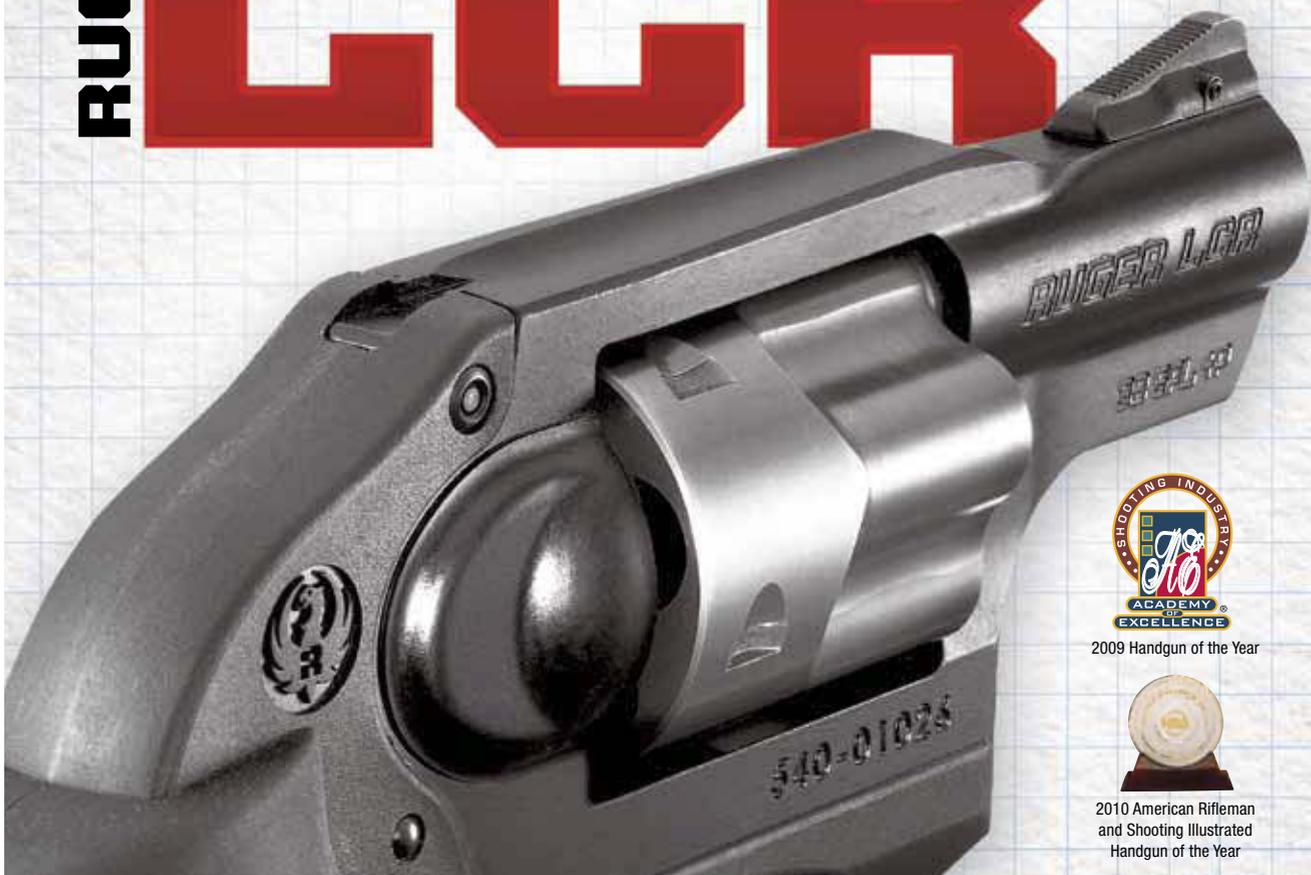
IMPORTER: UMAREX USA

7700 CHAD COLLEY BLVD., FT. SMITH, AR 72916  
(479) 646-4210

WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/UMAREX-USA

<i>Steel Storm</i>	<b>MODEL</b>	MP5K-PDW
.177" (4.5mm)	<b>CALIBER</b>	.177" (4.5mm)
Steel BBs	<b>AMMUNITION</b>	Steel BBs
15"	<b>LENGTH OVERALL</b>	24-1/2" (unfolded)
7-1/2" smoothbore	<b>BARREL</b>	9-1/4" smoothbore
2.7 pounds	<b>WEIGHT</b>	2.4 pounds
CO <sub>2</sub>	<b>POWER</b>	CO <sub>2</sub>
Semi-auto & 6-shot burst	<b>ACTION</b>	Semi-auto
30	<b>CAPACITY</b>	40
\$106.95	<b>RETAIL</b>	\$131.34

# RUGER® LCR®



2009 Handgun of the Year

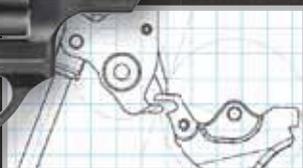


2010 American Rifleman and Shooting Illustrated Handgun of the Year

Packed with the latest technological advances and features required by today's most demanding shooters, the **Ruger® LCR®** is the evolution of the revolver. Winner of the *2009 Academy of Excellence*, *2010 American Rifleman* and *2010 Shooting Illustrated Handgun of the Year*, the Ruger LCR is a lightweight, small-frame revolver with a uniquely smooth trigger and highly manageable recoil.



THE RUGER® LCR® / .38 SPL+P



Patent pending friction reducing cam is a next generation design in fire control systems with an optimized cam that results in a smooth, non-stacking trigger pull.



Patent pending polymer fire control housing holds all the fire control components in their proper dimensional relationships, reduces weight significantly, and helps reduce recoil.



High-strength 400 series stainless steel cylinder is extensively fluted, reducing weight, and is treated to an advanced form of Ruger's Target Grey® finish for excellent durability.

Join Ruger and help us raise \$1,000,000 for the NRA.

VISIT: [WWW.RUGER.COM/MILLION](http://WWW.RUGER.COM/MILLION)



# THE NEW STANDARD FOR RUGER® 10/22® MAGAZINES



Shown with optional AA114 Magazine Clamp

MSRP  
**\$24.95**



## INTRODUCING THE ARCHANGEL AA922

- Patent Pending Feed Control Spring
- Replaceable Nylon Feed Lips
- Steel Front & Rear Catch Pins
- One Piece, Super Strength, Carbon Fiber Filled Housing & Components
- 9mm SMG Magazine Shape
- High Quality Heat Treated Chrome-Silicon Magazine Springs
- Can Be Attached to Another AA922 Magazine by using our AA114 Magazine Clamp
- Fits All Ruger® 10/22® Models & Variants



2 CAPACITIES AVAILABLE:

**25 ROUND**  
(AA922-A2)

**10 ROUND**  
(AA922-02)



**ARCHANGEL™**

562.861.9554 • [ARCHANGELMANUFACTURING.COM](http://ARCHANGELMANUFACTURING.COM)  
Check us out on [YouTube](http://YouTube) [www.youtube.com/archangeldevelopment](http://www.youtube.com/archangeldevelopment)



OUT OF THE BOX



Typical grouping in rapid semi-auto fire from 10 yards.

a reciprocating bolt, but it is totally enclosed in the molded ABS body of the gun. Despite this, the rather stout cycling of the hidden bolt can be felt during the firing sequence. The gun is cocked by pulling back a serrated handle located behind and below the rear open sight. The sights are not adjustable in any way. However, this model comes with integral, Picatinny-type rails along the top and bottom of the receiver, which allow for installing a wide choice of laser- and electronic-dot sights.

In order to make the Steel Storm easier to handle, I added an after-market folding-forward grip. This proved to be a great idea, as it allowed me to shoot more accurately, especially with the gun set on the 6-shot burst mode. At 10 yards, the Steel Storm made short work of several empty soda cans with a few well-placed bursts. Semi-auto fire also yielded impressive results, with most groups having a spread hovering from 6" to 7" across. Again, plenty accurate for plinking or dispatching small pests. All test firing was done using the gun's open sights.

In the power department, the Steel Storm has a muzzle velocity hovering around 430 fps in semi-auto fire. The burst fire feature consumes a bit more gas, with a corresponding slight decrease in velocity, although, the latter is still sufficient for lots of spirited, fun shooting. As with all airguns firing steel BBs, suitable eye protection is a must, because steel BBs bounce back with plenty of oomph upon striking any solid surface.

Clearly, both Umarex BB shooters are ideal for recreational blasting on a wide variety of plinking targets. Marauding rodents or grasshoppers are also fair game for these terrific BB spitters. Both are also reasonably priced; just make sure to lay in an ample supply of BBs and CO<sub>2</sub>, because once you start blasting away with either model, you'll find it difficult to stop.



**WE DIDN'T INVENT  
CONCEALMENT,  
WE JUST  
PERFECTED IT!**



- Deploys instantly from pocket
- Combat-access to slide
- Allows access to magazine release
- Finger hole for positive grip



631-841-6300  
Dept #GMD1  
[www.desantisholster.com](http://www.desantisholster.com)  
431 Bayview Avenue,  
Amityville, NY 11701

*Weatherby*

# I PUT MY NAME ON IT AND BEHIND IT.

## **THE NEW VANGUARD® SERIES 2 RIFLE WITH GUARANTEED SUB-MOA.**

I couldn't be more excited to introduce the next generation of Vanguard® rifles...taking "nothing shoots flatter, hits harder or is more accurate" to a whole new level. You won't find a better rifle for the money. I stake my name on it.

See it online ([weatherby.com](http://weatherby.com)) or at your Weatherby dealer.

- Two-stage match trigger which dramatically improves accuracy
- Non-glare matte finish (same as our legendary Mark V®)
- Monte Carlo stock with "Griptonite™" inserts and a palm swell for a reliable grip
- 3-position safety
- Guaranteed 3-shot SUB-MOA accuracy

Ed Weatherby  
President



# Q&A

## QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

• JEFF JOHN •

### Colt Pocket Hammerless

**Q:** I have owned a Colt .32 ACP Pocket Hammerless, which I purchased at a local gun show about 15 years ago. I would estimate that it is in about 80- to 85-percent condition. The serial number is 412XXX. On the right side it says "Colt Automatic" and the line directly underneath that says "Calibre 32 Rimless Smokeless." The pistol is shiny nickel.

I have learned Colt manufactured this pistol mainly blued, but also made some nickel plated. I am curious to find out if this particular pistol was manufactured in nickel or



*John Browning's 1903 and 1908 Colt Pocket Hammerless are among the best designed personal protection firearms ever, offering sleek lines and reliability with the full metal jacket ammunition for which they were designed. This catalog page is from the 1924 Colt Catalog.*

plated sometime later. I'd also like to know when the gun was made and its approximate value. *GUNS Magazine* is great; I anxiously wait for it to be delivered. My friends (who also get the magazine) and I then get together and discuss the various articles. This adds greatly to our knowledge. Keep up the good work.

Sam Klafter  
Sarasota, Fla.

**A:** Thanks for the kind words. Your nice, little Colt Model 1903 Pocket Hammerless was made in 1923 according to the *Book of Colt Firearms*, by Sutherland and Wilson. A letter may be obtained from the Colt Historian, which will normally include how the pistol was originally finished; one for your pistol would cost \$75. Contact the Colt Historian, (800) 962-2658 x1343 (Colt Mfg. Co., P.O. Box 1868, Hartford, CT 06114, [www.coltsmfg.com](http://www.coltsmfg.com)) for a letter.

Normally, in the era your gun was manufactured, only the Colt "horse" and the proofmarks on the triggerguard were stamped after polishing. They will show subtle cratering around the edges where the stamp displaced the metal. It is nearly impossible to re-polish the gun and not lose this subtlety. You may need a magnifying glass to see it.

If in original condition as you describe, the little Colt should be worth around \$550 or so, according to the *32nd Edition of the Blue Book of Gun Values*, by S.P. Fjestad.

### More Pocket Hammerless

**Q:** I recently purchased a very nice Colt 1908 hammerless automatic with serial number 154XX.

# NOW AVAILABLE

## THE GSG-522 COMPLETE SERIES

- GSG-522 Carbine
- GSG-522SD Carbine
- GSG-522P Pistol
- GSG-522PK Pistol

Full line of firearms and upgrades/accessories available, industry leading customer service through ATI, and the most fun you will have with a tactical .22LR!

TAKE A LOOK ONLINE AT  
[WWW.AMERICANTACTICAL.US](http://WWW.AMERICANTACTICAL.US)

## AMERICAN TACTICAL IMPORTS

100 AIRPARK DRIVE • ROCHESTER, NY 14624 • 800-290-0065 • FAX 585-328-4168 • [WWW.AMERICANTACTICAL.US](http://WWW.AMERICANTACTICAL.US)

It shoots well with standard .380 ammo but is it strong enough to handle .380 +P ammo?

Tony LaBue  
Scottsdale, Ariz.

**A:** Your Colt .380 ACP Pocket Hammerless was made in 1913, which is nearly 100 years before .380 +P ammo came on the scene. In fact, hollowpoint ammunition wouldn't be available for nigh on to 30 years after the last M1908 left Colt in 1945. Since it is "very nice" and these early Colt's are quite collectible, I wouldn't shoot +P through it, although I would enjoy shooting it with standard ammo. I personally wouldn't choose to bet my life on a gun that old, especially with ammo for which it was never designed, when there are so many great, modern pistols in .380 and even 9mm Luger available. Tim Sundles of Buffalo Bore says his +P ammo is not loaded much hotter than SAAMI specs, and many customers report no problems although some report feeding problems with older guns.

Tim makes one good point. "Those 1908s are old enough that the recoil spring ought to be replaced with a modern Wolff spring, no matter what ammo they are shooting." **GUNS**

BUFFALO BORE AMMUNITION  
P.O. BOX 1480

ST. IGNATIUS, MT 59865  
(406) 745-2666

WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/BUFFALO-BORE

CORNELL PUBLICATIONS (CATALOG REPRINTS)

P.O. BOX 214  
BRIGHTON, MI 48116  
(810) 225-3075

WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/CORNELL-PUBS

WOLFF SPRINGS  
P.O. BOX 458

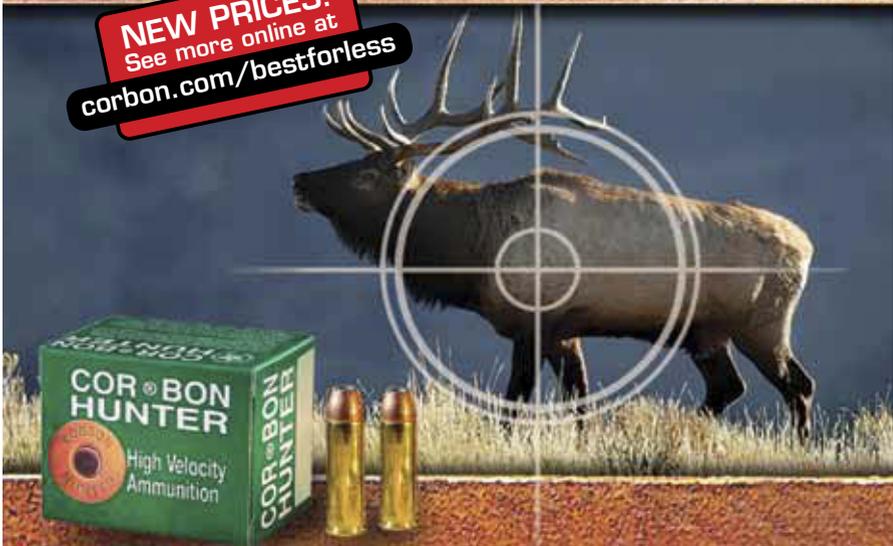
NEWTOWN SQUARE, PA 19073  
(610) 359-9600

WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/WOLFF-SPRINGS

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

# ACCURATE AND RELIABLE, DOWN TO IT'S BONE BREAKING CORE

**NEW PRICES!**  
See more online at  
[corbon.com/bestforless](http://corbon.com/bestforless)

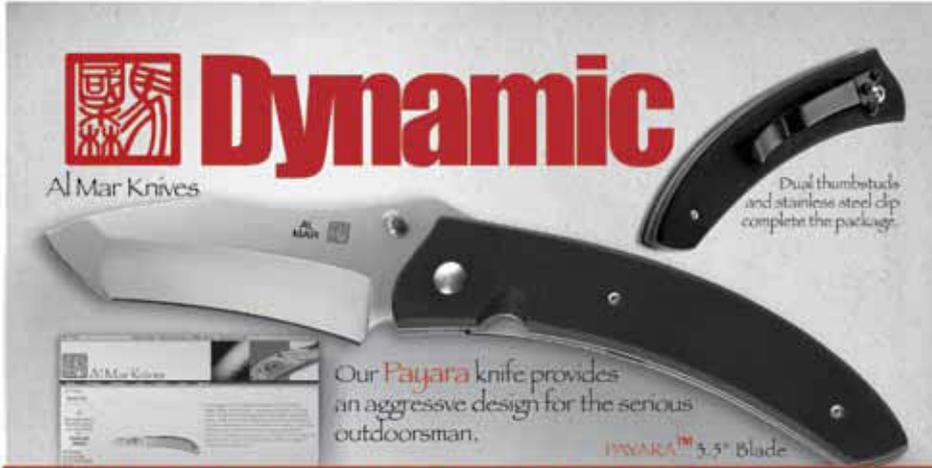


You've spent all season scouting, prepping and waiting for a glimpse of that elusive trophy bull. When it's time to pull the trigger, be ready with the bone-breaking power of COR@BON Hunter. Perfect for large tough-skinned, heavy-boned game. *You've got one shot. Make it count.*

## COR@BON HUNTER

[corbon.com](http://corbon.com) 800.626.7266

YouTube Facebook Twitter



# Dynamic

Al Mar Knives

Dual thumbstuds and stainless steel clip complete the package.

Our Payara knife provides an aggressive design for the serious outdoorsman.

IPWAKA™ 3.5" Blade

learn more @ [www.almarknives.com](http://www.almarknives.com)



### Mike Cumpston

**In 2009, with consumer confidence plummeting and political uncertainty rampant in the land, the demand for defensive firearms reached a fevered pitch. AR platform longarms were in short supply with many manufacturers sidelining their target and varmint models in favor of the popular A-4 carbine models. They flew off the shelves faster than the industry could produce them.**

Ruger entered this seller's market with the up-scale SR-556, a richly featured compact carbine operating on the relatively new to the Stoner System piston/transfer rod principal. A variable aperture valve admits expanding gas from a barrel vent into a piston chamber driving the transfer rod back against a flat at the top of the bolt carrier causing the cam-actuated bolt to unlock.

Advantages over direct gas impingement derive from concentrating heat and powder residue in the transfer rod assembly, making the receiver substantially cooler and eliminating invasive fouling from the bolt assembly, and action. Improved functioning, longevity, and greater simplicity are the putative benefits of the system.

Internet research will quickly reveal a possible Baby Ruth floating in the Piston/rod AR punchbowl. Some rifles have

shown damage to the buffer retaining plunger and buffer housing from the rear of the bolt carrier tilting downward from the impact of the transfer rod. If it exists, it shows up early and gets progressively worse. Ruger says their design elements eliminate any potential problem and based upon our sample SR-556E, this seems to be true. Any degree of carrier tilt would abrade the finish of contact parts after a couple of hundred rounds and this did not happen.

High-end features of the SR-556 Standard Rifle include the very well engineered Troy Industries folding battle sights and the Troy Industries quad-rail handguard. Gas piston, bolt carrier, barrel and chamber are all chromed. A soft compartmented carrying case and three MagPul magazines are included. The SR-556 earned a solid reputation for reliable function and accuracy. Subsequent variations include the 6.8mm SPC chambering and upper units usable on any AR rifle.

Critics deemed the rifle excessively heavy at 1 ounce under 8 pounds and deplored the quad-rail assembly because of its large size and a perceived tendency toward muzzle heaviness. As the buying frenzy eased off and more ARs became available, they also began to question the near \$2,000 price tag. A clammer arose for a more basic rifle eliminating such niceties as the expensive battle sights and slimming down the handguard by trimming the cluster of Picatinny rails.

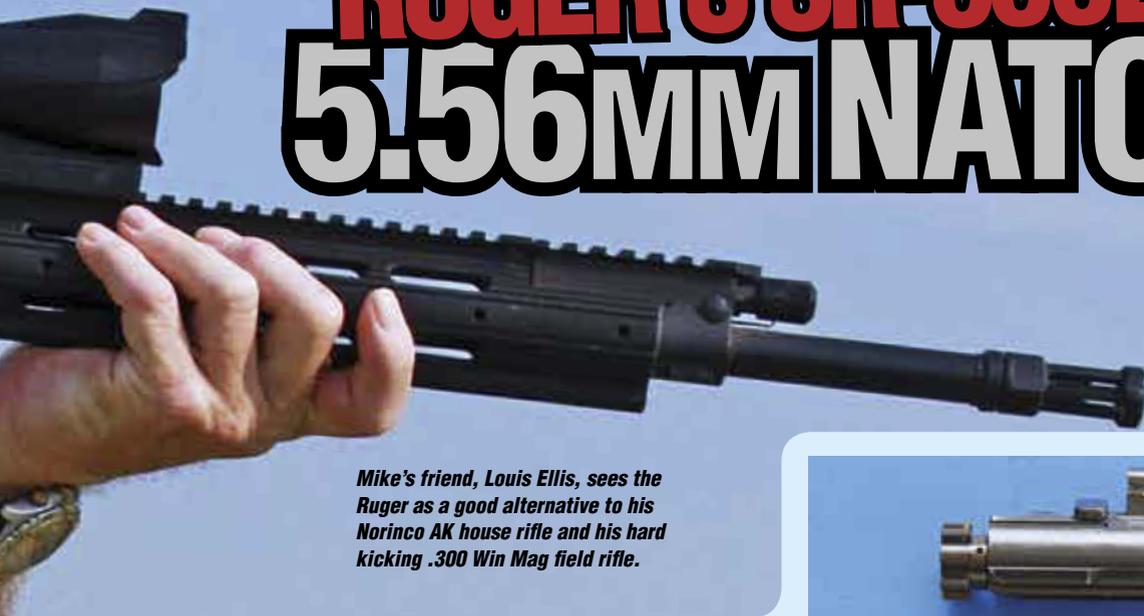
In the spring of 2011, Ruger began delivery of the SR-556E bringing the price down about \$600 and paring the weight down to the low 7-pound range. The slender aluminum alloy handguard puts the point of balance just

# THE "ESSENTIAL"

# AR

## RUGER'S SR-556E

## 5.56MM NATO.



*Mike's friend, Louis Ellis, sees the Ruger as a good alternative to his Norinco AK house rifle and his hard kicking .300 Win Mag field rifle.*



*The Bushnell Tactical Elite sight (above) is a bargain priced, reliable performer. Note the window indicating the power setting and color of the reticle. It boasts a 44' field of view at 100 yards, 1/4-MOA adjustments, unlimited eye relief and no parallax error.*



*The buffer tube and retaining pin remain pristine after 200 rounds. The much discussed-carrier tilt gremlin in the piston driven AR rifles is not an issue in the Ruger.*



*A transfer rod imparts force to the projection on top of the SR-556 bolt carrier (top bolt) to move the unit backward allowing the bolt to cam out of contact with the locking lugs. In the traditional direct impingement carrier (bottom), propellant gasses directly enter the bolt and carrier providing the motive force for functioning.*



*The 4-position gas valve (left) is marked 0, 1, 2 and 3. The "0" setting elects manual cycling, which is useful for training and use when the flash hider is replaced with a suppressor. Our sample showed optimum function at number 1, while the subsequent stages admit more gas to the piston and might be useful in case of a very dirty gun or reduced power ammunition. The heart of the Ruger piston-drive system is the variable regulator valve (right), gas piston and retainer clip. They are easy to remove for cleaning. Regular disassembly and cleaning of the carrier and bolt assembly is no longer necessary because propellant gasses do not enter the action.*



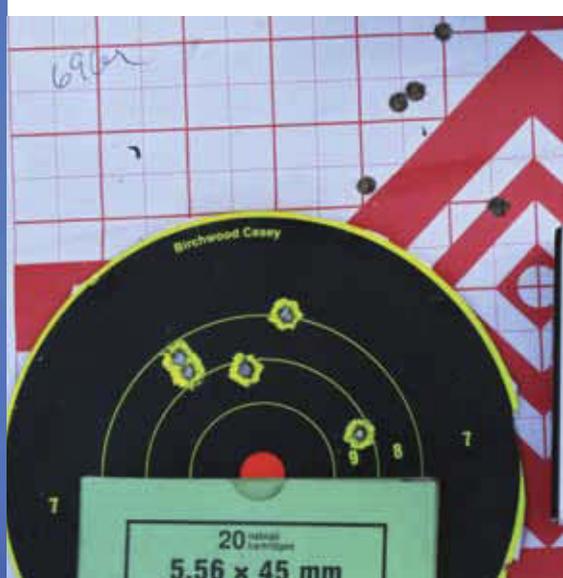
***The Czech Republic version of the NATO "Green" load crossed the 3,000 fps mark from the carbine. Suitably accurate and consistent, the 62-grain boattail bullet contains no lead and should win the unreserved approval of tofu-eaters everywhere.***



***The excellent accuracy and bullet performance at a wide range of velocities make this Nosler Ballistic Tip handload Mike's favorite walking around load. It has accounted for a variety of small varmints and one respectable hog. Works nicely in the carbine too.***

ahead of the magazine well. Since many end-users prefer optics on their carbines, no sights are included. There is a single 3-sectioned Picatinny rail assembly at 12 o'clock and mounting points for additional rails on the sides and bottom of the handguard. Rails of three lengths are available from Ruger. The rifle comes in a soft zippered case with a single MagPul magazine. The gas piston is chromed but unlike the standard rifle, the barrel, chamber and bolt carrier are not.

In keeping with the 556E mission as an economy carbine, I borrowed a Bushnell Tactical Elite 1x32 Red/Green T-Dot Riflescope. This is a bargain-priced sight that clamps directly onto the Picatinny rail. The 3-minute dot sits between the upper arms of a T-shaped reticle with



electable multiple brightness settings in either red or green. I found it necessary to place shims between the rail and left side of the mount to level things off but otherwise the sight functioned perfectly lacking only the battery saving automatic shut-off feature of more expensive dot sights. There is a set of auxiliary Patridge sights on the top of the housing. This is a nice thought but a crude and unorthodox sight picture is required to hit anywhere near the center of the target.

The SR-556E arrived with the gas valve set at "2"—the setting Ruger recommends for most loads. First rounds revealed that the sedate Remington 55-grain FMJ cases were ejecting well to the front. According to the owner's manual this indicates that more gas is reaching the piston than

*A number of 100-yard groups landed in the 2" range. Not bad groups since Mike was using a Bushnell 1X Red Dot sight with a 3-MOA reticle. The Buffalo Bore Sniper round (center) is a consistent sub-MOA performer when paired with a scoped varmint rifle.*



*A handy package at 32.5", the SR-556E is an even yard long with the stock fully extended.*

## .223 FACTORY AMMO PERFORMANCE

LOAD (BRAND, BULLET WEIGHT, TYPE)	VELOCITY (FPS)	GROUP SIZE (INCHES)
Remington 55 FMJ	2,900	2.6
Black Hills 75 JHP	2,587	3.25
Buffalo Bore 69 JHP	2,882	2.10
Buffalo Bore 77 JHP	2,706	2.8
S&B 109 Green Tip	3,026	2.15

Notes: Competition Electronics Pro Chrono Pal set 15' from the muzzle, 420' elevation, 90 degrees F.

needed for proper function. Ejection to the rear would signal too little recoil impulse. With the valve turned to position 1, all loads showed the ideal ejection pattern positive and at a right angle to the receiver. There were no functional issues of any sort.

### SR-556E

MAKER: STURM, RUGER & CO.

411 SUNAPEE ST.

NEWPORT, NH 03773

(603) 865-2442

WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/RUGER

#### ACTION TYPE:

Gas-piston, semi-auto

#### CALIBER:

.223 Remington/ 5.56 NATO

#### CAPACITY:

30

#### STOCK:

6-position collapsible

#### BARREL LENGTH:

16"

#### TWIST:

1:9"

#### OVERALL LENGTH:

32.75" (collapsed), 36" (extended)

#### WEIGHT:

7.36 pounds

#### PRICE:

\$1,375

### TACTICAL ELITE 1X32 T-DOT

MAKER: BUSHNELL

9200 CODY

OVERLAND PARK, KS 66214

(800) 423-3537

WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/BUSHNELL

#### MAGNIFICATION:

1X

#### OBJECTIVE DIAMETER:

32mm

#### EYE RELIEF:

Unlimited

#### FIELD OF VIEW:

44' at 100 yards

#### INTERNAL ADJ. RANGE:

70" at 100 yards

#### CLICK VALUE:

1/4"

#### FINISH:

Matte

#### BATTERY:

CR2032

#### WEIGHT:

16.75 ounces

#### OVERALL LENGTH:

6.75"

#### RETICLES:

T-Dot Red and Green, 3-MOA dot

#### RETAIL:

\$282.95

Accuracy work consisted of 5-round groups fired at 100 yards from a Caldwell rest. After a short initial take-up the trigger broke at exactly 10 pounds. This does not look very encouraging on paper but it was actually quite manageable. Standing, unsupported, from 100 yards, it was no challenge to land all rounds in the important portions of a B-27 target. Lightweight and very decent cheekweld helped to counteract the heavy trigger pull.

Shooting unmagnified 100-yard groups with a 3-minute dot and 10-pound trigger is a bit dicey. My results do not really do justice to the accuracy potential of the carbine or of the loads recorded. The Black Hills, Buffalo Bore Sniper loads and my standard handload are all sub-MOA performers from AR rifles set up for varminting or target. Nevertheless, the preponderance of near 2" groups was quite gratifying and demonstrated a very useful level of practical accuracy.

The Ruger SR Essential is a solid piece of engineering—practical for personal defense and outdoor utility and easy to shoot well enough to enjoy the experience. Shooting companion, Louis Ellis assisted with this review. He was impressed with the carbine and is strongly considering it as an adjunct to his defensive handgun and a partial replacement for his hard kicking .300 Magnum field rifle.

**GUNS**

BLACK HILLS AMMUNITION  
3050 EGLIN ST., RAPID CITY, SD 57703  
(605) 348-5150

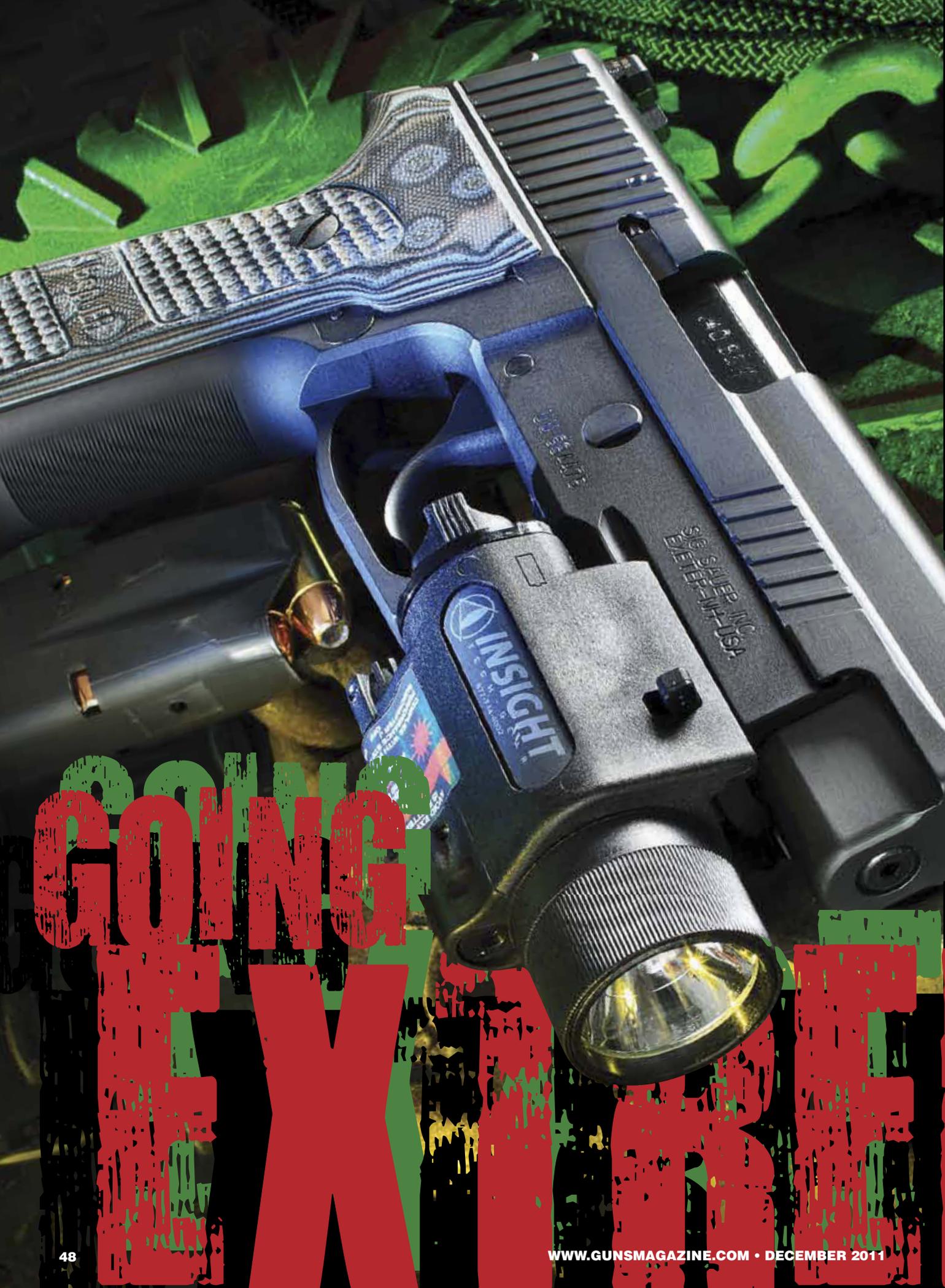
WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/  
BLACK-HILLS-AMMUNITION

BUFFALO BORE AMMUNITION  
P.O. BOX 1480, ST. IGNATIUS, MT 59865  
(406) 745-2666

WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/  
BUFFALO-BORE-AMMUNITION

NOSLER  
P.O. BOX 671, BEND, OR 97709  
(800) 285-3701  
WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/NOSLER

REMINGTON ARMS  
P.O. BOX 700, MADISON, NC 27025  
(800) 243-9700  
WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/REMINGTON



# GUNNING THE K R

**John Barsness**  
**Photos:**  
**Joseph R. Novelozo**

**T**he SIG SAUER P226 has been around for over a quarter of a century now. Along with compact variations, it serves around the world as a military and police sidearm for a long list of organizations, including but not limited to the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary (Canada), the detectives of An Garda Siochana (Ireland), the US Postal Inspection Service, the United Arab Emirates Army and US Navy SEALs who recently visited Osama bin Laden. It's just about everywhere because it's an extremely reliable and tough handgun.

The barrel-locking system differs somewhat from John Browning's original design. Browning used slots milled in the barrel and slide to keep them together during the initial rearward movement of the slide. In the P226, the rear of the barrel has a larger, squared section. The front edge of the square locks the barrel by sliding up against the front edge of the ejection port in the slide—a sort of the reverse of the locking system used in the Savage 99 rifle, where the bolt slides upward against the rear of the bolt slot. Originally the slide was stamped of heavy sheet metal, with brazed or welded additions, but today it's CNC machined from one

chunk of stainless steel.

The Extreme is a tricked-out version of basic P226, with several nifty additional features including an integral accessory rail under the barrel and Hogue wrap-around grips made of the tough fiberglass and epoxy laminate called G10. Formed under pressure, G10 is not only extremely strong but doesn't conduct electricity or absorb water, the reason it's used in many high-tech electronic applications—though it also works well for knife scales and handgun grips.

The grips on the Extreme are made of a gray/black/olive drab laminate for that clever camouflage look, with stippled panels milled into the side and rear. The pattern looks pretty nice next to the black-matte anodized

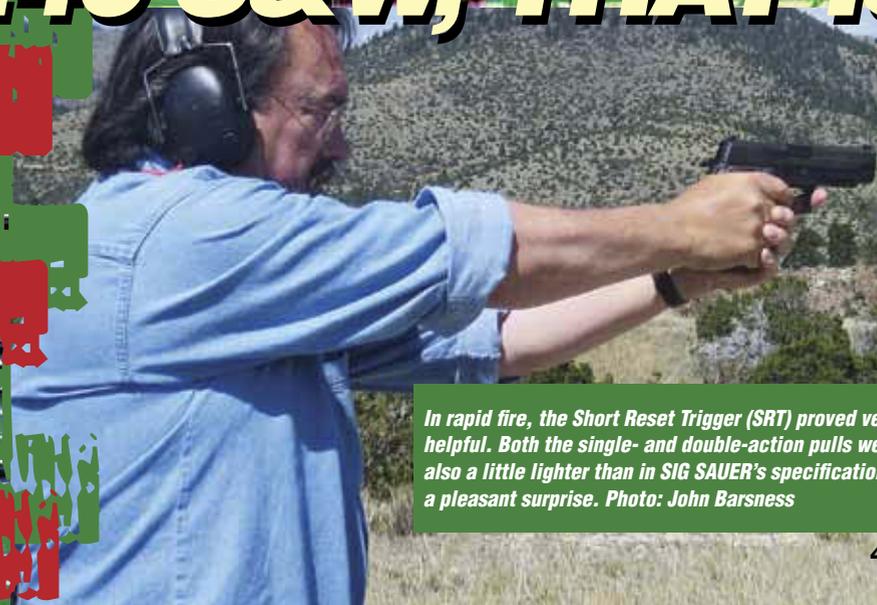
frame and Nitron-coated slide, and the grips also proved very comfortable and controllable in my broad but somewhat short-fingered right hand. The test gun was a .40 S&W (the Extreme is also available in 9mm Parabellum) and the 34-ounce weight also helped control recoil, especially with loads using heavier bullets.

The range session started with Speer Lawman full metal jacket and Winchester Ranger hollowpoint 165-grain factory loads, to slightly slick-up the working parts and to test point of impact. The Extreme comes with highly visible SIGLITE night sights, and at 25 yards the test gun shot anywhere from 4" to 6" low and a little left, depending on the load. The windage was easily corrected by drifting



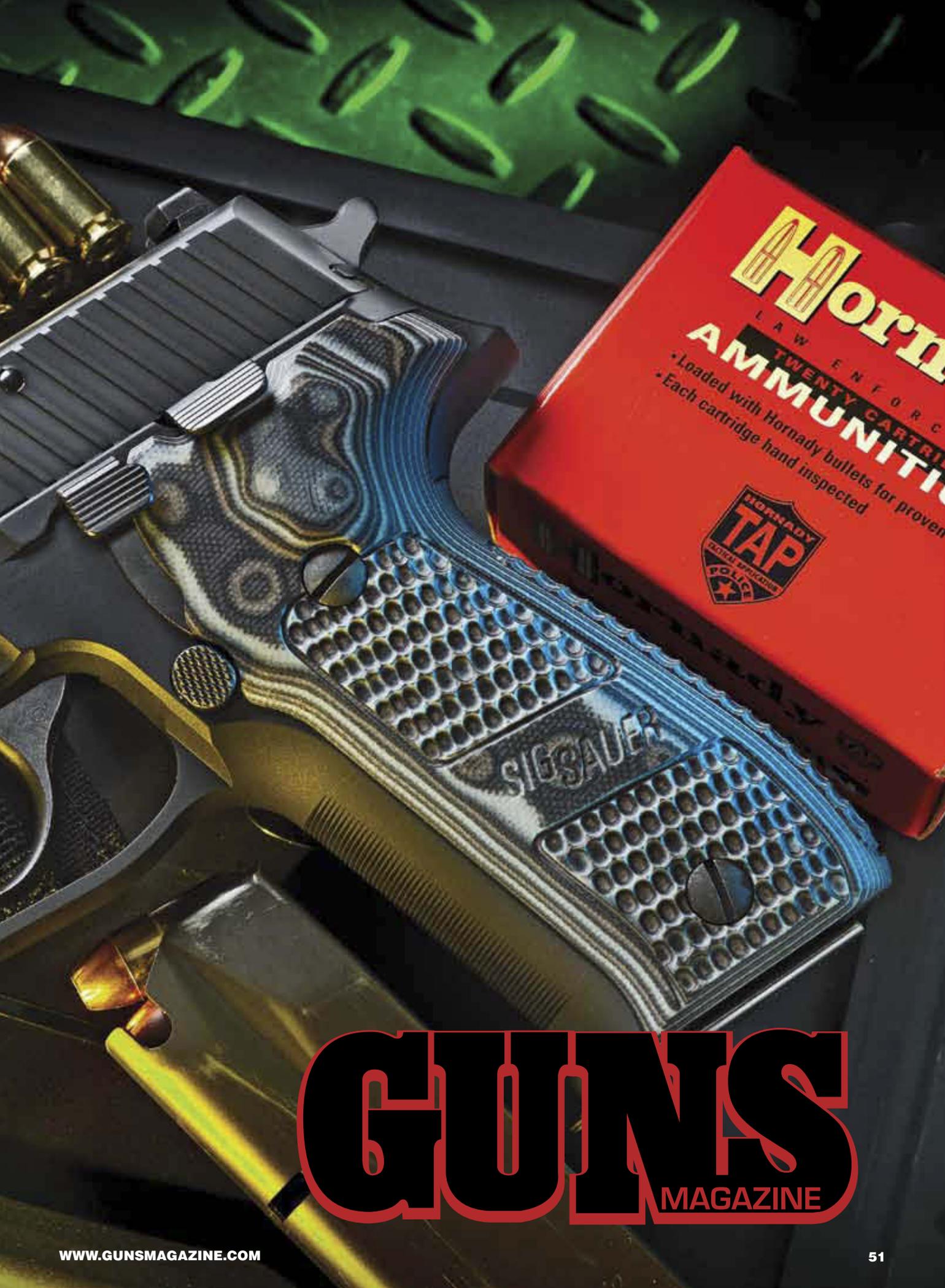
*The P226 Extreme comes with front cocking serrations on the slide and SIGLITE Night Sights. The front sight is dovetailed into the slide making windage adjustments easy, but elevation is adjusted by changing the front sight. SIG offers six different heights.*

# SIG SAUER P226 EXTREME .40 S&W, THAT IS.



*In rapid fire, the Short Reset Trigger (SRT) proved very helpful. Both the single- and double-action pulls were also a little lighter than in SIG SAUER's specifications, a pleasant surprise. Photo: John Barsness*

**GOING  
EXTREME**  
**SIGSAUER**<sup>®</sup>  
**P226 EXTREME**  
**.40 S&W**



**Hornady**  
LAW ENFORCEMENT  
TWENTY CARTRIDGE

**AMMUNITION**

- Loaded with Hornady bullets for proven
- Each cartridge hand inspected



# GUNS

MAGAZINE



*The Extreme comes standard with textured Hogue Custom G10 wrap-around grips (left). The P226 Extreme's slide (below) is machined from solid stainless steel and given SIG's Nitron matte black finish. An accessory rail (right) is present under the slide. Unlike many other rails, this one follows the lines of the frame, giving the pistol a more sleek profile than most of its competitors.*





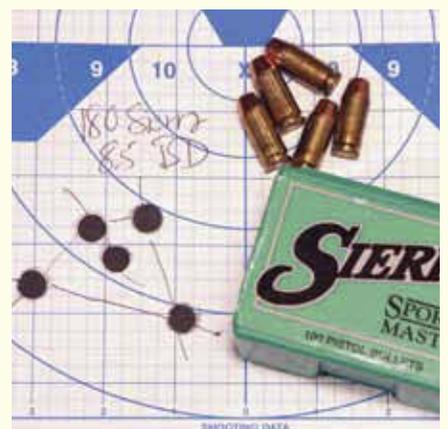
**Ease of disassembly has long been a hallmark of SIG SAUER pistols and the P226 Extreme fieldstrips in seconds.**

Group-shooting was done over a Millett Benchmaster, with the back of my left forefinger just touching the rear of the front rest for consistency. I freely admit to not being a human Ransom Rest, but can usually shoot decent 5-shot groups at 25 yards with good handguns. Sometimes the groups can even be pretty small. The test gun turned out to be somewhat more picky than many semi-autos about what loads it shot accurately, and I don't think this was due to operator error.



**Winchester's Ranger 165-grain hollowpoint ammo shot almost as well as the best handload. Photo: John Barsness**

The group-testing was started with the two factory loads, and the Extreme definitely preferred the Winchester Ranger load. After a few dozen factory loads, I tried 10 different handloads with bullets weighing 150, 165, 180 and 200 grains. With the exception of the 200s, at least one load with each bullet weight grouped into 2.5" or a little less, while the others spread to 3" to 4". (I'll keep working with the 200s in a couple of other handguns, hoping to find more accurate combination for an upcoming handloading column on the .40 S&W.)



**The most accurate handload combined 180-grain Sierra hollowpoints with Blue Dot powder at 25 yards. Photo: John Barsness**

the front sight slightly in its dovetail, and variations in elevation can be fixed by replacing the front sight with one of six heights available from SIG SAUER.

Functioning was completely reliable from the get-go, though when I handed the P226 to my wife Eileen (who has her own collection of defense handguns, and is always curious about any new firearm coming into the house), she couldn't pull the slide back without extreme effort. Pulling on the slide is her first test of any semi-auto handgun, the reason her own .40 S&W is a compact of another brand, featuring a noticeably lighter slide-spring. The factory recoil spring for the P226 is rated at 16 pounds, and the lightest replacement spring located with a web search was 15 pounds. The P226 is designed as a very rugged military sidearm, and the recoil spring is an essential part of its function, but you might not want to buy one as a present for your wife or girlfriend without having her try it out first.

Again, there wasn't even a hint of a malfunction, despite the wide variety of loads. Empties ended up in the same area, centered about 5' behind me and 10' to the right. A 6x6' blanket spread on the ground caught almost all of them.

I finished the test-firing with some offhand rapid-fire. The Extreme's production trigger is the SRT option (Short Reset Trigger), normally an upgrade offered through SIG SAUER's Custom Shop. It reduces reset travel by 60 percent, making rapid-fire noticeably quicker and easier. The single-action pull is listed in SIG SAUER's specifications at 4.4 pounds, but on my Timney trigger scale the pull averaged 3.75 pounds, with 10 pulls varying between 3.5 and 4.1 pounds. The double-action pull is listed at 10

# WILL YOU BE READY?

Uncomfortable holster  
keeping you from carrying as much  
as you would like?

Why not try a  
**CrossBreed TODAY!**



*"ABSOLUTELY the  
most comfortable holster  
I have ever worn."* *Semper Fi*

Lifetime Warranty!  
Try-It-FREE Guarantee!

## CrossBreed Holsters LLC.

[www.crossbreedholsters.com](http://www.crossbreedholsters.com) • 888.732.5011



Grips in Exotic Hardwood, Soft Rubber, G-10 and Aluminum

OverMolded™ Rifle & Shotgun Stocks in Black, OD Green and Camo  
AR-15/M16 grip and forend with our exclusive cargo management system  
Recoil pads - Slings, Swivels and other fine firearm accessories.

For the Location of your nearest dealer or a free catalog call 1-800-Get Grip  
HOGUE INC. P.O. BOX 1138 PASO ROBLES, CA 93447 - 805-239-1440

### P226 EXTREME:

**MAKER:** SIG SAUER  
18 INDUSTRIAL DR., EXETER, NH 03833  
(603) 772-2302  
[WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/SIG-SAUER](http://WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/SIG-SAUER)

#### **ACTION TYPE:**

Locked-breech, DA/SA semi-auto

#### **CALIBER:**

.40 S&W (tested), 9mm

#### **CAPACITY:**

12

#### **BARREL:**

4.4"

#### **OVERALL LENGTH:**

8.2"

#### **MATERIAL:**

Stainless steel slide, aluminum frame

#### **FINISH:**

Matte black Nitron slide,  
hard anodized frame

#### **HEIGHT:**

5.5"

#### **WIDTH:**

1.5"

#### **GRIPS:**

Hogue Custom G10

#### **WEIGHT:**

34 ounces

#### **SIGHTS:**

SIGLITE Night Sights

#### **RETAIL:**

\$1,146

pounds, but very consistently measured slightly over 9 pounds. The DA pull also had a subtle but noticeable semi-stop when pulled about 3/4 of the way back, allowing the first shot from the hammer-down position to be reasonably accurate.

The P226 is typical of many modern semi-auto DA/SA pistols, with no safety and a decocker. The decocker worked very easily and reliably using only my thumb. The slide release was a little stiff at first but slicked up during the test firing. One other minor problem was noticed midway through the test: The screws holding the Hogue grips started working loose. Luckily, there's always a hollow-handled Brownells screwdriver with several bits in my range bag, and a little blue Loc-Tite on each screw's threads prevented the screws from loosening again.

All in all, it was a pleasure test-firing such an easy-to-shoot and reliable pistol. It's easy to see why the P226 has been a world standard for so many years, in so many places. **GUNS**

#### **SPEER BULLETS**

2299 SNAKE RIVER AVE., LEWISTON, ID 83501  
(208) 746-2351

[WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/SPEER-BULLETS](http://WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/SPEER-BULLETS)

#### **WINCHESTER AMMUNITION**

OLIN CORPORATION

427 N. SHAMROCK, EAST ALTON, IL 62024

(618) 258-3566

[WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/](http://WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/)

WINCHESTER-AMMUNITION



# 1-800-351-8900

# JANTZ SUPPLY

## DESERT IRONWOOD

Our Ironwood is unsurpassed in figure and contrasting color. Book matched 2 pc sets.



### Scale Sets

5" x 1 1/2" x 3/8"

- EW170 High Contrast.....16.00
- EW171 Dark.....30.00
- EW172 Exhibition.....35.00
- EW173 Presentation.....40.00

## MINI CORBY RIVETS

Designed for use in tang holes as small as 1/8". Use a 5/64" allen wrench (sold separately). Order a Jantz Rivet Drill to easily & precisely drill and countersink your handle material in one easy step.



- CP697 Brass, 5/32" head.....2.35
- CP627 Stainless, 5/32" head.....2.35
- RD8 Rivet Drill for 5/32".....19.95
- CP669 Brass, 3/16" head.....2.35
- CP629 Stainless, 3/16" head.....2.35
- RD1 Rivet Drill for 3/16".....19.95

## PRE-SOLDERED GUARD KIT

440C Stainless Steel Blade with a pre-soldered nickel silver bolster. Kit includes blade, pins, diamondwood 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
- KT104 Leather Sheath.....14.50

### 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
- KT104 Leather Sheath.....14.50

## WEEKEND PROJECTS

440C Stainless Steel Blade Kit includes blade, pins, diamondwood 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.....13.95

### 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 Blade Only.....12.95
- SS873K Ringtail Kit.....14.95

## LOCKING LINER KITS

### The 605 Kits



8A stainless sub zero quenched. Overall length 5 3/4", 3 3/8" closed, cutting edge 2 3/8", 3/32" thick.

- KV605MS 605 Mini Serrated.....34.95
- KV605M 605 Mini Standard.....34.95
- 605 Orig. overall 7-7/8", 4-1/2" closed, 3 1/4" blade.
- KV605 605 Original.....39.95

### Black Widow

- Black Anodized Stainless overall is 7 5/8", 4 1/2" closed, cutting edge 3 1/8". Is supplied with preshaped, drilled Quincewood handle material. Use a torx wrench T10 and a T6.
- SS652 Black Widow.....19.95

### Hi Tech Folder

- 8A stainless steel blade with satin finish. It is supplied with preshaped, drilled Quincewood handle material. Length 7-3/4" opened, 4-5/8" closed, the cutting edge 3-1/8". Use torx wrench T10 and T6.
- SS3520 Hi Tech Fighter.....19.95

### Fallow Kit

- High Carbon Stainless blade, NS bolster, belt clip. Supplied with preshaped, drilled Quincewood handle material. Overall length 7 13/16" 4-1/2" closed. 3-1/4" cutting edge. Use Torx T10 & T6.
- SS656 Fallow Locking Liner.....19.95

## JEWELED OPENERS

For the 605 folder, Fallow, Black Widow and Hi-Tech Folder as well as other large folders using ambidextrous thumb openers with 1/8" or 5/32" holes, with supplied adapter. 7/32" dia. x.200" long each side.



01 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09 10 11 12  
Choose appropriate color code and add it to the end of the part number below.

- TB81-- Style 825 Opener.....19.95

## VG10 Folder Kits



Each kit includes all components except handle material. Easy instructions for the beginner. VG10 Super Sharp Mirror Polished Laminated Blade. Overall length opened is 6 5/8", 3 7/8" closed, cutting edge is 2 1/2".

- VG101 Blue Titanium Liner.....69.95
- VG102 Silver Titanium Liner.....64.95
- VG103 Stainless Liner.....59.95

### Pre-Shaped Handle for VG10

Stabilized exhibition quality preshaped handle for the VG10 folder kits above.

- VG519 Stbl California Buckeye.....11.95
- VG570 Stbl Desert Ironwood.....11.95

## VG10 LITTLE BIGHORN

- VG-10 33 layer Damascus, super sharp high cobalt steel blade. Length 5 1/8", 3" closed, cutting edge is 2".
- SS723 VG10 Little Bighorn.....39.95

## JANTZ USA BLADES

Introducing our exclusive line of the finest blades available anywhere. Made with pride in Jantz's Davis OK manufacturing facility, using Crucible steels. Each blade is double tempered and cryogenically treated for maximum wear resistance and edge holding capability. **Boss bolsters available.**

### Pattern 21

- 7 7/8" overall, 3 1/8" blade, 5/32" thickness
- J210 440C Steel.....24.95
- J212 D2 Steel.....29.95
- K214 Stainless Bolster.....6.95
- KT103 Leather Sheath.....14.50

### Pattern 22

- 8 3/8" overall, 3 1/2" blade, 5/32" thickness
- J220 440C Steel.....24.95
- J222 D2 Steel.....29.95
- K214 Stainless Bolster.....6.95
- KT103 Leather Sheath.....14.50

### Pattern 23

- 9 9/16" overall, 4 5/8" blade, 5/32" thickness
- J230 440C Steel.....24.95
- J232 D2 Steel.....29.95
- K214 Stainless Bolster.....6.95
- KT111 Leather Sheath.....14.50

### Pattern 25

- 9" overall, 4 3/16" blade, 5/32" thickness
- J250 440C Steel.....24.95
- J252 D2 Steel.....29.95
- K214 Stainless Bolster.....6.95
- KT111 Leather Sheath.....14.50

### Pattern 31

- 7 5/8" overall, 3" blade, 5/32" thickness
- J312 D2 Steel.....24.95
- J314 154CM.....29.95
- K314 Stainless Bolster.....6.95
- KT104 Leather Sheath.....14.50

### Pattern 36

- 7 5/8" overall, 3" blade, 1/8" thickness
- J362 D2 Steel.....24.95
- J363 CPMS 30V.....32.95
- K364 Stainless Bolster.....6.95
- KT103 Leather Sheath.....14.50

### Pattern 37

- 6 5/8" overall, 2 5/8" blade, 1/8" thickness
- J372 D2 Steel.....22.95
- J373 CPMS 30V.....29.95
- K374 Stainless Bolster.....6.95
- KT116 Leather Sheath.....14.50

### Pattern 38

- 7" overall, 2 1/2" blade, 5/32" thickness
- J382 D2 Steel.....22.95
- J383 CPMS 30V.....32.95
- K384 Stainless Bolster.....6.95
- KT104 Leather Sheath.....14.50

### Pattern 39

- 6 1/2" overall, 2 1/2" blade, 1/8" thickness
- J390 440C Steel.....19.95
- J392 D2 Steel.....24.95
- KT103 Leather Sheath.....14.50

### Pattern 40

- 7 3/16" overall, 3 1/4" blade, 1/8" thickness
- J400 440C Steel.....19.95
- J402 D2 Steel.....24.95
- KT103 Leather Sheath.....14.50

## LETTER OPENER

Available with or without a lightly etched Oak leaf design. 6" length, 4 1/2" blade, 7/16" wide, .046" thick.

### The Frisco



- SS204 Frisco w/ Engraving.....7.95
- SS205 Frisco without Engraving.....7.95

### The Burlington

This new opener is easy to customize. Nickel Silver bolsters are pre-pinned and ready to finish, the mirror finished stainless blade is 9-1/4" overall, 5-1/2" below the bolster. Kit includes blade, handle material, and pins.



- SS203 Letter Opener.....9.95
- SS203K Letter Opener Kit.....12.95

### The Pacific

The mirror finished stainless blade has 3/32" holes and is 8-1/2" overall, 4-1/4" blade. Kit includes blade, handle material, and pins.



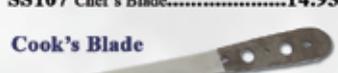
- SS201 Letter Opener.....7.95
- SS201K Letter Opener Kit.....9.95

## KEEN EDGE BLADES

Light, flexible, well balanced. 8A blades, satin finished, flat ground to a super sharp edge that stays sharp. 4 styles to meet all your kitchen & camp needs.



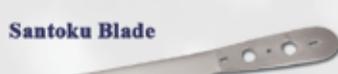
- 12-1/2" overall, 8-3/4" blade, .078 thickness
- SS107 Chef's Blade.....14.95



- 10-1/2" overall, 6" blade, .078 thickness
- SS106 Cook's Blade.....11.95



- 7-1/2" overall, 3-1/2" blade, .058 thickness
- SS108 Steak Blade.....7.95



- 10-3/4" overall, 6" blade, .070 thickness
- SS110 Santoku Blade.....14.95



## knifemaking.com

Download our on-line catalog free. Jantz Print Catalog Knifemaking supplies, tools, equipment, leathercraft, engraving and more.

- JC45 Catalog \$5.00 Free with any order.

Send orders to: 309 W MAIN, DAVIS OK 73030 1-580-369-2316

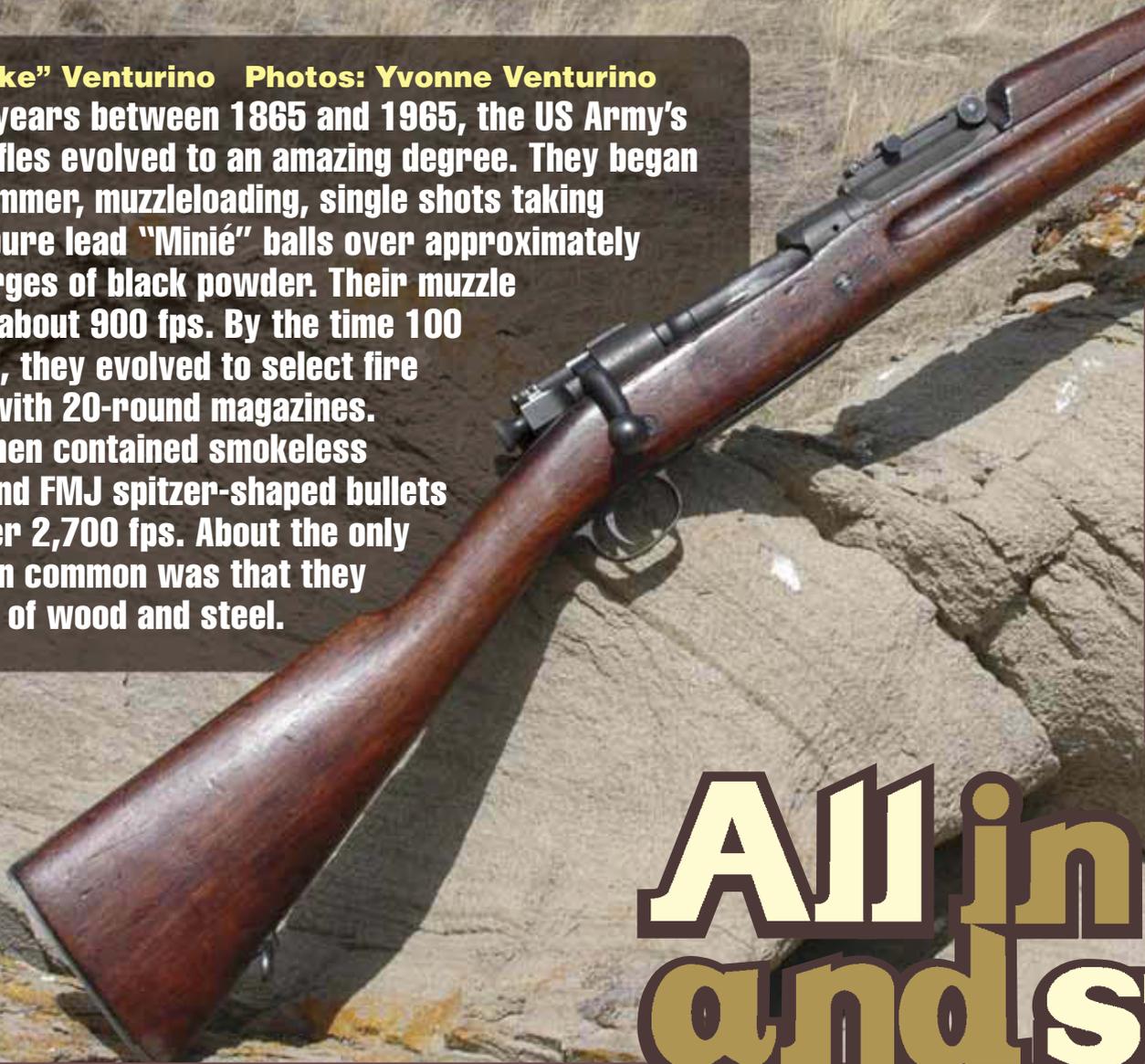
ADD \$9.95 FOR SHIPPING

PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE

# A CENTURY OF US ARMY INFANTRY RIFLES

**Mike "Duke" Venturino Photos: Yvonne Venturino**

In the 100 years between 1865 and 1965, the US Army's infantry rifles evolved to an amazing degree. They began as side-hammer, muzzleloading, single shots taking hollowbase, pure lead "Minié" balls over approximately 60-grain charges of black powder. Their muzzle velocity was about 900 fps. By the time 100 years passed, they evolved to select fire autoloaders with 20-round magazines. Ammunition then contained smokeless propellants and FMJ spitzer-shaped bullets moving at over 2,700 fps. About the only thing all had in common was that they were crafted of wood and steel.



## All in ands

It may surprise some readers that during the 100-year span the US Army adopted only eight basic rifle types; of course with variations inside each basic model. For instance, our 100-year time frame began when .58-caliber rifle-muskets were standard issue for US infantry troops. Those were designed by the government owned Springfield Armory but were also made by many contractors during the Civil War (1861-1865).

The earliest of my US infantry rifles is a Colt Model 1861 "Special" musket. The "special" moniker came because Colt Patent Firearms Company was given special

governmental dispensation to alter the basic Model 1861 pattern for easier manufacturing. These are 3-band rifle-muskets with 40" barrels. On a really good day, it could be loaded and fired twice in a 1-minute period with a good chance of hitting a man-size target at 100 yards.

### **The First "Trapdoors"**

Next came metallic cartridge firing infantry rifles with .50 Government caliber reigning from 1866 to 1873. The rifles evolved from a Model 1866 through Model 1868 and finished with a Model 1870. All were generically



The Model 1903 "Springfield" served longest of all US infantry rifles between 1865 and 1965. This group of ROTC trainees (inset) are posing with their Model 1903 "Springfield" infantry rifles. Photo: Herb Peck Jr. Collection.



This dressed up fellow was photographed with a Model 1868 .50 Government infantry rifle. Photo: Herb Peck Jr. Collection.

# wood steel.

that the stocks, lockplates and stock furniture on all these .50 Government infantry rifles were leftovers from Civil War musket production. For instance, the lockplate on my sample is dated 1863.

Military ammunition contained 450-grain lead alloy bullets over 70 grains of black powder. Rated velocity was approximately 1,250 fps. Cartridge cases were copper and although centerfire primed they were not reloadable. The primer was actually held inside the case instead in an external pocket.

## The .45-70

In 1873, after considerable testing, the US Army decided a smaller caliber would give better performance at longer ranges. This resulted in the .45 Government or what is universally known today as the .45-70. Initial military loads for the infantry consisted of 405-grain roundnose bullets over 70 grains of powder. Cases remained of copper with inside primers. About 1881, a 500-grain loading was instituted along with reloadable brass cases. Nominal velocities for these two loads were 1,350 and 1,300 fps respectively.

The army was happy enough with the "trapdoor" form of rifle but along with the new caliber decided it should be of all new manufacture. In fact the new trapdoor kept the same 32-5/8" barrel and same basic stock dimensions as the earlier trapdoors. The official designation for the new rifle was Model 1873. Later a Model 1884 was developed, with its most important new feature being the finely adjustable Buffington rear sight.

called "trapdoors" because of their mode of operation. That is, the hammer was pulled to half-cock, a tab on the breechblock pulled up to raise it and expose the chamber. A cartridge was inserted and the breechblock pushed down until clicking into locked position. Finally the hammer was pulled to full cock making the rifle ready to fire.

Of the .50 Government model rifles, I have owned only a Model 1868. It was most prolific of the three versions. These had 32-5/8" barrels with a simple open-type rear sight that could be flipped up for elevation changes. There was no provision for windage adjustment. It is interesting

My trapdoor infantry rifles consist of a Model 1868 and a Model 1873. With the .50 caliber consistently hitting a man-size target past about 150 yards would be difficult but with the .45 version I can easily hit a similar target out to about 300 yards *if firing*

*from a solid rest.*

With smokeless propellant developments occurring in Europe, the American military had to follow. The US Army adopted its first smokeless powder cartridge in 1892 as the .30 Army, and with it a bolt-action rifle

designed by a Norwegian named Krag and a Dane named Jorgensen. It was an oddly functioning rifle with a huge box magazine on the right side of the action. To load the rifle the magazine was flipped open and five cartridges dropped in. Flipping it shut put the cartridges under spring pressure, forcing them under the action to be fed into the chamber from the left side. The result was a bolt action of extremely smooth operation, albeit slower on the reload than stripper clip-fed Mausers of contemporary vintage. Commonly just called Krags, the US Army designated them as US Models 1892, 1896, and 1898, all with 30" barrels weighing about 9 pounds.

The .30 Army round came to be also commonly called the .30-40 Krag because it was said to have been at least initially loaded with 40 grains of whatever smokeless powder was deemed appropriate in those days. Military loads had 220-grain bullets at a nominal velocity of barely 2,000 fps.

My Krag infantry rifle is the Model 1896 version with an upgrade of the Model 1902 rear sight. Also worthy of note is that my Krag is certainly as smooth as the legend portrays. Occasionally, after working the bolt I'll retract it to see if a round actually did chamber. I've never fired my Krag past 300 yards but I can testify that it is deadly accurate out to that distance.

### The M1903

With the advent of the 20th century, developments in rifle shooting accelerated. The Model 1903 Springfield, while still a bolt action, was the basis of a couple of firsts in regard to American infantry rifles. It was the first to take rimless cases, the first to use spitzer bullets, and the first to be loaded by means of a 5-round "stripper" clip. Although one of the most beloved rifles ever issued to American troops it was by no means a revolutionary design. Instead it borrowed so heavily on Peter Paul Mauser's Model 1898 that the US Government had to pay for patent infringements.

Springfield '03s started out chambered for a round commonly known as the .30-03. It used a 220-grain roundnose bullet at approximately 2,300 fps. In 1905, the Germans set other major military organizations on their collective ears by introducing a new load for their 8x57mm cartridge (That's the American designation. In Europe its termed 7.92x57mm) that pushed 154-grain pointed (spitzer) bullets to over 2,800 fps. Therefore the US Army scrambled about and in 1906 came out with a refined



**The US Army's infantry rifles evolved from the beginning of World War I through World War II from the standard Model 1903 (top), the Model 1917 (second from top), a remodeling of the Model 1903 termed Model 1903A3 (third from top) and the semi-auto M1 "Garand."**



**The first US infantry rifles chambered for smokeless powder cartridges were generically called "Krag." At top is the Model 1896. It was superseded quickly by the Model 1903 (bottom) generically called "Springfields."**



**These three US infantry rifles defining the basic genre between 1865 and the advent of smokeless powder include the .58-caliber Colt Model 1861 "Special" muzzleloading rifle-musket (top), Model 1868 .50 Government "trapdoor" (middle) and the Model 1873 .45 Government also called a "trapdoor."**



**The last wood and steel rifle adopted by the US Army was the M14. It also served the shortest time.**

.30-caliber cartridge with 150-grain bullet at 2,700 fps. That blessed us with the ultra-famous .30-06.

Although the '03 Springfield was "standard" US Army issue for over 30 years, when the United States jumped into World War I in April 1917, not enough of them were in service. The huge arms making firms of Winchester and Remington plus a subsidiary of the latter company named Eddystone had been making Pattern 1914 rifles for Britain. That design was easily converted to take .30-06 and became the Model 1917. In only about a 2-year manufacturing period those three factories made over 2.2 million M1917s. So Model 1903s and Model 1917s served side by side in US Army infantry service in WWI and again to a lesser degree in World War II.

The '03 had a 24" barrel and weighed 8-1/2 pounds while the '17s had 26" barrels and weighed 9-1/2

pounds. Both were fed cartridges by means of 5-round stripper clips, but a little known fact is the British-designed rifle's magazine could actually hold six rounds. The two '06 chambered infantry rifles also differed greatly in their sights. The '03 had a barrel-mounted open sight, fully adjustable for windage and elevation, whereas '17s had a peep sight which could be moved for elevation but not for windage. US Army ordnance officers must have recognized the benefits of the peep sight because no American infantry rifle was ever designed with open sights after the Model 1917.

In fact, early in WWII when the US Army was again desperate for infantry rifles they allowed Remington to convert from making standard Model 1903s to a version named Model 1903A3. One of the primary changes between the two was the incorporation of a peep sight on the revised model.

I own a wide array of Models



The M1 Garand was designed to eject its en-bloc loader (top of picture) automatically when the eighth round was fired.

1903, 1903A3, and 1917 and have fired thousands of .30-06s from them at ranges from 100 to 1,100 yards. The level of precision of which good condition samples are capable amazes me. If I could only have one of the three models however, it would be the '03A3 version solely because my eyes can still use its fully-adjustable peep sight.

### The Garand

Something else recognized by US Army ordnance officers after WWI was the potential of a semi-auto infantry rifle. In the early 1920s, the Springfield Armory hired a Canadian-born arms designer named John C. Garand to begin developmental work on one with its cartridge to be an experimental .276 cartridge. Garand's new rifle was almost ready when US Army Chief of Staff Douglas MacArthur decreed the coming semi-auto had to be chambered for .30-06. That delayed the new rifle by several years.

When officially adopted in 1936 it was given the name of M1, but was also often just called the Garand after its chief designer. With a barrel length of 24", M1s weighed 10 pounds. They were fed by means of a unique 8-round en-bloc loader, often referred to as a clip. The en-bloc loader automatically ejected when the eighth cartridge was fired and the bolt stayed open for reloading.

The Garand served for over 20 years as America's standard infantry rifle. Because only about 50,000 had been made by 1940 and the United States' involvement in the ongoing European war was inevitable, the government contracted with Winchester that year to also make M1s. Between the two facilities over 4,000,000 were made,

## Cartridge Loading Evolution

"Trapdoors" (1) got their unique name by the way the hinged breechblock opened for loading. This one is a single-shot Model 1873 .45 Government with a copper-cased round in the trough. The "Krag" rifles (2) adopted by the US Army used a box magazine that loaded with loose cartridges on the right side of the action, but the cartridges were pushed under the receiver and fed into the chamber from the left side when the box was closed. After the Spanish-American War, the US Army realized the Mauser system using a 5-round stripper clip was faster and better at loading bolt actions than their Krags, leading to the development and adoption of the "Springfield" (3). This one is a World War II revision, called the Model 1903A3. The US Army then adopted the semi-auto M1 Garand in 1936. It was fed by means of an 8-round en-bloc loader, which was expelled when the last shot was fired (4). The next rifle, the M14, used a 20-round detachable box magazine, which could also be loaded by 5-round stripper clips.

GUNS



# 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.

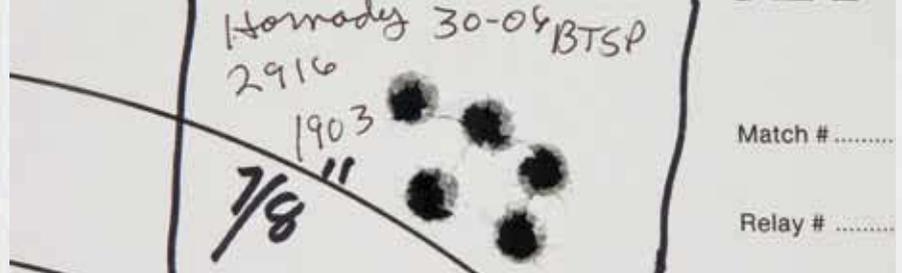
Leading U.S. Manufacturer of Scope Mounts Since 1967

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

Weaver® is a trademark of the ATK Co.

ATION

## BORE RIFLE TARGET



with Springfield Armory making about seven for every one produced by Winchester. In the 1950s, the government also contracted with Harrington & Richardson and International Harvester to make more Garands.

### M14

Even while the M1 Garand was making a fine name for itself in combat, people back at the US Army's Ordnance Department felt it could be improved. They wanted it to have capacity for more ammunition, which was accomplished by adapting it to accept 20-round detachable box magazines. Also, improvements in smokeless propellants allowed the .30-06's ballistics to be duplicated in a .30-caliber cartridge a 1/2" shorter. That one was adopted as the 7.62x51mm NATO and came to civilians as the .308 Winchester. Also, someone in the US Army Ordnance Department got the bright idea that the remodeled Garand should have full-auto capability.

By 1957 the new rifle, named the M14 was in production. Along

*The Model 1903 "Springfield" has a reputation for accuracy that Duke feels it deserves as shown by this group he fired with one (above). Such groups are not unusual. Duke's reason for preferring the Model 1903A3 over a standard Model 1903 is that the former model comes with a peep rear sight (below).*



with Springfield Armory, they were made by Winchester, Harrington & Richardson and an outfit never before involved in gunmaking named TRW (Thompson, Ramo, Wooldridge, Inc.). As introduced and commonly issued, M14s had 22" barrels and weighed 8.33 pounds unloaded. M14s became the shortest serving US infantry rifle. All production of them was ordered stopped as early as 1963 but it's an interesting fact that many US Army units seeing 21st century combat in Iraq and Afghanistan have clamored for, and to a limited extent, gotten their return.

My infantry rifle collection contains both Springfield Armory and Winchester M1 Garands. Their reliability is impressive and while the level of shooting precision they deliver does not equal the older .30-06 bolt actions, it was nevertheless more than needed for their combat role. As for the M14, I have fired them both as semi-auto and full-auto. With the latter version, hitting anything after shot number one is nigh on impossible. In semi-auto they are easily the equal of Garands.

After the M14's demise there has never been another wood and steel US infantry rifle. There never will be. **GUNS**



*When adopted by the US Army, some soldiers complained about the M1 Garand's poor accuracy. As-issued specimens were not capable of the precision of as-issued Springfields but certainly good enough for combat in World War II. This group was fired with Duke's Winchester M1 with Federal's new factory load intended specifically for Garands.*



The Team Match II™ is chambered in both .45 ACP & 9mm. Slide & frame are machined from stainless steel to exacting dimensions.



Team Match II pistols feature an adjustable sight with positive steel-on-steel clicks for match-winning accuracy, ambidextrous thumb safety & Premium Aluminum Trigger™ that breaks clean at 4-5 pounds.



USA Shooting Team logo grips, 30 lines-per-inch front strap checkering, beavertail grip safety & extended magazine well have a striking appearance and speed operation.

# Heavy Medal

**Kimber. The Choice of the USA Shooting Team.**

The USA Shooting Pistol Team trains for Olympic and international competitions at action matches, going head-to-head against the world's fastest guns. They shoot a Kimber® Team Match II. A match grade barrel, chamber and trigger ensure accuracy, and dependability is guaranteed by machining the finest materials to unequalled tolerances. Equally important, all work is done in Kimber's American factory. The same Team Match II is available to the public, and \$100 from each sale goes to the Team. Get one, and shoot the gold standard.

THE CHOICE OF AMERICA'S BEST

[kimberamerica.com](http://kimberamerica.com)



©2011 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

# VARMINT LEVERAGE

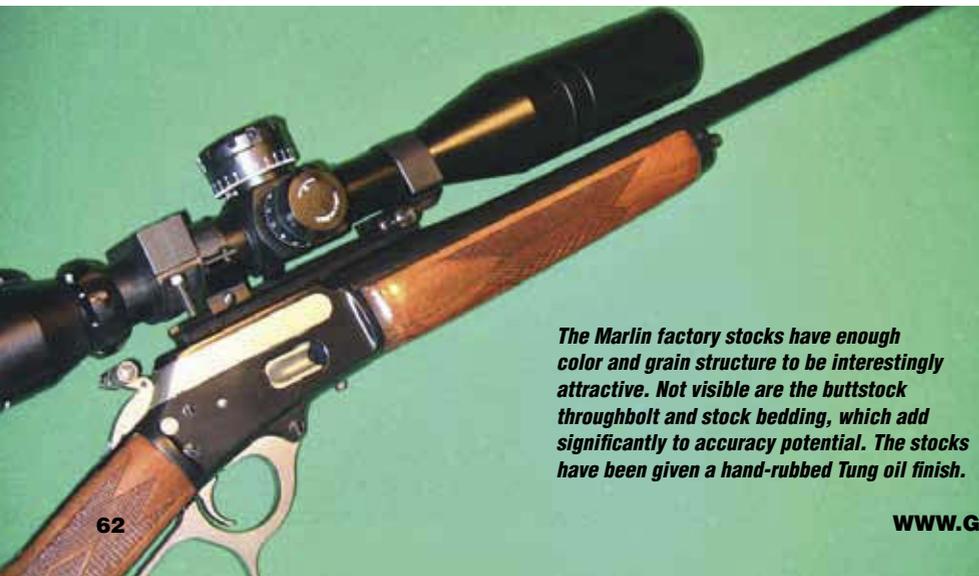
**THIS CUSTOM MARLIN 1894 SHOOTS AS PRECISELY AS A BOLT-ACTION OR SINGLE-SHOT RIFLE.**



*This 1894 has unusual and striking lines. The juxtaposition of RoBar NP3 and RoGuard is conspicuous. RoBar's finishes provide maximum protection and functionality.*



*At the end of the butt magazine (4-round capacity) is a sling stud. A conventional stud placement at the bottom of the forearm cap tends to interfere when shooting from a bench. The barrel marking was a customer specification. Close inspection reveals a flattened bottom on the forearm. This eases task of benchresting this rifle.*



*The Marlin factory stocks have enough color and grain structure to be interestingly attractive. Not visible are the buttstock throughbolt and stock bedding, which add significantly to accuracy potential. The stocks have been given a hand-rubbed Tung oil finish.*

## M.L. McPherson

**I**t is possible to modify the 1894 Marlin to safely handle either the .17 Fireball or the .17/23 SMc (a significantly improved version of the .17 Fireball). And it is possible create a perfectly useful varminting rifle by doing so.

Many folks would argue, perhaps correctly, that converting a Marlin lever action to work with a modern varmint cartridge is an interesting but useless exercise; so, I should explain why I bothered. I can do that in one sentence: I did this to prove, once and for all, that traditional lever-action rifles can be accurate enough for almost any use.

I have read so many ravings to the contrary and such claims, while widespread, are in direct contradiction to my experience with these rifles—I

## MARLIN 1894

**CUSTOM REBUILDER:** ML MCPHERSON  
10725 RD. 24.4 LOOP  
CORTEZ, CO 81321  
(970) 564-0500  
[WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/ML-MCPHERSON](http://WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/ML-MCPHERSON)

### **ACTION TYPE:**

Lever

### **CHAMBERING:**

.17/23 SMc

### **CAPACITY:**

4+1

### **TRIGGER LET-OFF:**

1-1/8 pound

### **BARREL LENGTH:**

23-5/8"

### **MUZZLEBRAKE:**

Custom LAW (Lightweight Air Working)

### **OVERALL LENGTH:**

40-5/8", 43-3/4" (with muzzlebrake)

### **WEIGHT:**

7-1/2 pounds

### **FINISH:**

RoBar NP3 and RoGuard

### **SIGHTS:**

None

### **STOCK:**

Walnut, Tung oil finish  
(buttstock throughbolt and bedding)

### **PRICE:**

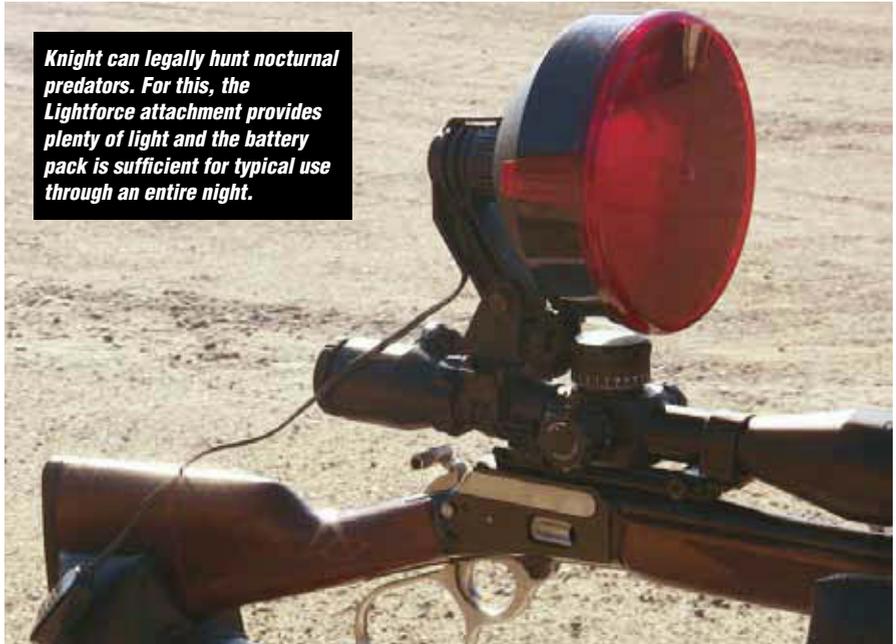
\$6,500



**Tom Knight, proud owner of this custom rifle, gathering more data while getting more practice. Note reversing the front rest makes room to work the fingerlever without lifting the gun. Still, lever-action rifles are difficult to bench test. Also note the custom front sling stud does not interfere with the front rest. When shooting, Knight does his best to interact with the gun identically for each shot. He is careful to keep the gun positioned the same way each time on the bags and to use the same amount of grip pressure and cheekweld pressure. These details are critical—small variations open groups, while large variation results in fliers.**

have fired the better part of 1,000 target groups while bench testing hundreds of loads using more than 30 Marlin rifles in various chamberings.

While working up loads for a .17/23-chambered Savage M-12 it occurred to me those rounds were shorter than some cartridges I had



**Knight can legally hunt nocturnal predators. For this, the Lightforce attachment provides plenty of light and the battery pack is sufficient for typical use through an entire night.**



**This cross-sectional sketch of the magazine tube, custom follower, and .17/23 S&W rounds shows how the rounds lay in the magazine so the bullet tip can't rest centered on the primer. With essentially zero recoil this is not much of a concern anyway (the custom follower was necessary to facilitate first-round loading).**

## Improving Accuracy and Reducing Felt Recoil.

### Think about ITT.

ITT Enidine, a market leader in hydraulic energy absorbers for the defense and aerospace markets, manufactures hydraulic recoil buffers currently employed in US and NATO forces weapons. These recoil buffers have a proven history of performance benefits to the police officer, such as improved accuracy and target acquisition, recoil reduction, and lower firing rates.

#### Features and Benefits:

- Improve Accuracy & Target Acquisition
- Control Firing Rate
- Conserve Ammunition
- Improve Weapon Reliability
- Easy Stock Buffer Replacement
- Reduce Felt Recoil
- Available for .308 caliber, AR15 style rifles and Various Shotgun Applications

To find out more go to [www.enidine-defense.com](http://www.enidine-defense.com) or call us at: 1-800-852-8508



ITT, the ITT logo, Enidine, and Engineered for life are registered trademarks of ITT Manufacturing Enterprises, Inc. ©2013, ITT Corporation

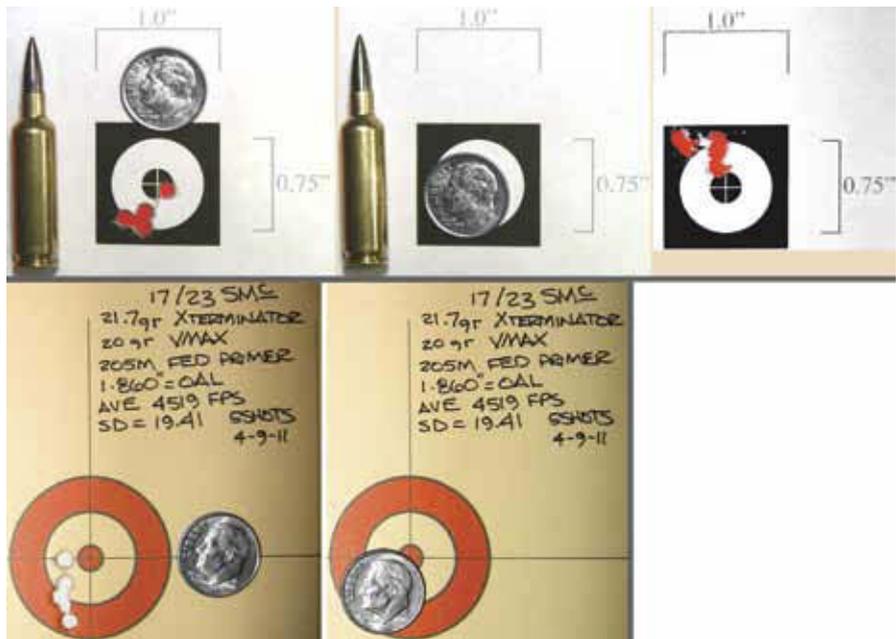
used in various modified Marlins (altered to function with cartridges longer than standard for the action).

I did a quick mental calculation and realized that maximum feasible loads in the .17/23 case would not generate as much bolt thrust as typical full-power .44 Magnum loads generate. Also, chambering a Marlin barrel for the .17/23 will leave enough chamber-wall thickness for the barrel to easily support any safe load.

I have now built two such Marlin varminters. The one I built for Tom Knight will be the focus of the remainder of this article.

The .17/23 uses P.O. Ackley case taper and an elliptical shoulder, as described in parametric patents held by Superior Ballistics Inc. (in which I am a partner). SMC design purpose is to provide maximum performance and barrel life with minimum barrel heating and felt recoil. We have proven the significant benefits of SMC designs through laboratory testing. In this instance, we have designed a cartridge that, when chambered in a bolt-action rifle will essentially duplicate .17 Remington performance using a much shorter version of the same basic case.

So far, Knight's best lever-action loads launch 20-grain bullets at



*Five shots (top group, left and middle), at 100-yards using 20 grains of IMR 8208XBR, Federal 205 primers, 20-grain Hornady V-Max at 4,260 fps gave a group size, on-centers of .42". Another 100-yard group (top right) using 20 grains of H322, Federal 205, 20-grain Hornady V-Max at 4,408 fps measured .38". This too-hot load (bottom) generated classic vertical stringing. Of four 5-shot groups, two others were very similar to this one. Knight intends to try 21.4 grains with the bullet seated at various overall lengths, to see if he can find the accuracy sweet spot for this combination.*

about 4,500 fps and 25-grain bullets at about 4,000 fps (I expect to see a faster accurate load for this bullet as

testing continues). He has already demonstrated surprising accuracy. When Knight, a novice at the

## Kahr's Most Popular 3" Barrel 9mm Model is Now Available in a Value Priced Package featuring Kahr's seven patents

Kahr Arms is pleased to kick off their newest series of Kahr pistols - the CM series. The new line begins with the Kahr CM9093 which is based on Kahr's most popular 3" barrel 9mm model the PM9093.

The CM9 slide is only .90 inch wide and machined from solid 416 stainless steel with a matte finish, each gun is shipped with one 6 rd stainless steel magazine with a flush baseplate. Magazines are USA made, plasma welded, tumbled to remove burrs and feature Wolff Gunsprings. The magazine catch in the polymer frame is all metal and will not wear out on the stainless steel magazine after extended use.

Kahr offers the CM series at a great value price but did not compromise on the features, accuracy or reliability found in all Kahr pistols.

**100% made in America!!**  
American Owned • American Operated • American Made



Factory: 130 Goddard Memorial Drive, Worcester, MA 01603  
Sales & Service: 508-795-3919 / Fax: 508-795-7046  
Web Address: www.kahr.com



Model: CM9093  
MSRP: \$565.00



7 rd. Extended magazine optional

Made in the U.S.A.

## .17/23 SMC HANDLOADED AMMO PERFORMANCE

POWDER (BRAND)	CHARGE (GRAINS WEIGHT)	VELOCITY (INCHES)	S.D. (FPS)	GROUP SIZE (FPS)	COMMENTS (INCHES)
<b>BULLET: HORNADY .17 V-MAX 20 GRAIN, MOLY COATED</b>					
H322	20.0	4,382	15	3/8	Easy extraction
X-Terminator	20.0	4,208	22	1	Very mild
X-Terminator	21.7	4,519	19	3/8	Too Hot!: 21.4 Maximum!
IMR8208XBR	20.0	4,233	17	3/8	Mild
<b>BULLET: HORNADY .17 V-MAX 25 GRAIN, MOLY COATED</b>					
H322	19.0	3,969	27	1-1/2	Near Maximum
IMR8208XBR	18.5	3,792	22	1-1/2	Too light
IMR8208XBR	19.0	3,907	16	3/8	Best groups to date
IMR8208XBR	19.2	3,924	11	3/4	Low SD suggests further testing
IMR8208XBR	19.5	3,950	23	1	Near maximum
IMR8208XBR	20.0	4,162	18	1	Very sticky extraction

Notes: Chronograph screens set 12' from the muzzle. S.D. = Standard Deviation. Overall cartridge length with both bullets: 1.86". All groups fired at 100 yards.

shooting bench, does his job he can place five shots into a group a dime will completely cover and often most of the holes are in one tiny cluster!

While many propellants should work very well in the .17/23, to date, I have only tested H322. Knight has tested X-Terminator, H322 and IMR 8208XBR. Knight intends to do further load development testing with various other bullets (particularly the Berger 25-grain Match HP), propellants and primers. I expect he will find greater accuracy before he is through.

Modifications to the gun included almost every piece from buttstock to muzzle. Some for functionality, some to allow use of longer cartridges, some to increase strength, some to improve accuracy potential, and some to improve functionality and usefulness. While feasible, this conversion is time consuming. I could have chambered three Savage bolt-action rifles to .17/23 far faster.

So, was it worth it? Most assuredly, yes. This rifle proves, beyond any reasonable doubt, that a traditional lever action can be accurate enough



**Fast shooters have chronographed any load at such a velocity; fewer still have seen anything similar when shooting a lever-action rifle. Yet, this is far from the fastest usable and accurate load that Knight has tested. The average chronograph reading for his second fastest accuracy load with the 20-grain V-Max is 4,382 fps and his top load is near 4,500 fps!**

## 4-14X50 30MM ILLUMINATED

MAKER: VALDADA OPTICS  
P.O. BOX 270095, LITTLETON, CO 80127  
(303) 979-4578  
WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/VALDADA

### MAGNIFICATION:

4X-14X

### OBJECTIVE LENS:

50mm

### EYE RELIEF:

3.75"

### INTERNAL ADJUSTMENT:

80 MOA elevation & windage

### CLICK VALUE:

1/4 MOA

### TUBE:

30mm

### LENGTH:

15"

### WEIGHT:

24 ounces

### RETICLE:

4A Dot Reticle

### PRICE:

\$1,175

for practically any application outside the benchrest game. Tom Knight has a unique rifle that will serve him well for a lifetime of varmint hunting and a great deal of informal target shooting. He refers to this gun as, "A family heirloom," which pleases me greatly.

Cost of such a conversion is rather steep—not for the fainthearted. But, if you simply must have something different, it can be done (refer to levergun.com for information on custom Marlin conversions.)

GUNS

### LAW MUZZLEBRAKE

JOHN HELLER

28706 REDFIELD RD., NILES, MI 49120  
(269) 663-2928

### LIGHTFORCE USA

1040 HAZEN LN., OROFINO, ID 83544  
(877) 510-9204

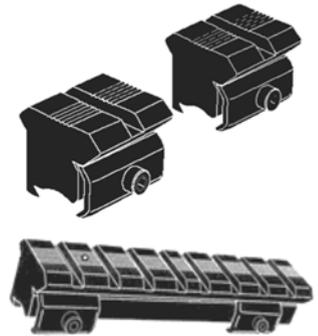
WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/LIGHTFORCE

# 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](http://www.kwiksitecorp.com)

# The 2011 Christmas Gift Guide

*Better than fighting the mob at the malls!*

John Connor

**W**hat? Lotsa' names on your Christmas gift list, and the only suggestions you've scribbled are "some kinda gift cards" or "cash"? You can do better than that, 'specially with GUNS on your side! We've done the bird-doggin' for you, so just sit back, scroll down this lineup of winners, and you'll find one or two—or 10—perfect matches for the pickiest of your pals! Happy hunting!



Let's take care of the most important giftee on your list first, OK? If your best huntin' buddy's *second favorite* "personal scent" is burnt gunpowder or Hoppe's No. 9, you'll want to keep her dry and toasty in rugged, technically superior all-weather garments from Prois Hunting & Field Apparel for Women. If she's the best, she deserves to wear the best, right? This outfit is from their Xtreme Series; waterproof, breathable, full-featured and lined with ULTRA Thinsulate.

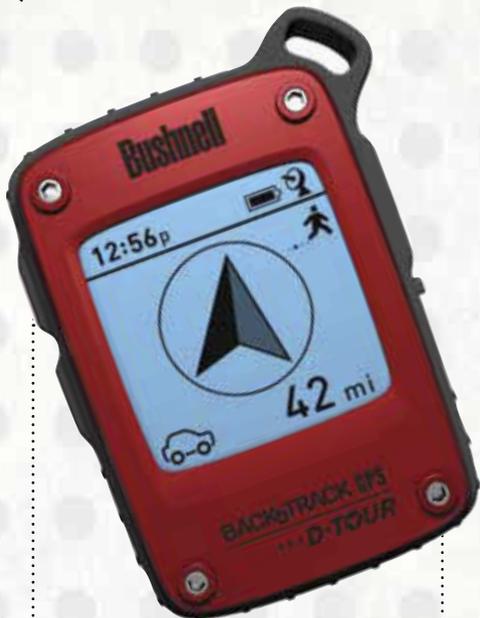
**Prois Hunting Clothing: cut for ladies, built for the field.**



**CRKT's SHAKAULU is a great multi-mission outdoor cutter.**

Noted knife designer Ken Onion combined the best utilitarian features of the traditional Alaskan ulu knife and the handiness of a small hatchet in his SHAKAULU made by CRKT. This puppy does it all, from light bushwhacking to skinning and dressing game to just about every camp-kitchen chore, and does them with efficiency and style. Even the secure-locking sheath is a new and innovative design. The SHAKAULU is a guaranteed pleaser!

# Christmas

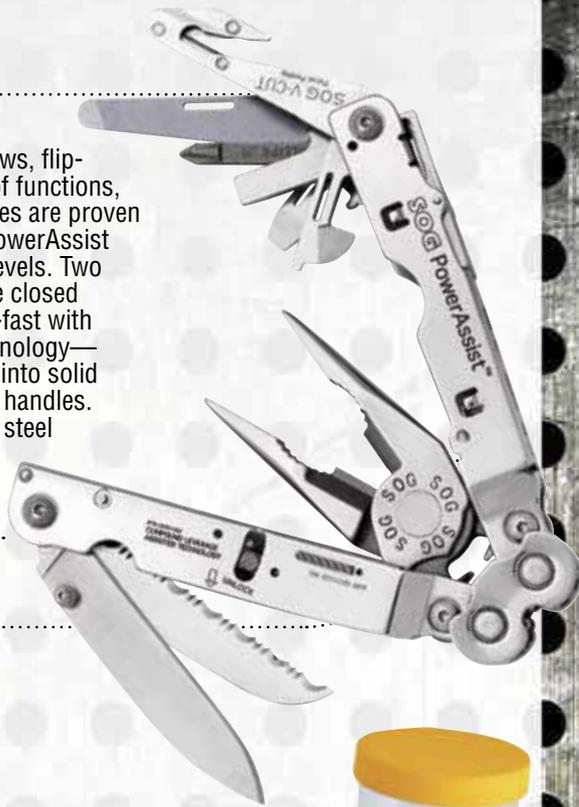


**Bushnell's BackTrack D-TOUR device is "GPS made easy!"**

The latest version of Bushnell's award-winning BackTrack GPS device is the D-TOUR, a handy and potentially life-saving instrument. The D-TOUR provides multiple precise locations with return directionals and distances plus latitude, longitude, digital compass, time, temperature, altitude, and even length of trip and average speed! Then users can download that data and overlay it on digital topographic maps—and it's still easy to learn and use!

With their powerful compound-leverage jaws, flip-open frames and an array of functions, the multi tools of SOG Knives are proven performers, and the new PowerAssist takes the platform to new levels. Two blades, deployable from the closed position, leap out lightning-fast with S.A.T.—SOG Assisted Technology—and 15 useful tools all lock into solid working positions from the handles. Smooth, polished stainless steel construction makes for a long service life—and a stunning look as a gift!

**The PowerAssist by SOG—a toolbox on your belt.**



Your rabid reloading giftee will love the iSD Automatic Powder Dispenser from SmartReloader USA. Accurate to .01 grains with a max scale capacity of 1,500 grains, it has a big, visible display and stores up to 50 records of favorite loads. Easy and fast to set up, it runs on either 110V or 220V.

**The iSD Automatic Powder Dispenser by SmartReloader USA.**



Paul Scheiter is a young man with primitive wilderness skills way beyond his years, and he put all that hard-earned knowledge into designing the ultimate all-around outdoorsman's knife, his Blackbird SK-5. Rendered in 154CM steel and canvas micarta by Ontario Knife Company, it may look plain-Jane generic, but every angle, curve and dimension is purpose-engineered for practical function and ergonomics. OKC provides a nice cordura sheath with it, but to really ramp it up, get Paul's superbly built custom leather sheath from Hedgehog Leatherworks.

**The Blackbird SK-5 knife—a great gift for any outdoorsman.**



**Two versions of a light, handy "everyman's knife" from Mantis Knives.**

Jared West, the mad wizard of—Mantis Knives—has created a pair of the lightest, most comfortably carried and versatile little fixed-blades ever: The black-bladed model is the TA-2 Seymour, with a 420HC blade, and its bright brother is the TA-2CM Principal, crafted of 154CM. Both are 7" long with 3" blades, and handle scales of high performance ZR-rated tire rubber, very grippy without being tacky. Their sheaths invite comfy carry, and you're gonna like the prices too!



**Three unique Zippo lighters by Wicked Zippos.**

Wicked Zippos takes extra-thick, solid brass "Armor" Zippo lighters and flame-treats, acid-etches and adorns them with symbols like cartridge heads, waterfowl, and our own *GUNS Magazine* logo! The NRA Zippo at left is currently available only from the NRA Museum (see ordering info), and other cool designs await at Wicked Zippo Studios. Not just gifts, they're heirlooms!

The Original Candle Lantern made by UCO of Redmond, Washington, has lit and warmed the tents and cabins of generations of hikers and hunters—and now, their 4-candle Candlelier makes outdoor nights brighter and warmer! The Candlelier can be loaded with UCO's 9-hour regular candles, insect-repelling citronella, or 12-hour, honey-scented beeswax candles. Attractive and efficient, it makes a great gift. Check out UCO's Stormproof Match Kit too—a terrific stocking-stuffer!



**UCO Gear's Candlelier and Stormproof Match Kit.**



**Chatellier's Rare Game Sauce enhances hunters' kitchens.**

To taste duck, grouse, elk or venison graced with Chatellier's Rare Game Sauce, you'd never believe that old hunter John Chatellier developed it to overcome the unpleasant taste of broadbills, which had been feeding on shellfish in salt water. It's hard to describe, rich and light, spicy and sweet, and it's been served at the finest hunt clubs and game restaurants since 1977. Stores from Holland & Holland in New York City to Schnee's in Bozeman, Mont., sell it to a faithful following—or, you can buy it direct online. Try it with barbecued sausage that's 1/3 sweet Italian to 2/3 venison—terrific!



**Three terrific stocking-stuffers: The Mantis Bottleneck, Streamlight PolyTac 90, and CRKT's Flux Pick & Click Tool System.**

And now, three neat little stocking-stuffers: The keychain-sized BK-2b Bottleneck by Mantis Knives offers a 50-state legal butterfly knife and a bottle opener essential "Saturday Survival Tools." Streamlight's compact, powerful PolyTac 90 delivers high, low and strobe modes of 170 lumens for LED light anywhere you need it. CRKT's Flux Pick & Click Tool System holds two modules of your choice on its sliding, locking double-ended carabiner rail, the two shown being a locking folding knife on one side and a screwdriver/hex driver with integral mini-LED flashlight on the other.

With images taken from the "subversive propaganda" posted by our forefathers in the Sons of Liberty movement after the Boston Massacre of 1770, our pal Brady Miller's caps and Ts remind us that in some circles, the concepts of freedom and self-determination are considered just as subversive today.

Make a statement *and* enjoy their quality and comfort! Now start stuffin' those stockings! Merry Christmas! Connor *OUT*



**Sons of Liberty caps and Ts carry a message from 1770 into a new millennium.**

BUSHNELL CORPORATION  
9200 CODY, OVERLAND PARK, KS 66214  
(800) 423-3537  
[WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/BUSHNELL](http://WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/BUSHNELL)

COLUMBIA RIVER KNIFE & TOOL  
18348 S.W. 126TH PL., TUALATIN, OR 97062  
(800) 891-3100  
[WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/CRKT](http://WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/CRKT)

CHATELLIER'S RARE GAME SAUCE  
OL' RUFF VENTURES, INC.  
10 STATE ST., NEWBURYPORT, MA 01950  
(978) 394-8100  
[WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/WILDGAMESAUCE](http://WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/WILDGAMESAUCE)

HEDGEHOG LEATHERWORKS LLC  
333 LEFFINGWELL AVE., STE. 121, ST. LOUIS, MO 63122  
(877) 275-4459  
[WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/HEDGEHOG-LEATHERWORKS](http://WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/HEDGEHOG-LEATHERWORKS)

PROIS HUNTING CLOTHING  
28001 B W. HWY 50, GUNNISON, CO 81230  
(970) 641-3355  
[WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/PROIS](http://WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/PROIS)

SONS OF LIBERTY  
2716 N. OGDEN RD., STE. 103, MESA, AZ 85215  
(480) 985-2848  
[WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/SONS-OF-LIBERTY](http://WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/SONS-OF-LIBERTY)

SMARTRELOADER MFG.  
HELVETICA TRADING USA, LLC  
701 LAWTON RD., CHARLOTTE, NC 28216  
(800) 954-2689  
[WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/SMART-RELOADER-MFG](http://WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/SMART-RELOADER-MFG)

UCO GEAR  
INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION, INC.  
9225 151ST AVE. N.E., REDMOND, WA 98052  
(888) 297-6062  
[WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/UCO-GEAR](http://WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/UCO-GEAR)

WICKED ZIPPO STUDIOS  
2710 DUBLIN CT., CARY, IL 60013  
(847) 287-8587  
[WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/ZIPPO](http://WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/ZIPPO)

TO ORDER NRA 1911 .45 AUTO ZIPPOS CONTACT:  
BENJAMIN VAN SCOYOC  
NATIONAL FIREARMS MUSEUM STORE MANAGER  
11250 WAPLES MILL RD., FAIRFAX, VA 22030  
(703) 267-1614  
[BVANSCOYOC@NRAHQ.ORG](mailto:BVANSCOYOC@NRAHQ.ORG)

MANTIS KNIVES  
1580 N. HARMONY CIR., ANAHEIM CA 92807  
(714) 701-9136  
[WWW.GUNAMAGAZINE.COM/MANTIS-KNIVES](http://WWW.GUNAMAGAZINE.COM/MANTIS-KNIVES)

SOG SPECIALTY KNIVES & TOOLS, LLC  
6521 212TH ST. S.W., LYNNWOOD, WA 98036  
(888) 405-6433  
[WWW.GUNAMAGAZINE.COM/SOG-KNIVES](http://WWW.GUNAMAGAZINE.COM/SOG-KNIVES)

STREAMLIGHT  
30 EAGLEVILLE RD., EAGLEVILLE, PA 19403  
(800) 523-7488  
[WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/STREAMLIGHT](http://WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/STREAMLIGHT)

# REST ASSURED

Guns	Coin
Heirlooms	Card
Cameras	Collections
Photos	Sentimentals
Inventory	Investments
Legal Paper	Safe from
Records	Fire and
Jewelry	Theft



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"

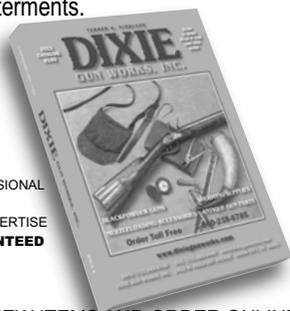
[www.FtKnox.com](http://www.FtKnox.com)

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](http://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](mailto:info@dixiegunworks.com)

# KNIVES

• PAT COVERT •

## A 2-RUN HOMER! Lone Wolf's Trask and Swale go beyond the call of duty.

**W**hen Benchmade acquired highly respected Lone Wolf Knives in October 2010, many, including myself, breathed a sigh of relief. Lone Wolf did a great job resurrecting and expanding on the legendary Paul (Paul W. Poehlmann) designs and built a solid reputation for quality over the years. If their latest duo—the Trask and Swale—are any indication, the Lone Wolf brand is in excellent hands.

The Trask and Swale are liner-lock folders, which share a common handle design. The larger Trask is 7.87" overall with 3.4" blade, and the Swale checks in at 6.95" with a 2.92" blade. There are subtle differences in the blades in that the Trask has an upsweep in its clip-point design while the Swale has a more traditional, gently sloped clip style. The blades are made of excellent N680 stainless steel (manufactured by Bohler Uddeholm of Austria) with a satin finish. The grooved Olive-



**Benchmade hit a home run with the Trask and Swale. This is a pair of knives that will please hunters and tactical users alike.**

wood handles are nothing short of handsome and offer superb grip. The top shelf fit and finish are everything you'd expect from Lone Wolf.

Lone Wolf markets the Trask and Swale as knives for the outdoorsman and, without a doubt, both blade designs are excellent for both skinning game and performing light to medium field chores. Where I part paths with the company is I think both knives can just as easily serve as dress tactical folders. There's no reason either wouldn't make for a highly-functional, everyday carry knife with style to boot. Better yet, whether you choose to use the Trask or Swale as a folding hunter or personal carry, the price is extremely right. The Trask has a suggested retail of \$100, the Swale \$90. That's a great price for such finery, and deserving of a close look on your next knife purchase.

**GUNS**

### TRASK AND SWALE

**MAKER:** LONE WOLF KNIVES  
 300 BEAVERCREEK RD.  
 OREGON CITY, OR 97045  
 (503) 431-6777  
[WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/LONE-WOLF](http://WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/LONE-WOLF)

**BLADE MATERIAL:**

N680 stainless steel

**BLADE LENGTH:**

3.40" (Trask), 2.92" (Swale)

**OVERALL LENGTH:**

7.87" (Trask), 6.95" (Swale)

**WEIGHT:**

4.4 ounces (Trask),

3.8 ounces (Swale)

**HANDLE:**

Grooved Olive Wood

**CARRY:**

Pocket clip

**PRICE:**

\$100 (Trask), \$90 (Swale)

# Santa's Last\* MAUSERS

## Ready for Christmas

### At These Last Low Prices

Plus - **FREE** -  
Original Accessories  
Worth \$100's of Dollars  
with each rifle.

**Perfect Gifts**  
for the Man Who  
Has Everything!

*Original*

**1. The Original Mauser K98k from WWII Germany.** Every Collector wants this Famous Mauser, because it was made in WWII Germany with the Original NAZI Markings. It oozes History! Factory overhauled, and preserved in military storage. Copied by every major rifle maker since, but Never Beaten!

Souvenir Grade K98k Mauser \$399  
Collector Grade K98k Mauser \$499

**2. M48 Mauser Rifle.** The most modern of all the military Mauser 98 Karbines, this FN pattern Mauser was built in Serbia in peace time using superior materials after the Germans

had been driven out. Very few remain.  
M48 Collector Grade Mauser \$399

**3. M2447 Mauser.** This 1924 FN pattern Mauser 98 Karbine was made in Serbia before WWII in both infantry and cavalry versions,

and then captured new by the Blitzkrieg in 1941. Never used. Standardized at the factory for infantry use in 1947. These rifles are still in Military New Condition. **Best Mauser Value** available today.

M2447 Collector Grade Mauser \$299

### Best Mausers! Best Selection! Best Support!

Our Mausers and our business have passed inspections by every major firearms publisher, like Rifleman, Guns & Ammo, Guns Magazine, etc; by the Better Business Bureau; by the ATF; and by the toughest judges of all . . . **Tens of Thousands of Happy Customers.**

Here's what *They* say:

I love it. It shoots like a dream and is highly accurate. I would recommend that everyone buy one.  
- Dan in Pittsburg, PA

Just a short note to tell you how impressed I am with the quality of the rifle I received. It is one of the best C&R group rifles in my collection.

- Dwight in McKinney, TX

Received the Mauser today. It's beautiful. Thanks for all your help. Pleasure doing business with you . . .

- Warren in Metairie, LA

You can Purchase with Confidence!  
Our products are what we say they are.

**Your Satisfaction is Guaranteed!**

### All of our Mauser Rifles are:

- Ideal for Collecting, Shooting, and Preserving 20<sup>th</sup> Century History.
- Purebred Original Mauser 98 system rifles with Mauser Accuracy, Reliability, Strength and Safety.
- Thoroughly Inspected and Graded. They are in beautiful condition - cleaned and ready to enjoy, with bright bores, solid stocks and dark-blue metal.
- Packed in American Packaging with American Manuals and Certification.
- Backed by our comprehensive, Money-back Satisfaction Guarantee.

**But . . . We Are Unable to Hold These Prices Much Longer!**

Call Us at **800-274-4124**

Ask about the Layaway Plan.

Some other grades and models also available, including Snipers, Lugers, Walthers, PP550's, Black Lightnings, etc.

**Mitchell's Mausers**

P.O. Box 9295, Fountain Valley, CA 92728 714-596-1013  
Fax 714-848-7208 www.Mauser.net

\* **Last Mausers:** For over a year now, no more good Original German Mausers have been found in Europe. Only a few remain in our warehouse here. There are no more! Prices Will Rise, again!

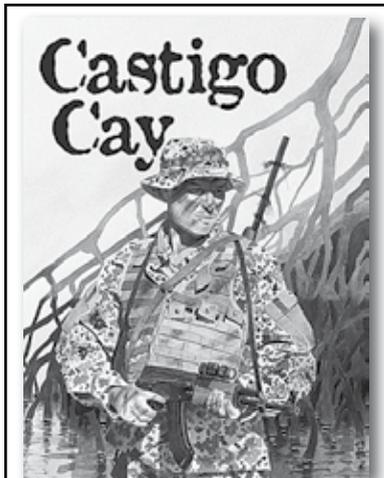
The Average Price (of all grades) of German Mausers increases more and more every year.



At Christmas '09 we warned that prices would soon rise - and They Did! Thousands of Happy Customers beat that price increase.

Now we are warning again, Prices will take a **BIG Jump** - most likely more than ever before!

**Don't Miss Out! Call Us Now!**



**A new novel by Matt Bracken, author of the "Enemies" trilogy.**

Former Marine sniper Dan Kilmer lives outside a corrupt, third-world America, until a short-fuse rescue mission forces him to return to Florida under the official radar.

**Available at Amazon and on Kindle.**

To read 100 pages of *Castigo Cay* or to order signed copies, go to:

[www.EnemiesForeignAndDomestic.com](http://www.EnemiesForeignAndDomestic.com)

**KIRKPATRICK**  
LEATHER COMPANY

**Save \$20 on a TSS Combo**

Sale Ends 01/01/2012



Retail \$170.00  
Combo Price \$150.00  
Plus S&H

**Christmas Special**

Order a TSS holster for a 1911, a matching belt and a matching double mag pouch and receive \$20.00 off of your order.

(956) 723-6893

[www.kirkpatrickleather.com](http://www.kirkpatrickleather.com)  
1910 San Bernardo, Laredo, TX 78040

**GUNS**  
MAGAZINE  
**ONLINE!**  
[WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM](http://WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM)

# GUNS VNR

VIEWS • NEWS • REVIEWS

**RIGHTS WATCH**

DAVID CODREA

## Norway Massacre Justifies Disarmament?

A maniac disguised as a policeman went on a bombing and shooting spree in Norway, unopposed by responding law enforcement for a full 90 minutes. At this writing, eight people were killed by a car bomb explosion in Oslo, and less than 2 hours later, 69 people were shot and killed at a youth camp on Utoya Island. Per *Radar Online*, it was "the deadliest attack by a single gunman in history."

As expected, the anti-gunners went into full blood-dance mode.

The Brady Campaign used the situation to accuse US-recognized firearms freedoms of being responsible for more carnage—citing several examples of mass shootings, albeit not mentioning the ones he cited to make their case—Columbine, Virginia Tech, Fort Hood—all took place in "gun free zones," where the edicts they demand were in full force.

New Brady poster boy Colin Goddard, who was helpless during the Virginia Tech murders and now endorses laws to impose defenselessness on the rest of us, expressed outrage. "I was soon infuriated," he pouted, "by the gun fanatics in America who immediately used this massacre to assert that strong gun laws, like Norway's, don't work."

Well, they don't. Sorry if reality offends you, pal.

Not to be outdone, Rep. Carolyn McCarthy issued a statement actually blaming the Norway shootings on "lax US gun laws." If only, she asserts, we would pass her standard-capacity magazine ban into law (what the antis call "assault clips" as a convenient sound bite to elicit a fear response from the

ignorant), foreign terrorists would no longer be able to acquire them. Yeah, that's what she's selling.

You have to remember that knowing what she's talking about is not her strong suit. When pressed by MSNBC host Tucker Carlson to explain elements of an "assault weapons" ban, she introduced it included a barrel shroud among prohibited features; McCarthy was unable to explain what that was, finally postulating it was "that shoulder thing that goes up." Not content with only one class of firearms (gungrabbers never are), she held a press conference to ban .50-caliber rifles, introducing New York Assemblywoman Patricia Eddington, who authoritatively informed attending journalists, "some of these bullets have an incendiary device on the tip of it, which is a heat-seeking device, so you don't shoot deer with a bullet that size. If you do, you cook it at the same time."

British philosophy professor A.C. Grayling didn't mess around with mere technical details—he went straight for the end game—the one the antis accuse gun owners of being paranoid about when we claim they ultimately want to ban private ownership of firearms.

"Guns," he writes, "should be the subject of worldwide outrage. Their manufacture and sale should be a human-rights abuse, on which we pour vilification and horror. They should be illegal for all but properly constituted, trained and controlled agencies of governments, provided of course that the governments in question are themselves properly constituted and controlled by democratic means in a society where the rule of law obtains."

There's the rub, eh, professor?

Visit David Codrea's online journal "The War on Guns" at [waronguns.com](http://waronguns.com), visit [DavidCodrea.com](http://DavidCodrea.com) to read his Examiner column.

Due to the importance of this column, GUNS will begin posting "Rights Watch" at [www.gunsmagazine.com](http://www.gunsmagazine.com) on the 1st of the month—long before it appears here.—Editor



**BRING ENOUGH GUN**



**SOCOM II**

\*SHOWN WITH OPTIONAL ACCESSORIES

[WWW.SPRINGFIELDARMORY.COM](http://WWW.SPRINGFIELDARMORY.COM)

1.800.680.6866

# 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](http://www.elitesportsexpress.com)  
To book the ESE or get your products on board, call Don at 702-528-6771

## NEWS

### The Autry Colt Exhibit Reopens

Over 100 of the finest Colt revolvers in the country went on display at the grand reopening of Greg Martin Gallery this past July 23, in conjunction with Day of the Cowboy and Cowgirl at the Autry.

"The Colt Revolver in the American West" is an exhibition exploring the history of Samuel Colt's revolutionary revolver in the American West. The exhibition will be ongoing.

"I am pleased to showcase the Autry's spectacular collection of Colt firearms in a manner that provides a narrative for the scope and monumental impact of guns in the American West," said Daniel Finley, Autry President and CEO. "In this ongoing installation, we hope visitors are fascinated by the history and importance of an object that brought violence as well as peace to an entire region."

Drawn solely from the Autry's renowned collection, the exhibition provides an interesting look at one of the most popular and visible symbols of the American West and looks at the impact the Colt revolver had on the American frontier and the contemporary West. The firearms include pieces of historical significance, opulently engraved specimens, and extremely rare models. A special section will be devoted to the Colt Single Action Army Model Revolver, "the handgun that won the West."

"Simply put, the Single Action Army is the most successful and recognizable revolver of all time," said Jeffrey Richardson, Associate Curator of Western History and Popular Culture, "and it is forever identified with the history and settlement of the American West."

The exhibition begins with a history of the revolver and the difficulty gunsmiths and inventors had making an efficient revolving firearm capable of firing more than one shot without having to be reloaded. In 1831, 16-year-old Samuel Colt ultimately came up with a design that would transform the firearm industry and the American West. Samuel Colt's attempts to mass-produce his revolver and the ultimate keys to his success are the focus of the second part of the gallery.

The next section of the exhibition is devoted to the Colt Single Action Army Model Revolver. The Single

# Heritage

## ROUGH RIDER REVOLVERS

YOU CAN PAY MORE ... BUT YOU WON'T GET MORE

Starting at **\$199.99**  
Adjustable sights available



4600 N.W. 135 Street • Opa Locka • Florida • 33054  
Ph: 305.685.5966 • Fx: 305.687.6721

See our entire line of revolvers and accessories at  
[www.HERITAGEMFG.com](http://www.HERITAGEMFG.com)





When Theodore Roosevelt headed west in 1883, he brought with him (in his own words), "Equipments finished in the most expensive style," including this engraved and plated Colt Single Action Army. Photo: Autry National Center



Cutaway, or skeleton arms like this Model 1855 Sidehammer Revolver were designed to demonstrate the mechanics and special features found on Colt revolvers. Photo: Autry National Center



John "Doc" Holliday used this revolver in many of his Western escapades, including the Gunfight at the O.K. Corral in Tombstone, Arizona Territory, on Oct. 26, 1881. Photo: Autry National Center

Action Army was popular with Western pioneers, miners, peace officers, gunslingers, outlaws and cowboys. The use of the revolver by Western entertainers solidified its status as a veritable symbol of the region. The exhibition culminates with a look at the Colt revolver in the modern West, as it continued to be the weapon of choice for Western law enforcement officers, hunters, and target shooters throughout the 20th century.—*Courtesy The Autry National Center*

THE AUTRY NATIONAL CENTER  
4700 WESTERN HERITAGE WAY  
LOS ANGELES, CA 90027  
(323) 667-2000  
WWW.THEAUTRY.ORG

## Ruger Donation To NRA

Sturm, Ruger & Company is Sproud to announce it has donated \$279,600 to the NRA as part of Ruger's "Million Gun Challenge to



# YOU GET WHAT YOU PAY FOR!

That's why you'll never see us use statements like "Deal of the Week" or "Lowest Price Ever". That's why we prefer to use our ads to point out the features that make Lewis Machine & Tool weapons different from the rest and help you to retain a higher long-term value in your firearm investment.

We understand that deals seem appealing, but we also understand what it costs to build the weapon you want by your side for a lifetime. So when you find yourself with your finger on the trigger, you need to decide, do you want a weapon built the way a weapon should be built or do you want a "Deal of the Week"?



BECAUSE FAILURE IS NOT AN OPTION

PHONE: 309-732-9527  
SALES@LMTDEFENSE.COM  
WWW.LMTDEFENSE.COM

GET YOUR  
GUNS  
MAGAZINE  
CAP



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

### GUNS Magazine 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. Small/Medium (6 3/4 to 7 1/4) Large/Extra Large (7 1/2 to 7 5/8) Cap in black only.

ORDER  
TODAY!

Call Toll-Free 800-628-9818

www.gunsmagazine.com

12345 World Trade Drive • San Diego, CA 92128

# PROTECT YOUR NUTS

With America's Top  
Pre-Charged Airgun.

- Most Powerful!
- Most Flexible!
- Most Accurate!
- Most Fun!

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

*Our powerful Condor model  
works for pest control,  
hunting or just plinking. Also  
available in colors. Please see  
our website for details.*

Visit us at  
[www.airforceairguns.com](http://www.airforceairguns.com)  
for more information or  
to find a dealer near you.



## AIRFORCE

airguns



Benefit the NRA" campaign. Ruger is trying to make history by selling 1 million firearms to the commercial market in a 12-month period, and is pledging to give the NRA \$1 for every gun sold with the goal of donating \$1,000,000. At the close of the 1st quarter of the challenge, Ruger has already achieved nearly 28 percent of its 1-million-gun goal.

"We are proud to say we are well on our way to selling 1 million firearms, and we are happy to be able to share this substantial donation with the NRA," said Ruger President and CEO Mike Fifer. "With the help of our loyal Ruger customers, we are helping to preserve our second amendment rights by donating up to \$1,000,000 to the NRA."

The check presentation took place at NRA headquarters in Fairfax, Virginia, last July 27. Ruger will present the NRA with additional donations after financial results have been shared at the close of the 3rd and 4th quarters, with the final donation occurring at the 2012 NRA Show held April 13-15 in St. Louis, Mo.

For complete information on the Million Gun Challenge, visit [www.Ruger.com/Million](http://www.Ruger.com/Million) or [Facebook.com/Ruger](https://www.facebook.com/Ruger).—*Courtesy Ruger*

## HAVA On-Target at Shooting Industry Masters



*Representing the Army on the HAVA team was SSG David Jacks (left) and Captain Matt Moser (right). Stephanie Holloway with XS Sights stands in between.*

Honored American Veterans Afield (HAVA) and FMG Publications sponsored two American Heroes from Ft. Campbell at the annual Shooting Industry Masters event in Park City, Ky., last July 22-23. These disabled soldiers were greeted with a 2-minute standing ovation by over 350 participants from the shooting industry who understand how their service and sacrifice exemplifies the commitment to freedom that America's military personnel show every day. These soldiers represented the hundreds of veterans that HAVA serves each year and exhibited the joy



1930  
"Austin"

- forward cant standard
  - suede lined
- Available for  
Single Actions  
Double Actions,  
and  
Semi-Automatics*

**\$115**

*Shown in  
Basketweave  
Stamping*

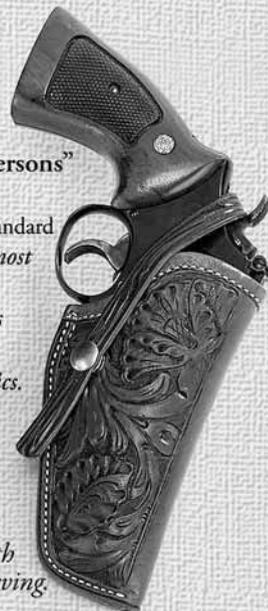


1920  
"Tom Threepersons"

- lining standard
  - forward cant standard
- Available for most  
Single Actions,  
Double Actions  
and  
Semi-Automatics.*

**\$78**

*Shown with  
Floral Carving.*



[www.epsaddlery.com](http://www.epsaddlery.com)

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

# GUNS MAGAZINE ONLINE! [WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM](http://WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM)

that HAVA activities brings to these American heroes as they begin to rebuild their lives after their service and considerable personal sacrifice.

Representing the Army on the HAVA team was SSG David Jacks, a 22-year veteran of four combat tours including Desert Storm in 1991 and Baghdad in 2005, who has won a Purple Heart and the Army Medal for Valor among other awards. Captain Matt Moser of the 101st Airborne Division suffered severe vertebrae damage while commanding convoys in Iraq, and is now also in remission from cancer after numerous operations and several rounds of chemotherapy.

"HAVA was honored to feature two highly decorated Army combat veterans on our Shooting Industry Masters team to demonstrate to the industry that the HAVA mission delivers tremendous benefits to real American heroes," said Tom Taylor, HAVA Chairman. "Our sponsors know the value of our work in providing hunting and shooting opportunities to disabled veterans, and we invite all shooting industry companies to participate in this important work."

About HAVA: HAVA is a 501(c)(3) organization formed by companies in the shooting and outdoor industry with the purpose of raising awareness and further assisting disabled veterans with their healing process through guided hunts, shooting sports and other outdoor sports activities. The sustaining sponsor companies are Smith & Wesson, Yamaha, Crimson Trace, Leupold, SureFire, Mossberg, Hornady, FMG Publications and the NRA among numerous contributing companies. Those companies who would like to learn more about the HAVA mission can do so at [www.honoredveterans.org](http://www.honoredveterans.org).—*Courtesy Kim Cahalan, Media Direct*

## Goex Powder Invests in the Future

Goex Powder has engaged the services of Cothren, Graff, Smoak Engineering, Inc. to design a safer and improved process facility. Goex Powder, Inc. experienced a production interruption last June 7. There were no serious injuries.

"We were here yesterday. We are here today. We will be here tomorrow," said Goex COO Tim Vaitekunas. "We look to the services of Cothren, Graff, Smoak Engineering to help us continue to improve the safety of Goex Powder operations."

Goex will supply demand out of existing inventory during the

# ZERO IN ON SALES

# SUN OPTICS USA

### HIGH DEFINITION OPTICS

- Premium Hunting Scopes
- Long Range Scopes
- Tactical Scopes

- Handgun Scopes
- Airgun Scopes
- Electronic Sights
- Binoculars/Spotting Scopes

### ZERO GUNSMITHING MOUNTS

- Shotgun/Airgun Mounts
- Collectible/Military Mounts
- Sport Rifle Mounts

### SHOOTING ACCESSORIES

- Bipods
- Scope Rings
- Forend Grips
- Sling Swivels
- Shooters Tools

(817) 783-6001 • [www.sunopticsusa.com](http://www.sunopticsusa.com)

Sun Optics USA • P.O. Box 2225 • Burleson, TX 76097 • [info@sunopticsusa.com](mailto:info@sunopticsusa.com)



## CATALOG #33

**The only source you'll ever need...**  
for current, obsolete and military gun parts, gunsmith supplies, military surplus and shooting accessories.



**ITEM#TP-33  
ONLY \$24.95!**  
(for the 3-volume set)

Our new three-volume set for Catalog #33 features our:

- 1,008 page Commercial Firearms Reference Guide with over 500 schematics,
- 456 page Firearms Accessory Catalog, and
- 240 page Military Firearms Reference Guide, with over 100 schematics

**Order your set NOW!**

Our latest editions feature more than 180,000 individual items, over 700 schematic drawings and parts lists, and a store brand name to original manufacturer cross-reference.

We carry products for hundreds of manufacturers including:

- Heckler & Koch • Colt • High Standard • Ruger • Marlin
- Mauser • Mossberg • Remington
- Savage • SigArms • Glock
- Uberti • AMT • Benelli



**Also Available as Two-Book Sets!**  
Commercial Firearms Reference Guide and Firearms Accessory Catalog  
ITEM #TP-33CM.....\$20.50  
Military Firearms Reference Guide and Firearms Accessory Catalog  
ITEM #TP-33ML.....\$11.95

U.S. Orders: Shipped bulk mail. Shipping charges included. Foreign Orders: Shipped air mail (30 day delivery) or surface (90 day delivery). Shipping charges additional.

Mail: PO Box 299 West Hurley Ny 12491 — or — 226 Williams Lane, Kingston Ny 12401  
Order Toll-Free: 866-686-7424 • Toll-Free Fax: 877-GUNPART • Web: [GunPartsCorp.com](http://GunPartsCorp.com)

## Old West Reproductions, Inc.

Frontier Gun Leather and Accessories from 1849 to 1900

~ Affordable Museum Quality Reproductions ~

Patterned from original pieces in my collection.

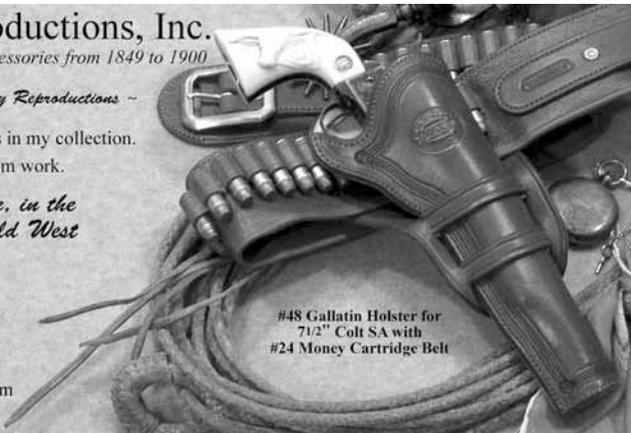
Specializing in custom work.

*...Montana made, in the tradition of the Old West since 1978...*

Riek M. Bachman  
446 Florence South Loop, G  
Florence, MT 59833  
(406) 273-2615

[www.oldwestreproductions.com](http://www.oldwestreproductions.com)

Catalog \$5.00



#48 Gallatin Holster for 7 1/2" Colt SA with #24 Money Cartridge Belt

construction of the improved process facility. Manufacturing is planning to restart in mid-October.

Goex Powder, Inc. just signed a new 5-year contract as the only black powder supplier to the United States military.—*Courtesy Chris Hodgdon*

HODGDON POWDER CO.  
P.O. BOX 2932, SHAWNEE MISSION, KS 66201  
(913) 362-9455  
WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/HODGDON

## Drug And Weapon Cache Seized

Australian Special Forces and their Afghan partners have further reduced the ability of insurgents to

finance their illegal activities after a large drug and weapon haul in Daykundi Province, Afghanistan.

Last July 10, 2011, the Afghan National Interdiction Unit (NIU), supported by members of Australia's Special Operations Task Group (SOTG), seized a tonne of opium, several kilograms of heroin and over two tonnes of chemicals used to make illegal drugs.

The operation also uncovered more than 20 weapons including pistols, rifles, machine guns and ammunition.

The Commanding Officer (CO) of the SOTG (who cannot be identified for operational security reasons) said illegal drugs were a key source of funding for insurgent activities.

"Insurgents use illegal drugs to

finance their attempts to undermine the reconstruction of Afghanistan," CO SOTG said.

"By supporting the NIU to find and destroy drug factories we can reduce the insurgents' ability to harm civilians and ISAF and Afghan forces."

The mission also uncovered equipment used for large-scale drug refinement and evidence of a significant drug production industry in the surrounding area.

"The illegal drug trade is a major threat to security, economic development and democratic government, so the more it's reduced the better it is for Afghanistan," the CO SOTG said.

During the patrol there were no



**LIGHT GUARD™**

**ANYTHING LESS  
IS JUST A SHOT  
IN THE DARK**

**Crimson  Trace**

Visit [www.ctlightguard.com](http://www.ctlightguard.com)  
or scan here for a complete  
overview of the Lightguard™  
product platform.

WWW.CTCLIGHTGUARD.COM • 1-800-442-2406



**Australian Special Forces and their Afghan partners discover a large cache of weapons and drugs in Daykundi Province, which will be destroyed or confiscated to be used as evidence.**

engagements with insurgents, and the local population showed strong support for the Afghan and Australian forces.

The SOTG commenced combined operations with the NIU in May this year. This combined effort has resulted in thousands of kilograms of drugs destroyed or confiscated as evidence and several individuals detained to face prosecution.

During Afghan NIU operations, the SOTG primarily provides cordon security, logistic assistance, medical assets and other specialist capabilities.—*Courtesy ADoD*

## RAF bombs Libyan frigate

RAF jets successfully bombed a Libyan frigate in Tripoli harbor last August, along with various other key targets of forces loyal to Colonel Gaddafi.

In the early hours of morning on August 8, RAF Tornado and Typhoon aircraft conducted precision strikes on an ammunition and vehicle depot, and a military communications facility, both near Zlitan.

An armed reconnaissance patrol over Brega, in the east of the country, identified and destroyed two armed pick-up trucks.

Overnight last August 8-9, RAF jets successfully bombed a Libyan frigate in Tripoli harbor. The ship had been damaged previously by NATO air strikes, but careful battle damage assessment indicated the ship retained an offensive capability.

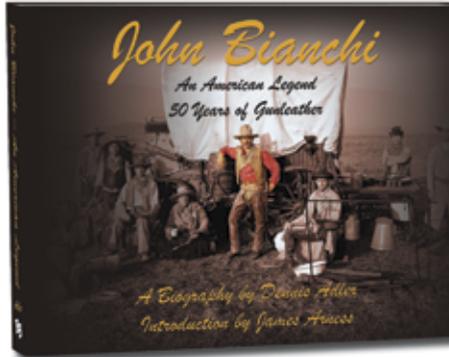
The RAF strike inflicted further serious damage and left the vessel taking on water.

UK aircraft also attacked a command and control node and a weapons depot in Bir al-Ghanam in the Djebel Nafousa, and a staging post in Zlitan.

The night of August 8, an RAF patrol returned to Zlitan and conducted

## John Bianchi – An American Legend – 50 Years of Gunleather

by Dennis Adler



Anyone who has ever owned a sidearm holster knows the name John Bianchi, the Godfather of Gunleather – who revolutionized gun carry methods and handgun performance throughout the world. This biography tells the story of the man who founded Bianchi International – the world's largest manufacturer of gunleather for police, military, and sportsmen. Written by award-winning photojournalist Dennis Adler, this 260-page, 9x12 in. hardcover

deluxe landscape format publication is a must-have for any firearms enthusiast's library.

Do not miss the opportunity to own the story of one of the most legendary figures in the firearms industry. With a Foreword by James Arness, *Gunsmoke's* Marshal Matt Dillon.

**John Bianchi – An American Legend – 50 Years of Gunleather is only \$39.95 + S/H.**

**www.bluebookinc.com • 800.877.4867** ext. 3

Blue Book Publications, Inc. • 6009 34th Ave S Ste. 250 • Minneapolis, MN 55425 • Email: support@bluebookinc.com • Fax: 952.853.1486

## GET YOUR GUNS GEAR!



# ORDER TODAY!

### Team GUNS T-Shirt

Nobody ever had too many T-shirts, except us and we need to clear them out. Get this top quality, pre-shrunk 100% cotton T-shirt imprinted with Team GUNS logo on the front and back.

(Colors: Ash or Black)(Sizes: M,L,XL,XXL)

**\$21.95 each (\$31.95 Outside U.S.)**

(Price includes shipping)

**Call Toll-Free 800-628-9818**

**Order at www.gunsmagazine.com**

**GUNS MAGAZINE ONLINE!  
WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM**

a precision strike on a barracks and military staging post.

Later, an armed reconnaissance patrol identified and destroyed an armed truck at Al Aziziyah near Tripoli.

Also last August, Tornado GR4s launched from RAF Marham in Norfolk. Supported by VC10 and TriStar tankers, they flew south across Europe and the Mediterranean to

launch a large salvo of Storm Shadow precision guided missiles at command bunkers near Sebha, 700km south of Tripoli, out in the Sahara.

They landed at Gioia del Colle after a mission lasting 7 hours, and will in due course recover back to Marham.

These and other NATO operations were supported by a large force of essential support aircraft, including RAF VC10s, TriStars, Sentries and



**A Royal Air Force Tornado GR4 aircraft lands at Gioia del Colle, Italy, having expended its entire payload of Brimstone missiles and Paveway IV bombs (stock image). Photo: Corporal Babs Robinson, Crown Copyright/MOD 2011**



**These stills were taken from footage provided by the onboard camera of an RAF jet. Left image shows the Libyan frigate before it is struck by a Paveway IV bomb, and the right shows the explosion following the hit to the vessel's port side. Photo: Crown Copyright/MOD 2011.**

Sentinels, and the Fleet Air Arm's Sea King Airborne Surveillance and Control helicopters.—*Courtesy MoD*

## Slingin' Chinooks

**S**oldiers from the 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, conducted a rare sling load operation last July 6 using a CH-47F Chinook helicopter to transport another Chinook helicopter from Camp Kunduz to Camp Marmal, Afghanistan.

Hovering over the airfield at Kunduz, the transporting Chinook helicopter gradually lowered. As a cloud of dust lifted, crew members stationed on top of the other helicopter stood ready to bond the two airframes together,

SEASON II AIRING NOW!

VS NOW PART OF NBC Sports

SUNDAYS 7:30am FRIDAYS 10:00am

FACE TWEET US OR WHATEVER.

FNH USA

**3-GUN NATION**

POWERED BY SUREFIRE

STAG ARMS

THE OFFICIAL AMBASSADOR OF 3-GUN NATION

FEDERAL PREMIUM

CHECK OUT THE ALL NEW WEBSITE!

www.3-GUN NATION.com

THE 2011 3-GUN NATION TOURNAMENT SERIES FEATURING \$125,000 IN CASH. 3-GUNS, 1 CHAMPION.

THE OFFICIAL WEBSITE OF 3-GUN NATION

HOME OF THE BLACK RIFLE

setting the stage for the pending sling load to commence.

"It was an adrenaline rush for sure," said Sgt. Shawn Hartford, a Chinook helicopter mechanic, assigned to Company B, 615th Aviation Support Battalion, 1st ACB. Adrenaline rush aside, Hartford, along with the other crewmembers involved, had a considerable amount of experience conducting sling load operations, although an operation of this magnitude and in this type of



**A sling-loaded CH-47F Chinook cargo helicopter under another CH-47F from Task Force Lobos, the 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, is guided by crew members from Company B, 615th Aviation Support Battalion, 1st ACB, last July 6. Photo: Sgt. Richard Wrigley, 1st ACB, 1st Cav. Division Public Affairs**



**The 1st Air Cav CH-47F Chinook cargo helicopter sling loads another Chinook helicopter while another aircraft streams by in the background. Photo: Sgt. Richard Wrigley, 1st ACB, 1st Cav. Division Public Affairs**

environment was a first for the vast majority of them.

"I couldn't begin to fathom how many sling loads I've conducted in my career," said Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Vann, Company B, 615th ASB, 1st ACB. "This is the first time that I've taken part in a sling load operation like this." To ensure smooth and safe execution, the crewmembers went

through vigorous preparation drills for different scenarios that could possibly come about during the actual sling load procedure.

Not everything went according to plan, though. "When we predicted the aircraft would act a certain way as it lowered and it didn't, all of the crew members reacted accordingly as a result of the training we did prior to

# CHRISTMAS IDEAS FOR THE SHOOTER!

GIVE 'EM A GIFT THAT ACTUALLY SAVES MONEY!

**A set of Lee Dies is all you need to start reloading**

**LEE 50th ANNIVERSARY RELOADING KIT \$143.00**  
The Lee Breech Lock Challenger Press with [1] breech lock quick change bushing. Complete powder handling system. Safety Scale, case preparation tools and the Lee Safety Prime; push button convenience safe with all brands of primers. If purchased separately, it's a \$196.38 value. Compare that to others priced hundreds of dollars more! (90050)

**Lee Classic Turret Press \$146.00**  
The world's most popular turret press. Quality touches make this the finest, most convenient press to own. Features a sturdy iron base, and solid steel linkage. Your first stroke of the hardwood gripped lever will convince you this is one solid, silky smooth press. (90054)

**Lee Breech Lock Classic Cast Press \$144.00**  
Designed, cast, machined and assembled in the USA. The Lee Classic Cast features the Breech Lock quick change die feature—change dies in an instant with a quick 1/6 of a turn. The handle is moveable from right to left and length plus swing position is fully adjustable with a 48-tooth ratchet type handle clamp. Lever Prime System features bottom of stroke priming for unmatched sensitivity. Press features durable, powder coated finish with the largest opening and longest stroke in the industry. Nicest press money can buy! (90995)

**Auto-Prime XR \$24.99**  
Fastest and most accurate hand priming tool made! Perfect for priming cases away from the loading bench. Primes cases just as fast as they can be handled. This is the most popular priming tool ever made. Accepts all brands of Primers. (90230)

**LEE**

LEE PRECISION, INC. | 4275 HIGHWAY U | HARTFORD WI 53027 USA  
Send for your new 36-page Lee catalog full of reloading bargains! [www.leeprecision.com](http://www.leeprecision.com)

Just circle what you desire and **CLIP IT** to your refrigerator!

# 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.

Fun Reward!  
FREE 2010  
Digital Edition  
CD when you  
subscribe.

One Year ONLY \$19.75

Call (888) 732-2299

[www.americanhandgunner.com](http://www.americanhandgunner.com)

M-F 8am-3pm PST (\$59.76 outside U.S.)  
P.O. Box 509093, San Diego, CA 92150



**Success.** The CH-47F Chinook lowers a sling-loaded Chinook while crew members from 615th Aviation Support Battalion, 1st ACB, help safely guide the aircraft toward the ground. Photo: Sgt. Richard Wrigley, 1st ACB, 1st Cav. Division Public Affairs

execution,” said Hartford.

Transporting the Chinook across the northern Afghan landscape required extensive pre-mission planning as well, according to Chief Warrant Officer 2 Jeremy Rossi, a CH-47 Chinook pilot with Company B, Task Force Lobos, 1st ACB. Rossi explained that at certain air speeds, the sling-loaded Chinook with its aerodynamic structure could in essence deviate from the helicopter above and create its own flight path: an issue that wouldn't arise during most other normal sling load operations.

“The main challenge for us was keeping our aircraft in trim [balancing the flight controls] so the sling-loaded aircraft wouldn't move back and forth or sway side to side,” he said.

Once the flight arrived at Marmal, crew members on the ground helped carefully guide the sling-loaded aircraft down toward its final landing spot. The sling-loaded aircraft, which was transported to Marmal for maintenance purposes, finally touched ground safely.

Roughly 100' above, cargo hooks disengaged as the bond between the two airframes finally broke. The transporting helicopter took off amid another brilliant cloud of dust that engulfed those within the vicinity.

Vann, summing up the whole experience, noted that preparation and teamwork saved the day, and that being part of this operation was a hallmark accomplishment for everyone involved. “It was absolutely amazing and the highlight of my career to see an operation like this executed in such a successful manner,” he added.—Staff Sgt. Joe Armas, 1st Air Cavalry Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division Public Affairs

**GUNS**

**PROTECT YOURSELF. DEFEND YOUR HOME.**

**MPA DEFENDER**

**MPA PROTECTOR**

All Black or Black with Stainless Slide.  
Comfortable grip design. Double Action Only.  
Priced to Carry  
Built to Protect  
Subcompact  
Solid Steel.

**Defender 530SST**  
22LR, 9mm, 45ACP, 460 Rowland, 10, 20, 30 & 35 Round Capacities. Internal "No Jam" Technology. Updated Mac Technology. Pistols & Cartridges. Extreme Reliability.

**Protector 380S**  
380ACP

**MasterPiece Arms**  
1-866-803-0000  
105A Kingsbridge Dr. • Carrollton, GA 30117 • www.masterpiecearms.com

**LIFETIME WARRANTY.**

**PROUDLY MADE IN OUR U.S.A.**

**PFI RAPID RETICLE**

**SPOT. RANGE. FIRE. FASTER.**

**COMPETITIONS:**  
MIKE VAIGT:  
2009 & 2010 SUPERSTITION MOUNTAIN MYSTERY 3 GUN  
2009 USPSA MULTIGUN NATIONALS  
2010 MGM IRON MAN 3 GUNS  
2010 SUREFIRE INTERNATIONAL TACTICAL RIFLE CHAMPIONSHIP  
MAGGIE REESE:  
2009 & 2010 USPSA MULTIGUN NATIONAL CHAMPION  
JOHN PRIDEA:  
4-TIME BIANCHI CUP CHAMPION

US MILITARY CONTRACTS:  
W91CRB-09-D-0074  
M20133-07-M-3125  
N00244-06-P-1971

SINCE 2004, THE PRIDE FOWLER PATENTED RAPID RETICLE SYSTEM HAS GIVEN RIFLEMEN THE ABILITY TO ENGAGE MULTIPLE TARGETS AT VARIABLE DISTANCES WITHOUT MANUAL ADJUSTMENTS. PFI OPTICS HAS BEEN COMBAT TESTED AND PROVEN BY MILITARY, LE, AND COMPETITION MARKSMEN WORLDWIDE. PRECISION SHOOTING IS NOW EASIER THAN EVER WITH THE NEW RAPID RANGING FEATURE THAT ALLOWS INSTANT TARGET RANGING. MANY IMITATORS TRY BUT NOTHING COMES CLOSE TO THE ORIGINAL RAPID RETICLE. PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE DETAILS.

NO ARTIFICIAL INGREDIENTS, ACTORS OR MODELS.  
100% ALL-NATURAL AMERICAN PATRIOTS.

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

**877-817-6019 WWW.RAPIDRETICLE.COM SALES@RAPIDRETICLE.COM**

## GET YOUR GUNS GEAR!



### Team GUNS Collector Pin

It's colorful, it looks expensive, but any cheapskate can afford it and someday it might be worth what you paid for it.

(Actual size: 3/4" x 5/8")

**\$3.50 each**

(Price includes shipping)

**ORDER TODAY!**

Call Toll-Free **800-628-9818**

Order at **www.gunsmagazine.com**

# QUARTER MASTER

GUNS ALLSTARS!

## Multi Torque Driver

Jacob Gottfredson

If you're like me, you need small useful tools to keep your rifles running. One problem is finding a torque wrench that takes up little room and works for several values. Well, you're in luck.

Borka Tools is owned by Boris Teper, a truly ingenious fellow who designed the Multi Torque Driver. Tony Burkes (T.A.B. Gear) combined his talents to make a nice pouch for the tool, and the entire unit is being sold through Rifles Only. There is more than one model, but the Military Grade, version 1.03, Model ATD-15x72-12FS-MG is the one most useful for shooters. Torque settings of 15, 18, 24, 30, 36, 43, 50, 57, 65 and 72 inch-pounds are available on the tool. Half are on one side and the other half become available by turning the tool over. The handle breaks appropriately on each side.

Using torque wrenches is the correct way to tighten scope mount screws, ring screws and nuts on Picatinny rails, as well as action screws. And that is often necessary for the average shooter, sans gunsmith. I'm sure the tool will find its way to many gunsmiths, home shops and hobbyists. But it is a boon for those of us who spend a lot of time hunting, competing and testing equipment on the range.

Most scope rings, for example, take either a T10 or a T15 Torx wrench. Many nuts on Picatinny rail rings take a 1/2" socket. These parts do not come with the tool, but can either be liberated from another set around the



*The Borka Multi Torque Driver is small, making it easy to take anywhere to keep your gear in top shape.*



*The driver is inserted in the appropriate torque value hole shown on the tool. A Torx wrench, hex wrench, or socket is then attached. Making sure to force the tool by putting the thumb or finger in the handle's groove, simply apply force until the handle breaks. No backlash. It's that simple. No guess work. No over or under turning. Done!*



*The driver, sockets, Torx and hex wrenches have now been returned to the Rifles Only T.A.B. pouch for the next session. Genius in a small package. And it is made in America!*

house, picked up at some hardware store or purchased from Borka Tools.

There are a couple training films on the tool's use on the web, but among them, Boris himself describes the essentials of using the tool correctly to get the torque you want within +/-4 percent.

The main thing to remember to get the torque indicated is to put the forcing finger or thumb in the handle's groove. What could be simpler?

The tool with pouch sells for \$95. If you have little interest in stealing wrenches and sockets from other tool kits around the house or driving around town looking for them, Borka Tools has a variety of useful Torx and Hex sockets available.

Ordinarily, however, the tool is supplied with the "military" grade torque driver kit, which includes TAB GEAR pouch and two adapters: 1/4" hex (male) to 1/4" square (male), and 1/4" square (female) to 3/8" square (male), needed to use the driver with the sockets. In my case, for example, a T15 Torx and a 1/2" socket will accomplish 90 percent of what I need.

The tool is made from stainless steel and structural polymer, so it will stand up to most weather conditions. The bit holder is also magnetic. It is the only torque driver that incorporates the capability to deliver numerous fixed (pre-set) torque values in a single-design package, without the need for any additional adjustment or replacement of driver components.

RIFLES ONLY

188 SOUTH FM 772

KINGSVILLE, TX 78363

(361) 522-4165

[WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/RIFLES-ONLY](http://WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/RIFLES-ONLY)

BORKA ENTERPRISES, LLC

29383 BREEZEWOOD

FARMINGTON HILLS, MI 48331

(248) 798-7621

[WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/BORKA-TOOLS](http://WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/BORKA-TOOLS)

## Rydon Tactical Protective Eyewear

John Connor

I've been a freak about eye protection since being nearly blinded by plaster frags from a ricocheting AK round, and I've been a very satisfied user of Revision and Wiley-X eyewear for years. I'd never heard of Rudy Project until I was discussing eye safety with guys from a counterterrorism ops group and learned half of 'em wear Rudy Project glasses, and praise 'em. Now that I've tried them, well, gotta make room for Rudy....

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

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

## Make sure she can protect herself

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

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

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

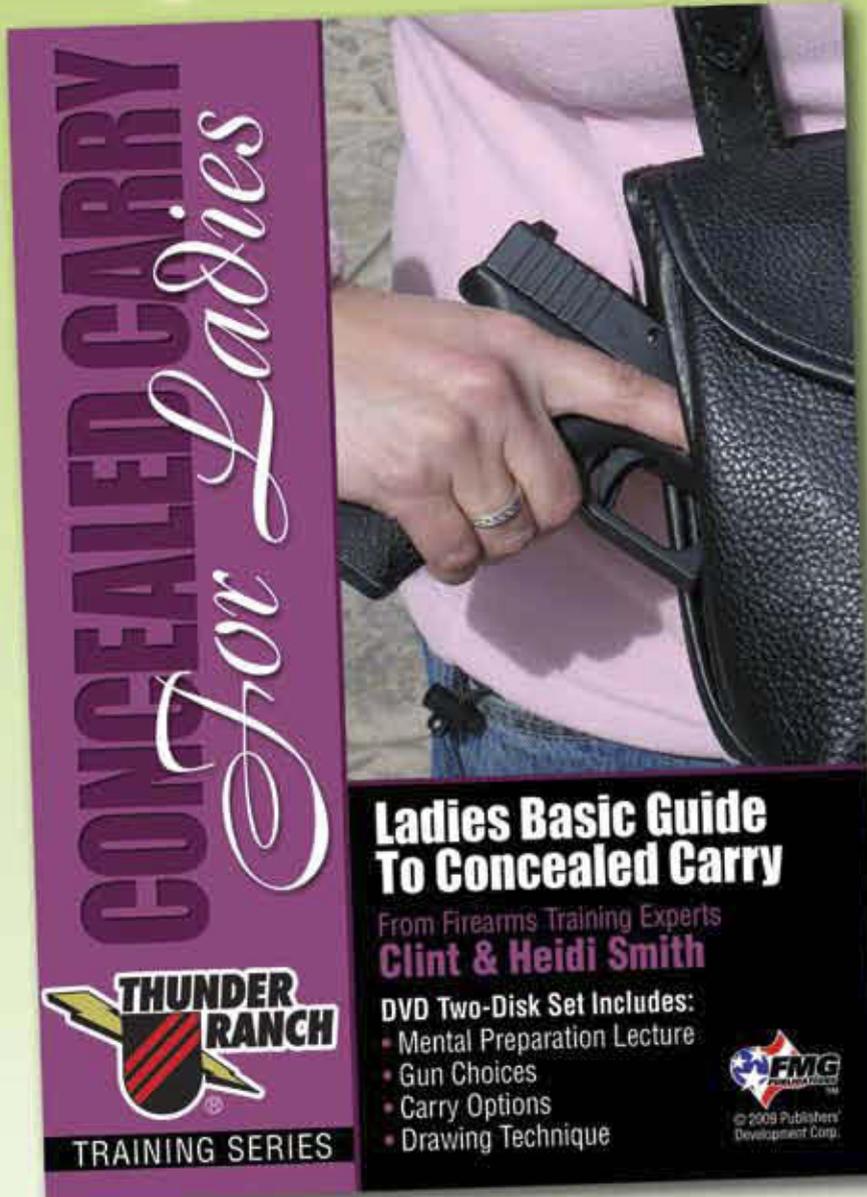
Heidi's range demonstrations, guided by husband Clint Smith, provide a complete picture on how to safely carry a concealed handgun, and draw and fire from several effective platforms.

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

**BONUS  
Special  
Offer!**

Two-disc set only  
**\$29.95**

**Includes nearly two hours of video!**



*"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

**Order Today! (800) 628-9818 (M-F 8am-3pm PST) • [www.americanhandgunner.com/TRvids](http://www.americanhandgunner.com/TRvids)**

Rudy Project made their bones in high-performance sports glasses and goggles—18 Rudy wearers took medals at the 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympics. Their hallmarks have been extreme strength at lightweight, superior clarity and color rendition, comfort and security during violent activities like world-class skiing, hockey and race driving. Their recent entry into the shooting sports/tactical field was a natural move.

There's a ton of tech-and-science info about their "ImpactX" semi-rigid lenses and frame materials on the website—too much to go into here—so, I recommend you check it out. If you wear prescription lenses, you really need to study up on their FreeForm TEK Rx Lenses, which are easily interchangeable like all their "regular" lenses and offer some unique features. Plug your zip code into the "Dealer Locator" and you'll find lots of optometrists, including many specializing in high-end sports applications, using Rudy Project products. That's a solid recommendation in itself.



**Rudy Project's hallmarks have been extreme strength at lightweight, superior clarity and color rendition, comfort and security during violent activities.**

The Rydon Tactical is just one of many models, but equipped with ImpactX Photochromic Clear (light-adjusting) transparent-grey lenses, it's a top choice for all-day, bright-sun-to-shadow use. Feather-light and very comfortable, I give 'em five stars, easy. Retailers vary; Rydon's list for \$204.

RUDY PROJECT NORTH AMERICA  
 971 CALLE AMANECER  
 SAN CLEMENTE, CA 92673  
 (888) 860-7597  
 WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/RUDY-PROJECT

## Caldwell's Shootin' Gallery

John Taffin

Shooting should be fun! When it comes to real shooting fun there is nothing more enjoyable than a good .22. It can be a rifle or handgun. My first shooting with my own gun was with a Marlin 39A Mountie purchased in 1956. I still have that rifle and three generations of Taffins have enjoyed



**Shootin' at the Shootin' Gallery with the USFA 7-1/2" 1222 (above), a 12-shot .22 LR revolver. A lot of plinkin' pleasure can be had from both. The battery-operated Shootin' Gallery (below) rotates a series of 2" metal disks, which automatically reset as they come around again.**

it and others added to our shooting collection. My second firearm was also a .22 purchased in the same year—a Ruger Single-Six. Like the Mountie it has also given decades of pleasurable shooting. Many things have changed since the 1950s; however, starting shooting with a good .22 rifle and handgun is ageless.

I've done a great deal of paper punching with .22s and have probably tested at least 100 or more .22s since those first two. It is enjoyable to be able to acquire tiny groups on paper with various .22 firearms and ammunition. However, this is a singular activity and does not include family and friends.

For everyone to have enjoyment with the same activity, nothing beats plain old plinking. Plinking has no rules except safety and cleaning up after yourself. Targets can be close or far, hits can be counted as well as near misses. If you have a good location with a safe background, dry dusty conditions, and plenty of rocks to shoot at, a good .22 pistol can give an account of itself out to 300 yards or more.

For most of us, when it comes to plinking our thoughts usually first go to tin cans. Are there more grains of sand on the seashore then the number of cans which have been perforated with millions upon millions of .22s?

I recently spent a goodly amount of time testing the USFA Model 1222, a 12-shot .22 built on their standard Single Action. For plinking

targets I was forced to consume a large amount of my favorite adult beverage, A&W Diet Root Beer. It not only tastes good, the can is still useful when empty. Other excellent targets for plinking include golf balls, which should be retrieved after the session, and charcoal briquettes which are biodegradable. Now, thanks to Caldwell, we have a new plinking target, which is easy to set up, resets itself, and leaves no mess. It can be shot at close range or as far away as you wish to challenge yourself.

Most of us are probably old enough to remember shooting galleries. They must surely still exist somewhere, however I haven't seen one since I was a kid. Shooting galleries normally had moving targets and in some cases rifles that couldn't hit even close to the target. Honest ones were fair; dishonest ones were simply scams to gather money. The new Caldwell



Back view of the Caldwell Shootin' Gallery reveals the chain drive mechanism. As the chain rotates, targets come back up and are ready to be fired upon again.



Shootin' Gallery is totally fair and only requires the initial purchase. It is a motorized moving target system and guaranteed to put a lot of fun into shooting.

The Shootin' Gallery comes disassembled and requires a minimum of three hands to put it together. My friend Joe and I were able to assemble it in less than an hour and it probably would have taken less time if we wanted to read the directions. Both of us think we can figure things out for ourselves and only read directions as a last resort.

Once assembled, the Shootin' Gallery is a battery operated, heavy-duty—as well as heavy—target system of rotating 2" disks which disappear backwards when hit and automatically reset themselves. It is chain operated and the targets rotate in a long oval direction from left to right with four targets rotating across the top at a time. As they go around they reset themselves and come back up ready to be shot again. The unit is basically a heat-treated steel impact plate set on four legs and, while I have not weighed it, it is advertised as weighing less than 50 pounds. It can be moved by one person but it is more comfortable to have one person at each end to carry it. The front plate is angled to direct fired rounds downward. Set up it is approximately 3' long and 1' tall so it carries easily in the back of a pick-up

truck or trunk of a car.

Even though the Shootin' Gallery is relatively heavy, it is designed for standard velocity .22s only. I have to wonder about this, as a standard velocity .22 from a rifle is probably as fast, or faster than high velocity rounds from a short-barreled pistol. It is definitely *not* to be used with .22 Magnums or either of the .17 Rimfire rounds. Caldwell also supplies self-sticking orange targets to paste on the black disks, however, I found the first shot usually made these disappear so it is just as easy to spray paint the disk black or any color desired. At relatively close range, 10 yards or less, it is not necessary to lead the targets as the bullet seems to get there in plenty of time.

The Shootin' Gallery comes with a battery as well as a recharging unit and the battery is well protected from shots by the metal front plate and is also enclosed in a protective steel box. Caldwell advertises the Shootin' Gallery as providing hours of good old-fashioned carnival fun for all ages. I agree, and at \$279, I consider it an excellent investment in family pleasure.



BATTENFELD TECHNOLOGIES  
5855 W. VAN HORN TAVERN RD.  
COLUMBIA, MO 65203  
(573) 445-9200, WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/  
BATTENFELD-TECHNOLOGIES-INC

## “Gun Fit”



**If it fits,  
she has a  
better chance  
for more hits.**

More hits = More fun. Choosing the right gun and making sure it fits a lady is important.

### Shari can help.

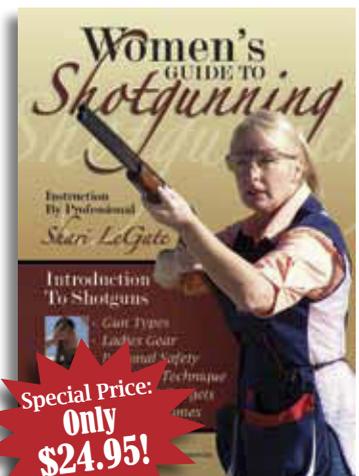
Shooting champion Shari LeGate provides all the information needed for any lady to get started in shotgun sports through her DVD, *Women's Guide To Shotgunning*.

### Order Today!

**(800) 628-9818**

(M-F 8am-3pm PST)

[www.gunsmagazine.com/fmgvideo](http://www.gunsmagazine.com/fmgvideo)



Special Price:  
Only  
**\$24.95!**

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

Colt\*Licensed Walnut Checkered Grips Mfg by  
**NC ORDNANCE**



Colt Detective Special 3rd Model \$135.00

Colt MkIII Trooper, Lawman \$155.00

Colt MkV Trooper, Anaconda \$175.00

Colt Python \$195.00

King Grade Cocobolo Rosewood Add \$20.00  
Licensed Colt\* Grip Maker  
**NC ORDNANCE INC**  
PO Box 3254 Wilson NC 27895  
252-237-2440  
[www.gungrip.com](http://www.gungrip.com)

*Cleaning your Ruger .22 is a Chore.*



Contact Majestic Arms  
to solve that problem and more  
[www.majesticarms.com](http://www.majesticarms.com), 718-356-6765

FREE CATALOG! Make your own kydex gun holster or knife sheath. Over 1200 items. Visit [www.knifekits.com](http://www.knifekits.com) or call 1-877-255-6433 today.

## American Made WRB

Premium Holsters and Range Bags  
[www.wrbsales.com](http://www.wrbsales.com)

## AMMUNITION

Quinetics Corporation! Reloading supplies for the reloader. *Made in USA.* [www.quineticscorp.com](http://www.quineticscorp.com)

## APPAREL

**THE BELTMAN** makes sturdy, top quality, **DUAL LAYER** bull hide belts (not cow), for dress wear, concealed carry or competition from \$69.95. **HANDMADE** in the **USA** in three widths and five colors. Any length! Options include: Horse, Elephant, Velcro, tapering, stiffeners, etc. **919-387-1997**  
[www.thebeltman.net](http://www.thebeltman.net)

## AUCTIONS/SHOWS

## BOOKS

New Book-The Reality of Armed Self Defense (Surviving The Attack And The Aftermath) Easy reading, 115 pages, \$20 Postpaid [www.bobirwinbooks.com](http://www.bobirwinbooks.com)

## BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

### COLLECTORS

### EMBLEMS & INSIGNIA

### FIREWORKS

### GUN PARTS

### GUNS FOR SALE

### GUNSMITHING

**GUNSMITHING AT PIEDMONT COMMUNITY COLLEGE.** Two-year, hands-on program; financial aid available; approved for GI Bill benefits; P.O. Box 1197, Roxboro, NC 27573; (336)599-1181; [www.piedmontcc.edu](http://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](http://www.dovadistributors.com)

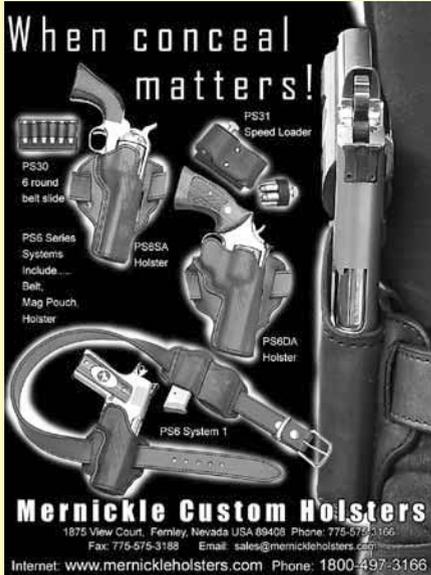
### LEATHERCRAFT

### MILITARIA

### MILITARY SURPLUS

### MISCELLANEOUS

When conceal matters!



PS30 6 round belt side

PS31 Speed Loader

PS6 Series Systems Include... Belt, Mag Pouch, Holster

PS6SA Holster

PS6DA Holster

PS6 System 1

**Mernickle Custom Holsters**  
1875 View Court, Fernley, Nevada USA 89408 Phone: 775-575-3166  
Fax: 775-575-3188 Email: [sales@mernickleholsters.com](mailto:sales@mernickleholsters.com)  
Internet: [www.mernickleholsters.com](http://www.mernickleholsters.com) Phone: 1800-497-3166

[www.conetrol.com](http://www.conetrol.com)

**CONETROL** SCOPE MOUNTS

Hwy. 123 South 800-CONETROL Seguin, Texas 78155

# Custom Corner

## S&K SCOUT-MOUNT

### No Drilling or Tapping!

The absolute best scope mount made for the Argentine 1891. Easy installation without modifications to your gun. Machined from solid bar stock & made in the USA. See

[www.scopemounts.com](http://www.scopemounts.com)

for a list of our other mounts & scopes.

### Argentine 1891 Scope Mount

### S&K

### Scope Mounts

70 Swede Hollow Rd  
Sugar Grove, PA 16350

800-578-9862

[www.scopemounts.com](http://www.scopemounts.com)



Dedicated to the metallic art of the spiral tube.

## TEN-RING PRECISION, INC.

Fine custom revolvers and semiautomatic handguns.

210.494.3063 • FAX 210.494.3066  
1449 Blue Crest Lane, San Antonio, TX 78232  
[tenring.com](http://tenring.com) • email: [tenring@texas.net](mailto:tenring@texas.net)

## FREE Membership!

FREE Advertising, Networking,  
Education & More!



Register at [www.FISST.org](http://www.FISST.org)

THE Chapman  
MFG. Company  
Est. 1936



Straight Sided Slotted Bits **For** Straight Sided Slotted Screws

### Gunsmithing Kit #8900

All American made ratchet & bit tool kit for firearms

(860) 349-9228

[www.chapmanmfg.com](http://www.chapmanmfg.com)

## WWW.DLSports.COM



Custom AR15's, 1911's,  
Precision Rifles,  
Accessories, Training,  
ITRC Competition

Extreme Duty  
AR15 Magazines  
Now Available!

928.636.1726

DL Sports, Inc.

P.O. Box 4843

Chino Valley, AZ 86323

## MAUSER 98 SAFETY



Classic Design

• Three Position Safety • Right or Left Hand  
Stainless Steel or Blue • Installation available

### Gentry Custom, L.L.C.

- Custom Gunmaker -

314 N. Hoffman, Belgrade, MT 59714

(406) 388-GUNS

[www.gentrycustom.com](http://www.gentrycustom.com)

## Rio Grande



NEW! NOW YOU CAN ADD  
PIZZAZZ TO YOUR RUGER  
BLACKHAWK, SUPER BLACK  
HAWK, OLD VAQUERO and

SINGLE SIX REVOLVERS!

NEW IMAGES FOR YOUR 1911 AND TAURUS.



QUALITY MADE IN THE U.S.A.

[www.riograndecustomgrips.com](http://www.riograndecustomgrips.com)

303-330-2812

## GET YOUR HANDGUNNER CAP!



\$18.50 each

(\$24.00 Outside U.S.)

(price includes shipping)

Cap in navy blue or khaki.

### American Handgunner Baseball-Style Cap

You'll be shooting with the best when you wear this custom designed cap from American Handgunner.

This comfortable flex-fit cotton/polyester blend cap is available in two sizes.

Small/Medium (6 3/4 to 7 1/4)

Large/Extra Large (7 1/2 to 7 5/8)

## ORDER TODAY!

Call Toll-Free

800-628-9818

Order at [www.americanhandgunner.com](http://www.americanhandgunner.com)

12345 World Trade Drive • San Diego, CA 92128

GUNS MAGAZINE ONLINE!  
[WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM](http://WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM)

## NEW PRODUCTS



### MICRO POCKET ORGANIZER MAXPEDITION

Maxpedition's 0262 Micro Pocket Organizer fits easily and comfortably into your pants pocket. Overall dimensions are 3.5" wide x 5.5" high x 1" deep. It contains various internal elastic loop organizers. Made of 800-Denier nylon fabric with Dupont Teflon fabric protector for water and abrasion resistant. Maxpedition, (310) 768-0098, [www.gunsmagazine.com/maxpedition](http://www.gunsmagazine.com/maxpedition)



### NON ADJUSTABLE AR-15 TRIGGER X-TREME SHOOTING PRODUCTS

Like all of X-Treme Shooting's products, the new "small pin" NA 2-Stage AR-15/AR-10 trigger is a cut above the competition. Wire EDM- and CNC-machined out of high quality tool steel, then finished with FailZero, this trigger will give the end user a lifetime of service. The trigger comes with a light, medium or heavy first stage spring and has a limited lifetime warranty. Price: \$165. X-treme Shooting Products, (513) 313-3464, [www.gunsmagazine.com/x-treme-shooting](http://www.gunsmagazine.com/x-treme-shooting)



### ENDURANCE 30 SERIES SCOPES HAWKE SPORT OPTICS

The Endurance family of riflescopes from Hawke Sport Optics features sleek, clean lines that are certain to draw attention from jealous companions in any hunting camp. Built in a 30mm mono-tube chassis, the Endurance is designed to withstand punishment from even the heaviest recoiling, dangerous-game rifles. It uses a German L4-style reticle with 30/30 reticle spacing. Glass etched to be finer and allow for quicker target acquisition, the reticle also features an illuminated center dot. With 11 levels of brightness control you are sure to have the proper illumination for your shooting situation. The fully multi-coated lenses ensure image clarity as well as color retention, while the fast focus ocular allows you to bring your reticle into crisp detail. Hawke Sport Optics, (877) 429-5347, [www.gunsmagazine.com/hawke-sports-optics](http://www.gunsmagazine.com/hawke-sports-optics)



### WINDMATE 350 WEATHERHAWK

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

### TEXAS RANGER BOND ARMS

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





**THE STRAIGHTJACKET BARREL SYSTEM  
TELUDYNE TECH**

When they install the StraightJacket Barrel System on your existing rifle barrel, it will significantly improve accuracy by removing the harmonic waves and rapidly dissipating heat. The results of this will be a drastically more consistent shooting rifle. The TTI StraightJacket is finished off with the patented Recoil Brake that is included with each installation. The gains in accuracy and cooling, and much greater comfort during recoil, will add up to you being a much more successful shooter. Teludyne Tech, (864) 334-5300, [www.gunsmagazine.com/teludyne-tech](http://www.gunsmagazine.com/teludyne-tech)



**DUA FOLDER  
GRAYMAN KNIVES**

After six years of making hard-use, fixed-blade knives, Grayman Knives has released their second folder. The DUA is precision machined with a 3" CPM S30 blade, and a solid titanium handle. The DUA ships with a "toothy" working edge. Available with a beadblast finish or matte-black DLC coated. Grayman Knives, [info@graymanknives.com](mailto:info@graymanknives.com), [www.gunsmagazine.com/grayman-knives](http://www.gunsmagazine.com/grayman-knives)

**MOSSBERG MODERN RIFLE  
O.F. MOSSBERG & SONS, INC**

Mossberg is pleased to offer MMR Hunter rifles with advanced features specifically designed for the avid hunter and a line of MMR Tactical rifles configured with the components most highly desired by competitive shooters and tactical operators. All MMR rifles feature a traditional direct-impingement gas system for reliable and smooth operation, free-floating, button-rifled, carbon steel barrels with 1:9" twist rates for increased accuracy in this standard military chambering, single stage



**PPS50/22  
MITCHELL'S MAUSERS**

A direct descendant of the Soviet APPSh-41, which was made famous in the battle of Berlin in 1945, the new PPS50/22 is styled like the PPSH-41. It is semi-auto, drum- or clip-fed, .22 LR, with solid wood stock and the barrel has a full-length, perforated heat shield, just like the Soviet PPSH-41. The PPS50/22

has a secure, semi-auto action, a smooth trigger, and a high-quality, nicely fitted stock, making shooting all day long very comfortable and a lot of fun! The PPS50/22 is equipped with studs to accept swivels and a sling. Mitchell's Mausers, (800) 274-4124, [www.gunsmagazine.com/Mitchell-manufacturing-corp](http://www.gunsmagazine.com/Mitchell-manufacturing-corp)

**PANCAKE HOLSTERS  
MISSOURI GUNLEATHER, LLC**

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



**PURSUIT ULTRALIGHT XLT  
TRADITIONS PERFORMANCE FIREARMS**

Weighing in at only 5.9 pounds, the Pursuit Ultralight XLT features an Ultralight Chromoly tapered, fluted, ported barrel which makes it lighter and built to travel. The 28" barrel is coated in Premium CeraKote Finish, which is 50 times more resistant than stainless steel and protects against highly corrosive black powder, cleaning chemicals and all forms of weather. The barrel comes equipped with

the Speed Load System, allowing for easy loading. The Pursuit Ultralight XLT also features the Accelerator Breech Plug which removes in three easy turns by hand, 360-degree barrel porting to reduce muzzle jump and Soft Touch camo stocks. Equipped with a dual safety system, the Pursuit Ultralight XLT incorporates two safeties; a trigger block safety and an internal hammer block safety. Traditions Performance Firearms, (860) 388-4656, [www.gunsmagazine.com/traditions](http://www.gunsmagazine.com/traditions)



triggers and black phosphate/anodized metal finishes for enhanced durability. The MMR Hunter features three initial offerings of this series in 5.56mm NATO (.223 Rem) and will be dedicated to the predator, varmint and small game hunter. The MMR Tactical is designed to support both sport shooting and tactical applications. It is chambered in 5.56mm

NATO (.223 Rem) and features a 16.25" free-floating barrel with removable A2-style muzzlebrake, aluminum Picatinny quad-rail fore-end with vents for maximum cooling, receiver-mounted integral Picatinny rail and standard dust cover. O.F. Mossberg & Sons, Inc., (203) 230-5300, [www.gunsmagazine.com/o-f-mossberg-sons](http://www.gunsmagazine.com/o-f-mossberg-sons)

# ENTER



### DIAMONDBACK FIREARMS

4135 PINE TREE PL.  
COCOA, FL 32926  
(888) 380-2767  
WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/  
DIAMONDBACK-FIREARMS

Action type: Double-action-only semi-auto, Caliber: 9mm\*, Barrel Length: 3", Capacity: 6+1 Rounds, Weight: 11 Ounces, Length: 5.6", Height: 4", Width: .80", Notes: \*Diamondback Arms recommends standard velocity ammo with bullet weights of 124 grains or less only!



### CRIMSON TRACE

9780 S.W. FREEMAN DR.  
WILSONVILLE, OR 97070  
(800) 442-2406  
WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/  
CRIMSON-TRACE



### GRIPSWELL GLOVES

P.O. BOX 10215  
WESTMINSTER, CA 92685  
(714) 379-9413  
WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/  
GRIPSWELL-GLOVES



### G96

P.O. BOX 1684  
PATERSON, NJ 07524  
(973) 684-4050  
WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/  
G96



### 585 MINI BARRAGE

MAKER: BENCHMADE KNIVES  
300 BEAVERCREEK RD.  
OREGON CITY, OR 97045  
(800) 800-7427  
WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/BENCHMADE

Blade Length: 2.91", Blade Material: 154CM Stainless Steel, Blade Hardness: 58-61HRC, Blade Style: Mini-Drop Point; Ambidextrous Thumb-Studs, Weight: 3.4 ounces, Lock Mechanism: AXIS-ASSIST Lock, Overall Length: 6.91", Closed Length: 4"



### IMPACT STEEL TARGETS

WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/  
IMPACT-STEEL-TARGETS

# TO WIN!

## GUNS MAGAZINE DECEMBER 2011

# GUN GIVEAWAY!

FOR WEB LINKS, GO TO [WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/PRODUCT-INDEX](http://WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/PRODUCT-INDEX)

### DIAMONDBACK ARMS DB9 SUB-COMPACT, DAO 9MM AND MORE!

The lightweight 11-ounce pistol holds 6+1 rounds and comes with a Crimson Trace Laserguard for subdued light situations. Practice makes perfect, so what better way than to use the Impact Steel Target Rolling Steel Target. To keep your grip sure and hand

comfy, a pair of GripSwell gloves are included and just in case, a Benchmade 585 Mini Barrage. Keep your DB9 lubed properly with G96 synthetic gun lube. 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](http://www.gunsmagazine.com).

### INSTANT ACCESS!



Scan our  
Quick Response  
code to your  
smartphone.

GUNS MAGAZINE GUN GIVEAWAY!

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. Firearms may have been used in a gun test. All firearms have full factory warranties.

#### TO ENTER CONTEST:

Use **YOUR OWN** postcard (no envelopes, please)

Follow sample card to right. Mail postcard to:

GUNS Magazine, **GOM DECEMBER 2011**

P.O. BOX 502795, San Diego, CA 92150-2795.

Entries must be received before **JANUARY 1, 2012**.

Limit one entry per household.

**QUESTION OF THE MONTH:** Which products do you most wish to see covered in *GUNS Magazine*?

- (A) Handguns
- (B) Rifles
- (C) Ammunition
- (D) Optics

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

**CIRCLE ANSWER(S) TO QUESTION OF THE MONTH DECEMBER 2011:**  
 (A) (B) (C) (D)

**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!

SAMPLE ONLY

# ODD ANGRY SHOT

• JOHN CONNOR •

## THE HO-HO HOLIDAY RULES

Knowing how to get along  
and make things run more smoothly.

**“It’s gonna be like herding 1,000 feral cats from Texas to Wyoming; like hosting a PETA banquet at a Black Angus Steakhouse; like running through a fireworks factory with a torch. Are you sure you don’t want to come?”**

So saith Uncle G, and before Helena and I could offer excuses for not attending, he laughed and waved us off.

“Just messin’ with you, kids! I know you can’t make it. Besides, you two have paid your dues.”

Every other year, Uncle G, who has this sprawling hacienda and property called “Rancho Inferno,” invites 30 to 40 members of the greater extended family, tribe and tenuously-related strap-hangers to a huge, holiday season get-together a week before Christmas. The Memsaab and I have attended a handful of ’em.

Waking hours was like line-dancing blindfolded through a minefield with everybody singin’ in different languages. The sleeping arrangements were like hot-rackin’ on a diesel pigboat. The calmest of them resembled an old “calling-in of the clans” in the Scottish Highlands: Everybody’s sorta-related, but they routinely war with each other, so you pay sharp attention to who’s wearing which tartan—and keep your *claymore* close.

Oh, there have been problems; sisters slapped with soup spoons, brothers-in-law bonked with gravy boats, even persons poked with turkey forks. A Boston-barroom-style brawl once broke out over who best personified Peace On Earth, for Pete’s sake.

I only got in a little trouble at one of ’em. A distant relative was wearing an enormous pink sweater with *GUESS* on it. So, I guessed. Later, Helena

explained that’s a *clothing brand*; she wasn’t inviting people to guess her weight. Pretty strong, though. I was surprised she could even lift that big ol’ chair, much less throw it. I considered these *soirées* to be good training for urban combat—or an undercover assignment in an asylum.

Why he always does the party has been a big family mystery. *How* he does it—and maintains any sliver of sanity—is an even bigger one.

### Uncle G’s Rules Of Order

Uncle G read the attending Order of Battle from his notebook: “Out of



34 RSVPs who say they’re coming,” he said, “Ten moved as far away as they could as soon as they could, to get away from eight of the others. Six are politically extreme left and right—three of each—and I think the others are in league with the devil. Nine of ’em talk non-stop, and four use only grunts and gestures. Two are stone-deaf and eight are teenagers who go into withdrawal without ear-splitting music. Three have less than a 1-to-1 tooth to tattoo ratio. Seven are rug-rats. The age spread spans 76 years. This oughta’ be classic!”

How he could chuckle about it puzzled me, but I think his famed-in-the-family Rules of Order really help. Some of you folks are probably planning holiday gatherings, so you might benefit from his wisdom. Herewith, some selections:

**Duration of Event:** The Benjamin Franklin Rule is, “After three days, fish and guests begin to stink.” Stinkers found on the premises will be bagged and deposited in appropriate receptacles.

**Solicitation of Opinions:** If you’re female and you wonder if a certain garment makes you look fat, it probably does. Don’t ask me, because I’ll tell you. If you’ve recently changed hairstyles to something spiked, metallic in color or resembling a voodoo doll, don’t ask if I like it. I have hedge clippers and know how to use ’em. If you’re a guy, don’t ask if I can tell you’ve been “working out”—especially if you’re a pencil-necked geek and ought to know it. Check your politics at the door. Don’t even ask “how did you vote?” I voted by secret ballot. You should try it. It goes like this: (1) You vote. (2) You shut up about it. Engaging in political commentary will get you hosed down with brisk, refreshing seltzer water. Repeat offenders will be hosed with something else.

**Food & Beverage Service:** At considerable expense, fishies, fowls and the flesh of beasts will be cooked and served, yours truly officiating daily at the grill. If you’re a vegetarian, you may politely decline

# ROY ALERT!

# BEWARE SUBSCRIPTION SCAM

**DEAR READERS:** Nefarious scoundrels have been trying to scam *Handgunner* readers by offering unauthorized subscriptions for a ridiculously high price. Don't be a victim of this dastardly behavior! It's easy to protect yourself; simply remember: NEVER pay more than \$37 for a 2-year subscription to *Handgunner*! If it asks for \$71, toss it! I've received a bunch of calls from you guys, reporting suspicious offers to renew subs to *Handgunner*. You have detailed receiving offers on mailing pieces, looking suspiciously similar to ours. They direct you to write a check or submit a credit card number for the outrageous price of \$71 (almost twice the published price!!!). They appear to be from us — but they are most certainly not! While it is still rare, it has occurred, so keep a sharp eye and don't be shy about questioning something like this.

It's easy to verify that it's legit. Confirm the *Handgunner* ID Number on the top line of the renewal label matches your ID on the magazine you get. The price is NEVER higher than \$19.75 for one year, or \$36.75 for two. Our offers say, "Make check payable to *American Handgunner*" (NOT some sleazy third party!). The return address will either be 12345 World Trade Drive, San Diego, CA or P.O. Box 509093 in San Diego. Anything else spells trouble!

Keep in mind, we're always just a phone call away. Pick up the phone and dial (858) 605-0253 to chat with one of our ace subscription staffers or go to [www.americanhandgunner.com](http://www.americanhandgunner.com) and click on "Contacts" to reach us. We're actual human beings, and will be happy to help you out anytime. You can also always drop me a note at [editor@americanhandgunner.com](mailto:editor@americanhandgunner.com) if you want to report a scam, have a question or think I can help out.

— Roy Huntington, Editor

ODD ANGRY SHOT

poultry, steaks, chops, burgers *et al*, but you may not comment on the omnivorous eating habits of others, lest you find out what other functions a hefty grill spatula can be put to. The first vegetarian to point to a steak and tell one of our meat-munching kiddies "that was Bambi!" will bear *The Mark of The Spatula* on their backside, male or female, young or old. If you object to alcoholic beverages, don't drink them. If you object to others drinking them, you're invited to make yourself the opposite of "present." That would be absent. Sayonara.

**The Coffee Code:** The person consuming the next-to-last cup of coffee in the pot will pour the *last* cup into the mug marked "The Big Guy," notify me, then make a fresh pot immediately. There are detailed instructions posted, including the precise mix of Colombian Supremo and French Roast. Any deviation invites consequences too dire to detail.

**Note:** We don't do decaf. If you want hot, dark water you're on your own. At Rancho Inferno, our coffee not only awakens the dead, it makes 'em dance.

**Bathroom Use Guide:** There are three full-service bathrooms on premises, each equipped with a spring-loaded, timer-activated door-opening mechanism. "Done" or not, 12 minutes exactly after you enter, you're *done*, or at least, your *private* doings are done, 'cause that door is swinging open.

In case of simultaneous need, those under 5 and over 60 years of age have priority. If you're between those ages and there is a dispute over use, negotiate or fight it out. Don't ask me to referee. I don't ref; I *rule*, pitilessly; and I have the key.

## The WHY And The HOW

Remember those questions? Uncle G finally explained the *why*:

"They're family—to some degree, anyway—and I love 'em all, even the ones whose mothers don't love 'em. I guess I do, because somebody ought to love 'em. If that sounds crazy, let's go on to your question about *how* I do it and maintain what you called a "sliver of sanity." His eyes twinkled.

"Who needs more than a sliver of sanity? I don't. Too much sanity gets boring. If you're gonna be crazy and generous, ain't family the best reason and this the best season for it?" He reached over and touched our hands.

"And remember," he said, "I love you kids—ain't that crazy?"

Merry Christmas, folks—Connor  
**OUT**

## Disguised Mag Holders

In Different Sizes  
Fit Most  
Pistol Magazines



Free Kleen-Bore Silicone  
Gun Cleaning Cloth With Your Order!

[www.SpikesMagHolders.com](http://www.SpikesMagHolders.com)

(954) 288-6423

What You See Is NOT What You See™

Alloy  
**Steel Targets  
Built to Last**

Police, Military, IPSC, Cowboy  
For Shapes & Prices See:  
[www.ArntzenTargets.com](http://www.ArntzenTargets.com)  
800-821-3475



ARNTZEN CORPORATION

# DON'T BE A VICTIM!

- CONFIRM THE ID #
- NEVER PAY MORE THAN \$37 FOR A 2-YEAR SUBSCRIPTION
- WHEN IN DOUBT, CONTACT US



AMERICAN  
**HANDGUNNER**

AMERICAN  
COP AND  
AMERICAN  
HANDGUNNER  
**ONLINE!**

AMERICANCOP.COM  
AMERICANHANDGUNNER.COM

# GUNS

MAGAZINE

DECEMBER 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
3 Gun Nation	80
AirForce Airguns	76
Al Mar Knives	43
Ambush Firearms	20
American Handgunner Subscription	82
American Tactical Imports	42
American Watch Co.	7
Archangel Mfg./ProMag Ind.	40
Arntzen Corporation	95
Benchmade Knife Company	12
BLACKHAWK!	21
Blue Book Publications Inc.	79
Bond Arms	27
Chapman Mfg.	89

ADVERTISER	PAGE	ADVERTISER	PAGE
Cheaper Than Dirt	23	Lee Precision Inc.	81
CORBON/Glaser	43	Lewis Machine & Tool	75
Crimson Trace Corp.	78	LockSAF	33
CrossBreed Holsters LLC	54	Mag-na-port International Inc.	15
CZ USA	24	MasterPiece Arms	83
D & L Sports	89	Mitchells Mausers	71
Daniel Defense	C2	MTM Case-Gard	31
DeSantis Holster	40	Numrich Gun Parts	77
Dixie Gun Works	70	Old West Reproductions Inc.	77
El Paso Saddlery Co.	76	Pride-Fowler Inc.	83
Elite Sports Express	74	PrOlix	33
European American Armory	11	Rio Grande Custom Grips	89
FenixLight Limited	29	Rock River Arms	15
FIIST	89	S & K ScopeMounts	89
Fiocchi Ammunition	C3	Savage Arms	25
FNH USA	9	Sierra Bullets	10
Fort Knox Security	70	Spike's Magazine Holders	95
Gentry Custom LLC	89	Springfield Inc.	3, 73
GunVault	17	Steelcutter Publishing	72
Helvetica Trading USA LLC	19	Streamlight Inc.	37
Heritage Manufacturing	74	Sturm, Ruger & Co. Inc.	39
Hogue Inc.	54	Sun Optics USA	77
Impact Steel Targets	10	Taurus International	13
ITT Corp.	63	Ten Ring Precision	89
Jantz Supply	55	Thunder Ranch Training DVDs	85
Kahr Arms	64	Umarex USA	27
Kimber Manufacturing Inc.	C4	USA Shooting Team	61
Kirkpatrick Leather Company	72	Weatherby Inc.	41
Kwik-Site Corp.	38, 60, 65	Wicked Grips	35

**New HANDGUNNER Gear!**

# GET SOME!

**Only \$21.99 each!**  
with Free shipping  
(within the continental U.S.)

American Handgunner USA  
Style #HGUS

Tactical Division  
Style #HGTD

Keeping The Peace  
Style #HGPC

Shoot To Live  
Style #HGSH

**New American Handgunner T-shirts. Only \$21.99 with FREE shipping.**  
[www.AMERICANHANDGUNNER.com](http://www.AMERICANHANDGUNNER.com) or call (800) 628-9818

would experience just a small part of the enjoyment I had received from his.

Two of my friends, John Wootters and Bob Baer, spent a lot of time visiting with Skeeter in the hospital, and the three of them, along with the help of Bill Grover, built what turned out to be Skeeter's last sixgun. It is a Ruger 3-Screw .357 Blackhawk converted to .44 Special, fitted with stocks made from the horns of a bighorn sheep picked up by Wootters and Skeeter while in British Columbia. This sixgun now belongs to John Wootters and is pictured in my *Book of the .44*, which is now out of print. I also dedicated a chapter in that book to Skeeter and the resurrection of the .44 Special. Since his passing in 1988, I have tried to pick up the torch and carry it for sixguns in general... the .44 Special in particular.

Skeeter's articles were mostly written at the time of the Classic Sixguns, in the middle of the 20th century. I was in college when he wrote about the arrival of the Colt New Frontier. His 5-1/2" .44 Special was about the most beautiful single-action sixgun I had ever seen and I dreamed of the day I could possibly have one of my own. He not only liked the New Frontier but he had a special fondness for 4-3/4" Colt Single Actions in both .45 Colt and .44 Special. He made all of us dream of what could be with his articles on custom single actions.

By the late 1970s, it was pretty impossible to find a Colt or Smith & Wesson .44 Special as they had both been removed from production. Skeeter showed us how to make our own in one of his articles. His piece on converting .357 Magnums to .44 Specials has had a tremendous affect over the past 30 years, with the result several top-drawer gunsmiths have converted hundreds of .357 Magnums to .44 Specials.

Skeeter showed us how to do it with both a Ruger 3-Screw Blackhawk and a S&W Highway Patrolman. Because of his writings, Colt returned the .44 Special Single Action into production and S&W produced both blued and stainless steel N-Frame .44 Specials in the early 1980s. Today both companies again offer .44 Specials; Ruger produces the .44 Special Flat-Top New Model while Lipsey's offers special runs of Ruger .44 Specials, including the Bisley Model and the stainless steel Flat-Top Blackhawk. The .44 Special is indeed alive and well and are a lasting testimony to Skeeter's inspirational articles.

Skeeter was also a great fan of the S&W double-action sixgun. We could

all sympathize with him as he wrote how difficult it was to find a .357 Magnum S&W in the late 1950s. He finally came up with a 5" Smith and, from his writings, I conclude it was one of his all-time favorite sixguns. Not only were .357 Magnum revolvers hard to find at that time, it was also very difficult to come up with .357 Magnum brass.

The load he developed will probably be forever known as the "Skeeter Load" and consisted of



**Skeeter often carried a Colt Single Action (above). Skeeter with his favorite 5" Smith & Wesson .357 Magnum (below).**



.38 Special brass, 13.5 grains of 2400 powder, and the Lyman Ray Thompson designed 358156 gas-checked bullet. This bullet has two crimping grooves and Skeeter used the bottom groove to allow more case capacity; muzzle velocity is right at 1,300 fps. With the arrival of the K-framed Smith & Wesson .357 Combat Magnum, Skeeter found he had a smaller and lighter Magnum which was much easier to pack all day; however, he still used his same load for this S&W sixgun.

Skeeter acquired one of the first 4" 1950 Target .44 Special S&Ws, although when the .44 Magnum arrived he replaced it with a 4" version of the latter. He soon found the Magnum was too heavy and too powerful for police work and went back to a 4" 1950 Target Model .44 Special. (Just about every .44 Special sixgunner knows of and uses Skeeter's .44 Special Load, the 250-grain Keith bullet over 7.5 grains of Unique.) He opined at the time the .44 Magnum was strictly for hunting and he found a slightly used 7-1/2" .44 Blackhawk, the original Flat-Top version and this became his favorite hunting handgun carried in a George Lawrence No. 120 Keith holster. He was carrying that sixgun and his brush clothes when he was called to take part in a drug raid and also when he pulled down on a drug smuggler, who was armed and ready to fight. With that big .44, all the fight disappeared from the contrabandista; the man later said: "That cowboy had the biggest gun I ever saw!"

What are probably the most popular double-action revolver stocks ever designed are now known as Skeeter Skelton Stocks. Skeeter took the stocks Walter Roper designed for the S&W in the 1930s but modified them to better fit his hand. My friend, the late Deacon Deason of BearHug, acquired permission from Skeeter to reproduce this grip. With the passing of Deacon, friend Tedd Adamovich of BluMagnum now offers the same excellent grip for S&W double-action sixguns.

When it comes to sixguns and sixgunning, Elmer Keith and Skeeter Skelton influenced just about everything. Their writings caught the imagination, heart and soul of every true sixgunner. I hope in some small way, I have carried on their tradition.

**GUNS**

BLUMAGNUM GRIPS  
2605 E. WILLAMETTE AVE.  
COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80909  
(719) 632-9417  
WWW.GUNSMAGAZINE.COM/BLU-MAGNUM

# CAMPFIRE TALES

BY JOHN TAFFIN

## REMEMBERING SKEETER And sixguns.

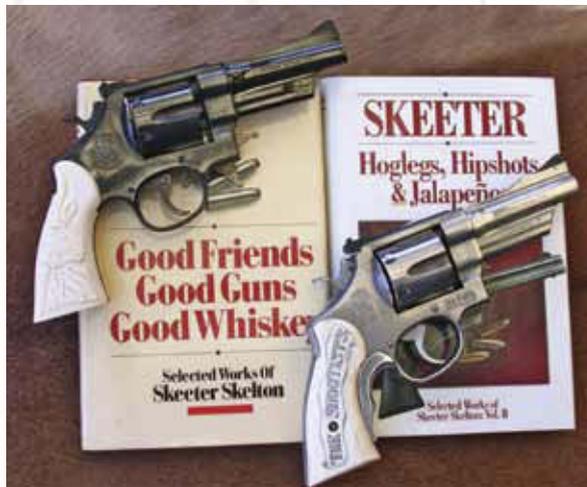
**I**t is hard to believe Skeeter Skelton has been gone from us for nearly a quarter of a century. There have been many excellent gunwriters over the past 100 years or so, and I have looked up articles by them written before WWI. Beginning in the late 1920s, Elmer Keith caught the attention of shooters and held it for over 50 years; I believe I've read everything he ever wrote, especially pertaining to sixguns. Keith wrote about sixguns, shotguns, rifles and hunting with nearly a dozen books to his credit.

Skeeter on the other hand, wrote mostly, almost exclusively, about handguns. His writing career lasted less than 30 years and he never wrote a book, however many of his articles were compiled into a pair of books after his passing and his influence and appeal are everlasting. Those two books which demand high dollar prices these days are *Hipshots, Hoglegs, and Jalapenos* and *Good Friends, Good Guns, Good Whiskey*. Just as with Elmer Keith, today Skeeter's articles seem somewhat dated, nevertheless, just as with Keith, they are also highly relevant in many ways to shooters today.

Skeeter joined the Border Patrol in the early 1950s at a time when it was still a horseback outfit, and also was actually allowed to enforce federal law concerning illegals. He went on to become sheriff of Deaf Smith County, Texas, and while serving as sheriff wrote many of his early articles. His first freelance efforts appeared in this very magazine under his given name of Charles A. Skelton.

Some articles I recall (in fact saved in my file) are "Pistols For

Plainclothesmen," "The New Varminters," "Rigging Up For Sixgunning" and "Belt Guns Along Rio Grande." I'm not a betting man, but if I was, I would be willing to wager



**Skeeter Skelton was directly responsible for the resurrection of the S&W .44 Specials in the early 1980s.**

many of those reading this have done the same thing. Skeeter also freelanced for *Gun World* and *GunSport*, then became handgun editor for *Shooting Times* in the mid-1960s. For more than 20 years in that position, Skeeter caught the imagination and attention

of sixgunners everywhere.

Skeeter was more than just a gunwriter as he had a natural talent for entertaining stories, whether they were about his childhood days with his friend in the "Me And Joe" tales or his fictional accounts of the adventures of Dobe Grant. The imaginary Dobe was made up using a compilation of the attributes of several real characters in Skeeter's life such as Bill Jordan and Evan Quiros. With "Me And Joe," many of us were able to relive parts of our childhood and dream of years gone by that we shall never see again; with Dobe Grant there was always an adventure and a good definition of what real friendship is.

I first met Skeeter in 1978. The NRA Show was held in Salt Lake City that year, so Diamond Dot and I drove down to attend it as well as The Outstanding American Handgunner Awards Foundation Banquet. I had high hopes Skeeter would win that year, which he did, and I still have the banquet program he autographed for me. I caught his attention on the show floor by walking up to him and handing him a picture. It was a picture of a 1st Generation Colt Single Action I owned and the close-up of the barrel revealed an inscription: "Russian and S&W Special 44." Skeeter grabbed me by the arm and said, "Let's go find a place to talk." He loved Colt Single Actions, especially the .44 Special.

Over the years, Skeeter's physical condition suffered greatly because of several fights he experienced as a law officer, car accidents and especially a botched operation. He was 60 years old when everything finally caught up with him. While Skeeter was in the hospital I sent him many of my manuscripts, hoping with them he

*continued on page 97*

# CANNED HEAT



## Introducing The New Line of Innovative Ammunition Packaging by FIOCCHI USA.

TRACER SHOTSHELLS, RIMFIRE, CENTERFIRE Pistol, Revolver and Rifle Ammunition  
Packaged in StackAble, PackAble, StorAble CANS.

SINCE 1876



# FIOCCHI

A M M U N I T I O N

For the Focchi dealer near you, Call 417.449.1043 / visit [www.focchiusa.com](http://www.focchiusa.com)



# THE KIMBER SUPER CARRY. WELL-ROUNDED PERFORMANCE.

The new Super Carry Ultra+™ (left) and Super Carry Custom HD™ establish a new standard of personal defense. Seven Super Carry models are offered, all chambered in .45 ACP.



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



The Super Carry Pro™ .45 ACP is one of four models with a light weight aluminum frame for easy carry.



The Super Carry Pro HD™ .45 ACP is one of three new models with a stainless steel frame for hard use.

Super Carry .45 ACP pistols raise the bar for 1911 features and performance. Made in the Kimber® Custom Shop™, they have a round heel frame for unequalled concealability and comfortable carry, plus unidirectional serrations for fast and positive operation. A Carry Melt™ treatment rounds and blends edges. An ambidextrous thumb safety and match grade barrel are standard. A Kimber first, the new Super Carry Ultra+™ combines a 3-inch barrel with a full-length grip. Super Carry pistols deliver performance to the extreme.



©2011 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](http://kimberamerica.com)