REMINGTON PREMIER CuT



July 2024

AMERICAN Rifleman

The World's Oldest And Largest Firearm Authority

Arming My Daughter Part II
Sampling Mid-Size Nines

Uncle Sam's Last Trench Gun
Winchester Model 1200

TAURUS EXPEDITION

NRA Official Journal of the National Rifle Association
AMERICANRIFLEMAN.ORG

GOLD BREAKS RECORD AGAIN ... AND AGAIN!

Costco is selling up to $200 million a month in 1 ounce gold bars, according to Wells Fargo.

BUY GOLD FROM US NOT COSTCO

TOP REASONS TO BUY FROM US NOT COSTCO

1 Competitive prices
2 Free shipping & insurance
3 Free Exchange
4 We buy back gold, Costco does not
5 We employ experts, Costco does not
6 Costco runs out, we do not



SPECIAL NRA MEMBER PRICING!

IRA-Approved Bullion	Brilliant Uncirculated	Check/Wire Price Per Coin		
1 oz Gold Bar our choice of design	1oz .9999 Fine Gold	As Low As ONLY	2% Over Spot Price*	Limit 5
2024 $50 American Gold Eagle	1oz Fine Gold	As Low As ONLY	3.8% Over Spot Price*	Limit 5
2024 $5 American Gold Eagle	1/10 oz Fine Gold	As Low As ONLY	10% Over Spot Price*	Limit 5
2024 Canadian Gold Maple	1oz .9999 Fine Gold	As Low As ONLY	2.5% Over Spot Price*	Limit 5
2024 $1 American Silver Eagle	1oz .999 Fine Silver	As Low As ONLY	$5.75 Over Spot Price*	Limit 10
2024 Canadian Silver Maple	1oz .9999 Fine Silver	As Low As ONLY	$2.50 Over Spot Price*	Limit 10

ASK US HOW TO EASILY ROLL OVER YOUR IRA TO A GOLD IRA TODAY!

PHONE ORDERS ONLY • FREE SHIPPING - $9 VALUE On Advertised Offers Using Vault Code

Call 24/7 Phone Orders Only | VISA MasterCard PayPal American Express Discover Money Order or Check

1.800.822.4653

Vault Code: UAMRFGS0724W
Offer Expires: 07/20/24

CLICK FOR SPECIAL NRA MEMBER OFFERS

America's Gold Expert
UNIVERSAL COIN & BULLION Est. 1994

P·N·G APMD Accredited Precious Metals Dealer

The Exclusive Precious Metals & Rare Coin Expert of NRA's American Rifleman

A+ Rating | BBB ACCREDITED BUSINESS Since 1995

NGC Numismatic Guaranty Corporation AUTHORIZED DEALER | National Coin & Bullion Association MEMBER

Proud Sponsor: Eddie Eagle GunSafe® Program

NRA Business Alliance The Business of Freedom.

Gold & Silver Bullion Products
COMPARE & SAVE!
UNIVERSALCOIN.COM/NRA

*SPOT PRICE- the daily quoted market price of precious metals in bullion form. Spot price determined solely by us at time of transaction. BU coins typically come from the Mint with marks. Availability, price and premiums are subject to change. No refunds only replacements on bullion coin orders. Advertised prices are check/wire prices, limits are per household. Allow up to 30 days for delivery. See disclosures on our website. Coin images not to scale. SILVER BASIS: $26.40 • GOLD BASIS: $2,293

CELEBRATING 75 YEARS

800-338-3220 | HORNADY.COM

New

5.7x28

NOW AVAILABLE
FROM HORNADY®



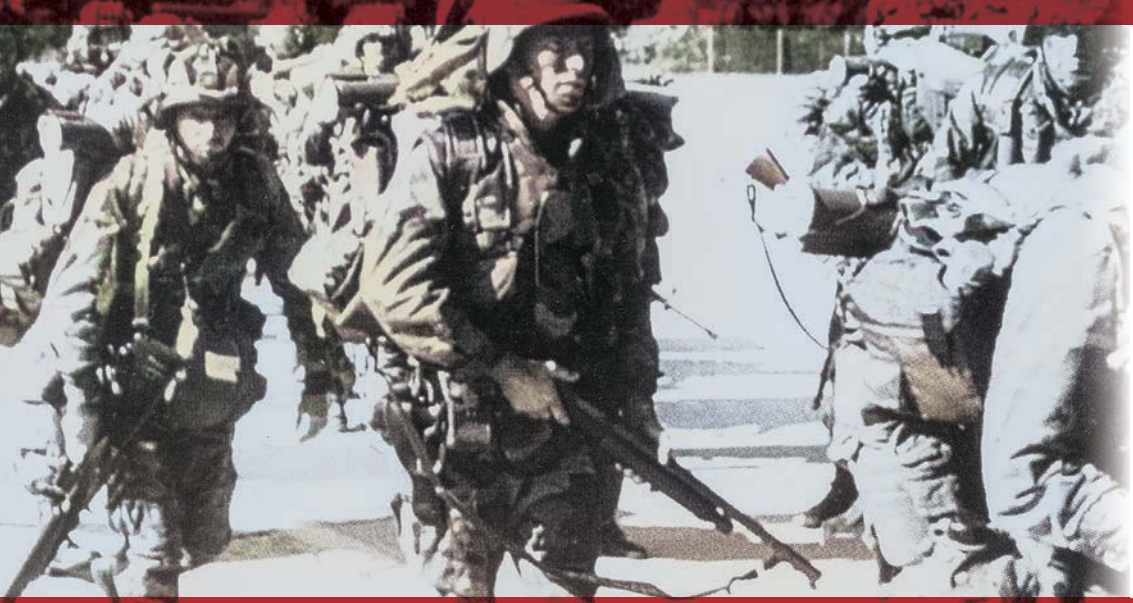
Hornady BLACK®
40 GR. V-MAX®

Critical Defense®
40 GR. FTX®

Critical Defense,® Your Best Defense for Personal Protection, features the 40 gr FTX® bullet with Flex Tip® technology making Critical Defense® the best 5.7x28 defense ammunition available.

Hornady BLACK® with the 40 gr V-MAX® is a truly versatile option that delivers outstanding shooting performance.

SEE ALL OUR
NEW PRODUCTS
hornady.com/new



54

While other combat shotguns have been issued to American troops since the Model 1200—seen here during the 1983 invasion of Grenada—Winchester's pump-action was the last to possess all of the characteristics of a "trench gun."

CONTENTS

AMERICAN RIFLEMAN
OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
138th Year of Publication

JULY 2024
VOLUME 172,
NO. 7

The NRA, the foremost guardian of the traditional American right to "keep and bear arms," believes every law-abiding citizen is entitled to the ownership and legal use of firearms, and that every reputable gun owner should be an NRA Member.

features

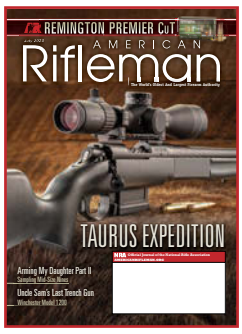
Rewriting History To Undermine SCOTUS 18
Randy Kozuch — A new breed of "academics" is trying to undermine recent pro-Second Amendment rulings by the Supreme Court by attempting to revise accepted American history.

Taurus Embarks On A New "Expedition" 36
Matt Robertson — Best known for modern revolvers and semi-automatic pistols, Taurus USA has undertaken a new venture—a bolt-action rifle platform with a smart feature set.

Solid And To The Point: Remington's Premier CuT 42
Kelly Young — Combining the exceptional weight-retention of Core-Lokt Copper with the enhanced aerodynamic properties of Core-Lokt Tipped, Premier CuT gives Remington Ammunition a potent new lead-free big-game hunting load.

Arming My Daughter Part II: Sampling Mid-Size Nines 48
Justin Dyal — During the first range experience with his daughter, the author saw how she struggled with a micro nine, so a natural question arose: How would she do with a somewhat larger 9 mm Luger handgun?

Uncle Sam's Last Trench Gun: Winchester Model 1200 54
Bruce N. Canfield — The Winchester Model 1200 served as a bridge between a short line of vaunted predecessors and a new slate of modern combat shotguns.



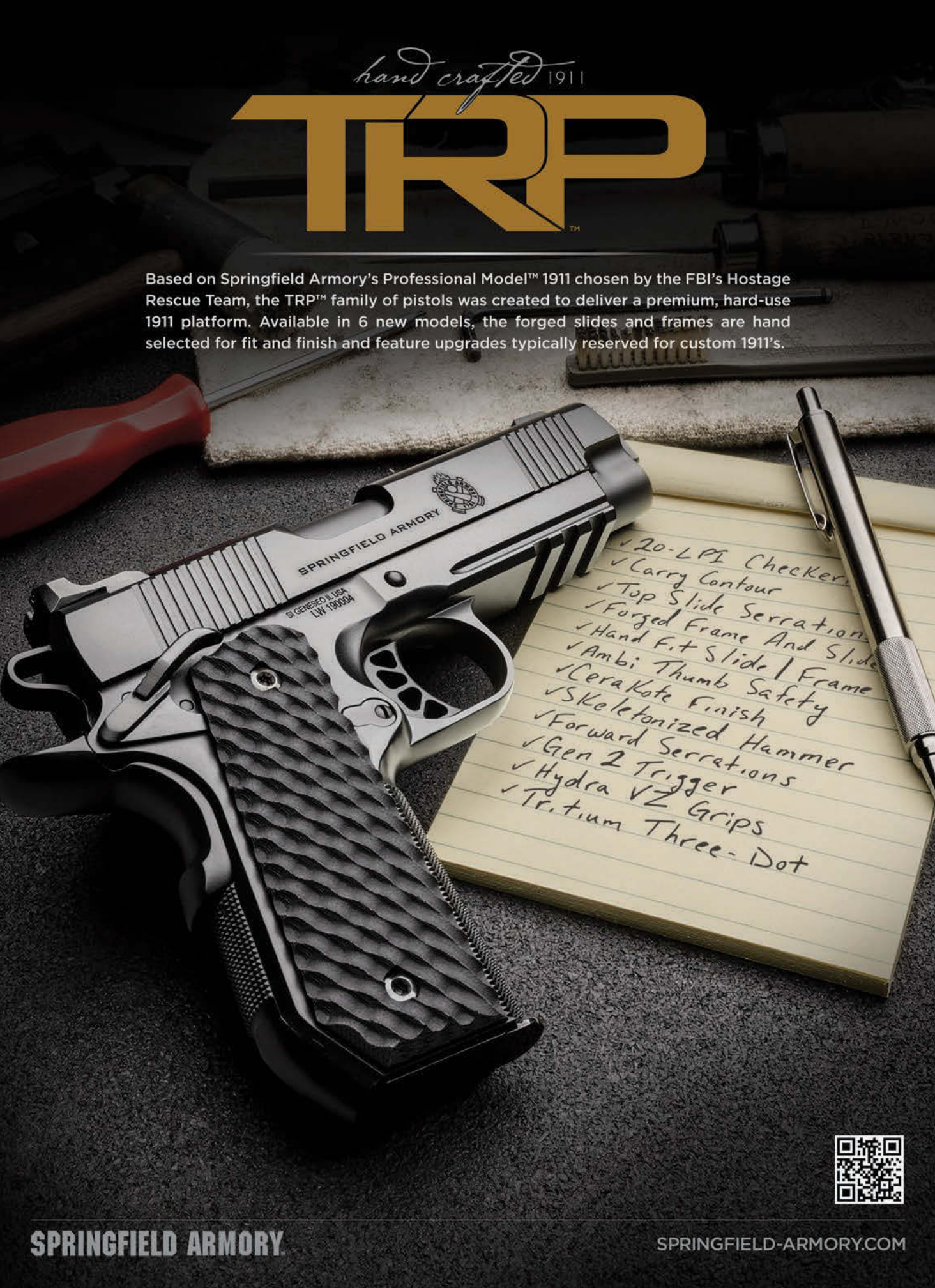






THE COVER: The Taurus Expedition bolt-action rifle, shown here topped with a Leupold Mark 4HD 2.5-10X 42 mm scope, takes the company in an all-new direction—at a price that, considering its feature set, many shooters may find hard to believe.

Design by David Labrozzi; Photo by Forrest MacCormack


hand crafted 1911
TRP™
Based on Springfield Armory's Professional Model™ 1911 chosen by the FBI's Hostage Rescue Team, the TRP™ family of pistols was created to deliver a premium, hard-use 1911 platform. Available in 6 new models, the forged slides and frames are hand selected for fit and finish and feature upgrades typically reserved for custom 1911's.
SPRINGFIELD ARMORY
SI GENESEO IL USA
LW 190004
✓20-LPI Checker
✓Carry Contour
✓Top Slide Serrations
✓Forged Frame And Slide
✓Hand Fit Slide / Frame
✓Ambi Thumb Safety
✓CeraKote Finish
✓Skeletonized Hammer
✓Forward Serrations
✓Gen 2 Trigger
✓Hydra VZ Grips
✓Tritium Three-Dot
SPRINGFIELD ARMORY
SPRINGFIELD-ARMORY.COM



60

official journal

The Armed Citizen 10

Special Reports

Standing Guard 12

President's Column 14

Political Report 16

Nominate Your Directors 62

ILA Report 64

Programs & Services 66

Regional Report 68

correspondence

The *Rifleman* Report 8

Readers Write 22

Favorite Firearms 35

Memories Of Alicia And "My Marlin"

reports

News & Notes 24

Products & Projects 26

Tips & Techniques 32

Viability Of The Vertical Foregrip

technical

Questions & Answers 34

Savage Navy Revolvers

Dope Bag 58

Chiappa Little Badger TDX .22 LR Rifle

Dan Wesson DWX 9 mm Luger Pistol

Handloads 69

A .44-40 Winchester Load For An Old Colt

I Have This Old Gun 72

Webley Metropolitan Police Revolver

The items and information offered or detailed in this publication are intended for, and directed and offered to, only those at least 18 years of age or older and who are in compliance with all applicable federal, state and local laws.

Printed in the United States of America

NRA PUBLICATIONS

Doug Hamlin
Executive Director
Michael J. Sanford
Deputy Executive Director
Marshall J. Flemion
Managing Director, Integrated Marketing
Terri A. Wolfe
Senior Executive Assistant
Rachel Carr
Publications Operations Manager
Larry Quandahl
Senior Firearms Inventory Manager

EDITORIAL

Mark A. Keefe, IV
Editorial Director
Brian C. Sheetz
Editor In Chief
Kelly Young
Senior Executive Editor
Evan Brune
Executive Editor
Christopher Olsen
Managing Editor
Maureen A. Denfeld
Senior Editorial Assistant
John Zent
Editor Emeritus
Bruce N. Canfield, Aaron Carter, Justin Dyal, Rick Hacker, John Haviland, B. Gil Horman, Garry James, Jeremiah Knupp, Martin K.A. Morgan
Field Editors
Michael Carrick, John M. Taylor, John Treakle
Contributing Editors

ART

Mark S. Weaver
Creative Director
David J. Labrozzi
Senior Art Director
Peter Fountain
Photography Director
Forrest MacCormack
Senior Photographer
Eric Dean
Photographer

American Rifleman **(ISSN 0003-083X, Vol. 172, No. 7) is published monthly by the National Rifle Association of America, 11250 Waples Mill Road, Fairfax, VA 22030-9400, (703) 267-1000, for the benefit of its members. Membership dues (U.S. and possessions) $45 a year, $100 for 3 years, $150 for 5 years. $3.75 per year is designated for a magazine subscription. For foreign postage add $5 a year in Canada and $10 elsewhere. For membership inquiries only, call (877) 672-2000.**

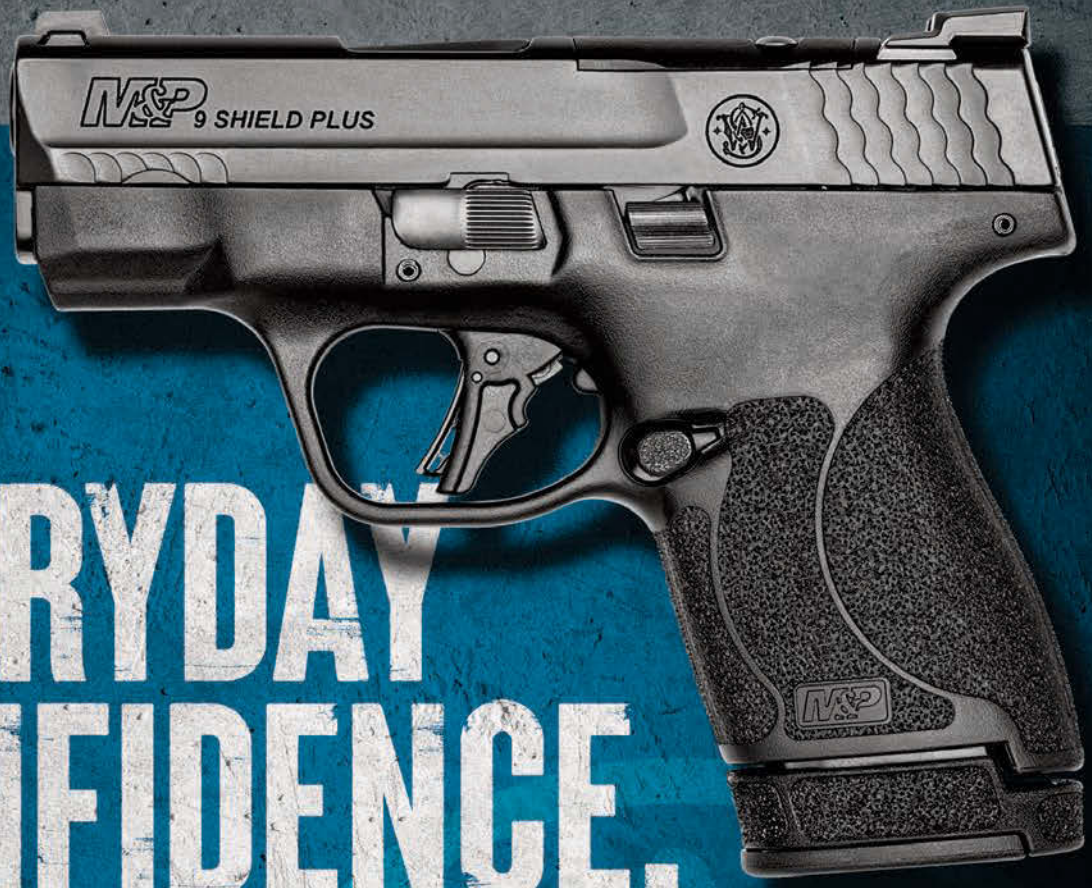
Copyright 2024, the National Rifle Association of America. All rights reserved except where expressly waived.

Periodicals Postage paid at Fairfax, VA, and at additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to *American Rifleman*, c/o National Rifle Association, P.O. Box 420648, Palm Coast, FL 32142-0648.

TO CHANGE YOUR ADDRESS or to report a damaged or undelivered magazine, write: *American Rifleman*, c/o National Rifle Association, P.O. Box 420648, Palm Coast, FL 32142-0648. Or to make changes to your account online go to: NRAmemberservices.org. Do not return damaged copies. Change of address should include both new address and a mailing label bearing the old one. In case of duplication send both labels.

M&P® SHIELD® PLUS



EVERYDAY CONFIDENCE.

Empower yourself with the M&P® Shield® Plus

Unlock dependable personal security with the M&P Shield Plus. Designed for those who demand uncompromised personal protection in a concealable package. With more capacity than previous versions, optics-ready slides, and the same great performance you expect. Stop compromising, and start carrying with confidence.

Smith & Wesson®

EMPOWERING AMERICANS™

smith-wesson.com

©2024 Smith & Wesson Inc. All Rights Reserved.

AMERICAN RIFLEMAN ONLINE



Review: Benelli ETHOS Cordoba BE.S.T.
With the development of another version of its best-selling semi-automatic shotguns, the ETHOS Cordoba BE.S.T. model, Benelli proves that an already-great design can be made even better.
americanrifleman.org/benelliethos



Colt Python 5": The Perfect Barrel Length?
The latest Colt Python is identical to its 3", 4.25" and 6" stablemates—other than its 5" barrel. Does that "in-between" barrel length really result in "magic?"
americanrifleman.org/python5inch



Review: Tisas 1911 A1 ASF
A new take by Tisas on an American military wartime classic, the 1911 A1 ASF (Armed Services Family) pistol is being brought to U.S. shores by SDS Imports.
americanrifleman.org/tisas1911asf

AMERICAN RIFLEMAN TELEVISION

Outdoor CHANNEL

Tune in Wednesday nights to the Outdoor Channel for the best firearm show on television. Now in its 22nd year, "American Rifleman Television" brings you a Feature, a "Rifleman Review" and an "I Have This Old Gun" segment in each show. Schedule may be subject to change. To view past episodes, visit **americanrifleman.org/artv**.



New Season: NRA's World Shooting Championship

July 3
NRA World Shooting Championship—A Match Like No Other; Colt Blue Python In .357 Mag.; Bergmann MP28 Submachine Gun

July 10
NRA World Shooting Championship—The Stages & The Guns; Hammerli Force B1 In .22 Long Rifle; Model 1889 Belgian Mauser Rifle

July 17
Celebrating 75 Years Of Hornady; Rossi R95 In .30-30 Win.; Jo.Lo.Ar Pistol

July 24
Hornady Cartridge Development; Taurus Model 605 Executive Series In .357 Mag.; Maynard Carbines

LEUPOLD MADE RIGHT, MADE HERE.
SILENCER CENTRAL
TAURUS
WALTHER
WINCHESTER AMMUNITION
Remington
Hornady
COLT
Smith&Wesson
ROSSI

NRA PUBLICATIONS

PUBLISHING OPERATIONS

Michelle E. Kuntz
Senior Director, Publishing Operations
James C. Handlon
Director, Marketing/Advertising
Debra Oliveri
Senior Production Coordinator
Adam Wilson
Senior Production Coordinator
Miranda Maurer
Accounts Receivable Staff Accountant
Lauren Turner
Advertising/Receivable Coordinator
Director, Eastern Sales
Tony Morrison
(860) 767-9801
Southeast Sales Executive
Stan Yates
(850) 619-8148
Eastern Sales Executive
Rachelle Trout
(910) 262-0913
Director, Western Sales
Courtney Olson
(703) 267-1300
Western Sales Executive
James O'Neill
(703) 267-1300
Midwest Sales Executive
Ken Glowacki
(703) 267-1300
Western Direct Sales Executive
Debbie O'Connell
(805) 501-9138

nramediakit.com

DIGITAL OPERATIONS

Michael Pedersen
Managing Director, Digital Operations
Troy Kelly
Art Director, Digital Operations
Jake Stocke
Senior Digital Producer
Steve Dulco
Digital Producer

MEMBERSHIP INQUIRIES: (877) 672-2000

WARNING: All technical data in this publication, especially for handloading, reflect the limited experience of individuals using specific tools, products, equipment and components under specific conditions and circumstances not necessarily reported in the article and over which the National Rifle Association (NRA) has no control. The data have not otherwise been tested or verified by the NRA. The NRA, its agents, officers and employees accept no responsibility for the results obtained by persons using such data and disclaim all liability for any consequential injuries or damages. See asterisked (*).

*** NO ADVERTISED ITEM IS INTENDED FOR SALE IN THOSE STATES, OR IN THOSE AREAS WHERE LOCAL RESTRICTIONS MAY LIMIT OR PROHIBIT THE PURCHASE, CARRYING OR USE OF CERTAIN ITEMS. CHECK LOCAL LAWS BEFORE PURCHASING. MENTION OF A PRODUCT OR SERVICE IN ADVERTISEMENTS OR TEXT DOES NOT NECESSARILY MEAN THAT IT HAS BEEN TESTED OR APPROVED BY THE NRA.**

OFFICIAL NRA POSITIONS ARE EXPRESSED ONLY IN STATEMENTS BYLINED BY NRA OFFICERS OR IN ARTICLES IDENTIFIED AS SUCH.

THE EDITORS ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR UNSOLICITED MANUSCRIPTS OR PHOTOGRAPHS.

Alliance for Audited Media
The New Audit Bureau of Circulations

VETERAN FRIENDLY EMPLOYER



GET STARTED

We offer everything you need to start shooting suppressed. No need to leave your house to go to your local gun shop, bank, gunsmith, sheriff's office, government building... you get the idea. We have you covered.

CALL 866.569.2170 OR VISIT SILENCERCENTRAL.COM

Dillon's XL750

Your Own Ammunition Factory!



dillonprecision.com

THE RIFLEMAN REPORT



Americans from all walks of life use firearms for all manner of legitimate purposes—accounting for significant economic activity. In fact, according to a recent report from the National Shooting Sports Foundation, the U.S. firearm and ammunition industry generated $90 billion in revenue and supported more than 384,000 full-time jobs last year. The industry also paid nearly $11 billion in state and local taxes in 2023, in addition to $944 million in federal excise taxes that directly contribute to wildlife conservation.

With that amount of business on the line, it's no wonder that firearm and ammunition companies are continuously engaged in improving their products and that consumers and professionals rely on them and enjoy using them to refine skills and tactics, driving even more innovation. Sometimes, the result is an unexpected new model emerging from a familiar brand. One such example is featured on this month's cover.

The Taurus name has long been associated with revolvers and semiautomatic handguns in the American market, but the company's Brazilian parent—founded as a tool-and-die forging operation 100 years ago—has far deeper experience that serves as a resource for the exploration of new market segments by its Taurus USA offshoot. The company's latest new model is aimed at the highly competitive realm of performance-oriented bolt-action rifles. In "Taurus Embarks On A New 'Expedition'" (p. 36), contributor Matt Robertson, an inveterate student of riflecraft and occasional competitor, puts the new bolt gun through its paces to learn whether it checks all the right boxes.

Senior Executive Editor Kelly Young takes a close look at one of the latest ammunition products from one of the biggest names in that market segment. In "Solid And To The Point: Remington's Premier CuT" (p. 42), he explains that the lessons learned by Big Green in its Core-Lokt Copper and Core-Lokt Tipped lines have been used to create an all-new one called CuT. Available in nine popular chamberings, its bullets offer aerodynamic efficiency along with high retained weight and deep penetration on game across the spectrum of hunting ranges.

In "Arming My Daughter Part II: Sampling Mid-Size Nines" (p. 48), Field Editor Justin Dyal picks up where he left off in our September 2023 issue (p. 48) in which he helped his daughter Laney learn how to handle the recoil of several self-defense chamberings. With the step up from .380 ACP to 9 mm Luger, she finds that proper technique is necessary to master the more potent cartridge in small, light handguns and that moving up to a larger pistol can be worth the added size and weight.

Field Editor Bruce Canfield provides the historical context for "Uncle Sam's Last Trench Gun" (p. 54), which was, in fact, the Winchester Model 1200 pump-action. Following in a revered line of such combat arms as the company's Model 1897 and Model 1912, which were in use by U.S. soldiers even before the advent of the First World War, the Model 1200 was on duty for action in Desert Storm and Afghanistan—and remains in some National Guard armories to this day.

Guns such as those mentioned above are depended upon by hundreds of millions of citizens, law-enforcement personnel and service members alike across our country and elsewhere every day. And every month we are privileged to report on their technological, educational, commercial and historical merits as a means of informing and entertaining our readers: members of the National Rifle Association. In the process, we hope to instill in all Americans a collective appreciation for the positive benefits that firearms have in free society.

—Brian C. Sheetz, Editor In Chief



"My victory is taming my demons and learning to live again." While serving in Kosovo, Adam was severely injured and left with a traumatic brain injury. Back home, he fought depression, anxiety and alcohol. With support from DAV, Adam was able to build a new life. DAV helps veterans of every generation get the benefits they've earned—helping more than a million veterans each year. Support more victories for veterans® **Go to DAV.org.**

DAV®
KEEPING OUR PROMISE TO
AMERICA'S VETERANS

THE ARMED CITIZEN®

IF YOU HAVE A FIRSTHAND "ARMED CITIZEN" EXPERIENCE,

EMAIL NRA PUBLIC AFFAIRS TEAM AT MEDIA@NRAHQ.ORG.

Studies indicate that firearms are used more than 2 million times a year for personal protection, and that the presence of a firearm, without a shot being fired, prevents crime in many instances. Shooting usually can be justified only where crime constitutes an immediate, imminent threat to life, limb, or, in some cases, property. Anyone is free to quote or reproduce these accounts.

Send clippings via email to armedcitizen@nrahq.org, or by mail to "The Armed Citizen," 11250 Waples Mill Road, Fairfax, VA 22030-9400. For bonus features, visit "The Armed Citizen Blog" at americanrifleman.org. Share this column online at nrapublications.org.

Late on March 1, in Albuquerque, N.M., a woman was sharing an evening dancing and singing with her 4-year-old granddaughter, when an unknown man burst into the home and demanded her keys. He stated he didn't want to be arrested and threatened to hurt the woman and her granddaughter. The woman dialed 911 as the man looked for the keys, but she also was complying and trying to calm the man down. "I told him not to hurt us, that I would do whatever he wanted. I would give him keys, money, whatever it took," the woman told reporters later. The man finally departed with the vehicle's key fob, and the woman took her granddaughter into the bedroom and retrieved her firearm. The 911 recording then picks up sirens and the man banging on the door, then kicking it in. The woman repeatedly warned the man to get back, then shot him when he did not comply. She then assisted the man with his injuries until police arrived and removed him from the residence. The man had been fleeing officers on foot after spike strips had disabled a car he reportedly stole. He had a lengthy criminal history, including five felony convictions, but was released last September pending a charge for vehicle theft. The armed citizen told reporters her granddaughter has been struggling to feel safe since that night, but she still feels "God was watching over us." (krqe.com, Albuquerque, N.M., 4/25/24)

A 60-year-old man was withdrawing cash from an ATM at 5:30 a.m. on March 8 in Chicago, Ill., when an unknown man rode up on a bicycle. The cyclist threw his bike to the ground, pulled out a firearm and demanded the man's valuables. The man drew his own firearm and defended himself, striking the would-be robber several times, but unfortunately was shot twice himself. Both men were transported to the hospital, where the assailant was pronounced dead; the armed citizen was stabilized and is expected to recover. (cbsnews.com, Chicago, Ill., 3/8/24)

A man driving his vehicle in Fruitville Pike, Pa., on March 13, honked his horn at a cyclist who was centered in the lane and backing up traffic behind him. This apparently enraged the cyclist, who reportedly responded by completely stopping in the road. Eventually, he did move over and let traffic pass, but then pedaled quickly in pursuit of the vehicle whose driver had beeped his horn. Reaching this vehicle, he threw open the passenger-side door and entered, whereupon the driver fired one shot from a handgun, striking the assailant once in the abdomen/chest area. The county's district attorney determined the shooting was legally justified and no charges would be filed against the armed citizen. The cyclist faces a disorderly conduct charge. (fox43.com, Harrisburg, Pa., 4/12/24)

In Beaver Falls, Pa., around 5 a.m. on April 17, a woman heard noises from her basement. She went to investigate and discovered an unknown 49-year-old man. The homeowner shot the intruder, killing him. "Thankfully, she had a firearm in the house," the county's district attorney told reporters. "We don't know what was going through the intruder's mind, whether he was there potentially just to rob her or to harm her in other ways." He also said the woman legally owned the gun and that no charges were expected against her. (wpxi.com, Pittsburgh, Pa., 4/21/24)

A family in Nashville, Tenn., woke around 6 a.m. on April 20 because someone was banging on their front door and windows. The homeowner—an armed citizen—saw a stranger causing the commotion and repeatedly ordered the man to leave or be fired upon, but the man broke the kitchen window and crawled in. The homeowner shot him in the arm, causing the man to drop a revolver near the kitchen sink and flee. Police responded and quickly located the alleged intruder, who became combative. The home intruder was transported to an area hospital and charged with aggravated burglary, felony vandalism and possession of a firearm while intoxicated, among other charges. No charges were expected against the homeowner. (charlotteobserver.com, Charlotte, N.C., 4/22/24)

In Jackson, Miss., three young men approached a woman's home on May 1, rang the doorbell and asked if she wanted her grass cut. She declined the offer and the men moved on, but they next went to her daughter's home in the same neighborhood. She was not home and the men allegedly broke in. The daughter returned home, however, and the suspects fired shots at her. The daughter was not injured and returned fire, causing the suspects to flee. At the time of reporting, only one man had been apprehended. (wjtv.com, Jackson, Miss., 5/1/24)

Celebrating 75 Years of Rugged, Reliable Firearms®



In 2024, Ruger proudly celebrates 75 years of manufacturing rugged, reliable firearms. To commemorate this occasion, Ruger is proud to announce four 75th Anniversary Models, a Mark IV™ pistol, two different 10/22® rifles and an LCP® MAX, each representative of Ruger's storied past and bright future. These commemorative models are inspired by iconic Ruger products, and represent each of our three major manufacturing facilities.

LEARN MORE

The acquisition, ownership, possession and use of firearms are heavily regulated. Some models may not be legally available in your state or locale. Whatever your purpose for lawfully acquiring a firearm – know the law, get trained and shoot safely.

RUGER® 75 1949-2024



By Doug Hamlin
NRA Executive
Vice President & CEO

The NRA Is Back

The NRA is back. That is the first thing I want to say to you as your association's new executive vice president and CEO.

We have new leadership. We are resolute. We know our mission. We are all in this together. We are again holding our heads high as we positively stand up for our freedom in this critical election year.

There has never been a more important time for us to get back on our feet than right now. The American people want their freedom. No, they demand their freedom. And now the NRA has righted its course. We are now rallying our millions of members, and all freedom-loving Americans, to this patriotic cause. Now is the time to come together. Now is the time to be bold.

I didn't seek this position; actually, I first declined to be considered for it. I didn't hesitate because the challenge is too great, but because I first needed to know that the NRA Board, all of the donors who support us and more—I never doubted this association's incredible membership—were ready to move boldly forward. They are.

So yes, this needs to be said loudly, and with the swagger of confidence, that we are back. And not just back, but we have incredible opportunities before us. We are right. We have a majority of voters with us nationally. There are millions of new gun owners. There are millions of former NRA members who need to come back. We are stronger together within this great association. We need to stand up together, fists clenched and jaws set, and to peacefully advocate for our freedom. We need to vote and to make sure all gun owners vote. If we do, we will retain our freedom.

As I travel around America, it is always made clear to me that NRA members, and indeed all freedom-loving Americans, are tired of being blamed for the actions of criminals and for the results of bad policies from woke politicians and district attorneys. We're tired of being called the bad guys. We know we are the good guys. The many millions of men and women who support law enforcement and law and order, those who shoulder the responsibility of their freedom, are the good citizens.

Most NRA members know me already, as I served as executive director of NRA Publications for the last 10 years. I also served six years on active duty, and six more years in the reserves, as an officer in the U.S. Marine Corps. After leaving active duty, I rose in the private sector by leading substantial business enterprises. During my time leading NRA Publications, I made many reforms, streamlined the division and grew the division with new properties for our members. My team brought in over $220 million to the NRA.

I am now bringing this open accountability to the top of the NRA.

My time serving our nation, and in the NRA, has given me tremendous insight into the history of our freedom and of the opportunities we have before us. There is no time to waste. The NRA has been silent for too long.

Like President Donald J. Trump, whom the NRA Political Victory Fund has proudly endorsed to once again lead this great nation, the NRA is ready for this fight. My favorite Winston Churchill quote is "I love a man who grins when he fights." That is the NRA today. That is you and that is me. We're grinning because we know we are right, and we know we can and must win.

These are only my first words to you. I will continue to openly communicate and to listen. My door is wide open. This is an association of members who know their freedom is precious. This association is only as strong as its membership. That is you and that is me. Let's go save and retake our freedom together.



Photo by NRA

Like us on Facebook at the National Rifle Association. For related articles, go to nrapublications.org.

See the Forest Through the Trees

Mighty Conifer Knife at an Impossible Price!



What Stauer Clients Are Saying About Our Knives

★★★★★

"Outstanding knife of high quality and a great price. I now have a number of your great cutlery in my growing collection!"
— Robert F., Richardson, TX

We know you. You're not interested in everyday, run-of-the-mill, common cutlery. You want something with a story, a unique feature that you can brag about. We've got just the thing for you. Our ***Mighty Conifer Knife*** is a unique tool with a Damascus steel blade and a handle crafted from an enhanced and stabilized natural pinecone. While our competitors are charging hundreds for similar knives, we're offering the Mighty Conifer for JUST $99! That's what we call our **Stauer Impossible Price.**

Join more than 389,000 sharp people who collect Stauer knives

Each pinecone — and therefore, each knife — has its own unique characteristics. And the back of the handle features hand tooling, a further demonstration of each piece's individual nature.

The blade is nothing to scoff at either. Constructed of Damascus steel, a modern reworking of the legendary steel forged by ancient swordsmiths, this nearly 5-inch blade features 256 layers of steel that have been folded on top of each other to increase its durability. Our competitors are charging hundreds for boring, run-of-the-mill knives with no features worth bragging about. We're asking JUST $99 for a knife unlike any you've seen before!

With its full-tang construction and high-quality genuine leather sheath, the Mighty Conifer Knife is the perfect blade for the person who wants to stand out. **CALL NOW!** If you're one of the first ~~700~~ 587 callers for this ad, we'll throw in a pair of ***Stauer 8x21 Compact Binoculars*** — a $99 value — **ABSOLUTELY FREE! Satisfaction guaranteed or your money back!**

Knife Specifications:
- 9 ½" overall length. Full-tang construction
- Damascus steel blade and natural pinecone handle
- Genuine leather sheath

Mighty Conifer Knife
~~$299~~ $99* + S&P *Save $200*

*You must use Insider Offer Code: MCK183-01 to get this price.

California residents please call regarding Proposition 65 regulations before purchasing this product.

EXCLUSIVE FREE
Stauer 8x21 Compact Binoculars a $99 value with your purchase of the Mighty Conifer Knife



1-800-333-2045

Your Insider Offer Code: MCK183-01

Stauer, 14101 Southcross Drive W., Ste 155, Dept. MCK183-01, Burnsville, MN 55337 **www.stauer.com**

Stauer® | AFFORD THE EXTRAORDINARY®



By Charles L. Cotton
President

The Windshield And The Rearview Mirror

As I am writing this article, I am 13 days away from the end of my third year as president of the NRA. I have served as an officer of the NRA for five years; I was first vice-president for two years and president for three years. In some ways, it seems like 2019 was just yesterday, yet, at other times, it seems like a lifetime ago. Regardless of perception, one thing is certain—your NRA has been at war fighting for its very existence against weaponized governmental agencies for over half a decade. Our defensive battle phase should close out in only a few weeks, and we should walk away with yet another victory. Then it will be our turn to go on the offensive.

I want to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to you, the NRA Members, for electing and reelecting me to the NRA Board of Directors so that I could serve you, the NRA and the Second Amendment. I am also grateful to my fellow NRA Board Members for electing me first vice-president and then president. While the governmental attempt to silence your NRA was a travesty of justice, it has been my honor to serve as president and help wage this fight.

I wish I had been able to dedicate more of my tenure as president to the outreach that is so important not only to the NRA, but also to people who are victimized by criminals, as well as state and local governments that shirk their duty to keep them safe. However, it wasn't to be. I'm a trial lawyer, and fighting is what I have done for decades. It's no secret that I am a follower of Christ Jesus. So, it should not be surprising that I truly believe that God puts the right people in the right positions at the right time for His purpose. As a man of faith, it's my duty to follow His course and not my own. Perhaps when this battle is but a memory, I will be able to launch an outreach program that will make a difference in the lives of countless people.

Make no mistake about it; this has been a fight not only for the NRA and the Second Amendment, but also for freedom and the American way of life. Your NRA has persevered throughout this unprecedented political attack by governmental actors and agencies because of the loyalty and dedication of our members and supporters. Thank you! Without you, the NRA would not have survived these past five years—a feat the enemies of freedom never thought possible.

THE WINDSHIELD; LOOKING FORWARD

Enough of the history lesson; now let's take a quick glimpse into the future of your NRA. With the New York attorney general lawsuit over in July, we will be able to go on the offensive on several fronts. We will be working diligently on the 2024 elections, the result of which will determine if we will ever again see the America we had prior to the decay generated by the left.

I firmly believe that we will see a growth in membership like the NRA has never before enjoyed, all because you stayed the course during the darkest of times. One can only imagine the impact that a 10-million-member NRA could have on preservation of the most basic of civil rights—the Second Amendment. This is not a wishful number. It is a very real goal that can and will be achieved if we work together.

THE HIGHEST AND BEST USE OF FIREARMS IS THE PRESERVATION OF INNOCENT LIFE … AND THE PRESERVATION OF AMERICAN FREEDOM.

Our offense against those in power who weaponized governmental agencies will soon be in full swing, and our damage model will be measured in hundreds of millions of dollars. It's obvious that the disdain New York officials have for the Second Amendment applies equally to the First Amendment. They need to pay a price so high it sends a clear message to others who would abuse their positions to attack a constitutional right—any constitutional right.

In closing, let me again express my appreciation to all who have labored with us during this five-year battle for the right to raise our collective voices in support of the right to keep and bear arms. Notwithstanding the numerous legitimate sporting uses for firearms, I have said it countless times, "The highest and best use of firearms is the preservation of innocent life." Let me now expand that statement by adding, "… and the preservation of American freedom."

It has been an honor to serve you. May God bless you, the NRA and the United States of America.

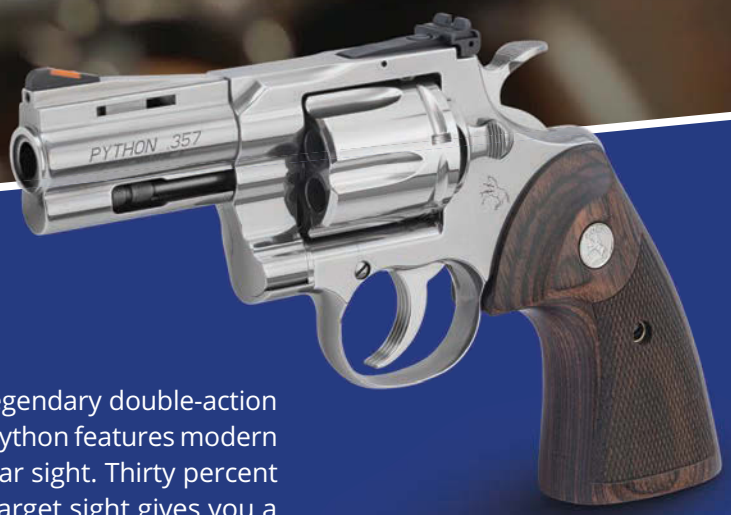


For news about your NRA, visit: nra.org and nraila.org.

Share this column online at nrapublications.org.



WORK HARD, LEAVE A LEGACY.

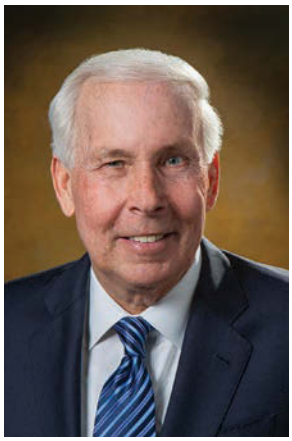


PYTHON

Building on Colt's Snake Gun legacy, the legendary double-action revolver returns in a 3" barrel length. The Python features modern stainless steel alloys and a re-designed rear sight. Thirty percent more steel beneath the rear adjustable target sight gives you a stronger revolver and more robust shooting experience. A recessed target crown, user-interchangeable front sight, and Walnut grip with the iconic Colt medallion make this a gun you'll want to shoot AND show off.

PYTHON (PYTHON-SP3WTS)

COLT.COM



By Randy Kozuch
Executive Director,
NRA-ILA

YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE NOT ENOUGH.

If you want to **DEFEND** your right to own and carry a firearm …

If your **FREEDOM** to hunt and shoot is important to you …

Then you need to **SUPPORT** the NRA Institute for Legislative Action.

We are the only arm of NRA specifically charged with defending your Second Amendment freedoms on Capitol Hill, and in state legislatures and courtrooms across America.

Visit **nraila.org** to support NRA-ILA today!

Targeting Firearms Exports

Joe Biden wants your guns. For now, however, a pro-gun House of Representatives stands in the way of the legislation it will take to get them. But if Joe Biden can't pass new laws to ban the guns Americans already own, he will use his army of bureaucrats to reinterpret existing laws to make new guns as expensive and difficult to get as possible. His latest move, which concerns firearms exports, attempts to further impoverish the businesses that make a meaningful Second Amendment possible.

The U.S. small arms industry should be a source of national pride. While much manufacturing has moved offshore, gun-making is a mainstay of America's capacity to produce the best, most desirable products in the world. But the firearms business is a labor of love that is subject to a wide range of economic challenges. To survive, many companies have a diversified business strategy that incorporates the private market, government contracts and lawful exports to foreign buyers.

Realizing the gun industry's vulnerability, the Biden administration has attacked it through a variety of means. These include "zero tolerance" oversight of federal firearm licensees (FFLs), supporting lawfare on FFLs for the criminal misuse of lawfully sold guns, suppressing FFLs' access to financial services, and reversing longstanding positions on the legality of braced pistols and 80% receivers.

The administration's latest gambit is cracking down on lawful firearms exports. I wrote about this effort a few months ago, when it was still in its infancy (see "First Amendment Rights Apply To All," in the April 2024 issue). At the time, firearms exports had been subject to an unprecedented "pause," supposedly to evaluate the adequacy of existing controls.

That "evaluation" has now been completed, with the preordained conclusion that a wide-ranging export crackdown is necessary to "protect U.S. national security and foreign policy interests," which include "countering the diversion and misuse of firearms and related items and advancing human rights."

The crackdown comes in the form of a rule-making by the Bureau of Industry and Security, which administers exports of non-military firearms for the U.S. Commerce Department. These are the sorts of guns that are lawfully present in millions of American homes. They are also, by definition, legal in the places to which they would be exported, although usually under much stricter laws than here in the U.S.

The point of the new rules is to make it more difficult and expensive for U.S. companies to sell guns overseas for use by non-governmental end users. Or, to put it more bluntly, the rules are meant to inflict further pain on the U.S. gun industry by making it less competitive in global markets.

The rule will create new, stricter export categories for semi-automatic firearms, not coincidentally the same guns Biden seeks to ban as "assault weapons" here in the U.S. It will also establish dozens of "high-risk" countries that would be subject to a "presumption of denial" for export licenses pertaining to private customers. Where there used to be presumptions of approval for lawful exports to stable nations, there will now be strict case-by-case evaluations, with additional reasons added to the existing bases for denial. Licenses that used to be valid for four years will now only be valid for one year, substantially increasing transaction costs. And licenses that had already been approved to the newly created "high-risk" countries will be canceled, with the affected companies forced to start the process over again under the stricter new standards.

THE RULES ARE MEANT TO INFLICT FURTHER PAIN ON THE U.S. GUN INDUSTRY BY MAKING IT LESS COMPETITIVE.

The measure was passed as an "interim final rule," an expedited process that dispenses with various formalities of the normal rulemaking process, including the usual requirement of soliciting public comment before the terms of the final rule are published. By the time you are reading this, it will have taken effect. The agency will accept public comments on the rule until July 1 through **regulations.gov**, although it is apparent they will be treated as an afterthought.

The National Shooting Sports Foundation, the trade association for the firearm industry, estimates the "total economic impact of the Interim Final Rule easily exceeds $250 million to U.S. manufacturers and exporters." This is a devastating blow to businesses already staggered by Biden's campaign of political persecution.

Yet, even as the rule hobbles U.S. businesses, it creates additional opportunities for unscrupulous foreign competitors, including China and Russia, two of the biggest arms exporters in the world.

That is a heavy and dangerous price to pay for yet another attack on the U.S. firearm industry by the most anti-gun president in American history.



NRA-ILA: (800) 392-8683

NRA-ILA website: nraila.org

For related articles, go to nrapublications.org.

DR® POWER EQUIPMENT

DEVOUR BRUSH PILES

WITH A DR® CHIPPER SHREDDER

- **Chip and shred** with power to spare
- **Bigger engines** that chew up the competition
- **Built USA tough** for smooth, reliable operation

STARTING AT JUST $799.99

Conquer Seasonal Chores with DR®

Nothing Stops a DR® Field and Brush Mower

- Up to 2X the power of the competition
- Cut 3" thick brush and tall field grass with ease
- Commercial, Electric, Walk- and Tow-Behind models available, including the **NEW PRO MAX60T!**

Make Stumps Disappear Fast with a DR® Stump Grinder

- 3-sided Greenteeth® tungsten carbide-tipped teeth that last 3X longer
- Powerful engines that take 372 "bites" per second through even the toughest hardwoods

Discover the Power and Precision of a DR® Trimmer Mower

- 5X the power of a handheld trimmer
- Trim precisely without arm fatigue
- Mow where a bladed mower can't
- Toughest trimmer cord available







Do it Right with DR® Power Equipment

Scan the code to visit **GoDRPower.com** to shop the sale or request a free catalog!

Toll-free: 800-456-2037 | Free Shipping on orders over $100



By Randy Kozuch
Executive Director,
NRA-ILA

Rewriting History To Undermine SCOTUS



I have been noticing a recurring movement by anti-gun extremists, who now appear to be trying to convince the public that Americans owning firearms is a relatively new concept. The goal seems to be an attempt to reimagine our nation's longstanding history of large segments of law-abiding citizens embracing the Second Amendment by choosing to own firearms.

That's simply ridiculous.

Americans have always owned guns, even before they were officially Americans. The British subjects who lived on this continent back in the 18th century eventually used their guns to help expel British soldiers and establish what would become the greatest nation the world has ever known.

And what makes America great is that our nation was founded, in part, on the premise of recognizing inalienable rights and enshrining them in the documents that should ensure our government operates in a manner that does not encroach on those protected freedoms.

Among those freedoms, of course, is the right to arms, and as I noted, Americans (even when they were still British) always embraced that right.

But with several rulings by the U.S. Supreme Court not just affirming that the Second Amendment protects an individual right, but also noting the historical context of that protection and the fact that America has always been a country that owns a lot of guns, anti-gun "academics" seem to be trying to invent a new American "history" that counters what has long been known to be a fact.

Prior to the landmark rulings in cases like *Heller*, *McDonald* and *Bruen*, a man named Michael Bellesiles argued that Americans didn't actually begin owning firearms on a large scale until around the time of the Civil War.

This Emory University professor was even gifted one of the most prestigious awards for writings on American history: The Bancroft Prize, which has been awarded by Columbia University since 1948. There are 16 past recipients who were also awarded the Pulitzer Prize for History, so it carries with it quite a bit of clout.

There was one small problem: The whole premise was wrong, and, upon closer scrutiny, his "research" was deeply flawed—if not completely made up.

I don't have the space to delve into the myriad criticisms of Bellesiles' work—although many readers are



likely painfully aware of this scandal—but those interested in revisiting this embarrassing episode can search the internet, including the NRA-ILA website, using Bellesiles' name.

Nearly a quarter-century removed from the Bellesiles scandal, a new "researcher" has come forward with a new premise. Megan Kang, a Ph.D. candidate in sociology at Princeton University, apparently believes that America's "gun culture" only really developed from the mid-20th century onward.

Kang seems to be upping the ante, implying Americans were not very well armed until 100 years after Bellesiles claimed we were. She is careful not to actually say that, as there isn't a shred of evidence to support such Bellesilian nonsense, so she uses a vague, undefinable term like "gun culture," and asserts that it has undergone a dramatic change.

It should be noted that Kang clearly doesn't like the idea of Americans keeping or bearing arms. Her essay promoting her "research" is titled "Why America Fell for Guns," which seems to imply we were tricked into possessing them at a higher rate than other countries. She claims that law-abiding citizens acquiring firearms for self-defense "makes everyone less safe." She appears to lament the idea of firearms being "used" (she likely means carried for personal protection) in "shared spaces" (i.e., public spaces) of "learning, worship and leisure." She writes appreciatively about the "commonsense gun regulations" in

iStock illustration by Christine Kohler

Australia, Canada and the United Kingdom—specifically noting widespread gun bans (which came with turn-ins and confiscations), licensing and registration. And she uses terms commonly used by anti-gun extremists, such as "ghost guns," "military-grade automatic weapons" and the aforementioned term "commonsense gun regulations."

She has even adopted the latest lie that is all the rage in anti-gun circles, claiming "guns are known to be the leading cause of child and adolescent death." Even *The Washington Post* has rejected this claim. Perhaps Kang thought she was being clever by using the term "adolescent" to make her claim at least somewhat accurate. But she apparently didn't know that the cut-off for an "adolescent" is, from a legal perspective, the age of majority, which is 18 in the U.S.

So, her claim remains as much a lie as when it is made by others in the anti-gun circles she clearly inhabits.

In other words, an anti-gun student looked for a way to promote her anti-gun views, so she wrote an anti-gun paper. Then she did a really poor job of supporting her premise.

She claims that "a gun-filled country was neither innate nor inevitable." She then cites "research" by a number of her fellow anti-gun "scholars."

In one—a 2023 article that questions the conclusions and validity of the *Bruen* decision—Brian DeLay of UC Berkeley School of Law concedes, " …British North Americans were unusually well-armed."

Sounds pretty "innate."

She mentions Andrew McKevitt, an anti-gun "historian" who wrote a book about the availability of surplus firearms after World War II, who then tried to claim that this era was "how America became the gun country." But McKevitt's book doesn't even seem to contradict that Americans have always owned a lot of guns, it just suggests that they bought more during the one time period he identified.

Grasping at McKevitt's premise, Kang's article claims importers of surplus firearms created "a mass market for civilian guns that had limited practical use elsewhere," completely ignoring the "practical" use of firearms for self-defense, not to mention hunting, target shooting and collecting. She dramatically proclaims that advertisements promote selling guns that are "the finest made by the Fascists. Carried by the crack Italian Alpine Troops." To drive that point home, an old advertisement that contains that very language is included.

The only problem is, the ad is from the Lytle **Novelty** (emphasis added) Company, and is for toy replicas, with a clear message that states the items are "Absolutely Safe! Cannot Be Fired."

In addition, her "research" trying to show Americans only began owning large numbers of firearms during the mid-20th century only goes back to 1949. While it is certainly true that from 1949 until today, Americans have bought many firearms, there is no data available to show how many were bought or owned prior to 1949.

THIS NEW BREED OF "ACADEMICS" IS TRYING TO UNDERMINE RULINGS BY THE SUPREME COURT BY UNDERMINING ACCEPTED AMERICAN HISTORY.

To put a finer point on the fact that a large percentage of Americans have always owned guns, the "research" by DeLay that Kang cites notes probate records in colonial America showed perhaps greater levels of gun ownership than today. He reports firearms being present in roughly 70 percent of colonial New England probate records, and around the same for Virginia. The lowest mark he shows for colonial probate records including firearms is around 30 percent; again, it sounds like gun ownership in America was, and is, indeed "innate."

To cap things off, this op-ed masquerading as research makes a couple of glaringly misleading claims near its conclusion, further exposing the author's anti-gun agenda and deeply flawed "research." First, Kang claims, "By the 1990s, unprecedented crime rates prompted many U.S. states to adopt gun restrictions that resulted in a substantial reduction in gun availability and saved tens of thousands of lives." To support this claim, she cites another "research" paper she wrote; one in which she goes even further to claim that "**most** (emphasis added) U.S. states implemented more-restrictive gun laws." She also claims in the paper that "the United States experienced a decline in household gun ownership."

Neither claim is even remotely supported; except, perhaps, by Kang's own "research."

First, "most U.S. states" did not impose more restrictions during the noted time period. Most readers are aware that gun laws in many states were actually made less restrictive over that time. The right-to-carry (RTC) movement began in Florida, in 1987, when the state made it far easier for law-abiding residents to legally carry firearms for self-defense. By 1996, more than 20 states had enacted similar laws; some going from may-issue to shall-issue systems, and others going from no-issue to shall-issue.

Along with the push for RTC laws that NRA promoted came many other laws intended to make gun ownership less restrictive, as well as countless successful efforts to defeat the passage of anti-gun laws. Contrary to Kang's assertion, the time period she cites was known for making gun laws far less restrictive. Reducing limitations on law-abiding gun owners had far more to do with lowering crime rates—including homicide rates—than did the mythical limitations she imagines were imposed.

Any "reduction in gun availability" or "decline in household gun ownership" are merely figments in her fevered, anti-gun imagination.

Sadly, I expect there will be more attempts to rewrite American history by "academics" like Kang. Much like how anti-gun extremists invent new "threats" to public safety by inventing terms they feel will strike fear into the hearts of the general public—terms like "assault weapons," "ghost guns," "cop-killer bullets" and "plastic guns"—this new breed of "academics" is trying to undermine Supreme Court rulings by rewriting accepted American history.

OVER 1.5 MILLION SOLD

MDHearing is Now Available Through Top *Medicare Advantage Plans*

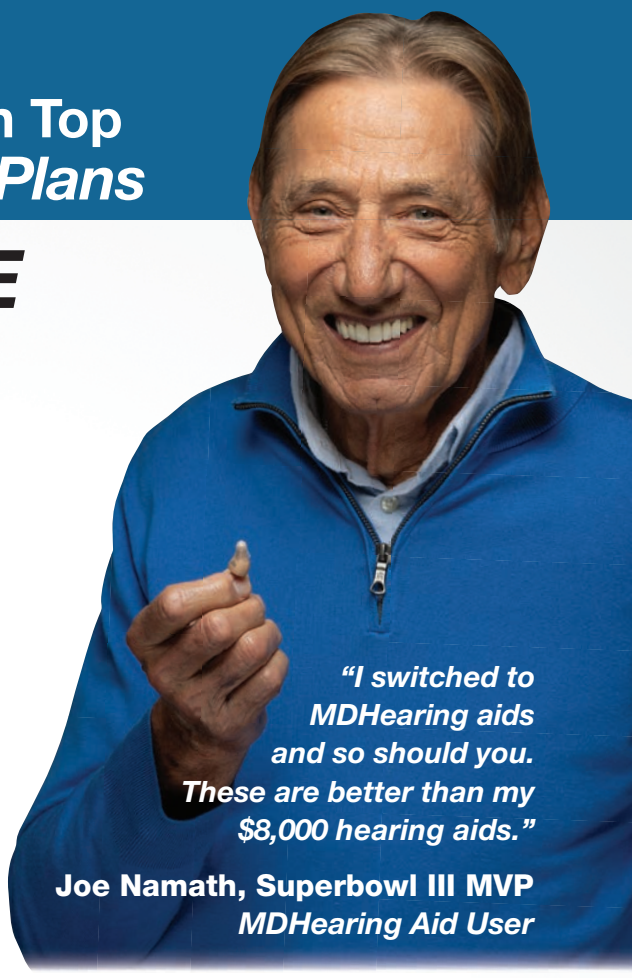
RECHARGEABLE *In-Your-Ear Hearing Aid*

NEW LOW PRICE **70% OFF**

REG ~~$999.98~~

AS LOW AS **$297** For a Pair

PLUS FREE SHIPPING
Limited Time Only!



"I switched to MDHearing aids and so should you. These are better than my $8,000 hearing aids."

Joe Namath, Superbowl III MVP
MDHearing Aid User

How can a rechargeable hearing aid that fits inside your ear and costs as low as $297 a pair be every bit as good as those that sell for $4,800 or more?

The answer: Although tremendous strides have been made in Hearing Aid Technology, those cost reductions have not been passed on to you. Until now... **MDHearing™** uses the same kind of technology incorporated into hearing aids that cost thousands more at a small fraction of the price.

Choose From Our *Smallest NEO XS* or the *Best-Selling NEO*

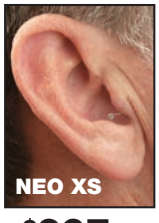
Both are medical-grade, rechargeable hearing aids offering sophistication and high performance.

MDHearing™ *NEO XS*

NEW!

Our smallest hearing aid ever!

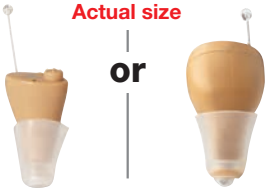
At 50% smaller than our previous model, the NEO XS measures only 15mm long and is virtually invisible. And, at only $397 for a pair, you won't find a better hearing aid.



$397 for a pair

Actual size

or



MDHearing™ *NEO*



$297 for a pair

Our best-selling hearing aid!

At only 20mm long, the NEO is virtually invisible in your ear. And, at only $297 for a pair of hearing aids, this is our best-selling hearing aid.

Sits discreetly inside your ear canal without anyone knowing

Both products are proudly designed in America and supported by US audiologists

45-DAY RISK-FREE TRIAL!
If you are not completely satisfied with your hearing aids, return them within 45 days for a FULL REFUND!



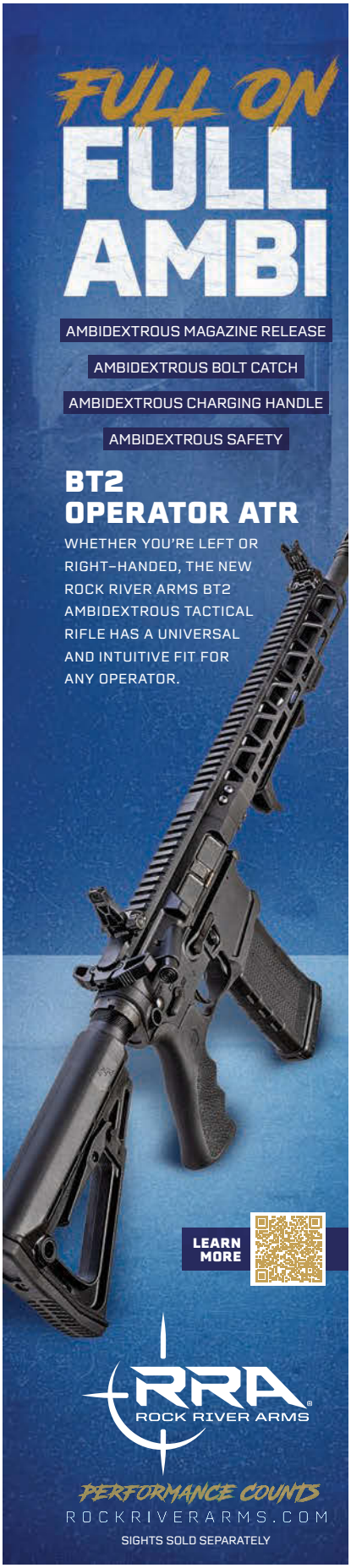
For the Lowest Price Call
1-800-634-5194
www.JoeLovesMD.com

MDHearing™
DOCTOR DESIGNED | AUDIOLOGIST TESTED | FDA REGISTERED

Carrying cases are also the chargers

Use Code **RE97** and get **FREE** Shipping

Over 7,000 5-STAR Google Reviews



READERS WRITE



Kudos For Ruger

I enjoyed your recent article "Legendary: Sturm, Ruger & Co. Turns 75" (May 2024, p. 66) as it presents a concise overview of the man, the company and its various offerings. Here in New Hampshire, there is still considerable company-related material that is available to study. So, after reading your well-written summary, I pulled out some Ruger details. Of special interest to me was the author's statement about the public's perception of the company's usage of investment castings for critical parts. As part of Ruger's education on this subject, it held a technical seminar called "Utilization of Investment Castings" at Rock Island Arsenal in January 1977. The reprint of this session goes into detail on the properties of such cast materials and includes "A comparative test of the locking lugs of our Bolt Action Rifle, the Ruger M-77, the Springfield 03-A3, and the Mauser 98 … ." The graph accompanying these tests shows the superiority of Ruger's production methodology.

—William Lowe

I thoroughly enjoyed the excellent piece on this legendary company. So many great guns produced over 75 years of service to the public, and I've owned more than a few. One of my favorites was an original, Standard .22-caliber semi-automatic with 6" barrel, purchased when I was about 16, if I remember correctly; what a magnificent firearm. Of course, getting it re-assembled after cleaning was a challenge. I would love to have the new version, and I do see the MK IV No. 40183 is available in California. Hmmm … my birthday isn't that far off.

—Dennis Gregory

The Pendulum—Approaching Reset?

Again, the May issue of *American Rifleman* did not disappoint me after being a Life member for six decades. I did note, however, the absence of any articles about the AR platform, which I found to be quite refreshing, and it appears the pendulum is swinging back. There will be those who complain about its absence, but you have demonstrated that there are other firearms to write about. Keep up the good work, and I thoroughly enjoy your coverage of the history of firearms.

—Ron Geppert

Mr. Geppert:

While it's unlikely that the popularity of the AR will ever truly wane, it does appear that excitement for modern examples of more traditional rifle formats—bolt-actions and lever-actions, in particular—is on the increase. And, yes, historical coverage of firearms has been our stock-in-trade for more than a century. Rest assured, we will continue to cover all manner of guns in future issues.

—Brian C. Sheetz, Editor In Chief

Yet Another "Thumbs Up"



As a Project Appleseed instructor, I enjoyed Justin Dyal's Tip "Thumbs Up For Better Rifle Shooting" (January 2024, p. 32). I'd like to add what I consider to be the most important thing about positioning your thumb. When the fleshy part of your trigger finger touches the stock, it's known as dragging wood. This will throw your shot—especially during follow-through. Rotating your hand to create a proper "C" grip on the trigger where the lower fleshy part of your trigger finger doesn't touch the stock will improve your shot. It helps you pull the trigger straight back. This is especially true for people with small hands on a conventional stock, although the same thing applies to a pistol grip.

—Ebben Raves

"Readers Write" affords members an opportunity to comment on material published in *American Rifleman*. Single-topic letters are preferred and may be edited for brevity. Send letters to: Readers Write, NRA Publications, 11250 Waples Mill Road, Fairfax, VA 22030-9400 or email us at publications@nrahq.org.

ADVERTISEMENT

Popular CoQ10 Pills Leave Millions Suffering

Could this newly-discovered brain fuel solve America's worsening memory crisis?

PALM BEACH, FLORIDA — Millions of Americans take the supplement known as CoQ10. It's the coenzyme that supercharges the "energy factories" in your cells known as *mitochondria*. But there's a serious flaw that's leaving millions unsatisfied.

As you age, your mitochondria break down and fail to produce energy. In a revealing study, a team of researchers showed that 95 percent of the mitochondria in a 90-year-old man were damaged, compared to almost no damage in the mitochondria of a 5-year-old.

Taking CoQ10 alone is not enough to solve this problem. Because as powerful as CoQ10 is, there's one critical thing it fails to do: it can't create new mitochondria to replace the ones you lost.

And that's bad news for Americans all over the country. The loss of cellular energy is a problem for the memory concerns people face as they get older.

"We had no way of replacing lost mitochondria until a recent discovery changed everything," says Dr. Al Sears, founder and medical director of the Sears Institute for Anti-Aging Medicine in Palm Beach, Florida. "Researchers discovered the only nutrient known to modern science that has the power to trigger the growth of new mitochondria."

Why Taking CoQ10 is Not Enough

Dr. Sears explains, "This new discovery is so powerful, it can multiply your mitochondria by 55 percent in just a few weeks. That's the equivalent of restoring decades of lost brain power."

This exciting nutrient — called PQQ *(pyrroloquinoline quinone)* — is the driving force behind a revolution in aging. When paired with CoQ10, this dynamic duo has the power to reverse the age-related memory losses you may have thought were beyond your control.

Dr. Sears pioneered a new formula — called **Ultra Accel II** — that combines both CoQ10 and PQQ to support maximum cellular energy and the normal growth of new mitochondria. **Ultra Accel II** is the first of its kind to address both problems and is already creating huge demand.

Over 47 million doses have been shipped to men and women across the country and sales continue to climb for this much sought-after brain fuel. In fact, demand has been so overwhelming that inventories repeatedly sell out. But a closer look at **Ultra Accel II** reveals there are good reasons why sales are booming.

Science Confirms the Many Benefits of PQQ

The medical journal *Biochemical Pharmacology* reports that PQQ is up to 5,000 times more efficient in sustaining energy production than common antioxidants. With the ability to keep every cell in your body operating at full strength, **Ultra Accel II** delivers more than just added brain power and a faster memory.

People feel more energetic, more alert, and don't need naps in the afternoon. The boost in cellular energy generates more power to your heart, lungs, muscles, and more.

"With the PQQ in Ultra Accel, I have energy I never thought possible at my age," says Colleen R., one of Dr. Sears's patients. "I'm in my 70s but feel 40 again. I think clearly, move with real energy and sleep like a baby."

The response has been overwhelmingly positive, and Dr. Sears receives countless emails from his patients and readers. "My patients tell me they feel better than they have in years. This is ideal for people who are feeling old and run down, or for those who feel more forgetful. It surprises many that you can add healthy and productive years to your life simply by taking **Ultra Accel II** every day."

You may have seen Dr. Sears on television or read one of his 12 best-selling books. Or you may have seen him speak at the 2016 WPBF 25 Health and Wellness Festival in South Florida, featuring Dr. Oz and special guest Suzanne Somers. Thousands of people attended Dr. Sears's lecture on anti-aging breakthroughs and waited in line for hours during his book signing at the event.

Will Ultra Accel II Multiply Your Energy?

Ultra Accel II is turning everything we thought we knew about youthful energy on its head. Especially for people over age 50. In less than 30 seconds every morning, you can harness the power of this breakthrough discovery to restore peak energy and your "spark for life."

So, if you've noticed less energy as you've gotten older, and you want an easy way to reclaim your youthful edge, this new opportunity will feel like blessed relief.

The secret is the "energy multiplying" molecule that activates a dormant gene in your body that declines with age, which then instructs your cells to pump out fresh energy from the inside-out. This growth of new "energy factories" in your cells is called mitochondrial biogenesis.



MEMORY-BUILDING SENSATION: Top doctors are now recommending new Ultra Accel II because it restores decades of lost brain power without a doctor's visit.

Instead of falling victim to that afternoon slump, you enjoy sharp-as-a-tack focus, memory, and concentration from sunup to sundown. And you get more done in a day than most do in a week. Regardless of how exhausting the world is now.

Dr. Sears reports, "The most rewarding aspect of practicing medicine is watching my patients get the joy back in their lives. **Ultra Accel II** sends a wake-up call to every cell in their bodies… And they actually feel young again."

And his patients agree. "I noticed a difference within a few days," says Jerry from Ft. Pierce, Florida. "My endurance has almost doubled, and I feel it mentally, too. There's a clarity and sense of well-being in my life that I've never experienced before."

How To Get Ultra Accel II

This is the official nationwide release of **Ultra Accel II** in the United States. And so, the company is offering a special discount supply to anyone who calls during the official launch.

An Order Hotline has been set up for local readers to call. This gives everyone an equal chance to try **Ultra Accel II**. And your order is backed up by a no-hassle, 90-day money back guarantee. No questions asked.

Starting at 7:00 AM today, the discount offer will be available for a limited time only. All you have to do is call TOLL FREE **1-800-434-3275** right now and use promo code **ARUA624** to secure your own supply.

Important: Due to **Ultra Accel II** recent media exposure, phone lines are often busy. If you call and do not immediately get through, please be patient and call back.

THESE STATEMENTS HAVE NOT BEEN EVALUATED BY THE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION. THIS PRODUCT IS NOT INTENDED TO DIAGNOSE, TREAT, CURE OR PREVENT ANY DISEASE. RESULTS MAY VARY. 15.



Springfield's Updated TRPs

In the late 1990s, Springfield Armory's Custom Shop gained a legendary reputation after supplying the FBI's Hostage Rescue Team with the company's Professional Model M1911s. Soon after, Springfield's Tactical Response Pistol (TRP) line emerged as a semi-custom offering for consumers who wanted M1911s with a similar build quality and feature set at a more attainable price, not to mention a significantly shorter wait time. In January 2024, Springfield refreshed its TRP line with four new models.

Two exciting additions are those models equipped with the "Carry Contour," a bobbed bottom-rear portion of the forged frame that reduces the chance of the gun printing under a concealment garment. Both pistols have a 4.25" barrel and are finished in all-black or Coyote Brown Cerakote, respectively.

Joining the Carry Contour guns are two full-size pistols with 5" forged barrels, one black and one Coyote Brown, each outfitted with a three-slot Picatinny rail on the frame's dustcover. Included on these two guns are two-piece magazine-well funnels that provide a generous opening for fast reloads.

A salient feature of Springfield's TRP line is that frames and slides are hand-selected and matched to each other for the best possible fit. Once a suitable pair is found, these two components are then numbered to each other, ensuring they remain together throughout the build process. *American Rifleman* Field Editor Justin Dyal spent time with each of the new TRPs, and you can read about his range experience at **americanrifleman.org/2024trps**.

Photos by Forrest MacCormack

Winchester Breaks Ground On NGSW Ammunition Facility



The U.S. Army has awarded Winchester Ammunition a contract to construct the Next Generation Squad Weapon Ammunition (NGSW-A) manufacturing facility at the Lake City Army Ammunition Plant (LCAAP) in Independence, Mo. This facility marks the first new construction on the site in decades and will house various operations, including ammunition loading, metal-parts manufacturing, quality control, testing labs and administrative areas.

"A dedicated team of Winchester experts have been working on this project in collaboration with the U.S. government and other industry stakeholders to design a state-of-the-art, small-caliber ammunition manufacturing facility," said Brett Flaugher, president of Winchester Ammunition. "This new facility will ultimately employ hundreds and utilize innovative and transformational small-caliber ammunition manufacturing and safety processes." **winchester.com**

Taurus Partners With India's Jindal Defence On Gun Production

Launched in March 2024, JD Taurus is a joint venture of *Taurus Armas S.A.* and Jindal Defence Systems based outside New Delhi, India, that focuses on domestic Indian firearm manufacturing. An initial pilot batch of guns has already been produced, and the company's facility near New Delhi aims to build up to 250,000 firearms annually, catering to potential civilian markets and contracts such as India's ongoing procurement of 425,000 infantry rifles. Taurus has already provided 10 samples of its T4 carbine to the Indian military for testing, according to *The Rio Times*.

"By prioritizing indigenous manufacturing and aligning with the 'Make in India Initiative,' JD Taurus is committed to contributing significantly to our nation's defense capabilities, while also nurturing local talent and contributing to the socio-economic development of the region," Col. Amit Bajeva (Ret.) told the *United News of India*. With an annual defense expenditure of more than $80 billion as of 2022, India joins the U.S., China, Russia and Saudi Arabia as one of the top five military spenders in the world, and the nation's defense budget continues to grow. **jdtaurus.in**

Gregg Ritz Acquires Thompson/Center Arms

The former owner of Thompson/Center Arms, Gregg Ritz, re-acquired the brand as of April 2024, more than 17 years after selling the company to Smith & Wesson for $102 million in January 2007. Following the acquisition, Ritz was initially retained as president of S&W's hunting division before founding Wild Communications, a marketing and media company, in 2007.

"Now more than ever, it's imperative that we keep manufacturing at home," Ritz said in a launch video on Thompson/Center's website. "From job creation to national pride, 'made here' is our commitment. It's a new era for America's master gunmaker. Thompson/Center is back and, once again family-owned, and will continue to be made in the USA."

The move comes after S&W, in May 2021, announced its intent to divest the brand as part of a larger strategy to focus on S&W's core brands. Thompson/Center plans to launch a new line of products in 2025. **tcarms.com**

Czech Company Buys Steyr Arms



RSBC Group, a Czech investment company, announced the acquisition of Steyr Arms in April 2024. The move adds a second gunmaker to the company's portfolio, following the group's acquisition of Slovenia's Arex Defense in 2017. Steyr had been wholly owned by SMH Holding GmbH, a German investment group, since 2007.

"The acquisition of Steyr Arms is a once-in-a-generation opportunity. We are proud to be involved in the further development of its legacy," said Milan Šlapák, CEO of RSBC Group. "Steyr Arms has an exceptional product portfolio, especially in the field of long guns for the military and law enforcement and also in the category of hunting and sporting rifles."

Following the acquisition, current Arex CEO Tim Castagne will take over management of both brands. Financial details of the transaction were not disclosed, although a company press release stated that Steyr's net sales for 2023 exceeded €45 million. **steyr-arms.com**

S&W M&P 15 Sport III



While Smith & Wesson offers a comprehensive lineup of AR-platform rifles—running the gamut of end uses, feature sets and price points—its M&P 15 Sport family has long served as an entry-level option for home defenders who don't need all the bells and whistles. The company recently introduced a revamped third generation of the carbine for cost-conscious gun buyers that retains the family tree's spartan DNA but mixes things up just a bit in an effort to offer more versatility. The Sport III finally does away with the delta-ring-equipped fore-end, instead coming from the factory with a 15" free-floating handguard featuring numerous M-Lok slots for the mounting of accessories. The newest version of the rifle now also comes with a mid-length gas system for a smoother shooting experience and less recoil. Price: $799. *Contact: Smith & Wesson; (800) 331-0852;* **smith-wesson.com**.



HB Industries FN P90/PS90 Low Profile Optic Mount

Offered in seven variants, each compatible with a different popular mounting footprint (Aimpoint Acro, Aimpoint Micro, Holosun AEMS, Holosun SCRS, Primary Arms SLx, Trijicon MRO, Trijicon RMR), once installed, the FN P90/PS90 Low Profile Optic Mount from HB Industries replaces the Belgian carbine's top-mounted M1913 Picatinny rail. Not only does this considerably reduce the associated optic's height over the bore—providing a more ergonomic cheek weld—but, in the case of the Trijicon MRO version (shown), it also cuts the weight of the PS90 by more than 4 ozs. Each mount is machined in the U.S. from billet 6061-T6 aluminum that is then hardcoat-anodized, and the installation process is reversible. Price: $104. *Contact: HB Industries; (602) 883-4773;* **hbindustries.net**.

Federal Ammunition Fusion Tipped



Building on the success of its original bonded soft-point bullets in the Fusion line, Fusion Tipped features the same great terminal performance with a new tipped design. The increased ogive of this latest offering provides a boost in ballistic performance with benefits including improved flight stability, flatter trajectories and increased terminal performance at distance. A skived nose cavity, in conjunction with the polymer tip, contributes to consistent expansion. Initial chamberings will include: .300 Blackout (190 grain); 6.5 mm Creedmoor (140 grain); 6.5 mm PRC (140 grain); .270 Win. (150 grain); 7 mm Rem. Mag. (175 grain); 7 mm PRC (175 grain); .308 Win. (180 grain); .30-'06 Sprg. (180 grain); and .300 Win. Mag. (180 grain). Price: $45 to $82 (20 count). *Contact: Federal Ammunition; (800) 831-8100;* **federalpremium.com**.



Kryptek Vellus Jacket

Kryptek's Vellus Jacket is a versatile cold-weather outer layer that takes fleece to a whole new level through the thoughtful integration of advanced materials. Synthetic Thinsulate thermal insulation provides warmth down to temperatures as low as 15° F, and a layer of antimicrobial silver embedded into the fibers inhibits the growth of odor-causing bacteria. Waterproof, windproof and surprisingly quiet, the jacket features numerous exterior and interior pockets, and its hood, waistband and wrist cuffs are all adjustable—with the hood also being completely detachable. The Vellus Jacket is available in three of Kryptek's camouflage patterns—the new Obskura Skyfall (shown), Obskura Transitional and Highlander—and a version cut specifically for women is also offered. Price: $250. *Contact: Kryptek;* **kryptek.com**.

CZ Shadow 2 Compact



One of the most popular competition handguns available today is CZ USA's Shadow 2, and now the design has been shortened and lightened to serve as a dedicated CCW option for fans of the platform. The CZ Shadow 2 Compact is built on an aluminum frame and features a shortened slide and a 4" barrel, which brings the overall unloaded weight down to 32 ozs. compared to the 46.5-oz. weight of its competition-oriented cousin. Chambered in 9 mm Luger and equipped with a 15-round magazine, the CZ Shadow 2 Compact offers a different take on the carry-size semi-automatic, having a double-action/single-action operating system, as well as an external hammer and three-slot Picatinnny accessory rail. Price: $1,300. *Contact: CZ USA; (800) 955-4486;* **cz-usa.com**.



Sadlak M1A Airborne Steel Scope Mount

One-piece steel scope mounts designed to fit the receivers of M14-style rifles have long been the gold standard for durability and repeatable accuracy, but they can be heavy and difficult to fit on out-of-spec receivers. Sadlak Mfg. solves those issues with its M1A Airborne Steel Scope Mount by starting with a solid bar of U.S.-made, prehardened 4142 chrome-moly steel, at a core hardness of 26-32 Rockwell C, and then removing excess weight through precision milling. The resulting 9-oz. mount is nitride-casehardened after machining and given a flat manganese phosphate treatment. It is then carefully inspected to ensure proper fit and packaged with detailed installation instructions and all mounting hardware, fasteners and hex wrenches. Price: $350. *Contact: Sadlak Mfg., LLC; (860) 742-0227;* **sadlak.com**.

RCBS Lead Thermometer



When casting lead bullets, best results are achieved when the lead or lead alloy is held to an optimum temperature for pouring. Most budget lead pots do not offer accurate temperature controls, making an add-on like the RCBS Lead Thermometer a must-have for casters. With a range of 1,000° F and an accuracy within +/- 1 percent, this probe ensures that casters can dial in their process and produce perfectly proportioned bullets. An adjustable handle is included with the probe. Price: $61. *Contact: RCBS; (800) 533-5000;* **rcbs.com**.



Tasmanian Tiger Mil Ops Pack 30

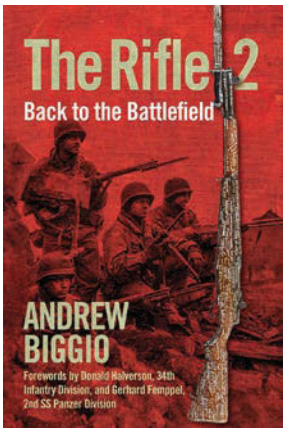
When a full-size backpack is too much, but a lumbar pack isn't quite enough, one in the 1800-cubic-inch range makes perfect sense. The Tasmanian Tiger Mil Ops Pack 30, just such a bag, is the result of a request from the German army for a robust, short-range "mission" pack. Measuring 19"x11"x6" and weighing 2 lbs., 10 ozs., it is stoutly constructed from 700-denier Cordura nylon and uses quality YKK zippers. A padded back, removable waistbelt and height-adjustable chest harness provide comfort, and both a MOLLE attachment and lacing system on the front, along with MOLLE webbing on the top, accept extra kit. Further gear organization is by way of compression straps, side pockets, a zippered lid compartment and a hydration sleeve. Price: $199. *Contact: Proforce Equipment, Inc.; (800) 259-5962;* **tasmaniantigerusa.com**.

MDT Hunting Bottom Metal



Hunters seeking a low-profile magazine well designed to stand up to the elements have a new option in MDT's AICS-compatible Hunting Bottom Metal designed for Remington 700 SA and Badger M5 profile stocks. Magazines can be released with a low-profile, ambidextrous latch that hugs the front portion of the trigger guard. To further secure a seated magazine, the bottom metal provides an adjustable tension control, allowing users to dial in the amount of force required to unlock the magazine catch. The lever can even be locked down fully, ensuring your magazine won't go anywhere. An open slot on the bottom of the trigger guard provides access to trigger-pull adjustment screws, and a corrosion-resistant finish provides further ruggedness for field use. Price: $300. *Contact: Modular Driven Technologies; (360) 922-3124;* **mdttac.com**.

The Rifle 2: Back To The Battlefield



In his first book, author and Marine Corps veteran Andrew Biggio chronicled his connections with America's surviving World War II veterans through "The Rifle," a 1945-dated M1 Garand that would eventually become covered with the white signatures of hundreds of World War II veterans who had held the longarm and recounted their stories. Now, in *The Rifle 2: Back To The Battlefield*, Biggio outlines further stories from the theaters of World War II, bolstered by veterans who not only recounted their experiences on the battlefield but also the challenges of returning home and what memory and respect means to them. Veterans interviewed for this sequel range in age from 96 to 104, making them some of the final survivors of the "Greatest Generation." Price: $30. *Contact: Regnery Publishing;* **regneryhistory.com**.

Winchester Gun Cabinet 18



Secure storage of your firearms is an essential aspect of gun ownership, but, depending on your needs and/or living situation, a massive vault-quality safe might not be practical or even necessary. Steel cabinets like the Winchester Safes GC18 bridge the gap between old wooden gun cabinets that take only seconds for a motivated thief to break into and huge safes that require heavy equipment to move, while also being relatively economical. With room inside for up to 18 long guns and a shelf for handguns, ammunition or miscellaneous small items, the GC18 measures 55"x20.75"x18" and weighs just 95 lbs. empty. It is built with 16-ga. steel walls given a durable powder-coated finish and features a good old-fashioned rotary combination lock for ingress. Price: $380. *Contact: Winchester Safes; (817) 561-9095;* **winchestersafes.com**.

CARRY WITH CONFIDENCE

AVAILABLE IN 3 NEW MODELS



PX9 GEN 3 SERIES

Available in three all new signature models, the PX9 GEN 3 Carry takes the best features of our full size PX-9 Duty and offers them in a compact size perfect for concealed or every day carry. Carry with Confidence. Carry Tisas.

Tisas

TISASUSA.COM



Coyote Light Pro Red

Coyote Light manufactures a brilliant solution for hunters looking to manage pests such as coyotes and feral pigs, in addition to other nocturnal critters such as foxes, skunks and raccoons, that works out to 1,000 yards. The Pro model portable light features a solid-state LED chip rated for 65,000 hours and made to be mounted directly on a riflescope with a 1" main tube. In addition, the LED light system is right at home fixed to a monopod, shotgun barrel or in the pocket for handheld use. Three included rechargeable, 26650 lithium batteries power the unit for up to 5.5 hours at full power and more than 48 hours while set to 25 percent. A 1/4-turn adjustment makes for ultra-fast variable focus from spot to flood beam, adding further utility. Price: $499. *Contact: GSM Outdoors; (877) 269-8490;* **coyotelight.com**.

Arcturus Gun Socks



Gun socks are a great, inexpensive option for protecting a long gun from damage during transport or long-term storage, and the version made by Arcturus includes several additional features that make them even more functional and versatile than run-of-the-mill designs. Measuring 47" in length and 6" in width, the socks are long enough to accommodate all but the very largest of rifles and shotguns, and their fabric is flexible enough to permit use even on guns with protruding pistol grips and accessories and/or optics mounted atop them. The fabric has also been treated with silicone to help it repel moisture and protect firearms from rust. Available in green, gray, coyote brown and black. Price: $20 (two pack); $35 (four pack). *Contact: Arcturus; (888) 604-7868;* **arcturusgear.com**.





NRA Museums

- Open 7 Days a week
- Free Admission
- Ample free parking

National Firearms Museum
Est. 1935
NRA HQ
11250 Waples Mill Rd.
Fairfax, VA 22030

Frank Brownell Museum of the Southwest
Est. 2008
NRA Whittington Center
34025 Hwy 64 West
Raton, NM 87740

National Sporting Arms Museum
Est. 2013
Bass Pro Shops
1935 S. Campbell Ave.
Springfield, MO 65807

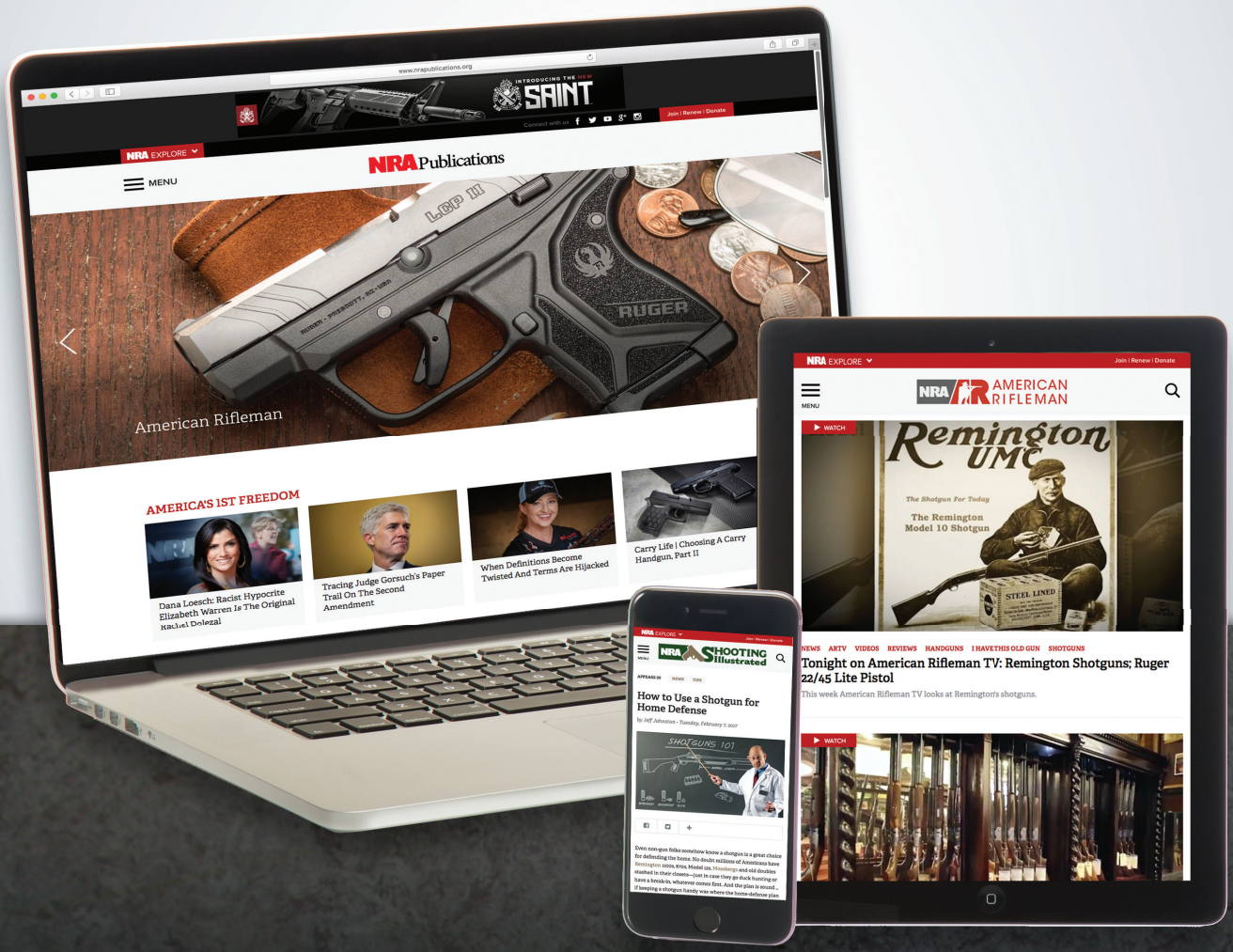






www.nramuseums.org or (703) 267-1600 for directions, hours and special events.

Explore our digital network for at-a-glance access to Second Amendment news, gear, gun reviews, videos and more.



NRAPublications.org

DIGITAL NETWORK

NRA AMERICAN RIFLEMAN

NRA American Hunter

NRA SHOOTING Illustrated.com

NRA America's 1st Freedom

NRA SHOOTING SPORTS USA

NRA FAMILY

Viability Of The Vertical Foregrip

Chris Sajnog, former Navy SEAL small arms instructor, once wrote that the vertical foregrip (VFG) was one of the single worst things to ever happen to marksmanship. But, for many years, it seemed like the VFG was the one must-have accessory that everyone kept on their rifles—whether it was a big broom-handle-like thing, a chunky Grip Pod or the "stubby" variety that gained popularity later.

The VFG attachment gained popularity as part of the Special Operations Peculiar Modification (SOPMOD) program. The goal was to provide flexibility when configuring an M4 carbine. One challenge was the various illuminators and infrared designators that hung off the railed handguard. These devices left nowhere for the user to put his supporting hand. Taking a note from other rifle designs such as the Steyr AUG, the program office included a conspicuous vertical grip below the handguard, allowing the shooter to maintain control of the firearm.

Despite the context of a short handguard, VFGs proliferated to other configurations like the M16A4, which didn't have the same handguard real-estate limitations. So, what's the deal? If they are terrible for marksmanship and unnecessary on modern long handguards, why would you ever use one?

The answer comes down to updated shooting styles and comfort for carry. If you use the VFG like a handstop rather than an actual grip, it works great. Reaching forward and pressing the rear of your palm against the VFG offers a consistent and secure hand position every time. The VFG also helps ease wrist strain when carrying a rifle for hours on end. These days, a VFG is inexpensive and worth trying out for your needs. Start by placing it just behind your normal support-hand position on the handguard and try it out. Adjust it forward or backward from there as necessary.

—Matt Robertson



Photo by author

SECOND SHOTS

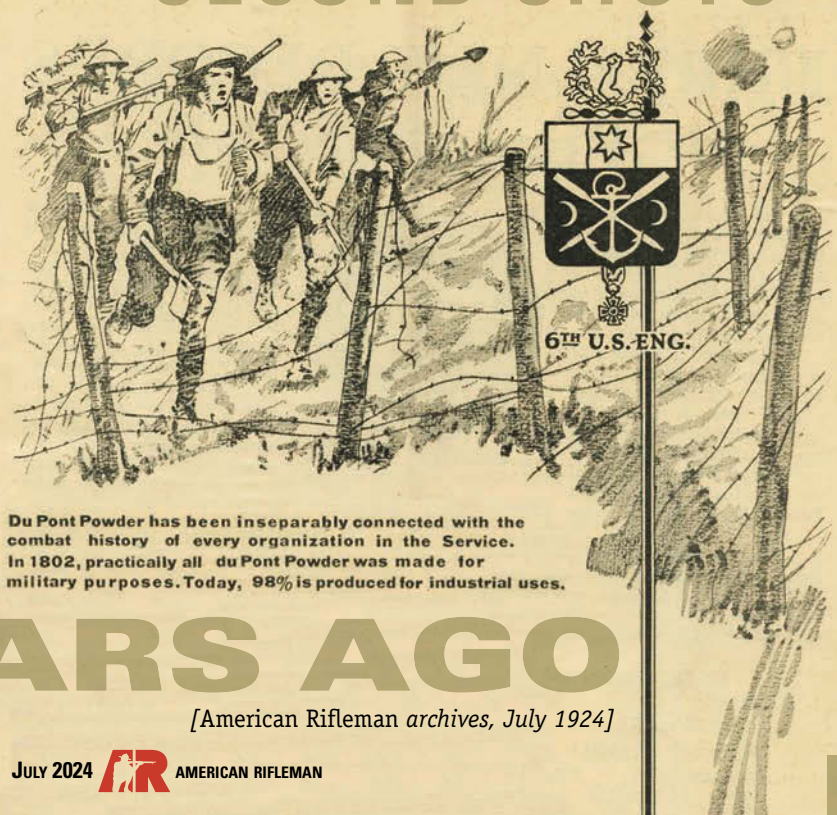
"Carey's Chickens" Carry On!

The great German offensive on the Somme began on March 21st, 1918. The 6th Engineers, U. S. A., were forced to retreat with the 5th British Army.

On March 27th, General Carey succeeded in gathering together all of the slowly retiring forces and made a stand. In the front line of Carey's improvised battalions, which later came to be known as "Carey's Chickens", was the 6th. They fought bravely with whatever weapons they could grasp—picks and shovels as well as rifles—in the desperate struggle to consolidate the line, and at Warfusee-Abancourt they held an infantry sub-sector for a week while in command of their own Colonel—Colonel Hodges.

The 6th played an important part in saving Amiens.

E. I. DU PONT DE NEMOURS & CO., Inc.
WILMINGTON, DELAWARE



DU PONT

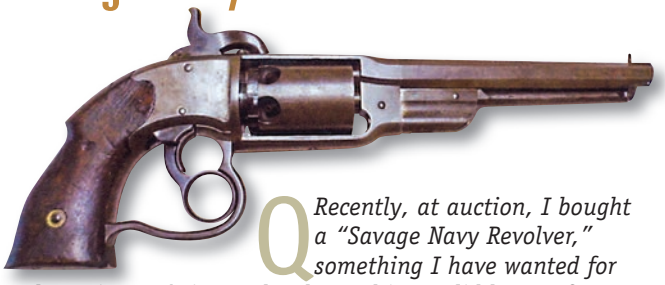
Du Pont Powder has been inseparably connected with the combat history of every organization in the Service. In 1802, practically all du Pont Powder was made for military purposes. Today, 98% is produced for industrial uses.

100 YEARS AGO

[American Rifleman *archives, July 1924*]


NRA WOMEN.com
Often outdoorsy.
Sometimes sassy.
Always confident.
NRAWomen.com

Savage Navy Revolvers



Q Recently, at auction, I bought a "Savage Navy Revolver," something I have wanted for a long time. It's in good order and is a solid brute of a thing, but apart from the "Savage R.F.A. Co. Middleton, CT" stamp on the barrel, there are no other markings at all except for the serial number "1620" in three places: the frame; under the barrel; and on the sideplate. I've looked up what information I can find on the Internet and Mr. John F. Graf's Standard Catalog Of Civil War Firearms, *which gives the basic background, but I was hoping you might be able to narrow it down to perhaps a year of manufacture and maybe if it was ever issued.*



NRA member photos

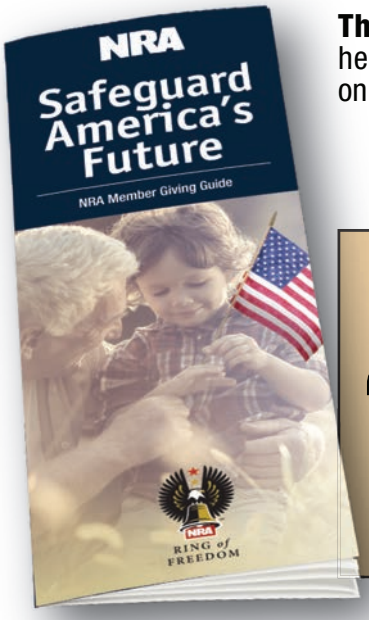
A Savage Fire-Arms Co. manufactured the Navy Revolver from 1861 to 1865; some 20,000 were made. Most were sold commercially, with only 800 contracted to the U.S. Navy during the Civil War. Issued guns were stamped "P" (proved) over "J.R.G." for the inspector, Capt. Joseph R. Goldsborough, on the middle portion of the cylinders.

—Garry James, Field Editor

"Questions & Answers" is compiled by staff, Field and Contributing Editors from the inquiries about guns, ammunition and their use received by *American Rifleman*. Direct answers to technical and historical questions are provided only to NRA members. Submit letters to: Dope Bag, NRA Publications, 11250 Waples Mill Road, Fairfax, VA 22030-9400 or to: americanrifleman@nrahq.org. Include your membership number or current copy of an NRA magazine mailing label or membership card and a self-addressed, stamped, business-size envelope. Please limit each letter to one specific question. Technical or historical questions cannot be answered by telephone, and even approximate values on guns or other equipment cannot be provided. Please allow 6 to 8 weeks for replies.

NRA | NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION

Plan and Protect through Philanthropy



The NRA Member Giving Guide is our easy-to-read booklet to help you provide for your loved ones and make an enduring mark on American freedom. Request yours today!

www.NRAplannedgiving.org

877-672-4483

With just a single sentence in your will or estate plan, you can leave a legacy of freedom for generations to come.

Suggested Bequest Language:*

"All [or state a _____%] of the rest, residue, and remainder of my property, both real and personal and wheresoever situated, I give, devise and bequeath to the NRA (Federal Tax ID # 53-0116130), 11250 Waples Mill Road, Fairfax, Virginia 22030, for its general purposes as defined by the Board of Directors."

**Consult with an attorney in your state of residence to finalize your gift language.*

NRA Member benefit: Draft a FREE will at www.NRAplannedgiving.org

Memories Of Alicia And "My Marlin"


NRA member photo

In 1972, I purchased a commemorative Marlin 39 .22 lever-action carbine. I was a third-year student in dental school in San Francisco, and, at the time, I could never have imagined my future with that little rifle. Not many years later, I was a dentist in private practice in San Jose, Calif. I was married to Alicia, a beautiful, high-spirited gal who also managed my dental office.

Alicia was very accepting of my firearms and shooting hobby, and she liked shooting my Smith & Wesson Model 19 .357 Mag. revolver with my lightly charged handloads. She also liked shooting my iron-sighted Sedgley 1903 Springfield .30-'06 Sprg. sporter with my own cast-bullet handloads. However, once Alicia tried out the Marlin 39, she declared it "my Marlin," and that was that.

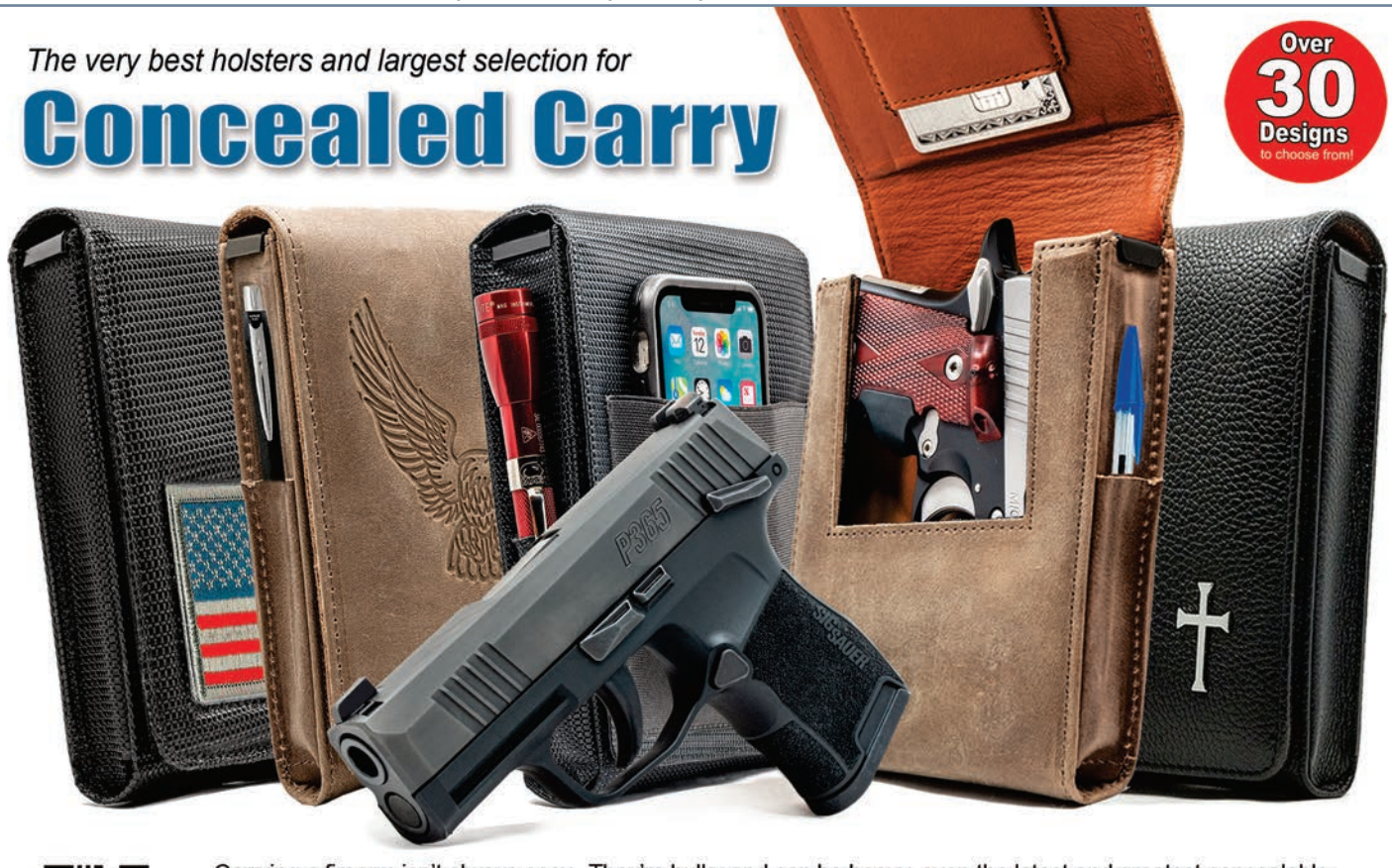
We used to take it out for target practice in Coyote Valley, south of San Jose, and during the summer, we would take it to our rented cabin in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Nearby was an abandoned meadow with huge tree trunks left over from a logging operation, and that is where we set up tin cans for practice. She was a fine shot offhand and kneeling.

In the summer of 1983, just for fun, I brought up an old cast-iron frying pan to see what would happen if she shot at it with the usual standard-velocity ammunition. I placed the pan against a huge fallen tree trunk, with a slight rise of terrain beyond it; we backed up about 35 yards for safety. Alicia's first shot broke the 10" frying pan into two pieces. She cried out with delight, and then I witnessed a real shooting performance. Working the lever so quickly I could barely follow the action, she proceeded to shatter the remains of the pan into a pile of silver-dollar-size pieces in short order. Since she didn't miss, each cartridge did its work. When done, Alicia reminded me about the gun's ownership, saying, "This is my Marlin."

Many summers have come and gone since that sunny day in the High Sierras, and my wife passed away this year. I'm an old guy with a bunch of fancy sporting arms, but the only one that means anything to me is that Marlin that belonged to my Alicia—my own "Annie Oakley."

—J.L. Vitenson

Nearly every shooter has a favorite firearm. If you would like to share the experience of owning yours with other *American Rifleman* readers, or on americanrifleman.org, send a sharp color photograph of the gun, accompanied by its story in fewer than 400 words, with your name, address and daytime telephone number to: Favorite Firearms, *American Rifleman*, National Rifle Association, 11250 Waples Mill Road, Fairfax, VA 22030-9400, or email it to americanrifleman@nrahq.org. Photos and submissions cannot be returned and may be edited for clarity and brevity.



Carrying a firearm isn't always easy. They're bulky and can be heavy, even the latest and greatest concealable pistols. That's why we build holsters that allow you to carry concealed on the outside of your belt, where the weight can best be managed and you don't have to wear specific clothes to conceal your pistol.

Scan this QR Code to see our complete holster selection.

www.SneakyPete.com



Taurus Embark On A New "Expe

The firearm industry tends to move in waves, with many companies jumping onto something as it gains popularity. Earlier this year, the hype seemed to be all about lever-action rifles, so it was easy to miss that Taurus also broke new ground and set out to explore uncharted territory with a brand-new release for another hot segment of the American market: the bolt-action "practical rifle." Dubbed the Expedition, it is one more entry into the niche of rifles that use full-power centerfire cartridges such as .308 Win. or 6.5 mm Creedmoor in a rugged, easy-to-carry format. You might think of it as a modern update to Jeff Cooper's Scout Rifle concept.

Taurus has roots going back to 1924 as a tool and die manufacturer. Known as *Forjas Taurus*, Portuguese for "Taurus Forge," its first revolver came to market in 1941—the Model 38101SO. After several years of focusing on revolvers, and changing ownership a few times along the way, the company hit a major milestone in

Photos by Forrest MacCormack

ks edition"

Best known for modern revolvers and semi-automatic pistols, Taurus USA has undertaken a new venture—a bolt-action rifle platform with a smart feature set.

BY MATT ROBERTSON

1980. Beretta had just completed a contract for producing the Model 92 for the Brazilian government. The contract stipulated that the pistols come from a Brazilian factory using Brazilian labor. Afterward, Beretta sought a buyer for the factory—and *Forjas Taurus* stepped up to purchase all the drawings, tooling, machinery and an experienced workforce. That resulted in the Taurus PT92, which holds a fond place in my heart as the first pistol I ever shot as a teenager many years ago.

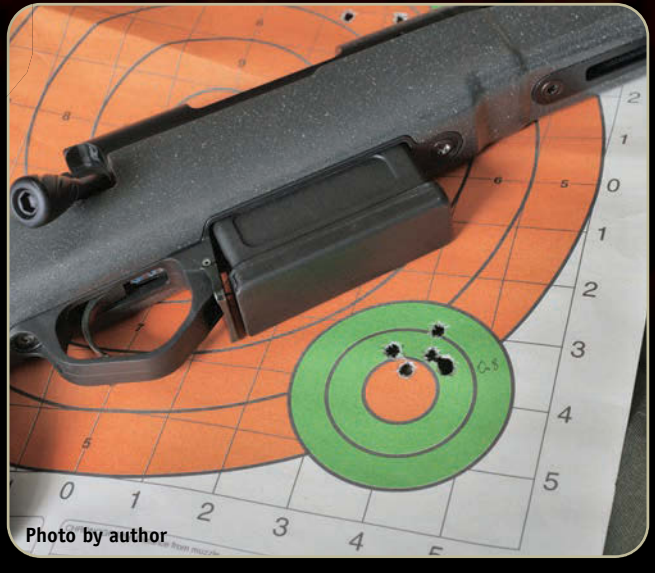


Photo by author

In 1982, Taurus formed American-based Taurus Holdings, Inc. in Miami, Fla. This led to Taurus Intl. Mfg. and opened up the vast American market. *Forjas Taurus* also re-named itself to *Taurus Armas* to reflect its growing focus on the small arms market. It is the largest firearm manufacturer in South America, with many contracts across a variety of platforms, including semi-automatic rifles and submachine guns for the South American market. In fact, the Taurus T4, the company's version of the AR-15 platform, enjoyed a short stint on the U.S. market as well. Up to this point, American shooters primarily have experience with Taurus' pistols and revolvers. Its entry into the bolt-action market may seem like a surprise. So what does a pistol and revolver company know about rifles? As it turns out, quite a bit.

To get the history of the Expedition rifle in particular, I spoke to Caleb Giddings—Taurus USA's general manager of marketing. Giddings relayed that after developing the machining and quality control needed for the well-received Executive Grade line of revolvers, Taurus wanted to turn its sights on to something new and unexpected. The answer came from Taurus Holdings' President and Chief Executive Officer Bret Vorhees, who also happens to be an avid hunter. He envisioned a rifle that was affordable yet still something you'd be proud to carry.

The Taurus Expedition is the result, a "do-all" rifle designed to work equally well for hunting as it does ringing steel, riding in a truck for "just-in-case" purposes or taking care of predators on a ranch.

Out Of The Box

When you've handled enough rifles at different price points, you develop expectations on what you'll see. On the budget-friendly end of the spectrum, that usually means thin plastic stocks, rough finishes or a lack of little quality-of-life features you find on more expensive options; the rifle may still shoot accurately, but it usually lacks refinement. In the long run, such rifles usually get upgrades such as aftermarket stocks or chassis systems that add several hundred dollars more to the original price. I'm happy to say that this was not my impression of the Expedition rifle, which comes in at an MSRP of $985. At first glance, it appears that Taurus did its homework and surveyed what the bolt-gun market likes. The company found a way to engineer those features into a single platform and keep the price below $1,000.

The first thing I noticed upon taking the rifle out of the case was the meaty, speckled-gray synthetic stock. While still polymer, it feels tougher and less "plasticky" than other options on the market I've handled around this price point. The rear stock features a non-adjustable, raised cheekpiece. At the very back is a fixed 1"-thick foam pad. The bottom of the buttstock features a gentle hook for the hand to hold as well as a slope ideal for riding bags. There's also a single sling swivel point. The length of pull is a hair more than 14". The fore-end has a slim 1.55"-wide profile, suited to the field-rifle pedigree. The sides have a scalloped design for nestling into a tripod saddle. Along the flat bottom of the fore-end you'll find a standard sling swivel point, two M-Lok segments and a quick-detach socket purpose-built for the popular Spartan Precision mounting system. Handling the rifle in bare form, the Expedition weighed in at 6 lbs., 11 ozs., with the balance point at the front of the AICS-pattern magazine well. This is about perfect for me and provides a lively feel for assuming field shooting positions.

The 18" stainless-steel barrel has a straight taper profile, which I measured at 0.74" diameter behind the knurled thread protector. This puts it in the medium-weight, "light target" category of usage; not as light as a pure hunting barrel, but not as heavy as a match barrel, either. Another

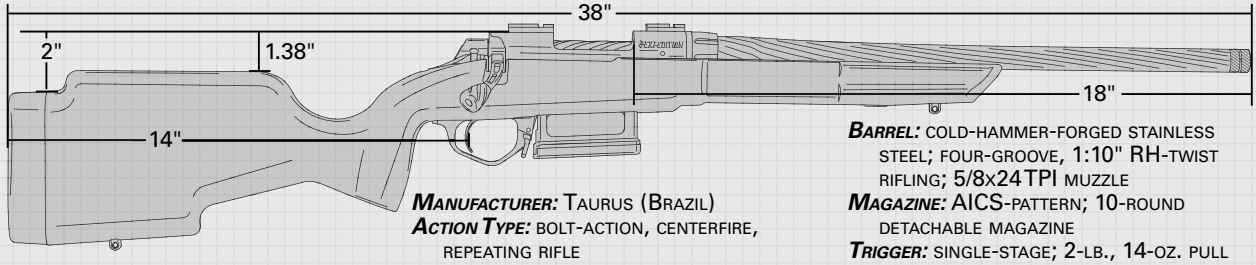




Generally following the Model 700 pattern means that the Expedition should be compatible with most aftermarket barrels, stocks, triggers, scope bases and bottom metal made for the popular Remington design. The Taurus' action screws are both pillar-bedded (inset), a nice touch on a budget-friendly rifle.

TAURUS EXPEDITION

Importer: Taurus Intl. Mfg., Inc. (Dept. AR), 100 Taurus Way, Bainbridge, GA 39817; (800) 327-3776; taurususa.com



Manufacturer: Taurus (Brazil)
Action Type: bolt-action, centerfire, repeating rifle
Chambering: .308 Win.
Receiver: stainless steel
Stock: injection-molded polymer
Barrel: cold-hammer-forged stainless steel; four-groove, 1:10" RH-twist rifling; 5/8x24 TPI muzzle
Magazine: AICS-pattern; 10-round detachable magazine
Trigger: single-stage; 2-lb., 14-oz. pull
Sights: none; drilled-and-tapped receiver
Weight: 6 lbs., 13 ozs.
MSRP: $985





The Expedition's two-position safety slides forward to fire (top). A red dot signals when the bolt is cocked (above), and an Allen key can be used to switch out the bolt knob to suit the shooter's preference.

SHOOTING RESULTS (100 YARDS)

.308 Win. Cartridge	Velocity (f.p.s.)	Energy (ft.-lbs.)	Group Size (inches) Smallest	Largest	Average
Federal 150-grain Non-Typical	2,660 Avg. 17 Sd	2,356	1.00	1.40	1.21
Hornady American Gunner 155-grain BTHP	2,407 Avg. 27 Sd	1,994	0.80	1.41	1.23
Nosler 165-grain BT	2,654 Avg. 8 Sd	2,580	0.92	1.48	1.25
Average Extreme Spread					1.23

Notes: Measured average velocity for 10 shots using a Garmin Xero C1 Pro radar chronograph calibrated for 10 yards. Accuracy results for five consecutive, five-shot groups at 100 yards from a Caldwell Hydrosled. Temperature: 44° F. Humidity: 70%. Abbreviations: BT (Ballistic Tip), BTHP (boattail hollow point), Sd (Standard deviation).

interesting feature of the barrel is the spiral-shaped fluting. Except it's not actually fluting at all. Typical fluting is the process of removing barrel material in a way that lightens the barrel while attempting to keep the stiffness of a thicker barrel. In the Expedition's case, there doesn't appear to be anything actually removed. I asked Giddings about this, and the answer is that this spiral pattern is a consequence of the hammer-forging process used to craft the rifle's barrel.

If you aren't familiar with it, hammer forging is one of a few ways to create the rifling. Traditional methods like cut or button rifling use tooling to remove material from the bore and leave behind the desired rifle pattern. Hammer forging takes a different approach. Machinists insert a mandrel with a negative image of the desired rifling into the bore of a short and fat "blank." This blank goes into the hammer-forging machine, which beats the barrel into shape from all directions with 50 tons of force. The impacts compress the barrel steel around the mandrel and form a uniform bore and rifling pattern. One of the byproducts of hammer forging is that the completed barrel comes out the other end with a unique spiral pattern around it from where the hammers made their impacts. Most barrel manufacturers polish these ridges off to bring the barrel back to a smooth, round cylindrical shape. In this case, Taurus left them in place to add a bit of character. "Because it looks cool" is as good a reason as any.

The barrel mounts to the stainless-steel action via a barrel nut system that should facilitate replacing barrels and changing chamberings in the future. Another intelligent move on Taurus' part was utilizing the tried-and-true Remington 700 footprint for the Expedition's action. Because of that, the Expedition has access to the huge array of aftermarket support available to the Remington 700



Lockup is by way of a three-lug bolt head that features an M16-style extractor and a plunger ejector (inset). The bolt handle is attached to the body via a pair of screws.

platform, including stocks, pre-fit barrels, triggers, scope bases and bottom metal. While Taurus won't guarantee it, if something fits on the Remington 700, then there's a good chance it fits on the Expedition as well.

The three-lug bolt has a 70-degree throw, which I found to be smooth enough to not be distracting. For ejection, the Expedition utilizes an M16-style extractor paired with a single plunger ejector. The skeletonized metal handle is short, with a small teardrop knob threaded on. The bolt comes out of the action via a release button located on the left side of the rifle. Taurus treated the entire action and barrel with an attractive diamond-like carbon (DLC) coating to aid in durability. If you aren't familiar, DLC has a flat, dark, gray graphite appearance to it. Also notable is that the action screws pass through two beefy metal pillars embedded within the stock. This aids with accuracy by reducing flex around the mounting points. Pillar bedding is not something you typically find on budget-friendly rifle stocks, so that was nice to see.

I tested the single-stage trigger with 10 pulls using a Wheeler digital trigger gauge, averaging 2 lbs., 14 ozs. In front of the trigger, you'll find a metal paddle-style magazine release mounted to the polymer bottom metal. The magazine release pokes out to each side, enabling quick removal of the magazine with the trigger finger pushing forward. To finish things off for range testing, I mounted a Leupold Mark 4HD 2.5-10X 42 mm. This magnification range and scope size offers a nice balance of weight to capability, ideal for a "do-all" rifle format. I used Leupold 30 mm rings and a generic two-piece Remington 700 short-action scope base, which was actually the source of my only malfunction with the rifle during testing.

Testing The Expedition

I brought the Taurus Expedition out to Peacemaker National Training Center in Gerrardstown, W.Va. The Independence range features both 50-yard and 100-yard sighting points, as well as steel targets going out to 300 yards. This was a perfect testing environment.

For initial sighting, I set the rifle up on a Caldwell Tack Driver front bag and plopped down on the bench behind it with a loaded 10-round AICS magazine. I pressed the bolt-release button and attempted to remove the bolt from the action and get a coarse bore sight. Unfortunately, the bolt wouldn't come out. "Ok," I thought, "No bore sighting today." With a full magazine inserted, I ran the bolt to the rear then forward. To my surprise, it did not pick up a round. Moving forward with testing anyway, I single-fed each round into the chamber, and everything worked as far as firing and extraction. Not giving up, I inspected the raceway at the top of the action to see where the bolt was cycling. As it turns out, one of the screws from the two-piece mounting base was poking down into the action and obstructing the bolt from moving far enough to the rear to pick up fresh rounds.

This was a quick fix with a few tools and a torque limiter I keep in my range bag. The rearmost screw was the culprit, as it was slightly longer than the rest. After moving it to the front base and out of the way of the bolt, the rifle cycled ammunition without issue. This situation isn't a knock against the Taurus Expedition, but more of a cautionary tale for shooters who might not think to check such things. The three-lug nature of the action means more material has to come out from under the top of the action to clear the raceway. If you're accustomed to two-lug actions, you might never see this. The remainder of the test, consisting of about 200 rounds of ammunition, went off without a hitch.



An ambidextrous, paddle-style magazine release is located at the front of the oversize trigger guard. Pressing forward on either side releases the AICS-pattern magazine from the action.

I brought along three different loads of .308 Win. ammunition for this test: Hornady's American Gunner 155-grain boattail hollow point (BTHP); Nosler's 165-grain Ballistic Tip (BT); and Federal's 150-grain Non-Typical Whitetail soft point. Velocity testing consisted of 10 shots from each load in front of a Garmin Xero C1 Pro chronograph. The most consistent performer of the day was Nosler, which produced an average speed of 2,654 f.p.s. and a standard deviation of 8 f.p.s. The Federal averaged 2,660 f.p.s., and the Hornady averaged 2,407 f.p.s. All three loads chronograph slower than their boxes indicate, an expected outcome with an 18" barrel, as ammunition manufacturers typically use a 24" test barrel for their box velocities. For accuracy, I mounted the Expedition into a Caldwell Hydrosled and fired a series of five, five-shot groups at 100 yards for each load. The top performer here was the Federal 150-grain Non-Typical, producing an average group size of 1.21" across 25 shots. The smallest group of the day went to the Hornady American Gunner, which produced a group only 0.80" in diameter. All three loads performed similarly, with average groups around 1.2".

With the basic testing out of the way, I moved the Expedition down to the steel plate range and set it atop a



Within the rifle's fore-end there is a pair of M-Lok slots, a traditional sling swivel stud and a QD socket for a Spartan bipod. Scallops on each side of the fore-end are designed for use with a tripod saddle.

Leupold Mark 4HD 2.5-10X 42 mm



Another announcement at SHOT Show this year was a new line of Leupold Mark 4HD scopes. Available in 1-4X 24 mm, 2.5-10X 42 mm, 4.5-18X 52 mm, 6-24X 52 mm and 8-32X 56 mm models, the optics feature a 4X magnification ratio and 30 mm bodies. The 2.5-10X 42 mm used for testing employs Leupold's PR-1 first-focal-plane (FFP) reticle in minute-of-angle format. As expected, the scope performed very well optically. I noticed no problems with fringing, resolution or other distracting issues. The optic weighs a light 21 ozs., which is great for a field rifle.

As a FFP reticle, the PR-1 grew and shrank with adjustment of the magnification ring. This offers the advantage of keeping the m.o.a. hash marks, which went out to 100 m.o.a. in each direction, accurate, no matter the magnification setting. Some FFP reticles can be too thin at the low end or too thick at the high end of the magnification range, but Leupold found a nice balance here. I found it to be ideal between 6-8X, but the reticle was still perfectly usable at 2.5X or 10X.

This particular model has no illumination and a fixed parallax adjustment set for 150 yards. Other models, however, do have these features. In all, the Mark 4HD 2.5-10X 42 mm seems like a fantastic option for use with a "do-all" practical rifle like the Expedition. **leupold.com**



Vortex Radian tripod equipped with a Shadow Tech PIG Saddle. The saddle clamped into the recesses on each side of the stock forearm, and I went to work ringing steel at 200 and 300 yards. When that got boring, I took the rifle out of the saddle and shot from a variety of field positions including kneeling, squatting and sitting. Again, the rifle had no issue ringing steel at these distances to the limit of my own capability.

The Teardown

After the range session, I brought the rifle back home for a teardown and cleaning. This was uneventful, though I did notice that the skeletonized bolt handle loosened and developed a bit of slop during testing. Given this was a test sample, I don't know how many shots this rifle has seen before it got into my hands. Fixing it took only a few minutes removing the bolt and striker assembly, then tightening two T-10 Torx screws affixing it to the bolt body. I don't know if any threadlocker was used on this part, but, given the torque forces from cycling the bolt, I suspect it would be a good idea to add in the future. On one hand, I like that the bolt handle is replaceable—that means you could swap it out for something longer or more swept to enhance leverage during cycling. On the other hand, this is not a standard part for the Remington 700, which uses a different attachment method. Whether another style of bolt handle is ever available will depend on aftermarket support. Cleaning and inspecting the rifle was otherwise uneventful.

Closing Thoughts

So what exactly is the Taurus Expedition? In short, it's a sub-$1,000 practical rifle conforming to the Remington 700 footprint. It includes all the bells and whistles that shooters past paid a lot of money to modify their rifles with and is not heavily dependent on proprietary components, with the entire ecosystem of bolt-action support for the Remington 700 being open to it. That's not something easily said of other rifles at a similar price point.

To my knowledge, there aren't any other rifles on the market doing exactly what this one does. The practical-rifle niche is a small one, and there are only a handful of competitors. I've spent time with many of them, both more expensive and less. I can comfortably say that the Taurus Expedition is well-positioned for success. It offers a nice balance of cost to performance while also being able to take advantage of a mind-boggling array of modifications for the tinkerers like me.



The buttstock features a non-adjustable raised cheekpiece, a 1"-thick recoil pad and a sling swivel, along with a gentle hook for the support hand and a slope ideal for riding bags.

SOLID AND T

Combining the exceptional weight-retention of Core-Lokt Copper with the enhanced aerodynamic properties of Core-Lokt Tipped, Premier CuT gives Remington Ammunition a potent new lead-free big-game hunting load.

BY **KELLY YOUNG,** Senior Executive Editor



Photos by Forrest MacCormack

O THE POINT

Remington's Premier CuT

Despite some early teething issues, Randy Brooks' X Bullet proved back in 1989 for Barnes Bullets that a coreless, all-copper projectile could be made that would provide consistent terminal results on game of pretty much any size. Today, following three-plus decades of further refinement to the concept, quality monolithic ammunition designs are better than ever and every bit as lethal in the field as a quality cup-and-core—while providing some innate benefits that a jacketed lead bullet just can't. Meanwhile, the advantages, both before and after impact with its target, offered by capping a projectile with an aerodynamically streamlined polymer tip are probably even better understood and more firmly established at this point. So, if pulled off well, it tracks that uniting the two design elements together in one bullet has the potential to create a truly devastating game-stopping combination—even in those jurisdictions that don't require the use of lead-free ammo for environmental reasons.

Such is the promise offered by Remington Ammunition's new Premier CuT big-game hunting loads—which merge aspects of the company's Core-Lokt Copper (CLC) and Core-Lokt Tipped (CLT) lines—that debuted earlier this year at SHOT Show 2024. At launch, Premier CuT exists as a family of nine loads, available in a nice assortment of both long-established mainstay cartridges and a few hyper-efficient new kids on the block to keep both camps happy. Most of the new loads are on the light side for their caliber: 6.5 mm Creedmoor (120 grain); 6.5 mm PRC (130 grain); .270 Win. (140 grain); 7 mm-08 Rem. (140 grain); 7 mm Rem. Mag. (150 grain); 7 mm PRC (160 grain); .308 Win. (150 grain); .30-'06 Sprg. (150 grain); and .300 Win. Mag. (180 grain). A tenth option, a .300 PRC of undetermined weight, is included on Remington's website, but all details are listed as "TBD." At the risk of ruining the suspense, I had the opportunity to draw first blood with Premier CuT—its .300 Win. Mag. version in specific—during an October elk hunt in West Texas, and my experience confirmed that the new ammo has the chops to take down even the biggest game that North America (or the African plains) has to offer.

While this is, of course, entirely subjective, I like the name; I think it's clever, as the CuT moniker works on multiple levels. Not only in that this is a copper (Cu) bullet that employs a polymer tip (T), but also because of how easily its jagged monometal petals slice through tissue upon upset. Also, I'm glad the company didn't elect to further expand upon the "Core-Lokt Copper" train of thought with this new line, as—with all due respect to Big Green—that name is nonsensical given that a CLC bullet contains neither a core nor a locking mechanism. I find the new line's "Premier" tag to be appropriate as well, as it incorporates a few enhanced features that make it better suited to long-range endeavors that the more budget-minded, close-range Core-Lokt Copper lacks.

Until just recently, Remington's slate of solid-copper rifle cartridge offerings was woefully lacking—to the point of being non-existent. I suppose there isn't much impetus to adding copper to the menu when lead-core ammo designs are your bread-and-butter and your company shares a corporate umbrella with the pioneer in copper-topped ammunition, but that all changed when Barnes Bullets was purchased by Sierra in the Remington Outdoor Co. bankruptcy proceedings of 2020. Since that time, however, Remington Ammunition has been quick to rectify this gap in its coverage, first with the addition of CLC last year and now in 2024 with Premier CuT.



As mentioned before, most of the Premier CuT loads are light for what we've come to expect from their respective calibers, which is just a reality of their copper construction. This is due to the fact that copper is considerably (a little more than 20 percent) lighter than lead, one of the densest naturally occurring metals on earth. While Remington is understandably unwilling to publicly divulge the specifics of its new projectile's exact chemical composition, the company says it's an alloy consisting almost entirely of pure copper, but with a small amount of zinc mixed in.

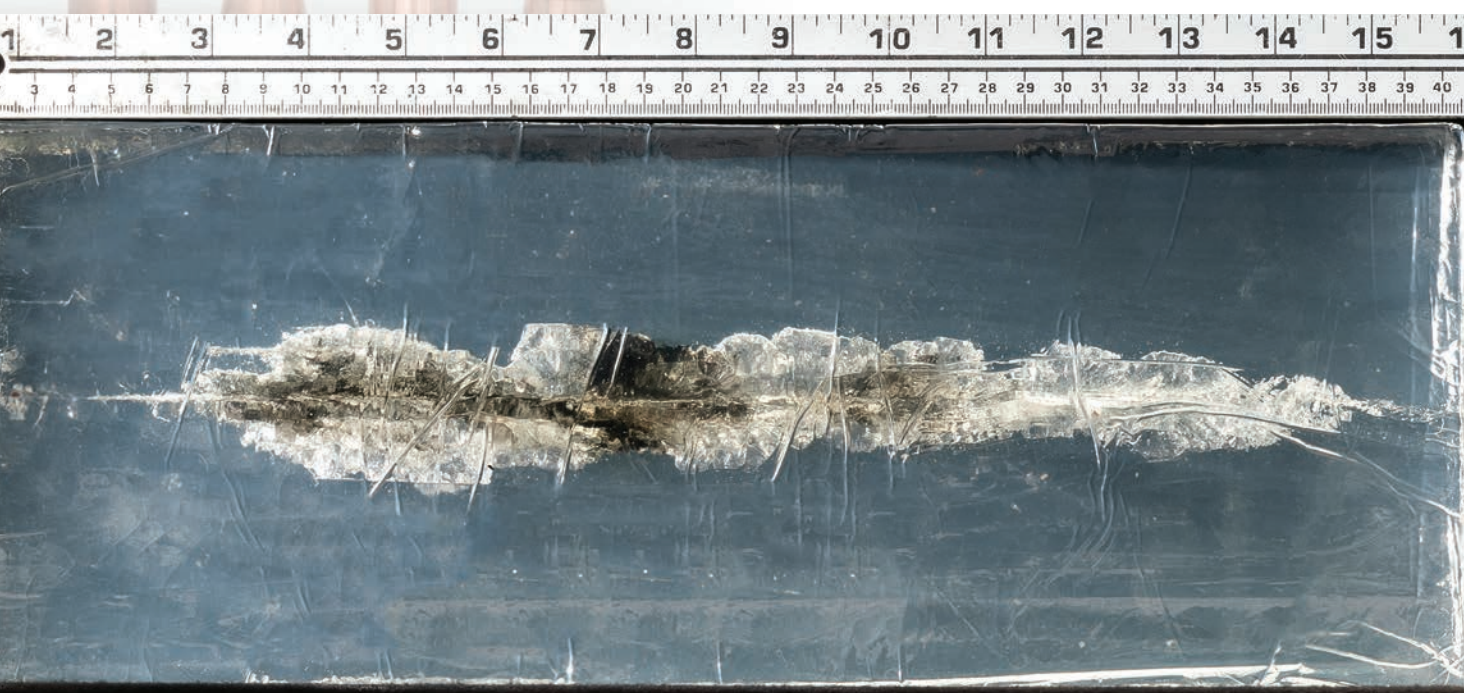
Despite its lightness, copper is also significantly harder than lead, and unless steps are taken to mitigate that fact, bullets made from this material will tend to punch straight through tissue with minimal expansion or deformation. This is much of the reason why one of the earliest applications for copper ammunition was in nonexpanding solids for the hunting of dangerous game. It is also this hardness that contributes to copper's reputation for nearly perfect post-impact weight retention, as copper is far less likely to fragment into smaller pieces upon striking soft tissue or hard bone, which equates to maximized energy transfer and ample penetration.

But while penetration comes naturally to copper, expansion is another issue altogether. To keep its projectiles from zipping through like an FMJ, Premier CuT utilizes specially placed skiving on the inside of the bullet's hollow-point cavity to encourage expansion in several precisely engineered locations. The result is that,



INITIAL PREMIER CuT LOADS

Cartridge	Bullet Weight (grains)	Listed Velocity (f.p.s.)	Ballistic Coefficient (G1)
6.5 mm Creedmoor	120	2,925	0.428
6.5 mm PRC	130	2,970	0.488
.270 Win.	140	3,060	0.403
7 mm-08 Rem.	140	2,860	0.429
7 mm Rem. Mag.	150	3,000	0.455
7 mm PRC	160	3,000	0.594
.308 Win.	150	2,700	0.440
.30-'06 Sprg.	150	2,820	0.441
.300 Win. Mag.	180	2,960	0.469





Ruger Hawkeye FTW Hunter

Springfield 2020 Redline

unlike lead-core bullets that tend to mushroom in a largely unpredictable fashion upon striking game, the harder Premier CuT's leading edge will generally separate into small fingers or petals that then roll backward down the shank, forming a flower-like shape roughly twice the projectile's initial diameter.

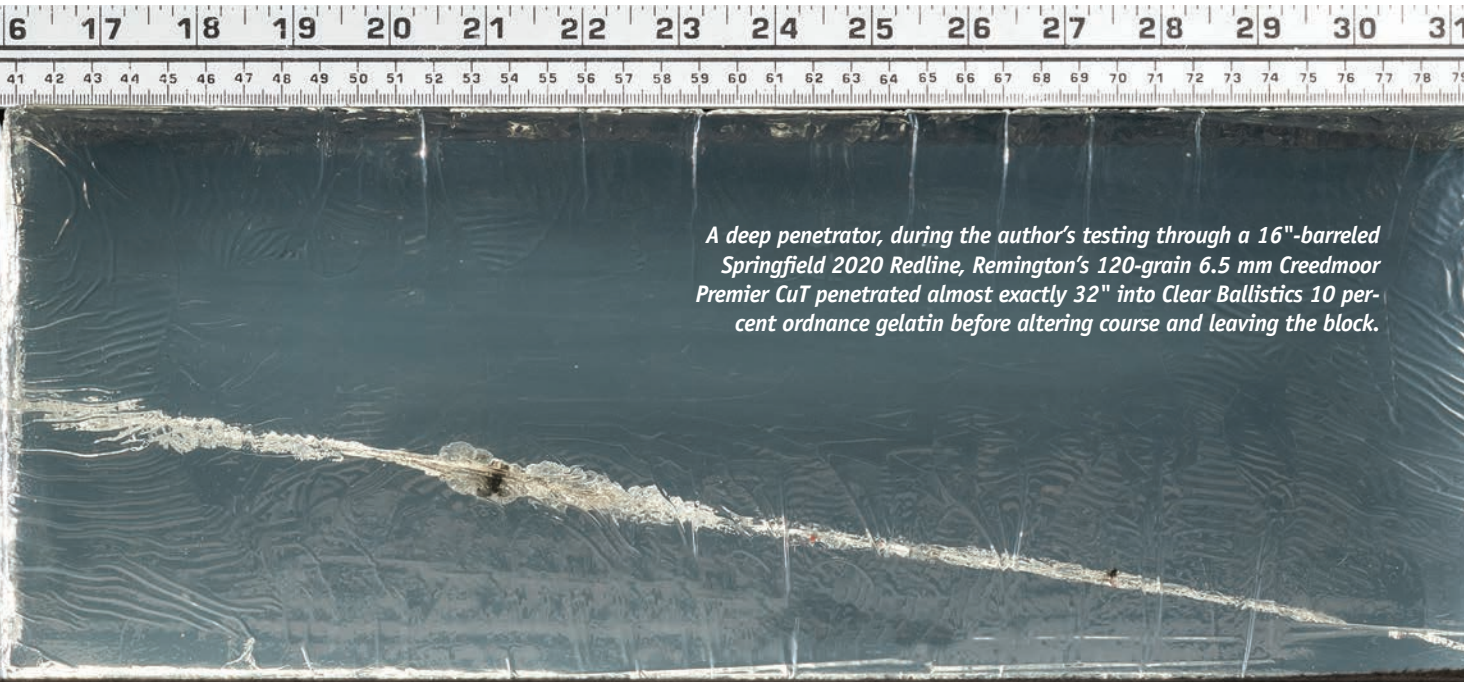
Pulling an unfired CuT bullet also revealed a pair of cannelures cut into its shank and a boattail at its base. Early all-copper/monolithic bullets gained a reputation for excessive barrel fouling, but adding these annular relief grooves provides room for any flecks of copper sheared off by the barrel's steel lands to accumulate—which decreases fouling, reduces bearing surfaces (and thereby internal pressures) and improves accuracy. According to Remington, regardless of cartridge, two cannelures were found to provide the optimal solution without increasing drag and lowering aerodynamic efficiency unnecessarily. The boattail heel, which CuT bullets have but CLCs lack, works in tandem with the polymer tip to maximize the bullets' in-flight ballistic potential—making the new ammo the superior choice for longer-range, western-style hunting.

Premier CuT's hard, spitzer-shaped, green (because marketing), polymer tips are similar, but not identical, to those used in the Core-Lokt Tipped line, however, the basic function is the same. CuT does for Remington's monometal lineup

SHOOTING RESULTS (100 YARDS)

Cartridge	Velocity (f.p.s.)	Energy (ft.-lbs.)	Group Size (inches) Smallest	Largest	Average
6.5 mm Creedmoor*					
Remington 120-grain PCuT	2,777 Avg. 6 Sd	2,055	0.72	1.45	0.97
.300 Win. Mag.**					
Remington 180-grain PCuT	2,948 Avg. 13 Sd	3,473	0.80	1.76	1.09

Notes: Measured average velocity for 10 shots over an Oehler 36 chronograph at 15 feet. Accuracy results for five consecutive, five-shot groups at 100 yards from a bench rest. * Fired from a 16"-barreled Springfield 2020 Redline. ** Fired from a 24"-barreled Ruger Hawkeye FTW Hunter. Temperature: 56° F. Humidity: 21%. Abbreviations: PCuT (Premier Copper Tipped), Sd (Standard deviation).



A deep penetrator, during the author's testing through a 16"-barreled Springfield 2020 Redline, Remington's 120-grain 6.5 mm Creedmoor Premier CuT penetrated almost exactly 32" into Clear Ballistics 10 percent ordnance gelatin before altering course and leaving the block.

what CLT did for its cup-and-cores two years ago—it gives it a major aerodynamic boost. Using Remington's 150-grain .30-'06 Sprg. CLC and CuT loads to give us an apples-to-apples comparison, the hollow-point CLCs have a G1 ballistic coefficient (BC) of 0.278, while the sharp synthetic tips (combined with the boattail) of the Premier CuTs impart a substantially higher BC of 0.441—an improvement of 58.6 percent.

The CuT bullet's far superior ability to overcome resistance in flight extends the useful range of its cartridge considerably. With a rifle zeroed at 200 yards, a 150-grain .30-'06 CLC traveling the listed velocity of 2,910 feet per second (f.p.s.) at the muzzle will drop 8.7" at 300 yards and 55.4" by the time it reaches 500 yards—with a 10-m.p.h. full-value wind knocking it off course 11.5" and 36.6", respectively, at those distances. Despite leaving the barrel moving 90 f.p.s. more slowly (2,820 f.p.s.), the 150-grain CuT travels more flatly, dropping just 7.8" and 45.7" at 300 and 500 yards, respectively, while drifting only 7.1" and 21.3" at the same ranges. On the energy side of the equation, the CLC bullet may start with marginally more, but it still carries only 1,318 ft.-lbs. at 200 yards, 994 at 300 yards and 743 at 500 yards—compared to 1,654, 1,397 and 1,174 ft.-lbs. for its CuT counterpart. Hard to argue with a longer point-blank range, less wind deflection and more downrange energy while also producing less recoil.

Penetrating fully before exiting, the .300 Win. Mag. (180-grain) Premier CuT bullet was easily up to the task of dropping this huge 6x6 elk bull from a distance of approximately 200 yards during the author's West Texas hunt last October.



Photo by author

Of course, companies have also been inserting polymer tips into bullet cavities to help initiate expansion for decades, as impact with the target media forces the rear of the tip into contact with the inside of the cavity, which mechanically aids in the upset of the bullet—and that concept applies here, too. A plastic tip acting as the meplat likewise helps protect the actual metal front surface of the projectile from potential damage, which would not only negatively influence accuracy but could also disrupt proper expansion.

Blessed with an opportunity to be the first to put Remington Ammunition's new design to the test, last October, I found myself trekking across the brutal-but-beautiful Glass Mountains of West Texas armed with a .300 Win. Mag.-chambered Ruger Hawkeye FTW Hunter topped with Trijicon's versatile AccuPoint 3-18X. While I don't usually picture elk when I think of Texas game, I was thrilled to have my misconception shattered, as we literally encountered more mature bulls during the first morning of my adventure in the Lone Star State than I had in four full days of hunting northwest Colorado three years ago. One of them, a very talkative 6x6 bruiser, was an obvious shooter—so I did.

A quartering-away shot from about 200 yards penetrated fully and left the body, so we weren't able to recover and scrutinize the bullet, but it did create a channel of messy vitals and obliterate the opposite shoulder on its way out, causing the 7-year-old bull to tumble headlong down a ravine and quickly expire. Many thanks go to Josh Coffey and the rest of the High West Outfitters crew for the expert tracking and for helping me pack the huge beast's edible bits and rack out of the gully.

Taking that Ruger back with me to Virginia, I ran the .300 Win. Mag. CuT through *Rifleman*'s established five-shot, five-group accuracy protocol. It fared very well: The smallest group of the day measured 0.80" and the largest was 1.76", with the other three all hovering around the 1" mark—more than sufficient for any ethical hunting distance. Curious to see how a second chambering would group through a second rifle, I had Remington send me a small stash of 6.5 mm Creedmoor CuT, I pulled a Springfield 2020 Redline from the NRA Publications inventory and I headed back to the range. The results were slightly even better this time; five groups came to an average of 0.97", with three of the five being solidly sub-m.o.a.

Since the bullet that dropped my elk had not been retrievable, and because I take any opportunity I can to catch bullets in the name of science, I decided to also conduct a bit of

expansion/penetration testing. Fired into two blocks of Clear Ballistics 10 percent ordnance gelatin laid end to end from 50 yards, through just the 16" barrel of the handy 2020 Redline, the Creedmoor—which is deemed (by some) to be underpowered for big game—penetrated deeply before altering course downward and exiting the second block at almost exactly the 32" mark.

The expanded bullet then embedded itself into the bag of mulch that I always use as a backstop during penetration testing but had never actually needed prior to this test. The easily recovered projectile measured 0.48" at its slimmest and 0.52" at its broadest (compared to 0.264" pre-impact) and had held on to 119.4 grains (99.5 percent) of its original 120-grain weight—which leads me to believe that CuT's green tip probably weighs right around 0.6 grains. Between this result and the prior experience with my elk, I think two-hole hunters are going to love Premier CuT.

As the political climate continues to grow increasingly hostile toward the use of lead ammunition, a new copper-monolith hunting load on the market makes good business sense for any manufacturer, and having an additional quality new option is always great news for all hunters, regardless of where they live. While loading up with lead-free ammunition may be required in some areas, Premier CuT has proven itself to me both on the range and—even more importantly—out with the hunt of a lifetime on the line, to the point that I can earnestly recommend its use even in those places that don't limit a hunter's choices. And Remington is planning to price Premier CuT very competitively with its Core-Lokt Tipped line, so users of copper won't have to pay a premium for the privilege.

If Remington's Core-Lokt has a reputation among hunters as the "deadliest mushroom in the forest," then Premier CuT proves that Big Green is now also in the killer flower business. **remington.com**



ATTENTION GUN COLLECTORS



Here's an EXCLUSIVE NRA offer good only for first-time subscribers!

Order today and get a free bonus issue added to your subscription just by mentioning this ad!

☐ **YES! Send me Man at Arms *for the* GUN AND SWORD COLLECTOR — THE NRA JOURNAL FOR THE AMERICAN ARMS COLLECTOR.** A one-year subscription (6 issues) is only $32.00 in U.S.A., Possessions and Canada. (Foreign subscribers must add $10.00 for postage). **Visit our website: gunandswordcollector.com**

Call 800-999-4697 or 401-597-5055

Or mail to: **MAN AT ARMS, 54 E. School Street, Woonsocket, RI 02895**

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Credit Card # _____ Exp. Date _____ Sec. Code _____

Make check or money order payable to *Man at Arms* WE ACCEPT ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS

Arming

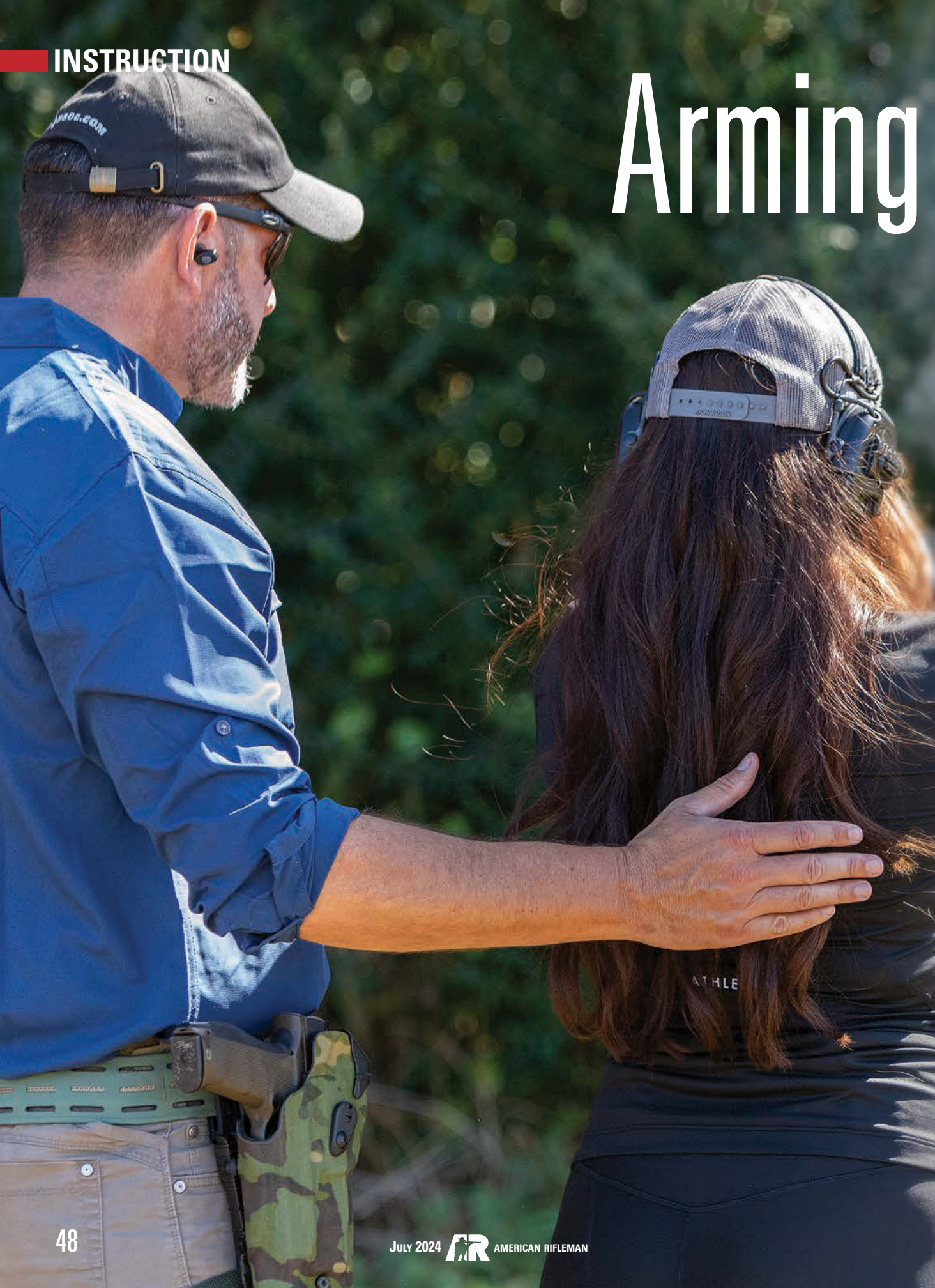




Photo by Forrest MacCormack

My Daughter Part II

Sampling Mid-Size Nines

During the first range experience with his daughter, the author saw how she struggled with a micro nine, so a natural question arose: How would she do with a somewhat larger 9 mm Luger handgun?

BY **JUSTIN DYAL,** Field Editor

Last year, as my daughter Laney prepared to move out of state and enter the job market, she asked for some range sessions oriented toward home defense. I wrote about the experience in "Arming My Daughter: A Defensive Handgun Trainer's Personal Tale" (September 2023, p. 49) and shared some of the range results. I had suspected that my daughter's results as a petite young woman would be interesting to readers who also might know a first-time gun owner working through similar choices—as well as to shooters who find that they have less grip strength than they once had.

As I went through all of the data for the article and saw how she struggled with the micro-compact 9 mm Luger, a natural question jumped out: How would she fare with a slightly larger 9 mm handgun? A few months later, she came out to the range with me again to find out.

If you haven't read the original article, the format of the test was the most basic of self-defense scenarios. Aimed in at a target just 3 yards away, on the signal she fired three shots as quickly as she felt she could keep them in an 8" circle. We did this with three similar-size pistols, all in the micro-compact handgun class popular for personal defense and concealed carry. First, we established a baseline with a Walther P22 in .22 Long Rifle, then stepped up to a Glock 42 in .380 ACP and repeated the drill. Finally, Laney shot the drill using an LTT-enhanced Springfield Armory Hellcat in 9 mm Luger. Both the G42 and the Hellcat had extended magazines to allow for a full firing grip.

Over the course of two separate range trips and enough individual strings to establish a solid average, it was clear that the .380 was in a sweet spot where Laney could fire it rapidly and accurately. The 9 mm Hellcat was arguably "too much" at her current experience level, the extra power coming with observable downsides in speed and accuracy even at a distance of just three long strides. Her subjective assessment was that she was confident in her ability to handle and control the little .380 and much less so with the micro 9 mm.

I imagine that many readers looked at the original data and immediately wondered how a somewhat larger 9 mm pistol would have compared to the Hellcat in Laney's hands. I wondered the same as well and began to look for prospective pistols to have her try. There is no shortage of compact and full-size 9 mm pistols on the market to choose from, and narrowing the field was tough.

I ultimately decided on two choices: the Walther PDP F-Series and the Springfield Ronin Operator 4.25". Walther designed the PDP F-Series around smaller-handed shooters with input from experienced female instructors. I thought that the new PDP could be a great fit for my daughter, and I'm partial to the full-size PDP as one of my preferred striker-fired, service-size pistols. The Ronin was a bookend of sorts, being a thin, single-stack 9 mm with the M1911's reputation for shooting softly.

It is worth noting that my daughter is petite with hands that are almost certainly in the smallest quartile. Even the svelte double-stack PDP F-Series is a large pistol in her grasp. The reduced trigger reach on the F-Series model made it workable for her and one of the few double-stack, intermediate-size pistols she can reasonably handle.

It had been a little more than six months since our range sessions described in the original article. During that time, Laney hadn't dry-fired, nor been to the range, so we started off with some review and then warmed up with the little Walther P22 from the initial project. We moved into the same exercise as before and rehearsed, firing the three shots into the 8" circle as quickly as she felt

confident of hits from 3 yards. Soon her times for the three shots were nearly identical to her original results. The same shooter on different days so far removed from one another presents a challenge for valid comparisons, but I felt like the similarity in .22 LR results was "calibration" enough to move ahead.

Laney was able to shoot the PDP F-Series quite well, with the bulk of the impacts only using about 1/3 of the 8" circle in a fist-size cluster. Her speed was slightly faster than the Hellcat averages but still well behind her .380 ACP times with the Glock 42. Undoubtedly, she could have sped-up with a correspondingly looser set of hits. However, there wasn't an observable time lag corresponding to "over-aiming" at the close target.

Watching her and observing video taken from the side, I could see that the time was largely a result of reacting to recoil as the pistol still moved in a large arc, and she had to very consciously "hang on" and then react to the pistol settling back down to the target area. With more time behind the pistol, this would quickly improve, but without regular refresher sessions, I suspect that the "on-demand" performance would revert to something much like these results.

On the test day, my daughter had some long fingernails, and these had a negative impact on her ability to shoot. Grasping the pistol firmly throughout the rapid-fire 9 mm strings was difficult enough, but the way the long nails interacted with her firing hold on the PDP F-Series was causing some discomfort. It undoubtedly affected performance and is a real-life consideration for most of the women I know.

Laney fired a magazine through the lightweight Commander-length Ronin to get the feel for it, and then we jumped into the testing. The first three-shot string was quite similar in time to the PDP F-Series, and then the strings just got faster and faster as she gained confidence and was able to get in a positive rhythm with the pistol. Her hits were centered in about a 6" cluster of the larger 8" target. Her best string was a blistering 1.03-second total, with follow-up shots at 0.35 and 0.33, nearly identical to her .22 LR intervals. This is why, 100 years from now, the M1911 will still be popular. The slim grip, short trigger break and favorable recoil impulse just "clicked" for her.

As promising as the Ronin results were, I was tempted to see about getting Laney some type of similar 9 mm M1911. The counterpoint was that, as a home-defense pistol that will largely be set aside until needed, much like a fire extinguisher, the M1911 has some drawbacks. The biggest drawback of the M1911 is that the thumb and grip safeties can be a liability until a shooter has mastered the controls and can operate them with confidence. Shooting enthusiasts often forget that a regular person, under even mild stress, tends to see the slide stop, magazine release and thumb safety as a confusing array of switches and levers. If Laney was willing to put in the effort to learn further on the platform, it was certainly a promising option.

In the original testing, I had chosen the Federal 135-grain Hydra-Shok Deep load for the Hellcat because I find it to have a somewhat soft recoil impulse relative to its performance; I used the same load in the Walther and Ronin to have a valid comparison. However, after seeing how the 9 mm was just over the edge of controllability for Laney in the original test, I began to think about lighter-weight 9 mm loads. After I had the initial results with the same Hydra-Shok in the two test handguns, I had my daughter re-shoot a few strings with Black Hills' 100-grain solid-copper Honey Badger bullets. These are non-expanding defensive loads that have a unique fluted profile and leave wound tracks in ballistic gelatin much like a traditional high-performance JHP.

SHOOTING AVERAGES, LANEY DYAL (3 YARDS)

Chambering/Firearm	Total Time	Recovery Time	Hit %
.22 Long Rifle/Walther P22			
CCI 40-grain Mini-Mag	0.94	0.32	100
9 mm Luger/Walther PDP F-Series			
Federal 135-grain Hydra-Shok Deep	1.83	0.67	89
9 mm Luger/Springfield Ronin Operator 4.25"			
Federal 135-grain Hydra-Shok Deep	1.38	0.44	100

Results of firing three shots rapidly into an 8" target.

Although there is a trade-off to consider in terms of penetration, defensive loads with lighter bullets—such as the Hornady, Wilson Combat and Black Hills 9 mm Luger loads shown here—may be easier for smaller shooters to fire competently. Laney Dyal found success with 100-grain Honey Badgers through the Ronin M1911.



Photos by author





Inset photo courtesy of Federal Ammunition

Using Federal's 135-grain Hydra-Shok Deep 9 mm Luger load, the author's daughter fired three-shot groups into an 8" target at 3 yards through three pistols. She not only managed faster overall and split times through the slightly larger and heavier Walther PDP F-Series and Springfield Ronin Operator 4.25" guns than the micro-compact Hellcat, but also higher hit percentages.

In each pistol, the lighter load was promising. The PDP F-Series was about 5/100ths of a second faster in recovery time for each shot while giving even tighter three-shot groups. The Ronin/Honey Badger combo was as much as a tenth of a second faster in recovery and averaged 7/100ths with similar hits to the heavier Hydra-Shoks. More important than the difference between a 0.67- or 0.62-second split was that the lighter load seemed to be inside the threshold where she was much more able to hang on, and the overall arc of the pistol as it cycled was far less extreme.

As a rule, I prefer 124-grain-and-heavier 9 mm defensive loads to better the odds for deeper penetration when expansion occurs. But in cases where a shooter can control a lighter load where a "duty load" is too much, it may be a worthwhile tradeoff. In some cases, the 115-grain-and-lighter projectiles may not reach the "FBI minimum" 12" of penetration in gel if the bullet is expanding properly, so there is that factor to consider.

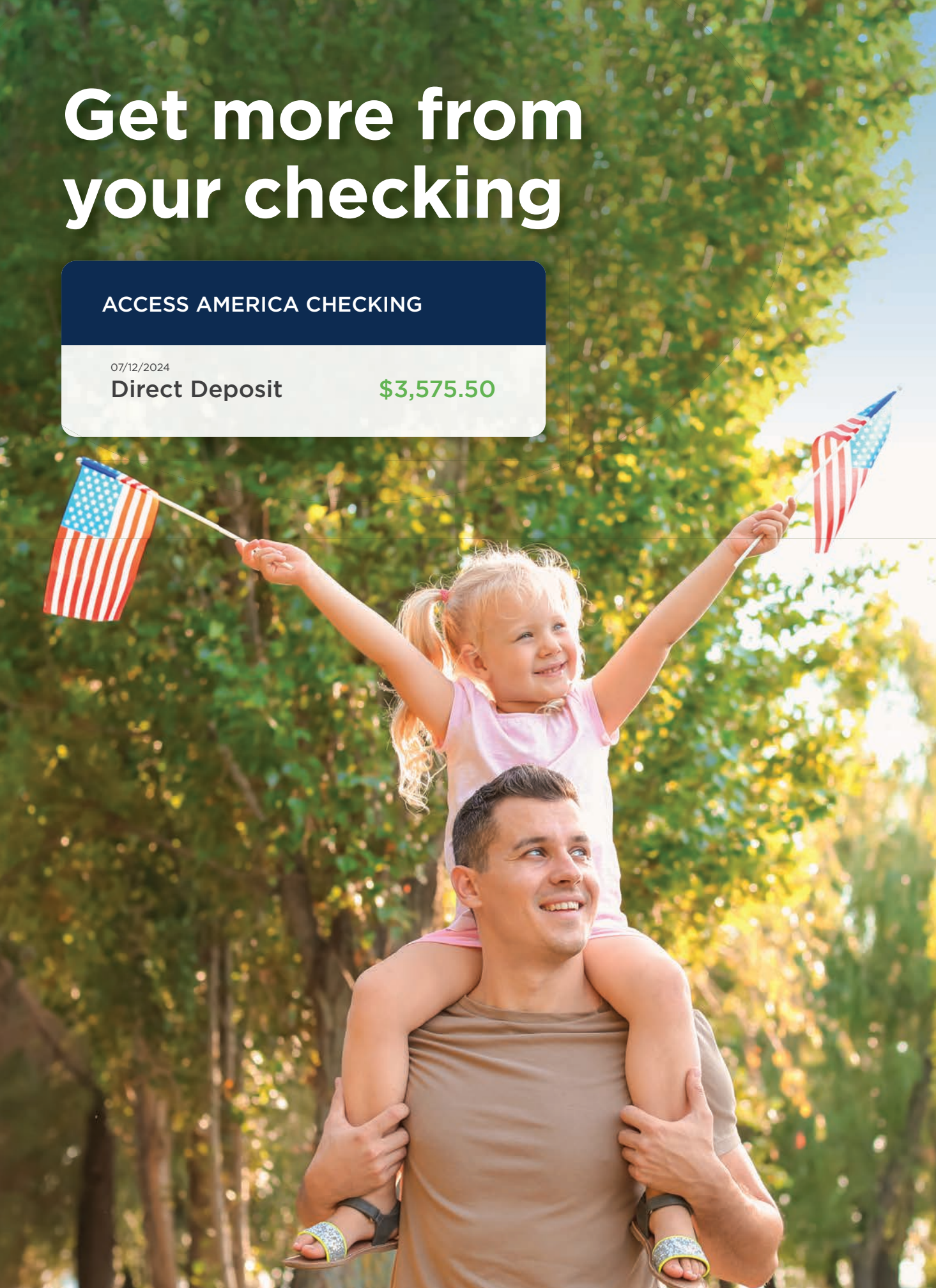
Any potential loads should be vetted for reliable function in a defensive pistol, but with light-for-caliber loads, I would especially want to make sure that there is enough recoil to function the stiff recoil springs in small carry guns.

Undoubtedly, even as this test was expanded to two mid-size 9 mm pistols, many readers will still be curious about how some other model/cartridge/type of handgun/load would have compared. I am also curious. I find that conducting the .22 calibration and firing two handguns is about all my daughter can do in a session before she gets tired and the results start to affect the data. Her hand size and grip strength present an interesting challenge, so after each range day I find myself wondering about any number of alternatives.

One thought that might jump out for some readers is, if my daughter did this much better with a somewhat heavier and larger, mid-size 9 mm, what about an even heavier, full-size duty or competition-style pistol? It is a fair question, but—at least in her case—the pistols in this sub-32-oz. class are about the limit of what she can comfortably/confidently hold at arms' length.

I'm not sure when I'll get another range day with my daughter, but I know that each one is special.

Get more from your checking





START EARNING UP TO

4X THE NATIONAL AVERAGE[1]

with Access America Checking from PenFed

EASILY WAIVE FEES

Setup qualifying direct deposit[1] and say goodbye to monthly fees

ZERO ATM FEES

Over 85,000 fee-free ATMs and 24/7 digital banking

PENFED CREDIT UNION

Learn more at PenFed.org/AccessAmerica

Money BEST CREDIT UNIONS • 2023-2024 •

Loans | Credit Cards | Checking | Savings | Mortgages

Federally Insured by NCUA. To receive any advertised product, you must become a member of PenFed Credit Union. 1. Sourced directly from https://www.fdic.gov/regulations/resources/rates/ as of April 15, 2024. Account is a variable rate account. APY (Annual Percentage Yield) of 0.35% applies to accounts with a daily balance of $20,000-$50,000 and a monthly direct deposit of $500 or more. APY of 0.15% applies to accounts with a daily balance less than $20,000 and a monthly directly deposit of $500 or more. APYs are valid as of last dividend declaration date of April 1, 2024 and are subject to change at any time. Fees may reduce earnings on account. Minimum deposit of $25 required to open account. When an account is terminated prior to the end of a statement cycle, dividends will be paid if the aggregate direct deposit requirement is met on the date of account termination. © 2024 Pentagon Federal Credit Union.

EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

PF

LAST



Even before the founding of our republic, American fighting men were using shotguns with notable effectiveness. Although not officially standardized, shotguns saw use in the Mexican-American War, the Civil War, various campaigns in the American West and in the Philippines following the Spanish-American War. However, it was not until America's active involvement in World War I that a shotgun specifically designed and intended for combat was developed.

In order to provide firearms to help our soldiers in the unfamiliar environment of trench warfare, a version of the Winchester Model 1897 pump-action 12-ga. shotgun fitted with a bayonet adapter and protective ventilated metal handguard was adopted and put into production. The handguard/bayonet adapter assembly was designated as the "Type W" and designed for use with the Model 1917 bayonet as issued with the "U.S. Enfield" Model 1917 rifle. The Model 1917 bayonet was selected primarily due to the fact it was available in greater numbers than the Model 1903 Springfield rifle's Model 1905 bayonet. Remington also developed a version of its Model 10 shotgun that used a wooden handguard and a separate bayonet lug, also fitted for the Model 1917 bayonet.

Winchester Model 1200

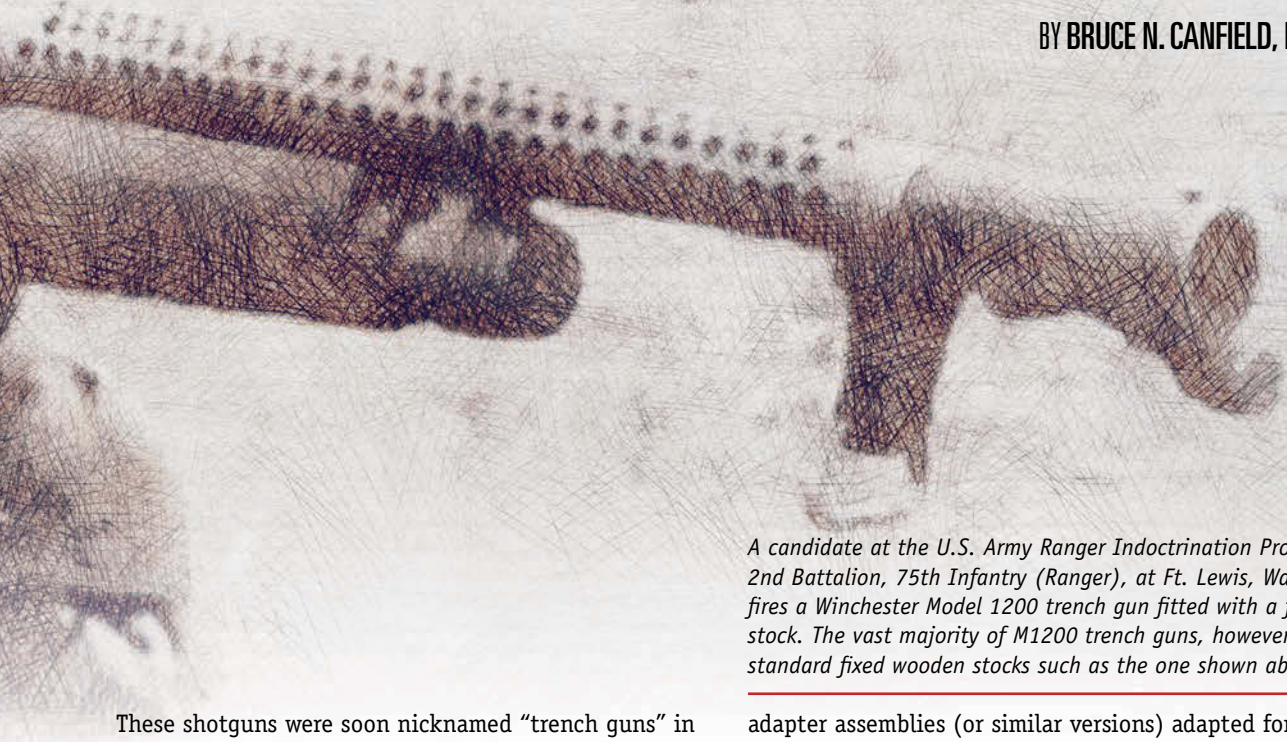
UNCLE SAM'S TRENCH GUN



Photo courtesy of Rock Island Auction Co.

The Winchester Model 1200 served as a bridge between a short line of vaunted predecessors and a new slate of modern combat shotguns.

BY **BRUCE N. CANFIELD,** Field Editor



A candidate at the U.S. Army Ranger Indoctrination Program, 2nd Battalion, 75th Infantry (Ranger), at Ft. Lewis, Wash. (l.), fires a Winchester Model 1200 trench gun fitted with a folding stock. The vast majority of M1200 trench guns, however, had standard fixed wooden stocks such as the one shown above.

These shotguns were soon nicknamed "trench guns" in recognition of their intended purpose, but this was never an official designation. The guns were routinely, but not always, referred to in government documentation as "riot guns," with reference made to being equipped with a "bayonet attachment." Collectors today use the term "trench gun" to distinguish these from the plain, short-barrel "riot" shotguns not equipped with bayonets. For the sake of clarification, the term "trench gun" in this article (with the exception of the Model 10) refers to the short-barrel slide-action guns fitted with Type W handguard/bayonet adapter assemblies (or similar versions) adapted for the Model 1917 bayonet and equipped with sling swivels.

By the time of the Armistice, growing numbers of Model 1897 and Model 10 trench guns were in the hands of the doughboys fighting in the battlefields of France. After conclusion of the war, the trench guns remained in the government's inventory and saw limited use between the wars.

When the United States became an active participant in the Second World War following Pearl Harbor, shotguns were among the firearms needed to equip our rapidly expanding armed forces. The World War I-era Model 1897 trench guns

National Archives photo



Winchester Model 1897 trench gun with Model 1917 bayonet

Remington Model 10 trench gun

still in inventory were refurbished as necessary, but it was apparent that many more trench guns would be needed for combat—as well as riot guns for security/guard duty and long-barrel shotguns for training and recreational purposes. In early 1942, procurement contracts were given to several armsmakers for trench guns. These guns were the Winchester Model 1897 and Model 12, the Ithaca Model 37 and the Stevens Models 520-30 and 620A. The Winchester trench guns were the most widely issued during the war, but all proved to be serviceable and reliable firearms.

Contract specifications called for all such guns to be 12-ga., pump-action shotguns fitted with the Type W-style handguard/bayonet adapter assemblies to accommodate the M1917 bayonet. Although no M1917 bayonets had been manufactured for almost a quarter-century, there were still sufficient numbers on hand to equip the new trench guns. It would have been a simple matter to slightly modify the new handguard/bayonet adapter assemblies for use with the M1905 and M1 bayonets that were standardized for the M1 Garand and M1903 rifles, the primary U.S. service rifles of World War II. However, there were still fair numbers of World War I Model 1897 trench guns in use, and introduction of the newer bayonets would have meant that two different types of bayonets would have to be required for the trench guns; it made logistics easier to stay with the M1917 bayonet.

After the conclusion of the Second World War, the Winchester Model 12 and the two Stevens trench guns were retained as the military's standard combat shotguns. There were enough of these guns on hand to meet the demand for the foreseeable future, and no new combat shotguns were procured from 1945 to the expansion of America's involvement in Vietnam in the early 1960s. As troop deployment to Southeast Asia steadily increased, the World War II trench guns still in inventory were refurbished as necessary and issued. The supply rapidly became depleted, and it was necessary to procure new shotguns for both American troops and those of our South Vietnamese allies. In November 1962, Ithaca received production contracts for substantial numbers of Model 37 shotguns. Virtually all of these were of riot-gun configuration, although very limited numbers of Model 37 trench guns were also procured. These were very similar to the World War II Model 37 trench guns but were Parkerized rather than blued. Like the World War II variant, the Vietnam-era Model 37 trench gun utilized the M1917 bayonet. In addition to the Model 37 shotguns, sizeable numbers of Savage Model 77E riot guns and Remington Model 870 riot guns were acquired, but these were not designed to be equipped with bayonets.

One of the most widely used trench guns during World War II was the Winchester Model 12, but the company ceased production of the Model 12 in 1964, as it was an expensive gun to manufacture. When the Model 12 was dropped from Winchester's product line, the slide-action Model 1200 was introduced as a replacement in 1964. The new shotgun utilized the latest in firearm manufacturing technology, including an aluminum-alloy receiver that was cheaper to produce and lighter than the Model 12's finely machined, milled-steel receiver. The use of an aluminum receiver was made possible by the utilization of a high-strength steel barrel extension into which the rotating bolt's locking lugs could be firmly secured. The receiver also had the advantage of being rust- and corrosion-resistant, but the alloy composition required the use of an anodized finish since it could not be blued or Parkerized in the conventional manner.

When the Model 1200 was introduced, the general reaction of the gun-buying public was rather lukewarm. It was looked upon with disfavor by some potential customers when compared to the superbly crafted and finely finished Model 12. The gun eventually gained some measure of success in the commercial market, and several variants were made, including a riot-gun version primarily for civilian law enforcement and security use.

When the demand for new combat shotguns increased in the 1960s, Winchester developed a "trench-gun" version of the Model 1200 for consideration by the U.S. Army. The firearm was adopted, and deliveries began in mid-1968 and continued into 1969. This was the final type of U.S. military shotgun that utilized the M1917 bayonet, and thus has the distinction of being America's last "trench gun."

The serial number and a "U.S." marking were stamped on the bottom of the receiver in front of the loading port. The left side of the barrel was marked "U.S." along with the standard Winchester factory markings. Some of the Model 1200 military shotguns were fitted with checkered fore-ends and stocks, but most were delivered with plain, unadorned wood. The buttplate was checkered plastic. The guns were fitted with sling swivels capable of being used



Arizona National Guard photo

Sergeant First Class Morris Brook from the Arizona Army National Guard, 215th Regional Training Institute, fires an M1200 trench gun during the 2015 Biathlon Shooting Competition at Florence Military Reservation, Ariz.



WINCHESTER M1200 TRENCH GUN WITH VIETNAM-ERA M1917 BAYONET

with the standard service rifle slings. A limited number of M1200 trench guns were subsequently fitted with folding stocks, but most retained the standard wooden stocks.

The most interesting feature of the military-contract Model 1200 was the fact that, like the previous trench guns, it was designed to be used with the M1917 bayonet. The ventilated metal handguard/bayonet adapter assembly was similar to the Type W design used with the World War I- and World War II-era trench guns. It attached to the barrel in the same manner, via three transverse screws that mated with three shallow grooves on the bottom of the barrel.

There were, however, several notable differences: The M1200 assembly had a flange near the end of the barrel sleeve that prevented the 20" barrel from protruding completely through the sleeve. Thus, a small portion of the adapter sleeve served as an extension of the barrel. In addition, rather than being forged as were the World War I- and World War II-era assemblies, the M1200 bayonet lug assembly was of cast construction. The left side was marked with the manufacturer's code and the assembly's stock number. Also, the entire adapter/handguard assembly was Parkerized rather than blued, as the earlier variants were.

When the M1200 "trench gun" went into production, the available supply of the First World War-vintage Model 1917 bayonets had become exhausted, and it was necessary to procure additional bayonets. There has been some speculation as to why the Winchester Model 1200 military shotgun was adapted for use with a bayonet that hadn't been in production for a half-century rather than one of the current issue bayonets such as the M7 used with the M16 rifle. Once again, the most logical explanation is that there were a number of the World War II-vintage trench guns still in use, and changing to another bayonet would have resulted in two different types of bayonets for shotguns, which could have created logistical problems. It was apparently deemed easier to simply continue having the M1917 as the standardized bayonet for military shotguns.

In order to provide for the necessary bayonets, production contracts were given to the General Cutlery Co. (Fremont, Ohio) and Canadian Arsenals, Ltd. (Ontario, Canada). The General Cutlery bayonets were marked "GENCUT" and the Canadian bayonets marked with a small "A" inside of a letter "C." The model designation was stamped on the cross guard.

As compared to the World War I-vintage Model 1917 bayonets, the Vietnam-era M1917 bayonets were noticeably less well-made, and checkered plastic grips were substituted for the World War I-era walnut grips.

In the spring of 1969, a special version of the Remington Model 870 shotgun was developed for the U.S. Marine Corps and adopted as the Model 870 Mark I. It featured rifle sights, an extended tubular magazine and was fitted for the M16 rifle's M7 bayonet. The M870 Mark I



Barrel markings (above) on an M1200 trench gun include "U.S." A close view (below, l.) of an M1200 trench gun bayonet adapter sleeve shows that the barrel does not extend to its end. Note the markings (below, r.) on the M1200 trench gun's bayonet lug.





was the first American military combat shotgun that used a bayonet other than the M1917.

Like the M870 Mark I, few M1200 shotguns were used in Vietnam; however, they were the primary American military shotguns until the early 1980s when O.F. Mossberg & Sons was awarded contracts to supply its Model 500 and 590 shotguns to the U.S. armed forces. Most of the Mossberg Model 500 shotguns were plain-barrel riot guns, although a relatively small number of Model 590s were equipped with adapters for the M7 bayonet.

In 1998, the U.S. Marine Corps adopted the semi-automatic 12-ga. Benelli M1014 "Joint Service Combat Shotgun," which remains the standard USMC shotgun. The M1014 was not designed for use with a bayonet.

Even after adoption of the Mossberg and Benelli shotguns, a number of Model 1200 trench guns remained in service and saw use in the invasions of Grenada and Panama, the intervention in Somalia, Operation Desert Storm and Afghanistan. As the Mossbergs eventually superseded the M1200, some of the Winchester guns were destroyed while others were sent to National Guard armories, where limited numbers remain today.

Although its days as a front-line combat shotgun are over, the Winchester Model 1200 was the last firearm of its type to embody all the features of a "trench gun." It is fitting that Uncle Sam's first and last trench guns bore the storied Winchester name. The M1200 would have been just as recognizable to an American doughboy in 1918 as a Model 1897 trench gun. It is doubtful that the military planners in 1917 could have envisioned that a "trench gun" would continue to serve our armed forces into the 21st century!

Photos courtesy author's collection



Chiappa Little Badger TDX

Survival firearms come in many shapes and sizes, with the masses in utter disagreement upon ideal chambering—and even platform. Some camps claim that a good defensive handgun is essential to have by your side, should society collapse, while others believe that you need nothing short of a fighting carbine by your side as you make your way to safety. While both can readily support their reasoning, there is yet another mindset, one that believes simplicity and silence are key. This group would likely welcome the Chiappa Little Badger Take Down Xtreme (TDX) rifle with open arms. This single-shot break-action is chambered for the easy-to-tame and readily available .22 Long Rifle and tips the scale at just 3 lbs., 5 ozs., making it the perfect rifle to stash away for an emergency.

Our test sample arrived in a box no larger than something you might expect a scope to ship in. Inside the package was an airtight carrying case with both halves of the rifle rattling around inside. To connect the two, a knob on the right side of the receiver must be turned to align a pair of white dots. Once in this position, the barrel lug can be slipped over the receiver pin, and the action closed. Before firing, the knob must be rotated to the 8-o'clock position, where it will align with a red dot, indicating that both halves are locked in place. Lastly, the buttplate needs to be rotated into position and locked in place via its thumb screw. This is attached to the steel rod that serves as the stock. The TDX employs steel for its barrel, but the receiver is built from a proprietary Zamak alloy with a high aluminum content to save weight and cut production costs.

Once assembled, the Little Badger TDX barely resembles a rifle, but if you look closely, all the parts are there. In lieu of a pronounced forend, it features a miniature quad rail that is comfortable enough to get the job done or can be used to mount a forward grip for a more conventional grasp. Toward the rear, a Picatinny section is located behind the trigger guard for the same purpose or to attach an optional clamp-on cleaning kit (sold separately). For those interested in keeping it streamlined, wrapping your hand around the rear of the receiver will serve general shooting needs just fine.

Although short on gripping surfaces, Chiappa ensured that the TDX left the factory with adequate sights modeled after those found on an M1 carbine. A fully adjustable rear peep sight is paired with a protected, fixed-post front sight. To further save weight and production costs, these components are comprised of a heat-resistant polymer, as is the thread protector that covers the 1/2x28 TPI threaded muzzle. Most small rimfire suppressors can fit within the carrying case as well, which would make for a handy addition for small-game hunting.



Within its folding, low-profile buttstock, the single-shot Little Badger TDX provides space for 12 rounds of .22 Long Rifle.

Before taking it to the range, we affixed a Primary Arms GLx 1-6X low-power variable optic to the upper Picatinny rail section to provide a consistent sight picture for our

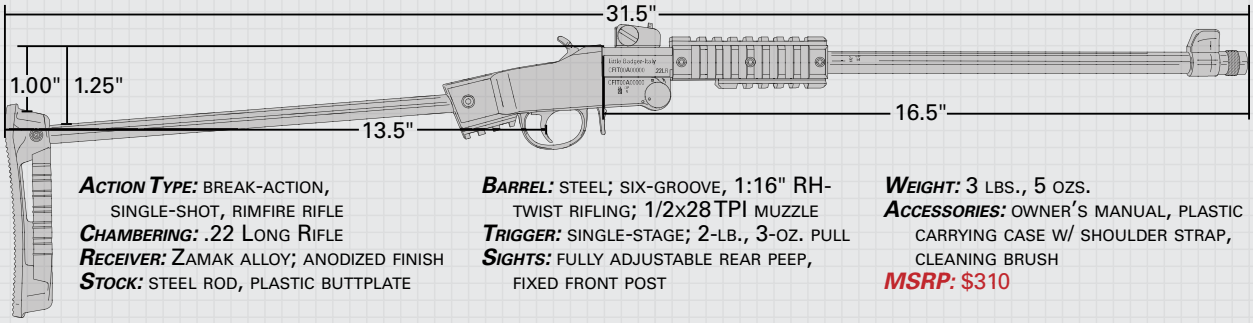




In a nod to the Little Badger TDX's utilitarian design, the rifle comes with a polymer storage tube (r.). To load and fire the gun, pull the lever in front of the trigger guard rearward to hinge the action open (l.). A built-in extractor frees a spent case for removal.

CHIAPPA LITTLE BADGER TDX

MANUFACTURER: CHIAPPA FIREARMS USA (DEPT. AR), 1415 STANLEY AVE., DAYTON, OH 45404; (937) 835-5000; CHIAPPAFIREARMS.COM



ACTION TYPE: BREAK-ACTION, SINGLE-SHOT, RIMFIRE RIFLE
CHAMBERING: .22 LONG RIFLE
RECEIVER: ZAMAK ALLOY; ANODIZED FINISH
STOCK: STEEL ROD, PLASTIC BUTTPLATE

BARREL: STEEL; SIX-GROOVE, 1:16" RH-TWIST RIFLING; 1/2X28 TPI MUZZLE
TRIGGER: SINGLE-STAGE; 2-LB., 3-OZ. PULL
SIGHTS: FULLY ADJUSTABLE REAR PEEP, FIXED FRONT POST

WEIGHT: 3 LBS., 5 OZS.
ACCESSORIES: OWNER'S MANUAL, PLASTIC CARRYING CASE W/ SHOULDER STRAP, CLEANING BRUSH
MSRP: $310

accuracy testing. Although the scope and base might have weighed more than the rifle, it was surprising how well-balanced the package remained, particularly when it was supported within a shooting rest. At an MSRP of only $310, this is undoubtedly a budget rifle, so we selected like-minded ammunition. The one exception was CCI's Stingers, which fetch a premium for .22 LR fodder, but with good reason. In our experience, these are generally solid performers on paper and are devastating on small game.

Range conditions were mild, with nary a breeze to speak of. Loading the Little Badger was instinctual for most, particularly those with single-shot experience. Just forward of the trigger guard is an opening lever that must be depressed rearward to break open the action. It only needs to be broken open enough to place a cartridge in the chamber, as cocking occurs in a separate operation. After snapping the action closed, the external hammer is manually cocked to enable the trigger mechanism—and a half-cock position helps act as a safety.

Each tester had the same reaction when he fired his first shot—that the trigger was far lighter than anticipated. At just more than 2 lbs., this was greatly appreciated, as it made it exceptionally easy to keep the unorthodox design steady while firing. After firing, the release lever is again pressed, and as the two components reach 90 degrees, the extractor is engaged to assist the case out of the chamber. The TDX also has 12 slots molded into the buttplate to accommodate several reloads.

Overall, our team found this handy little rifle to be immensely fun to shoot, and given the minuscule recoil generated by the .22 LR, quite comfortable to use despite the light weight and lack of conventional furniture. The general accuracy of the TDX wasn't great, but it was pretty much on par with other guns of this type; as they are made for emergency situations, match-grade consistency wasn't expected. Nonetheless, it met our "minute of tin can" satisfaction requirement—even when solely using the included iron sights. There is no doubt in our minds that this firearm can withstand long-term storage and be ready at a moment's notice should a situation requiring small-game procurement arise.

SHOOTING RESULTS (50 YARDS)

.22 LONG RIFLE CARTRIDGE	VELOCITY (F.P.S.)	ENERGY (FT.-LBS.)	GROUP SIZE (INCHES) SMALLEST	LARGEST	AVERAGE
CCI STINGERS 32-GRAIN HP	1,558 AVG. 21 SD	172	1.92	2.74	2.37
FEDERAL CHAMPION 36-GRAIN HP	1,214 AVG. 23 SD	118	2.35	4.11	3.19
WINCHESTER SUPER X 40-GRAIN HP	1,342 AVG. 19 SD	160	2.15	3.56	2.95
AVERAGE EXTREME SPREAD					2.84

NOTES: MEASURED AVERAGE VELOCITY FOR 10 SHOTS OVER A CALDWELL G2 CHRONOGRAPH AT 10 FEET. ACCURACY RESULTS FOR FIVE CONSECUTIVE, 10-SHOT GROUPS AT 50 YARDS FROM A BENCH REST. TEMPERATURE: 65° F. HUMIDITY 45%. ABBREVIATIONS: HP (HOLLOW POINT), SD (STANDARD DEVIATION).



The Little Badger TDX comes with a set of M1 carbine-style adjustable sights, making it easy to dial in a preferred load. A protected front sight and textured muzzle cap (below) are made from polymer, and the rear sight (r.) is adjustable for windage and elevation.



The *American Rifleman* has used the phrase "Dope Bag" since at least 1921, when Col. Townsend Whelen first titled his column with it. Even then, it had been in use for years, referring to a sack used by target shooters to hold ammunition and accessories on the firing line. "Sight dope" also was a traditional marksman's term for sight-adjustment information, while judging wind speed and direction was called "doping the wind."

WARNING: Technical data and information contained herein are intended to provide information based on the limited experience of individuals under specific conditions and circumstances. They do not detail the comprehensive training procedures, techniques and safety precautions absolutely necessary to properly carry on similar activity. Read the notice and disclaimer on the contents page. Always consult comprehensive reference manuals and bulletins for details of proper training requirements, procedures, techniques and safety precautions before attempting any similar activity.



Dan Wesson DWX



Red anodized stocks set off the classic CZ-style grip shape and match the flat-faced trigger. Note that the safeties are bilateral.

Since it was announced in 2019, throngs of all-steel pistol fans have been salivating to get their hands on the Dan Wesson DWX, anticipation that was made all the stronger when the materials and labor shortages of a global pandemic then put its launch on ice for a few years. Today, however, the company is back online at full capacity and, as such, is now able to put these on dealers' shelves in quantity, and our evaluators were quite keen to get a sample of this mash-up of two iconic pistol designs sent in so that we could run it through its paces.

To understand the DWX, one needs to look no further than its parents, Dan Wesson and CZ. As both have been under the same company umbrella since 2005, a collaboration just makes sense. The idea was simple: make an all-metal 9 mm Luger that would blend the features of two classics, the M1911 and the CZ 75. The end result is a locked-breech semi-automatic that should satisfy both camps, particularly if they are interested in competition. Operating in single-action mode only, when the trigger is pressed and a round is ignited, the stainless-steel slide and barrel recoil as one. After about an 1/8" of travel, the two separate, unlocking the breech and extracting the fired case from the chamber. As the slide continues its travel, it eventually ejects the brass before returning to battery, stripping a fresh round off the 19-round detachable box magazine and re-cocking the hammer during the process.

The influence from the M1911 can easily be spotted on the top half of the DWX. Most notably, the slide grooves are cut on its inner sides, in contrast to the opposite system employed by the CZ 75. As a result, the DWX's bore axis is more reminiscent of the M1911 than the CZ 75, and it points well for anyone used to that platform. This configuration also allows for additional gripping surface, a quality capitalized upon through deeply cut slide serrations both fore and aft. Absent is the conventional barrel bushing and recoil spring plug, as the DWX utilizes a bushingless barrel system, helping it achieve consistent lockup from the contour



The DWX's slide-to-frame relationship mirrors that of the M1911, with slide grooves cut on its inner sides, and the pistol operates on basic Browning linkless design principles. Sights are a fully adjustable rear (r. inset) and a fiber-optic post front (l. inset).

of its linkless barrel. A CZ 75-style dovetail is used to affix the adjustable rear sight, while an M1911-style cut is used to hold the fiber-optic front sight in place.

The DWX's grip contour is distinctly that of the CZ 75—a feature that has made that pistol comfortable to most hands for nearly 50 years. The gun comes with a set of stylish red aluminum stock panels, but those looking to customize are well-accommodated, as this pistol can readily accept the plethora of aftermarket CZ 75 options. Things dip back into M1911 territory when we turn our attention to the sliding, long-length trigger, which has been skeletonized and given mild serrations for tactile recognition and enhanced control.

Bilateral thumb safeties of the M1911 style are incorporated into the DWX, however, a grip safety is not. The extended push-button magazine release is reversible to accommodate both right- and left-handed shooters, but lefties will have to actuate the slide stop with their trigger finger, as it is the only control that isn't ambidextrous. The frame also has an elongated, seven-slot Picatinny rail machined into the dustcover to allow the attachment of flashlights or match weights that reduce muzzle flip—a practice that is legal in the USPSA Limited Division that some of these guns will eventually find themselves being used to compete in.

For our range test, we selected affordable CCI Blazer as a practice round, and Hornady's Subsonic and NovX's Engagement Extreme as defensive loads. Formal accuracy testing gave us an opportunity to get a feel for the trigger, which, at an average of 4 lbs., 9 ozs., broke extraordinarily cleanly and delivered a snappy reset. Groups were excellent, with the unorthodox NovX ammunition producing the day's best results.

Walking the pistol over to our steel pit, each participant ran a stage that included five full-size IPSCs, a plate rack and a Texas star. Here, we all recognized and appreciated the all-steel construction of the DWX, as double-tapping the silhouettes with full-power loads was surprisingly easy. Swinging horizontally through the plate rack was as effortless as rotating our hips, and catching each rotating plate on the Texas star was as simple as letting the gun return to its point of aim and engaging as it rose. Our range day was complete after we exhausted 250 rounds in relatively short order. Throughout the process, there wasn't a single hiccup in the gun's operation, and even the lightest ammunition on hand reliably cycled the gun, even into slide lock.

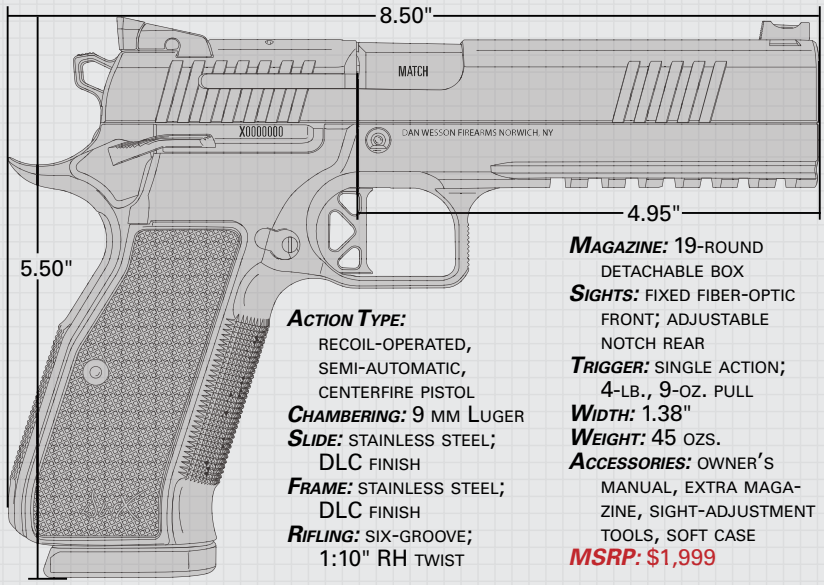
Overall, everybody was pleased with the DWX, and the only complaint we had was that it didn't get to us sooner. Among our testers were fans of both the CZ 75 and M1911 patterns, and all came away from the experience of shooting this curious hybrid impressed. It would serve well in competitive or defensive roles—or in the collection of anyone interested in unique designs.



A bushingless barrel, full-length guide rod, fiber-optic front sight, forward slide grooves and seven-slot accessory rail all signal that the DWX is a thoroughly modern pistol design, despite its deep roots in the M1911 and CZ 75 formats.

DAN WESSON DWX

Manufacturer: Dan Wesson (Dept. AR), 65 Borden Ave., Norwich, NY 13815; (800) 955-4486; DANWESSONFIREARMS.COM



Action Type: recoil-operated, semi-automatic, centerfire pistol
Chambering: 9 mm Luger
Slide: stainless steel; DLC finish
Frame: stainless steel; DLC finish
Rifling: six-groove; 1:10" RH twist
Magazine: 19-round detachable box
Sights: fixed fiber-optic front; adjustable notch rear
Trigger: single action; 4-lb., 9-oz. pull
Width: 1.38"
Weight: 45 ozs.
Accessories: owner's manual, extra magazine, sight-adjustment tools, soft case
MSRP: $1,999

SHOOTING RESULTS (25 YARDS)

9 mm Luger Cartridge	Velocity (f.p.s.)	Energy (ft.-lbs.)	Group Size (inches) Smallest	Largest	Average
CCI Blazer 115-grain FMJ	1,134 Avg. 10 Sd	328	2.19	3.11	2.56
Hornady Subsonic 147-grain XTP	1,054 Avg. 15 Sd	363	1.88	2.98	2.33
NovX 65-grain ARX	1,704 Avg. 21 Sd	419	1.43	2.01	1.72
Average Extreme Spread					2.20

Notes: Measured average velocity for 10 shots over a Caldwell G2 chronograph at 10 feet. Accuracy results for five consecutive, five-shot groups at 25 yards from a sandbag rest. Temperature: 55° F. Humidity 45%. Abbreviations: ARX (Advanced Rotation eXtreme), FMJ (full metal jacket), Sd (Standard deviation), XTP (eXtreme Terminal Performance).

Important Notice To Members: Exercise Your Rights

Assist In The Nomination Of Directors

The NRA Bylaws provide for the election of one-third of the members of the Board of Directors each year. This means that the terms of office of 25 Board members will expire at the 2025 Annual Meeting of Members in Atlanta, Georgia, on April 26, 2025. Also, any members filling vacancies on the Board that occurred after the last regular election must stand for election in 2025 in the same manner as the 25 whose terms normally expire at that time.

Additionally, one Director is elected for a one-year term on the occasion of each Annual Meeting of Members, by a plurality of the votes cast by individual members present in person and entitled to vote. The candidates for this 76th Director seat are those who were nominated for election on the mail ballot, but were not elected by mail.

The NRA Board of Directors is listed in the box below according to the expiration of their terms of office. You may, if you wish, recommend any of the present Directors whose term expires in 2025. **DO NOT RECOMMEND** any of those whose term expires in 2026 or 2027.

The Nominating Committee will meet in Fairfax, Virginia on **August 24, 2024** to select Director nominees.

There are two ways NRA members can place names of eligible members in consideration for Board service. One is to recommend them to the Nominating Committee for consideration, and the other is to circulate a petition obtaining the required signatures for placement on the ballot.

The following information about each process has been summarized from the NRA Bylaws. A copy of the Bylaws will be provided to any member who sends his or her request to the NRA Secretary along with a return addressed, stamped envelope (**$1.90 postage required**).

Recommendations To The Nominating Committee

All NRA members are urged to recommend suitable individuals as **nominees** for election to the NRA Board of Directors.

1 Recommend as many persons as you feel are well qualified. You may supplement your recommendation with any background or biographical material that you feel would be helpful to the Nominating Committee in arriving at its decision.

2 If in doubt as to the membership status of any person you wish to recommend as a nominee, submit the recommendation and the membership status will be checked at NRA Headquarters.

3 These recommendations should be received by the Secretary as soon as possible, but must be received no later than August 4, 2024 (20 days prior to the Nominating Committee meeting).

Nominations By Petition

Any member (sponsor) may submit petitions calling for the nomination of qualified members to the Board (see eligibility requirements in the box on the next page). The sponsor may be an NRA-affiliated organization. Petition packets may be obtained from the NRA Secretary. Requests should be mailed to the Secretary at the address printed on the following page.

1 Petitions must be received no later than October 8, 2024 (no more than 45 days after the Nominating Committee meeting).

2 No petition for nomination of a Director shall contain the name of more than one proposed nominee, and no more than one signature by any member shall be counted on an official petition for any one candidate.

3 Proposed nominees must indicate their principal city and state of residence.

4 A petition shall not be circulated without the proposed nominee's written permission, and that permission must be on file with the NRA Secretary by the deadline for receipt of petitions.

5 Only official petition forms provided by the Secretary's Office, which may be duplicated in full size (8½" x 11"), may be used to collect petition signatures.

6 The petition may contain a brief resume approved by the prospective nominee.

7 The name, address and membership number of the sponsor MUST be indicated on each sheet of the petition.

8 The name of the person circulating the petition sheet, if different from the sponsor, whether the sponsor be an individual or organizational member, should be indicated on each sheet.

THE NRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Term Expires in 2025

Joe M. Allbaugh
Paul D. Babaz
Bob Barr
Matt Blunt
Anthony P. Colandro
Larry E. Craig
Isaac Demarest
Steven W. Dulan
Todd R. Ellis
Carol Frampton
Joel Friedman
Sandra S. Froman
Marion P. Hammer
Al Hammond
Charles T. Hiltunen, III
Tom King
Willes K. Lee
Mitzy McCorvey
David Norcross
Johnny Nugent
James W. Porter II
Ronald L. Schmeits
Danny Stowers
Dwight D. Van Horn
Blaine Wade
James L. Wallace
Cathy Wright

Term Expires in 2026

Thomas P. Arvas
Clel Baudler
J. Kenneth Blackwell
J. William Carter
Ted W. Carter
Patricia A. Clark
Charles L. Cotton
Curtis S. Jenkins
Susannah Kipke
Amy Heath Lovato
Robert E. Mansell
Jay Printz
David Raney
Mark Robinson
Barbara Rumpel
Steven C. Schreiner
Leroy Sisco
Amanda Suffecool
Mark E. Vaughan
Linda L. Walker
Howard J. Walter
Judi White
Bruce Widener
Eb Wilkinson

Term Expires in 2027

Scott L. Bach
William A. Bachenberg
Ronnie G. Barrett
Charles R. Beers, III
Donald J. Bradway
Dean Cain
David G. Coy
Rick Ector
Edie P. Fleeman
Dennis Fusaro
Craig Haggard
Maria Heil
Niger Innis
Phillip B. Journey
Jeffrey A. Knox
Rocky Marshall
Carolyn D. Meadows
Bill Miller
Owen Buz Mills
Janet D. Nyce
Wayne Anthony Ross
Don Saba
Craig Swartz
Jim Tomes
Robert J. Wos

9 Petitions **MUST** bear the membership identification numbers, names, addresses (street, city, state, zip code), signatures and date of signing of no less than 398 members eligible to vote (0.5% of the number of valid ballots cast in the most recent mail ballot election of directors). Members eligible to vote are Lifetime members and annual members with five or more consecutive years of membership.

10 ANY SIGNATURES OBTAINED BEFORE THE PROSPECTIVE NOMINEE IS QUALIFIED TO HOLD OFFICE WILL BE RULED INVALID.

11 ANY SIGNATURES OBTAINED BEFORE THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS ON MAY 18, 2024 WILL BE RULED INVALID.

12 SIGNATURES WITHOUT MEMBERSHIP IDENTIFICATION NUMBERS WILL BE INVALID. IF THE NUMBER IS NOT INDICATED ON THE MEMBER'S IDENTIFICATION CARD, HE OR SHE MAY: (a) copy the identification number from his or her NRA magazine label or (b) obtain it by calling NRA's toll free number: (800) 672-3000. When calling, it is important to give the last name, address and zip code as it is carried on the NRA membership record (including designations such as "Jr.," "Sr.," etc.) in order to obtain the proper identification number. Nominees and sponsors may call the toll-free number to obtain membership identification numbers for those who do not include them on signed petitions. Staff is only permitted to give identification numbers, and may not indicate voting status.

13 Not more than five petition nominees shall be from any one state during any one year. If more than five are submitted, the five with the greatest number of valid signatures will be nominated.

14 The Secretary will determine the validity of all petitions received and the eligibility of all signatories.

15 If a petition is determined to be invalid, the Secretary must immediately notify the proposed nominee and the sponsor stating the reason for the ruling. The petitioner may appeal the ruling to the Nominating Committee within 14 days.

16 If the appeal is denied, the petitioner may appeal to the Board of Directors, which will act at its next meeting. If the Board rules the petition valid, the proposed nominee will be declared a nominee for the next election.

The NRA Board of Directors consists of 75 NRA members elected by mail ballot, and one member elected on the occasion of the Annual Meeting of Members. The right to hold the office of Director is limited to NRA Lifetime members who have attained the age of 18 years and are citizens of the United States, and who have been Lifetime members for at least five years at the time of nomination. Directors are elected for three-year terms, with the exception of the Director elected at the Annual Meeting of Members, who serves for one year. The terms of office of one-third of the Board expire each year.

The Board of Directors has general charge of the affairs and property of the Association and formulates and establishes the broad policies and programs under which the Association operates.

In past years, the Nominating Committee has taken several factors into consideration concerning those recommended for election to the Board. The Committee has felt that nominees should be persons well-known and respected in their communities, with broad experience and background in the affairs of the Association, and with the time necessary to devote to NRA activities. While these factors are not requirements, they may help in the selection of those recommended for nomination to the Board.

Election Procedures

1 The names of those selected by the Nominating Committee and of those nominated by petition, together with short biographical sketches, will be published in the February 2025 Official Journals.

2 A ballot will be mailed to each member eligible to vote. It will contain the list of names proposed by the Nominating Committee and those nominated by petition and, in addition, provide five blank spaces for write-in candidates.

3 The ballot, properly executed, must be returned by the date indicated on the ballot.

Mail this form to reach NRA by August 4, 2024

Additional copies of this form are available upon request by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to NRA Headquarters. If you do not want to cut this form out of the magazine, send in a letter or postcard with the same information. Mail to:

NRA Nominating Committee
11250 Waples Mill Road • Fairfax, VA 22030

I recommend the following individual for consideration as a nominee for election to the NRA Board of Directors in 2024.

Nominee Name_____

Membership Identification Number _____Age _____

Address_____

City _____State _____ Zip Code_____

Recommended by:

Your Name_____

Your Complete Address _____

_____

Your Membership Identification Number_____

To submit online go to: www.nrapublications.org/nomination

LATEST LEGISLATIVE NEWS FROM INSIDE THE NRA INSTITUTE FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION



AP photo by Olivia Sun/The Des Moines Register via AP, Pool

NRA-ILA

ILA Grassroots:
(800) 392-8683

NRA-ILA: (703) 267-1170

NRA-ILA website: nraila.org

Iowa Governor Signs Numerous Pro-Second Amendment Bills

On April 19, Gov. Kim Reynolds (R) signed House File 2586 and House File 2464 into law. The NRA would like to thank Gov. Reynolds and the bill's supporters in the Iowa legislature for their continued commitment to our Second Amendment rights.

HF 2586 will provide school staff with the ability to carry a firearm on campus if they acquire a professional permit and receive additional training. This opportunity would be available to employees in participating school districts. Staff who obtain a permit to carry on campus and complete the necessary training requirements would be entitled to important legal protections. This would support school employees in cases where self-defense is used, and if the incident occurred on campus and during active school hours.

HF 2464 provides critical privacy protections on financial data for those purchasing firearms, firearm parts and ammunition by prohibiting the use of firearm- and ammunition-specific Merchant Category Codes throughout the state. Additionally, HF 2464 provides remedies in cases where a financial institution violates provisions of the bill.

In Fall 2022, the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) approved a Merchant Category Code (MCC) for firearm retailers. MCCs are used by payment processors (like Visa and Mastercard) and other financial services companies to categorize transactions. MCCs enable payment processors and banks to identify, monitor and collect data on certain types of transactions. Before the ISO decision, firearm retailers fell under the MCC for sporting goods stores or miscellaneous retail.

Collecting firearm retailers' financial-transaction data amounts to surveillance and registration of law-abiding gun owners. Those promoting these schemes, in turn, support this type of intrusion, and it should be presumed that the goal of this program is to share all collected firearm retailer MCC data with government authorities and potentially private third parties that may include gun-control organizations and anti-gun researchers.

Additionally, on May 1, Gov. Reynolds signed House File 2556 into law, providing a much-needed enforcement mechanism to Iowa's existing firearm pre-emption statute. The NRA thanks Gov. Reynolds for also signing this critical piece of legislation. NRA also thanks Rep. Bill Gustoff (R) for introducing the bill, and all members of the Iowa legislature who supported HF 2556 throughout this year's legislative session.

Under Iowa's existing firearm pre-emption laws, local jurisdictions are prohibited from imposing any ordinance, motion, resolution, policy or amendment that is inconsistent with or stricter than state law. This uniformity helps protect citizens' Second Amendment rights by preventing a patchwork of local regulations. HF 2556 improves the existing law by providing an enforcement mechanism to help ensure compliance by assigning a monetary value to damages that occur as a result of violations.

IN MEMORY NRA-ILA CONTRIBUTIONS

April 1-30, 2024

William "Doc" Chasko, East Haddam, CT (from: Gregory Chasko).

Georgia And Tennessee Protect Financial Privacy Of Gun Purchasers

On April 22, House Bill 1018 was signed into law by Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp (R). The next day, Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee (R) signed SB 2223/HB 2762. Like the law in Iowa, these laws prohibit the use of firearm/ammunition-specific merchant category codes by payment processors, and are important protections for gun owners, protecting private purchasing information from abuse by third parties.

The NRA would like to thank Gov. Kemp and Gov. Lee, as well as all of the legislators in Georgia and Tennessee who supported these bills. Anti-gun activists in states like California have already mandated the use of these codes, and it is important that states like Georgia and Tennessee take this critical step to protect financial privacy.

Success In California In NRA-ILA-Supported Case

In April, a California district court preliminarily enjoined enforcement of California's severe restrictions on the marketing of firearm-related products in the NRA-ILA-supported case *Safari Club International v. Bonta*.

The restriction forbids the advertising of any "firearm-related product in a manner that is designed, intended, or reasonably appears to be attractive to minors." Plaintiffs challenged the law in 2022, arguing that it "unconstitutionally regulate[s] firearm-industry members' First Amendment right to engage in truthful marketing and advertising concerning lawful products and services."

The district court previously denied the plaintiffs' motion for a preliminary injunction, but the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals reversed the district court's decision in September 2023. The April ruling by the district court is now consistent with the Ninth Circuit's ruling, and preliminarily enjoins "California Attorney General Rob Bonta and the California Department of Justice, their officers, agents, servants, employees and anyone else in active concert or participation with any of the aforementioned people or entities" from "enforcing California Business & Professions Code §22949.80."

While the injunction is in place, marketers of firearm-related products can advertise free of §22949.80's restrictions, while NRA-ILA continues to fight for their First Amendment and firearm-related rights.



Photo by Matthew Paskert

Tennessee-born troubadour Larry Fleet grew up on a stack of records spinning Merle Haggard, Otis Redding, Willie Nelson and Marvin Gaye. Fleet, a thoughtful songwriter with a knack for one-liners, an ear for a sturdy hook and a powerhouse voice that strikes like a match, was working blue-collar jobs to make ends meet before landing his recording contract with Big Loud Records. He's been turning heads among fans and critics with albums full of soon-to-be-classics, including 2021's tribute to the music that raised him, "Stack of Records," his aptly titled 2019 debut, "Workin' Hard," and his third effort, "Earned It," out now. The website Saving Country Music puts it simply: "If you're looking for the future of traditional country music, then look no further than ... Larry Fleet." A true hard-working patriot that loves duck hunting as much as he loves music, Fleet is everything that embodies the NRA Country brand of patriotism, love of the outdoors and family. Lisa Supernaugh with NRA Country caught up with Larry for a quick moment to ask him a few questions. For more about Larry and his amazing music, tour schedules and more, go to **larryfleet.com** or you can find him on most social-media platforms.

LS: Tell us about your inspiration for "Muddy Water."
LF: I was standing in my waders in some flooded timber in Arkansas one morning, just looking at how muddy the water was from us walking around in it, and it occurred to me that I've always been around muddy water. Some people grow up around the beach or pretty lakes, but I always grew up around muddy rivers and backwaters. I thought about all the things I've done around it ... I got baptized in the Tennessee River with my wife and I've fished in it my whole life, so it's just been a part of my life.

LS: Please share a favorite memory of hunting or fishing with us.
LF: My dad took me and my brother turkey hunting one time and we all sat in the same tree; I was probably 12 or 13. Three big toms came out in the field. Me and my brother shot and killed our turkeys, but my dad missed his, so he jumped and started chasing after the turkey, but never did hit it!

LS: You are a true family man; do you get your children in the outdoors with you when you aren't touring?
LF: My kids love being outdoors. My little girl, Stella, likes riding the four-wheeler with me and playing in the creek. My boy, Waylon, likes riding four-wheelers, fishing, riding his pony and playing ball—and honestly anything outside. I took Waylon deer hunting this past season and we saw a bunch of deer. He really liked it, but the one day he ended up sleeping in, I killed a big buck, so he wasn't too happy about that.

LS: You take exercise seriously, but we heard there was a time when you were playing a lot of football and working out wasn't your favorite thing. What changed your mind on that?
LF: I always hated it when I played sports because I just would've rather been out doing something else. I started getting serious about it because riding around on a tour bus all the time can be rough. I found it was good for my whole body and my mind. My wife and I both work out three or four days a week, if not more, and it's become a part of our lives.

LS: What does freedom mean to you?
LF: Freedom to me is me being able to take care of and protect my family. Freedom is being able to make a life for you and your family by working hard and staying the course. Now, what is real freedom? Jesus is freedom. He died on a cross for our sins, and, through Him, anybody can be free and really experience true freedom.

NRA Country is a lifestyle and a bond between the country music community and hard-working Americans everywhere. It's powered by pride, freedom, love of country, respect for the military and the responsibilities of protecting the great American life. For more information, visit ***nracountry.com****, follow on Twitter @NRACountry, and NRA_Country on Instagram.*

By John Parker
Editor-in-Chief
Shooting Sports USA

2024 NRA World Shooting Championship

If you weren't at the NRA World Shooting Championship at Camp Atterbury, Ind., in April, you can be forgiven for not knowing the name Brian Shanholtz, who catapulted himself into the pantheon of competitive shooting greats after winning this year's tournament. An electrician hailing from Keymar, Md., Shanholtz topped the match leaderboard for the first time this year with less than a one-point margin, winning the $25,000 grand prize. Even more impressive is the fact that his son, Cole—a first-time shooter at this match—won the High Junior title.

The Shanholtz father-son duo were among the 213 shooters that traveled to Indiana this year to compete at the NRA World Shooting Championship, presented by Walther Arms, which was held for the first time at Camp Atterbury, the home of the NRA National Matches. A 12-stage match that includes pistol, rifle, shotgun and multigun disciplines, the NRA World Shooting Championship has a unique twist—all firearms, ammunition, optics and equipment are supplied to competitors by the National Rifle Association and match sponsors. The 12 main stages are a mix of Sporting Clays, Air Rifle, NRA Precision Pistol, NRA Mid-Range, Precision Rifle Series, Three-Gun, Cowboy Action, Scholastic Action Shooting, USPSA and more. Additionally, there are seven side matches with their own prizes.

Although this year marked his first overall victory at the NRA World Shooting Championship, Shanholtz is no stranger to the tournament. He has competed at every NRA World Shooting Championship since its inception in 2014, even winning the Amateur division in 2015 which, by virtue of the match rules, placed him permanently in the Professional division. He credits that initial victory to "many years spent competing in the NRA Youth Hunter Education Challenge."



Photos by John Parker

NRA First Vice President Bob Barr (l.) and NRA Board Member Charlie Hiltunen III (r.) are congratulating top shooters Greg Jordan, Lanny Barnes, Nils Jonasson, Cole Shanholtz and Brian Shanholtz at the awards ceremony.

In preparation for this year's tournament, Shanholtz trained with his son. The elder Shanholtz previously competed in the Precision Rifle Series and is also a shotgun-sports enthusiast, serving as a coach for his son's junior trapshooting team. As the match results show, this approach worked for them both. "I'm here as a dad first and a competitor second," Shanholtz told *Shooting Sports USA* prior to being crowned the winner this year. "My main focus is making sure that Cole is okay, since this is his first time competing at the match."

Finishing in second place this year was Nils Jonasson, while two-time NRA World Shooting Champion Greg Jordan was in third place. As for the High Lady title, it was earned by Lanny Barnes, who also landed in 28th place on the overall leaderboard.

More than $250,000 in cash and prizes was distributed at this year's NRA World Shooting Championship. In addition to the $25,000 grand prize, the runner-up and High Lady received $2,000 checks, while third place and High Junior were presented with $1,000 checks.



Gabby Franco is racing the clock at Stage 12: USPSA with Walther's new PDP Match Polymer pistol chambered in 9 mm Luger.

Plus, each of the 12 stages' winners received $1,000 checks. Perhaps best of all, an enormous number of guns, optics, ammunition and more was awarded this year.

Besides the substantial prize purse, a key draw for competitors to this three-day tournament is the unique mix of disciplines, along with all guns, ammo and equipment provided to shooters.

"What I love about the NRA World Shooting Championship is you get to shoot firearms and different disciplines that you wouldn't otherwise ever shoot," High Lady Lanny Barnes said. "This is the only time I've shot Cowboy Action. It is a blast and all the guns and ammo are provided, so you just show up and shoot. If you want to see how well-rounded a shooter you are, come out and give this match a shot."

"This event is so important and it is such a contrast to what we see in the political arena," NRA First Vice President Bob Barr said. "You see people here that cooperate with each other and recognize that even though everyone has the goal to win, we also recognize that it is a team effort. To be here and see the military working with civilians, young working with old, match staff working with volunteers and the industry working with NRA. Wouldn't it be nice if we could see that kind of civility, discipline and team effort in Washington? This tournament really is a model not just for marksmanship, the industry and the NRA, but for the whole country."

Next year's NRA World Shooting Championship will return to Camp Atterbury and is scheduled for Sept. 30 to Oct. 3, 2025. Learn more at **wsc.nra.org**.



The Shanholtzs are the first father-son combo to land podium titles in match history.

Photo by Serena Juchnowski



At Stage 2: Precision Air Rifle, shooters fired timed 10-shot strings at 10 meters with Walther's LG400 Blutec.

NRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Joe M. Allbaugh, Oklahoma; **Thomas P. Arvas**, New Mexico; **Paul D. Babaz**, Georgia; **Scott L. Bach**, New Jersey; **William A. Bachenberg**, Pennsylvania; **Bob Barr**, Georgia; **Ronnie G. Barrett**, Tennessee; **Clel Baudler**, Iowa; **Charles R. Beers, III**, New York; **J. Kenneth Blackwell**, Ohio; **Matt Blunt**, Virginia; **Donald J. Bradway**, Idaho; **Dean Cain**, Nevada; **J. William Carter**, Kentucky; **Ted W. Carter**, Florida; **Patricia A. Clark**, Connecticut; **Anthony P. Colandro**, New Jersey; **Charles L. Cotton**, Texas; **David G. Coy**, Michigan; **Larry E. Craig**, Idaho; **Isaac Demarest**, Ohio; **Steven W. Dulan**, Michigan; **Rick Ector**, Michigan; **Todd R. Ellis**, Pennsylvania; **Edie P. Fleeman**, North Carolina; **Carol Frampton**, South Carolina; **Joel Friedman,** Nevada; **Sandra S. Froman**, Arizona; **Dennis Fusaro**, Virginia; **Craig Haggard**, Indiana; **Marion P. Hammer**, Florida; **Al Hammond**, Florida; **Maria Heil**, Pennsylvania; **Charles T. Hiltunen III**, Indiana; **Niger Innis**, Nevada; **Curtis S. Jenkins**, Georgia; **Phillip B. Journey**, Kansas; **Tom King**, New York; **Susannah Warner Kipke**, Maryland; **Jeffrey A. Knox**, Arizona; **Willes K. Lee**, Virginia; **Amy Heath Lovato**, New Jersey; **Robert E. Mansell**, Arizona; **Rocky Marshall**, Texas; **Mitzy McCorvey**, Texas; **Carolyn D. Meadows**, Georgia; **Bill Miller**, West Virginia; **Owen Buz Mills**, Arizona; **David Norcross**, Virginia; **Johnny Nugent**, Indiana; **Janet D. Nyce**, Pennsylvania; **James W. Porter II**, Alabama; **Jay Printz**, Montana; **David Raney**, Michigan; **Mark Robinson**, North Carolina; **Wayne Anthony Ross**, Alaska; **Barbara Rumpel**, Florida; **Don Saba**, Arizona; **Ronald L. Schmeits**, New Mexico; **Steven C. Schreiner**, Colorado; **Leroy Sisco**, Texas; **Danny Stowers**, Texas; **Amanda Suffecool**, Ohio; **Craig Swartz**, Iowa; **Jim Tomes**, Indiana; **Dwight D. Van Horn**, Idaho; **Mark E. Vaughan**, Oklahoma; **Blaine Wade**, Tennessee; **Linda L. Walker**, Ohio; **James L. Wallace,** Massachusetts; **Howard J. Walter**, North Carolina; **Judi White**, Arizona; **Bruce Widener**, South Carolina; **Eb Wilkinson**, Arizona; **Robert J. Wos**, Florida; **Cathy S. Wright**, Maryland

Communications intended for any member of the NRA Board of Directors should be addressed to:
(Name of Board member), NRA Office of the Secretary, 11250 Waples Mill Road, Fairfax, VA 22030; or nrabod@nrahq.org; or (703) 267-1021. Please include your name, contact information and NRA membership I.D. number, as only communications from NRA members will be forwarded.

NRA Online Regional Report

To search for events in your area, go to **nrapublications.org/regional-report**

Visit the links below to find gun shows, programs, clubs, events and training in your area.



LAW ENFORCEMENT

le.nra.org

Public and private officers interested in becoming law enforcement firearm instructors should attend one of NRA's Law Enforcement Firearms Instructor Development Schools. NRA Police Pistol Combat competition is intended to be used as an extension of an officer's training.



FRIENDS OF NRA

friendsofnra.org

Friends of NRA events celebrate American values with fun, fellowship and fundraising for The NRA Foundation. To learn more about events in your area, visit **friendsofnra.org**, contact your local field representative or send an email to **friends@nrahq.org.**



GUN SHOWS

gunshows.nra.org

Dates and locations of gun shows are subject to change. Please contact the show before traveling. Discounted NRA memberships are sold through NRA recruiters. Some shows may offer free admission to people who sign up for new memberships or renewals.
To become an NRA Recruiter, contact NRA Recruiting Programs at **recruiter@nrahq.org**.



TRAINING

refuse.nra.org | nrainstructors.org

The NRA's Refuse To Be A Victim® program provides information on crime prevention and personal safety. To learn more about the program, visit **refuse.nra.org**. The most up-to-date seminar and instructor training schedule is available on the Internet by visiting **nrainstructors.org**, or online training is available at **nraonlinetraining.org**. Questions? Email to **refuse@nrahq.org** or by calling (800) 861-1166.



AREA SHOOTS

ssusa.org/coming-events

For more information, please contact the NRA Competitive Shooting Division at **comphelp@nrahq.org**.



STATE ASSOCIATIONS

stateassociations.nra.org

Joining NRA-affiliated state associations supports NRA's mission in your state. See **clubs.nra.org** for more information.

Member Information & Benefits

NRA.ORG

MEMBERSHIP ACCOUNT INFORMATION: (877) 672-2000
NRA Headquarters: (703) 267-1000

MEMBER SERVICE	(800) 672-3888
NRASTORE.COM	(888) 607-6007
5-STAR MEMBER BENEFITS	
NRA Wine Club	(800) 331-9754
ManageYOURiD	(888) 759-7866
Medical Concierge Network	(800) 352-6094
Global Rescue	(800) 381-9754
NRA Travel Center	NRA.HotelPlanner.com
INSTITUTE FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION	
Grassroots/Legislative Hotline	(800) 392-8683
OFFICE OF ADVANCEMENT/ GIFT PLANNING	(877) NRA-GIVE
THE NRA FOUNDATION	(800) 423-6894
NRA INSTRUCTOR/ COACH FIREARM TRAINING	(703) 267-1500
EDDIE EAGLE GUNSAFE PROGRAM	(800) 231-0752
REFUSE TO BE A VICTIM	(800) 861-1166
RECREATIONAL SHOOTING	(800) 672-7435
NRA AFFILIATED CLUBS	(800) 672-2582
RANGE SERVICES	(877) 672-7264
COMPETITIVE SHOOTING	(877) 672-6282
LAW ENFORCEMENT	(703) 267-1640
FRIENDS OF NRA	(703) 267-1342
NRA MUSEUMS/ GUN COLLECTOR PROGRAMS	(703) 267-1600
SHOWS & EXHIBITS	(877) 672-7632
MEDIA RELATIONS	(703) 267-1595
HUNTER SERVICES	(844) 672-6883

The "NRA Regional Report," a service for NRA members, is an up-to-date listing of NRA conducted and/or sponsored events scheduled in your region for the current month. Call to verify event dates and locations before traveling.

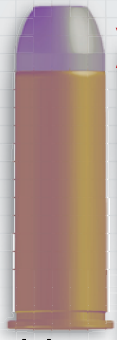
ATLANTA NRA 2025

APRIL 24-27, 2025

For hotel accommodations at the NRA Annual Meetings, visit **nraam.org.**



A .44-40 Winchester Load For An Old Colt



The .44-40 Win. is an old blackpowder cartridge introduced in 1873 along with the Winchester Model 1873 rifle. The cartridge grew immensely popular during the ensuing years and was chambered in a variety of lever-action, single-shot and slide-action rifles and revolvers. Its popularity began to fade in the 1950s, but the sport of cowboy action shooting and interest in the Old West has somewhat revived it.

The .44-40 is limited to relatively mild pressures, due to its thin case and the many weak rifles chambered for the cartridge. The *Lyman 50th Edition Reloading Handbook* lists load data with a maximum of 13,000 copper units of pressure (CUP) for weak actions such as the Winchester Model 1873 and higher 22,000-CUP loads for strong actions that include Winchester Model 1892 and Marlin 1894 rifles. A current-production Winchester Model 1892 chambered in .44-40 Win. fired hand-loaded 200-grain cast bullets upward of 1,400 f.p.s. from its 20" barrel. However, that is still a good 500 f.p.s. slower than the same weight of bullet fired from the 20" barrel of a Winchester Model 1894 chambered in .44 Magnum.

My Lightning .44-40 Win. was built in 1886 on Colt's medium-frame slide-action. The rifle was in sorry shape when I bought it; someone must have used blackpowder or corrosive primers and neglected to clean the bore. A river of rust poured out when I cleaned it, and a bore scope showed only a hint of rifling lands remained. The Lyman handbook classifies the Lightning as a weak action; even so, the rifle shot 200-grain cast bullets from its 26" barrel at 1,200 f.p.s. powered by a maximum amount of 2400 propellant. Due to its eroded bore, though, bullets must be kept at 1,000 f.p.s. or slower in order to shoot adequate-size groups, which is why the nearby recipe uses Trail Boss instead of 2400. That is still more than satisfactory, and the Old West is revived when the Lightning speaks.

—John Haviland, Field Editor

RECIPE

Bullet: 0.428", 205-grain Lyman 427098
Propellant: Trail Boss
Charge: 6.5 grains
Primer: Federal GM150M
Case: Winchester
Case Trim-To Length: 1.30"
Cartridge Overall Length: 1.61"
Velocity @ 10' (f.p.s.): 970*
Energy @ 10' (ft.-lbs.): 418
Accuracy: 1.49"**
Uses: plinking and small-game hunting
Notes: Loads fired from the 26" barrel of a Colt Lightning.
* Average of nine shots.
** Average of five, four-shot groups at 25 yards.
Temperature: 62° F

WARNING: Technical data and information contained herein are intended to provide information based upon the limited experience of individuals under specific conditions and circumstances. They do not detail the comprehensive training, procedures, techniques and safety precautions that are absolutely necessary to properly carry on similar activity. READ THE NOTICE AND DISCLAIMER ON THE CONTENTS PAGE OF THIS MAGAZINE. ALWAYS CONSULT COMPREHENSIVE REFERENCE MANUALS AND BULLETINS OF PROPER TRAINING REQUIREMENTS, PROCEDURES, TECHNIQUES AND SAFETY PRECAUTIONS BEFORE ATTEMPTING ANY SIMILAR ACTIVITIES.

90+ RATED
ALL-STAR
5-CIGAR COMBO & CUTTER
AMERICAN OWNED & OPERATED
BEST CIGAR PRICES EST. 1997
ONLY $15.99
OVER 70% OFF!
+ FREE SHIPPING!
MUST VISIT:
BestCigarPrices.com/NP384
TO GET THIS OFFER
VALID UNTIL: SEPTEMBER 1, 2024
OR
SCAN HERE WITH YOUR MOBILE DEVICE!


*Purchase may be subject to state or local taxes where applicable. You can also call 1.888.412.4427 and mention code NP384 to purchase this offer. Shipped via BCP Ship Saver. Some exclusions apply. In stock items only. Continental US only. We do not ship to Utah or Hawaii. First-time purchasers only. One per household. Qualified items are subject to change at any time. Does not apply to overweight items, machine made cigars, previous orders, or back orders. Cannot be combined with any other offers or promotions. Free shipping offer does not apply to Alaska. Best Cigar Prices does not sell cigars or tobacco products to anyone under the age of 21.

⚠ WARNING: Cigars can expose you to chemicals including tobacco smoke, which is known to the State of California to cause cancer, and nicotine, which is known to the State of California to cause birth defects or other reproductive harm. For more information, go to www.P65Warnings.ca.gov.

Put Hundreds of Dollars in Your Pocket
with NRA 5-Star Benefits

SAVE ON TRAVEL

NRA Travel Center

Check out the all NEW NRA Travel Center, powered by Hotel Planner. NRA Members now have access to over 600,000 lodging options worldwide, and all at great NRA Rates. The NRA Travel Center sources rates from over 20 supplier channels to bring you the best rate and terms for that hotel for your specific dates. Make the NRA Travel Center your one stop shop for travel and SAVE now. www.NRATravelCenter.com

Worldwide Trophy Adventures

Book your Hunting and Fishing trip of a lifetime
NRAWTA.COM
1-833-HUNT-NRA



SAVE ON INSURANCE

NRA Approved Services 1-877-672-3006
www.nraapprovedservices.com

NRA Approved Individual Term Life Insurance
Life Insurance Central, 1-800-756-6452 x9037
www.lic.life/nra9037

Property and Liability Insurance 1-844-401-9444
LocktonAffinityOutdoor.com

SPECIALTY SAVINGS

NRA Wine Club

Enjoy delicious wines hand-selected by experts, delivered directly to you! The NRA Wine Club showcases hand-crafted wines produced by small boutique, lesser-known wineries or in very limited quantities. Get started today! Vinesse 1-800-331-5578
www.NRAWineClub.com

Patriot Mobile

Members save on nationwide cellular service with America's only conservative cell phone company. 1-877-899-6672
www.PatriotMobile.com/NRA

Blaze TV

Pro-America News and Entertainment
Get $10 off a year of BlazeTV
Blazetv.com/NRA

NRA Approved Emergency Assistance Plus Program

1-855-295-3683
www.nraapprovedservices.com/emergency-assistance-plus

NRA CIGAR CLUB

The Premier Cigar Club for NRA Members.(703) 666-9171
nracigarclub.com

SAVE ON NRA GEAR

The NRA Store

1-888-607-6007 www.nrastore.com

PENFED CREDIT UNION

Call 1-855-278-1163 or visit Penfed.org/flag

HOME SECURITY

ADT Authorized Dealer, Safe Haven Security 877-355-8435
www.smarthomeadvantage.com/nra-publications

HIGHLIGHTED MEMBER BENEFIT OF THE MONTH



A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO SUPPORT OUR TROOPS!

SAN CLEMENTE MARINE CORPS SUPPORT GROUP

Donate Online Now to Socks for Heroes

We asked our troops what they needed most, and they answered, "SOCKS!" Your donation will be used to purchase socks and ship them to our brave American Heroes in harm's way.



SCMCSG.ORG

Retiring Gunsmithing business after 46 years.
Complete machine shop, lathe, 2 mills, tig welder, surface grinder, sand blaster, metal saws, buffers, precision tools, shop manuals, hand tools, machine tooling, gun parts, checkering tooling and specialized gun tools.
Selling shop as a complete package.
Can send pictures. (928) 530-6248

WRB
(888) 824-2899
Several Size and Mag Pouches Available
Wrbsales.com


23" Discreet Sub Gun Case

Ruger MK Pistols - reassemble correctly EVERY time
One-Time Fix
Easily Installed in Minutes
Not for 22/45
HSS
HammerStrutSupport.com

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY!
GO TO
membership.nra.org

ATHENA PHEROMONES™ INCREASE AFFECTION



Created by Winnifred Cutler, Ph.D. biology U. Penn, post-doc Stanford. Co-discovered human pheromones in 1986

Blend with aftershave or cologne. Worn daily lasts 4-6 mos. Or use straight. Effect is cumulative. Cosmetic, not aphrodisiac.

SAVE $100 on 6-Pak

8-WEEK SCIENTIFIC STUDY PROVES 10X EFFECTIVE



ATHENA PHEROMONES™ increase your attractiveness
Athena 10X™ For Men $99.50
10:13™ For Women $98.50
Cosmetics 2+ vials ship free to US

♥ **Max (MA)** 12 orders **"Love your Athena 10X product!** I enjoy the attention I get. I really believe women pay more attention to me. And that just helps me in everyday life."

♥ **Joseph (MI)** "Fabulous product. **You did the research,** the double blind studies! I am married and am with my wife only. **Well within 5 days it was amazing.** The affection level went up 20 fold."

Not in stores 610-827-2200
Athenainstitute.com
Athena Institute, Braefield Rd, Chester Spgs, PA 19425 ARI

Iver Johnson
Eagle XL - DS



MSRP - $1262
- 6" 1911 double stack 14 + 1 capacity
- 45acp Long slide
- Serrated front grip for better control
- Frame machined from solid 1045 steel
www.iverjohnsonarms.com

OLD WESTERN SCROUNGER
VINTAGE HANDGUNS, LONG GUNS & AMMO
SCAN ME
WWW.OWS-AMMO.COM

RUGGED APERTURE SIGHTS



10/22, Marlin® 60 & 795, Mini-14®, SKS, AK 47, Kel-Tec SU16 and more.
Tech SIGHTS™
(843)332-8222
www.Tech-SIGHTS.com PRECISION SHOOTING ACCESSORIES

SNAKE SLAYER HAS A ROWDY COUSIN...



ROWDY XL
THINK TWICE BOND ARMS INC.
MADE IN TEXAS BY TEXANS!
MUST BE 21. NOT AVAILABLE IN ALL STATES.

The World's Oldest And Largest Firearm Authority



AmericanRifleman.org

NRA 5-STAR BENEFITS
Saving Freedom Delivering Value

SPECIALTY SAVINGS

HOTEL DISCOUNTS
NRA Travel Center powered by HotelPlanner: NRA Members have access to over 600,000 lodging options Worldwide with a savings of up to 65%. **www.NRATravelCenter.com**

Worldwide Trophy Adventures: Find the outdoor adventure of a lifetime. **1-833-HUNT-NRA NRAWTA.COM**

NRA Wine Club: 1-800-331-5578
www.NRAWineClub.com

Patriot Mobile: 1-877-899-6672
www.PatriotMobile.com/NRA

Blaze TV: **Blazetv.com/NRA**

PenFed Credit Union: **Penfed.org/flag**

NRA Cigar Club: 703-666-9171
nracigarclub.com

ADT Authorized Dealer, Safe Haven Security 877-355-8435
www.smarthomeadvantage.com/nra-publications

For a complete list of Members Only Savings, go to benefits.nra.org

WEBLEY METROPOLITAN POLICE REVOLVER



Gun: Webley Metropolitan Police
Manufacturer: P. Webley & Son, London and Birmingham
Caliber: .450
Manufactured: c. 1905
Condition: NRA Very Good (Antique Gun Standards)
Value: $1,750

Though today the name "Webley" is the one that most often comes to mind when discussing British revolvers, James and Philip Webley's premier revolver offering, their single-action "Longspur" percussion repeater first seen in 1853—while a creditable design—was largely eclipsed at the time by the double-actions of Robert Adams and William Tranter.

The Longspur went through three variants, at least selling in enough numbers to keep the firm afloat. Subsequently, the brothers Webley came out with a line of durable, reliable, percussion-fired double-actions, adding to the company's solvency and cachet and allowing it to expand its line into the self-contained-cartridge field.

Accordingly, Webley hit pay dirt with an excellent, robust, medium-size, .442-cal., six-shot, centerfire double-action with a 4½" barrel, christened the Royal Irish Constabulary (RIC) Model after the agency that adopted it in 1867. The piece proved to be so versatile that it soon transmogrified into variants of different sizes and calibers—many of which were of the "bulldog" style, that slang term, along with "barkers" and "snappers," reaching back into the 18th century to denote large-caliber, short-barreled self-defense pistols.

To Webley's advantage, one model caught the eye of London's Metropolitan Police. This famed law-enforcement organization was founded in 1829 by Home Secretary Sir Robert Peel, with its constables eponymously being nicknamed "Peelers" and "Bobbys" by an appreciative public. Initially armed with such things as pikes, truncheons and swords, flintlock pistols and carbines were also seen in some numbers, usually issued on a sporadic or as-needed basis.

In 1884, following the deaths of several policemen in London's outlying areas, the home office contacted Webley and ordered about 1,000 variants of the company's RIC Model 82 revolver. Of a bulldog appearance, first versions had smooth cylinders and swing-out ejector rods with flattened tips. Later types sported fluted cylinders and acorn-tipped rods.

They were solid-frame, double-action, six-shot guns, with rounds being loaded singly through a downward-opening loading gate. Frames of the Metropolitan Police (MP) revolvers were full-size, though barrels were bobbed to 2½" for ease of carry. Chambering was .450 centerfire, which had previously been Britain's principal military revolver service round. Fixed sights involved a simple rounded blade front and topstrap-groove rear. Generous stocks were one-piece checkered walnut with flat steel buttcaps and lanyard rings. Finish was normally blue. Transitional variations were produced, so occasionally, specimens will be seen with markings and features of the two basic types mixed and matched in one gun.

MP revolvers were normally stamped on their topstraps "P. WEBLEY & SON/LONDON and BIRMINGHAM." The handgun's most interesting distinction, however, was an evocative rendering of a pair of manacled hands and "WEBLEY'S MP," surmounted with "POLICE" appearing on the front, left side of the frame. Issue numbers are often seen beneath. Caliber was usually indicated on the frame above the logo.

In short order, Adams revolvers, which had been distributed in limited numbers as a stopgap measure, were withdrawn and Metropolitan Police revolvers began to be issued at the discretion of division officers. They were only given to policemen who desired them and had exhibited an aptitude in their use.

Webley Metropolitan Police revolvers were manufactured from 1883 to 1911, with serial numbers running between 500 and 98,000. In recent years, partially due, I've been given to understand, to an article, "The Guns of Sherlock Holmes," written by me and Scott McMillan, which first appeared in the April 1975 *Guns & Ammo* magazine, the MP revolver has been closely associated by Sherlockians with Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's master consulting detective. Perhaps this crossover interest may account, somewhat, for the relatively stiff prices they seem to bring. It is not unusual for a seller to ask in the mid-$2,000s for a particularly nice example. The one seen here, a second type in NRA Very Good condition, however, would be very fairly priced at $1,750.

—Garry James, Field Editor

American Rifleman **does NOT accept submissions for the I Have This Old Gun column. Topics are assigned to Field Editors in advance. Due to the volume of mail received, our writers are not able to answer individual questions. Please consider instead sending your correspondence and questions through our Dope Bag/Q&A service, which is available to all NRA members in good standing. Details appear in the Q&A section.**

Photos by Jill Marlow

ADVERTISEMENT

New Blood Flow Breakthrough Helps Men Enjoy Strong, Long-Lasting Intimacy – At Any Age

Men across America are raving about a newly enhanced performance supplement that helps achieve healthy blood flow on demand

After age 40, it's common knowledge that performance begins to decline in many men. However, a new, performance empowering pill is showing that any relatively healthy man can now enjoy long-lasting, and frequent intimacy – at any age.

This doctor-designed formula, created by leading anti-aging expert Dr. Al Sears, has already helped men overcome low and sinking libido -- and has recently undergone a potency-enhancing update – with remarkable new results.

When the first pill -- **Primal Max Black** -- was first released, it quickly became a top-selling men's performance helper, promoting intimacy across America.

It worked by supporting healthy testosterone levels. However, Dr. Sears soon realized that this isn't the only challenge men face with performance. That's when he turned his attention to blood flow.

And this became **Primal Max Red**.

THIS PROVEN SOLUTION IS MORE MECHANICAL THAN HORMONAL

Truth is, once blood flow slows down for men, no matter how exciting it is, it won't be enough without the necessary amount…

So enjoying intimacy without healthy blood flow becomes difficult for most men.

Luckily, a Nobel prize-winning scientist discovered the simple answer to help support performance strength and confidence -- by boosting vital blood flow -- and enhancing this essential performance function.

Using this landmark Nobel Prize as its basis, **Primal Max Red** enhanced healthy blood flow for untold millions of men around the world with the use of strong nitric oxide boosters.

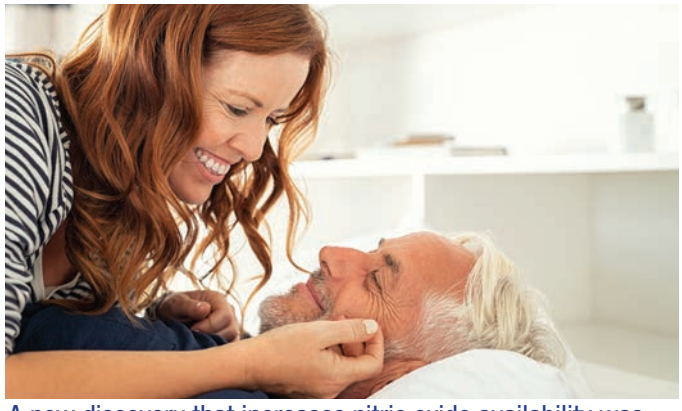
While **Primal Max Black** helped maintain optimal testosterone, **Primal Max Red** tackles a lesser-known challenge.

Director, Al Sears MD, who has authored over 500 scientific papers and has appeared on more than 50 media outlets including ABC News, CNN, ESPN, Discovery, Lifetime, and many more say, *"Less than optimal blood flow can be part of a huge problem that affects a lot of men. And it needed to be addressed once and for all, so men would not dwell on it. Then, once we optimized it and had a great deal of success, we set out to see if we could do even better."*

The former formula had excellent results. However, new research showed that for even faster, anytime, anywhere results, increasing the dose of a key compound was needed.

So, one of the three nitric oxide boosters in the new **Primal Max Red**, L-Citrulline, was clinically boosted to 9000 mg, and the results were astounding. Which is no surprise considering that 5000 mg is considered a "normal amount" -- giving the new version nearly doubled the blood flow boosting power.

Men who had previously been unsure about their power and stamina were overjoyed to be back to their old selves and



A new discovery that increases nitric oxide availability was recently proven to boost blood flow 275% - resulting in improved performance.

to get and maintain a healthy bloodflow when they needed it.

BETTER BLOOD FLOW, STRONGER RESULTS

The best way to promote healthy blood flow throughout the body is with the use of **Primal Max Red**. By using it, when exciting signals leave the brain, blood flows much faster like it used to.

This critical action is how men across the country are enjoying full and satisfying performance at any age. No need to bother with testosterone-boosting shots, blue pills, or shady capsules that have no effect.

Primal Max Red can effectively promote healthy blood flow that most men can use for maximum intimacy. This is leading to more greater capacity and satisfaction, coupled with long-lasting performance.

"There was a time when men had little control when it came to boosting their blood flow," Dr. Sears said. "But science has come a long way in recent years. And now, with the creation of nitric oxide-boosting **Primal Max Red**, men can perform better than ever, and enjoy intimacy at any age."

Now for men across America, it's much easier to stay at their performance peak as they get older.

HOW TO GET PRIMAL MAX RED (AND FREE PRIMAL MAX BLACK):

To secure free bottles of **Primal Max Black** and get the hot, new **Primal Max Red** formula, buyers should contact the Sears Health Hotline at **1-800-376-3191** TODAY. "It's not available in retail stores yet," says Dr. Sears. "The Hotline allows us to ship directly to the customer." Dr. Sears feels so strongly about **Primal Max**, all orders are backed by a 100% money-back guarantee. "Just send me back the bottle and any unused product within 90 days from purchase date, and I'll send you all your money back."

Call NOW at **1-800-376-3191** to secure your supply of **Primal Max Red** and free bottles of **Primal Max Black**. Use Promo Code **ARPMAX624** when you call. Lines are frequently busy, but all calls will be answered!

THESE STATEMENTS HAVE NOT BEEN EVALUATED BY THE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION. THIS PRODUCT IS NOT INTENDED TO DIAGNOSE, TREAT, CURE OR PREVENT ANY DISEASE. RESULTS MAY VARY FROM PERSON TO PERSON. NO INDIVIDUAL RESULT SHOULD BE SEEN AS TYPICAL. 8

NIGHTHAWK® CUSTOM

ONE GUN,
ONE GUNSMITH



*Shown with options/
upgrades

Agent 2
Commander
1911

Fully machined
and completely hand
fit in the USA

The World's Finest
Custom Pistols

877-268-4867
www.nighthawkcustom.com