



SMITH & WESSON M&P FPC



October 2023

A M E R I C A N

Riflemán

The World's Oldest And Largest Firearm Authority



150 YEARS OF THE
WINCHESTER 1873

RUGER
SECURITY-380

The Leading Edge Of Self-Defense

SPRINGFIELD ECHELON

NRA Official Journal of the National Rifle Association
AMERICANRIFLEMAN.ORG

SILVER IS HOT! SPECIAL AT COST SILVER BLOWOUT!

SILVER IS UP 30%
in the past 9 months

2023 SILVER MAPLE LEAF

► 1oz .9999 Fine Silver ► Brilliant Uncirculated



As low as
Only **\$26⁰⁰** each
check/wire price
limit 2

IRA
APPROVED

2023 SILVER BRITANNIA

► 1oz .999 Fine Silver ► Brilliant Uncirculated



As low as
Only **\$26⁰⁰** each
check/wire price
limit 2

2023 NRA 2ND AMENDMENT SILVER ROUND



Official NRA Licensed Product!

WE STAND FOR THE FLAG SILVER BAR



2023 DONALD J. TRUMP SILVER ROUND



✓ 1oz. 999 FINE SILVER ✓ BRILLIANT UNCIRCULATED

As low as
Only **\$27⁰⁰** each
check/wire price
limit 2 of each

✓ IRA APPROVED ✓ RESPECTED HIGHLAND MINT



AUTHORIZED FACSIMILE SIGNATURE

NGC CERTIFIED MS70 - PERFECT 2023 \$1 AMERICAN SILVER EAGLE 1oz .999 FINE SILVER

Wayne LaPierre
SIGNATURE
LABEL

EXCLUSIVE
NRA MEMBER OFFER!

As low as
Only **\$48** EACH
check/wire price
limit 2 of each

Exclusive
TRUMP
LABEL



"Thank you for your ongoing support of Freedom. You are among a special group of people committed to fight alongside the NRA on the forefront of the battle to protect our Second Amendment Liberties. The NRA knows it can depend on Universal Coin & Bullion."

Wayne LaPierre - NRA CEO & Executive Vice President

Special NRA Member Offers CLICK HERE

 Est. 1994
UniversalCoin.com/nra

AMERICA'S GOLD EXPERTS

FREE SHIPPING - \$9 VALUE On Advertised Offers Using Vault Code

1.800.822.4653

Vault Code: UAMRFRS1023W Offer Expires: 10/20/23



FIRST TIME NEW CUSTOMER ONLY SPECIAL: NO DEALER MARKUP!

2023 \$1 AMERICAN SILVER EAGLE

► 1oz .999 Fine Silver ► Brilliant Uncirculated ► IRA Approved

As low as
Only \$27⁰⁰ each
check/wire price
limit 5

To introduce NRA member new collectors and investors to the beauty and importance of owning American Silver Eagles, we are offering them to our **new NRA customers only BELOW DEALER COST!**



The Historic High-Flying American Silver Eagles

Since 1986, the first year of their issue, the American Silver Eagle series has established itself as the most popular series of legal tender silver coins ever minted in United States history. For collectors of United States legal tender coins, the release of the Year 2023 American Silver Eagles continues this historical tradition.

Exclusive Vault Invitation

New customers only are eligible to order brand new, uncirculated, Year 2023 Silver Eagles below our actual dealer cost! Our entire inventory of 2023 Silver Eagles for this exclusive offer will absolutely sell out! Avoid disappointment and confirm your reservation today.

Genuine U.S. Legal Tender

Each of your Year 2023 American Silver Eagles is guaranteed by the U.S. Government to be **1 full oz. of IRA eligible 99.9% pure fine silver** and it is in pristine, gem brilliant uncirculated condition.

Unlike silver medals, bullion or jewelry, the Year 2023 American Silver Eagles are genuine U.S. legal tender, and redeemable anywhere American currency is accepted. Legal tender status, coupled with the U.S. Government guaranteed silver content, means your Silver Eagles will never be worth less than their redeemable value; and will always remain popular with collectors and investors alike.

From Original Mint Rolls

Since the U.S. Mint began first striking the American Silver Eagles in 1986, the Mint has been taking coins right off the press and placing them into special Mint rolls. We carefully removed coins from these rolls for you and **placed them in a custom plastic crystal holder.**

5 REASONS TO BUY NOW!

- 1 The U.S. Mint may stop producing or selling 2023 Silver Eagles at any time just like the unprecedented 2009 & pandemic suspensions.
- 2 Global economic uncertainty like the recent banking crisis could send silver prices dramatically higher at any time, boosting demand for these coins and limiting their availability to you.
- 3 London Bullion Market Association sees 50% Higher Silver Prices in 2023
- 4 Holding the Silver Eagles in your family's estate provides a lifetime of security in hard currency treasures for uncertain times.
- 5 The Year 2023 American Silver Eagles can never be worth less than their legal tender face value, or the price of silver, and are always worth more to collectors.

SILVER'S UP
356%



Silver price increased based
from Jan. 1, 2000- July 31, 2023

Strictly Limited Inventory

This will be the only markup free below cost magazine ad invitation for 2023 Silver Eagles you will receive from us this year. A limited allotment was purchased for this special **below our actual dealer cost** offer of only \$27.00 (check/wire price), with free shipping, (\$9 Value) our entire inventory should sell out immediately! You may order an individual coin or up to 5 gem uncirculated coins. However **a limit of five (5) original Mint coins per household** will be strictly observed and we reserve the right to reduce quantities.

Avoid disappointment by placing your order for the historic Year 2023 American Silver Eagles right now, by **calling Toll Free (800) 822-4653**. We cannot guarantee inventory will be available to satisfy collector demand, and if we are unable to fulfill your order, you will receive a prompt refund. So, don't delay.

Prices are subject to change, so order right now! The 2023 gem brilliant uncirculated American Silver Dollar... a tradition in monetary freedom since 1794.

FREE AWARD-WINNING GOLD GUIDE!

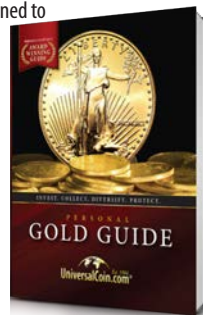
If you've got questions we have solutions!

No matter what your current portfolio status or collecting goals, this Gold Guide is designed to help you learn how to protect and build your collection or wealth with a variety of gold and silver products.

OUR GIFT TO YOU!
\$10 VALUE

Available to all NRA Members
No Purchase Necessary
CALL TODAY!

Numismatic Literary Guild Award-Winner



CALL FOR VOLUME PRICING ON THESE & OTHER POPULAR SILVER & GOLD PRODUCTS

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



NRA Business Alliance
The Business of Freedom.



BU coins typically come from the Mint with marks. Availability, price and premiums are subject to change. Advertised prices are check/wire prices, limits are per household. See disclosures on our website. Allow up to 30 days for delivery. Coin images not to scale. **SILVER BASIS: \$23.30**



50

For many, the Model 1873 represents the quintessential Winchester, due to the prominent role it played in taming the West during the post-Civil War years.

CONTENTS

OCTOBER 2023
VOLUME 171,
No. 10

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.

Wayne R. LaPierre,
Executive Vice President

features

Supreme Court Case Reinforces The Second Amendment. 18

Randy Kozuch

Last year’s *Bruen* case struck down New York’s “may-issue” licensing regime and disavowed the “interest-balancing” tests that jurisdictions had been using post-*Heller* to restrict gun use—forcing these entities to finally take the Second Amendment seriously.

Springfield Echelon: The Leading Edge Of Self-Defense. 36

Brian C. Sheetz

A new full-size pistol design from a trusted brand and a tried-and-true manufacturer brings the latest thinking to bear on the striker-fired, polymer-frame semi-automatic—whether for duty or everyday carry.

The Smith & Wesson M&P FPC: A Low-Profile PCC. 44

Jeremiah Knupp

Folding down to just slightly longer than its 16" barrel, and with a capacious payload of 9 mm Luger ammunition, S&W’s FPC is an effective, efficient long gun for the format-conscious armed citizen.

The Winchester 1873: Winning The West For 150 Years. 50

Rick Hacker

An iconic lever-action marks a century-and-a-half milestone—having long since won the hearts of shooters and collectors everywhere.



THE COVER: The feature-rich Springfield Armory Echelon is the latest result of the company’s collaboration with manufacturing partner HS Produkt of Croatia. For more on Springfield’s new full-size pistol, turn to p. 36. The Echelon is shown here with the new Trijicon RMR HD micro red-dot sight—the subject of an upcoming story.

Design by David Labrozzi; Photo by Peter Fountain

EVERYDAY CARRY

LIGHT ON OUNCES,
HEAVY ON PERFORMANCE



NEW

K6_{XS}

The K6xs™ is an extra small, ultra-lightweight revolver built specifically for concealed carry. You will find all

the features of its larger framed sibling, the K6s™, including a smooth non-stacking trigger and a Hogue® grip. The K6xs™ is the world's lightest 6-shot revolver chambered in .38 SPL +P.



FIREPOWER TO DEFEND YOURSELF

6-SHOT CAPACITY
.38 SPL. +P



LEARN MORE

Kimber®

KIMBERAMERICA.COM

WHAT ALL GUNS SHOULD BE™



official journal

The Armed Citizen	10
Special Reports	
Standing Guard	12
President's Column	14
Political Report	16
ILA Report	64
Regional Report	66
Featured Program	67
Programs & Services	68

correspondence

The Rifleman Report	8
Readers Write	22
Favorite Firearms	35
Sleeper Of A Star 1873 Winchester	

reports

News & Notes	24
Products & Projects	28

technical

Questions & Answers	34
Slugs For Rifled And Smooth Bores	
Dope Bag	60
Ruger Security-380 .380 ACP Pistol	
Sauer SL5 Waterfowl 12 Ga. Shotgun	
I Have This Old Gun	72
Astra 600/43	

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

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 Treacle
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. 171, No. 10) 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 2023, 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.

HOLOSUN

SIZE MATTERS



507 COMPETITION

The 507Comp is our newest handgun sight that was built based on feedback from professional shooters to create the ultimate competition handgun optic. Tracking the dot through recoil has never been easier with such a large 1.1" x 0.87" objective lens. Holosun's new Competition Reticle System (CRS) comes available with four reticle components that include a 2MOA dot, an 8MOA circle, 20MOA circle and 32MOA circle that all can be used in various combinations to suit the individual shooter's needs. Fits the 507C Optic Footprint.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT [HOLOSUN.COM](https://www.holosun.com)



Silencing The NRA

Frank Miniter, editor in chief of *America's 1st Freedom*, breaks down how the persistent attacks on gun owners' First and Second Amendment rights coming from the anti-freedom officials in the state of New York and elsewhere reveal their true objective: destroying the NRA. a1f.com/silencing



Marines & The M1 Garand: The First 400

Some would argue the M1 Garand is "the greatest battle implement ever devised," however, the rifle that replaced the M1903 Springfield certainly had its share of setbacks, especially while capturing the attention of the U.S. Marine Corps.

americanrifleman.org/first400



In The Field With Federal's Gold Medal Match

Hitting targets at extreme distances requires much skill and precision on the part of the rifleman and his gear, but it would all be for naught if the ammunition didn't also perform. Frank Melloni explores a Federal match load that takes the 6.5 mm Creedmoor to the limit.

americanrifleman.org/federalgmm

Tune in Wednesday nights to the Outdoor Channel for the best firearm show on television. Now in its 21st year, "American Rifleman Television" brings you a Feature, a "Rifleman Review" and an "I Have This Old Gun" segment in each show. To view past episodes, visit americanrifleman.org/artv.



Making The Girsan MC 14T

September 27

150 Years Of Colt's Single Action Army;
Rossi RP63 Revolver In .357 Mag.; British 1801 Sea Service Pistol

October 4

Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP) D-Day Matches;
Walther P99 Final Edition In 9 mm Luger; Savage Model 1899 Rifle

October 11

CMP Garand Match; Remington 360 Buckhammer; Colt Police Positive

October 18

Making The Girsan MC 14T Tip-Up;
Springfield Armory Saint Victor Carbine In 9 mm Luger; Wheellock Carbine



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
Cheryl Doden
Accounts Receivable Staff Accountant
Miranda Maurer
Advertising/Receivables 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

nramediaakit.com

DIGITAL OPERATIONS

Michael Pedersen
Managing Director, Digital Operations
Troy Kelly
Art Director, Digital Operations
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**

ICONIC PISTOL REPRODUCTIONS



EAA & Girsan bring you reproductions of iconic pistols that range from traditional models to modernized versions of iconic designs, while still maintaining the highest quality at affordable pricing.

92 PLATFORM ↓

- Accessory Rail
 - Single & Double Action
 - Lightweight Design
 - 3 Dot Sights or Optics
 - Ambidextrous Safety
 - 9mm (18+1 Cap.)
- Starting at \$502

1911 PLATFORM ↓

- Four Barrel Lengths
 - Sights or Optic Models
 - Extended Beavertail
 - Accessory Rail
 - 9mm, 45 ACP & 10mm
- Starting at \$629



HIGH POWER PLATFORM ↑

- Sights or Optics
 - Carry & Full Sizes
 - Iconic Design
 - Single Action
 - Steel Slide & Frame
 - 9mm (15+1 cap.)
- Starting at \$585

TIP-UP PLATFORM ↑

- Load, Lock and Fire.
 - No Slide Racking Required
 - 13+1 or 10+1 Capacity
 - .380 ACP Caliber
 - Accessory Rail
- Starting at \$498

EAA & GIRSAN
EARNING YOUR RESPECT

EAACORP.COM

GIRSAN

EAA CORP

**UNWAVERING
CONFIDENCE.
UNMATCHED
ACCURACY.**

B-14² CREST

**ENGINEERED FOR
UNYIELDING
PERFORMANCE
AND PRECISION**

*Designed to exceed the
highest standards of
backcountry adventures,
this high-performance
rifle is engineered with
precision and durability
in mind.*

*With its 100% carbon
fiber stock and
cutting-edge
technologies, the
Crest empowers
you to conquer any
challenge nature
throws your way,
ensuring you never
miss a shot in your
pursuit of ultimate
hunting success.*

Scan the code to learn more or visit
BergaraUSA.com

BERGARA

THE RIFLEMAN REPORT



The definition of “win” denotes emerging victorious from a contest. It is an outcome that demands the mindset of overcoming obstacles, not making excuses, as the exigencies of life beset us. These days, however, the age-old connotation of prevailing over life’s difficulties through hard-earned individual enterprise seems to have taken a back seat to artificially concocted societal schemes designed to make us all feel better about ourselves. In fact, such lies do nothing but weaken our country and fail to truly empower anyone.

The authentic spirit of independence is still alive and well, however, as it has been for 152 years in your association and, collectively, for much longer in American and foreign firearm companies. And that’s good news considering that there is no short supply of struggles in which the average American’s individual rights or physical safety are daily put to the test.

In the realm of personal self-defense, the handgun reigns supreme because of its compactness and attendant concealability, and the prevalent form for several decades has been the striker-fired, polymer-frame semi-automatic. In this issue, we cover a new model from a major American brand: the Echelon from Springfield Armory. For nearly 50 years, the commercial American firm has kept alive traditions adopted from its namesake national armory founded by George Washington. Working with Croatian manufacturing partner *HS Produkt*, Springfield has managed to fit a full-size, duty-grade gun with leading-edge features into an ultra-efficient form factor. The new pistol is more than up to the task of daily defensive carry and most definitely represents a “win” for both companies. For the full story, read “Springfield Echelon: The Leading Edge Of Self-Defense” (p. 36).

Though the handgun may be the most portable means of self-defense, there’s simply no substitute—when the chips are down and circumstances allow—for a shoulder-fired arm. Increased hit probability and greater power transferred to the target mean that the average pistol-caliber carbine trumps even the most capable handgun.

And now there’s a new choice in PCCs from another major American name in firearms, one that has been around for 171 years. In “Smith & Wesson M&P FPC: A Low-Profile PCC” (p. 44), Field Editor Jeremiah Knupp explores a folding-stock carbine that is compact enough to justify bringing it along on any number of excursions—especially for those who already have familiarity with, and magazines for, S&W pistols. It is further evidence that the compact long gun concept continues to gain in popularity.

Speaking of prevailing in the face of conflict, there is perhaps no better example in the American experience than the taming of the Western frontier. In “The Winchester 1873: Winning The West For 150 Years” (p. 50) Field Editor Rick Hacker takes a look back at the origins and exploits of one of the best-known lever-actions of all time. In fact, the Model 1873 is perhaps the most deserving example of the oft-cited appellation “The Gun That Won The West.” Some of the examples pictured in the story are truly spectacular, and rare, and all convey the mystique that has become associated with one of the most storied American firearm companies, now 157 years old, and the important events in our country’s history from which we had to emerge in order to build a better life.

In this month’s Dope Bag (p. 60), we cover the Ruger Security-380 pistol and the Sauer SL5 Waterfowl shotgun—products from companies that have been in business for 74 years in America and 272 years in Germany, respectively. The first is a pistol intended for personal defense, and the second is a hunting arm that can put food on the table. Both speak to the necessity for tools that ensure a free citizenry can continue to exercise its right to self-sufficiency.

So, just as it has been since before the founding of our country nearly 250 years ago, winning is not just for sports; it is a noble outcome for which we all must strive as we aim to preserve a nation where every person can find “... Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”

—BRIAN C. SHEETZ, EDITOR IN CHIEF

IT JUST KEEPS HAPPENING.

NO MATTER THE HUNTER, DISTANCE,
CARTRIDGE OR ANIMAL, THE
TERMINAL ASCENT™ STORY
ALWAYS ENDS THE SAME.

15 YARDS

85% Weight Retention
300 Win. Magnum
Moose



160 YARDS

96% Weight Retention
6.5 PRC
Whitetail Deer



400 YARDS

91% Weight Retention
7mm Rem. Magnum
Elk



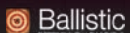
997 YARDS

99% Weight Retention
300 Win. Magnum
Oryx



CONSISTENTLY TERMINAL

DOWNLOAD
THE FREE
BALLISTIC APP



**TERMINAL
ASCENT™**



BUY NOW AT **FEDERALPREMIUM.COM**



**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 nrpublications.org.

Near 5 p.m. on Aug. 1, a woman in Raleigh, N.C., parked at a grocery store. A man who had followed her there and seemed to be "road raging" got out of his car and attempted to pry open the woman's doors. The woman feared for her life and shot the man. The attacker was taken to the hospital but died from his wounds. Security-video feeds showed the entire incident. "When someone has a reasonable fear for imminent death or bodily injury ... you're allowed to protect yourself," the county's district attorney told reporters. (foxnews.com, New York, N.Y., 8/7/23)

A woman returned to her Philadelphia, Pa., apartment during the early morning hours of July 16 to find four strangers inside. Thankfully, the woman was armed, so when the alleged burglars confronted her, she drew and shot two of the four; the other two fled. Police found one man outside on the ground with gunshot wounds to his right arm and right leg. The other wounded suspect was found a little farther away. Both men face burglary and related offense charges when released from the hospital. (nbcphiladelphia.com, Philadelphia, Pa., 7/16/23)

Near midnight on July 18, a pizza-delivery driver on his first day on the job stopped at an apartment complex in Philadelphia, Pa., for his next scheduled delivery. However, when he got out of the vehicle, two masked men allegedly pointed a gun at his back and forced him into the back seat of his car, demanding his valuables and keys. The driver somehow extricated himself from the back seat and fired two shots at the suspects in a "shootout," striking one of the ambushers in the buttocks. The wounded man was being detained and faces charges once released from the hospital. The pizza company told reporters one of the suspects had placed the pizza order, and the driver's brother was on the phone with him when the incident occurred, so police were able to interview him as a witness. Reports fail to indicate whether the driver chose that to be his last day on the job as well. (cbsnews.com, Philadelphia, Pa., 7/19/23, and *The Charlotte Observer*, Charlotte, N.C., 7/19/23)

Two homeowners returned home the morning of July 19 in McDonald County, Mo., to find that a stranger had broken in and barricaded himself inside a room. The suspect, a 62-year-old man, fired a shot at them, so the two armed citizens returned fire, striking the man in both thighs. They then disarmed the intruder and held him until law enforcement arrived. The man was transported to the hospital and faces charges

of burglary, assault first degree, armed criminal action and possession of a controlled substance. (foxnews.com, New York, N.Y., 7/25/23)

In Oakland, Calif., when a 75-year-old woman alone in her home at 2 a.m. on July 26 realized intruders were inside, she defended herself by firing at them with a .357 Magnum from her bed. The burglars fired back at her repeatedly but fortunately failed to strike her. The men then fled with some valuables. Her daughter told reporters the incident should serve as a warning to criminals: "People in Oakland, we're tired of the lawlessness. People are standing up. People are fighting back." A neighbor told reporters, "They're playing with their lives because all these people out here are armed." (ktvu.com, Oakland, Calif., 7/31/23)

In Cassopolis, Mich., the night of July 27, a man entered a convenience store and asked the clerk whether he could use the restroom. The clerk reportedly did not respond, but the man allegedly proceeded to the corner, put on a mask, then went behind the counter and pointed a knife at the clerk as he demanded the register be opened. An armed citizen witnessed the man threatening the clerk and shot him two or three times, then held the suspect at gunpoint until police could arrive, whereupon he was transported to the hospital in stable condition. Police located a suspected accomplice in a vehicle nearby and arrested her for drug possession. (wndu.com, South Bend, Ind., 7/28/23)

An armed citizen in Salem, Ind., was thankfully watching around dinnertime on Aug. 7 when a man drove through her front yard, grabbed her husband, forced him to the ground and pointed a gun at his head. The wife shot the assailant with her handgun; he later died of his wounds. The man reportedly was "well-known in the area" and had a significant criminal background. (wdrb.com, Louisville, Ky., 8/8/23) 

RUGER[®] SFAR[™]



7.62 NATO/
308 WIN

Caliber

20+1

Capacity

16.10"
20"

Barrel Length

34"-37.25"
38"-41.25"

Overall Length

6.8 LB.
7.3 LB.

Weight

The Small-Frame Autoloading Rifle, or SFAR[™], chambered in 7.62 NATO / .308 Win., combines the ballistic advantages of .308 Winchester with the size of a traditional MSR. The smaller of the two initial configurations of this rifle features a 16" barrel model and weighs in at just 6.8 pounds unloaded. By utilizing superior materials and engineering, the SFAR[™] is bigger and stronger where it needs to be and remains smaller and lighter than comparable .308-sized rifles.



LEARN
MORE



You
Tube



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[®]



By Wayne LaPierre
Executive Vice President

The Justice-System Loophole The Media Ignores

Unless you've been living under a rock for the past several decades, you know that gun-hating politicians and their media puppets are perpetually driving mass hysteria over so-called "loopholes" in our nation's gun laws. The "gun-show loophole;" the "universal- background-check loophole;" the "pistol-brace loophole."

They campaign on closing these so-called loopholes every year. They promise America would be safe and secure if only they were in charge. They vow to crack down on "illegal guns." They say they'll make schools safe. They'll work night and day conjuring up new laws supposedly aimed at keeping guns out of the wrong hands.

It's all one big lie.

The fact is, President Joe Biden, Congress, state governments, law-enforcement agencies and the courts have every conceivable law already on the books that can and should be used to stop violent felons who misuse firearms to commit crime.

The real problem? We have real loopholes: an enforcement loophole; a prosecution loophole; a revolving-door-justice loophole. And at the center of all these loopholes are anti-gun politicians who refuse to do their jobs and enforce the law.

Take, for example, the National Instant Criminal Background Check System. You know, the same one that Joe Biden thinks ought to be expanded to include private sales between friends and neighbors.

The most recent federal reporting on the system shows that in a single year, more than 100,000 people are stopped from purchasing a firearm because they fail to pass the background check.

It is a crime punishable by up to 15 years in prison if you provide false information on a background-check form—for example, if you're a felon who claims to have never been convicted of a felony or if you've been adjudicated mentally ill but claim otherwise when filling out the form.

However, of those 100,000-plus annual denials, only a dozen or so get prosecuted each year. That's a prosecution rate so close to zero percent that the law may as well not exist. The only loophole in our background-check system is the total failure of politicians and federal agencies to enforce the law.

And, to be sure, the enforcement loophole isn't unique to background checks. It's also laying waste to many of our nation's cities, in which crime continues to spiral out of control.

Take Washington, D.C., for example—a city where violent crime has been on a sharp

increase for the past several years. It turns out that just last year, federal prosecutors in the District's U.S. Attorney's office chose not to prosecute 67% of those arrested by law enforcement.

That means if you commit a crime in D.C., there is a very good chance you will never be punished or held accountable in any way by the so-called justice system. You have to wonder, at what point the D.C. police department will simply stop arresting criminals? What's the point if the U.S. Attorney's office, which is led by a Biden appointee, allows two-thirds of the criminals you arrest to continue with their lives like nothing happened?

In Philadelphia, crime—and violent crime in particular—has essentially been decriminalized thanks to the enforcement loophole. Last year, the city's district attorney's office refused to prosecute a whopping 65% of criminals arrested for violent crime. At that rate, carjackings, armed robberies and violent assaults are all but encouraged.

In Baltimore, Maryland—a city notorious for crime, violence and murder—an astounding 40% of homicide cases go unprosecuted. No one in Baltimore is clamoring for tougher laws against murder. The laws already exist. The problem is a lack of enforcement so severe that killers know they can literally get away with murder.

The fact is, President Biden and his anti-Second Amendment allies have zero interest in closing the enforcement loophole. In fact, they're working to expand it. For the better part of three years now, Biden, Soros-funded district attorneys and gun-ban politicians have put policies in place specifically designed to keep violent criminals out of jail and on the streets.

And when those repeat offenders misuse firearms to commit crime? That's when Biden and his ilk vow to get tough on ... NRA members. That's when they take to the airwaves railing against our Second Amendment rights and the recent Supreme Court decisions that uphold those freedoms. That's when they clamor for new laws that make it harder, or even impossible, for law-abiding Americans to defend themselves and their families.

Now, more than ever, America needs a strong NRA. As a member, you are a critical component of our collective strength. Fighting together, we will restore sanity to our nation's criminal-justice system and keep politicians' hands off our freedom.

Wayne LaPierre



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



MC2[®] PISTOLS OPTIC-READY, CARRY-READY.



**MC2c[®]
Compact**
14+1/16+1 Capacity



**MC2sc[®]
Micro-Compact**
11+1/14+1 Capacity

Built for comfortable everyday carry with slim double stack magazines and a host of premium features such as optic-ready slides for easy direct mounting of micro dot optics, MC2 pistols can help provide peace of mind when you need it most.

Mossberg — Makers of dependable, hardworking firearms for more than a century.

LEARN MORE AT MOSSBERG.COM

MOSSBERG[®]
SINCE 1919



SCAN CODE FOR
MORE INFO



SAFETY TIP: Store firearms securely, inaccessible to children and unauthorized users.

Consult and comply with any and all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, requirements, and/or restrictions, including but not limited to those regarding the purchase, ownership, use, transport, and carrying of a firearm. Not all products are available in all states or jurisdictions.



By Charles L. Cotton
President

NRA OFFICERS

Charles L. Cotton
President

Bob Barr
First Vice President

David Coy
Second Vice President

Wayne LaPierre
Executive Vice President

John Frazer
Secretary

Sonya Rowling
Treasurer and
Chief Financial Officer

Randy Kozuch
Executive Director,
NRA-ILA

Joseph P. DeBergalis, Jr.
Executive Director,
General Operations



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

Share this column online at
nrapublications.org.

It's Your Most Fundamental Freedom— So Set The Record Straight.

There probably isn't enough space in this entire magazine—let alone this one-page column—to list all the anti-gun lies being told by politicians and the press today.

President Biden utters so many falsehoods about firearms that it's hard to keep count. Those who do keep count say Biden has lied at least 300 times about firearms since taking office. In 2022, Biden falsely claimed that mass shootings decreased 70% after Clinton's 1994 semi-automatic gun ban was passed and then "increased seven times" after that ban ended. Yet even Bill Clinton's own Justice Dept. admitted it couldn't find "any meaningful effect" of that ban on firearm homicide.

Last year, Biden claimed "the velocity of a bullet coming out of assault weapons is three-and-a-half times as fast as a bullet coming out of another weapon." Then he upped it to "five times faster." Again, false.

Biden repeatedly claims that "the gun industry is the only industry in America you can't sue." Again, false. Like anyone else, gun makers can be sued for liability or prosecuted for criminal conduct.

In June, even CNN made the rare admission that on the issue of firearms, Joe "no malarkey" Biden was full of bull. Covering Biden's gun-control speech in Connecticut, CNN noted that he "made at least five false claims related to guns, a subject on which he has repeatedly been inaccurate during his presidency."

But far too often, legacy-media propagandists are happy to perpetuate the lies. Last summer, *The New York Times*, for example, dusted off a widely discredited 30-year-old "study" to claim that "keeping a gun in the home brought a 2.7-fold increase in the risk of homicide."

What the *Times* didn't report was that this "researcher" cherry-picked his data, looking only at homes where homicides occurred. Nor did they mention that as a result, he found that "living alone" or "living in rented housing" were far greater "risk factors" for homicide than having a gun.

Now, some lies in the gun debate are easy to spot, but false premises are more subtle and insidious.

Case in point: In June, California Gov. Gavin Newsom proposed a new 28th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution that would, in effect, rewrite the Second Amendment. Instead of reserving rights to the people, like the rest of the Bill of Rights, Newsom's proposed amendment would ban the most popular firearms in America and institute other national prohibitions.

For the moment, set aside the fact that Newsom is widely expected to run for president, and that his gun-ban constitutional amendment is—as even the *Los Angeles Times* suggested—"a headline-grabbing political stunt to score political points."

The bigger issue is that Newsom's proposed constitutional amendment tries to establish, and the media would have us believe, and even too many of our allies accept the idea, that the Second Amendment supposedly "gives" Americans the right to keep and bear arms, as if it were some kind of permission or license granted by the government. But, that turns the Second Amendment, and the entire Bill of Rights, upside down.

NO CONSTITUTION OR GOVERNMENT OR KING EVER "GAVE" US THESE RIGHTS.

As the U.S. Supreme Court said in 1876, "The right to bear arms is not granted by the Constitution; neither is it in any manner dependent upon that instrument for its existence."

Or, as former NRA President Charlton Heston once pointed out, the Second Amendment doesn't "give" Americans the right to arms any more than a birth certificate "gives" us life. It simply sets down on paper, in concrete, codified terms, what everyone already knows: You are alive. And as a living being, your most fundamental right is your right to defend your life.

As the Declaration of Independence says, all free people "are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights." The first and most fundamental of these is our right to arms to defend ourselves.

So when you hear this kind of thing in your daily life, take the time to point out the truth: No constitution or government or king ever "gave" us these rights, so no constitution or government or king—or even Gavin Newsom—can ever take them away. As the American jurist Billings Learned Hand wrote, "Liberty lies in the hearts of men and women; when it dies there, no constitution, no law, no court can save it; no constitution, no law, no court can even do much to help it."

For the Man Who Gives Everything and Expects Nothing

If you're anything like my dad, you give your family everything. Your name, your time, your values — the people in your life know they can depend on you for practically anything. In exchange for imparting all of this energy and experience, you expect nothing in return.

The point? You deserve to treat yourself once in a while. You do so much for the people you care about. Now it's time to focus on you for just a few minutes. That's where the Men's Due Volta Watch comes in. This astonishing innovation provides a digital readout that's powered by a precise quartz engine, combining both analog and digital timekeeping.

Outfitted with a stopwatch, alarm, a.m./p.m. settings, and day, date and month complications, this timepiece stands out from the crowd. With its large face and handsome, masculine design, this watch is perfect for the back nine and the happy hour afterwards. Water-resistant up to 3 ATM, this timepiece won't wimp out if you have a run-in with a water hazard.

Other hybrid watches can sell for thousands of dollars, but because we've built more than 1 million watches, we know how to create real value. That's why we can offer this timepiece for just \$59! If you're not completely satisfied with this watch, return it for a full refund.

Act quickly! This one-of-a-kind watch has been one of our fastest sellers this year. Of our original run of 2,872, we only have 389 left for this ad! In the last couple of years there's been a watch shortage, but Stauer has got you covered. If you're the kind of man who gives everything and expects nothing in return, it's time to treat yourself.

Watch Specifications:

- Complications: stopwatch, alarm, a.m./p.m. settings, and day, date and month
- Precision movement chronograph
- Stainless steel caseback and crown
- Water-resistant to 3 ATM

Men's Due Volta Watch ~~\$399~~ **\$59*** + S&P **Save \$320**

**Special price only for customers using the offer code.*

1-800-333-2045

Your Insider Offer Code: DVW242-03



JOIN MORE THAN 1 MILLION SMART
PEOPLE WHO OWN STAUER WATCHES

Stauer, 14101 Southcross Drive W., Ste 155, Dept. DVW242-03, Burnsville, MN 55337 www.stauer.com

Stauer® | AFFORD THE EXTRAORDINARY®



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 nra.org to support NRA-ILA today!

NRA-ILA: (800) 392-8683

NRA-ILA website: nra.org

For related articles, go to nrapublications.org.

My Final Call To Vote For 2023

Last month, I wrote a feature article about the off-year elections in five states: Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Jersey and Virginia. This month, I'm dedicating my column to the same topic. That's just how important these elections are.

You see, when voters cast their ballots in these five states next month, it may not seem like there are broad, national implications involved, but there are. How the pro-Second Amendment community fares after all the votes are tallied in just one-tenth of our United States may help set the course not only for upcoming legislative efforts in those states, but also for legislative efforts in Congress.

The results could also help set the tone for next year's elections in other states, as well as on the national stage.

While Kentucky, Louisiana, and Mississippi are likely to remain relatively safe states for the Second Amendment and New Jersey likely to remain hostile, the big question will be how law-abiding gun owners fare in Virginia.

As I mentioned last month, the Old Dominion's legislature is divided, with Democrats holding a narrow majority in the Senate, and Republicans a similarly narrow majority in the House of Delegates. Republicans, headed by Gov. Glenn Youngkin, hold the major statewide offices, which Democrats held prior to the 2021 statewide elections. Virginia, over the last few decades, has been swinging back and forth from leaning Republican to leaning Democrat, and is as reliably "purple" as any state.

This means that narrow margins tend to be the difference between victory and defeat on Election Day, so Virginia's pro-gun community has an outstanding chance at affecting the outcome of many races. If pro-Second Amendment voters work together to support the candidates who support the rights of law-abiding gun owners in Virginia, we could easily see solid pro-gun majorities in both the Senate and House of Delegates.

Not only would that mean stopping anti-gun legislation in its tracks, but we could also see the repeal of anti-gun laws enacted under former Gov. Ralph Northam (D), who was able to push a radical anti-gun agenda in 2020 when there were anti-gun majorities controlling both chambers of the Virginia General Assembly.

These off-year elections are often used by political pundits to try to forecast trends for the following year's elections on a national level. Swing states like Virginia can often be far better indicators of the mood of the electorate than reliably "red" or "blue" states, and a clear victory for Second Amendment

supporters here, where NRA Headquarters is located, could not only lead to legislative success next year in the legislature, but could help build momentum for victory on Election Day 2024, when far more will be at stake.

This includes, of course, the White House.

Although Virginia may be looked at as more of a bellwether state among the off-year states, NRA members still have an opportunity to have a positive impact on the other four states.

In Kentucky, Daniel Cameron, current attorney general and Republican nominee for governor, is a proven supporter of the Second Amendment, and has earned the endorsement of the NRA-PVF. Russell Coleman is the Republican nominee seeking to replace Cameron as attorney general, and he also has committed to preserving the rights of law-abiding gun owners, and earned an NRA-PVF endorsement.

Louisiana voters will see an opportunity to elect a governor who will actually sign constitutional carry into law, as opposed to the term-limited current governor, John Bel Edwards (D), who vetoed that legislation when it was placed on his desk. Current Louisiana attorney general Jeff Landry (R) is running to succeed Edwards, and he has proven himself a staunch defender of our right to keep and bear arms, earning his NRA-PVF endorsement. There is no doubt he would sign constitutional carry if elected governor.

Current Mississippi Gov. Tate Reeves (R) is running for re-election, and has repeatedly shown that he can be counted on to defend the Second Amendment. He is also NRA-PVF endorsed.

And although New Jersey is clearly a difficult state for those who cherish freedom, there are clear opportunities for the pro-gun community to begin the process of turning that anti-gun tide.

I don't have the space to cover all the races at play, but readers of this magazine in the states where elections will be held will receive that information. Many have also likely received our famous hunter-orange postcards announcing endorsements, or will soon, along with additional information informed voters who cherish the Second Amendment will need when they are ready to cast their ballots. You can also find this information online, at nrapvf.org or simply scan the QR code on the cover of this magazine.

Please be sure to use our information, and share it with like-minded voters, when it is time to vote. Remember, your vote is your voice, so make sure it is heard loud and clear!

800-338-3220 | HORNADY.COM



NEW

7 PRC

The new 7mm Precision Rifle Cartridge delivers results from the treestand to the mountain top. This high performance, modern 7mm cartridge utilizes long, heavy for caliber bullets in a standard long action. With results you can count on, trust your next hunt or ELR match to the 7mm PRC.



FIND OUT MORE



Precision Hunter®
175 gr. ELD-X®

Match™
180 gr. ELD® Match

Outfitter®
160 gr. CX™

By Randy Kozuch
Executive Director,
NRA-ILA



Supreme Court Case Rein vigorates The Second Amendment

In May, we wrote about the dramatic events leading up to the historic 2016 presidential election, in which Donald Trump made judicial nominations a centerpiece of his campaign. That article explained how President Trump fortified the U.S. Supreme Court with Originalist appointments and how that in turn led to last year's pivotal decision in the NRA-supported case *New York State Rifle & Pistol Association v. Bruen*. *Bruen*, by all accounts, has transformed the landscape of Second Amendment litigation, forcing anti-gun activists and politically minded judges to reckon with a world in which the Second Amendment is treated with the same dignity as other fundamental constitutional rights.

This month I'd like to delve deeper into the current landscape of Second Amendment litigation and the furious reaction it is provoking within the firearm-prohibition lobby. The takeaway is that while judicial decisions set the bounds of what is legally permissible, it still takes winning elections to ensure those boundaries are respected in the policies and rules that govern firearm owners within the United States.

The *Bruen* case challenged New York's "may-issue" concealed-carry licensing regime (the only way New Yorkers can lawfully carry for self-defense) as a violation of the right to "bear" arms under the Second Amendment. This was because licensing officials had discretion to deny even otherwise-eligible applicants for lacking a "special need" for self-defense and used this discretion to make the granting of licenses the exception, rather than the rule. A six-justice majority of the court made several important rulings in an opinion authored by Justice Clarence Thomas.

First, it held, "the Second and Fourteenth Amendments protect an individual's right to carry a handgun for self-defense outside the home."

Second, the court ruled: "Because the State of New York issues public-carry licenses only when an applicant demonstrates a special need for self-defense, we conclude that the State's licensing regime violates the Constitution."

A third aspect of the case clarified the methodology judges must use when deciding cases under the Second Amendment. This holding disavowed the "interest-balancing" tests that had become common among lower courts in the years after the Supreme Court's 2008 decision in *District of Columbia v. Heller*, which nullified D.C.'s ban on handguns and operable firearms within the home.

Instead, it clarified and re-asserted *Heller's* own standard of review, which "centered on constitutional text and history." The court explained: "When the Second Amendment's plain text covers an individual's conduct, the Constitution presumptively protects that conduct." In that case, "The government must then justify its regulation by demonstrating that it is consistent with the Nation's historical tradition of firearm regulation." "Only then," the majority instructed, "may a court conclude that the individual's conduct falls outside the Second Amendment's 'unqualified command.'"

Post-*Heller*, judges had been choosing outcomes based on their subjective estimation of who had the stronger interest in the case. This in practice almost always led to courts upholding gun-control laws, as their purported basis (although rarely borne out in fact) was to ensure "public safety," the highest value a court can ascribe to official conduct. This meant that virtually any restriction or requirement short of an unqualified gun ban was permissible, even if it imposed substantial burdens on the exercise of the right.

Bruen, on the other hand, re-emphasized that the Second Amendment means what it says. And for the



state to overcome its clear command that “the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed,” it has to show its regulation is consistent with “a relevantly similar” historical tradition that would have been known to the Founding generation.

This standard of review reduces what the Supreme Court called the “judge-empowering” effects of “interest-balancing” and redirects the inquiry to the more objective question of what sorts of firearm laws were tolerated by those who lived at the time the Second Amendment was adopted.

It’s hard to overstate how fundamentally different the *Bruen* inquiry is from what courts were doing post-*Heller* or how much anguish it is causing anti-gun activists who were used to judges reflexively deferring to public officials’ invocations of “public safety,” no matter how far-fetched. But the difference can be seen in the decisions of the cases themselves.

Jacob Charles, a law professor at Pepperdine University in Malibu, Calif., has been tracking the outcome of Second Amendment cases in *Bruen*’s wake. A July article in *Politico* magazine summarizing an upcoming law review article by Professor Charles noted that “more than a dozen state and federal laws have been invalidated in whole or in part since the *Bruen* decision.” More specifically, according to the *Politico* piece: “Thirty percent of civil cases and nearly 4 percent of criminal cases that have cited *Bruen* have resulted in the invalidation of gun control provisions, among 284 total decisions addressing Second Amendment claims.” This, the author adds, “greatly outpaces the immediate aftermath of the 2008 decision in *District of Columbia v. Heller*.”

Notable cases include, for example, the issue of whether the Second Amendment allows the government to ban law-abiding adults aged 18 to 20 from buying otherwise-legal types of firearms. A panel decision from the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals initially said “no” but then was bizarrely vacated as moot when the plaintiff in the case became old enough to satisfy the law. On the other hand, a panel decision from the Eleventh Circuit Court of appeals in an NRA-backed case initially said “yes.” But that decision, too, was vacated, when the full Eleventh Circuit decided to rehear the case.

The gun-control movement, moreover, often prides itself on being “trailblazing,” “groundbreaking” and “progressive.” Examples of this include such “novel” ideas as “smart gun” mandates, liability insurance as a pre-condition of gun ownership, “safety standards” for gun designs, firearm and ammunition “sin” taxes, and the list continues. Yet admitting these are new ideas in firearm regulation basically admits they fail the *Bruen* standard of review.

THE ESSENCE OF *BRUEN* IS THAT COURTS HAVE TO TAKE THE SECOND AMENDMENT SERIOUSLY.

That doesn’t mean, however, that no firearm regulation is allowed under *Bruen* or that modern laws have to be framed in the identical language of their 18th and 19th century forebears. There is some room for “analogical reasoning” under the “relevantly similar” framework. How much room, however, remains to be determined. The Supreme Court has already taken a case that is sure to be closely watched involving a firearm prohibition for persons subject to certain domestic violence restraining orders. The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals rejected the government’s proposed analogues as too broad and dissimilar from the challenged prohibition, which became law in the late 1990s. How the high court rules in that case should clarify what sort of “dangerous people” prohibitions remain permissible under the Second Amendment.

The essence of *Bruen* is that courts have to take the Second Amendment seriously. And Donald Trump’s remaking of not just the U.S. Supreme Court, but of the federal judiciary nationwide, helps reinforce the chance that courts will apply that standard faithfully. Yet even normally activist courts have less room to maneuver under the historical analysis now required in Second Amendment cases, and the burden

is back on the government—where it should be—to muster the historical evidence to support its modern laws.

Of course, the idea that anti-gun legislatures are now subject to meaningful constitutional constraints infuriates gun-control proponents, whose main reactions to the *Bruen* decision have been denial and defiance. As I’ve discussed previously, New York and other anti-gun states made their carry laws even more restrictive after *Bruen*. And statistics emerging from licensing officials in New York City reveal they are granting even fewer permit applications than before New York lost the case. Another upcoming law review article actually argues in favor of “flagrantly” unconstitutional firearm seizures, banking on the legal concept of “qualified immunity” to shield the perpetrators of these lawless actions from consequences, at least when there is no prior judicial decision with similar facts. Calls to “reform” the court and impeach conservative justices abound among anti-gunners.

Such actions, of course, merely prompt additional litigation. Indeed, cases challenging *Bruen* backlash laws are already making their way through the courts, with the usual mixed results at different stages of the process. Judicial activism remains stubbornly prevalent, with even San Jose’s “innovative” insurance mandate upheld (for now). As ever, the Supreme Court will have the final say, to the degree it decides to get involved.

But this only underscores the importance of continued political participation by pro-gun Americans. Besides the clear value of a pro-gun executive appointing judges and other officers who respect the Second Amendment, pro-gun legislators temper the anarchic tendencies of aggrieved anti-gunners who petulantly seek to tear down whatever institution, official or method of jurisprudence disappoints them. Not every abuse will get its day in court, and even beneficial judicial opinions are of limited value if those pulling the levers of power are determined to ignore or circumvent them.

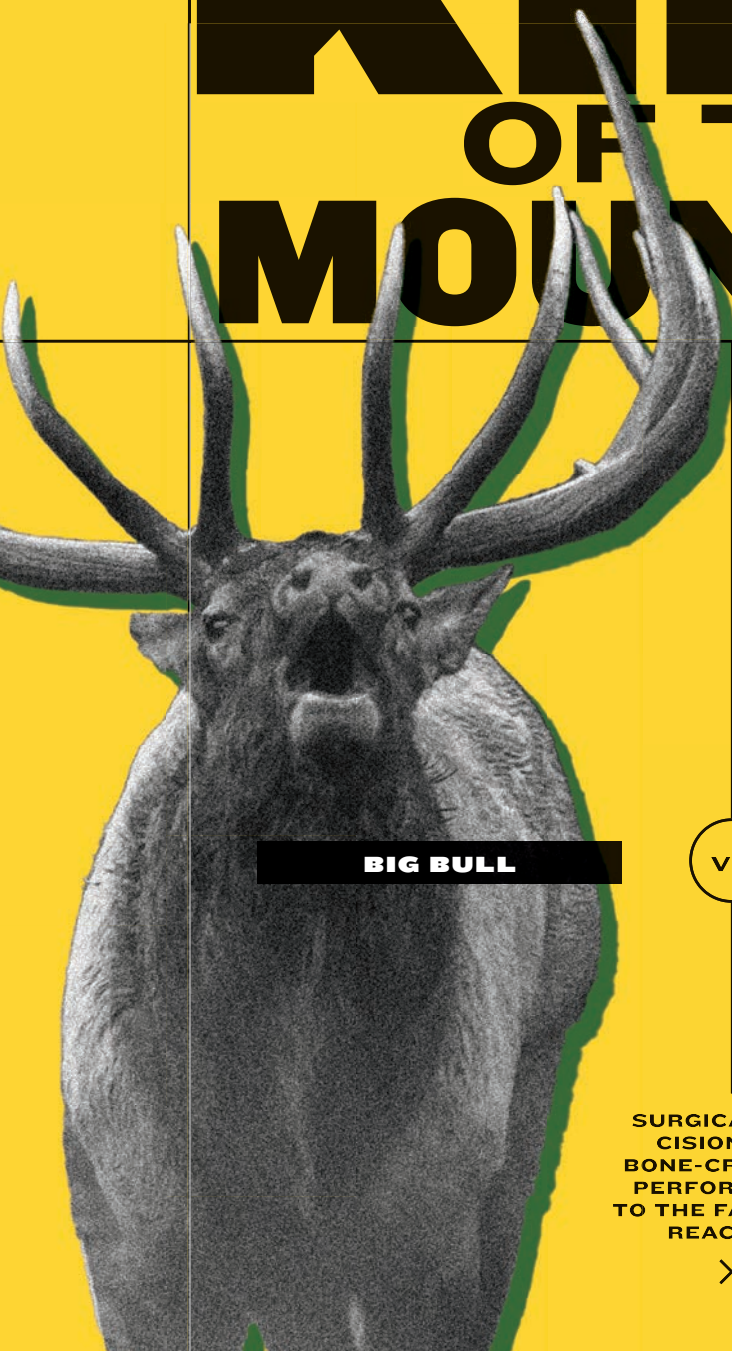
One thing both pro- and anti-gun forces can agree on: *Bruen* was not the end of the gun-control debate in America. It merely opened up new fronts in an ongoing struggle. 



REMINGTON PRESENTS



UNDISPUTED KING OF THE MOUNTAIN



BIG BULL

VS



DOMINANT FORCE

SURGICAL PRE-
CISION AND
BONE-CRUSHING
PERFORMANCE
TO THE FARTHEST
REACHES.

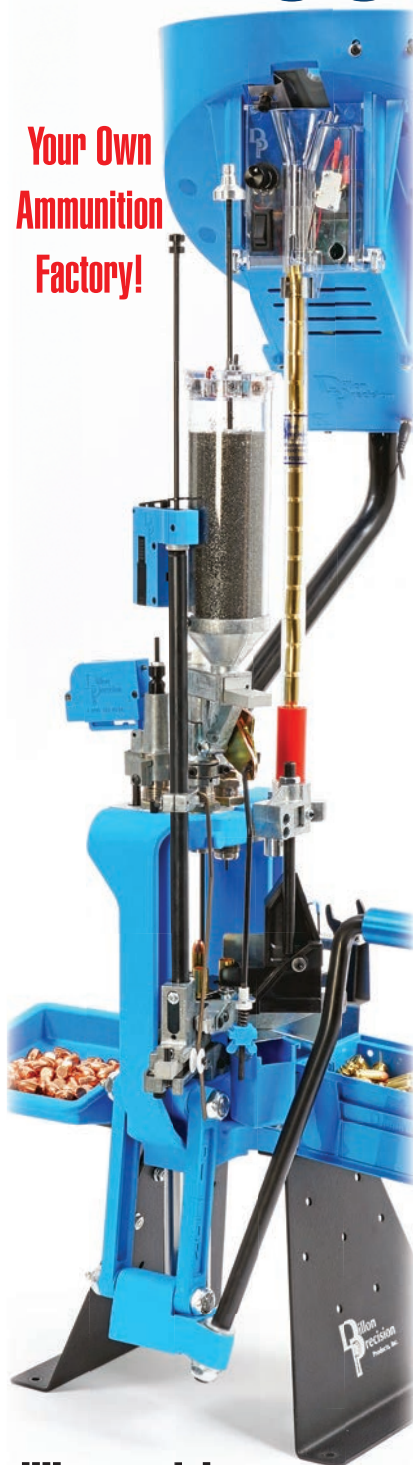


SLIPSTREAM TIP • **ULTIMATE LONG-RANGE PERFORMANCE** • SUPER-TUNED AERODYNAMICS • SLIPSTREAM TIP • **ULTIMATE**
ATTENTION • MATCH-GRADE ACCURACY • **MASSIVE 2X EXPANSION** • **HIGH WEIGHT RETENTION** • MA

BUY TODAY REMINGTON.COM

Dillon's XL750

Your Own
Ammunition
Factory!



dillonprecision.com

22

READERS WRITE

Remembering A Humble Hero

Some time ago, I sent in a picture of my father, John J. Wheeler, a World War II veteran, shown with his rifle when he was in Germany. He was only 19 when he was drafted. Dad also had four brothers that served during the same war. He told very few stories of his tour of duty. I once asked him about it, and he stated, "We went across the English Channel, England, France, Holland, Brussels and Germany."

He was trained as a radio operator in the Army, and, after the war, enrolled in a home correspondence course from 1947 to 1951. He then earned two diplomas. One was in radio and another in electricity. As a young boy, I remember him studying late at night. As the country changed and the railroads transitioned from steam power to diesel electric, dad acquired a railroading job. He first worked on steam and later acquired an electrician job, but never spoke of his degrees, nor did he display them. He worked for the Nickel Plate, New York Central and Bessemer railroads.

Dad was an outdoorsman and taught me hunting, fishing and trapping; I will never forget the hunting adventures, the hounds and the precious time we spent together—it is something that every young boy would be privileged to experience!

—VICTOR J. WHEELER



NRA member photo

In Praise Of Exploded Views

As a draftsman of machine parts and an enthusiastic novice regarding firearms, I'm writing to say that I thoroughly enjoy the "Exploded View" articles. Those regarding the Luger P08 (August 2023, p. 58) and Mossberg 940 (June 2023, p. 52) in this top-of-the-line periodical were so intriguing that I had to go over the numbers to see how the parts fit together. In one of my previous drafting positions, my work involved the creation of assembly instructions, with exploded views, for components of communication satellites and their support equipment. I thought of those as sort of reverse jigsaw puzzles. Great fun on the job.

Kudos to your graphics department and writers for creating documents that help someone who will never have the means to lay hands on any of these pieces of firearm history to experience, if only vicariously, the thrill known by someone such as John Browning when a mechanical creation not only worked but worked well enough to become a standard for others to follow. Keep up the great work.

—PETER KESSLER

Keeping The Wheel Turning

The article "Remington's New Heavy Hitter: 360 Buckhammer" (August 2023, p. 48) was interesting. While reading it, I noticed that it mentioned the cartridge was based on a .30-30 Win. case tapered to take a .35-cal. bullet and trimmed to 1.800". That seems to me to be similar to the venerable .38-55 Win. from which the .30-30 Win. was born. (It is also a kissing cousin to the .32-40 Win. and newer .375 Win. Looking in my ancient Lyman reloading manual shows the .38-55 capable of 1,884-plus f.p.s. with a 220-grain bullet—only 116 f.p.s. slower than the Buckhammer with a lighter 180-grainer. I have no doubt that, with the modern powders available today, the .38-55 Win. could reach 2,000 f.p.s. with the bigger bullet.

Remington seems to have re-invented the wheel. In doing so, it helped those hunting in states with certain restrictions, and that is good. That is what helps keep shooting interesting and spurs innovation. Overall, a good article.

—TIM KIRKLAND

In the aforementioned story, we incorrectly identified New York as a state with straight-wall hunting restrictions.—The Eds.

"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.

DESERT FDE

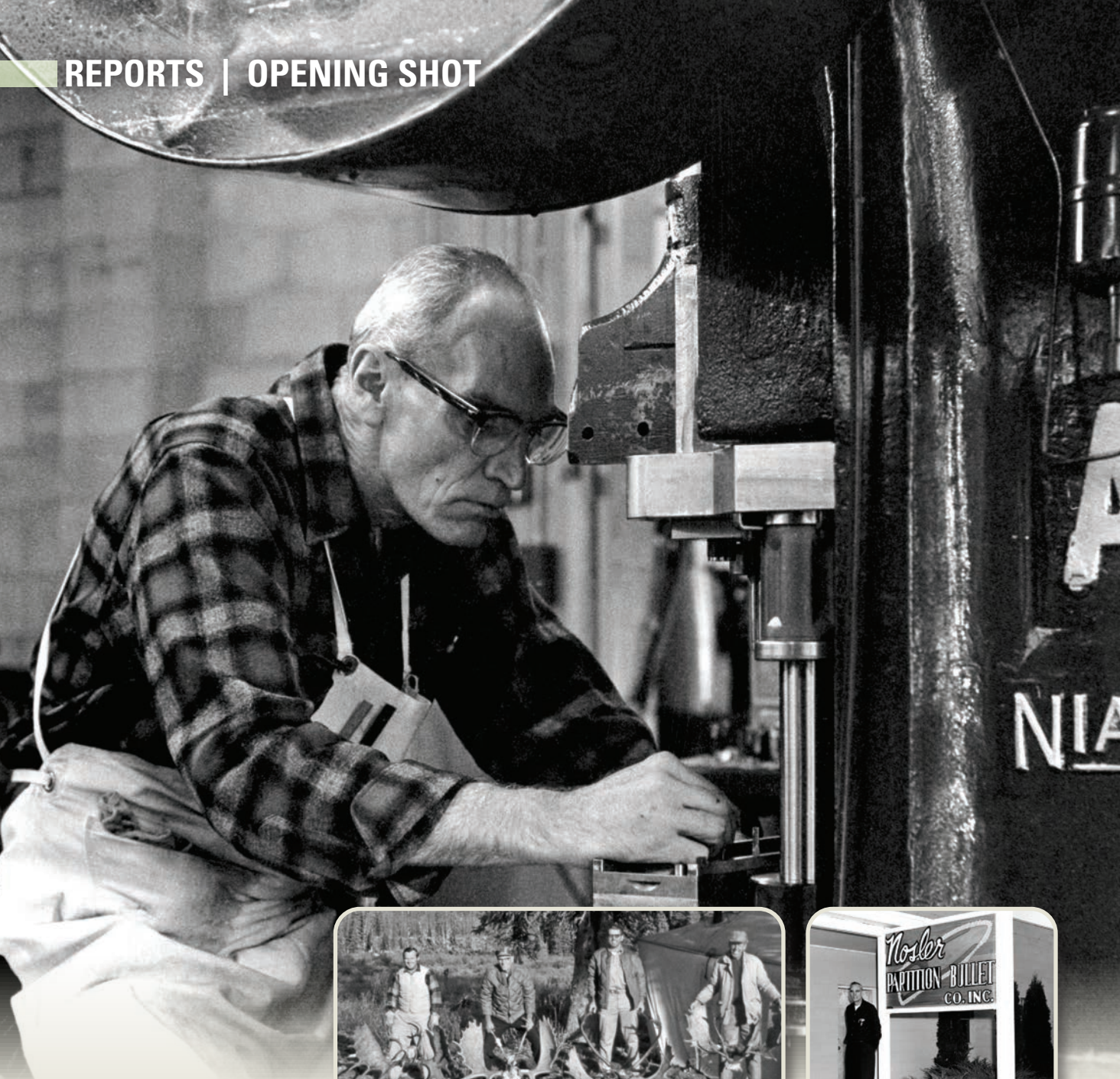
HELLCAT[®]

PRO



[SPRINGFIELD-ARMORY.COM](https://springfield-armory.com)

SPRINGFIELD ARMORY



75 Years Of Nosler

In 1946, John Nosler took aim at a Canadian bull moose with his .300 H&H Mag. rifle and fired. The shot hit home, but the moose didn't drop. He reloaded and fired again. Still, he struggled to bring the animal down. He reloaded and fired again. Ultimately, it took seven shots to finish the mud-caked moose, and after examining the projectiles he pulled from its body, he started thinking about a better way to build bullets. Two years later, Nosler founded his namesake Nosler Partition Bullet Co., which celebrates 75 years in business in 2023.

"We're humbled to celebrate a journey that started three-quarters of a century ago," said John Nosler, president and chief operating officer of Nosler, Inc. "It began with my grandfather's dream to design a better bullet—the



Nosler Partition. Today, we're carrying on his legacy by innovating and building the most accurate, effective bullets and ammunition in the industry."

Nosler's Partition bullet uses a dual lead core that's intended to ensure both penetration and expansion, and three-quarters of a century later, the bullet remains a cornerstone of the company's projectile offerings. The Nosler story started with bullets, but today the company's products include a full line of ammunition, rifles, suppressors and more, all designed to ensure that hunters find success in the field, no matter the conditions. [nosler.com](https://www.nosler.com)





BenelliUSA.com

DOMINATE THE MOMENT



LUPO BOLT-ACTION RIFLE

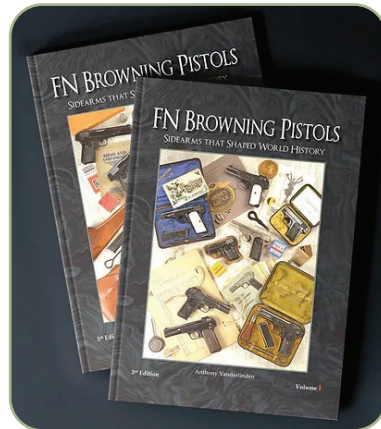
Sub MOA accuracy, advanced ergonomics and recoil-reducing comfort are engineered into this innovative chassis-style rifle. Now, with the addition of the industry-leading BE.S.T. treatment, it is unmatched when it comes to rust, corrosion and abrasions in the field. To find out more, visit **Benelli USA.com**.

 **Benelli**®

FN Browning Pistols: Sidearms That Shaped World History (3rd Edition)

FN *Browning Pistols: Sidearms That Shaped World History* by Anthony Vanderlinden is a greatly expanded follow-up to his 2nd edition, single-volume book of the same name. This is a beautifully rendered update and a “must-have” addition to your library if you have the slightest interest in the pistols produced by *Fabrique Nationale*.

Vanderlinden, who has authored five books on FN arms, as well as published more than 10 books via his Wet Dog Publications publishing house, has done much to further our understanding of the many nuances of European arms manufacturing that would be understandably lost to those of us who are only fluent in English. His in-depth history of FN and the European gun trade alone are reason enough to delve into this massive two-volume tome, but he has also scattered numerous gems



throughout the text to keep the reader curious as to what bit of newly found information will change our perceptions of what we thought of as gospel truth.

The full-color photography that graces the 840 pages gives the book an almost 3D appearance, so much so

that the chapters on factory engraving almost prompt the reader to run his or her fingers across the images.

Of special interest to the collector will be the serial numbers and years of production of every FN-made pistol from the Model 1899 through the High Power. Proofmarks and codes are revealed in detail, and no attention to detail is overlooked in the description and illustrations of stocks, accessories, and even user manuals and advertising broadsides.

Even if you have the first and second editions of the same title, you will be well served to add this edition to your collection, as the additional information is vast and significant. NRA Members will receive free shipping by using the code NRA when purchasing online from Wet Dog. Price: \$150. Contact: *Wet Dog Publications*; (336) 394-4138; fnbrowning.com.

—PHILIP SCHREIER, DIRECTOR, NRA MUSEUMS

SCR® SPORT CONFIGURABLE RIFLE



- Multi-Caliber
- Modular Design
- Accepts AR Uppers
- Uses AR Magazines
- Lower Assemblies Available
- Rugged, Lightweight & Accurate



NEW

M&P[®] 22 MAGNUM



30-ROUND RUSH

Introducing the New M&P[®] 22 MAGNUM

This handgun is all about bringing more – more capacity, more reliability, more consistency, more excitement. With a staggering 30 rounds in the magazine, you can enjoy more time shooting and less time spent reloading. Using the Tempo™ barrel system, the front gas port keeps everything working as it should – no moving parts until they're supposed to be moving. With an optics-cut slide, out of the box, you can mount most micro red dots and hit the range. Get more with the new M&P[®] 22 Magnum.



Smith & Wesson[®]

EMPOWERING AMERICANS™

©2023 Smith & Wesson Inc. All Rights Reserved

FN Five-seveN MRD

With the recent resurgence in the popularity of the 5.7x28 mm FN cartridge, FN America has refreshed its original Five-seveN pistol, incorporating several new elements not found on the company's original design. One of the most notable upgrades is the addition of a milled slide, which allows users to mount most micro red-dot sights (MRDs) using a system of proprietary adapter plates; a polymer cover plate is included. A set of adjustable iron sights, complete with a photoluminescent front sight, can be co-witnessed

with most mounted MRDs. The slide's profile has also been updated, featuring a squared-off top, along with aggressive serrations fore and aft. A pair of enlarged wings at the rear aid users in racking the slide. Aggressive texturing has also been added to the sides of the grip while retaining the horizontal serrations on the frontstrap and backstrap. Each pistol ships with two 20-round magazines. Price: \$1,509. Contact: FN America; (703) 288-3500; fnamerica.com.



Determinator Effective Range Targets

A rifle shooter's capacity to group tightly from a stable bench actually reveals very little about his or her ability to place accurate shots on game from less-ideal field positions, and that reality is what makes Determinator Effective Range Targets such a great idea for pre-hunt training. Designed to be set up at 100 yards and then shot five times (with a zeroed rifle) from a position likely to be utilized on the hunt, the targets feature concentric circles assigned to different distances that allow users to determine their own effective range from that position without requiring access to a long-range facility. Available in multiple versions that replicate the vital zones of various species of North American game (whitetail deer shown), Determinator targets come five to a pack. Price: \$10 to \$25 (varies by species). Contact: JMA Outdoors, Inc.; determinatortargets.com.

Ditale Outdoors Sofia Adventure Pant

Designed for female hunters by female hunters, the Sofia Adventure Pant is one of new company Ditale Outdoors' inaugural offerings. Made from a 92/8 blend of polyester and spandex, the Sofia is well-suited to hard use in the field: It is water-resistant, whisper-quiet, stretchy enough to not limit mobility, compatible with knee pad inserts (not included) and provides several pockets for storage. The Sofia Adventure Pant is offered in an abundance of sizes—from XX Small to 3X (both regular and curvy cuts are available)—in either solid Juniper Green or TrueTimber's Strata camouflage pattern. Price: \$179. Contact: Ditale Outdoors; ditaleoutdoors.com.



N8 Tactical Magna-Clip Magazine Carrier

For many folks, the idea of adding a spare magazine to their EDC setups is a non-starter, because of the added bulk and possible discomfort of a magazine carrier. N8 Tactical has developed an easy, low-profile solution that allows for comfortable pocket carry of a spare magazine without added bulk. The Magna-Clip uses a set of powerful magnets that secures the side and back of a metal-bodied magazine. The strong spring clip keeps the carrier in the pocket, while the magnetic retainer secures and properly orients a spare magazine for fast deployment from a pocket. The magnetic pull is strong enough to retain magazines with overmolded plastic exteriors, such as factory Glock options, and is versatile enough to work with nearly any metal-bodied handgun magazine. Price: \$30. Contact: N8 Tactical; (888) 732-5011; n8.crossbreedholsters.com.



Speer Gold Dot Carbine Ammunition

Pistol-caliber carbines have become more popular in recent years, and Speer Ammo is taking advantage of the platforms' longer barrel lengths with a specially developed defensive ammunition. Speer Gold Dot Carbine loads have been formulated to achieve improved velocities through the 16" barrels found on most of today's PCCs, and the 9 mm Luger load has been tuned to feed reliably in most carbines. The rounds are loaded with a 135-grain Gold Dot G2 projectile that has an elastomer tip to improve expansion after penetrating barriers. Speer records a muzzle velocity of 1,170 f.p.s. Price: \$77 (50 rounds). Contact: Speer Ammo; (877) 426-7849; speer.com.





HENRY

Made In America,
Or Not Made At All



For vermin and pests, a flat-shooting, high-velocity cartridge is a must. So are fast follow-up shots, the ability to mount optics, and using a trim platform that won't weigh you down while on patrol. A lever or pump action rifle from Henry Repeating Arms chambered in .22 Magnum or .17 HMR is the perfect choice for keeping land and property pest-free.

MANY OPTIONS TO CHOOSE FROM FOR **VARMINT & PEST CONTROL**

EVERY HENRY IS **MADE IN AMERICA** AND BACKED BY A **LIFETIME WARRANTY**



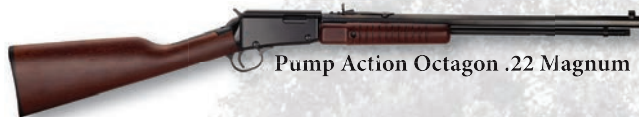
Classic Lever Action .22 Magnum



Varmint Express .17 HMR



Lever Action .22 Magnum Express



Pump Action Octagon .22 Magnum



Golden Boy
.22 Magnum | .17 HMR



Golden Boy Deluxe Engraved
.22 Magnum | .17 HMR



Lever Action Octagon Frontier
.22 Magnum | .17 HMR



Frontier Model Long Barrel 24"
.22 Magnum



Frontier Model Threaded Barrel
.22 Magnum



Silver Eagle
.22 Magnum | .17 HMR



Small Game Carbine .22 Magnum



Golden Boy Silver
.22 Magnum | .17 HMR



Small Game Rifle .22 Magnum



Mare's Leg .22 Magnum

Henry Repeating Arms offers over 200 different models of rifles, shotguns, and revolvers in a wide variety of calibers and finishes.

**VISIT HENRYUSA.COM OR SCAN THE QR
TO ORDER A FREE CATALOG & DECALS**



Sightron S-TAC 1-4.5X 24 mm SR1 Service Rifle Scope

A second-focal-plane, low-power variable optic designed for CMP Service Rifle and NRA High Power competition, Sightron's S-TAC 1-4.5X 24 mm SR1 offers a host of useful features. The 10.3"-long, 20.8-oz. scope's multi-coated lens promote optimal light transmission and reduce flare, and its matte-black aluminum construction includes a nitrogen-purged 30 mm main tube that provides IPX 7-rated waterproofing, 1,000-G shockproofing and fogproofing to guard against harsh environmental conditions. The S-TAC features tactical turrets with easy-to-read numbers and tactile, audible 1/4-m.o.a. ExacTrack click adjustments that span 100 m.o.a. of

elevation and 60 m.o.a. of windage. Eye relief is 3.3"-3.9", field of view is 23 to 110 feet at 100 yards, and parallax is set at 150 yards. The company's new SR1 reticle consists of a 9-m.o.a. circle surrounding a 1/2-m.o.a. aiming dot, and 1-m.o.a. horizontal and lower vertical stadia lines guide the eye to the reticle's center. An instruction manual, 1.5 mm Allen key and lens cloth are included along with the company's Lifetime Performance Guarantee. Price: \$500. Contact: Sightron; (919) 562-3000; sightron.com.



Mission First Tactical Belly Band Holster

Mission First Tactical now offers a versatile holster system capable of carrying a firearm safely and comfortably while running, hiking, biking and more. The company's Belly Band Holster is constructed using a mesh fabric that allows air and moisture to pass through, while the gun is secured within a thick elastic band complete with a hard laminate trigger shield. The holster allows for ambidextrous use and is capable of accepting a range of firearm models. Two elastic pockets allow the wearer to carry spare magazines and other EDC accessories, and two zippered pockets ensure the wearer can secure cash, credit cards, keys and other essential items. The elastic band fits waist sizes from 26" to 52" and can be adjusted easily. Price: \$50. Contact: Mission First Tactical; (267) 704-0001; missionfirsttactical.com.



My Medic MyFAK Pro

The MyFAK Pro from My Medic is a heavy-duty but lightweight first-aid kit packed with more than 140 life-saving supplies hand-picked by first responders and other medical professionals. A complete list of everything included in the kit is available on the My Medic website, but the contents are color-coded and thoughtfully organized for rapid access. Supply categories—each separated within its own internal pocket—include: hemorrhage care; burn treatment; medication; sport and outdoor; topical treatment; airway care; sprain and fracture; hydration; and seven sundry multi-purpose tools and devices. The MyFAK Pro's durable nylon bag (which is available in seven colors) is not only MOLLE-compatible, but it features its own PALS-style webbing for the attachment of additional accessories. Price: \$300. Contact: My Medic; (866) 377-8243; mymedic.com.



ProMag Ruger Mini Thirty 50-Round Drum

You can more than double the capacity of the Ruger Mini Thirty semi-automatic rifle with ProMag's 50-round drum magazine. With a body constructed from a proprietary nylon resin, a hybrid steel/polymer magazine tower and a heat-treated stainless-steel magazine spring, the drum weighs 1 lb., 14 ozs., empty and 3 lbs., 12 ozs., when filled with 7.62x39 mm cartridges. Drum magazines can have a reputation for being unreliable, but the ProMag functioned perfectly well through three separate range trips. The drum is far faster to empty than it is to fill, however; even once you understand the process for reloading it, expect it to take a good 5 minutes to load all 50 rounds. Price: \$130. Contact: ProMag Industries; (562) 861-9554; promagindustries.com.



Tyrant Designs NexGen Buttstock — AR15

With various components constructed of lightweight aluminum, carbon fiber, polymer and stainless steel, the NexGen Buttstock — AR15 from Tyrant Designs provides ruggedness in a compact package that weighs only 9 ozs. Compatible with any standard mil-spec, carbine-length receiver extension, the NexGen buttstock features a thick rubber buttpad that very effectively dampens the rifle's recoil,

while its 15-degree slanted toe helps facilitate rolling the rifle into position from low ready when it's time to engage the target. Bilateral LOP-adjustment levers and a double-sided QD sling cup allow the unit to be run equally well by right- and left-handed shooters alike, and it is offered in five colors. Price: \$150. Contact: Tyrant Designs; (800) 905-4080; tyrantcnc.com.





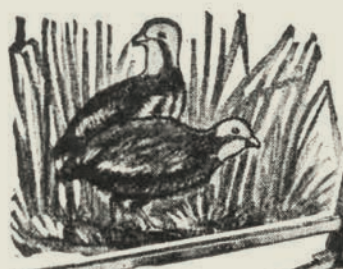
UPGRADE YOUR EQUIPMENT AND YOUR SKILLS

Even after you upgrade to a new HK VP9, with its best-in-class trigger pull and ergonomic, customizable grip, you're not quite done yet. You still need a couple of important accessories. And we're not talking about holsters, lights and optics either. Training and Practice – They are two different things and we all need more of both. Look into it ... and go do the work!

HK
HECKLER & KOCH



www.hk-usa.com • 706-701-5554

Two Guns —in One

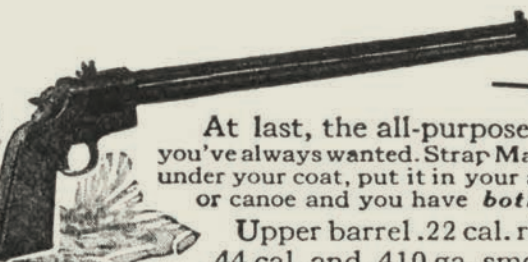
At last, the all-purpose gun—something you've always wanted. Strap Marble's Game Getter under your coat, put it in your automobile, suitcase or canoe and you have *both* rifle and shotgun.

Upper barrel .22 cal. rifled—lower barrel .44 cal. and .410 ga. smooth bore, for shot, or round ball. 12, 15 or 18 in. barrel. A more accurate .22 cannot be found. For rabbits, birds, etc., it almost equals a 28 ga. shotgun.

Sold by dealers who handle Marble's axes, knives, gun sights, cleaners, etc. Order direct if your dealer can't supply you. Ask for catalog.

Prices include No. M21—12-in. barrels, complete with fine leather holster....\$25.50
 Revenue Tax, No. M21—15-in. barrels, complete with fine leather holster.... 27.00
 f.o.b. factory. No. M21—18-in. barrels, complete with fine leather holster.... 28.50

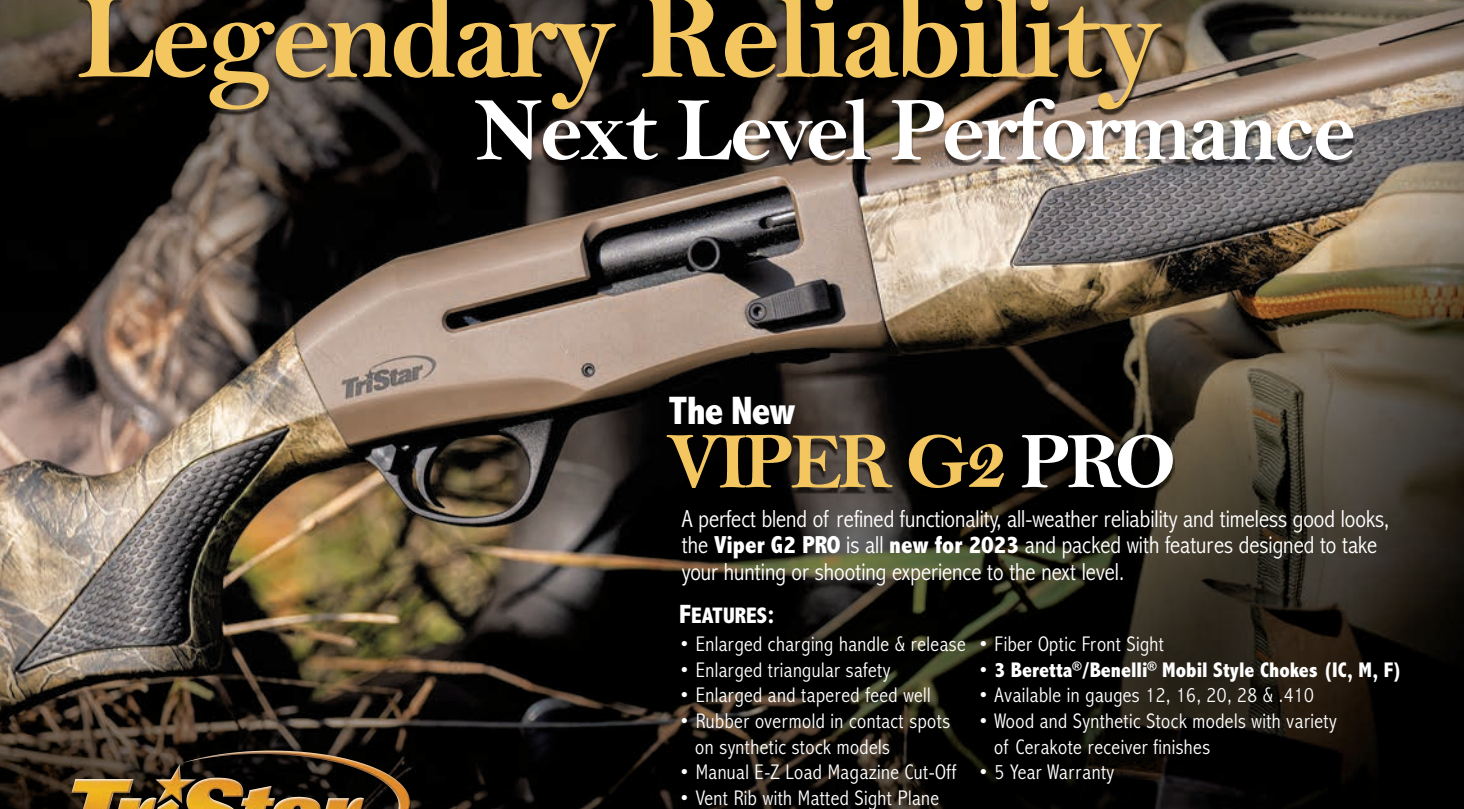
MARBLE ARMS & MFG. CO., 502 Delta Ave., Gladstone, Mich.


MARBLE'S GAME GETTER

[American Rifleman archives 1923]

Legendary Reliability Next Level Performance



The New VIPER G2 PRO

A perfect blend of refined functionality, all-weather reliability and timeless good looks, the **Viper G2 PRO** is all **new for 2023** and packed with features designed to take your hunting or shooting experience to the next level.

FEATURES:

- Enlarged charging handle & release
- Enlarged triangular safety
- Enlarged and tapered feed well
- Rubber overmold in contact spots on synthetic stock models
- Manual E-Z Load Magazine Cut-Off
- Vent Rib with Matted Sight Plane
- Fiber Optic Front Sight
- **3 Beretta®/Benelli® Mobil Style Chokes (IC, M, F)**
- Available in gauges 12, 16, 20, 28 & .410
- Wood and Synthetic Stock models with variety of Cerakote receiver finishes
- 5 Year Warranty

TriStar

1816 Linn Street, North Kansas City, MO 64116 • 816.421.1400

TRISTARARMS.COM



I 'Bearly' Made It Out Alive

A 12-inch stainless steel knife for only \$79



Stauer
Impossible Price
ONLY

\$79

What Stauer Clients Are Saying About Our Knives



"The feel of this knife is unbelievable... this is an incredibly fine instrument." — H., Arvada, CO



"This knife is beautiful!" — J., La Crescent, MN



It was a perfect late autumn day in the northern Rockies. Not a cloud in the sky, and just enough cool in the air to stir up nostalgic memories of my trip into the backwoods. This year, though, was different. I was going it solo. My two buddies, pleading work responsibilities, backed out at the last minute. So, armed with my trusty knife, I set out for adventure.

Well, what I found was a whole lot of trouble. As in 8 feet and 800-pounds of trouble in the form of a grizzly bear. Seems this grumpy fella was out looking for some adventure too. Mr. Grizzly saw me, stood up to his entire 8 feet of ferocity and let out a roar that made my blood turn to ice and my hair stand up. Unsnapping my leather sheath, I felt for my hefty, trusty knife and felt emboldened. I then showed the massive grizzly over 6 inches of 420 surgical grade stainless steel, raised my hands and yelled, "Whoa bear! Whoa bear!" I must have made my point, as he gave me an almost admiring grunt before turning tail and heading back into the woods.

JOIN MORE THAN 322,000 SHARP
PEOPLE WHO COLLECT STAUER KNIVES

I was pretty shaken, but otherwise fine. Once the adrenaline high subsided, I decided I had some work to do back home too. That was more than enough adventure for one day.

Our Grizzly Hunting Knife pays tribute to the call of the wild. Featuring stick-tang construction, you can feel confident in the strength and durability of this knife. And the hand carved, natural bone handle ensures you won't lose your grip even in the most dire of circumstances. I also made certain to give it a great price. After all, you should be able to get your point across without getting stuck with a high price.

But we don't stop there. While supplies last, we'll include a pair of \$99 8x21 power compact binoculars **FREE** when you purchase the Grizzly Hunting Knife.

Make sure to act quickly. The Grizzly Hunting Knife has been such a hit that we're having trouble keeping it in stock. Our first release of more than 1,200 SOLD OUT in TWO DAYS! After months of waiting on our artisans, we've finally gotten some knives back in stock. Only 1,337 are available at this price, and half of them have already sold!

Knife Specifications:

- Stick tang 420 surgical stainless steel blade; 7 1/4" blade; 12" overall
- Hand carved natural brown and yellow bone handle
- Brass hand guard, spacers and end cap
- FREE genuine tooled leather sheath included (a \$49 value!)

The Grizzly Hunting Knife ~~\$249~~ \$79* + S&P
Save \$170

California residents please call 1-800-333-2045 regarding Proposition 65 regulations before purchasing this product.

**Special price only for customers using the offer code.*

1-800-333-2045

Your Insider Offer Code: GHK287-02

**EXCLUSIVE
FREE**

**Stauer 8x21
Compact Binoculars**
-a \$99 value-
with your purchase of the
Grizzly Hunting Knife



Stauer, 14101 Southcross Drive W., Ste 155, Dept. GHK287-02, Burnsville, MN 55337 www.stauer.com

Stauer® | AFFORD THE EXTRAORDINARY®

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Slugs For Rifled And Smooth Bores

Q I recently acquired a used Mossberg 835 shotgun in 12 gauge. The 24" barrel is rifled, ported and has a 3.5" chamber. The owner's manual says not to shoot rifled slugs in this barrel, only sabot slugs. Why is that?

A The conventional lead "rifled slug" was developed for use in smoothbore shotguns—the European Brenneke in the late 19th century and then the American Foster style in the mid-1930s. The "ribbing" on the projectile is not rifling but a means to allow the slug to be drawn down to pass through various degrees of choke as found on upland and waterfowl shotguns. The ballistic effect upon being fired is essentially a knuckleball, so accuracy can be difficult to predict, although some report adequate results.

The development of rifled shotgun barrels and sabot-design projectiles went hand in hand—neither is of much use without the other. I believe Remington was the first

in the marketplace. Projectiles with a sabot are for use in rifled barrels. "Rifled slugs" are for use in smoothbores and are inappropriate in rifled barrels, as they are undersize and do not properly engage the rifling, hence the reports of leading and other fouling.

Now for the confusing part. The Mossberg 835 was introduced with several innovations, one being its "over-bore" 12-ga. barrel for bird shooting. Instead of the standard 12-ga. (0.729") bore diameter, it features a 10-ga. (0.775") smooth bore. The use of "rifled slugs" down this barrel, however, results in very unimpressive performance. The warning to not use rifled slugs applies to the smoothbore-version barrels. To cover all its bases, Mossberg offers a rifled barrel for installation on the 835, of standard bore dimensions, appropriate for use with sabot projectiles. Apparently, this is the barrel you possess, and you would be wise to utilize only sabot-design ammunition through it.

—JOHN W. TREACLE, CONTRIBUTING 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.

American Rifleman archives, August 1998



INNOVATION HAS A BOLD NEW LOOK.



Tisas
NIGHT STALKER SERIES

With two all-new signature models to choose from, the Night Stalker series boasts thoughtful design, rugged styling and a long list of impressive yet standard features designed to elevate your shooting experience.



PX9
Available in 9mm

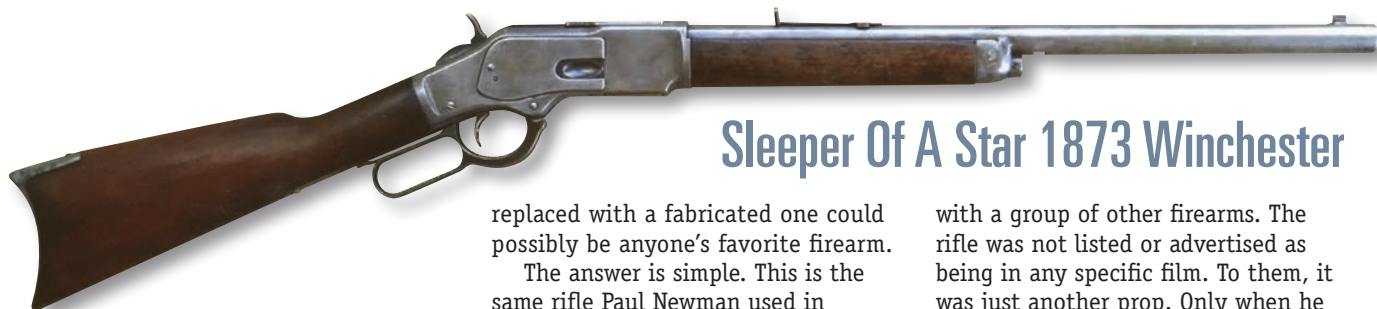


1911
Available in 9mm,
.45 ACP and 10mm

Tisas

TISASUSA.COM

FAVORITE FIREARMS



Sleeper Of A Star 1873 Winchester

You may wonder why a Model 1873 Winchester in .44-40 Win., with all of its bluing gone, a shortened barrel and magazine tube, a scrap metal front sight silver-soldered to the barrel, the fore-end tip welded to the barrel, the tubular magazine welded to the end tip, a badly cracked wooden fore-end, a missing lever latch, a missing rear sight elevator, two holes drilled through the trigger, the wrong buttplate, and the original buttstock

replaced with a fabricated one could possibly be anyone's favorite firearm.

The answer is simple. This is the same rifle Paul Newman used in the 1967 Western film, "Hombre." Surprisingly, it was exactly in this condition in the film, as confirmed through careful examination of a high-resolution DVD of the film.

I obtained this rifle in 2017 from Peter Sherayko, who played "Texas Jack" Vermillion in the 1993 film, "Tombstone," and have displayed it at numerous gun shows and related events across the country. Peter bought the rifle at auction from 20th Century Fox in the late 1980s along

with a group of other firearms. The rifle was not listed or advertised as being in any specific film. To them, it was just another prop. Only when he got it home did Peter recognize it as the "Hombre" Winchester.

"20TH FOX" is stamped on the bottom of the receiver, and "5 IN 1" has been scratched on top of the receiver to indicate that the rifle is compatible with the 5-in-1 blank cartridge used interchangeably in three popular revolver chamberings and two popular rifle chamberings commonly seen in earlier Hollywood Western films. The rifle is fully functional and shoots great.

—RONALD A. CLAYTON

NRA member photo

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.

DEER SEASON XP®

Deer Season XP® combines accuracy with knockdown performance for the perfect deer hunting cartridge.

BIGGER TIP. BIGGER IMPACT®



- + MAXIMUM ACCURACY**
Streamlined profile and large polymer tip combine for ideal ballistic characteristics
- + MASSIVE IMPACT**
Accelerated bullet expansion creates rapid energy transfer for devastating trauma
- + RAPID EXPANSION**
Contoured jacket with tapered profile and alloyed lead core ensure terminal penetration



LEARN MORE ABOUT
WINCHESTER PRODUCTS



WHERE CAN I BUY WINCHESTER AMMUNITION?
Visit Winchester.com to find a dealer near you!
© 2023 Olin Winchester, LLC

W
WINCHESTER

GUN
OWNERS
CARE
GunOwnersCare.org

SPRINGFIELD ECHELON

The Leading Edge Of Self-Defense

A new full-size pistol from a trusted brand brings the latest thinking to bear on the striker-fired, polymer-frame semi-automatic format—whether for duty or everyday carry.

BY BRIAN C. SHEETZ, Editor In Chief



Taking its name from the diagonally oriented military advance formation used at least since the time of the Thebans' battle with the Spartans at Leuktra in 371 B.C., the all-new Echelon pistol from Springfield Armory is a polymer-frame semi-automatic that holds its own among the world's best designs. And even though it is wrought from the same decades-long partnership with *HS Produkt* in Croatia that resulted in Springfield's highly successful XD-branded antecedents, the Echelon is, technically, quite different. In fact, as its name suggests, the Echelon should be thought of as "out front" of those lines.

Yes, the guns' shared engineering and manufacturing DNA is readily apparent, but the Echelon leverages its parents' expertise to chart a new course. According to Steve Kramer, vice president of marketing for Springfield, "We wanted to go back and re-invent the battle handgun—one suitable for combat or duty use." And that commitment to developing a durable, capacious and adaptable design is evident in the Echelon's features. The evaluation that follows, however, suggests that Springfield has not only accomplished that mission but that its new offering is also eminently suitable for the dedicated armed citizen.

A Worthy Pedigree

It's worth noting here that my past experiences with *HS Produkt* firearms have been positive and that I consider them first-rate in terms of design and quality control—an assessment not out of line with their selection as the provider of service arms for the military forces of Croatia, a NATO member. Further, conversations with Springfield personnel whose reputations as gunsmiths and shooters are highly regarded testify to the fact that the company's factory in the city of Karlovac is one of the most advanced and vertically integrated in the world, with even such parts as springs and polymer moldings being made in-house. The Echelon, the latest product to emerge from it, evidences that reputation, with excellent fit and finish, no errant tool marks or blemishes, and smoothness in the functioning of its controls.

The gun is being launched in 4.5"- and 5.28"-barreled models, including versions threaded 1/2x28 TPI for suppressor use, with both Tactical Rack U-Dot and three-dot tritium sights and at least one model that ships with a 10-round magazine to restricted states. I tested several samples of the 4.5" standard-barrel model with Tactical

The Echelon's slide is machined to accept a series of plates and pins that Springfield refers to as the Variable Interface System, which accommodates numerous models of red-dots.

U-Dot sights. In any case, regardless of model, the Echelon is, perhaps not surprisingly, a striker-fired, recoil-operated, semi-automatic employing the now-common blade-in-shoe-style trigger safety. It operates on the well-established Browning design principle that keeps the barrel and slide locked together when firing and, momentarily, as they begin to recoil. In this case, an angled cutout in the barrel's underlug then engages a 0.193"-diameter crosspin in the pistol's chassis, drawing the barrel's hood downward and out of locking engagement with the slide's ejection port.

Those following the previous sentence closely likely picked up on the word "chassis," although Springfield refers to the Echelon's modular fire-control unit as its Central Operating Group, or COG. It is the most notable difference between the Echelon and all previous *HS Produkt* pistols and places it into a sparsely populated category. Also noteworthy is that the Echelon's design dispenses with the grip safety prevalent on most XD models but absent from the benchmark concealed-carry Hellcat. In further departure from earlier designs, the Echelon's grip angle hews much closer to that of a Glock, at about 18 degrees, rather than the 22 degrees of an M1911.

Along with such major lines as grip angle, the numerous minor contours and surface treatments, including fine stippling, would be cost-prohibitive to machine in metal, so the Echelon's grip frame is molded from high-strength polymer. And while it serves as a bed for the COG, which is formed from a stainless-steel stamping, the COG itself is the actual serialized receiver. Springfield has leveraged that approach to construction by offering optional small, medium and large frames. According to the company, "Each has slightly tweaked dimensions to offer a range of grip sizes. All three are designed to accept the same interchangeable backstraps. As it stands, the small and medium have the Adaptive Grip Texture, while the large is offered in an 'aggressive' grip texture." Of course, the gun's construction means that differing shapes and colors of frames could eventually become available from the factory or in the aftermarket and would be free of regulatory paperwork.

A small window molded into the right side of the frame reveals the serial number engraved into the side of the chassis, and "SI GENESEO, IL" is visible through a corresponding window on its opposite side. The chassis mates with recesses in the frame and is secured into position by the takedown lever's cylindrical, 9/32"-diameter spindle. Formed lips facing outward at the chassis' front and rear serve as guide rails for the slide, and a separate, bilaterally designed slide stop features tabs that protrude slightly above each side of the frame and are protected by molded-in fencing. They are unobtrusive to the point of being



The Echelon is the first Springfield pistol to employ a chassis—in this case called the Central Operating Group—in which its critical fire-control parts are mounted.

SPRINGFIELD ECHELON

somewhat difficult to engage until just the right placement of the thumb is mastered. In a further acknowledgement of left-handers, the magazine release is also bilateral with stippled, ovular buttons that press inward from either side.

The trigger's safety blade and shoe, both of which are mostly flat in profile, are made of molded polymer, with the former abutting the frame until the trigger finger depresses it, allowing the trigger proper to move rearward. The gun's design is such that the striker is fully preloaded upon cocking, with the trigger exhibiting minimal stacking and a reasonably distinct "wall" before it releases. Sections of the grip frame ahead of the chassis on each side and measuring 7/8" long by 5/16" high are molded with a concave shape that acts as a shelf on which to place the support-hand thumb, allowing downward pressure to be applied at the front of the pistol when shooting. That effect is extended on the left side for the majority of shooters by way of the takedown lever, which is also stippled and contoured to match. A four-slot Picatinny rail is incorporated into the Echelon's dustcover for the mounting of lights or lasers.

Advanced Design

While the COG's housing, trigger bar and slide lock are made from stampings, the sear, disconnector and other critical components are machined from tool steel and polished. The two test samples' triggers broke consistently at 4 lbs., 14 ozs., reducing by about 2 ozs. after having been fired hundreds of times. A secondary sear is engineered into the design to act as a drop safety, ensuring resistance to accidental discharges due to rough handling or inadvertent impacts, but it does not directly affect the Echelon's trigger pull. The one-piece, hammer-forged barrel mates with the slide directly at the front end, and the pair act on a captured, flat-wire recoil spring that rides on a polymer full-length guide rod consisting of a main section and a two-piece bushing at the inner end.

The Echelon's slide is one of the most intricately sculpted to date, with recessed areas at its front and rear featuring deep, wide grooves to aid purchase during manipulations. Each area tapers inward at its rear, blending through radiuses back out to the slide's full width for the front set and at a slightly greater dimension for the rear set, resulting in "ears" that make press checks at the front or "slingshot" charging at the rear, respectively, much easier than with many other designs. The pistol's steel front and rear sights are dovetailed to the slide, with the Tactical Rack U-Dot versions featuring a front unit with a luminescent yellow outer rim around a tritium insert and a rear with the company's excellent bold, white "U" outlining its notch and the front face allowing for slide racking on a hard edge.

In what may be the Echelon's most advanced feature, Springfield has incorporated what it refers to as the Variable Interface System (VIS) of optic-mounting plates and pins intended to simplify compatibility with the wide variety of miniature red-dot sights that have flooded the market. A pocket is machined into the slide and accepts

Adaptive Grip Texture stippling wraps completely around the frame and enhances purchase on the magazine release button and magazine floorplate (r.) along with the takedown lever and trigger guard (opposite).

one of two adapter plates or one of three sets of four pins—two pair each of cylindrical and eccentric styles. The plates accommodate either ACRO- or Docter-footprint optics, and the pins are labeled for Trijicon RMR (Set 1), Leupold DeltaPoint Pro (Set 2) and Shield (Set 3) interfaces. Springfield explains the pins' function this way: "As the mounting screws are torqued to spec, the pins exert lateral pressure on the optic's interior mounting surface to eliminate variance and left/right movement." The approach is an effective one that affords plenty of recoil-arresting purchase between pistol and optic, but care must be taken not to misplace the pins when mounting or dismounting optics during installations or battery changes.

The grip frame's magazine well is beveled internally and recessed externally on its sides to ease insertion and extraction, respectively, of magazines. Corresponding areas of fine-but-effective stippling are present on the sides of the magazines' baseplates. The same texture covers the entire grip above and below the raised magazine release/thumbrest area and the release button itself. It is also present on the bottom and front of the trigger guard, on the aforementioned areas behind the accessory rail, the end of the guide rod below the muzzle and the face of the locking plate that holds the striker assembly in the slide. The three included backstraps, which exhibit differing degrees of arc, are easily changed out by inserting a finger into the magazine well and pressing outward on a release tab while simultaneously sliding the installed unit downward off the grip frame. A steel pin molded into each backstrap's top serves to guide the replacement into position and as a pin punch to detail strip the pistol.

The grip profile is one of the best I've ever wrapped my hand around, and I eventually noticed that it bore a distinct resemblance to that of another Springfield model: the





the SA35. That's right, the deep recess for the web of the hand and the backstrap's distinctive outward lower arch are reminiscent of the classic High Power—notable as one of the most comfortable handgun grips of all time. In addition, given my wide palms, I appreciated the Echelon's generous grip height, which made for a comfortable three-finger hold on the frontstrap and promoted control of the gun in recoil.

In Perspective

Describing all the aforementioned features might suggest that the Echelon is a large, heavy pistol, but the numbers tell a different story. In fact, by way of comparison to two of Springfield's other top-tier models, the Hellcat Pro and Prodigy, the Echelon turns in some impressive size, weight and capacity specifications. With a standard 17-round magazine in place and featuring a 4.5" barrel, it measures 7.5" long by 5.5" high by 1.25" wide at the thumbrests, and it weighs 23 ozs. The Hellcat Pro, the company's XL version of its micro-compact EDC design, with a 3.7" barrel and 15-round magazine in place, is 6.6" long by 4.8" high by 1.25" wide, and it weighs 21 ozs. And the hybrid metal/polymer-frame double-stack M1911-style Prodigy, in the 4.25"-barrel size and with the standard 17-round magazine, is 7.8" long by 5.5" high by 1.4" wide, and it weighs 33 ozs. So, while the feature-laden Echelon is being promoted as a full-on duty pistol, it weighs only 2 ozs. more than the Hellcat Pro and a full 10 ozs. less than the smaller Prodigy. As to size, the Echelon is 0.9" longer and 0.7" taller than the Hellcat Pro but 0.3" shorter than the small Prodigy and no taller. And the Echelon's width is the same as the Hellcat Pro and 0.15" narrower than the Prodigy. As to capacity, the Echelon offers two more rounds in its standard magazine than the Hellcat Pro and equals the Prodigy.

In yet another comparison, this one to the U.S. Army's

The Echelon's Central Operating Group is held into its polymer grip frame by the takedown lever's spindle (top). Note the heavily sculpted slide "serrations" and cocking "ears" (bottom).

SPRINGFIELD ARMORY ECHELON

IMPORTER: SPRINGFIELD ARMORY (DEPT. AR), 650 WEBER DRIVE, GENESEO, IL 61254;
(800) 680-6866; SPRINGFIELD-ARMORY.COM

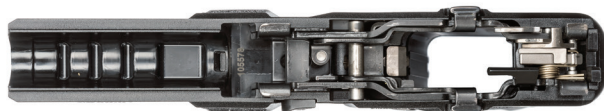


SHOOTING RESULTS (25 YARDS)

9 MM LUGER CARTRIDGE	VELOCITY (F.P.S.)	ENERGY (FT.-LBS.)	GROUP SIZE (INCHES)		
			SMALLEST	LARGEST	AVERAGE
FEDERAL AE 115-GRAIN FMJ	1,160 Avg. 6 Sd	344	1.98	4.69	3.59
HORNADY CUSTOM 124-GRAIN XTP	1,161 Avg. 14 Sd	371	2.99	5.30	4.18
REMINGTON HTP 147-GRAIN JHP	900 Avg. 27 Sd	264	2.26	3.50	2.79
AVERAGE EXTREME SPREAD					3.52

NOTES: MEASURED AVERAGE VELOCITY FOR 10 SHOTS OVER AN OEHLER 36 CHRONOGRAPH AT 10 FEET. ACCURACY RESULTS FOR FIVE CONSECUTIVE, FIVE-SHOT GROUPS AT 25 YARDS FIRED FROM A SANDBAG REST. TEMPERATURE: 67° F. HUMIDITY: 67%. ABBREVIATIONS: AE (AMERICAN EAGLE), FMJ (FULL METAL JACKET), HTP (HIGH TERMINAL PERFORMANCE), JHP (JACKETED HOLLOW POINT), Sd (STANDARD DEVIATION), XTP (eXtreme Terminal Performance).

similarly constructed M17 service pistol, the Echelon also comes away leaner and more efficient. The M17, which also holds 17 rounds, is 8.05" long (with a 4.7" barrel) by 5.5" high by 1.4" wide, and it weighs 26.9 ozs., which means Echelon sacrifices only 0.2" of barrel for a 0.55" shorter overall length and that it weighs nearly a quarter-pound less. So, by almost any measure, the Echelon strikes an enviable balance between full-featured duty and tolerably trim carry roles.



SPRINGFIELD ECHELON

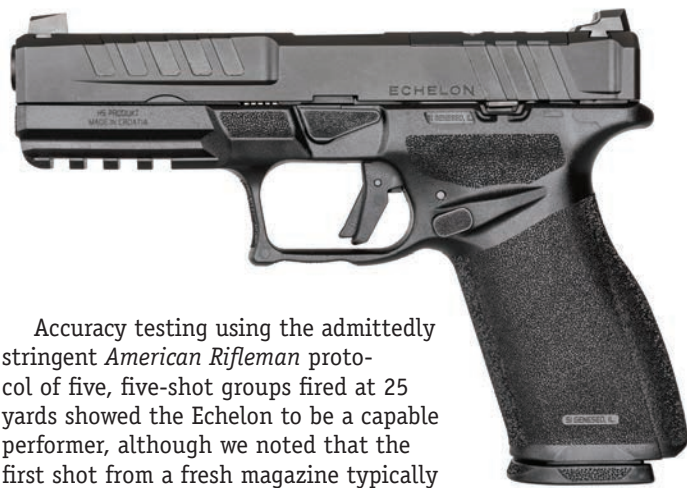
Springfield partnered with several top-tier accessory makers to launch the Echelon, showcasing its capabilities for service by selecting Trijicon's RMR miniature red-dot, SureFire's X300 Ultra white light and Safariland's 6360RDS holster. As might be expected, the Trijicon's performance was commensurate with the company's reputation for military-grade quality. As to the SureFire, again, no surprises there, just glaringly bright light in a reasonably compact package easily activated by paddles that straddle each side of the trigger guard. And the Safariland, a level III retention model, is more than capable of shielding the entire rig from a hostile grab attempt. All three accessories functioned properly during several days of familiarity and shooting exercises.

Shooting & Handling

Early on in the testing phase of this evaluation, I was able to get a sample of DeSantis' excellent Speed Scabbard holster for the Echelon—a style with which I have decades of experience—allowing me to carry the pistol throughout a variety of daily activities. And despite its “full-size” format, the Echelon proved to be surprisingly comfortable and unobtrusive. I practiced drawing, presenting and “firing” a first shot from an empty gun to get a feel for how well it could be deployed, and, despite my ingrained instinct for more traditional grip angles, I was able to become proficient in short order. Then, as I was wrapping up testing, a variety of other holster brands announced the addition of Springfield Echelon options to their product lines.

When it came time to take the Echelon to the range, I endeavored to shoot from as many impromptu positions as possible and from the bench. It ran with no malfunctions and proved to be comfortable and intuitive to deploy. I found the trigger to have far less creep and a crisper let-off than those of several other striker-fired pistols, and the reset was predictable and distinct, occurring only 1/8" from its rearmost position.

I also tasked Managing Editor Christopher Olsen to formally evaluate it with three loads since he is a better shooter and at least as ardent a sleuth of potential deficiencies in new firearm designs. He agreed that the grip frame's ergonomic cues were well-conceived and -executed and that they made the gun comfortable in the hand. And his function results from several sessions of accuracy testing with a variety of ammunition brands, types and bullet weights was equally flawless. He and I and at least one other staffer noted that, despite its moderate weight, the Echelon seemed to cycle smoothly in the hand, exhibiting minimal muzzle flip, which aided in rapid recovery between shots. It's likely that such mild-mannered behavior can be credited to the design's pronounced backstrap undercut and minimal slide height, which result in a favorable bore-axis-to-grip relationship. The Tactical Rack U-Dot rear and luminescent yellow-and-tritium front sights, particularly, make for rapid target acquisition and are set low enough that co-witnessing with a red-dot such as the RMR is assured.



Accuracy testing using the admittedly stringent *American Rifleman* protocol of five, five-shot groups fired at 25 yards showed the Echelon to be a capable performer, although we noted that the first shot from a fresh magazine typically printed low and left of subsequent shots. Such groups were still respectable overall, with some four-shot clusters measuring as tightly as 1". Subsequent five-shot groups fired from the same magazine averaged closer to 2.5" overall. I could only speculate as to the cause of the errant shot that resulted when the pistol was charged by hand versus during the cycle of operation. There were no visible clues, and wear marks that became evident on the Echelon's mating metal parts indicated a high degree of consistency in the manufacturing process.

As to the practical matter of feeding the Echelon, its standard 17-round detachable box magazine features a heat-treated stainless-steel body that has a non-reflective, black Melonite-type treatment designed to be slick, easy to clean, highly corrosion-resistant and visually low-key when worn on a belt or vest. It is reasonably easy to fill to capacity, especially when using the included loader. Two magazines come with each pistol along with an extended polymer baseplate and metal floorplate that increase the capacity of one to 20 rounds. Empty magazines fall clear of the frame when the magazine release is pressed from either side, and the button's size and stippling make for certain engagement.

Finally, when it came time to disassemble the Echelon for cleaning, the process was simple: remove the magazine, which is required in order to rotate the takedown lever, ensure that the gun's chamber is clear, lock the slide to the rear and then release it to run forward about 7/16" ahead of its typical resting place at which point it can be lifted off the frame. As might be expected from a service or duty arm, there is no need to pull the trigger.

Future Prospects

Given the Echelon's service-grade DNA, it is not surprising that the company has stated it intends to actively pursue procurement contracts with U.S. law-enforcement agencies and, through its Croatian partner, with military units internationally. Such endeavors are seldom without bureaucratic hurdles and typically meet with uneven success in the short term. But the Echelon's format efficiency, build quality and performance capabilities, along with a more-than-reasonable price point, suggest that it is likely to find popularity in portions of the civilian market as well in the long term.

Either way, those who choose the Springfield Echelon—whether for duty or personal protection—should find themselves well-equipped with one of the most advanced and capable full-size pistols to date. ★



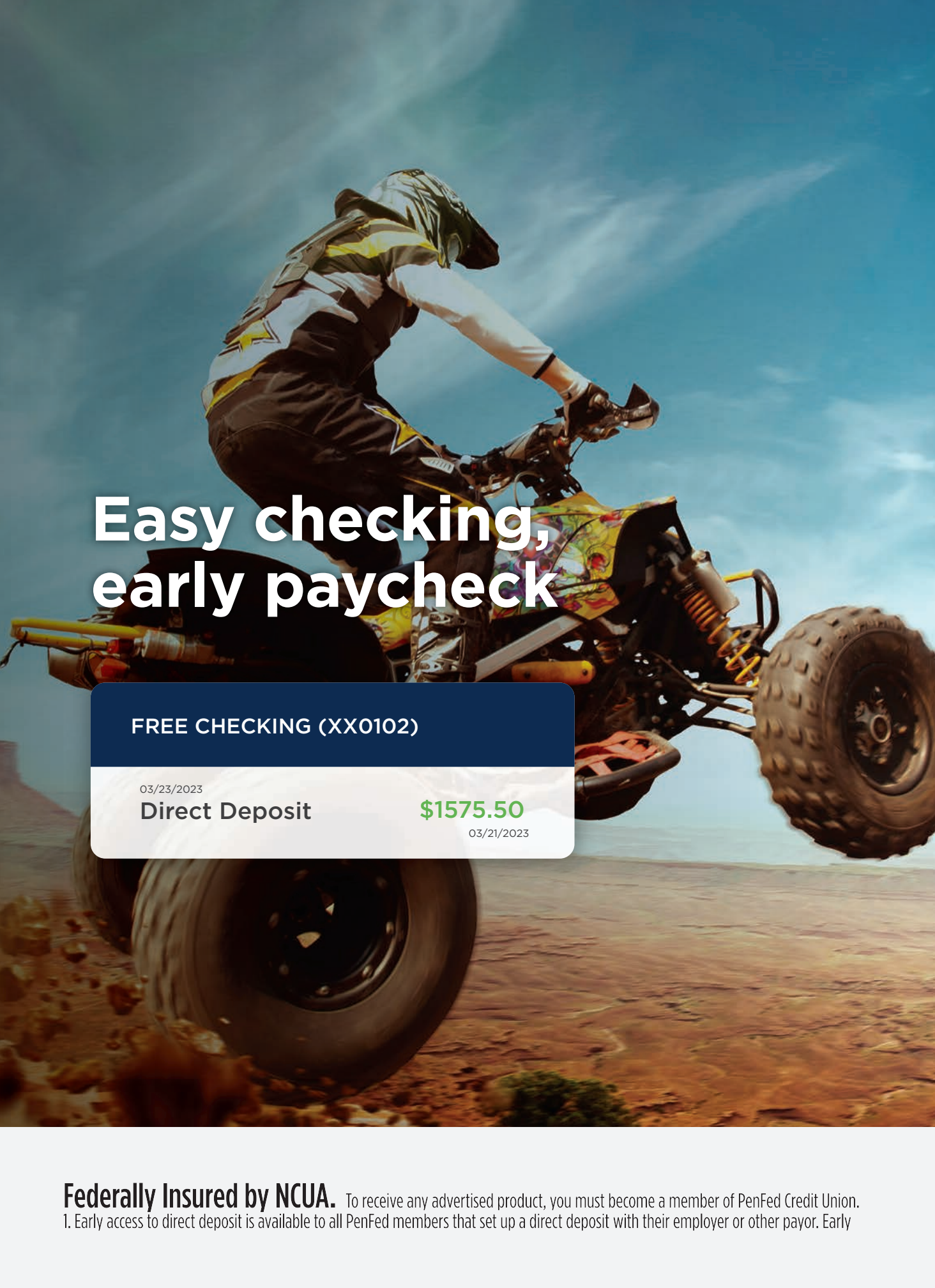
TRUST IS EARNED

The **BX-4 RANGE HD** is built to outlast and outperform. While others warranty failure, we guarantee unmatched optical clarity and rugged reliability for life. Because at Leupold, failure is not an option.



BE RELENTLESS





Easy checking, early paycheck

FREE CHECKING (XX0102)

03/23/2023

Direct Deposit

\$1575.50

03/21/2023

Federally Insured by NCUA. To receive any advertised product, you must become a member of PenFed Credit Union.
1. Early access to direct deposit is available to all PenFed members that set up a direct deposit with their employer or other payor. Early

Free Checking from PenFed

GET PAID UP TO
2 DAYS
EARLY WITH DIRECT DEPOSIT¹

0

FEES AT OVER
85,000 ATMS
NATIONWIDE

0

MONTHLY
MAINTENANCE
FEES AND
MINIMUMS²

0

HASSLE WITH
24/7 MOBILE
& ONLINE
BANKING



PenFed.org/FlagFreeChecking

Loans | Credit Cards | Checking | Savings

direct deposit eligibility may vary between pay periods and timing of payor funding. 2. \$25 is required to open the account but there is no minimum account balance and no monthly maintenance fees. © 2023 Pentagon Federal Credit Union.

CARBINE

THE SMITH



& WESSON M&P FPC

A Low-Profile PCC

Folding to slightly longer than its 16" barrel, and carrying an impressive payload of 9 mm Luger ammunition, S&W's FPC is an efficient, effective long gun for the format-conscious armed citizen.

BY JEREMIAH KNUPP, Field Editor



As firearm trainer Clint Smith famously noted, "The only purpose for a pistol is to fight your way back to the rifle you should have never laid down." A shoulder-mounted firearm has an innate advantage in accuracy and controllability over one merely held in the hand. A long gun also has a ballistic advantage, even when chambered in the same cartridge as a shorter-barreled handgun. But in our modern "polite" society, it's not easy to tote a long gun around all the time.

Gone are the days when a longrifle cradled in the crook of the arm wouldn't draw a second glance, a Winchester lever-action could ride by your knee all day in a rifle scabbard or a shotgun was secure in the rear window rack of a pickup truck. Manufacturers have tried various methods to make long guns more compact and, thus, easier to keep close at hand. This year, Smith & Wesson threw its hat into the ring with the M&P FPC—or Folding Pistol-caliber Carbine.

The compact transportability of the Smith & Wesson M&P FPC means it's possible to have a long gun with you in situations where you'd normally be limited to a handgun. With two spare magazines carried on board, the FPC allows its user to have 63 rounds of 9 mm Luger ammunition readily at hand.

The FPC marks Smith & Wesson's first 21st century foray into the pistol-caliber-carbine world. At its heart is a blowback-operated 9 mm Luger-chambered semi-automatic action. The stainless-steel bolt and carrier ride within an aluminum tube receiver to which the polymer buttstock and grip body/receiver cover are attached.

The grip has the same profile as S&W's M&P M2.0 Compact handgun and accepts all double-column M&P 9 mm magazines of compact size and larger. The action locks open after the last round in the magazine has been fired. A 16.10" 4140-steel barrel is surrounded by a polymer handguard with an M1913 Picatinny rail on top and M-Lok slots at the 3-, 6- and 9-o'clock positions. The muzzle of the barrel is threaded 1/2x28 TPI for attaching suppressors and is supplied with a thread protector.

Smith's use of a standard M&P pistol grip frame means that the magazine release button is reversible by simply turning a screw, and the M&P's accessory palmswell inserts can also be used—four sizes of which are supplied. The bolt release is bilateral, located in the same position as the slide release on an M&P M2.0 pistol. Though the trigger is of the safety-bladed type offered on Performance Center handguns, the FPC also has a manual safety consisting of a simple crossbolt located above the trigger guard. The charging handle is at the rear of the action under the receiver tube, with two protruding "wings" for grasping.

Where the FPC becomes intriguing is in how it can be made compact: It hinges to fold horizontally along the length of its barrel. This is accomplished by actuating a latch on the right side above the trigger. The carbine folds easily by operating the latch with the thumb or index finger of a right-handed shooting grip and using the support hand on the fore-end to fold it to the left. The charging handle doubles as the catch when it is folded, latching into an M-Lok slot on the handguard. A chambered cartridge prevents the gun from folding.

In many ways, a folding design is the ideal way to make a long gun more compact. A folding or telescoping stock is not an option available to citizens in all 50 states, and takedown designs require time and finesse to attach the two halves to each other. With a folder like the FPC, the two halves are always attached to each other and deploy into the ready position in an instant. And the advantage of folding to the side is that it allows for top-mounted optics to stay in place with the gun folded.

Another interesting feature of the FPC is the magazine storage built into its buttstock. Two additional magazines can be stored there, locked in place with a latch that interacts with the magazine's catch slot. The magazine storage is positioned so that you can remove a spare magazine with the support hand for a reload while the gun is shouldered. The carbine is supplied with one 17-round magazine and two 23-round magazines; as the FPC's grip is of a compact size, all three magazines use grip adapter spacers.

Unloaded with no sights and one magazine installed, the FPC weighs 5 lbs., 4 ozs. The FPC with all magazines

The Smith & Wesson FPC uses what the company calls an "integrated recoil buffer system" (inset), which can be seen when the carbine is fieldstripped for maintenance. This consists of a heavyweight spring placed behind the plug that holds the main action spring in place.



The zippered nylon case included with the FPC has a decidedly low-key appearance, and a supplied strap allows it to be carried in either shoulder-bag or sling-pack configurations.

loaded for an onboard capacity of 63 rounds, and a weapon light and SIG Romeo5 red-dot mounted, weighs in at 8 lbs., 3 ozs. Two loaded 23-round magazines in the stock give the FPC a noticeably rearward weight bias, but it still balances nicely.

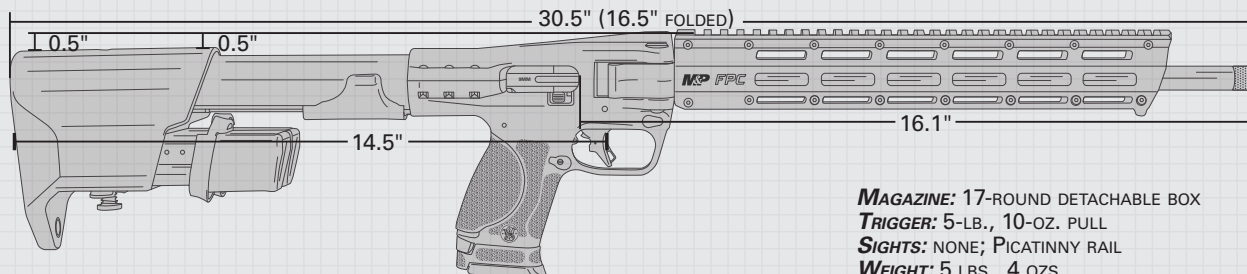
To complete the M&P FPC as a low-profile package, it comes in a padded soft case. The case has a decidedly non-long-gun profile and no external pockets or PALS-style webbing. It is even made of a material that has a neutral "gray man" color. The case uses straps to hold a folded carbine securely in place with plenty of room for mounted accessories or optics and has interior pockets for holding spare magazines or other accessories. A supplied strap allows it to be carried over the shoulder or as a sling bag.

Even uncased, the FPC has a simple and minimalistic profile. There's no muzzle device or vertical forward grip let alone a "shoulder thing that goes up." A 15-round magazine fits flush in the grip. Though the stock looks like a telescoping design, it is fixed with a 14.5" length of pull. A state-compliant version of the FPC, with a non-threaded barrel and three 10-round magazines, is also available.

As the FPC is not supplied with sights, for formal accuracy testing I mounted a Leupold Patrol 6HD scope. The handguard's rail was far enough rearward to provide



MANUFACTURER: SMITH & WESSON (DEPT. AR), 2100 ROOSEVELT AVE., SPRINGFIELD, MA 01104; (800) 331-0852; SMITH-WESSON.COM



ACTION TYPE: BLOWBACK-OPERATED, SEMI-AUTOMATIC, CENTERFIRE RIFLE
CHAMBERING: 9 MM LUGER
RECEIVER: ALUMINUM

STOCK: GLASS-FILLED NYLON
BARREL: 4140 STEEL, BLACK ARMORNITE FINISH; FIVE-GROOVE, 1:10" RH-TWIST RIFLING; 1/2x28TPI MUZZLE

MAGAZINE: 17-ROUND DETACHABLE BOX
TRIGGER: 5-LB., 10-OZ. PULL
SIGHTS: NONE; PICATINNY RAIL
WEIGHT: 5 LBS., 4 OZS.
ACCESSORIES: OWNER'S MANUAL, SOFT CASE, INTERCHANGEABLE BACKSTRAPS, TWO 23-ROUND MAGAZINES, LOCK
MSRP: \$659



SHOOTING RESULTS (50 YARDS)

9 MM LUGER CARTRIDGE	VELOCITY (F.P.S.)	ENERGY (FT.-LBS.)	GROUP SIZE (INCHES)		
			SMALLEST	LARGEST	AVERAGE
HORNADY AG 115-GRAIN XTP	1,408 Avg. 14 Sd	506	1.05	1.80	1.55
INCEPTOR PD 80-GRAIN ARX +P	1,611 Avg. 16 Sd	461	1.23	2.08	1.54
REMINGTON UMC 124-GRAIN FMJ	1,250 Avg. 16 Sd	430	1.31	2.06	1.68
AVERAGE EXTREME SPREAD					1.59

NOTES: MEASURED AVERAGE VELOCITY OF 10 SHOTS OVER A COMPETITION ELECTRONICS PROCHRONO DIGITAL CHRONOGRAPH AT 10 FEET. ACCURACY RESULTS FOR FIVE CONSECUTIVE, FIVE-SHOT GROUPS AT 50 YARDS FROM A CALDWELL MATRIX REST. TEMPERATURE: 63° F. HUMIDITY: 89%. ABBREVIATIONS: AG (AMERICAN GUNNER), FMJ (FULL METAL JACKET), PD (PREFERRED DEFENSE), Sd (STANDARD DEVIATION), XTP (eXTREME TERMINAL PERFORMANCE).

A hinge latch (above) located on the right side of the FPC in front of the ejection port unlocks the barrel and allows it to fold horizontally to the left side. The rifle uses an M&P M2.0 compact grip size and is supplied with one 17-round and two 23-round magazines (r.) with grip adapters.



for proper eye relief with the scope, and having the optic mounted with the barrel allowed for a repeatable zero even after folding and unfolding the gun. The straight-line design of the action requires using tall rings or an optic riser. The rail is also far enough rearward to use an AR-15-style rear aperture sight, such as a Magpul MBUS. Following bench testing, I mounted a Romeo5 for field testing.

Initially, mounting a scope on the FPC seemed like a superfluous choice, given that I was testing a blowback 9 mm carbine at 50 yards, but the rifle's accuracy quickly proved to be up to a magnified optic. One five-shot group with Hornady's American Gunner ammunition measured slightly more than 1", while the average across all three of the loads I tested was just larger than 1.5". Accuracy was aided by the FPC's trigger. After the initial take-up, it breaks crisply at 5 lbs., 10 ozs.; overtravel is arrested by the molded-in stop, and the trigger resets to a positive click.

Over the chronograph, the FPC showcases the advantage a long gun has over a handgun of the same cartridge. Using Hornady's American Gunner ammunition as an example, the FPC's 16" barrel provided 22 percent more velocity and 48 percent more energy compared to the ballistics the company claims for the cartridge fired from a 4" barrel.

Except for one failure to fire early on in testing due to a light primer strike (the cartridge fired on the second try), reliability was perfect, even when using a suppressor. Smith & Wesson touts the FPC's "integrated recoil buffer system," which is an extra heavyweight spring positioned between the recoil spring plug and the stock; this does seem



The muzzle (l.) of the FPC's barrel is threaded 1/2x28 TPI and supplied with a thread protector. Like the company's M&P M2.0 pistols, the magazine release (r.) on the Smith & Wesson FPC is reversible for both left- and right-handed shooters.



to soften the recoil that can sometimes be harsh in a blowback-operated firearm. The magazine storage in the buttstock gives it a "SOPMOD" profile, with a generous cheek weld and butt area, which also helps to mitigate the recoil impulse.

The crossbolt safety is easily disengaged with the index finger for a right-handed shooter; engaging the safety requires significantly shifting the grip or using the support hand. The bolt catch functions more as a device to manually lock the bolt to the rear, as the raised protective edge around it—and the force of the heavy bolt and spring that it is holding back—makes it difficult to activate with a shooting grip. Additionally, the right-side release is a little too close to the open ejection port and heavy bolt for comfort. Regardless, I never experienced a case of "FPC thumb" when using it.

I also found it easier to bump the charging handle to release the bolt; loading instructions in the supplied manual seem to concur with this assessment. Even with the FPC mounted to the shoulder, this was easily accomplished with a technique that would be used on an extended AR-15 charging handle. While the magazine release was difficult to reach with the thumb with the rifle mounted to the shoulder, swapping it to the other side and actuating it with the trigger finger allowed for rapid reloads with the stock-mounted magazines.

The handguard has a tiny hand stop at the end. This should be supplemented by a larger hand stop for those who use an extended "C-clamp"-type support-hand hold. I tried to mount a Magpul AFG, but, when collapsing the gun, it interfered with the buttstock and kept the FPC from folding completely. When folded, the left-side M-Lok slots and two forward 6-o'clock slots have limited use.

Fieldstripping the FPC for cleaning is simple and can be done without tools. After confirming that it is unloaded, hinging the barrel open exposes the bore to be cleaned from the chamber end. Pulling out on the stock retaining latch allows the stock to be removed. This exposes a cross pin that can be pushed out to remove the recoil spring plug and spring.

With the spring removed, the bolt assembly can be moved far enough rearward that the bolt retaining pin lines up with a slot for removal. This allows for the massive 1-lb., 10-oz., bolt and carrier assembly to slide out of the rear of the receiver, where the bolt can then be separated from the carrier. This is as far as it is recommended to disassemble for cleaning. If any of the pins prove to be stubborn, the lanyard tool stored in the grip can be used as a punch. Re-assembly is in the reverse order.

For those who already own members of the M&P

The charging handle (l.) on the carbine rides on the rear of the receiver tube and consists of two grasping "wings." The FPC uses a push-button crossbolt safety (middle) that can be disengaged with the index finger of a right-handed shooter. Bolt releases (r.) are present on both sides of the gun in the same locations as those on an M&P M2.0 pistol.

handgun family, the FPC offers not only magazine compatibility, but familiar ergonomics and a similar manual of arms. Inevitable comparisons will be made to the other folding 9 mm carbine on the market, the KelTec SUB2000. The size of both rifles folded and deployed are nearly identical, with the SUB2000 coming in about a pound lighter and with an MSRP that is \$80 less; the KelTec also has broader magazine compatibility. But the FPC has the advantage of its ability to fold with a top-mounted optic in place and the spare magazine-storage system.

For those looking for a survival long gun to pack in a boat or airplane, the FPC offers more oomph than a .22, but is still accurate enough to make headshots on small game out to reasonable distances. As a home-defense carbine, the FPC's compact size when folded means it can be stored and concealed closer at hand than a conventional rifle. And for those wanting to keep a long gun close at hand, the FPC, with its onboard spare magazines, makes for a grab-and-go package that can be quickly transitioned from its stored format to ready condition.

If the FPC proves to be successful, Smith & Wesson could adapt the design to other cartridges and magazines from pistols it offers, such as 30 Super Carry and 5.7x28 mm FN. One can always dream of .45 ACP and 10 mm Auto versions, but this would require a complete re-design and a larger-frame firearm. In the meantime, the FPC offers M&P familiarity in a reliable and discreet package, giving us one less excuse for not always being a "rifleman." 

The Smith & Wesson M&P FPC's supplied discreet, soft-sided carrying case is configured to allow plenty of room for mounted and stowed accessories.





STILL MAKING HISTORY.



OUR HISTORY, YOUR LEGACY

Exceptionally solid and all-American built, the King Cobra Target 22 LR was designed and made to be shot — a lot! This firearm packs 10-rounds in its cylinder so that shooters can shoot a lot between reloads. Featuring US forged stainless steel construction, the one-piece stainless steel barrel is built for the utmost accuracy and longevity. This snakelet excels in everything from competition to plinking and small game hunting.



KING COBRA TARGET 22 LR

KING COBRA TARGET 22 LR 4.25" (KCOBRA22-SP4RF0)

KING COBRA TARGET 22 LR 6" (KCOBRA22-SP6RF0)

COLT.COM



HISTORICAL



The Winchester 1873

★ WINNING *The* WEST FOR 150 YEARS ★

An iconic lever-action marks a century-and-a-half milestone—having long since won the hearts of shooters and collectors everywhere.

BY RICK HACKER, Field Editor



The Winchester '73 first appeared in the company's 1875 catalog (opposite), where it was prominently depicted on the cover and inside pages.



In 1919, Edwin Pugsley, an engineer at Winchester Repeating Firearms Co.—who, in later years, would become its vice president, bring the Browning Automatic Rifle (BAR) to fruition and help develop the M1 carbine—came up with one of the firearm industry's greatest slogans. As part of an international Winchester marketing campaign, he penned this immortal headline: "The Gun That Won The West."

Pugsley was correct in using the past tense for this now-famous phrase, for, by that time, the West had pretty much already been won. And whether or not Pugsley was specifically referring to the Winchester Model 1873, that gun became indelibly linked to the slogan, given its role in the settling of the American frontier and its use by legendary notables including: William H. Bonney (Billy the Kid), who prominently holds a '73 carbine in the only known photograph of him; Theodore Roosevelt, who, while ranching in Dakota Territory, referred to his half-round-half-octagon-barreled .32-20 Win. '73 Short Rifle as his



Only 150 Winchester Model 1873 150th Anniversary rifles will be made and will feature special commemorative engraving.

"rabbit gun"; and William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody, who unabashedly dubbed his Winchester '73 "The Boss."

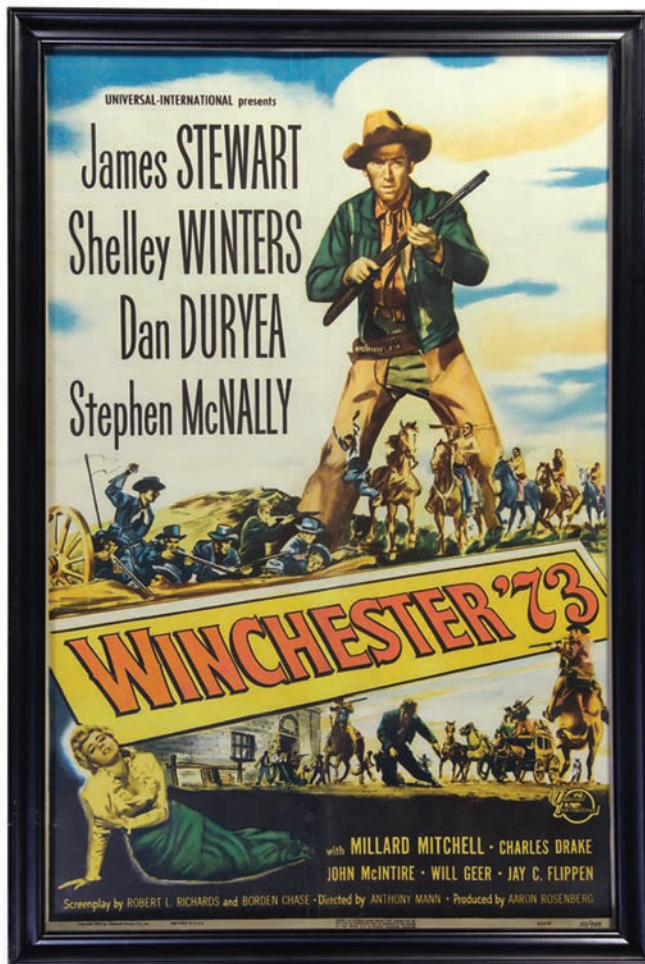
And yet, somewhat ironically, soon after Pugsley's now-immortal tribute to the Winchester '73, the gun was discontinued (it was last catalogued in 1920), thus ending a 47-year run that produced a total of 720,610 rifles, carbines, sporting rifles and muskets, but with enough guns remaining in inventory to keep them on dealers' shelves until 1924. Yet although eventually overshadowed by the Winchester Models 1886 (which, in turn, made the Winchester 1876 obsolete), and the 1892, 1894 and 1895 lever-actions, the

WINCHESTER 1873

lightweight, well-balanced and fast-shooting Winchester '73 remained a favorite with hunters, ranchers, farmers, adventurers and both lawmen and outlaws alike. Indeed, it has become a symbol of the American West, but its success was actually born out of failure.

When New England shirtmaker Oliver Fisher Winchester acquired the Volcanic Repeating Arms Co. in 1857, he found himself in possession of a mechanically inferior finger-lever rifle, an inventory of parts and a rented factory. Winchester was left holding a firearm prone to jamming and that fired an underpowered and unreliable bullet based upon the earlier Hunt Rocket Ball, but with a rudimentary self-contained primer.

The Volcanic did have one thing going for it, however—its action was designed to cycle and chamber multiple rounds without reloading. In an era of single-shot muzzle-loaders, and with a smoldering American Civil War on the horizon, Winchester saw the obvious potential of this singular feature. Consequently, he relocated his factory to Connecticut, renamed it the New Haven Arms Co. and hired firearm designer Benjamin Tyler Henry to be his plant superintendent, with the admonition to “see if you can make this fool gun work.”



The 1873 inherited its basic action from the Henry Rifle and the subsequent Model 1866.

Photo by author

Henry realized that one of the Volcanic's major problems was its ammunition. Consequently, he set about transforming it with a 216-grain, .44-cal. pug-nosed bullet held in a rimfire-detonated copper case containing 13 grains (later increased to 28) of blackpowder. To handle this larger, more powerful cartridge, the rifle's receiver and toggle-link action were beefed up and strengthened so dramatically that they became the basis for future Winchester Models 1866, 1873 and 1876.

What finally emerged in 1860 was a 15-shot firearm with a brass frame (although a few hundred early rifles were made with iron frames) and a 24" barrel that was christened with the name of its inventor, the Henry Repeating Rifle, and the proprietary cartridge it fired became the .44 Henry Flat. Although not overly powerful by today's standards, the Henry offset this by offering previously unheard-of firepower. "Sixty Shots Per Minute" an 1862 broadside boasted, obviously not taking into account the time needed for reloading. The announcement further proclaimed, "A resolute man, armed with one of these Rifles, particularly if on horseback, CANNOT BE CAPTURED."

Obviously, one would think that the acceptance of the Henry rifle would have been immediate, but such was not the case. For one thing, the Henry's price tag of \$47 put it out of reach for many, especially when most military muzzleloaders were selling for \$16 apiece. For another, the Army was not enamored with the Henry's more complicated mechanics when compared to its current U.S. Springfield 1861 rifle muskets. And, finally, production and distribution problems kept Henry rifles from entering the mainstream until 1862. At this point, a number of soldiers on both sides of the Civil War privately purchased the rifles, after which the guns eventually made their way westward to play a part in the settling of the frontier. In all, approximately 13,500 Henry rifles were produced until discontinued in 1866 to make way for the "Improved Henry Rifle" that year.

As its name suggests, the Improved Henry solved many of the Henry rifle's shortcomings. To eliminate an awkward and potentially dangerous loading procedure of dropping

This 1950 Universal Studios movie poster for "Winchester '73," directed by Anthony Mann and starring James Stewart and Shelly Winters—and the uncredited work of Rock Hudson and Tony Curtis—featured a "mocked up" Winchester "One of One Thousand," which focused renewed attention on the now-famous gun.



2023
AMERICAN RIFLEMAN
GOLDEN
BULLSEYE
AWARD

ACCESSORY OF THE YEAR

SILENCE MADE SIMPLE



BANISH SILENCER SERIES

ONLY \$199 DOWN

866-261-2664

**CALL NOW TO
CLAIM YOUR OFFER***

*VALID ONLY ON PHONE ORDERS

NO INTEREST | NO FEES | PAY WHILE YOU WAIT
WE SHIP IT TO YOUR FRONT DOOR ONCE APPROVED



**SILENCER
CENTRAL**

[SILENCERCENTRAL.COM](https://silencercentral.com)

WINCHESTER 1873



This rifle in .44-40 Win., Serial No. 10764 (top), was identified by Edmund Lewis in The Story of the Winchester 1 of 1000 and 1 of 100 Rifles as the last of the latter ever produced. Note the lack of a loading gate on this .22 Short-chambered deluxe Model 1873 Short Rifle (middle). An extremely rare half-round/half-octagon 20"-barreled .38-40 short rifle features special-order factory panel engraving, silver plating and a birdseye maple stock (above).

Photos courtesy of Rock Island Auction

cartridges down the tubular magazine from the muzzle end of the rifle, Nelson King, Winchester's new superintendent (B. Tyler Henry had departed the company after a failed takeover attempt and accusations of Winchester cheating him out of royalties), developed a patented loading gate in 1866 that permitted cartridges to be loaded from the right side of the receiver. In addition, a wooden fore-end was added to protect the shooter's supporting hand from a barrel that grew hot when multiple shots were fired. The Improved Henry became the first repeating rifle to bear the Winchester name, reflecting the former New Haven Arms Co.'s reorganization as the Winchester Repeating Arms Co.

Unfortunately, in addition to the brass receiver it inherited from the Henry Rifle, the Model '66 was still saddled

with the anemic .44 Henry Flat chambering and soft copper rimfire case, which often split upon firing. But all that was about to change with the advent of the Winchester New Model of 1873, as it was initially called, which came out concurrently with a brass-cased, slightly bottlenecked .44-40 Win. centerfire cartridge, which could very well be called "The Cartridge That Won The West." Since it could be reloaded, and became so popular, more firearms were chambered for it than any other during the last quarter of the 19th century. Small wonder that soon after its introduction, Winchester began offering reloading kits and even an all-in-one reloading tool invented by William Wirt Winchester, Oliver Winchester's son, to go along with its .44 "Central Fire" cartridge.

Now Featuring BONE-DRI Products



BONE-DRI
RUST PREVENTION GUN CASES



The Official
NRAstore.com



JOIN THE EXCLUSIVE CUSTOMER CLUB
AND GET **20% OFF** YOUR FIRST ORDER.



The .44-40 Winchester Center Fire (WCF) consisted of a 200-grain, soft-lead, .44-cal., round-nosed bullet propelled by 40 grains of blackpowder. The resultant 1,310 f.p.s. was only slightly more powerful than the .44 rimfire, but the .44-40 soon proved itself better as both a man-stopper and for medium-size game out to 100 yards—after that, the bullet dropped dramatically, as much as 5 feet at 200 yards. Nonetheless, thanks to today's sport of Cowboy Action Shooting and the popularity of shooting vintage and replica Colt- and Winchester-style guns, it is a cartridge that is still being factory-loaded.

The Winchester Model 1873 and the .44-40 Win. cartridge were literally made for each other. In fact, the popularity of the .44-40 was due primarily to the advent of the Winchester '73—and vice versa. Although it used the same toggle-link action as its two lever-action predecessors, the frame of the Model '73 was now made of iron (changed to steel in 1884) and featured removable receiver sideplates, as well as a sliding dustcover that protected internal parts from the elements, but which slid back as the action was opened. Four different models were offered: a 24"-barreled Sporting Rifle; a pistol-gripped Special Sporting Rifle with fancy checkered walnut; a 20"-barreled saddle ring carbine; and a full-stocked 30"-barreled military Musket—the latter reflecting Oliver Winchester's failed goal of landing a U.S. government contract (although a number of muskets ended



Winchester's "One of One Thousand" and "One of One Hundred" promotions came at the expense, literally, of its lesser-grade guns. These Ulrich-engraved examples showcase their exclusivity.

up being purchased by various foreign agencies).

The Winchester 1873 also caused the Improved Henry to be renamed the Model 1866, for as the late George Madis pointed out in *The Winchester Book*, "Until the introduction of the Model 1873, the Model 1866 was the Winchester; there were no others." Now there were two, which had to be differentiated. This set a pattern for naming Winchester's lever-actions after the year in which they were introduced, a system that remained in place throughout the 19th century.

Choose to Carry Concealed.

Only **you** know there's a pistol inside!

SneakyPete.com



A wide selection of colors, materials, and designs to choose from.

For a
Limited
Time Only!

**15%
OFF!**

Coupon Code: AR15

WINCHESTER 1873



Yet, in spite of its dramatic improvements, according to Madis, only 18 Winchester '73s were sold in 1873, and just 108 more in 1874. No doubt this was due to early production difficulties, but this lack of sales may also be attributed to the fact that Winchester did not advertise its Model 1873 until the rifle, carbine and musket were finally featured on the cover of its 1875 catalog. That same year, Winchester took out an ad in *Forest and Stream* magazine that depicted the 1873 Sporting Rifle as "The Hunter's and Sportsman's Favorite," but not mentioning the gun by name!

Initial prices that year were \$40 for the Sporting Rifle with round barrel and plain trigger, \$42 for the Musket and \$38 for the carbine. Extra-length barrels, up to 36" for the musket, could be had for a dollar an inch (rifles could be ordered with barrels as long as 32"), and bull barrels cost \$5 extra. Octagon and half-octagon barrels were \$2.50 additional. Carbines with barrel lengths shorter than 20", known as Baby Carbines then but called "Trappers" by collectors today, could be ordered with barrels as short as 12". Standard finish was blued with a casehardened hammer, lever, trigger and some internal parts, but casehardened receivers could be had for a dollar more. By 1875, Winchester was offering a plethora of extra-cost features, including fancy checkered wood, sling swivels, nickel- or gold-plating, engraving, special buttplates

Despite the premise of above-average accuracy, no more than 136 "One of One Thousand" and just eight "One of One Hundred" Model 1873s were sold before Winchester canceled the promotion only two years in. Most of those rifles featured set triggers, and many were embellished with engraving and upgraded wood.

This well-heeled group of citizens proudly displays their Colt Single Action Army revolvers and Winchester '73 rifles and carbines, all of which were common arms on the Western frontier.

and target sights—in essence giving the Model '73 the potential for becoming a truly custom firearm. Indeed, a shooter could have anything from a plain working gun to an elaborate showpiece, if he were willing to pay the price; in the process, this created almost endless variations for collectors today.

Winchester's 1875 catalog, of which reprints are available from Cornell Publications (cornellpubs.com), is full of glowing testimonies as to the superiority of the company's new Model 1873, which is somewhat surprising given the relatively small number of guns that had been sold up until



that time. But, to help spur sales of its latest lever-action, Winchester devised a unique promotion that it announced in that same catalog:

The barrel of every sporting rifle we make will be proved and shot at a target, and the target will be numbered to correspond with the barrel and be attached to it. All of these barrels that are found to make targets of extra merit will be made up into guns with set-triggers and extra finish and marked as a designating name, "One of One Thousand," and sold at \$100.00. The next grade of barrels, not so fine, will be marked "One of One Hundred" and set up to order in any style at \$20.00 advance over the list price of the corresponding style of gun.

Not counting the dramatic increases in price over the basic cataloged gun, this misfired promotion gave the unintended impression that not all Model 1873s were equal—evidently, some guns were better than others. Needless to say, this high-priced campaign appealed to a very limited audience, and, as a result, only between 132 and 136 "One of One Thousand" and just eight "One of One Hundred" Model 1873s were sold before Winchester canceled the promotion two years later, although a few One of One Thousands continued to be ordered as late as 1893. Today, of course, such guns can fetch prices well into the six-figure range.

Extra-cost options aside, it didn't take long for the reputation of the Model 1873 to spread. Demand for the Winchester '73 increased even more in 1878 when Colt began chambering its already-renowned Single Action Army in .44-.40 Win., making it a natural to pair alongside the Winchester '73. Realizing a good thing, in 1880, Winchester introduced a .38-40 Win. chambering for its '73 and added a .32-20 in 1882, further increasing compatibility with the Single Action Army. In 1884, the Winchester '73 also became the first .22-cal. repeating rifle in America, when it was chambered for the .22 Short and .22 Long rimfire (not .22 Long Rifle); 19,552 of these

Calling All Highpower & Pistol Shooters



Make Your Mark at CMP Talladega!

If you're looking for a strong finish to your rifle and pistol shooting season, join us at CMP Talladega Marksmanship Park!

Events Include:

- M1 Garand Benchrest (300 yds)
- Rimfire Sporter Benchrest
- M1 Garand/Springfield/Vintage Match
- M1 Carbine & Rimfire Rifle Matches
- Vintage Sniper Team Match

Special Events Include:

- Congressional 30 HP Rifle Match
(*President's 100 Course of Fire*)
- Dixie Double Rifle Match
(*Hearst Doubles Course of Fire*)

Pistol Matches Include:

- .22 Rimfire EIC, As-Issued 1911 and
Military & Police Matches



"A Southern Classic"

While you're at CMP Talladega, explore the park's 3-D Archery Range, Unknown Distance Range, Bullseye Pistol Range, Action Pistol Bays, Trap, Skeet and Sporting Clays Shotgun Fields & more!



CMP Talladega Marksmanship Park
4387 Turner Mill Road, Talladega, AL
(256) 474-4408

www.TheCMP.org

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION of AMERICA

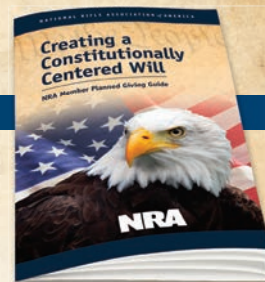
With the Stroke of a Pen, You Can Defend Freedom Forever

NRA CAN SHOW YOU HOW

Crafting an estate strategy can take months of planning. But NRA's Member Planned Giving Guide can help you knock that task down to size.

Written by experts in easy-to-read language, our guide lays out tips and strategies to help you meet your long-term financial goals, minimize estate taxes, and champion the causes you cherish.

1-877-672-4483 | NRAPlannedGiving.org



**Request Your
Complimentary
Guide Today**

WINCHESTER 1873

smallbore lever-actions were made before being discontinued in 1904.

By the 1890s, with competition from the Winchester Model 1892—which was initially offered in the same .44-40, .38-40 and .32-20 chamberings as the Model 1873—the '73's prices had dropped. For example, the Sporting Rifle was \$18 and the Model '73 carbine's price was \$17.50, enabling sales to remain relatively steady until it was discontinued. Then, in 1950, although the Winchester '73 had long been out of production, Hollywood brought it back into the spotlight when Universal Studios released the motion picture, "Winchester '73," starring James Stewart and co-starring a Winchester One of One Thousand.

However, like many things in Hollywood, the gun wasn't exactly what it was purported to be. Instead, a standard Winchester '73 rifle and two identical backup guns were restocked with fancy wood and given non-typical gold-washed engraving to represent a One of One Thousand rifle in the movie. In the motion picture, which was adapted from a story by Stuart N. Lake, who had also authored the semi-fictional book, *Wyatt Earp: Frontier Marshal*, Stewart wins the coveted rifle in a shooting contest, only to have it stolen (I always wince at that scene), with it then passing through eight different hands before Stewart finally gets it back at the end of the movie.

To promote the film, Universal launched a nationwide search for owners of authenticated One of One Thousand Winchesters. "Remember, we don't want your 'One of One Thousand' Model 73," the studio affirmed. "We are only trying to find out how many of them are still in existence." The first 20 owners who provided proof of ownership of a "One of One Thousand" received a new Winchester Model 94 carbine, as original Winchester '73s were no longer produced and replicas didn't exist yet. The promotion proved to be successful, as 22 *bona fide* One of One Thousand Winchester '73s were discovered, giving gun collecting—especially for Winchesters—renewed impetus.

It took another 63 years, however, for Winchester to officially reintroduce



CIMARRON F.A. CO.
The Highest Standards

1911 ONE RANGER

Cimarron Firearms introduces a .45 ACP One Ranger Classic 1911 pistol. A percentage of every sale is donated to the Former Texas Rangers Foundation to help build the Texas Rangers Heritage Center in Fredericksburg, Texas. Engraved on the 4.25" barrel is a quote attributed to the legendary Texas Rangers, "One Riot One Ranger". Tell your dealer, "I want a Cimarron!"

1877-SIXGUN1 **www.cimarron-firearms.com**



MTM CASE-GARD
QUALITY SHOOTING SPORTS ACCESSORIES

**GETTING IT THERE IS EASY
WITH AN MTM® MULE™**

**THE MULE™
MOBILE GEAR CRATE**
CHECK IT OUT AT MTMCASE-GARD.COM

PROUDLY AMERICAN MADE

its Model 1873 to the shooting public. In 2013, Winchester Repeating Arms, under license from Olin Corp. and manufactured by Miroku of Japan for FN/Browning, brought out a 20" round-barreled Short Rifle with all-blued furniture and crescent buttplate. The line has since been expanded to currently include: a casehardened version; as well as a "performance-tuned" Competition short-stroke lever-action carbine in .45 Colt and .357 Mag. (chamberings that obviously were never available in original guns); a standard Saddle Ring Carbine in .45 Colt and .357 Mag. as well as .44-40 Win.; a Deluxe Sporting rifle in the same cartridges but with a half-round-half-octagon barrel; and a Sporter Rifle with a 24" octagon barrel and available in straight-grip or pistol-grip configurations, either casehardened or blued, and chambered in .357 Mag., .45 Colt or .44-40 Win. And, just as the Winchester '66 was an "Improved Henry," these current versions could very well be called "Improved Winchester '73s," as they feature smoother actions, re-designed inertia firing pins for added safety, a slightly re-designed brass cartridge lifter to eject cases up and away from the shooter and, thankfully, no unsightly tang or button safeties, thus preserving the original Winchester '73's traditional hammer half-cock.

And although Winchester is currently focused on its newer firearms, it was not about to let the 150th anniversary of the Winchester '73 to pass unnoticed. To honor this milestone, the company is producing a limited number of 150th anniversary commemorative Model 1873 rifles, featuring special gold-enhanced and engraved blued receivers, levers and dustcovers, and Grade V/VI walnut straight grip, checkered stocks. Only 150 guns will be produced, at a suggested retail price of \$3,660, although the actual release date hadn't been announced as of this writing.

Nonetheless, from vintage collectables to current recreations and commemoratives, for fans of the Winchester '73, it looks like "The Gun That Won The West" is still winning it. 



Uberty USA.
HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF



Uberty 1885 "Courteney"
.303 British Stalking Rifle
Included quarter-rib comes open-sighted and ready to accept Weaver-style rings. Optional plain quarter-rib (for sight only) available as accessory. 24" barrel, 7.1 lbs. Now also available in .45-70.



PERFECT FOR KUDU OR WHITETAIL

One of the most handsome production rifles available today, the Uberty 1885 Courteney takes you back to the golden age of African hunting. It follows the graceful lines of premium London single-shots while giving you affordability with the added convenience of a readily-available British classic caliber.

Find us on  Facebook

Uberty-USA.com



Adam Greathouse

SUPPORT MORE VICTORIES FOR VETERANS.®

 DAV.org



Ruger Security-380

Although the majority of new concealed-carry releases from popular gun manufacturers in recent years have been chambered in 9 mm Luger, Ruger continues to innovate within the .380 ACP arena. Designed around maximum concealment and ease of use, the company had previously released the LCP II and LCP Max pistols chambered to fire the .380 cartridge, and Ruger's newest entry, the Security-380, has been designed to take those same qualities and put them into an even easier-to-handle and softer-shooting platform.

The Ruger Security-380 is a continuation of the company's popular Security line of handguns. The original Ruger Security-9 is a sturdy defensive pistol chambered in 9 mm Luger that the company offers at an affordable price point. In the same vein, the Ruger Security-380 is intended for those who want a carry gun they can trust for a price that won't break the bank. Also in line with the earlier entries in the Security series, the Security-380 features a Secure Action fire-control system that operates with a protected internal hammer. Unlike its predecessors, however, the Security-380 incorporates some of the company's Lite Rack features, design elements geared specifically toward ease of operation.

The Ruger Security-380 has an overall length of 6.63". Its black-oxide-finished, steel barrel measures 3.38" long, sporting a 1:10" right-hand twist. The gun itself is 4.35"

tall and 1.13" wide at the grip. It weighs in at just 20.1 ozs., and the low weight of the handgun was one of the first things we noticed when initially picking it up. In addition to its polymer frame, the gun's light weight can also be attributed to six lightening cuts in its slide, three on each side, which really helped to make the Security-380 feel quite well balanced.

The frame of the Security-380 is made of a glass-filled nylon. This makes the frame itself durable and quite rigid. Controls are built around right-handed shooters, requiring a left-handed shooter to alter his or her shooting grip to actuate them. We found the left-side manual safety

lever to be rather stiff, but repeated activations and deactivations over the course of testing brought it to a workable level. Moving to the front of the frame, a three-slot Picatinny rail allows for the attachment of compact lights and lasers.

A drift-adjustable, blacked-out, steel rear sight is dovetailed into the top of the slide, and a tactical ledge allows it to be used one-handedly to rack the slide in a pinch. A high-visibility, green-fiber-optic front sight aids in fast target acquisition.

The slide itself requires very little strength to pull rearward and is quite forgiving for those who lack proper pistol-racking technique. We introduced several shooters of various experience levels to the Security-380, and none had any issue whatsoever chambering a round. The light weight of the slide also means there is very little reciprocating mass during operation; this translates to noticeably low recoil and easy follow-up shots. Both of these qualities are boons for inexperienced shooters, as well as those with conditions that affect their ability to manipulate and shoot a firearm comfortably.

A safety blade is present inside the trigger, and its break measured right around 4 lbs., 6 ozs., on average. There is about 3/8" of travel before resistance is met, and the



Set into dovetail cuts in the slide, the Ruger's sights include a black U-notch rear (inset) and a fiber-optic front (opposite).



The Security-380's controls, including a manual thumb safety, are configured around right-hand use.

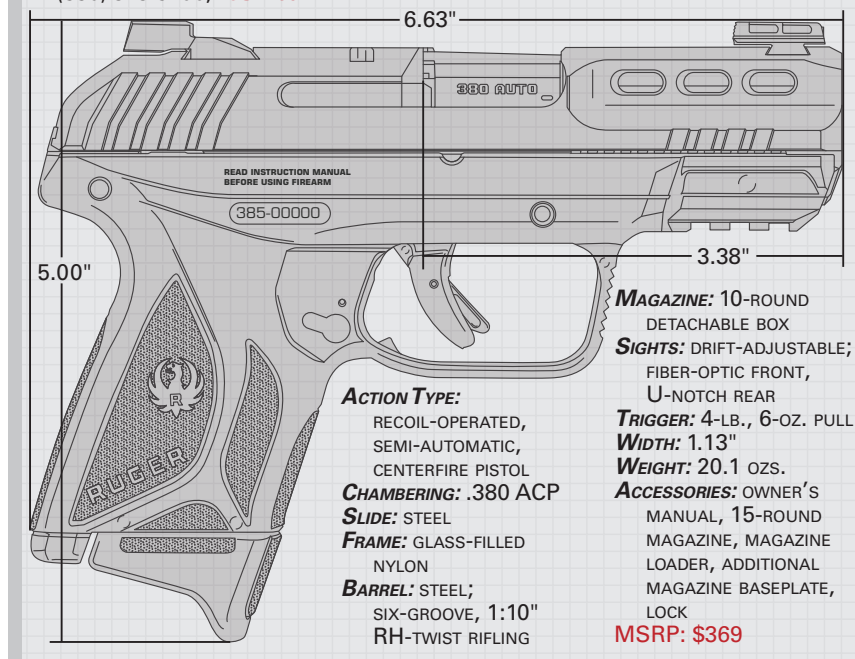
trigger has a short period of creep, but once that is pulled through, the break comes quickly. This is a positive attribute and likely a contributing factor to our being able to make precise shots with the Security-380 without much difficulty. We found that the trigger has a long reset—as is often the case with models that make use of an internal hammer. This being said, the longer trigger reset did not prevent shots from being fired in rapid succession.

The pistol includes two magazines. One is a 10-rounder that comes with two interchangeable baseplates in case the shooter wants to add a ledge for the pinky; with the flush baseplate fit to the 10-round magazine, we found the Security-380 to be very easy to conceal. The other magazine holds 15 rounds and sports a matching textured grip extension that rests between the handgun's grip and the baseplate of the magazine. We found all of the magazine setups to be quite comfortable, with the 15-round extended magazine providing the best control of the gun during rapid strings of fire. A polymer, thumb-operated magazine loader is included in the box.

During velocity testing, we shot 10 rounds of three different loads over a Caldwell Ballistic Precision chronograph. The rounds used for testing were Federal Premium's 99-grain Hydra-Shok Deep, Hornady's 90-grain Hornady Black and Winchester's 95-grain Train & Defend JHPs. During accuracy testing, the Hornady Black

RUGER SECURITY-380

MANUFACTURER: STURM, RUGER & Co. (DEPT. AR), 200 RUGER ROAD, PRESCOTT, AZ 86301; (336) 949-5200; RUGER.COM



SHOOTING RESULTS (7 YARDS)

.380 ACP CARTRIDGE	VELOCITY (F.P.S.)	ENERGY (FT.-LBS.)	GROUP SIZE (INCHES)		
			SMALLEST	LARGEST	AVERAGE
FEDERAL PREMIUM 99-GRAIN HSD	915 Avg. 15 Sd	184	1.01	2.42	1.84
HORNADY BLACK 90-GRAIN XTP	918 Avg. 21 Sd	168	0.83	1.71	1.11
WINCHESTER T&D 95-GRAIN JHP	875 Avg. 17 Sd	161	1.12	1.72	1.43
AVERAGE EXTREME SPREAD					1.46

NOTES: MEASURED AVERAGE VELOCITY OF 10 SHOTS OVER A CALDWELL BALLISTIC PRECISION CHRONOGRAPH AT 8 FEET. ACCURACY RESULTS FOR FIVE CONSECUTIVE, FIVE-SHOT GROUPS AT 7 YARDS FROM A CALDWELL PISTOLERO REST. TEMPERATURE: 56° F. HUMIDITY 86%. ABBREVIATIONS: HSD (HYDRA-SHOK DEEP), JHP (JACKETED HOLLOW POINT), Sd (STANDARD DEVIATION), T&D (TRAIN & DEFEND), XTP (eXTREME TERMINAL PERFORMANCE).

ammunition was the most consistent performer of the day, managing a five-group average of 1.11" at 7 yards.

The Security-380 showed solid reliability overall. Over the course of testing, we experienced only one failure-to-eject malfunction. This failure occurred with one of our less-experienced shooters, and upon looking further into the malfunction, we agreed that it was most likely a case of limp-wristing that caused the jam. After working on the shooter's technique, no further issues were encountered.

The Ruger Security-380 proved quite capable for a sub-\$400 centerfire

handgun. The size of the gun puts it in a unique place when compared with other defensive .380 ACP platforms—it is small enough to be easily concealed, yet large enough to provide added capacity and excellent control of the already light-recoiling .380 ACP cartridge. The Lite Rack features also make the pistol particularly well-suited to use by new shooters, as difficulty racking the slide and intimidating recoil are two of the biggest issues that newbies have when they step up to the firing line for the first time, and the Ruger quite effectively eliminates both of those concerns. 

Six lightening cuts in the slide, three on each side, reduce its reciprocating mass during operation—noticeably lowering recoil and facilitating faster follow-up shots.



Sauer SL5 Waterfowl

Originated by Lorenz Sauer in Suhl, Germany, back in 1751, J.P. Sauer & Sohn is *Deutschland's* oldest manufacturer of hunting and military rifles. But the company's storied history with rifles often skews perceptions about it, and some may be surprised to hear that the firm has also built shotguns since at least 1835. Today, Sauer continues that tradition by offering U.S. consumers the semi-automatic 12-ga. SL5 shotgun series, of which the Waterfowl (Fred Bear Old School Camo Brown Cerakote edition) is evaluated here.

Whereas Sauer's rifles are German-made, the SL5 series isn't—rather, they're manufactured by renowned Italian shotgun maker Breda, which has been doing so since the 1940s. Why re-invent the wheel, right? The company began production of the 3"-chambered SL5 Select, forerunner to the 3½"-chambered SL5 Waterfowl, in 2015. The SL5 Waterfowl operates using an inertia system, which is often imitated and has been described *ad nauseum* in these pages and elsewhere. Still, it bears mentioning here.

According to the owner's manual, "During firing, the recoil of the gun makes the breech move 4 mm forward in relation to the shotgun, compressing the inertia spring (freely interposed between the bolt head and bolt). The compressed spring then pushes the breech backwards, extracting the used

cartridge and loading a new one while sliding forward again. The spring pressure is designed to delay the opening of the action, which occurs after the shot has left the barrel, and regulate the different pressures produced by cartridges of varying power, with no need for adjustments." The company suggests firing at least 200 rounds and a minimum load of 32 grams (1⅛ ozs.) for "perfect mechanical efficiency and optimum reliability with all types of ammunition"—i.e. a mandatory break-in period. Moreover, for 24-gram loads (about 7/8 ozs.) "high-quality ammunition with sufficient energy" is necessary.

The SL5 Waterfowl's aluminum receiver is available with a black, brown or Fred Bear—yes, the archer—Old School Camo finish. Our sample featured an attractive blend of the brown Cerakote receiver (and barrel) paired with the Fred Bear Old School Camo on the synthetic buttstock and fore-end. On the right side of the receiver is an enlarged release button.

Secured to the receiver via a single pin is the trigger group. As a waterfowling shotgun, it's important that the trigger guard be sized sufficiently for a gloved finger to access the trigger, and on the SL5 Waterfowl, it is. The two-position, crossbolt safety is located behind the trigger, while the cartridge drop lever is forward of it. On the sample shotgun, the single-stage trigger broke at 6 lbs., 6 ozs.; take-up was long but smooth, while trigger reset was short.



Finished in Fred Bear Old School camo, the SL5's buttstock, complete with a textured semi-pistol grip, has a rubber comb insert and is capped with a Cervellati recoil pad.

The SL5's guts are contained within the simple, unitized "bolt group." Among them are the: bolt body; firing pin and spring; bolt inertia spring; locking head; and bolt link, to name a few. Projecting outward is the extended bolt handle—a worthwhile addition.

Available in 26", 28" and 30" lengths, the chrome-lined barrel has a steel extension into which the bolt head locks up and the spring-loaded ejector is located. Machined into the extension are recesses for mounting an optic. Topping the barrel is a stepped, ventilated steel rib ending with an LPA fiber-optic front sight. According to Breda's website, its small-batch barrels require 50 minutes each to drill the bore, and the ribs are hand-fit then soldered using pure silver. The barrel is threaded to accept Benelli Crio Plus choke tubes, with five extended chokes (ranging in constriction from cylinder to full) accompanying the SL5 Waterfowl.

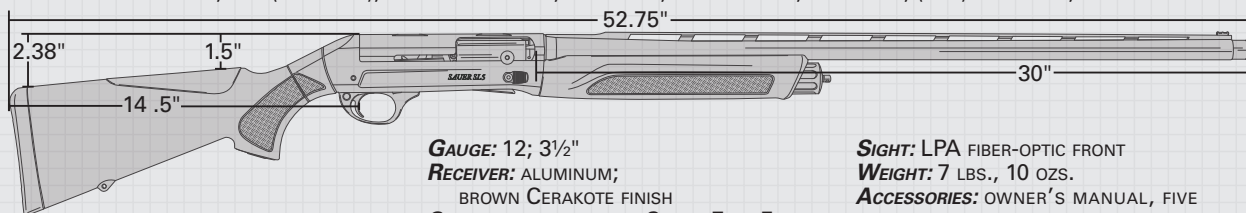
The synthetic stock is available



A set of extended Benelli Crio Plus choke tubes is included with the SL5, ranging from cylinder to full, and the stepped rib is topped with an orange LPA fiber-optic sight.

J.P. SAUER & SOHN SL5 WATERFOWL

IMPORTER: BLASER USA, INC. (DEPT. AR), 403 EAST RAMSEY, SUITE 301, SAN ANTONIO, TX 78216; (210) 377-2527; JPSAUER-USA.COM



MANUFACTURER: BRED A (ITALY)
ACTION TYPE: INERTIA-OPERATED,
 SEMI-AUTOMATIC SHOTGUN

GAUGE: 12; 3½"
RECEIVER: ALUMINUM;
 BROWN CERAKOTE FINISH
STOCK: SYNTHETIC, WITH SAUER ERGOFIT
 INLAYS TO CHANGE CAST AND DROP
MAGAZINE: TUBULAR; THREE-ROUND
TRIGGER: 6-LB., 6-OZ. PULL

SIGHT: LPA FIBER-OPTIC FRONT
WEIGHT: 7 LBS., 10 OZS.
ACCESSORIES: OWNER'S MANUAL, FIVE
 EXTENDED CHOKE TUBES, CHOKE TUBE
 CASE AND WRENCH, THREE ERGOFIT
 INLAYS, SLING SWIVELS
MSRP: \$1,779



At the rear of the trigger guard, there's a traditional crossbolt safety, and the cartridge drop lever is located in front (above, l.). An oversize and extended bolt handle is keyed into the bolt group, and an enlarged bolt release is located just below it (above, r.).

in black or the retro Fred Bear Camo. With the exception of a single smudge atop the fore-end, the finish was excellent. The comb has a rubber insert while the butt is capped with a pliable, Cervellati recoil pad. Lastly, the buttstock has an integral sling attachment point that works in unison with a stud on the fore-end nut. Two sling swivels are included with the shotgun.

Testing of the SL5 Waterfowl occurred in multiple phases. First, we patterned the shotgun using the supplied modified choke and Winchester Drylok Super Steel High Velocity 3", 1¼-oz., No. 2 loads at 40 yards. The sample gun patterned tightly and, more importantly, consistently, at that distance, though it did so slightly to the left and high of the point of aim.

Next, we headed to the field in pursuit of Virginia waterfowl while using the aforementioned steel load, as well as BOSS Shotshells' 1½-oz., No. 3 and 5 bismuth combination round. During the course of several days, the SL5 Waterfowl cycled the loads flawlessly and accounted for multiple birds—even a double. Rain, muck, frost, nothing slowed it.

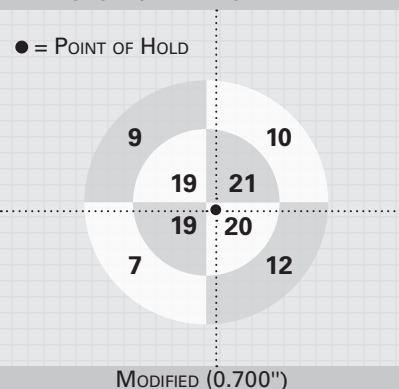
Lastly, we spent considerable time on a sporting clays course with the test gun. It was here, when partaking

in a NSCA-registered tournament, that we encountered a couple failures to feed; specifically, the first round (all 1,250- to 1,310-f.p.s., 1-oz. loads) would fire, but the carrier failed to lift the second shell for chambering. This was likely due to cleanliness (recollect the previous waterfowling excursions and range work), insufficient lubrication and/or the additional recommended firings being necessary for reliable functioning. Nonetheless, the evaluator still scored an 85/100 on a challenging course the first time out with the sample gun. After a thorough cleaning, we hit the range again to confirm reliable functioning and were relieved to find that the gremlins had left the gun following some maintenance.

Although somewhat heavy, our evaluator found that the shotgun, which has its balance point at the front of the receiver, swung smoothly and pointed instinctively, making hits

SHOOTING RESULTS (40 YARDS)

WINCHESTER DRYLOK SUPER STEEL
 HIGH VELOCITY
 12-GA., 3", 1¼ OZS., No. 2 STEEL
 AVERAGE PELLET COUNT: 153
 LISTED VELOCITY: 1,450 F.P.S.
 AVERAGE OF 10 PATTERNS



21" INNER CIRCLE:	79	(52%)
30" OUTER RING:	38	(25%)
TOTAL HITS:	117	(77%)

on difficult targets easy, no matter the presentation. Spending considerable time testing the SL5 Waterfowl in a host of environments illustrated to us that it is a solid shotgun capable of handling a variety of roles. But, like a fine wine, it gets better with time, and that means adhering to its requisite break-in procedure. Once done, though, the Waterfowl should last a long time, and the company provides a 10-year warranty to demonstrate its confidence that it will. 

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.



**LATEST
LEGISLATIVE
NEWS FROM
INSIDE THE NRA
INSTITUTE FOR
LEGISLATIVE
ACTION**

Alaska Enacts First Pro-Gun Reform In A Decade

In late July, NRA celebrated a significant victory for Alaskans and the Second Amendment when Gov. Mike Dunleavy (R) signed House Bill 61 into law, marking the first major pro-Second Amendment legislation passed in the state in the last decade. This comes 10 years after House Bill 24, the “Stand Your Ground” law, which Gov. Dunleavy had also supported by voting “yea” in his first year as a state senator, was enacted in 2013.

House Bill 61, championed by Speaker Cathy Tilton (R) and backed by the NRA, is a groundbreaking law that safeguards the rights of firearm businesses and gun owners during states of emergency. The bill prohibits state and local government entities from

closing lawful firearm businesses or restricting individuals’ access to firearms, ammunition and component parts during declared states of emergency. The bill passed with bipartisan legislative support, and its Senate companion was carried by Sen. Scott Kawasaki (D).

This law provides a critical protective shield for our fundamental rights during states of emergency, reinforcing the core principles of the Second Amendment. It not only supports gun owners but also ensures legal recourse for those who experience unjust infringements on these rights.

The NRA applauds Gov. Dunleavy for his unwavering support of our Second Amendment rights and for signing this pivotal legislation into law.

Update On Legal Challenge To “Pistol Brace Rule”

On Aug. 2, NRA announced it would be expediting its motion for a preliminary injunction to protect its members from the Biden Administration’s unlawful attempt to reclassify braced pistols as “rifles” subject to onerous registration requirements.

The announcement came a day after the Fifth Circuit’s decision in *Mock v. Garland*, which found the controversial “pistol brace rule” issued by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) is probably unlawful under the Administrative Procedure Act (APA).

In an opinion issued Aug. 1, the Fifth Circuit agreed with what the NRA has contended from Day 1—the Biden Administration’s pistol brace rule is unlawful.

The rule seeks to rewrite the National Firearms Act (NFA) to make any pistol that has a stabilizing brace attached into a “rifle” subject to the stringent registration and transfer requirements of the NFA. But the ATF sought to couch its sweeping rewrite of the law as a mere “interpretation” of the NFA—despite the fact that, over the course of more than a decade, the ATF has repeatedly

NRA-ILA

**ILA Grassroots:
(800) 392-8683**

NRA-ILA: (703) 267-1170

NRA-ILA website: nraila.org

assured law-abiding gun owners and manufacturers that adding a brace to a pistol does not transform the weapon into a “rifle.”

Thus, the ATF contradicted itself and sought to subject law-abiding gun owners to penalties, fines and potential prison sentences for the use of an otherwise-legal plastic apparatus on some firearms. Even worse, the ATF sought to sidestep a barrage of negative comments for its proposed rule, including the NRA’s comments, by attempting an 11th-hour rewrite of the pistol brace rule to add a poorly conceived six-factor test “considering everything from the weight of the firearm with the stabilizing brace attached to the prevalence of YouTubers’ demonstrating the likely use of the weapon,” in the words of the Fifth Circuit.

While the Fifth Circuit remanded the case to the district court to determine the proper scope of injunctive relief, the writing is on the wall: the pistol brace rule is illegal and cannot withstand scrutiny. Further, the Fifth Circuit observed that, “in certain circumstances, nationwide relief is appropriate and may be necessary for the benefit of all parties” and emphasized the need for a “consistent application of the law.” All that is left is for the lower courts to give effect to the Fifth Circuit’s clear direction.

The NRA initially backed a lawsuit by several state attorneys general in North Dakota, sought to intervene in a Texas legal action challenging the unlawful rule, and, on July 3, filed its own lawsuit against the ATF, the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), ATF Director Dettelbach and U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland (“Defendants”) seeking a preliminary injunction protecting its members from the pistol brace rule. Now, the NRA will move to ensure that its preliminary injunction motion moves on an expedited schedule, so its members may obtain relief even more quickly in light of the Fifth Circuit’s ruling. It is also appealing the denial of its motion to intervene in the Fifth Circuit—an appeal that is currently proceeding on an expedited schedule.

“The NRA fought this unlawful rule at every level—first as a supporter of a major case and then as a plaintiff at the tip of the spear,” says NRA CEO and Executive Vice President Wayne LaPierre. “This ruling sends a powerful message to NRA members and law-abiding gun owners everywhere: Freedom will be preserved.” 🦋

Photo courtesy of Jesse Wayne Taylor

Jesse Wayne Taylor is NRA COUNTRY



Unlike most musicians you find in Nashville, singer, songwriter and musician Jesse Wayne Taylor is a born-and-bred middle-Tennessee native. Growing up with a love for music, he started experimenting with writing lyrics as young as 7 years old. Jesse sang in church throughout middle and high school but did not start playing guitar until he was 18. In his early years of college at Lipscomb University, he played around town any chance he could get. Following his college graduation in 2015, he decided to become a full-time musician. As an independent artist, he’s already released several projects alongside his work at CreatiVets. Just like with music, Jesse gained a passion for guns at a young age. His father and grandfathers sold and traded shotguns and revolvers for fun, and he would gladly test them! “Wasting” ammo quickly became a favorite hobby. While in college, he worked behind a range counter, and three years later, he was promoted to development director, hosting and doing private instruction for large parties. Since 2021, he has been the music instructor for CreatiVets. Now he gets to spend his days teaching the veterans of our country how to write songs to process their emotions and how to play an instrument with their song. NRA Country’s Lisa Supernaugh spent some time with Jesse at a recent charity event for CreatiVets and got to ask him a few questions. You can check out Jesse’s music at jessewaynetaylor.com and his work with our Veterans at creativets.org.

LS: Your Instagram shows you had a great hunting season last fall. Who got you in to hunting and the outdoors?

JWT: I did have a great season! I brought home a really nice eight-point buck and a fat doe. I made some burgers from that for some friends tonight, as a matter of fact. I’ve always loved shooting, but I have only gotten into hunting deer in the last three years. My cousin, Tim Goar, was kind enough to teach me, not only how to gut, but to process my whole deer myself.

LS: Your podcast with your dad, Travis Taylor, talks about your Paw Paw, firearms and music; how did you come up with the idea for it?

JWT: Growing up, I remember walking across the street, Taylor Road, which was named after our family, to go see my grandparents. I would sit and listen to my dad and his dad tell stories for hours. My dad is one of the best storytellers on the planet. I always wanted to have recordings of him telling stories to listen to after he passed. So, what better way than to start a podcast?

LS: You are a true patriot and volunteer to help our veterans tell their stories and heal through songs. How did you come to get involved?

JWT: I was fortunate enough to meet Richard Casper one night at the Whiskey Jam in Nashville. We exchanged numbers and he had me sit in on a writing session with a veteran the very next day. I went on to volunteer with them for several years, and then I joined their team as their music instructor and staff writer in February of 2021. It has been a massive blessing in my life since the moment I got involved.

LS: Does CreatiVets offer more programs than just music to help our veterans tell their stories?

JWT: Absolutely. I would say about half of what we do is the music. We just finished running an art program in Chicago yesterday. There are photography classes as well. All you have to do is apply at creativets.org.

LS: You work with so many of those who have put their lives on the line for our freedom, so my last question for today is what does freedom mean to you?

JWT: I’ve been given the privilege of writing songs with more than 100 of our country’s finest veterans through the CreatiVets program. To me, freedom means suffering. It means someone paid the price for me to be free and someone is suffering because of it. Whether it’s a guy who lost both of his legs, or a mother who lost her son, someone is suffering for me to enjoy my 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.

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.



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.



AREA SHOOTS

ssusa.org/coming-events

For more information, send an email to Shelly Kramer at mkramer@nrahq.org or call (703) 267-1459.



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.



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.



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.

NRA DALLAS '24 ANNUAL MEETINGS & EXHIBITS

MAY 17-19, 2024

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





By Joseph P.
DeBergalis, Jr.
Executive Director,
General Operations



Joining NRA-affiliated state associations supports NRA's mission in your state.

GET INVOLVED TODAY!
GO VISIT
stateassociations.nra.org

NRA Supports Hunters For The Hungry

Hunters for the Hungry provides meals of healthy venison to those who are hungry and living in poverty.

Each year, more than 8.1 million meals are donated to the needy from Hunters for the Hungry, an NRA-backed initiative that aids hunters who wish to share their excess harvest. The primary objective of Hunters for the Hungry is to help provide food for needy people and non-profit organizations that support our same goal. This month, I want to salute those who helped start the program, as well as everyone who participates in Hunters for the Hungry around the country.

Since 1991, Hunters for the Hungry has supplied hundreds of thousands of pounds of venison to homeless shelters, soup kitchens and food banks across the United States. The deer are accepted by professional meat cutters who cut, wrap and freeze the venison. Meat is distributed at no cost to the recipients.

A major part of the movement since the mid-1990s, the NRA is one of the nation's leading promoters of Hunters for the Hungry as a charitable organization, working closely with state programs and affiliates, connecting interested individuals with programs in their area and creating public awareness through education, fundraising and publicity. Not only does our website help connect hunters to processors, the NRA is also one of the largest funders of the movement, having given away

more than \$650,000 over the years to help process game and provide families with food, in addition to all the work we have done to promote the initiative.

The top five states for venison donations to Hunters for the Hungry are Iowa, Missouri, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Virginia. I tip my hat to the many partners that have made Hunters for the Hungry such a successful program. For example, Pennsylvania Hunters Sharing the Harvest, the largest of all the organizations supporting Hunters for the Hungry, last year donated 235,532 pounds of venison processed from a whopping 6,201 deer and four elk. NRA does its part supporting the Pennsylvania group via the Great American Outdoor Show, based in Harrisburg, Pa., along with a sizeable contribution from the NRA Hunter's Leadership Forum (nrhlhf.org). Additionally, the state of Virginia has emerged as a leader in the Hunters for the Hungry movement, with a solid network that has been in operation since 1991.

Don't hesitate—donate your surplus venison and secure this vital food source for those in need. Learn how to contribute to Hunters for the Hungry at hfth.nra.org.



Photo by NRA

NRA Gun Collector Programs

By Philip Schreier, Director, NRA Museums & Gun Collector Programs

No doubt you have read about NRA's Eddie Eagle program or the National Matches, but did you know that these are just two of the 130 programs administered by NRA General Operations personnel? Among those numerous program areas, you will find the NRA Gun Collector programs.

The NRA has approximately 100 affiliated gun collector clubs nationwide, and we offer a wide variety of activities for them. The oldest program area is the gun collectors' corner of the NRA Annual Meetings & Exhibits. The first of our famous Annual Meetings & Exhibits was held in the Shoreham Hotel in Washington, D.C., in 1948. In the small hotel ballroom of the Shoreham, industry displays from Freehand Scope Stands and Weatherby commanded a great deal of interest, but it was the exhibits of the Ohio Gun Collectors Association and others that captured the public's imagination. Antique and historic arms proved to be quite the crowd-pleasers and our affiliated clubs have been sharing their prized collections with other NRA members and guests for 75 years now.

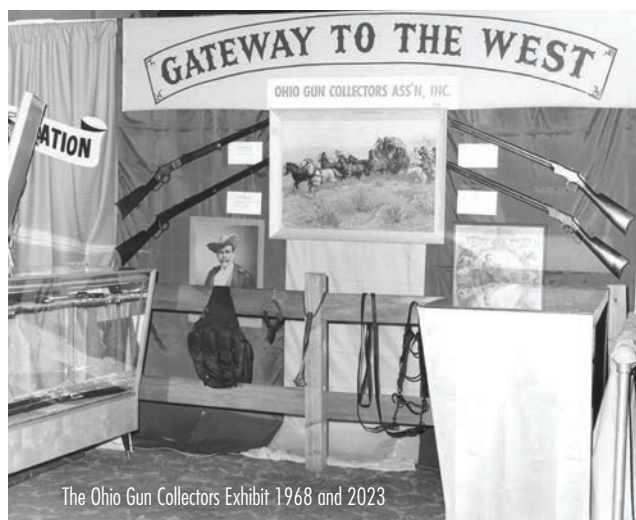
In 1960, the NRA Gun Collectors Committee of the NRA Board of Directors initiated a display competition where each

club could compete for awards based on a juried evaluation of the merits of their exhibits. The Gun Collectors Committee Trophy and one of the 10 Silver Medals for best arms of the show are among NRA's most coveted awards.

In 1996, the Gun Collectors Committee inaugurated the National Gun Collectors Show, which also held a display competition for best exhibit by single individuals instead of the cooperative efforts of an affiliated club, as is done during the Annual Meetings. These awards are accompanied by some of the most generous cash prizes in the hobby.

In addition to the standard benefits of NRA affiliation, the NRA publishes an Official Journal of Gun Collecting every other month in the pages of *Man At Arms for the Gun and Sword Collector* magazine, which is the finest periodical of its type in the country.

For more information about NRA Gun Collector Programs, contact Philip Schreier at (703) 267-1601 or via nfmstaff@nrahq.org. To subscribe to *Man At Arms*, contact Mowbray Publishing at (800) 999-4697 or orders@manatarmsbooks.com.



The Ohio Gun Collectors Exhibit 1968 and 2023



Photos by NRA

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**, California; **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; **Marion P. Hammer**, Florida; **Al Hammond**, Florida; **Maria Heil**, Pennsylvania; **Antonio Hernández**, Puerto Rico; **Charles T. Hiltunen III**, Indiana; **Niger Innis**, Nevada; **Curtis S. Jenkins**, Georgia; **David A. Keene**, Maryland; **Tom King**, New York; **Herbert A. Lanford, Jr.**, South Carolina; **Willes K. Lee**, Virginia; **Amy Heath Lovato**, New Jersey; **Robert E. Mansell**, Arizona; **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; **Kim Rhode**, California; **Mark Robinson**, North Carolina; **Wayne Anthony Ross**, Alaska; **Carl T. Rowan, Jr.**, Washington, D.C.; **Barbara Rumpel**, Florida; **Don Saba**, Arizona; **Ronald L. Schmeits**, New Mexico; **Steven C. Schreiner**, Colorado; **John C. Sigler**, Delaware; **Leroy Sisco**, Texas; **Danny Stowers**, Texas; **Amanda Suffecool**, Ohio; **Craig Swartz**, Iowa; **Jim Tones**, 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.

Do it Right with DR® Power Equipment

DR® is the LEADER in Leaf Vacs

★ **USA**
ENGINEERED AND BUILT

Assembled in the USA
using domestic and
foreign parts.



EASY 1-hand dumping

Tow-Behind

- #1 in vacuum power and capacity
- **NEW PRO MAX** model holds up to 450 gallons
- All models newly redesigned with up to 20% more capacity

Walk-Behind

- **NEW PILOT XT** models fill paper leaf bags for curbside pickup
- Collects & mulches up to 50 lbs of leaves
- Includes onboard caddy for extra bags



Devour Brush Piles with a DR® Chipper Shredder



- **CHIP & SHRED** with power to spare
- **BIGGER ENGINES** beat the competition
- **BUILT USA TOUGH** for smooth operation



Make Your Driveway Like NEW with a DR® Power Grader

- Fill in potholes and smooth out washboard
- Loosen & redistribute existing material
- Tow with your ATV, UTV, or tractor



Discover the POWER and PRECISION of a DR® Trimmer Mower

- **5X THE POWER** of a hand-held trimmer
- **TRIM** precisely without arm fatigue
- **MOW** where a bladed mower can't



NOTHING Stops a DR® Field & Brush Mower

Starting at Just
\$1999⁹⁹



- Up to **2X THE POWER** of the competition
- **CUT 3" THICK BRUSH & tall field grass** with ease
- **WIDEST SELECTION** of deck sizes and features

PLUS Tow-Behind, Commercial, and NEW Electric models



◀ **Scan to Shop**
or
Request a Catalog

GoDRpower.com

Toll-Free at 800-456-2037

FREE SHIPPING
(orders over \$100)





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

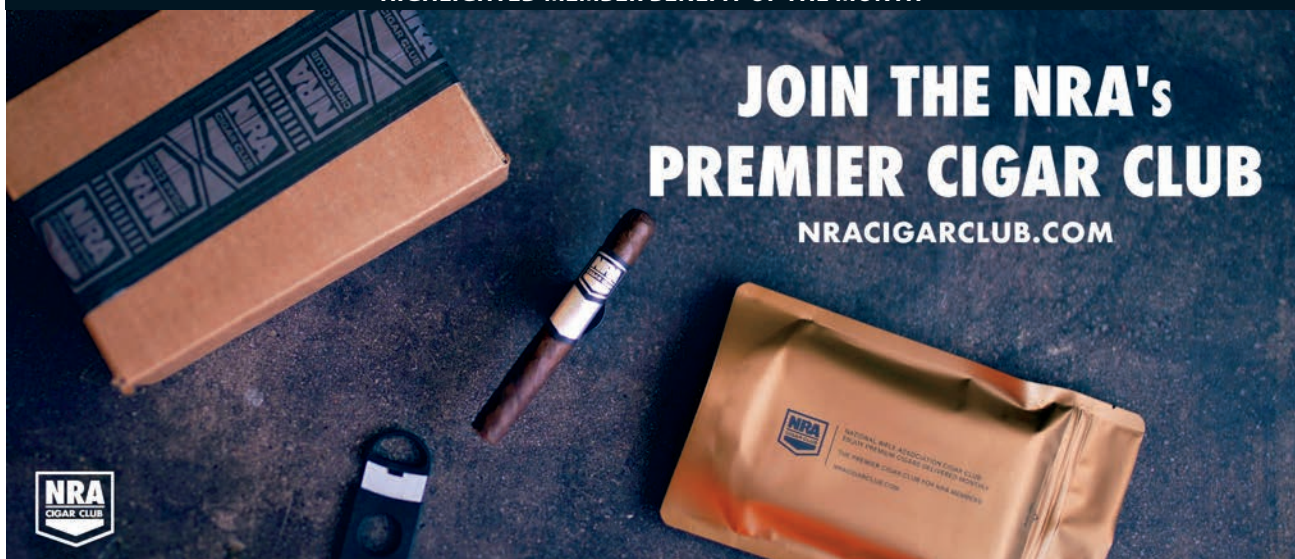
PENFED CREDIT UNION

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

HIGHLIGHTED MEMBER BENEFIT OF THE MONTH

JOIN THE NRA's PREMIER CIGAR CLUB

NRACIGARCLUB.COM



STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP,
MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION
(Required by 39 U.S.C. 3685)

1. Publication Title: American Rifleman
2. Publication No.: 0003-083X
3. Filing Date: August 16, 2023
4. Issue Frequency: Monthly
5. No. of Issues Published Annually: 12
6. Annual Subscription Price: \$9.95
7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication: National Rifle Association of America, 11250 Waples Mill Road, Fairfax, Virginia 22030-9400. Contact Person: Rachel Carr, Telephone (703) 267-1000.
8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher: National Rifle Association of America, 11250 Waples Mill Road, Fairfax, Virginia 22030-9400.
9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor. Publisher: Doug Hamlin, National Rifle Association of America, 11250 Waples Mill Road, Fairfax, Virginia 22030-9400. Editor: Brian Sheetz, National Rifle Association of America, 11250 Waples Mill Road, Fairfax, Virginia 22030-9400. Managing Editor: Kelly Young, National Rifle Association of America, 11250 Waples Mill Road, Fairfax, Virginia 22030-9400.
10. Owner: National Rifle Association of America, 11250 Waples Mill Road, Fairfax, Virginia 22030-9400.
11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding One Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities: None.
12. The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for federal income tax purposes has not changed during preceding 12 months.
13. Publication Title: American Rifleman
14. Issue Date for Circulation Data: September 2022 to August 2023.
15. Extent and Nature of Circulation

	Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preced- ing 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Total No. of Copies (Net press run)	1,428,733	1,365,446
b. Paid Circulation (By Mail and Outside the Mail)		
(1) Mailed Outside-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (Include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	1,425,540	1,362,447
(2) Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (Include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	-0-	-0-
(3) Paid Distribution Outside the Mails Including Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid Distribution Outside USPS®	-0-	-0-
(4) Paid Distribution By Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS (e.g., First Class Mail®)	1,185	1,165
c. Total Paid Distribution [Sum of 15b (1), (2), (3), and (4)]	1,426,725	1,363,612
d. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (By Mail and Outside the Mail)		
(1) Free or Nominal Rate Outside-County Copies Included on PS Form 3541	-0-	-0-
(2) Free or Nominal Rate In-County Copies Included on PS Form 3541	-0-	-0-
(3) Free or Nominal Rate Copies Mailed at Other Classes Through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail)	50	51
(4) Free Or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or Other Means)	1,441	1,283
e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution [Sum of 15d (1), (2), (3), and (4)]	1,491	1,334
f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15e)	1,428,216	1,364,946
g. Copies Not Distributed	517	500
h. Total (Sum of 15f and 15g)	1,428,733	1,365,446
i. Percent Paid (15c divided by 15f times 100)	99.90%	99.90%

16. Electronic Copy Circulation: N/A
 17. This Statement of Ownership will be printed in the October 2023 issue of this publication.
 18. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner: Doug Hamlin, Executive Director, NRA Publications, 8/16/2023.
- I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).

**JERRY KUHNHAUSEN
GUNSMITHING & GUN
REPAIR BOOKS & DVDS**
12 Titles to Choose From

HERITAGE GUN BOOKS
JERRY KUHNHAUSEN GUNSMITHING & GUN REPAIR MANUALS
gunbooks.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

AMERICAN RIFLEMAN

YOUTUBE/NRAPUBS

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

Your NRA membership gives you deals and discounts on gear, goods and services. Access your benefits today and save more than you pay in dues. Plus your purchases help NRA fight for freedom.

START SAVING TODAY—Benefits.NRA.org

OLD WESTERN SCROUNGER
Great milsurp & hard-to-find
ammunition!

www.ows-ammo.com

**Ruger MK Pistols - reassemble
correctly EVERY time**

One-Time Fix
Not for 22/45
256-527-3527
HammerStrutSupport.com

**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 **Free U.S. Shipping**

♥ **Rich (TX)** "Within the first few hours of its use, 10X has proven well worth the cost. It is an amazing product. I will definitely reorder before finishing it. Thanks and Godspeed."

♥ **Jacques (LA)** "I am a physician, read about your study in the Medical Tribune, and have been buying 10X ever since. It's really a fine product."

Not in stores 610-827-2200
Athenainstitute.com

Athena Institute, Braefield Rd, Chester Spgs, PA 19425 ARI

**Iver Johnson
Golden Eagle XL**

MSRP - \$1840

- 6" 1911 24K gold plated mirror finish
- Ported slide & barrel
- Available in 45acp and 10mm
- Pearlite grips w/ owl head medallion

www.iverjohnsonarms.com

I HAVE THIS OLD GUN ...



ASTRA 600/43

GUN: ASTRA MODEL 600/43
MANUFACTURER: UNCETA Y COMPAÑIA S.A. (ASTRA)
CHAMBERING: 9 MM LUGER
SERIAL No.: 29058
MANUFACTURED: 1945
CONDITION: NRA VERY GOOD (MODERN GUN STANDARDS)
VALUE: \$700

After the fall of France in 1940, Germany occupied not just the country's northern coast but also the entirety of its western coast, in a corridor stretching all the way to the Spanish border. A mere 60 miles to the west, the Basque city of Guernica was home to one of the greatest gunmakers in Europe: *Unceta y Compañía S.A.*, better known as Astra. From the start of World War II, German industry had struggled to produce an adequate number of pistols for its armed forces. To cover this shortfall, the *Wehrmacht* purchased foreign-made guns, and after the fall of France, that included pistols made in Guernica by Astra.

In 1941, the Germans purchased 12,000 Model 300 and Model 400 pistols. During the three years that followed, most of Astra's production was dedicated to German orders. While the Model 300 (in both .380 ACP and .32 ACP) succeeded in German service, it was just not big enough to be considered a proper sidearm. The Model 400 was large enough, but it also presented a big problem. Chambered for 9 mm Largo, a cartridge the *Wehrmacht* did not use in any other firearm, it gave supply officers a logistical headache; they liked its simple reliability but not its chambering.

In response to feedback from the Germans, Astra re-designed the Model 400 to chamber 9 mm Luger. Like the pistol from which it evolved, this new Astra made use of a steel slide, a steel frame, a fixed barrel with a

concentric recoil spring, an internal hammer and the direct-blowback operating mechanism. A few other minor modifications were also made to include shortening the slide and barrel and reducing the width of the grip.

The new cartridge required a re-design of the single-stack magazine, but capacity remained eight rounds. The Model 400's heel magazine release was replaced by a button on the left side of the grip, and an improved lanyard loop was added just behind it. Three features made it as safe as it was reliable: a thumb safety, a grip safety and a magazine-disconnect safety. Astra designated it the "Model 600/43" and sent 50 examples to Germany in early 1944 for testing and evaluation.

An exceptionally well-made pistol, the Model 600/43 impressed the *Wehrmacht*, and it quickly placed an order for 60,000 units. As part of a phased-production contract, the German government paid Astra up front for the first 41,500 guns. Deliveries began in May 1944, but they only continued for 90 days because, just as serial production of the Model 600/43 was getting underway in Guernica, Allied forces stormed ashore 500 miles to the north in Normandy.

By July 1944, the ongoing campaign in northern France had fundamentally changed the tactical situation in southern France, and, by the fall, the German occupation had ended. Only 10,500 Model 600/43s were delivered before that time, and they are easy to identify by virtue of the "WaA/D20" acceptance mark engraved on the right side of the frame. Astra went on to manufacture the remaining guns that Germany paid for and then continued by assembling another 18,000.

After the war, the Philippines, Costa Rica, Egypt, Thailand, Portugal, Chile, Jordan and Turkey purchased these Model 600/43s in small quantities. But the great irony of this story is that the largest postwar buyer of the pistol was the same country that brought it to life in the first place. West Germany's Federal Police adopted it in 1951, and then West Germany's army adopted it in 1956.

Although the Astra Model 600/43 may not sit at the top of the list of the most collectible German World War II pistols, that is exactly what the first 10,500 are. Even the examples that do not have Nazi acceptance marks are part of the story of Germany during the Second World War, as they would not exist were it not for the fact that they were brought into being at a time when everyone involved should have known that the "Thousand-Year Reich" wasn't going to last.

—MARTIN K.A. MORGAN, FIELD EDITOR

Photos by Jessica Bullock,
Collectors Firearms, Houston, Texas

Scientific Discovery Stuns Doctors

Biblical Bush Relieves Joint Discomfort in as Little as 5 Days

Legendary “special herb” gives new life to old joints without clobbering you. So safe you can take it every day without worry.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than 54 million Americans are suffering from joint discomfort.

This epidemic rise in aching joints has led to a search for alternative treatments—as many sufferers want relief without the harmful side effects of conventional “solutions.”

Leading the way from nature’s pharmacy is the new “King of Oils” that pioneering Florida MD and anti-aging specialist Dr. Al Sears calls “the most significant breakthrough I’ve ever found for easing joint discomfort.”

Biblical scholars treasured this “holy oil.” Ancient healers valued it more than gold for its medicinal properties. Marco Polo prized it as he blazed the Silk Road. And Ayurvedic practitioners, to this day, honor it for healing and detoxification.

Yet what really caught Dr. Sears’ attention is how modern medical findings now prove this “King of Oils” can powerfully...

Deactivate 400 Agony-Causing Genes

If you want genuine, long-lasting relief for joint discomfort, you must address inflammation. Too much inflammation will wreak havoc on joints, break down cartilage and cause unending discomfort. This is why so many natural joint relief solutions try to stop one of the main inflammatory genes called COX-2.

But the truth is, there are hundreds of agony-causing genes like COX-2, 5-LOX, iNOS, TNF, Interleukin 1,6,8 and many more—and stopping just one of them won’t give you all the relief you need.

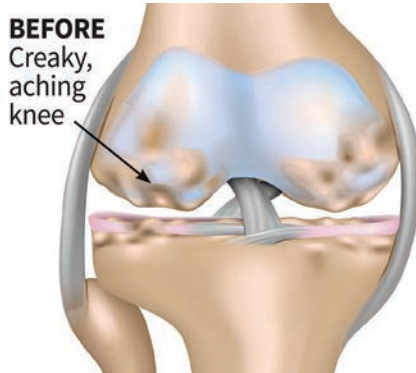
Doctors and scientists now confirm the “King of Oils”—Indian Frankincense—deactivates not one but 400 agony-causing genes. It does so by shutting down the inflammation command center called Nuclear Factor Kappa Beta.

NK-Kappa B is like a switch that can turn 400 inflammatory genes “on” or “off.” A study in Journal of Food Lipids reports that Indian Frankincense powerfully deactivates NF-Kappa B. This journal adds that Indian Frankincense is “so powerful it shuts down the pathway triggering aching joints.”

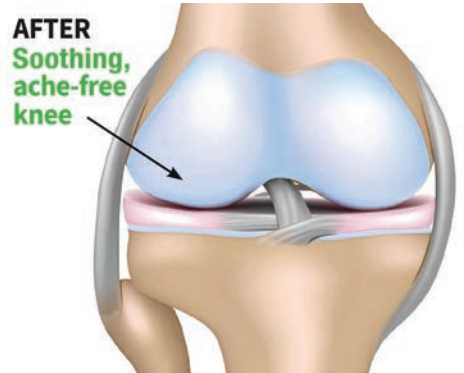
Relief That’s 10 Times Faster... and in Just 5 Days

Many joint sufferers prefer natural solutions but say they work too slowly. Take the best-seller glucosamine. Good as it is,

BEFORE
Creaky,
aching
knee



AFTER
Soothing,
ache-free
knee



*The active ingredient in **Mobilify** soothes aching joints in as little as 5 days*

the National Institutes of Health reports that glucosamine takes as long as eight weeks to work.

Yet in a study published in the International Journal of Medical Sciences, 60 patients with stiff knees took 100 mg of Indian Frankincense or a placebo daily for 30 days. Remarkably, Indian Frankincense “significantly improved joint function and relieved discomfort in as early as five days.” That’s relief that is 10 times faster than glucosamine.

78% Better Relief Than the Most Popular Joint Solution

In another study, people suffering from discomfort took a formula containing Indian Frankincense and another natural substance or a popular man-made joint solution every day for 12 weeks.

The results? Stunning! At the end of the study, 64% of those taking the Indian Frankincense formula saw their joint discomfort go from moderate or severe to mild or no discomfort. Only 28% of those taking the placebo got the relief they wanted. So Indian Frankincense delivered relief at a 78% better clip than the popular man-made formula.

In addition, in a randomized, double blind, placebo controlled study, patients suffering from knee discomfort took Indian Frankincense or a placebo daily for eight weeks. Then the groups switched and got the opposite intervention. Every one of the patients taking Indian Frankincense got relief. That’s a 100% success rate—numbers unseen by typical solutions.

In addition, BMJ (formerly the British Medical Journal) reports that Indian Frankincense is safe for joint relief — so safe and

natural you can take it every day.

Because of clinically proven results like this, Dr. Sears has made Indian Frankincense the centerpiece of a new natural joint relief formula called **Mobilify**.

Great Results for Knees, Hips, Shoulders and Joints

Joni D. says, “**Mobilify** really helps with soreness, stiffness and mild temporary pain. The day after taking it, I was completely back to normal—so fast.” Shirley M. adds, “Two weeks after taking **Mobilify**, I had no knee discomfort and could go up and down the staircase.” Larry M. says, “After a week and a half of taking **Mobilify**, the discomfort, stiffness and minor aches went away... it’s almost like being reborn.” And avid golfer Dennis H. says, “I can attest to **Mobilify** easing discomfort to enable me to pursue my golfing days. Definitely one pill that works for me out of the many I have tried.”

How to Get Mobilify

To secure the hot, new **Mobilify** formula, buyers should contact the Sears Health Hotline at **1-800-461-8593** 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 **Mobilify**, 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.”

Use Promo Code **ARMB923** when you call to secure your supply of **Mobilify**. Lines are frequently busy and due to heightened demand, supplies are limited. To secure your supply today, call **1-800-461-8593**.

MODEL
2020
RIMFIRE

NEW BOLT-ACTION .22 RIFLES

The Model 2020 Rimfire family offers shooters a refined rimfire rifle with all the quality and performance you've come to expect from Springfield Armory. Offered in both Classic wood-stocked and Target synthetic-stocked versions, the Model 2020 Rimfire carries an impressive accuracy guarantee and the heirloom quality of a firearm you will keep in your family for generations.



SPRINGFIELD ARMORY.

SPRINGFIELD-ARMORY.COM