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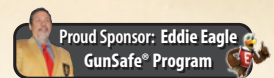
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Henry's new Big Boy Revolver models represent a radical departure for a company best known for its lever-action rifles.

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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.

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THE COVER: Actor Clint Eastwood portrayed “The Outlaw Josey Wales” in his landmark 1976 Western, which featured, among other arms, a pair of replica Colt Walker revolvers. Learn more about these “reel” guns starting on p. 42.



Design by David Labrozzi

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Philadelphia Deringer

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Evolution Of The AKM

Whenever news coverage from a foreign conflict zone shows rifles with curved magazines, reporters generally identify them as AK-47s, but most of the time, they're actually AKMs. Here's how the rifles developed.

americanrifleman.org/akmevolution



Review: Christensen Arms Modern Hunting Rifle (MHR)

Christensen Arms' Modern Hunting Rifle is the company's latest bolt-action that's designed to be easily customizable and made for the outdoors.

americanrifleman.org/christensenmhr



Sporting Clays vs. FITASC:

Two Popular Shotgun Sports

Sporting clays and FITASC are some of the fastest-growing shotgun sports. So, what are they and how do they differ? Here's a quick rundown.

americanrifleman.org/shotgunsports

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



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February 21

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March 13

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THE RIFLEMAN REPORT



It's not often that we introduce new elements into the *American Rifleman* formula, but in this month's issue, you'll find one listed under the "American Rifleman Classics" icon shown above. We will use it on occasion to take a look back across the ARC of history through unique content from long-forgotten issues of the magazine. This month's installment, "The Rifleman In The Atomic Age" (p. 40) was published 72 years ago in March of 1952, yet seems eerily appropriate in the increasingly dangerous first months of 2024.

We also don't typically run movie stills on the cover, but this month's exception is explained in the story "I Reckon So': The Guns Of 'The Outlaw Josey Wales'" (p. 42) in which NRA Museum Director and longtime *American Rifleman* contributor Phil Schreier recalls striking cinematic gold while preparing for a popular exhibit some 23 years ago. The story was simply too entertaining to pass up since it intertwines the real-life history of the Walker Colt revolver with the reel-life prop guns used by acclaimed actor and director Clint Eastwood in his 1976 landmark Western. It is an educational and entertaining example of how such movie magic can remind us of the true influence that significant firearm designs have had on American history.

On the topic of commercially available firearms that are breaking new ground, we enlisted the aid of another longtime contributor, Craig Boddington, to run an unusual new rifle through its paces. With more African safaris under his belt than most hunters ever dream of, Boddington is no stranger to rapidly bringing a rifle to bear on game, and in "Strasser's Innovative RS 700 Straight-Pull" (p. 48), he proves that the back-and-forth action is not only alive and well, but that one capable of being reversed is just the thing for southpaws such as himself.

Another example of unexpected new products that we felt compelled to share is notable since it's not every day that a firearm manufacturer so synonymous with one type of platform decides to bring a completely different one to market. But, in the case of Henry Repeating Arms, well-known primarily for its lever-action rifles, that's exactly what has taken place. In "Practical Heritage: Henry's Big Boy Revolvers" (p. 56), Field Editor Jeremiah Knupp evaluates two versions of the new handgun, which promise to gain ground among traditionalist and new shooters alike with their high quality of manufacture and distinctive appearance.

Handloading is alive and well, and it isn't only practiced by those who shoot matches. But when it comes to creating loads for hunting, does it really matter if the same sort of fanatical care that target shooters use to develop recipes for shooting from the bench is applied to loads for the field? One of the most experienced handloaders and western hunters I know, Field Editor John Haviland, set out to answer exactly that question and reports his findings in "Essential Handloading Steps" (p. 64).

This issue's mix of entertainment, new-product evaluation and technical advice is designed to satisfy your hunger for knowledge about firearms and shooting, but it's also intended to inspire your enjoyment of our Second Amendment freedom. Not only are shooting skills perishable, our freedom to exercise them could be as well. In fact, whether we use firearms for hunting, plinking, self-defense or collecting, our ownership of them is the most tangible evidence that we are all still, for the time being, armed citizens and not defenseless subjects.

That is perhaps the most important distinguishing feature of America as a nation—and one worth fighting for.

—BRIAN C. SHEETZ, EDITOR IN CHIEF



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A man, his girlfriend and their two children were getting out of their vehicle outside the Denver Museum of Nature and Science on Dec. 31, 2023, when two armed men charged at them. The suspects reportedly grabbed the man and demanded the silver chain around his neck, but then struck him in the back of the head. The man drew his own firearm and pointed it at the suspects, who fired at him, and he fired back. The alleged assailants fled, firing back at the family as they went, fortunately not striking anyone. Later, a car which matched the description of the one the suspects fled in, dropped off a man at the hospital whose clothing matched the security footage from the museum. The man was reported as “medically unresponsive,” but faced several charges, including attempted first-degree murder, should he recover. The other person from the vehicle was not apprehended at the time of the report. (denver7.com, Denver, Colo., 1/2/24)

A 31-year-old concealed-carry-permit holder was outside in Chicago, Ill., on Dec. 9, 2023, when two men in a vehicle pulled up near him and allegedly started shooting for unknown reasons. One of the bullets struck the victim in the chest, but the man drew his own firearm and shot back, striking both assailants and killing one. The victim was hospitalized in fair condition. The investigation was still ongoing. (cbsnews.com, Chicago, Ill., 12/10/23)

An armed robber entered a gas station convenience store Dec. 21, 2023, around 1 a.m. in South Bend, Ind., and demanded money from the clerk at gunpoint. When the man then got into an altercation with the clerk, a customer believed the clerk to be in danger of his life, so he drew his firearm and fatally shot the assailant. The would-be robber managed to flee the store but collapsed nearby. The store’s security footage quickly confirmed the armed citizen’s account of events and the prosecutor was able to tell reporters the same day that the shooting was justified in defense of someone’s life and they would not seek to press charges. (wndu.com, South Bend, Ind., 12/21/23)

On New Year’s Day, a masked man allegedly entered a Taco Bell in Akron, Ohio, pulled out a gun and fired at an employee behind the counter. Another employee, a 21-year-old man, drew his own gun and fired back at the assailant, striking him in the chest. The would-be robber then fled with some of the money, only to show up at the hospital a short time later. Another man, who drove him to the hospital and who was apparently involved in the incident in some way, was arrested. The wounded suspect was in stable condition and was expected

to face charges upon release. The police chief said, “To some degree, [he] could’ve saved or prevented someone from being seriously injured or killed—himself or others.” (news5cleveland.com, Cleveland, Ohio, 1/2/24)

A store owner and concealed-carry license holder in Chicago, Ill., arrived at her convenience-store business the morning of Jan. 4, only to discover several robbers inside. The intruders reportedly fired shots at her, so she fired back, causing them all to flee. The store’s security video shows the robbers breaking the glass front door and taking money from the registers, and the store owner said it was the second robbery in a week. (abc7chicago.com, Chicago, Ill., 1/4/24)

In Houston, Texas, a woman was leaving an apartment complex the morning of Jan. 6 when two armed people allegedly pulled her back out of her pickup truck and held guns to her head. A friend of hers heard the commotion and came out of his apartment. Seeing the situation, he shot one of the assailants, killing him; the other would-be robber fled. (abc13.com, Houston, Texas, 1/7/24)

A woman in Blair, Wis., called 911 to report that a man had kicked in a door of her home around 1:15 a.m. on Jan. 1. The woman’s husband shot the intruder after he entered the house. The suspect was transported to the hospital by ambulance, but his condition was not otherwise reported. Police discovered that the alleged home invader had also broken into another residence where no one was home; the investigation was still ongoing. (wqow.com, Eau Claire, Wis., 1/1/24) ★

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Farewell And Thank You

Forty-five years ago, as a very young man, I accepted a position as a legislative assistant with the National Rifle Association of America. I had no idea that I would one day assume the leadership of the NRA, or that my involvement with this Association would span nearly half a century of American politics. But I believed then, as I do now, that there is no greater calling for an American citizen than to fight for the founding principles of this great nation.

From the day I joined the NRA, I always tried to work hard and let my performance speak for itself. I tried to do my best for our members and our Constitutional freedoms.

I can point with pride to the NRA's many achievements over the years I've led this organization—not only winning legislative, regulatory and courtroom battles, but also changing the hearts and minds of tens of millions of Americans when it comes to guns and to crime issues.

But my greatest pride is in the relationship I've shared with you and millions of your fellow patriots across this great nation. One by one, there is little that any of us could have done to prevent the ultimate destruction of the Second Amendment and all it stands for. But standing together, we have not only saved and strengthened this right, but written an extraordinary chapter in our nation's history books that will endure for generations to come.

Today marks my final communication with you in my official NRA role. After forty-five years, it is time for me to step aside and watch you write the next chapter for American freedom. And in saying this final goodbye to you and my other fellow warriors, I want to say to you that my life has truly been blessed.

There are simply no words that can adequately convey my gratitude to you—my brothers and sisters in arms—for your forty-five years of confidence in me and your commitment to carry the fight into the future. I've found my purpose and my strength in standing by your side these many years, in your never-ending commitment to freedom, and in your courage under fire in some of the toughest political battles of the 20th and 21st centuries.

I know I leave the NRA in good hands. I've always said that the NRA isn't a building in Washington, D.C., or anywhere else. It's an idea—and an ideal—that transcends who we are as individuals and stirs us to muster together under freedom's banner.

From America's seacoasts to our wheat fields, from tiny towns to big cities, from men and women in the military and law enforcement, from plinkers to Olympians, from every church and synagogue and mosque, from football stands and deer stands, from the halls of Congress and to the bounds of outer space, you will find NRA members standing tall and proud.

You will find Americans who know in their hearts that they were born into rights that are worth fighting for. Who know that freedom is precious beyond life itself. And who believe today—as I did when I first came to the NRA 45 years ago—that fighting for that freedom is the highest calling for any American.

I know you are up to this essential task. I know that you will carry the banner high. And I know that as I watch you continue the fight in the years to come, my heart will be filled with pride in your achievements.

I bid you farewell, and I thank you for the opportunity you've given me to play a role in defending American liberty. God bless you always, and God bless this great nation.



By Wayne LaPierre
Executive Vice President

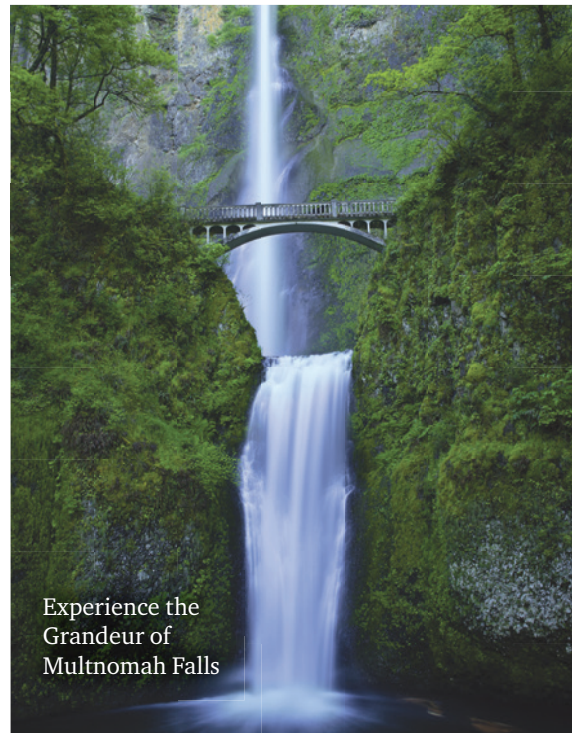


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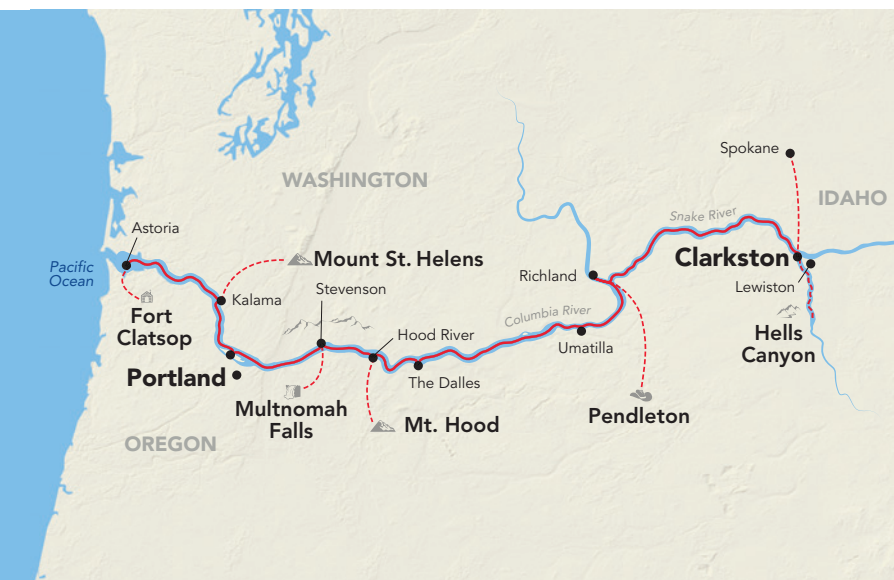
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Anti-Gun Politicians Owe Answers

Registered Democrats are buying guns like never before, and they're headed our way. Are you ready?

Before anyone misconstrues my words: No, I'm not suggesting that the legacy media's fever-dream fantasies of "civil war" or widespread "insurrection" in this election year are founded. No, when I say Democrats are buying guns and "heading our way," what I'm saying is that they're agreeing with us. They're coming over to our side of this debate. That's good news.

In case you missed it, last November, an NBC News poll found that the number of Democrats who reported owning firearms jumped significantly over the previous four years.

Between August 2019—when a similar survey was done by NBC News and *The Wall Street Journal*—and the survey last November, the number of registered Democrats who reported living in a home with a firearm increased from 33% to 41%.

What's more, since 33% of registered Democrats also reported owning guns in a 2004 survey, that means the jump from 33% to 41% apparently occurred mostly over the past four years.

It's not hard to understand why.

Over the past several years, Democrat politicians have been pushing policies that make America less safe: Defunding police. Abolishing bail. Redefining felonies as misdemeanors. Flinging open our southern border to anyone who wants to sneak in. Clearing out prisons through reduced sentences and early releases.

For example, California passed a ballot initiative that raised the felony threshold for shoplifting from \$450 of merchandise to \$950. Other states have followed suit. Today, 40 states don't consider shoplifting a felony until at least \$1,000 worth of loot is stolen. Of those, 16 states set the felony threshold at \$1,500. The result? Flash-mob shoplifting sprees and organized retail theft—losses they politely refer to as "shrink," which amounts to a \$100 billion-per-year "tax" on every one of us.

Violent crime has been rising as well. Between 2019 and 2020, homicides increased by almost 30%—the largest single-year increase in six decades—to the highest number of murders since 1995. In 2021, murders increased again by another 4%. The latest statistics available, for 2022, show a decrease in homicides nationwide, but you'd never know that if you lived in Washington, D.C., Baltimore, St. Louis, Detroit, Memphis or other cities where homicides continue to increase.

What's maddening about all this is that even as their policies put more Americans at

ever-greater risk, anti-gun politicians continue pushing gun bans and restrictions that further diminish our ability to protect ourselves.

In January, I wrote about how Israeli and Ukrainian authorities had awakened to the reality that they can't always protect their own people, and that ordinary armed civilians are the first line of defense against those who would harm us, whether they're armed invaders or terrorist butchers.

Here in America, many Democrat voters are evidently waking up to that same truth, as they increasingly seek out the tools to defend themselves and their families through the right to keep and bear arms.

Make no mistake: No particular political party "owns" the Second Amendment. But the fact is, most of the politicians pushing gun bans and prohibitions are Democrats. Most of the leaders fighting to stop them are Republicans.

The National Rifle Association is strictly nonpartisan. We support those who protect our Second Amendment rights, and we oppose those who don't, regardless of political party.

So, it's encouraging to see more self-identified Democrats joining the ranks of gun owners.

Black Americans are embracing the Second Amendment even more. Between 2019 and 2023, gun ownership among black Americans rose from 24% to 41%. Again, this is good news for the freedom and safety of all of us.

Maybe these new gun owners will succeed in persuading their leaders that the fundamental right to protect yourself shouldn't be a partisan issue. And if their leaders abandon them, maybe they'll abandon those leaders.

So, I would urge our new gun-owning allies to demand answers from their leaders: Since when is it a virtue to relinquish the rule of law ... to surrender American cities to the violent ... and to treat honest, peaceable, law-abiding people as second-class citizens by relentlessly attacking their God-given right to protect themselves and their families?

As president of this Association, I call on every one of you to reach out to these new friends of the right to keep and bear arms. Freedom needs all the protectors that we can possibly muster. Reasonable minds can disagree on some issues, but the preservation of innocent lives through the use of self-defense firearms should be a point concerning which all Americans, all parties, all courts and all elected officials agree.

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By Randy Kozuch
Executive Director,
NRA-ILA

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Gun Control Targets The Law-Abiding

It's getting harder and harder to take anti-gun politicians seriously. That's not to say the threat these gun controllers pose isn't dire. Their goal, as ever, is civilian disarmament. It's that their rhetoric, actions and preferred policies are increasingly divorced from reality.

Consider Illinois. In January 2023, Gov. J.B. Pritzker (D) enacted a sweeping ban on commonly owned semi-automatic firearms and standard-capacity magazines. Upon signing, Pritzker crowed, "My colleagues in the State Capitol have been battling the powerful forces of the NRA to enshrine the strongest and most effective gun violence legislation that we possibly can."

Such legislation does not include efforts to meaningfully ensure those who actually commit violent crime are prosecuted and punished. The governor has signed legislation to abolish cash bail and backed numerous other criminal-justice "reforms." Pritzker assumed the governorship in January 2019. Chicago Police Department statistics show that crime in that city was up 16% year over year in 2023 and up a shocking 55% from four years earlier. There were 16% more shooting incidents and 23% more murders in the Windy City in 2023 than four years before.

Contending that this legislation is "effective," let alone the "most effective," at anything other than harassing law-abiding gun owners is risible. Illinois' gun ban chiefly targets certain types of semi-automatic rifles and shotguns. Restricting access to rifles and shotguns is not an effective means of confronting violent crime, in part because long guns of any configuration are rarely used in violent crime. FBI expanded homicide data for Illinois in 2022 listed 372 murders as having been committed using a handgun. In contrast, 16 murders were listed as having been committed with rifles and a grand total of three were committed with shotguns. Together, "knives or cutting instruments" and "personal weapons (hands/fists/feet/etc.," accounted for more than three times as many murders as rifles and shotguns combined.

According to the ATF's National Firearms Commerce and Trafficking Assessment (NFCTA), which broke down firearm tracing data from 2017-2021, pistols and revolvers accounted for 87% of "crime gun" traces from Illinois over that period. Further, no caliber used predominantly in rifles appeared in a list of Illinois' 10 "Top Crime Gun Calibers,"—aside from .22, which is also a popular handgun caliber.

The most senseless portion of Illinois' new regime prohibits .50 BMG-caliber rifles of any description. In a finding that should surprise no one, these large and expensive rifles didn't appear in the ATF NFCTA's section on "Crime Guns Recovered and Traced Within the United States and Its Territories." It turns out, Chicago

gangsters aren't partial to carrying around 25-pound guns with 29-inch barrels.

Anti-gun politicians have no excuse not to know their favorite gun-ban scheme doesn't work. The entire country engaged in a fruitless semi-auto firearm and standard-capacity magazine ban from 1994 to 2004. A 1997 DOJ-funded study of that ban acknowledged, "at best, the assault weapons ban can have only a limited effect on total gun murders, because the banned weapons and magazines were never involved in more than a modest fraction of all gun murders." A follow-up study from 2004 reiterated this point, stating, "AWs [assault weapons] and LCMs [large capacity magazines] were used in only a minority of gun crimes prior to the 1994 federal ban." The researchers went on to admit, "the ban's effects on gun violence are likely to be small at best and perhaps too small for reliable measurement."

Part of the Illinois gun ban required existing owners to register their now-prohibited firearms, parts and ammunition by Jan. 1, 2024, merely to retain their lawfully acquired property. Compliance has been sparse. Illinois ABC affiliate WTVO reported on Jan. 4, "According to the Illinois State Police, as of this week, about 29,357 of Illinois' 2.4 million Firearm Owner's Identification card holders (about 1.22%) had registered the banned weapons." On Jan. 8, news outlet The Center Square reported that a representative of Federal Firearms Licensees of Illinois "said other estimates of those who actually own the now-banned guns may bring the compliance rate to somewhere between 4% and 8%." That source went on to add, "no matter how you slice it, the compliance is very low."

Perhaps acknowledging the futility of the registration scheme, the Illinois State Police noted that they are keeping registration open past the deadline, but "the relevant jurisdiction could deem a late endorsement affidavit submittal to be invalid or insufficient."

Extensive noncompliance was foreseeable for anyone operating in the real world. Previous efforts to register firearms in New York and Connecticut were met with similar widespread civil disobedience.

With anti-gun politicians pushing senseless gun restrictions that won't impact criminal conduct, while abandoning their constituents to violent crime, gun owners must adopt a cynical view to make sense of these lawmakers and their motives. Gun owners should ignore the empty rhetoric and recognize these measures for what they truly are—a calculated attack on an opposing political constituency and their fundamental rights.

Randy Kozuch



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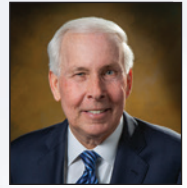
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By Randy Kozuch
Executive Director,
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This Election Could Determine The Future Of The Second Amendment

In my 30 years with the NRA, I have never seen an election that is more important than the one we face in 2024. I know it may seem like we say this every four years, but that's because it's true. All of our gains could be gone in an instant if gun owners don't turn out at the polls in November. If you value your rights as a gun owner and a citizen of the world's last, best hope for liberty, you cannot afford to be on the sidelines of this year's general election. It is easily the most important of our lifetimes.

The potential Republican and Democrat candidates could not be further apart when it comes to the Second Amendment.

The situation is very similar to the 2016 election when the future direction of the U.S. Supreme Court [and with it the Second Amendment] was effectively on the ballot. President Trump's victory ensured that the federal judiciary, and particularly the Supreme Court, would remain true to the original understanding of the Constitution and Bill of Rights. He indeed built a mighty wall that remains intact to this day: a firewall of Originalist judges and justices in the mold of the late, great Antonin Scalia, author of the landmark 2008 Supreme Court decision, *District of Columbia v. Heller*.

That was the case that ignited the modern Second Amendment renaissance. Yet the promise of *Heller*'s reassertion of the Second Amendment could have been cut short with Justice Scalia's shocking and untimely death in February 2016. Then-candidate Trump understood the gravity of the situation and made the wise and far-reaching decision to prioritize Originalist judicial appointments as a centerpiece of his administration. Originalism is a method of constitutional interpretation that centers on the public understanding of the document at the time of

its adoption and the Bill of Rights' later application to the states (known as "incorporation") following the Civil War.

Originalism preserves our sacred, fundamental rights, the same freedoms so much blood has been shed to protect throughout American history. Proponents of a "living Constitution," by contrast, would empower activists in the government and judiciary simply to read rights out of our founding documents whenever they became inconvenient to the political ambitions of the day. No right was more imperiled by this pernicious ideology than the Second Amendment, which living constitutionalists insisted had outlived its usefulness—and supposedly its binding effect—with the advent of America's modern standing Army and professional police forces. There was, they asserted, no longer an individual right to keep and bear arms.

Heller repudiated that lie in the clearest possible terms. "[T]he enshrinement of constitutional rights necessarily takes certain policy choices off the table," Justice Scalia wrote. These included Washington, D.C.'s illegitimate attempts to ban handguns and the possession of usable firearms within one's home. He continued: "it is not the role of this Court to pronounce the Second Amendment extinct."

Heller was followed in 2010 by *McDonald v. Chicago*, another Supreme Court decision that made clear states and localities are also bound to respect the Second Amendment's protections. Thus, Chicago had no more authority to ban handguns than did the federal enclave of Washington, D.C.

For years after *McDonald*, there was no appetite in a Supreme Court closely divided between originalists and living constitutionalists to revisit the Second Amendment. With Scalia's death, however, there was a decisive opportunity to tip the balance

away from originalism and in the direction of modern legal activism. Then-President Barack Obama's choice for this transformation was none other than Merrick Garland, now leading under Joe Biden the most partisan, politicized U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) in American history.

Your NRA saw through Garland's veneer of judicial professionalism and exposed him for the anti-Second Amendment activist he is. We explained how as a federal appellate judge he voted for a do-over of what was then the most-important pro-Second Amendment decision in American jurisprudence, the same case that would go on to generate the *Heller* decision in the Supreme Court. When a three-judge panel on the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled against D.C.'s gun bans in that case, Garland would have given the District another chance to have that ruling overturned by the entire circuit court. A majority of his circuit colleagues, however, voted to leave the decision undisturbed, and D.C. officials instead had to face the Supreme Court.

Fortunately, the pro-gun Senate of 2016 decided it should be the American people who chose which of the presidential candidates got to pick Scalia's successor, and Garland's nomination never came up for a vote. President Trump prevailed and proved true to his word; during his term, he appointed three originalist Supreme Court justices, as well as scores of like-minded judges to the lower federal courts.

Trump's makeover of the federal judiciary finally brought the potential of *Heller* to fruition with the Supreme Court's 2022 decision in *New York State Rifle & Pistol Association v. Bruen*, which recognized the Second Amendment's right to bear arms in public for self-defense. That decision invalidated New York's discretionary licensing system for public carry, which had required applicants to prove they had a special need to carry before they could be issued a license. Just as importantly, it reasserted *Heller*'s standard of review for Second Amendment cases. The court stated that when conduct is protected by the Second Amendment's plain text, the government can only subject it

to regulation by demonstrating "the regulation is consistent with this Nation's historical tradition of firearm regulation." Simply put, laws that restrict the right to keep and bear arms must have analogues dating to the founding era to survive Second Amendment challenges. This is as strong an assertion of originalism as exists in American law.

Every justice appointed by President Trump voted with the majority in *Bruen*, giving the decision a six-to-three majority. Had Hillary Clinton made those appointments, the decision would have undoubtedly gone the other way, and the Second Amendment would have been rendered a dead letter.

A federal judiciary shaped by President Biden for another four years poses an immediate threat to our right to keep and bear arms.

BIDEN OPENLY CHARACTERIZED THE GUN INDUSTRY AS "THE ENEMY" OF HIS ADMINISTRATION AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

Biden campaigned as a unifier, promising a return to normalcy and bipartisanship after what he characterized as the divisiveness of the Trump administration. Nothing could have been further from the truth. If there is one thing that has characterized the Biden administration, it has been his use of government power and influence to persecute, marginalize and censor his political opposition.

No one has experienced this tendency more than America's gun industry and the law-abiding Americans it serves. Biden openly characterized the gun industry as "the enemy" of his administration and the American people. He and Garland have directed the ATF to take a "zero tolerance" approach to oversight of licensed gun dealers, once the allies and friends of

federal law enforcement in pursuing their joint interest in combatting illegal firearms trafficking and diversion. Now, the slightest clerical mistake can result in dealers losing their longstanding businesses and livelihoods.

Meanwhile, ATF has produced one legally dubious gun-control rulemaking after another. They have assumed the authority to redefine the meaning of "firearm;" to reclassify braced pistols as the legal equivalent of machine guns; and to label hobbyists making occasional gun sales as "dealers" subject to federal licensing and regulation. Decades of settled legal understandings, enforcement policies, and professional goodwill have been reversed.

The White House wastes no opportunity to blame law-abiding gun owners and firearm businesses for the acts of psychopaths and violent criminals for whom the laws are irrelevant, even as Biden's party pursues policies to coddle hardened convicts and to excuse their behavior as the byproduct of injustice.

Biden even established a taxpayer-funded "White House Office of Gun Violence Prevention" staffed with career anti-gun activists. Its early moves have included coaching states on how to crack down on Second Amendment rights, with model gun-control legislation produced by DOJ. The administration also instituted a widespread "pause" on otherwise-legal firearm exports, seemingly just because it could.

And Biden's Democrat party has embraced gun control as never before. One possible Biden alternate, Gov. Gavin Newsom (D-Calif.), has even proposed rewriting the Second Amendment to require gun bans and other wide-ranging controls, rather than restricting them. Nothing could illustrate anti-gun Democrats' approach to the Constitution or to the right to keep and bear arms more clearly than that.

There is still much to be determined about the 2024 election, including the ultimate contenders. But the stakes for freedom could not be higher. Stay tuned here for further information and, above all, stay involved. The consequences of inaction could well be irreversible. 

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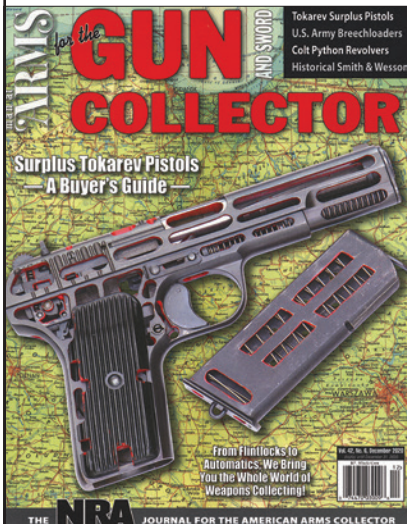
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READERS WRITE

Ankle Holster Advice

In response to Kelly Young's story "Always Have a 'Plan B': Alternative Carry Methods" (January 2024, p. 56), I offer a word of warning about ankle holsters. When they appeared in Los Angeles County in the 1980s, law-enforcement jumped on them—both uniformed and plainclothes. The most frequently carried gun was the S&W M36.

Uniformed officers were constantly tightening the holster to keep it from moving around, and it wasn't long before some officers started passing out on the job. The increased pressures caused by the holsters restricted blood flow, which caused phlebitis (inflammation of the vein), blood clots and loss of consciousness. It didn't take long for this fact to get out, and the ankle holsters were quickly discarded.

The only resolution was to wear boots with a holster sewn into the inside shaft of the boot, but these were not approved footwear by the law-enforcement officials. Bad for the image, apparently. Ankle guns should be kept lightweight and small—.22-cal., .32 or .380 ACP, and weighing less than 1 lb. loaded—otherwise momentum will be a problem when walking/running. Hope this helps.

—KEITH HAISER

A Remarkable Work Of Art

A recent "Favorite Firearms" column ran an item on a pistol that Al Carol engraved (August 2023, p. 37). Not taking anything away from the work he did on that pistol in any way, but Al also took a rifle that my grandfather built using part of a Stevens Model 70 (a pump-action), a Winchester Model 67 (bolt-action) and pieces he fabricated himself to build a lever-action rifle. It was a very interesting gun that Al turned into an absolute showpiece.

—JIMMIE DEAL



Neither Griffin Nor Howe

I am now 78 years old and have been an NRA member since I was 16. I read, with great delight, the article "Griffin & Howe: 100 Years Of Adventure In The Making" (December 2023, p. 54). It brought back fond memories of my Montana grandfather and how he managed his time during the long winters. He may not have been either Griffin or Howe, but he did sporterize both 1903 Springfields and 98 Mausers. Frankly, all he wanted was workable actions because he was likely going to change out the barrels and re-stock the rifles.

My first adult rifle to shoot was a Springfield 1903 that Grandpa would eventually sporterize. This prepared me to live with a little recoil and to learn to enjoy it. Much of what prepared me for my military tour in Vietnam with the Mobile Riverine Force was based on early lessons taught by both my father and grandfather in the use and care of firearms.

—WILLIAM HICKS

"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.

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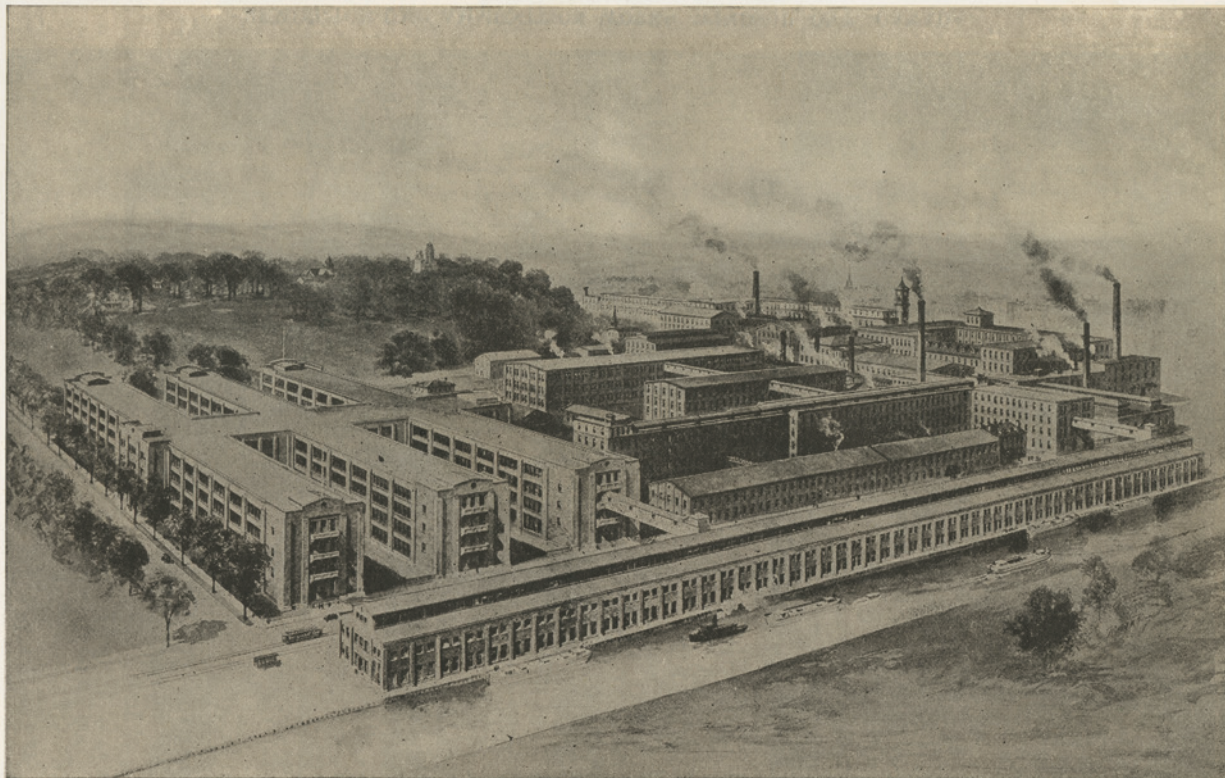
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[1916]

Remington's Ilion Factory Closes

RemArms, owner and operator of Remington's storied Ilion, N.Y., factory, announced it would shutter the facility in March 2024, moving all production to its current headquarters in LaGrange, Ga. The move ends nearly 200 years of firearm production in New York's Mohawk Valley and signals the end of an era for the historic American firearm brand.

Eliphalet Remington, Jr., son of a blacksmith, produced his first rifle barrel in the family's forge in

Litchfield, N.Y., in 1816. For a decade, Remington made only barrels, eventually moving production to Morgan's Landing, a small community on the Mohawk River. Manufacturing boomed in the area, bolstered by the opening of the nearby Erie Canal, and the town was eventually incorporated as Ilion, N.Y. While production began in Ilion as early as 1826, evidence of Remington's first factory buildings in the area date to 1835. As demand grew, so, too, did the company, eventually



[1835]



[late 1920s]



[early 1950s]



adding brass furniture and English-made locks to its inventory, however, as late as the 1840s Remington still produced only components, not complete firearms.

The first complete arms to emerge from Remington's Ilion factory were military rifles. Between April and September of 1850, Remington delivered 5,000 Model 1841 percussion rifles to the U.S. government. Another contract followed, then a third. By the mid-1850s, Remington was making revolvers, too; and, as the Civil War dawned, the company's Ilion facilities would be tasked with supplying the Union during four years of bloody struggle.

Designs such as the Remington Rolling Block, along with other products such as typewriters, safe doors, fire engines and sewing machines, saw the company into the 20th century. Ilion grew, with the town's main street cutting through Remington's industrial complex. Modern conflicts bolstered the demand for rifles, and Remington answered, producing millions of Pattern 14 Enfield, Mosin-Nagant and M1907/15 rifles for the Allied effort in World War I. During World War II, the company spearheaded the effort to re-work the Model of 1903 Springfield rifle into a design that was easier, less costly and faster to build.

Remington reached new commercial heights in the postwar era, developing the now-iconic Model 870 pump-action shotgun and Model 700 bolt-action rifle. In the mid-2000s, though, a long legacy of quality and innovation was overshadowed by cost-cutting, poor management and debt accumulation under Cerberus Capital's ownership of the brand. Efforts to revitalize Remington ultimately failed in 2020, when Remington Outdoor, the brand's parent company, filed for bankruptcy. RemArms emerged as the owner of Remington's Ilion facility, and despite several years of union negotiation and some renewed production, the Ilion plant's closing marks the end of more than 200 years in New York by the state's largest firearm manufacturer.

—EVAN BRUNE, EXECUTIVE EDITOR

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In Memoriam: Gaston Glock

Gaston Glock, designer of the Glock pistol and a noted Austrian industrial engineer, died Dec. 27, 2023. He was 94. Born in Vienna, Austria, in July 1929, Glock served in the German *Wehrmacht* at the end of World War II. Following the war, he was educated as an engineer. In the 1960s, Glock began his own manufacturing firm, using then-novel polymers as his fabrication material.

Having started out with curtain rods, Glock eventually obtained a contract making knives for the Austrian military.

In 1980, the Austrian military announced that it was seeking a new handgun to replace its fleet of aging, World War II-era Walther P38s. In 1982, Glock assembled a team to design a prototype that would meet the 17 criteria Austria demanded in its new handgun. Within three months, the team had developed a working model, which made use of synthetic materials and then-modern manufacturing techniques. Glock filed a patent for the design, his 17th such application, and thus, the Glock 17 was born. By the end of 1982, the Austrian military had adopted it as the *Pistole 80* with an order for 25,000 guns. Today, Glock's designs are used by law-enforcement or military units in more than 60 countries, and the company offers more than 50 different models in various sizes and chamberings.



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REPORTS | PRODUCTS & PROJECTS

Editor's Choice

1Up USA 2" Super Duty Double Bike Rack

Electric bicycles, or ebikes, are becoming more common and are making inroads into the outdoorsman market through such companies as QuietKat, whose models sport camouflage finishes and offer features and accessories specifically geared toward hunters. But ebikes differ from standard bicycles in several ways—and one is a much greater overall weight. While the typical mountain bike may weigh 30 lbs., an off-road ebike can easily exceed double that, and standard racks that mount to the vehicle's towing hitch may not be able to handle the additional load.

Wisconsin-based 1Up USA addresses the needs of all bicyclists with its American-made aluminum racks—some of which are rated for multiple bikes weighing up to 75 lbs. each. One such model is the 2" Super Duty Double fixed two-bike rack. Built using anodized, CNC-machined and extruded components, the 47-lb., platform-style rack is rated for pavement, gravel and off-road use. Rather than



relying on a standard hitch pin, its hitch bar secures to the vehicle's receiver by way of a corner expander ball that removes play between the two. The system is adjustable for engagement depth, and a unique, provided hex wrench requires only one to two turns to fully tighten it. An included locking pin passes through the receiver by way of a slot in the hitch bar.

The rack accommodates bikes with wheelbases up to 54" and wheel sizes from 16" to 29" with tires up to 3.1"-wide, and an optional spacer kit handles even fatter tires. Folding arms pivot inward from the ends of each tray to secure the bikes' tires without touching their frames, and a rapid tilt/fold mechanism tucks the rack neatly out of the way when not carrying bikes. Contrasting-color aluminum locking levers secure the moving parts. Price: \$680. Contact: 1Up USA; (608) 200-2587; 1up-usa.com.

—BRIAN C. SHEETZ, EDITOR IN CHIEF

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"Outstanding knife of high quality and a great price. I now have a number of your great cutlery in my growing collection!"

— Robert F., Richardson, TX

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

JOIN MORE THAN 389,000 SHARP
PEOPLE WHO COLLECT STAUER KNIVES

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

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

With its full-tang construction and high-quality genuine leather sheath, the Mighty Conifer Knife is the perfect blade for the

person who wants to stand out. **CALL NOW!** If you're one of the first ~~700~~ 587 callers for this ad, we'll throw in a pair of *Stauer 8x21 Compact Binoculars* — a \$99 value — **ABSOLUTELY FREE!** Satisfaction guaranteed or your money back!

Knife Specifications:

- 9 1/2" overall length. Full-tang construction
- Damascus steel blade and natural pinecone handle
- Genuine leather sheath

Mighty Conifer Knife

~~\$299~~ \$99* + S&P **Save \$200**

**You must use Insider Offer Code: MCK156-01 to get this price. California residents please call regarding Proposition 65 regulations before purchasing this product.*

1-800-333-2045

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**Stauer 8x21
Compact Binoculars**
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Knife



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Ruger 60th Anniversary 10/22 Rifle

In addition to being Ruger's 75th anniversary, 2024 also marks another important milestone for the company: 60 years of its iconic 10/22 semi-automatic rimfire rifle. While the original model was made using wood stocks and blued steel, Ruger is highlighting how far the design has come with its 60th-anniversary model. Set in a gray

Magpul X-22 Hunter polymer stock, the rifle is built with a stainless-steel, threaded barrel mated to a silver-finish aluminum receiver. Secured to the top of the receiver is an all-black Picatinny optics rail, along with an adjustable ghost-ring rear aperture sight. The barrel terminates with a black flash hider and is topped by a black front sight blade. The underside of the gun features a black trigger housing and magazine-release lever, accented by a bright-red trigger shoe. A red-anodized bolt handle completes the package. Each 60th Anniversary 10/22 ships in a Collector's Series box, along with a Sixth Edition Ruger Collector's Series metal street sign and pin. Price: \$639. Contact: Sturm, Ruger & Co.; (336) 949-5200; ruger.com.



MTM Case-Gard The Mule

MTM Case-Gard's product lineup offers no shortage of storage options for ammunition and other essential equipment, but none have ever been as generously sized as The Mule, the company's new mobile gear crate. Measuring 43.5" long, 11.5" tall and 14.7" wide—yet weighing only 13 lbs., 1 oz., empty—the stackable, polypropylene Mule provides 81 quarts' worth of mobile storage, and its two recessed wheels can accommodate up to a 75-lb. load. Included with the crate is a lift-out tray and a pair of removable dividers that allow the user to personalize its interior to suit his or her needs, and each of the O-ring-sealed Mule's four latches feature a pair of padlock tabs to help keep the enclosed gear secure. Price: \$120. Contact: MTM Case-Gard; (937) 890-7461; mtmcase-gard.com.

Mec-Gar 17-Round High Power Magazine & Floorplate

Acknowledging the proliferation of classic High Power, or P35, handgun clones on the market, Mec-Gar USA—the respected OEM supplier and retailer of Italian-made pistol magazines—is upping the ante for the resurgent Browning/Saive design with a new 17-round offering and a retrofit +2 baseplate for its existing 15-round model. Only the complete magazine will be available initially, and the coming floorplate will not add capacity to the previously dominant 13-round dimpled-tube magazines. The new SKU (MGBRHP17B), has a baseplate machined from 7000-series aluminum with

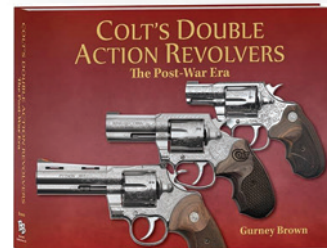
a black-anodized surface treatment and a tube body formed of blued steel. Protruding only 7/16" farther than the flush-fit 13- and 15-round models, the magazine's spring was thoroughly stress-tested—including extended periods in compression—and volume firing proved it could flawlessly feed different bullet weights and shapes. Price: \$55 (magazine); \$34 (floorplate only). Contact: Mec-Gar USA, Inc.; (860) 635-1525; mec-gar.com.



Colt's Double-Action Revolvers: The Post-War Era

Following his previous works, *Seven Serpents: The History Of Colt's Snake Guns* and *Colt's Python: King Of The Seven Serpents*, both of which have become standard reference works for Colt revolver collectors, author and noted Colt expert Gurney Brown has rounded out the trio with *Colt's Double-Action Revolvers: The Post-War Era*. With more than 400 pages detailing the saga of Colt's "snake guns" from the mid-20th century into the 21st century, this book is a must-read for any fans of Colt's iconic revolver lineup. In addition to extensive coverage on the first generation of Colt double-action revolvers, the

book also includes a chapter on Colt's 2017 re-entry into the double-action revolver market. More than 50 revolvers are highlighted in the book, which includes more than 600 images, rarely seen Colt marketing material and the most accurate serial-number information yet published on these guns. Price: \$85. Contact: Blue Book Publications; (800) 877-4867; bluebookofgunvalues.com.





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Can't beat Amazoy as the low-cost answer for hard-to-cover spots, play-worn areas, partial shade and erosion on slopes.

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"The hotter it gets, the better it grows!" Amazoy Zoysia thrives in blistering heat, yet it won't winter-kill to 30° below zero. It goes off its green color after hard frosts, and begins regaining its green color as temperatures in the spring are consistently warm.



Thrives from partial
shade to full sun.



Plant it from
plugs.

6 CHOKES OUT CRABGRASS AND WEEDS ALL SUMMER

Your established Zoysia lawn grows so thick, it simply stops crabgrass and most summer weeds from germinating!

7 NOW 3 WAYS TO START YOUR AMAZOY ZOYSIA LAWN!

1) **Freestyle Plugs** come in uncut sheets containing a maximum of 150–1" plugs that can be planted up to 1 ft. apart. Freestyle plugs allow you to make each plug bigger and plant further apart — less cutting and planting — you decide.

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1100	+400	10	\$110.00	\$47.50	36%
2000	+1000	20	\$185.00	\$75.00	47%
3000	+1500	30	\$245.00	\$90.00	55%

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Super Plugs	Free Plugs	Tray	Your PRICE	+Shipping	SAVINGS
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25	+5	2	\$ 42.50	\$25.00	26%
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Walther PDP Pro SD Compact

Walther has put its superb Performance Duty Pistol (PDP) platform through countless iterations since the gun replaced the PPQ as the company's flagship back in 2021—including a substantial overhaul to create the woman-friendly F-Series—but none are more feature-packed than the PDP Pro SD. Available in both full-size and compact (shown) models, the Pro SDs ship from the Ulm factory with threaded barrels for use with a suppressor or other muzzle device, butter-smooth upgraded Dynamic Performance Triggers, optic-cut slides and extended aluminum magazine wells to go with the three included 18-round magazines. Also still present are all the PDP's top-notch ergonomic touches, including its ambidextrous controls, SuperTerrain slide serrations, hexagonal grip texturing and interchangeable backstrap system. Price: \$849. Contact: Walther Arms; (479) 242-8500; waltherarms.com.

FN DFNS & GUNR 5.7x28 mm FN Ammunition

Catering to the growing number of firearms on the market chambered for the 5.7x28 mm FN cartridge, FN America has announced the addition of two new 5.7x28 mm ammunition options. The first, FN GUNR, is a target-oriented load that offers comparable felt recoil, velocity and accuracy to FN's previous SS197SR ammunition. Loaded with a 40-grain FMJ bullet, the offering is designed to function reliably across the range of currently available 5.7 mm firearms. FN's DFNS offering provides 5.7 mm fans with a dedicated self-defense load that features a 30-grain jacketed hollow point with a frangible copper-tin core. FN highlights it as having passed the FBI test protocol, according to



independent testing. Both the DFNS and GUNR options are sold in boxes of 50 rounds. Price: \$27 (GUNR); \$40 (DFNS). Contact: FN America; (703) 288-3500; fnamerica.com.

Safariland Incog X IWB Holster



After 10 years of real-world experience with its original Incog holster design, Haley Strategic Partners (HSP) decided it was time to update the concept. Whereas the original Incog design was produced by G-Code Holsters, HSP partnered with Safariland on its second go-around, and together the two companies developed the Incog X holster, designed to carry a secured firearm and spare magazine comfortably and securely in the appendix (AIWB) position. Made from thermoformed Boltaron polymer, the exterior of the holster body is coated with a microfiber suede wrap, ensuring comfort when worn up against the body. Two polymer clips at the front of the holster secure it to a belt, and an improved clip strut design works with included shims that allow users to adjust concealment depth. Compatible with select Arex, Glock, SIG Sauer and Wilson Combat handguns, the Incog X can be had with red-dot optic cuts. Light-bearing models are available, too. Price: \$90 (without mag caddy); \$123 (with mag caddy). Contact: Safariland; (800) 347-1200; safariland.com.

ATI Monte Carlo Enfield Stock Set

Gone are the days when firearm enthusiasts routinely "sporterized" full-stocked military-surplus rifles such as the No. 1, Mk III Lee-Enfield, but many examples of previously cut-down and modified rifles can be found at bargain prices in gun shops across America. ATI Outdoors offers durable, modernized furniture designed for these No. 1 and No. 4 Lee-Enfield rifle actions with its affordable Monte Carlo stock set. Made from glass-reinforced polymer, the U.S.-produced

set includes a buttstock with a raised cheek rest and checkered semi-pistol grip along with a fore-end with checkering on each side. Swivel studs at the stock toe and fore-end allow for easy sling attachment using standard sling swivels. Available in black or woodland brown. Price: \$100. Contact: ATI Outdoors; (414) 202-0985; atioutdoors.com.



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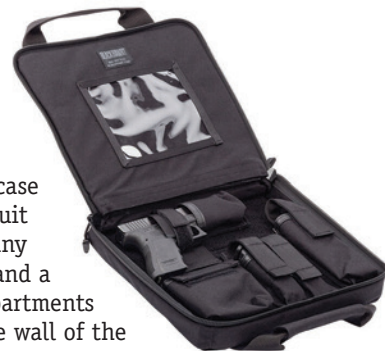
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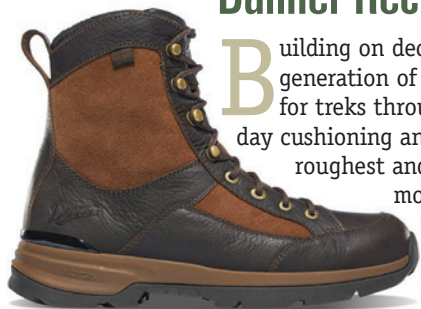
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Blackhawk Discreet Socom Pistol Case

The Discreet Socom Pistol Case from Blackhawk is a soft-bodied, single-gun handgun case that, thanks to its modular design, can be configured in multiple different ways to suit the user's tastes and needs. Measuring 10"x13"x2.5", the case comes from the company with a universal holster and barrel pouch, a suppressor pouch, a double magazine pouch and a miscellaneous 4"x5" pouch for the storage of sundry small items—but each of these compartments can be removed or repositioned thanks to the hook-and-loop system incorporated into the wall of the case. Generous padding helps protect the items transported inside the Discreet Socom from accidental damage, while TalonFlex plastic inserts in its top and bottom help the case maintain its shape. Price: \$92. Contact: Blackhawk; (406) 284-3840; blackhawk.com.



Danner Recurve



Building on decades of experience designing hiking boots, the 7"-tall Recurve represents Danner's latest generation of hunting footwear. A leather and suede upper imparts durability and abrasion-resistance for treks through dense brush, the elastomer midsole and OrthoLite footbed combine to provide all-day cushioning and support, and adaptive lugs and flex lines in the outsole provide traction on even the roughest and most unsteady of terrains. Meanwhile, the Danner Dry waterproof liner wicks away moisture to help keep the wearer's feet dry. Available in either brown (shown) or a Mossy Oak Original Bottomland camouflage pattern, our field testing of the Danner Recurve found them to not only be highly comfortable, but also exceptionally quick to break-in for a pair of hunting boots. Price: \$240. Contact: Danner; (877) 432-6637; dannerusa.com.

Nextorch TA30C

The TA30C from Nextorch is a compact tactical flashlight that features multiple brightness settings, activation methods and battery options. A rotating collar in the tail cap allows the user to choose between three constant-on brightness levels (20/330/1,600 lumens), a strobe setting and what the company calls "TAC" mode. In this mode, a light press of the pressure-sensitive button at the end of the tail cap provides 1,600 lumens of

momentary illumination, while fully depressing the button activates the strobe. The TA30C comes with one rechargeable 18650 battery, but it can also be powered by two CR123As. Three nano-ceramic beads incorporated into its bezel allow the light to be used as a window breaker. Price: \$99. Contact: Nextorch Industries; nextorch.com.



WCG Tactical Nylon AR-10/.308/M1A 20-Round Magazine Pouch

Built from highly durable 1000 denier synthetic polymer, the Tactical Nylon AR-10/.308/M1A 20-Round Magazine Pouch from Wilde Custom Gear is compatible with many of the 20-round detachable box magazines used across the broad spectrum of .308 Win.-chambered battle rifles. Offered in six different configurations (holding either one, two, three, four or six magazines in a variety of orientations), with each magazine retained

by its own shock cord strap, the MOLLE-compatible pouches attach to PALS-style webbing via a set of included long malice clips. Available in five solid colors and three camouflage patterns. Price: \$24 to \$60. Contact: Wilde Custom Gear; (619) 334-4327; wildecustomgear.com.



The Bear By Bear Forest Knives



Outfitted with the buyer's choice of red oak, black or brown burlap G10-style scales, The Bear by Bear Forest Knives of Palm Desert, Calif., is a handcrafted blade meant for everyday work, whether employed as a hunting knife, camp tool or EDC blade. Crafted from 80CrV2 steel with a sharp, saber grind, The Bear's 4.5"-long, 1/8"-thick blade features full-tang construction and offers up a deep belly, clipped point and an acid-washed finish. An integral guard is provided as the blade transitions to its nearly 5"-long handle, which is designed with a smooth, oval-shaped cross section for a universal grip. The high-carbon steel blade comes protected in a brown leather JRE Industries sheath with dangler and ferro loop. Price: \$180. Contact: Bear Forest Knives; bearforestknives.com.

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PRODUCTS & PROJECTS

Mossberg Patriot Single Shot Sled

A new Illinois hunting law, which took effect Jan. 1, 2023, allows hunters to use bolt-action rifles in certain chamberings for deer hunting, provided they're in a single-shot configuration. Mossberg now offers a Single Shot Sled to fit its short-action Patriot rifles, converting the guns to single-shot-only use. The polymer sled installs into the magazine well, replacing the original factory detachable box magazine. When in use, hunters simply open the action, place a single round on the contoured sled and close the bolt, making the gun ready to fire. Price: \$22. Contact: O.F. Mossberg & Sons, Inc; (203) 230-5300; mossberg.com.



TRUE DAV Support Kit

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QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Eye Relief Explanation, Application

Q *I'm trying to understand the term "eye relief" with regard to rifle and pistol scopes. I know it can vary depending on the optic's application, but what is an appropriate, or acceptable, amount and why is it important?*

A Your question is a good one, and, as is often the case with such inquiries, requires the use of a few terms specific to the topic, shown in quotes below, to answer it properly. Essentially, "eye relief" is the distance from the rearmost surface of the ocular lens, or eyepiece, to the front of the user's eye. It is one characteristic of riflescope design wherein the "exit pupil" of the transmitted light produces an image that fills the entire "eyebox," or viewable area, with no "vignetting," or darkening at the edges, resulting in a full "field of view," which is the observable area at a given distance. In general, the higher the scope's magnification, and the smaller its field of view, the shorter its eye relief.

A scope conveys its image to the viewer's eye in rays of light that are projected as a "cone" whose diameter can be measured. The average human eye pupil measures around 4 mm in daylight and can dilate to as much as 8 mm in dark conditions. So, an exit pupil of light measuring more than that under such conditions is somewhat "wasted"; conversely, one measuring less will not provide a complete

image in the eyepiece. The formula for determining the exit pupil size of a scope is simple: divide the diameter of its objective lens by its magnification. For example, a fixed 10X scope with a 50 mm diameter objective lens will result in a 5 mm exit cone.

Riflescopes are designed to provide a particular amount of eye relief, depending on their intended use, and can be divided into four main categories: "Conventional" riflescopes are intended for mounting atop the receiver of a full-stocked long gun and typically offer, on average, about 3" of eye relief. Of course, some can exhibit much less—older models intended for rimfire use may offer as little as 1" of eye relief. The next category has been referred to as "extended" and may range from about 4.5" to 6.5" of eye relief. Such designs have been marketed to muzzleloaders and shotgunners seeking additional clearance between their faces and scopes mounted on guns whose recoil impulse can be pronounced.

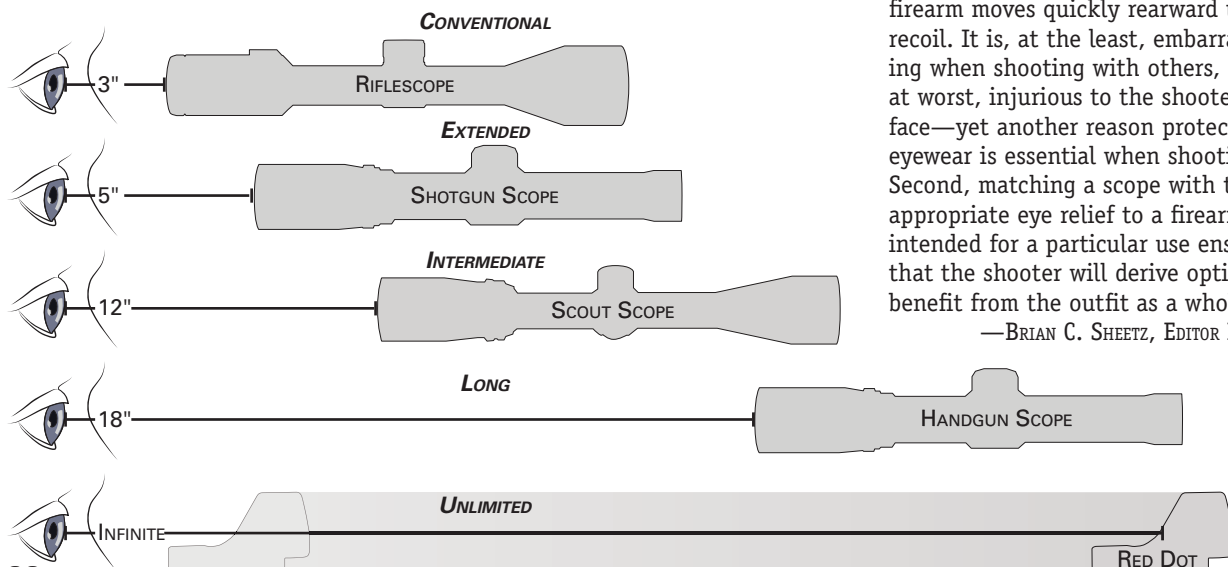
Then there are "intermediate" eye-relief scopes—perhaps best typified by scopes intended for use on "scout" rifles—and they are designed to be mounted mostly forward of a rifle's receiver over the rear end of the barrel. Typically, they range from 2X to 7X in magnification and exhibit from about 9" to 15" of eye relief. Yet another category is "long" eye-relief scopes,

which, as might be expected, are for use on handguns held at arms' length. Their eye relief can range from 15" to 21". Finally, it's worth mentioning that most reflex or "red-dot" sights, because of the nature of their design, are considered to have "non-critical" or "unlimited" eye relief. They can be mounted as close to, or as far away from, the shooter's face as desired and still render their aiming points with acceptable clarity and sharpness.

Note that the figures quoted for each range of eye relief are approximate. I have found that some manufacturer product descriptions fail to accurately denote actual eye relief. I have also seen the misapplication of terminology in specific cases, with at least one manufacturer appending the "scout" label to scopes that actually work only in the conventional position. Also, some scopes marketed for use in intermediate-eye-relief rifle applications are nearly identical, optically and mechanically, to models sold for handgun applications and can be used interchangeably.

Vague nomenclature notwithstanding, the practical reasons that eye relief is important include the fact that it can be a safety consideration. Experienced shooters know that if eye relief is too short for a scope mounted on a hard-recoiling rifle or shotgun, the dreaded phenomenon of "scope eye" can occur wherein the optic strikes the user's orbital ridge as the firearm moves quickly rearward under recoil. It is, at the least, embarrassing when shooting with others, and, at worst, injurious to the shooter's face—yet another reason protective eyewear is essential when shooting. Second, matching a scope with the appropriate eye relief to a firearm intended for a particular use ensures that the shooter will derive optimum benefit from the outfit as a whole.

—BRIAN C. SHEETZ, EDITOR IN CHIEF



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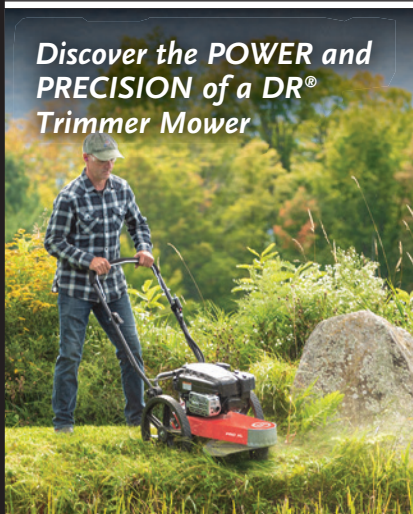
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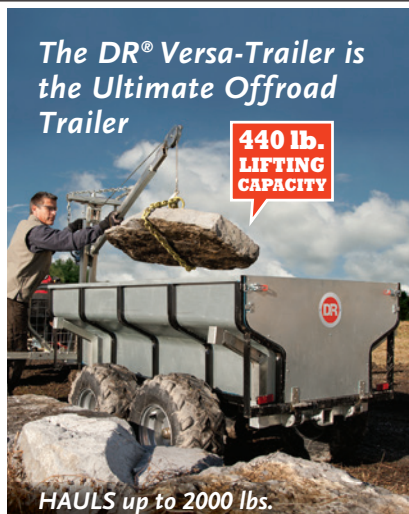
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Grandpa's Single-Shot Gift

My maternal grandparents lived in De Smet, S.D. (from *Little Town On The Prairie*). Growing up in rural Minnesota, we loved visiting Grandpa and Grandma. It was like a step back in time; it was where the West began.

When I was 11 or 12 years old, Grandpa tasked me to haze the blue jays from his garden. My tool was a Remington single-shot rifle that hung over the back door. Grandpa and Grandma lived on the far western edge of town, and there were miles of open prairie behind them, so it was pretty safe to turn a kid loose with a rifle.

Grandpa told me that, one day, the rifle would be mine. But my dad cautioned me not to bug Grandpa about it because we wouldn't want to embarrass him if he forgot. One Sunday, we were

loading up to go home, and Grandpa said, "You better take your rifle." I couldn't believe my ears. All the way home, I was imagining the adventures my rifle and I were going to have. We became inseparable. The rifle always only had match sticks for a rear sight bridge, but it didn't matter—I could hit whatever I pointed at.

As a kid, mom's older brother Bill had laid claim to the rifle and carved his name and initials into the stock. (What's a kid to do on long winter nights before television and video games?) Growing up, Uncle Bill and I had opportunities to hunt and plink together, and I regret never asking him about the rifle. I was concerned

that he might think I may not have been the natural heir to the rifle. Thinking back, I'm sure my concerns were unfounded. Grandpa had 13 other grandchildren he could have given the rifle to, but I'm pretty sure not one of them could've cherished it more than I did.

I'll always be grateful to Grandpa and his insight. My hope is that I will have equally good judgment when the time comes for me to pass it along.

—JOEL JOHNSON

NRA member photo

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To art nouveau jewelers at the turn of the last century, nothing was more beautiful than the dragonfly. In the dragonfly's long body and outstretched wings, jewelers found the perfect setting for valuable stones. These jewelers' dragonfly designs have become timeless statements of style; a dragonfly pendant designed by French jeweler René Lalique recently sold at auction for \$226,000. Inspired by his stunning artistry, we've crafted our Dragonfly Nouvelle Collection, an elegant jewelry set for JUST \$29!

True artisanship in Austrian crystal and yellow gold. This necklace and earring set features gorgeous multicolored enamel paired with Austrian crystals and a yellow gold finish. Ask any jeweler and they'll tell you it takes true artisanship to properly blend the blues and purples found in this enamel. While art nouveau dragonflies are hard to come by, we're helping to repopulate their numbers with this artfully stylized depiction of some of nature's smallest wonders!

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Act fast! The first time we ran this jewelry in our catalog, it sold out in a matter of days. Get this collection now before this offer goes extinct!

Jewelry Specifications:

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- Pendant: 1 1/2" W x 1 1/4" H.
Chain: 18" + 2", lobster clasp.
- Earrings: 1 1/4" L, french wire

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THE RIFLEMAN IN THE ATOMIC

40



In this day of giant tanks, supersonic airplanes and devastating atomic explosions, does the Army value the man with a rifle?

BY LLOYD NORMAN

The other evening I heard General J. Lawton Collins, Army Chief of Staff, say on the radio that atomic weapons for the U.S. Infantry would be ready "in the not too distant future." A few days earlier in Texas he had told a reporter that these newfangled weapons for the battlefield would be available "very soon." If what General Collins has said is true, what is to happen to the doughboy who lugs his M-1 Garand into battle?

I had first asked the question several years earlier at the Fort Benning, Georgia, Infantry School, at an orientation conference for reporters held by the Defense Department. All during that day at Fort Benning our ears and eyes had been filled with the thunder and flash of mock battle, of rumbling tanks, of big mortars that made the earth shake, of ear-splitting artillery, of flamethrowers scaring "enemy" pill boxes. In that smoke and dust, the rifleman seemed to have shrunk to an insignificant figure walking behind the thunder with his Garand. Where was the foot-soldier with his rifle?

Sitting in a big classroom later that day, with the Infantry School's top brass in front of us, we reporters were supposed to ask questions about the day's demonstrations of infantry weapons and tactics we had witnessed. I asked officers at the Infantry School the following questions:

What good is the rifle in modern warfare?

How many of the enemy does the rifle really kill?

Would it not be cheaper and just as effective to hand our men a lightweight machine gun that makes lots of noise and gives them a psychological lift?

What is the use of wasting money on expensive rifles and ammunition when the stuff is just sprayed around anyway and does not do much harm to the enemy?

I did not get satisfactory answers to these questions. It was apparent that little attention was being paid to the role of the rifle; the emphasis was on noisier weapons.

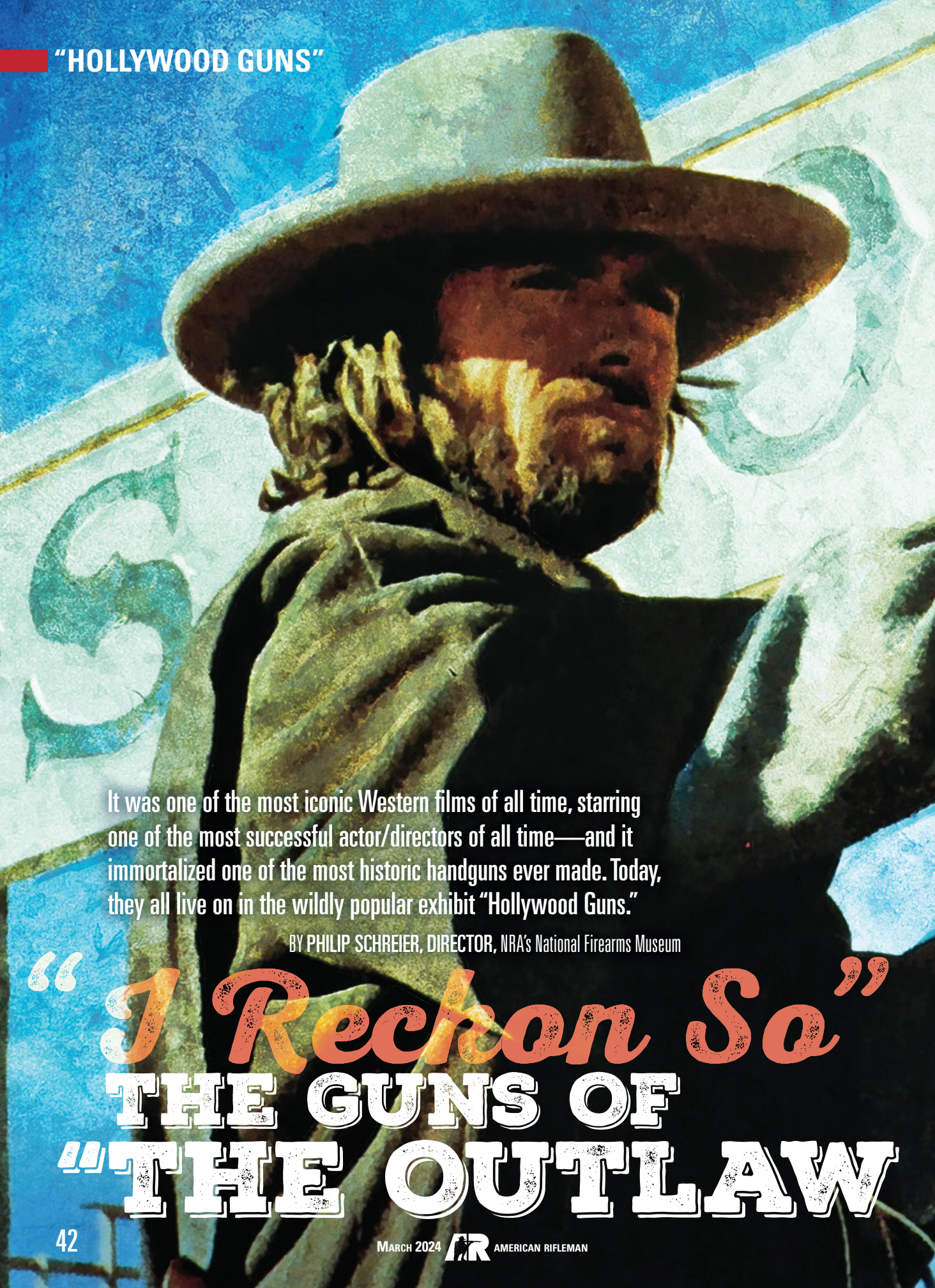
Upon my return to Washington, still seeking the answers to those questions, I started on a personal hunt in the Pentagon. No one in Army C-3 (Operations) seemed to care to analyze what the rifleman does in combat, what part he plays, and whether he is still needed in the Infantry.

I searched through Army publications for articles about the rifle and the rifleman but found little to answer the question: What about the rifleman in the atomic age?

I was beginning to realize that I was looking for the forgotten man in the Army. I decided to see the Army's top infantryman, General Collins himself.

Full story at: americanrifleman.org/atomicrifleman.

[The American Rifleman, March 1952]



"HOLLYWOOD GUNS"

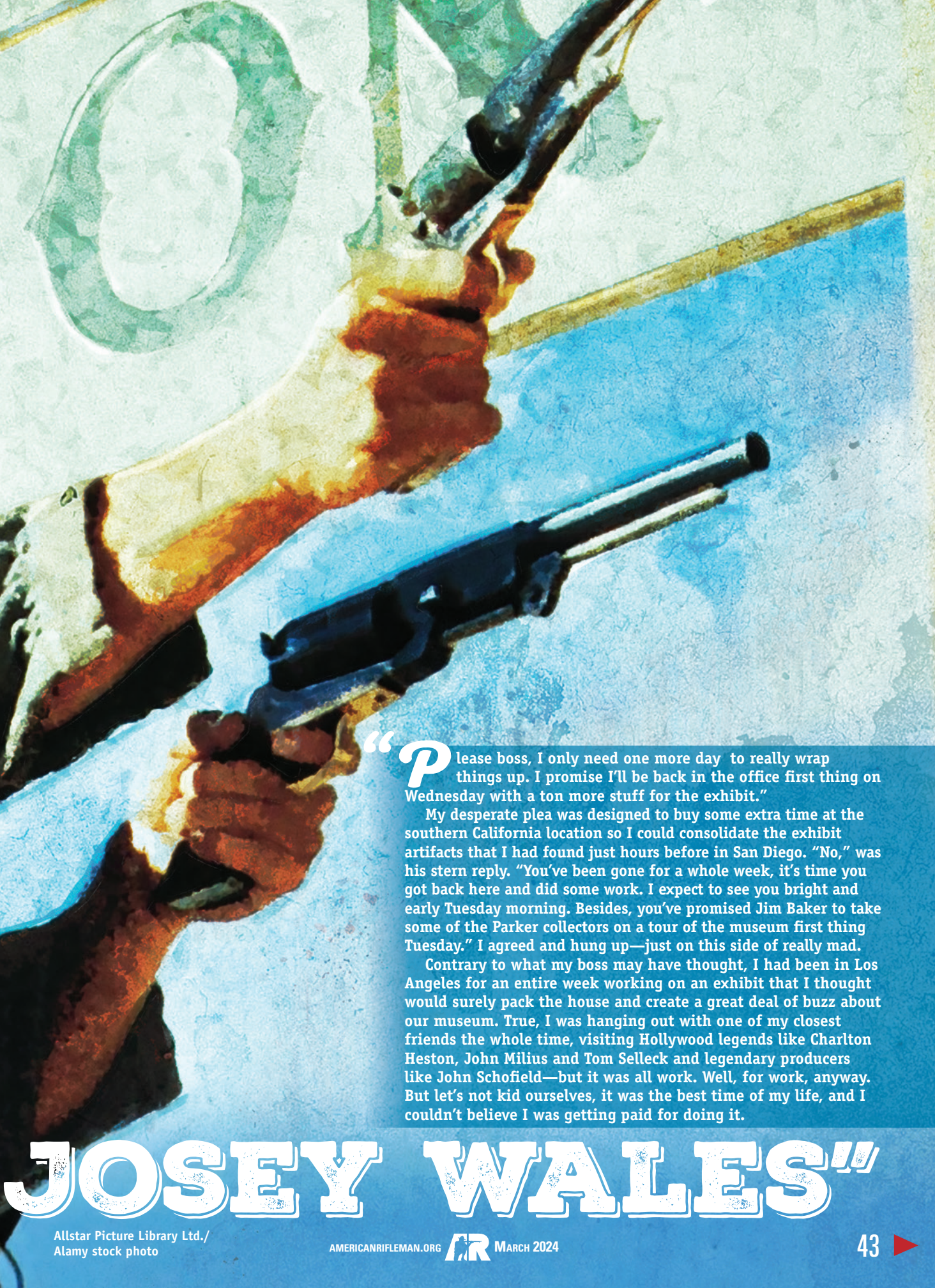
It was one of the most iconic Western films of all time, starring one of the most successful actor/directors of all time—and it immortalized one of the most historic handguns ever made. Today, they all live on in the wildly popular exhibit "Hollywood Guns."

BY PHILIP SCHREIER, DIRECTOR, NRA's National Firearms Museum

"I Reckon So"

THE GUNS OF

"THE OUTLAW"



“Please boss, I only need one more day to really wrap things up. I promise I’ll be back in the office first thing on Wednesday with a ton more stuff for the exhibit.”

My desperate plea was designed to buy some extra time at the southern California location so I could consolidate the exhibit artifacts that I had found just hours before in San Diego. “No,” was his stern reply. “You’ve been gone for a whole week, it’s time you got back here and did some work. I expect to see you bright and early Tuesday morning. Besides, you’ve promised Jim Baker to take some of the Parker collectors on a tour of the museum first thing Tuesday.” I agreed and hung up—just on this side of really mad.

Contrary to what my boss may have thought, I had been in Los Angeles for an entire week working on an exhibit that I thought would surely pack the house and create a great deal of buzz about our museum. True, I was hanging out with one of my closest friends the whole time, visiting Hollywood legends like Charlton Heston, John Milius and Tom Selleck and legendary producers like John Schofield—but it was all work. Well, for work, anyway. But let’s not kid ourselves, it was the best time of my life, and I couldn’t believe I was getting paid for doing it.

JOSEY WALES”



THE OUTLAW JOSEY WALES

The exhibit that I was preparing was called “Real Guns Of Reel Heroes,” and it was an idea that I had come up with one evening after attending the grand opening of a World War I exhibit at the Smithsonian’s Air & Space Museum. At one end of the museum was our small party of World War I aviation geeks, and at the other end of the building were about 2,000 “Star Trek” fans heralding the opening of a new exhibit of props from a TV show that had only lasted three seasons on television. I was, at first, incredulous. In our exhibit, we had Gen. Billy Mitchell’s uniform, medals and boots, the only Sopwith Snipe biplane in America and one of the Red Baron’s victory cups. What did they have? A bunch of cobbled-together fantasy props and plastic models one generation removed from Ed Wood’s flying pie tins? Real history vs. sci-fi fantasy? How did they steal the march on us? Was popular culture really more interesting than real history? Evidently so, if the lines to get into that exhibit for the next few months were any indication. For the first time since the museum opened in 1976, it had to issue time-dated tickets for admission. So, I got to thinking—if you can’t beat ‘em, join ‘em.

The first time I ever saw a gun was on television, and I had been smitten with them ever since. Watching Saturday morning shows like “Rat Patrol,” “Combat” and

the dozens of Westerns that dominated the small screen was how I spent my youth. Why not mount an exhibit of television- and film-used firearms? I was sure that most of us reading *American Rifleman* magazine found our way to being members of the NRA by first being interested in the firearms that we saw being used on television. Sounded like a slam dunk to me, so I ran the idea past Whit Fentem, the director of the museum. He green-lit the proposal, and away we went.

Garry James was the first person I called to ask for help. He lived in Los Angeles and knew basically everyone there was to know in the film/gun world. Both of his parents had been actors, and as an editor at *Guns & Ammo* for 30 years, he had come to know just about anyone worth knowing in the Hollywood gun scene. The first stop we made was to Stembbridge Gun Rentals in Glendale to meet Mike Papac of Cinema Weaponry. Mike is the dean of gun guys in Hollywood, and his collection has no peer. IMDb only lists about 10 percent of his real credits, but those in the know understand that Mike is the guy to call. We looked through the stacks and stacks of firearms in the warehouse. James Arness’ single-action from “Gunsmoke” was on the wall next to Dan Blocker’s from “Bonanza.” Syd Stembbridge even had some of the balsa-wood gas grenades from the 1933 “King Kong” movie on top of a bookcase. For a gun/movie buff, this place was wonderland, and I couldn’t believe my good fortune at being there. Mike and Garry picked out some great guns for use in the exhibit: John Wayne’s large-loop Winchester 1892; Steve McQueen’s Sharps from “Nevada Smith;” Mel Gibson’s and Bruce Willis’ Beretta 92 used in “Lethal Weapon” and “Die Hard,” respectively (the same gun was used in both movies); as well as dozens of others that were just staggering to my imagination.

But the guns that truly caused goose bumps to overtake me were the repro Walker Colts used by Clint Eastwood in “The Outlaw Josey Wales” (1976). These really hit home with me, as I had been a Civil War buff since as early as I could remember. Watching Kurt Russell in “Mosby’s Marauders” in 1967 set the hook, after which I was keen to see any film or television show on the Civil War. The trouble was, there were not many Civil War films that were really any good. “The Horse Soldiers” (1959) was awesome, but it was a rarity in my desire to see a real epic. That soon changed when I was 13 years old. I saw ads for a new Clint Eastwood film that was hitting theaters that summer. There were clips of Civil War battles shown, and I just had to see the film. I was mesmerized by the massive Colt replica he brandished, and I had to know more about it. I saved up and then spent all my money on a book, *Colt: An American Legend* by R.L. Wilson, thus beginning my education.

I learned that the massive 4-lb., 9-oz. revolver, a semiblance of that which Clint Eastwood spun with such dexterity, was the idea of Samuel Hamilton Walker (1817-1847) of what is now Bowie, Md. He had been fighting the Seminole Indians in Florida when he met Samuel Colt (1814-1862), who introduced him to his patented five-shot revolver made

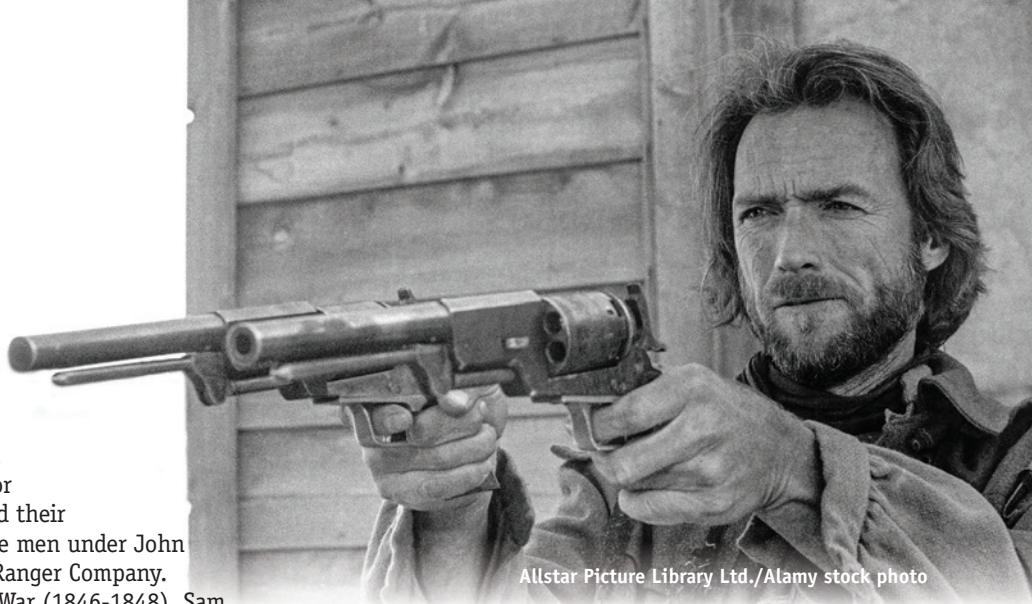


Illustration by David Labrozzi

in Paterson, N.J. Walker liked the repeating revolver that Colt sold him and took it to Texas with him when he joined the Texas Rangers. It was one of military history's first "force multipliers," as the Comanches that Walker encountered would soon find out. Walker's Paterson Colts found favor with the Rangers, and many found their way into the saddle holsters of the men under John Coffee "Jack" Hays' (1817-1883) Ranger Company.

During the Mexican-American War (1846-1848), Sam Walker's Texas Rangers were absorbed into the United States Army, christened "Mounted Rifles" by Zachary Taylor and then turned loose on Santa Anna's "guerrillas" to bring the war to Santa Anna the same way he was fighting us. Along with the new commission, Walker was given a blank check to outfit and equip his men. He immediately sent off a letter to Col. Colt in Hartford, Conn., asking for 1,000 revolvers to be made at the earliest convenience. He suggested changes to the Paterson design by asking for a .44-cal., six-shot cylinder, a trigger guard, a blade front sight made of German silver and a loading apparatus mounted on the gun itself. Colt received the letter with great joy and relief. He had been out of the gun business since 1842 and was in a great deal of personal debt. He turned to his friend Eli Whitney, Jr., and proposed a deal where the revolvers would be made in Whitney's shop in Whitneyville on machines producing identical parts and assembled together under the same roof. The deal was struck. Walker received his revolvers within six months, and the industrial revolution took firm hold as a result of his letter to a bankrupt former gunmaker.

The rest, as they say, is history.



Allstar Picture Library Ltd./Alamy stock photo

Walker was sent a pair of Model of 1847 revolvers as a personal gift from Colt, Serial Nos. 1009 and 1010 (See note, p. 47); he received them just prior to the Battle of Huamantla, Mexico, which took place on Oct. 9, 1847, where he was killed in action. He had famously used his two new Colts to set off abandoned Mexican cannons just prior to being fatally wounded. There were 1,000 Model 1847 (Walker) revolvers made for the U.S. Mounted Rifles and 100 made for civilian sales and gifts from Colt to those responsible for putting him back in business, making them the most prized and valuable of all Colt revolvers ever produced.

The more I read about the Walker Colts and the role they played in history, the more I was intrigued. The fact that Walker grew up just around the corner from me, the likelihood that some were still around 15 years after Walker died and saw use in the Civil War and the fact that Hollywood saw fit to make them the primary arm of "Josey Wales" was all, in my mind, just as it should have been. Too many movies erroneously show the Civil War being fought with 1873 Single Actions Armys, and this was a film that seemed, to my 13-year-old mind, to be really authentic and showed off real percussion firearms, or at least so I thought at the time.

The film started shooting in the fall of 1975 and took eight weeks to complete, with locations in Arizona, Wyoming, Utah and northern California. The firearms used in it, Italian reproductions, were rented from Ellis Mercantile, a Hollywood prop house founded in 1908 that closed in 2001. The film's property master, Edward (Eddie) Aiona (1931-2015), also served as the main armorer on the set. Aiona had worked with Eastwood on most of his films since "Magnum Force" (1973) and is thought to be the man responsible for choosing, along with Eastwood, the variety of historically authentic firearms used in most of his films, including "Unforgiven" (1992). Forrest Carter's source novel *The Rebel Outlaw, Josey Wales*, copyright



Album / Alamy stock photo

THE OUTLAW JOSEY WALES

1973, never mentions Model 1847 (Walker) Colts in the text. He does mention a “big .44” a few times and specifically mentions a Navy .36 kept in his shoulder holster under his arm (in the movie, it is a .31-cal. 1849 Pocket Colt in the shoulder holster), but the specific model of Colt is never actually mentioned.

To understand just how cool seeing a Walker Colt was on screen, you need to understand that there was only one depiction of a Walker in film prior to “Josey Wales” and that was in John Wayne’s 1969 classic “True Grit.”

Rooster Cogburn: *Why, by God, girl, that’s a Colt’s Dragoon! You’re no bigger than a corn nubbin, what’re you doing with all this pistol?*

Mattie Ross: *It belonged to my father, he carried it bravely in the war, and I intend to kill Tom Chaney with it if the law fails to do so.*

Rooster Cogburn: *Well, this’ll sure get the job done if you can find a fence post to rest it on while you take aim.*

Sadly, the Duke mis-names the Walker that Kim Darby produces as a Dragoon, but the point was made. It was a big revolver. I suspect that Eastwood and Aiona also chose the Walker because it matched the description of “big” from the novel. The problem with choosing a unique revolver model for a film is that you need more than one of them on the set. Armorers are tasked with finding at least three identical copies of any prop gun so that there is a main (hero) gun and an heir and a spare in case one fails to fire. The idea is that a fresh gun can be immediately placed in the hands of the actor without causing any delays in filming the scene.

An issue with equipping Eastwood with Walker Colt reproductions was that Josey Wales had two of them, a pair of Model 1860 .44 Army Colts and one 1849 Pocket model. That required a number of guns to be ready on set at any given time. The Ellis Mercantile guns accounted for the majority, with Stembridge Gun Rentals providing additional Walkers to fill in. It is thought that there were no fewer than nine Walkers on the set during the course of the filming. Most of the guns had been converted from percussion to centerfire cartridge so that they would stand a better chance of not misfiring, as “5-in-1” Hollywood blanks were more reliable than the original percussion-cap Colts of the period.

There was at least one pair of “Walkers” in the original percussion-cap configuration used for close-up shots and publicity photos. These were originally owned by Ellis Mercantile but sold to Mike Papac’s Cinema Weaponry when Ellis held their auction in 2001. Stembridge Gun Rentals owned the “True Grit” Walker that was also rented out for Josey Wales. Robert E. Petersen purchased most of Stembridge’s inventory and sold off the bulk of it at a Little John Auction in Anaheim, Calif., in 2007. The National Firearms Museum acquired the “True Grit/Josey Wales” Walker after that sale.

One of Hollywood’s current master gunsmiths, Steve Karnes, converted two of the Ellis/Papac Walkers into cartridge-firing guns by fixing the percussion cap part of the cylinder to the recoil shield, cutting a hinged Single



Action Army-style loading gate into the right side of the cylinder and altering the hammer to fire a centerfire cartridge. This was done post-Josey Wales, and this type of conversion was not used in the filming.

One of the mysteries to my 13-year-old mind was, “Just how did Eastwood manage to execute the ‘road-agent’s spin’ while in the outpost shack?” The road-agent’s spin is a revolver trick where the guns are offered butt-first to someone and then, in the flash of an eye, they are reversed and fired. I wore out my VHS tape by stopping and freezing the action, frame-by-frame, to see if I could discern the secret of the lightning-fast reversal. A Dixie Gun Works Uberti replica Walker was the second revolver I ever owned, and I set out to master the trick. On my second attempt, I started to practice over my bed and soon mastered it, but only with great difficulty. The gun weighed 4 lbs., 9 ozs., and Eastwood spun two of them simultaneously! I was (and still am) impressed.

The exhibit “Real Guns of Reel Heroes” needed more than Clint Eastwood’s Walkers to make it pop. Charlton Heston, Garry James, John Milius, Mike Papac, Tom Selleck, Phil Spangenberger and Karl Weschta at Independent Studio Services all contributed amazing items to the exhibit that have helped it to become one of the most popular the museum has ever mounted.

On my next-to-last day in Los Angeles, I went to the venerable Roosevelt Hotel for a movie memorabilia show to see what I might find in the way of black-and-white stills showing some of the artifacts actually in use. I met a vendor who had some neat stuff and invited me to San

Pictorial Press Ltd./Alamy stock photo



Diego to see his collection in hopes that I might add some more items to the display. He had a huge collection of props. One 55-gallon barrel held dozens of rubber guns used in hundreds of films. I dug and dug hoping to find something amazing and turned up a pair of Walker Colts. So exacting were the rubber copies that the Italian proofmarks, barrel address and serial number, 954, were all clearly discernible. I purchased them and headed north to Los Angeles after I called my boss to see if I could spend one extra day boxing up all the items that I had found in San Diego. His reply meant that I had to drive through the evening and spend the night in the Hertz parking lot so I could make my early flight home.

The next morning, I asked a Red Cap at the curb to help me with checking my luggage, which was now overburdened with the two Walkers, Clint Eastwood's web gear from "Heartbreak Ridge" (1986), complete with rubber grenades, big rubber Bowie knives from "Young Guns" (1988) and a host of other lethal-looking impedimenta. He told me I was 20 lbs. overweight. I replied it was more like I was 100 lbs. overweight. He chuckled and offered to provide me with an extra box. We emptied the extraneous weaponry and accoutrements into the new box right at the curb at LAX. Anywhere else in the country someone might have called an air marshal, but heck, this was Hollywood.

It was on the plane ride home that I thought a lot about the rubber Walkers. What if Eastwood used the rubber guns to pull off the road-agent's spin? I called Papac the minute I got home and asked the question. He laughed and said, of course, he used the rubber ones for the scene in the shack. How else could anyone aside from Arnold Schwarzenegger actually pull that off? He suggested I check the serial numbers on the guns he loaned me and the rubber ones I had picked up in San Diego. That was the first thing I did when I got to the office the next day, and the number matched Mike's gun. I was ecstatic. A few years later, Mike found some photos taken during a photo session with Bill Gold (1921-2018), an artist who had been turning out some of the most memorable movie posters since "Casablanca" in

Before the advent of real polymer-frame handguns, the material was used to make movie prop guns. The author (above) holds one each of the matching-serial-number (L.) blank-firing and "rubber" Walker Colt revolvers from "The Outlaw Josey Wales."

1942. He had joined Eastwood's stock company after he did the poster for "Magnum Force" in 1973 and designed most of his posters through "J. Edgar" (2011). The photos were black-and-whites of Clint in the costume of "Josey Wales," posing in a number of positions and facial gestures. One of the poses became the iconic enraged Wales that was used on the poster. The serial number of the gun is not present on the poster, but it is clear as a bell in the photo. Serial No. 954. For a museum curator, the provenance can't get much better.

I waited until after the scheduled tour with the Parker collectors to tell my boss, Whit, my good news. As I approached his office, I could tell by the look on his face that I was in serious trouble for some reason. After all, I had heeded his orders in returning home at the scheduled time. What could be wrong? He told me it was a good thing I wasn't still in Los Angeles, or I might never have gotten home. Terrorists had destroyed the World Trade Center towers in New York City and damaged the Pentagon, some 20 miles away from the museum, in the time it had taken me to show off the Parker Invincibles.

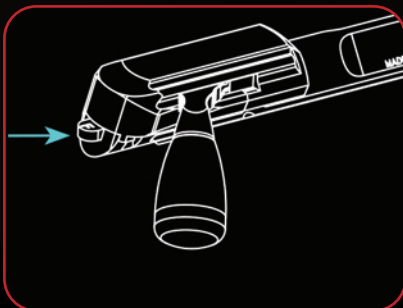
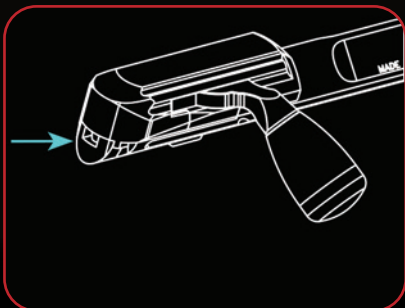
The real world was on the precipice of becoming a very different place. 🦋

NOTE: Colt's Walkers Nos. 1009 and 1010 were recipients of NRA National Treasure Gold Medal number two in 1998 when they were owned by the late Dr. Joseph A. Murphy. They are now in a private collection and considered the most historically significant and valuable revolvers in the world.

Today, the ever-evolving exhibit "Hollywood Guns" is still the most popular attraction at the National Firearms Museum at NRA Headquarters in Fairfax, Va., and new guns are regularly added and replaced. The museum is open seven days a week from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

STRASS

INNOVATIVE RS 700



The RS 700 bolt handle pivots front-to-rear from its locked to unlocked positions and includes a cocking indicator (arrow) that protrudes outward when ready to fire.

Have you ever worked a slick, modern, straight-pull action? Flick, flick, ready! The most touted advantage to the straight-pull bolt-action is speed. That it has, but that's only half the advantage: The straight-pull action allows operation with less arm and hand movement and requires less strength—thus less sight-picture interruption—than is possible with a turnbolt. In Europe, straight-pull actions are near-dominant. This is because of the widespread popularity of the driven hunt. Most shots are at moving game; the speed of repeat shots matters, and semi-automatics are not allowed in many countries across the pond. The straight-pull developed as the next best thing.

Today's straight-pull rifles are mostly modern actions of recent design, but the straight-pull bolt-action is hardly new. In the 1880s, straight-pulls were a parallel development with the perfection of the turnbolt. The rotating-bolt design became more prevalent, but several straight-pull actions were adopted by militaries, notably

the Mannlicher (Austro-Hungarian Empire, 1886); Schmidt (Switzerland, 1889); Lee (U.S. Navy, 1895); and Ross (Canada, 1905). The Swiss Schmidt-Rubin series (action by Rudolf Schmidt, cartridge by Eduard Rubin) was the most successful and enduring, with the final K31 straight-pull rifle remaining in service until 1970; the other three didn't make it beyond World War I, the general consensus being that rotating bolts were less expensive to manufacture, more rugged and simpler.

This was all true a century ago, but it doesn't still hold water given modern metallurgy and manufacturing processes. Blaser's R93 was probably the first successful modern straight-pull, with some 200,000 produced between 1993 and 2017, when it was completely discontinued in favor of the R8, also popular and very much still in production, with more than 100,000 R8s to date. Considering cost and the fact that most sales are in Europe, these are high numbers, attesting to the straight-pull's popularity over there.

SER'S STRAIGHT-PULL

Hailing from Austria, but with a nod to the American Remington Model 700, the Strasser RS 700 proves the straight-pull design is still alive and well—even in the hands of a southpaw.

BY CRAIG
BODDINGTON



HYBRID STRAIGHT-PULL

Americans have been slower to embrace the concept. Several excellent European straight-pulls aren't marketed at all over here, and American shooters have little knowledge and no experience with them as a result. There are several possible reasons: First, many European straight-pulls are "fine guns," much costlier than domestic turnbolts. Second, naturally, most are European in style, appealing to some American shooters, but unfamiliar to many. Third, aftermarket support and options are often limited. The new Strasser RS 700 is different; it is not an inexpensive rifle, but it makes great strides in answering the last two reservations. The RS 700 is a premium-quality, Austrian-made straight-pull. The basic action is similar to Strasser's RS 14 (August 2020, p. 64), locking up via four radial lugs in the bolt that are forced outward to mate with matching recesses in the barrel when the bolt handle is pushed forward. When the bolt handle is pulled back, the lugs retract into the bolt body—smooth and fast, forward and back.

Unlike the RS 14, the RS 700 is not a switch-barrel rifle. Also, it carries an all-American lineage, which is why its model number is no coincidence. The RS 700 shares key features—and dimensions—with the most popular production turnbolt of all time: Remington's Model 700. Strasser describes it as having the "Remington 700 footprint," including compatibility with short-action 700 stocks, barrels and trigger assemblies. It is a good lineage and one that changes the game for parts compatibility and aftermarket support. But, remember, the Strasser is not a Remington 700, nor a turnbolt action at all; it's a fully ambidextrous straight-pull. This last quality probably isn't important to most of the right-handed majority, but it is important to us lefties—and could be to you if you have southpaws in your family. All bolt-actions are best operated from the correct (strong) side, but straight-pulls are especially awkward and slow if operated from the wrong side (as in, by lefties using a right-hand bolt). On the RS 700, even the stock is set up for ambidextrous use.

STRASSER RS 700

For left-hand operation, just pop in a left-hand bolt. The receiver is an open bridge, ejecting right with a right-hand bolt or left with left-hand bolt. The magazine release is in the forward bow of the trigger guard, positive and goof-proof.

Other controls, at the right rear of the receiver, include a two-position safety and a bolt release. Since a straight-pull bolt rides above the stock, there is no need for a bolt handle cutout. Although the Remington M700 was long offered in a generous selection of mirror-image versions (as a left-handed shooter, I have owned a bunch of them), the numbers game suggests that about 85 percent of all Remington 700 stocks—factory, aftermarket and custom—have a bolt handle cutout on the right side. The Strasser RS 700 cleverly uses this cutout to house the bolt release, a knurled knob pulled straight down to release the bolt. For use with left-hand stocks, the bolt release can be switched to the left side. With its linkage to the Remington 700, this new Strasser is thus a hybrid of old and new; Strasser likes to call the RS 700 the “rebirth of a legend.”

TEST RIFLE

RS 700 rifles are just making their way into the United States. There are several configurations, including Legend models with traditional walnut stocks and AVA-Tahr versions in carbon-fiber stocks with an adjustable comb—these with flush-fit, three-round, in-line magazines. Also offered is an XRS Chassis long-range variant, with a carbon-fiber stock with an adjustable cheekpiece and an extended five-round magazine. All three have an integral M-Lok rail near the end of the fore-end. All Strasser rifles feature top-quality hammer-forged barrels and carry a 12-year warranty.

My test RS 700 arrived stocked in a modern American tactical-style stock with a near-vertical pistol grip, a high, straight comb and a flat-bottomed fore-end featuring a



For the test rifle, set up for left-hand use, the bolt release (l.) was located on the right to rest in a notch in the stock designed for a right-hand bolt handle. A bilateral magazine release (r.) is at the lower front portion of the trigger guard where it can be activated by the trigger finger to release the provided AICS-pattern, three-round detachable box.

Picatinny rail strip with M-Lok in lieu of a forward sling swivel stud. The stock was painted a black/gray camouflage pattern called Alpine Tungsten; Alpine Green is another option. The rifle came with a Picatinny rail scope mount, a 5.5" strip mounted over the receiver. Although light carbon fiber, the stock is beefy in dimension with minimal drop at comb and heel, clearly intended for use with larger scopes requiring higher mounts. Although not adjustable and sans cheekpiece, the stock is dead-straight and fully ambidextrous. Good thing, because I requested a left-hand bolt. Hard to get a proper feel for any rifle if one must operate it from the wrong side ... especially a straight-pull.

The barrel is bedded to aluminum pillars in the stock and mated to the receiver with a Remage-style barrel nut. This is not a system used on all versions of the Remington 700, but is commonly used. Initial chamberings include 6.5 mm Creedmoor and .308 Winchester in 22" barrel lengths, with a magnum offering in 6.5 mm PRC with a 24" barrel, all of which are dimensionally compatible with Model 700 short-action stocks for bedding. Cold-hammer-forged barrels are sourced from Lothar Walther and are medium in contour. Both the action and barrel are finished with hardened PlasOx nitride. The supplied three-shot polymer magazine fits flush, detaches easily and locks in securely; all AICS-pattern magazines are compatible.

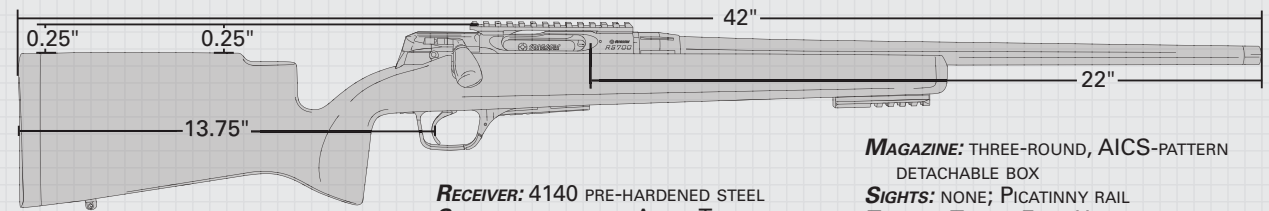
The test rifle was in 6.5 mm Creedmoor. I mounted a Zeiss Conquest 4.5-14X 50 mm 1" scope in medium Weaver



Although the Strasser's bolt design and means of lockup are unique, its receiver's Remington 700 footprint permits the use of a conventional stock and trigger. Note the pillar bedding (inset) and the one-piece bottom metal and detachable magazine. Ejection ports on each side of the receiver allow for configuration as a left- or right-hand rifle.

STRASSER RS 700

IMPORTER: STRASSER USA, LLC (DEPT. AR), 6005 E. SHIRLEY LANE, SUITE B, MONTGOMERY, AL 36117; (334) 593-3833; **STRASSER-USA.**



MANUFACTURER: STRASSER (AUSTRIA)

ACTION TYPE: STRAIGHT-PULL, BOLT-ACTION, CENTERFIRE REPEATING RIFLE

CHAMBERING: 6.5 MM CREEDMOOR

RECEIVER: 4140 PRE-HARDENED STEEL

STOCK: CARBON FIBER; ALPINE TUNGSTEN CAMOUFLAGE FINISH

BARREL: CHROME-MOLY STEEL; SIX-GROOVE, 1:8" RH-TWIST RIFLING; M14x1 TPI MUZZLE

MAGAZINE: THREE-ROUND, AICS-PATTERN DETACHABLE BOX

SIGHTS: NONE; PICATINNY RAIL

TRIGGER: TIMNEY ELITE HUNTER, ADJUSTABLE, SINGLE-STAGE; 2-LB., 2-OZ. PULL

WEIGHT: 7 LBS., 8 OZS.

ACCESSORIES: OWNER'S MANUAL, HARD CASE

MSRP: \$3,600



SHOOTING RESULTS (100 YARDS)

6.5 MM CREEDMOOR CARTRIDGE	VELOCITY (F.P.S.)	ENERGY (FT.-LBS.)	GROUP SIZE (INCHES)		
			SMALLEST	LARGEST	AVERAGE
FEDERAL 140-GRAIN FUSION	2,652 Avg. 24 Sd	2,186	0.93	2.05	1.55
HORNADY 140-GRAIN AG	2,653 Avg. 20 Sd	2,188	1.02	2.05	1.45
REMINGTON 129-GRAIN CLT	2,857 Avg. 13 Sd	2,338	0.95	1.88	1.30
AVERAGE EXTREME SPREAD					1.43

NOTES: MEASURED AVERAGE VELOCITY FOR 10 SHOTS OVER A MAGNETOSPEED SPORTER CHRONOGRAPH AT THE MUZZLE. ACCURACY RESULTS FOR FIVE CONSECUTIVE, FIVE-SHOT GROUPS AT 100 YARDS FROM A BENCH REST. TEMPERATURE: 45° F. HUMIDITY: 55%. ABBREVIATIONS: AG (AMERICAN GUNNER), CLT (CORE-LOKT TIPPED), Sd (STANDARD DEVIATION).

rings. Cheek weld was fine, but the high, straight comb would have allowed for a larger scope in higher rings.

The action was smooth, easy to get the feel of and wonderfully fast. There is a cocking indicator, a small tab that extends at the rear of the bolt when the action is cocked and ready to fire. Otherwise, operation was straightforward with consistent and trouble-free feeding, extraction and ejection. Funny, with most unfamiliar rifles, getting a feel for the bolt release takes some fumbling. This bolt release is obviously different, but it works like a charm and is said to be almost bullet-proof. Except, with the high comb on this stock, there's almost no clearance between the rear of bolt and the stock when the action is open. So, to remove the bolt, I quickly learned that I needed to pull the bolt back, work the release, then pull the bolt a wee bit farther back and lift it upward to clear the stock.

RANGE AND FIELD

For accuracy testing, I started with Federal 140-grain Fusion, Hornady 140-grain American Gunner and Remington 129-grain Core-Lokt Tipped loads. Results from five-shot, 100-yard groups were exceptionally consistent: no dramatically tiny groups, but also no atrocious groups. There was

A Timney Hunter Elite trigger (above) is installed in the rifle from the factory in the conventional manner—two transverse pins in the receiver. The author, a southpaw, found that adequate gun weight, the light-kicking 6.5 mm Creedmoor chambering and the excellent trigger made the RS 700 a joy to shoot off the bench. He found the straight-pull action on the test gun, which was set up with a left-hand bolt, to be fast and smooth.

a scattering of m.o.a. groups with all three loads (the best group with Hornady was essentially "there" at 1.02"). The two largest groups, one from the Hornady and the other from the Federal load, measured the same at 2.05". Best results, on this day, in this rifle's barrel, were with Remington Core-Lokt Tipped, a relatively new bullet, with a five-group average of a very acceptable 1.3". Overall, I was pleased with the results, an average of 1.43" across 15 five-shot groups with three different loads—solidly sub-1.5 m.o.a.

Because of its popularity and current legend, we tend to expect great things out of a 6.5 mm Creedmoor-chambered rifle. It is an inherently accurate cartridge, but it is not magic, and it is still subject to the vagaries of individual barrels. Much depends on the ammo ... and what a given rifle shoots best.

Opinions vary on barrels, but I think hammer-forging is the most consistent barrel-making technique, and Lothar Walther makes awesome barrels. You never know, but I



Photo by author

STRASSER RS 700

don't expect a brand-new rifle, fresh out of the box, to shoot the best it's going to shoot. The loads I had to start with were all good quality, but none were premium or match-grade.

The way I run the test protocol, not being a patient guy, I try to avoid hot summer days, so I don't have to wait forever for a barrel to cool. Anyway, I always let the barrel cool down between groups, and I clean between loads. Usually, I do the chronographing last because that's a lot of groups to shoot at once. Not a problem with a mild-kicking cartridge like the Creedmoor, but it's still a lot of groups, and it can be impossible to be certain which uncalled fliers were caused by the shooter, the rifle or the cartridge.

After initial zeroing, 15 groups (75 shots) "for score," plus strings across the chronograph, I had more than 100 rounds through the barrel, so we can conclude that it was pretty well "broken in." I don't always have the time, ammunition or even desire to revisit a gun after I finish with my testing, but I intended to hunt with this rifle, so I took it to the range a second time. I didn't have enough Creedmoor ammunition on hand to re-run the full protocol, but I had plenty to check zero and fire a few groups. This time, it grouped a bit better with the Hornady load—about the same as the Federal Fusions and Remington Core-Lokt Tippeds. I also found a partial box of Hornady's 120-grain ELD Match load. After sending five downrange, four shots were touching at just under 0.5 m.o.a.—then a flier opened the group to 1.25".

On the bench, I loved this rifle. The action was smooth and, like all straight-pulls, very quick. On the RS 700, Strasser uses Timney's excellent Elite Hunter trigger (Remington 700-compatible), which, out of the box, broke at a bit more than 2 lbs. Combined with a decent gun weight of 7 lbs., 8 ozs., and mild 6.5 mm Creedmoor recoil, shooting groups was a pleasure. This Timney is easily adjustable between 2 lbs. and 4 lbs., and while the lower end may be light for hunting, it is awesome for shooting groups, so I left it alone.

There was one small exception to my overall happiness with the gun: The ejection ports (on both sides) require that single-loading into the chamber takes a bit of fumbling and can result in dropped cartridges, especially at first. While shooting groups, I quickly found it easier to load from the magazine. In retrospect, this was probably a good exercise: Feeding and cycling from the magazine was flawless.

Range work all done, I took the rifle whitetail hunting on my son-in-law's Texas ranch. I wouldn't be hunting big bucks; we're trying to improve quality, so we'd be looking for ugly "management" bucks. I've long thought Remington's Core-Lokt bullet was one of the very best factory-loaded hunting bullets. No telling how many millions of deer Core-Lokts have accounted for, but I hadn't yet hunted with the new polymer-tipped version. I figured it should open a bit quicker, but should hold together, and the lighter 129-grain 6.5 mm in the Creedmoor should be fine for our small-bodied Texas deer.

As for the rifle, I had no concerns whatsoever. I haven't



The RS 700's bolt features four lugs (arrow) that lock into place within the barrel. When the bolt is run home and the handle pivoted forward, a sleeve surrounding the firing pin presses the lugs outward to engage mating barrel recesses.

used "all" the various straight-pull actions, but, provided the bolt is on the proper side, I'm very comfortable with rifles of this type. I bought a Blaser R8 back in 2011 and later got another for my wife, Donna. She's also left-handed, so both have left-hand bolts. We've used them all over the place, for a wide variety of game. After a lifetime of operating rotating-bolt actions, a straight-pull takes getting used to, but once you get the hang of it, the fast operation with less movement is wonderful.

In hunting situations, the extra speed isn't always needed, but it's there. After years of using the Blaser system, I'm comfortable with the cocking lever safety common to most straight-pulls I've encountered. However, I also use a lot of rotating-bolt actions and have even more experience with Remington 700s. So, I appreciated the familiar back-and-forth two-position safety.

Hunting with young Ethan Cook, we looked over a lot of bucks that were too perfect, too big or too young. Every year "bad bucks" get scarcer—after all, that's the idea, right? Hunting from a blind, we passed on several nice bucks, then a badly mismatched three-by-two came in. With a steady rest, at about 100 yards, I shot, and the buck ran hard. We were certain we heard him crash, and, sure enough, we found him 50 yards into the mesquite.

Another opportunity came in a chance encounter, two bucks standing down a sendero at 200 yards. The buck on the right appeared to be exactly the kind of buck we don't want: a normal Hill Country eight-pointer on his right antler, but just a brow point and long spike on his left. We took a few extra moments to make sure the left antler was truly slick, points absent rather than broken from fighting. I used those seconds to get on him while Ethan made the call. By the time we were sure he was a shooter, I was ready, so I pressed the light trigger. The shot looked good and felt good, and the buck went down about the same 50 yards into the brush.

I flicked the bolt and was ready to fire again, but straight-pull speed wasn't needed; the shots looked good and were. These are not large-bodied deer, but I was delighted to see that the 129-grain Core-Lokt Tipped entered, broke shoulders and exited. Wound channels showed good expansion, absent major meat damage. It seemed to work like a good ole Core-Lokt.

In all, whether in the field or at the range, the Strasser felt good and handled well. The company's slogan is "passionate innovation." Why? Maybe because shooters who have adopted straight-pull actions tend to be passionate about them. Despite straight-pull bolt-actions having been around since the 1880s, the Strasser RS 700 is genuinely innovative. A modern straight-pull with familiar roots, this rifle could change American shooters' perceptions on the platform as a whole. 



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PRACTICAL HERITAGE HENRY'S BIG B



With a nod to tradition on the outside, and a commitment to modernity inside, Henry's first "conventional" handguns uphold the company's unique traditions.

BY JEREMIAH KNUPP, Field Editor

BOY REVOLVERS



The "service-size" Henry Big Boy revolvers are designed to be carried in sturdy belt rigs.

The Henry Repeating Arms Co. has built a market around its ability to combine historic connections and traditional aesthetics with highly functional, American-made products. And the Big Boy revolvers built on its first "conventional" handgun platform—it already offered "mare's leg" pistol versions of its rimfire and center-fire lever-action rifles—demonstrate this knack at blending heritage and modernity even further. Make no mistake, while tipping its hat to historical handguns on the outside, the Big Boy is a thoroughly modern wheelgun on the inside with performance that is anything other than antiquated.

The revolver is offered in two models, with all basic specifications the same, save for the grip profile and slightly different overall weights and height/length dimensions. A rounded-to-a-point "Birdshead" grip is offered on one model and a hand-filling, square-butt "Gunfighter" grip is on the second. Like other Henry products, the Big Boy revolvers' unique appearance is likely what you'll notice first. The shared main frame and trigger guard profile seem to combine Colt's 19th-century Model 1878 with its 20th-century Trooper. In a nod to classic double-action service handguns like the Trooper, Henry reminds us that a magnum revolver doesn't need to have a vent rib or a full-length underlug.

The Birdshead grip approximates that of the full-size Colt 1878 versus the more diminutive 1877 Lighting, and the lower portion of the Gunfighter grip is nearly identical in size and profile to a Colt 1860 Army. On the back end, the frame is rounded to match the arch of the hammer, which comes straight from the 1878, with an extended "beavertail" spur at the top of the backstrap—a feature found on both Colt and Smith & Wesson revolvers from the 1870s. On the front end, both revolvers' 4" heavy-profile round barrel is recessed on the bottom to accommodate the head of the unsupported ejector rod.

The materials and finish used on the Big Boy revolvers are also old-school. Steel parts are finished with a high-polish blue, and the brass is also highly polished. Henry knows the place that brass holds in traditional firearm construction, as demonstrated with its lever-action rifles. That material finds its appropriate place in the one-piece trigger guard and grip frame on both models just as it did on many early six-shooters. Stocks are smooth-finished American walnut that have a thumb rest on each side to accommodate both right- and left-handed shooters.

HENRY BIG BOY REVOLVERS

A classically styled revolver calls for a classic, one-handed shooting position. Both the Gunfighter and Birdhead grip models of the Henry Big Boy revolver make recoil manageable with magnum cartridges.



On the mechanical side of things, the Big Boy revolver platform features a solid frame with a six-shot cylinder that rotates counterclockwise and swings out to the left, using a forward-sliding cylinder release positioned on the left side of the frame. With the cylinder out, ejection is accomplished by actuating a rod that pushes the extractor. When the action is closed, the cylinder locks into the frame with a stop at the rear, while a ball detent locks the crane into the frame at the front.

A double-action with a swing-out cylinder might not seem like the first choice for a “traditional” revolver, but the double-action trigger mechanism is as old as revolvers themselves. In 1851, as Samuel Colt was perfecting the form of his cap-and-ball six-shooter, Englishman Robert Adams was patenting a double-action wheelgun (Colt had experimented with and abandoned his own double-action designs). During the Civil War, double-action Adams, Kerr, Starr, Pettengill and Remington revolvers served alongside the more famous single-action designs. Throughout the frontier era, “self-cocking” revolvers by Colt, Merwin Hulbert and Smith & Wesson held their place with their manually cocked contemporaries. And the swing-out cylinder? Colt introduced that design in 1889.

The Big Boy revolvers’ double-action trigger mechanism features a hammer with an exposed spur that can be used for cocking in single-action mode. Safety is provided by a transfer bar that only allows the hammer to strike the frame-mounted firing pin when the trigger has been fully pressed. No need to leave an empty chamber under the hammer here. The hammer is powered by a coil-type mainspring. For durability, the spring is housed in an extension of the steel frame that fits within the brass grip frame.

The sights on both models consist of a fixed blade front and a square-notch rear in the grooved topstrap. Both the blued-steel and brass components are highly polished.

Though Henry refers to the Big Boy frame as “medium-sized,” the revolvers’ dimensions are closer to that of “medium-large”-frame handguns such as a Smith & Wesson L-frame or a Colt J-frame. The cylinder of the Big Boy has a diameter of 1.56", and the frame’s topstrap has a width of 0.68" and is 0.23" thick. The barrel has a diameter of 0.75" where it meets the frame and tapers slightly to 0.70" at the muzzle. Weighing 35 ozs. with the Gunfighter grip or just about two ounces less for the Birdhead grip model—which measures only 0.02" less in overall height and 0.37" less in overall length—the result is an “outdoorsman” or “service-size” revolver that is designed to be worn on the belt in a sturdy holster.

While the Big Boy sights are fixed, they can be adjusted with no filing required. The front sight blade is on a ramp that attaches to the barrel with a screw. Henry supplies each revolver with three clearly marked front sights of “high,” “medium” and “low” heights to allow the owner to converge the point of aim with the point of impact. The 0.06"-wide front sight blade nestles in the rear sight “gutter” on the frame’s topstrap that pinches smaller at the rear, for a classic revolver sight picture.

On the range, the Big Boy revolvers proved their function could match their form. The smooth-faced trigger on both revolvers was excellent. The double-action trigger pull is smooth throughout its arc before breaking cleanly





SHOOTING RESULTS (15 YARDS)

CARTRIDGE	VELOCITY (F.P.S.)	ENERGY (FT.-LBS.)	GROUP SIZE (INCHES)		
			SMALLEST	LARGEST	AVERAGE
.357 MAGNUM					
REMINGTON PW 158-GRAIN SWC	1,190 Avg. 34 Sd	497	1.47	1.95	1.65
SIG SAUER EP 125-GRAIN JHP	1,277 Avg. 27 Sd	453	1.50	2.44	1.91
.38 SPECIAL					
FEDERAL AMERICAN EAGLE 130-GRAIN FMJ	719 Avg. 30 Sd	149	1.42	2.38	1.93
AVERAGE EXTREME SPREAD					1.83

NOTES: MEASURED AVERAGE VELOCITY FOR 10 SHOTS OVER A COMPETITION ELECTRONICS PROCHRONO DLX CHRONOGRAPH AT SEVEN FEET. ACCURACY RESULTS FOR FIVE CONSECUTIVE, FIVE-SHOT GROUPS AT 15 YARDS FROM A CALDWELL MATRIX REST. TEMPERATURE: 50° F. HUMIDITY: 45%. ABBREVIATIONS: EP (ELITE PERFORMANCE), FMJ (FULL METAL JACKET), JHP (JACKETED HOLLOW POINT), PW (PERFORMANCE WHEELGUN), SD (STANDARD DEVIATION), SWC (SEMI-WADCUTTER).

Accuracy with the Henry Big Boy revolver (above) averaged slightly under 2" for five-shot groups at 15 yards, and both .357 Mag. loads printed a group under 1.5". With its cylinder assembly and stock panels removed (r.), the revolver is disassembled as far as the factory recommends for cleaning and routine maintenance.

at 10 lbs., 12 ozs., for the Gunfighter model and 9 lbs., 7 ozs., for the Birdhead. In single-action mode, the trigger on both revolvers broke crisply with no perceivable take-up or overtravel, requiring 2 lbs., 12 ozs., of force to drop the hammer. The narrow hammer spur is low enough to not obscure a full sight picture when it is at rest, yet its deep grooves give a sure purchase for placing the mechanism in single-action mode.

Shooting the Big Boy is a balancing act between its excellent trigger and basic sights. Though the revolver's sights are regulated for a center-hold point of aim, for more precision shooting, I nestled the minimal sight picture on the six-o'clock position of the target's bullseye. Five-shot groups at 15 yards, fired from a rested bench

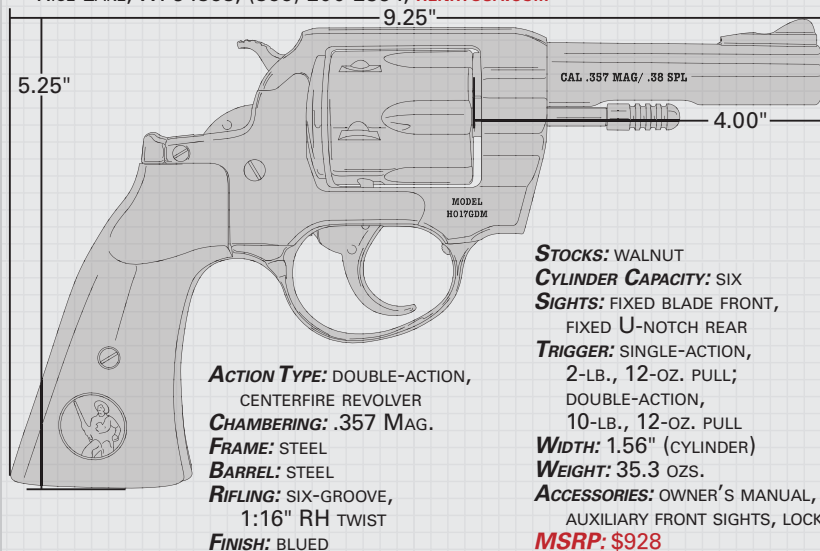


An extension of the steel frame houses the mainspring of the Henry Big Boy revolver.



HENRY BIG BOY REVOLVER GUNFIGHTER GRIP

MANUFACTURER: HENRY REPEATING ARMS CO. (DEPT. AR), 107 W. COLEMAN ST., RICE LAKE, WI 54868; (866) 200-2354; HENRYUSA.COM



HENRY BIG BOY REVOLVERS

position, averaged 1.93", with the .357 Mag. groups typically having two or three of their five shots touching.

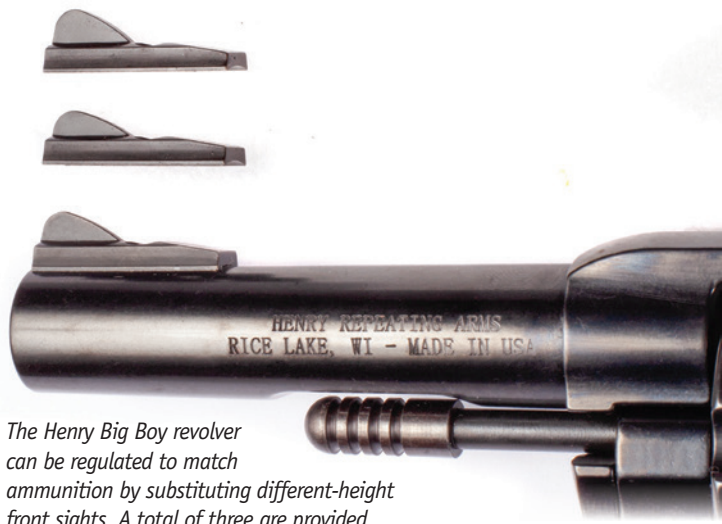
Both revolvers came with the medium-height front sight installed, but I needed to change to the low-height sight to get the cartridges we tested, from the lightest .38 Spl. to the heaviest .357s, to impact at the point of aim at 15 yards. Both .38 Spl. and .357 Mag. loads had a tendency to shoot about 1" to the right at that range. The front sight interchanges easily and stays tight, even during a long session of magnum recoil. With the easy interchangeability of the front sight, I hope that the aftermarket will soon provide an option for the Big Boy with a small brass bead or (traditionalists, close your eyes) a fiber-optic insert.

The Big Boy's 4" barrel length is on the minimal end of achieving the .357 Mag. cartridge's full ballistic potential, with Remington's Performance Wheelgun loads capped with a classic 158-grain lead semi-wadcutter bullet averaging just shy of 1,200 f.p.s. and 500 ft.-lbs. of energy at the muzzle. At just about 2 lbs., the Big Boy revolver's heft is enough to soak up the recoil of the stoutest magnum loads and makes .38 Spl. plinking rounds enjoyable for even the most recoil-shy shooter. While the Gunfighter grip gives a full-handed purchase, magnum recoil was also quite manageable with the Bird'shead grip. Despite its pocket-revolver profile, it is full-size in the vein of the Model 1878.

Each Big Boy revolver functioned perfectly from both the bench and in the field. The ejector rod's stroke moves empty cases, even .38 Spl., just to the edge of the cylinder without pushing them clear. For some wheelgun aficionados, this is perfect, as the extractor can't push past the cases to allow them to slip back into the cylinder and induce a jam. Tipping the rear of the cylinder downward while working the ejector rod easily cleared empties, even after fouling starts to build up in the revolver's chambers.

Cleaning the Big Boy revolver is made easier by Henry's cylinder-removal system. Pushing up on a small, serrated button located in the top front of the trigger guard allows for the cylinder and crane assembly to be removed from the frame as a unit. Not only is it infinitely easier to clean a revolver when the cylinder is separated from the frame, but this method of easy cylinder removal could allow Henry to offer versions of the Big Boy that would accommodate alternate chamberings by swapping cylinders. Removing the stocks provides access to the mainspring assembly. And that is as far as Henry recommends going for normal maintenance and cleaning. The rest of the revolver's internals are located under a sideplate on the right of the frame.

While Henry lists the "best uses" of the Big Boy revolver as "target/collector," I would add "close-range hunting" and "self-defense." Even with its minimal sights, the Big Boy certainly has the accuracy to take game within the limitations of the ballistics provided by its 4" barrel. Its swing-out cylinder allows for rapid reloads with a speed-loading device (use those intended for a S&W L-frame or Ruger GP100) and its weight and smooth double-action trigger meant that its cylinder could be



The Henry Big Boy revolver can be regulated to match ammunition by substituting different-height front sights. A total of three are provided.

emptied with speed into a target at anti-social distances. While it's bigger than what most people would want to carry concealed, the Big Boy's size mimics the service revolvers that American law enforcement carried daily for nearly a century. It would be ideal as a home-defense revolver or carried in a good belt rig when outdoors. The bob-tailed grip of the Bird'shead model carries nicely in a chest-mounted holster.

Anticipating that the Big Boy will be as popular as other Henry products, manufacturers including DeSantis, Diamond D Custom and Simply Rugged have already stepped in with holsters specifically designed to fit the new revolver. To customize your revolver's appearance, Henry offers accessory stocks in laminated wood, engineered cocobolo or checkered walnut. Expect other manufacturers of holsters, stocks and sights to follow the company's lead.

With an MSRP of \$928, the Big Boy is comparable in price to similar models offered by fellow American wheelgun manufacturers Colt, Ruger and Smith & Wesson, reflecting the economic realities of high-polished blued steel and walnut that is "Made in America, or Not Made at All." A discussion of price brings up a few minor quibbles with the Big Boy's appearance. While metal and wood fit was excellent, in some areas it looked like the metal could have used some additional polishing before the bluing process, with parts such as the trigger and hammer having visible mold marks.

Underneath that old-time veneer, Henry has included some features that give its Big Boy revolver family room to grow. The manual supplied with the .357 models makes it clear that 10-shot .22 Long Rifle and .22 WMR Big Boys are on the way. It would be interesting to see if Henry could use this size frame for other cartridges that it offers rifles in, such as a seven-shot .327 Fed. Mag. or a five-shot .41 Mag., .44-40 Win., .44 Spl. or .45 Colt. And while we're talking about companions for the company's long guns, how about interchangeable cylinders for semi-automatic pistol cartridges? (Asking for a Homesteader.)

With the Big Boy, Henry is making a revolver that has traditional aesthetics, but carries the technology under the hood to compete with the latest wheelgun designs on the market. In this way, Henry has once again "reverse-engineered" history to provide heritage in its most practical form. 

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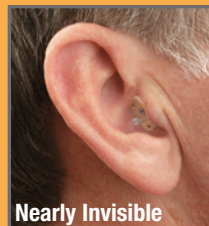
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The first of the author's five, three-shot groups fired with .25-'06 Rem. cartridges prepped using only the most essential handloading steps printed a group at 100 yards exhibiting good potential.

ESSENTIAL HAND

Two bullet hole targets are shown at the top of the page. The left target has a dark, irregular hole, while the right target has a more uniform, circular hole. A blue pencil is visible on the left side of the page, pointing towards the targets.

When it comes to preparing handloads for practical hunting accuracy, does it really matter if benchrest-type measures are taken?

BY JOHN HAVILAND, Field Editor

Widespread wisdom declares that cartridges handloaded with attention to every detail can make a regular hunting rifle shoot as true as a target rifle. To determine if all that effort is worth it, I handloaded a meticulously prepared batch of cartridges and another lot using only the most essential steps, then fired both sets through an ordinary Ruger M77 chambered in .25-'06 Remington that has shot very accurately for me throughout the years. Let's see how it went.

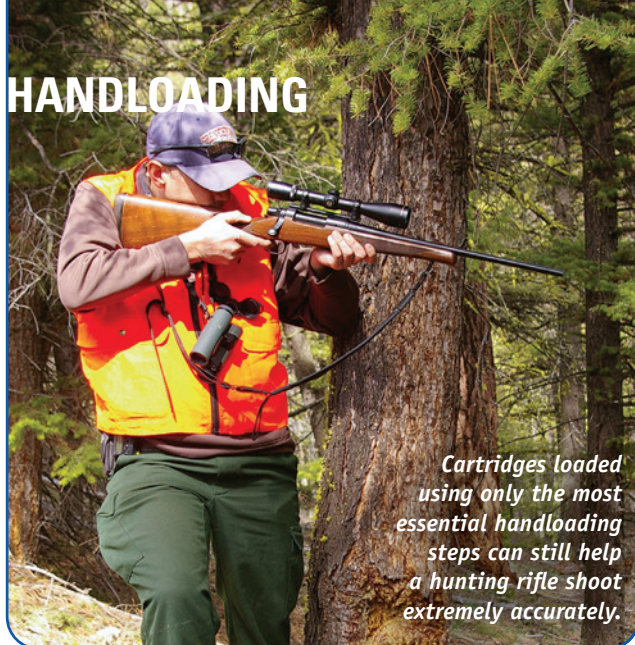
FULLY PREPARED CASES

Cases uniform in every aspect require attention from one end to the other. Proper case sizing is the first step because cases with an exact fit within a chamber help to align bullets straight with the rifling; cases that have had only their necks sized provide that precise fit because the body and shoulder of cases are left in their fired position. However, a case from a cartridge fired in a rifle with rear-locking lugs may expand so much it will not fit back in the rifle's chamber. Too, cases from cartridges fired in rifles with front-locking lugs spring back a little less each time they are fired. After a case has been fired and neck-sized a time or two, it becomes difficult to chamber and requires sizing to freely fit in a chamber.

Partial full-length sizing is the key for a glove-like fit and trouble-free chambering. The Hornady Lock-N-Load Headspace Comparator tool is an easy way to set a sizing die to correctly position shoulders and slightly size the case body. The tool comes with five gauge bushings that fit on the shoulder of certain cases. Several fired cases (with the spent primer removed for an exact measurement) are measured to determine case head-to-shoulder length. Cases are sized, measured and the die turned a partial turn until the intended shoulder setback is achieved. A sizing die so set might end up in tight or slight contact with the shell holder. A shoulder setback of 0.002" is preferred.

An alternative method is to remove the firing-pin assembly from a rifle's bolt to enable you to feel any resistance when a case is fully chambered. A case is sized and the die turned a partial turn until no hindrance is felt on the closing bolt.

LOADING STEPS



ESSENTIAL STEPS

In contrast to fully prepared cases, cases that received only essential handloading steps were taken randomly from a batch of Winchester .25-'06 Rem. cases that had been fired one time in my Ruger M77. They received no other preparation than partial full-length sizing and trimming. Both batches of cases moved on to final loading.

Obviously, bullet seating is an essential handloading step. Most handloading manuals list the overall cartridge length for a particular bullet's seating depth, and that's a good place to start. An exact number starts by determining what cartridge length results in where a bullet contacts the start of the rifling; the Hornady Lock-N-Load O.A.L. Gauge is an easy way to find that cartridge length. A modified case for each particular cartridge threads onto the end of the gauge, a bullet is placed in the case and the assembly is inserted into the chamber. A rod inside the gauge pushes the bullet forward into contact with the rifling, and the rod is tightened. Measuring the extracted case and bullet provides an overall cartridge length where the bullet contacts the rifling. From there, the bullet is backed off the rifling the desired amount to come up with a bullet seating depth and overall cartridge length.

Such an exact cartridge length can also be determined with only a flat-tipped cleaning rod and a pen. A bullet is inserted obviously long into a fired case and together they are inserted into the chamber and the bolt is closed. (Don't tell my dentist, but if the neck won't securely hold the bullet, I bite the neck to slightly narrow it.) With the bullet snug against the rifling, the cleaning rod is slowly inserted into the bore from the muzzle until the tip touches the bullet. The rod is marked at the muzzle. Then, with the case and bullet removed, the rod is pushed in until it contacts the bolt face, and the rod is then marked at the muzzle a second time. The distance between the two marks is the cartridge length where a bullet contacts the rifling.

I tried each method three times with Nosler 100-grain Ballistic Tips in the Ruger .25-'06 Rem. Measurements varied

Uniform primer pockets enable primers to be seated to exactly the same depth so they are square to the impact of the firing pin. The Lyman primer pocket uniformer (below, l.) cut only a few flecks of brass from primer pockets of fully prepared .25-'06 Rem. cases. Likewise, a Lyman flash hole uniformer (below) ensured a consistent primer flame in the Winchester .25-'06 cases that had already been trimmed to correct length for safety and consistent velocities.





Using a flat-tipped cleaning rod and a pen (above) is an exact method for determining what cartridge length results when a bullet contacts the start of the rifling. Seating a bullet straight with the centerline of a case (L) is an important factor in accuracy, and an RCBS CaseMaster gauging tool can measure that runout. For the .25-'06 Rem., a cartridge length of 3.210" resulted when a Nosler 100-grain bullet was set slightly short of the rifling (below). Ideal seating depth can help produce the best accuracy, although it may take hundreds of dollars in components to find the sweet spot.



with the gauge 0.007" and the cleaning rod 0.008". The cleaning-rod technique indicated a cartridge length of 3.218", which was 0.007" longer than specified by the Hornady gauge.

The *Nosler Reloading Guide 7* lists a cartridge length of 3.20" for the Ballistic Tip; to be different, I settled on a cartridge length of 3.21". Cartridges of that length should provide reasonably good accuracy if all the other handloading step have been taken. Some obsessed handloaders, though, shoot batches of cartridges, each with bullets seated a few thousands of an inch differently, in hopes of finding that sweet spot of accuracy.

Just as important, however, is to seat bullets straight with the rifling. The work of preparing cases with little to no variation in neck thickness and runout should help seat bullets true with the rifling. Bullet runout varied mostly from nothing to 0.002" with fully prepared cases. Bullets seated in cases that received only essential preparation varied from straight up to 0.003". That ruler-straight seating results just as much from a clean seating die that is square and tight in a press and a seating stem that fits the bullet nose.



The case on the bottom has only the top half of its neck sized for a tight fit in the chamber. After firing the case a time or two, it will require more sizing for it to fit freely in the chamber. The case on the top has been partially full-length sized, with its shoulder set back a small amount.

PICKING PROPELLANT

PROPELLANT/ WEIGHT (GRAINS)	VELOCITY (F.P.S.)	ST. DEVIATION (F.P.S.)	ACCURACY (INCHES)
HUNTER/53.5	3,220	17	1.11
RELODER 26/56.0	3,246	12	0.94
RELODER 23/53.0	3,198	8	0.75

FULLY VS. ESSENTIALLY PREPARED HANDLOAD COMPARISON

PROPELLANT/ WEIGHT (GRAINS)	VELOCITY (F.P.S.)	ST. DEVIATION (F.P.S.)	ACCURACY (INCHES)
RELODER 23/53.0 FULLY PREPARED	3,233	16	0.66
ESSENTIALLY PREPARED	3,259	14	0.81

NOTES: MEASURED AVERAGE VELOCITY OF NINE SHOTS WITH NOSLER 100-GRAIN BALLISTIC TIP BULLETS THROUGH THE 24" BARREL OF A RUGER M77 .25-'06 REM. WITH A 1:10" RIFLING TWIST OVER A CHRONY BETA MASTER CHRONOGRAPH AT 10 FEET. ACCURACY RESULTS FOR FIVE, THREE-SHOT GROUPS AT 100 YARDS USING A SANDBAG REST. ALL HANDLOADS USED FEDERAL 210 LARGE RIFLE PRIMERS. TEMPERATURE: 70° F HUMIDITY: 35%.

Where to start when choosing a propellant? Handloading manuals, like those from Nosler and Lyman, indicate which propellant provides the best accuracy with a particular bullet. The *Nosler Reloading Guide 7* notes Reloder 19 as the most accurate propellant tested with 100-grain Ballistic Tips shot from the .25-'06 Rem. My handloading notes show IMR 4350 and H4831 have also provided good accuracy over the years fired in the rifle. To broaden my propellant choices, I used a balance beam scale to weigh appropriate charges of Hunter, Reloder 23 and 26. Results of three-shot groups from the three loads are listed in the "Picking Propellant" table above.

Now, a three-shot group fails to show the true consistency of a load, but it does reveal if a load exhibits potential. Reloder 23 produced the best results by a smidgen over the two other propellants, so it was loaded in both fully prepared and essential-step cases. Propellant weighed on a balance scale, accurate to +/- 0.1 of a grain, was poured into cases that had been prepared only with essential steps. Propellant weight for the fully prepared cases received the extra attention of being weighed and dispensed on an RCBS MatchMaster Powder Scale Dispenser set in match mode with a resolution of 0.02 grains and accuracy of 0.04 grains.

Shooting started on a calm morning with barely enough of a breeze to ruffle the peach fuzz in my ears. The first three shots fired with fully prepared cartridges landed in 0.49" at 100 yards. The first three bullets fired from cartridges loaded with essential steps were close behind with a 0.78" group. Alternating shooting one load then the other for five, three-shot groups for each resulted in an average group size of 0.66" and 16 f.p.s. standard deviation of velocity for fully prepared cartridges and an average group size of 0.81" and 14 f.p.s. standard deviation of velocity for cartridges loaded with only the essential steps.

In the end, there was no great difference in the performance of the two loads. I was more than pleased, though, with the 0.66" and 0.81" averages for five groups, as that level of precision is far more than is necessary for most hunting tasks. So, rest assured that performing only the essential handloading steps, done correctly, is more than sufficient for your hunting rifle to shoot its best. 



EAA Girsan MC 14T Tip-Up

There is no “one-size-fits-all” solution to firearms, and scaled-down “pocket” and EDC pistols provide good examples. Creating a smaller, more concealable, center-fire semi-automatic requires, among other things, a stiffer recoil spring (or springs). Unfortunately, many individuals who prefer smallish semi-automatics lack the physical strength to easily rack the slide as a result. European American Armory Corp. (EAA)’s answer to this quandary is found in the blowback-operated Girsan MC 14T Tip-Up.

Manufactured in Giresun, Turkey, by Girsan, the .380 ACP-chambered semi-automatic employs an uncommon tip-up barrel design to load, which eliminates the need to manually manipulate the slide. Loading the double-action/single-action (DA/SA) pistol is simple. First, activate the bilateral safety. Next, press downward on the tip-up lever, which lifts the rear of the barrel, thereby exposing the chamber for loading. Once a cartridge is inserted, the barrel is pushed downward until it locks. Lastly, the magazine is inserted. The pistol can then be fired by pulling the trigger (double-action) or cocking the hammer (single-action); in either case, it then functions as does any other semi-automatic. Loading via the manual cycling of the slide is an option, too.

The MC 14T’s frame is made from forged aluminum, and grooves on the backstrap and frontstrap enhance purchase. The composite stocks have material removed behind the left-side magazine-release button and beneath the two-position safety so as to better manipulate those controls.

A medallion is inset within each stock panel. A rarity today, there’s a lanyard loop rearward of the magazine well. Moving forward, Girsan prudently provided generous space within the elongated trigger guard, as well as an accessory rail on the dustcover. Interestingly, the frame narrows from 0.83" to 0.64" above the trigger guard, where the tip-up lever is located.

Some of the MC 14T’s fire controls are ambidextrous, while others aren’t. Included among the former are the bilateral safeties and, obviously, the single-stage trigger. In single-action mode, the trigger broke at an average of 5 lbs., 14 ozs.; while in double-action, it measured 7 lbs., 10 ozs. Creep was evident, yet smooth, and reset was surprisingly short. Whereas the magazine release is found on the left side of the pistol, directly behind

the trigger, and the slide release/stop is just above it, the tip-up lever is located above the trigger on the right side of the pistol.

The MC 14T’s barrel assembly is common only to other tip-up pistols. The front of the assembly is secured to the frame via a barrel mount pin, which is what permits the barrel to pivot. The 4.50"-long, 0.54"-wide (at the muzzle) barrel has an integral feed ramp. Nearing its front is a fixed, ramped front sight with a white dot.

To be expected, the steel slide is minimalist; at no point does it cover the barrel, as doing so would prevent the barrel from tilting. For that reason, there’s negligible metal to work with. Nearing its aft are cocking serrations, and aggressive ones at that; however, it would be extraordinarily difficult for someone with compromised strength to utilize them—exactly the reason it’s a tip-up pistol. Topping the slide is a dovetailed rear sight featuring a 0.12" notch with dual white dots. Behind the slide, you’ll find the MC 14T’s smallish external hammer.

Lastly, the MC 14T is fed by a staggered-column, 13-round magazine featuring a steel body, witness holes, a plastic follower and a baseplate. A single-loading baseplate is offered separately but



Pressing down on the tip-up lever, found on the right side of the frame above the trigger, causes the barrel’s rear end to pivot upward, allowing access to the chamber.

EAA offers an aftermarket magazine with an extra round stored in the baseplate that can be stripped off directly into the chamber, allowing the MC 14T to be topped-off without racking the slide.



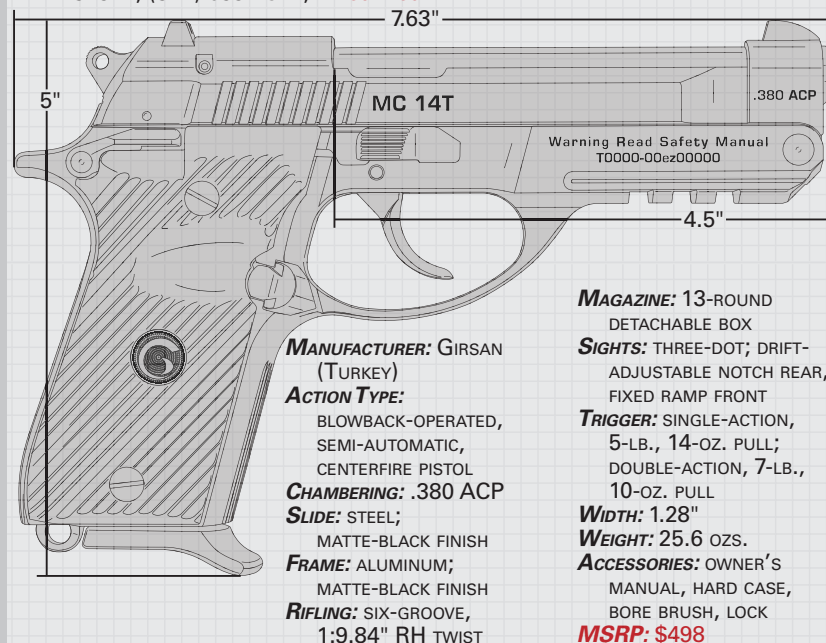
is a worthwhile purchase. Here's why: Rather than fumble with a loose round during an emotionally charged time, the baseplate enables the user to simply grab the magazine, slide the round into the chamber, press down on the now-loaded barrel and insert the magazine into the gun. The pistol has quickly been fully loaded.

Given its barrel length and chambering, we opted to test the sample pistol from a sandbag rest at 15 yards. Five consecutive, five-shot groups were fired with the following loads: Browning BXP Personal Defense 95-grain X-Point; Hornady Black Handgun 90-grain XTP; and Remington UMC 88-grain JHP. Of them, the most accurate proved be that from Hornady, averaging 1.32" for the five total groups. That being said, the economical Remington UMCs produced the single smallest group (0.78") of the day. Suffice it to say, the MC 14T is capable of stellar accuracy—on several occasions, tight four-shot groups opened up on the fifth. During testing, one malfunction occurred; a single Browning BXP round failed to feed into the chamber, but this issue could not be duplicated.

With accuracy testing completed, we then conducted a series of self-defense drills, including engaging multiple targets, with several shots each, in short order. This wasn't challenging in the least. Given the MC 14T's mild chambering and aided by its intuitive, three-dot sight configuration, we were able to quickly deliver multiple, accurate shots. Though the stocks are rather smooth, maintaining

EAA GIRSAN MC 14T TIP-UP

IMPORTER: EUROPEAN AMERICAN ARMORY CORP. (DEPT. AR), P.O. Box 3008, COCOA, FL 32924; (321) 639-4842; EAACORP.COM



SHOOTING RESULTS (15 YARDS)

.380 ACP CARTRIDGE	VELOCITY (F.P.S.)	ENERGY (FT.-LBS.)	GROUP SIZE (INCHES)		
			SMALLEST	LARGEST	AVERAGE
BROWNING BXP PD 95-GRAIN X-POINT	1,030 Avg. 12 Sd	224	1.23	2.30	1.71
HORNADY BH 90-GRAIN XTP	965 Avg. 13 Sd	186	0.94	1.80	1.32
REMINGTON UMC 88-GRAIN JHP	983 Avg. 15 Sd	189	0.78	1.86	1.46
AVERAGE EXTREME SPREAD					1.50

NOTES: MEASURED AVERAGE VELOCITY FOR 10 SHOTS OVER A PROCHRONO LTD CHRONOGRAPH AT 10 FEET. ACCURACY RESULTS FOR FIVE CONSECUTIVE, FIVE-SHOT GROUPS AT 15 YARDS FROM A BROWNING SANDBAG REST. TEMPERATURE: 76° F. HUMIDITY: 37%. ABBREVIATIONS: BH (BLACK HANDGUN), JHP (JACKETED HOLLOW POINT), PD (PERSONAL DEFENSE), Sd (STANDARD DEVIATION), XTP (EXTREME TERMINAL PERFORMANCE).

purchase wasn't an issue, and neither was felt recoil. That being said, the perceived recoil of the Browning load was noticeably stiffer than the others.

In addition to the traditional blue/black model tested, MC 14T pistols can be had in the following colors: dark earth; gold-plated; two-tone; black/cherry; and black gloss/gold—the latter features wood stocks—and a "Lady" version with a ported barrel

was also recently introduced.

While EAA didn't necessarily break new ground with the Girsan-produced MC 14T Tip-Up pistol, as other tip-up designs have existed, it did combine a variety of features into a solid, steadfast solution ideal for those individuals who struggle with operating the typical semi-automatic centerfire pistol. For that, we commend the company. 

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.



Burris Veracity PH 4-20X 50 mm

While the basic design of modern hunting rifles has changed little since the 1950s, great strides have been made within the realm of hunting optics during that same time. Riflescopes have progressed from being a potential liability in the field to a game-changer for longer-distance shots and lower lighting conditions, particularly during the past decade, thanks to the integration of advanced electronics into firearm optics. The Burris Veracity PH illustrates this advancement perfectly.

The 4-20X Veracity PH's 5:1 magnification ratio allows for a wide field of view at close ranges, yet magnified precision at longer ones, and its 50 mm objective lens provides maximum light gathering in field conditions. Yet the riflescope's overall length is just 15" and it weighs only 28.5 ozs.

The scope uses Burris' Wind MOA duplex reticle. With the main crosshair sighted-in at 100 yards, elevation hold-over marks approximate 200, 300, 400 and 500 yards for most high-power rifle cartridges. Windage hold marks are in one-m.o.a. increments, and the reticle is located in the first focal plane, so the subtenons are accurate regardless of the magnification level.

Outside the central reticle are bars that widen as they extend outward, helping the eye to quickly focus on the center of the non-illuminated reticle. The design of the reticle allows for old-school long-range shooting capability, even if dead batteries negate the scope's electronic features.

Elevation adjustments are made with a target-type knob, offering 70 m.o.a. of adjustment. As it uses a digital position sensor, the knob does not have mechanical click detents. Each mark denotes 1/4-m.o.a. of adjustment.

The windage-adjustment knob has mechanical clicks, yields 37 m.o.a. of adjustment and is capped. Once the scope is sighted-in, the knobs can be zeroed by loosening them with the supplied hex wrench and aligning the

zero mark. The elevation turret has a stop so that it can be quickly returned to zero. On the left side of the scope are the parallax and display-brightness adjustment dials, along with a compartment for the two CR2450 batteries that power the scope's electronics.

Where the Veracity PH differs from other scopes is that it has a Programmable Elevation Knob (PEK) system, which works in conjunction with the BurrisConnect mobile app. The app allows the shooter to create a custom ballistics profile for his or her rifle and ammunition and to update it with the current environmental. Using a smartphone, the app connects to the scope via a Bluetooth signal.

The PEK system works in conjunction with a "heads-up display" (HUD) inside the scope that shows the elevation turret position, rifle cant, wind holds compensated for distance and battery level. This allows the shooter to adjust for distance (the digital position sensor gives adjustments equivalent to 1/10-m.o.a.) and rifle cant without taking his or her eyes off the target. The HUD is positioned unobtrusively, leaving an uncluttered field of view. The scope also has a built-in inclinometer to compensate for the angle of a shot.

To test the Veracity PH, we mounted the scope on a Winchester Model 70. Sighting-in at 100 yards let us run the Hornady Superformance .30-06 Sprg. ammunition we were using past a chronograph to measure its actual muzzle velocity. This data, along with elevation and atmospheric conditions, was plugged into the app to create a ballistic profile that was uploaded to the scope.

We then moved to several unknown distances between 100 and 300 yards from the 8" target, ranged it with a Leupold RX-1400i, and then dialed-in the elevation turret. Shooting from field positions to approximate hunting conditions, the rifle never missed a first-round hit on the target—even with novice shooters. Just dial the



The Veracity PH works in conjunction with the BurrisConnect phone app (below) to upload custom ballistic data to the scope, which then provides shot data straight to the shooter's heads-up display (above) and allows him or her to simply dial to the shot distance.



distance and the rifle hits where the scope is aimed—no counting clicks or doing math in your head required.

The Veracity PH combines modern performance-enhancing technology with traditional function and reliability in a way even old-school hunters can appreciate. With the confidence that the bullet will impact at the spot where your crosshairs are aligned, the shooter just has to do his or her part to send it there. 

BURRIS VERACITY PH 4-20X 50 MM

MANUFACTURER: BURRIS CO. (DEPT. AR),
331 E. 8TH ST., GREELEY, CO 80631;
(888) 440-0244; BURRISOPTICS.COM

RETICLE: FIRST-FOCAL-PLANE; WIND MOA
ADJUSTMENT RANGE: 70 M.O.A. ELEVATION;
37 M.O.A. WINDAGE

CLICK/GRADUATION VALUE: 1/4 M.O.A.

FIELD OF VIEW @ 100 YARDS:

26' (4X) TO 5.5' (20X)

EXIT PUPIL (MM): 12.5 (4X) TO 2.5 (20X)

EYE RELIEF: 3.5" TO 4.25"

BATTERY: TWO CR2450

OVERALL LENGTH: 15"

TUBE DIAMETER: 30 MM

OBJECTIVE LENS DIAMETER: 50 MM

OCULAR LENS DIAMETER: 44 MM

WEIGHT: 28.5 OZS.

ACCESSORIES: OWNER'S MANUAL,
SUNSHADE, LENS CAPS, HEX WRENCH,
CLEANING CLOTH

MSRP: \$1,199

Choose Life Grow Young with HGH

From the landmark book *Grow Young with HGH* comes the most powerful, over-the-counter health supplement in the history of man. Human growth hormone was first discovered in 1920 and has long been thought by the medical community to be necessary only to stimulate the body to full adult size and therefore unnecessary past the age of 20. Recent studies, however, have overturned this notion completely, discovering instead that the natural decline of Human Growth Hormone (HGH), from ages 21 to 61 (the average age at which there is only a trace left in the body) and is the main reason why the the body ages and fails to regenerate itself to its 25 year-old biological age.

Like a picked flower cut from the source, we gradually wilt physically and mentally and become vulnerable to a host of degenerative diseases, that we simply weren't susceptible to in our early adult years.

Modern medical science now regards aging as a disease that is treatable and preventable and that "aging", the disease, is actually a complication of various diseases and pathologies, from everything, like a rise in blood glucose and pressure to diabetes, skin wrinkling and so on. All of these aging symptoms can be stopped and rolled back by maintaining Growth Hormone levels in

the blood at the same levels HGH existed in the blood when we were 25 years old.

There is a receptor site in almost every cell in the human body for HGH, so its regenerative and healing effects are very comprehensive.

Growth Hormone first synthesized in 1985 under the Reagan Orphan drug act, to treat dwarfism, was quickly recognized to stop aging in its tracks and reverse it to a remarkable degree. Since then, only the lucky and the rich have had access to it at the cost of \$10,000 US per year.

The next big breakthrough was to come in 1997 when a group of doctors and scientists, developed an all-natural source product which would cause your own natural HGH to be released again and do all the remarkable things it did for you in your 20's. Now available to every adult for about the price of a coffee and donut a day.



GHR now available in America, just in time for the aging Baby Boomers and everyone else from age 30 to 90 who doesn't want to age rapidly but would rather stay young, beautiful and healthy all of the time.

The new HGH releasers are winning converts from the synthetic HGH users as well, since GHR is just as effective, is oral instead of self-injectable and is very affordable.

GHR is a natural releaser, has no known side effects, unlike the synthetic version and has no known drug interactions. Progressive doctors admit that this is the direction medicine is seeking to go, to get the body to heal itself instead of employing drugs. GHR is truly a revolutionary paradigm shift in medicine and, like any modern leap frog advance, many others will be left in the dust holding their limited, or useless drugs and remedies.

It is now thought that HGH is so comprehensive in its healing and regenerative powers that it is today, where the computer industry was twenty years ago, that it will displace so many prescription and non-prescription drugs and health remedies that it is staggering to think of.

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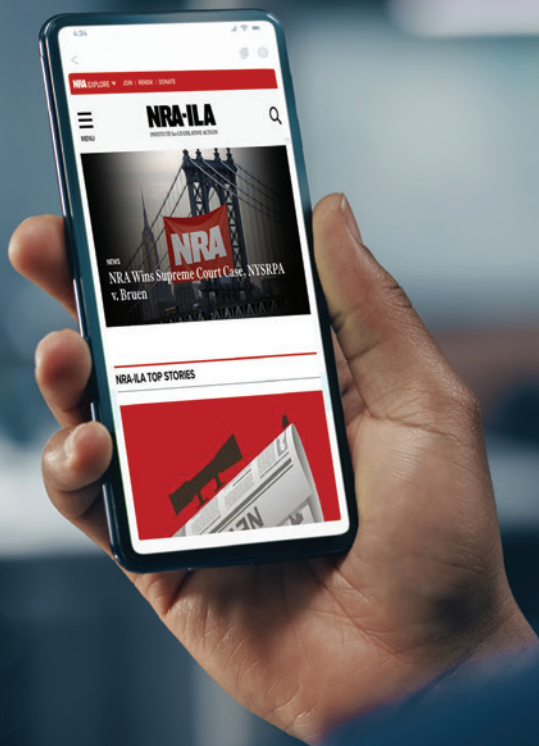
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**LATEST
LEGISLATIVE
NEWS FROM
INSIDE THE NRA
INSTITUTE FOR
LEGISLATIVE
ACTION**

Legislative Sessions Have Begun: Stay Informed And Involved

As we go to press with this issue, the legislative session in many states is starting to unfold for 2024. Because of the timing constraints of publishing a print magazine, and the speed at which some legislatures operate, we strongly encourage readers to supplement the information they receive on the pages of NRA publications by subscribing to our alerts that are sent via e-mail. It's the best way we can ensure

you know what is happening as soon as it happens, and what you can do to help defend the Second Amendment.

Just go to nraila.org/sign-up, and you can tailor how you receive our alerts to best suit your needs. You can even receive text alerts, if you wish.

In the meantime, here is a brief update on what we anticipate will be on the agenda in some of the states as we go to print.

Constitutional Carry Expansion

Last year, we saw the number of Constitutional Carry states increase to 27, with Florida and Nebraska being the latest states to remove the carry permit requirement for law-abiding citizens to exercise their right to bear arms in public for personal protection. That's a total of 11 states that have taken this critical step to restoring our rights as gun owners since Joe Biden began his occupation of the White House.

This year, we expect at least three states—Louisiana, North Carolina and South Carolina—to make concerted efforts to pass Constitutional Carry. All have passed a form of this permitless carry law through at least one of their legislative chambers over the last several years, with Louisiana putting legislation

on former Gov. Jon Bel Edwards' (D) desk in 2021. Although he vetoed the bill, he is no longer governor, and Louisiana now has a solid supporter of Constitutional Carry at the helm. Gov. Jeff Landry (R) has pledged to not just sign Constitutional Carry, but also has stated he will work to help shepherd legislation through the state house in Baton Rouge.

In South Carolina, the House passed a Constitutional Carry bill, so it is now in the hands of the Senate. This year, North Carolina will have its "short" session. As neither chamber passed a Constitutional Carry bill last year, the shorter session will make passing a bill more difficult this year, but NRA will explore all possibilities to bring this critical law to North Carolina.

NRA-ILA

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

NRA-ILA: (703) 267-1170

NRA-ILA website: nraila.org

There will be other states where NRA will promote other pro-gun reforms, so stay tuned to future updates, and remember to sign up for electronic alerts for the most timely information.

Not All News Is Good News, But You Can Help Defend The 2A

Of course, we can also expect a deluge of anti-gun legislation at the state level, especially in those states that have long histories of antagonism toward law-abiding gun owners and the Second Amendment. The usual states that have long despised the Second Amendment can be expected to throw every conceivable anti-gun bill they have not already enacted into their legislative hoppers. California, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey and New York can be expected to lead the charge, but states like Michigan, Minnesota, New Mexico and Washington also have radical, anti-gun politicians as governors or in legislative leadership positions—usually both—who are eager to push assaults on our right to keep and bear arms.

These are certainly not the only states where we will be seeing threats to the Second Amendment, and while threats of federal anti-gun legislation remain, the current makeup of the U.S. Congress makes it likely we will be able to derail new laws designed to deprive American citizens of their rights. The persistent danger of Joe Biden abusing his executive authority to unlawfully target gun owners and the firearm industry using the federal bureaucracy will likely increase as he desperately seeks to bolster the support he needs from his anti-gun base in order to try to win another term.

With all that is at stake this year—either in the form of legislative battles or election battles—it has never been more critical for NRA members and supporters of the Second Amendment to stay informed and to stay, or to get, involved. As stated earlier, go to nra.org/sign-up to make sure you are receiving the most up-to-date information we can offer on what is going on in the fight to defend the Second Amendment.

If you want to take a more active role in defending freedom, go to nra.org/grassroots, where you can find any number of options for getting more involved. This year is shaping up to be a pivotal year in the battle to preserve the Second Amendment for generations to come. We need you to stand and fight alongside the NRA. 🦋

Warren Zeiders is NRA COUNTRY

Photo courtesy Warren Zeiders

Warren Zeiders' distinctive, high-energy country music is powered by a steady supply of youthful grit, honesty and muscle. Hailing from Hershey, Pa., the 24-year-old singer/songwriter delivers outlaw sermons in a gravelly, world-weary voice that belies his youth and imbues the American heartland into his music. A setback in this Frostburg State University student's athletic career turned him to music, just as the pandemic hit. For some, this combination might have been devastating, but Warren applied his win-at-all-costs attitude and the work ethic instilled in him by his parents to morph his challenges into a "viral" movement. He took to social media, playing his guitar and singing songs, resulting in millions of followers and billions of views. He then created his label, Pretty Little Poison, in August 2023. Warren is an unapologetic patriot and supporter of all those serving in the military as well as law enforcement and first responders. It's easy to see why he was the perfect fit for the NRA Country concert at the 2024 Great American Outdoor Show! You can find Warren Zeiders on Facebook, Instagram, YouTube and TikTok, as well as at warrenzeiders.com. NRA Country's Lisa Supernauth had a chance to ask Warren a few questions before he hit the road to his next event.

LS: How does it feel to be Nashville's youngest headliner at the ripe old age of 24?

WZ: It's a blessing, and I feel honored that my fans that have been with me and the ones who continue to join along the way are following me on this journey. I don't take this position lightly or for granted.

LS: Tell us about your time at Frostburg State University?

WZ: I spent two years at FSU studying business and marketing, while being a collegiate lacrosse player. Unfortunately, my time there was limited due to my concussions, but FSU was good to me—the training, workouts, 6 a.m. wake-up calls, film room, study halls with the team; all these things helped build and instill discipline in the man I am today.

LS: What is it like to have millions of followers and billions of views?

WZ: There's no secret to success in the world of social media. There's hard work, consistency, strategy, and knowing who you are and what you want to say. I had no plans of pursuing a career in music, the good Lord had other plans for me. As the months went on, my followers turned into fans and wanted original music from me aside from the covers I was posting. Having never written a song, I took a shot at it and before you knew it, my first hit song, "Ride the Lightning," came out.

LS: Do you have a favorite firearm?

WZ: I don't know if I would say I have a favorite firearm, but I definitely have plenty of them. I have a lot of older hunting rifles that my great-grandfather and great-great-grandfather used, passed down to me from my father.

LS: You're playing the NRA Country Concert at the Great American Outdoor Show. How does it feel to be playing back in the "717"?

WZ: I love seeing familiar faces and feel honored to be supported by the hometown crowd. Appreciate all the love the 717 has shown this Pennsylvania boy!

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, please contact the NRA Competitive Shooting Division at comphelp@nrahq.org.



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

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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 16-19, 2024

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



2024 Forward Look: NRA Leaping Into A Big Year



Photos by NRA



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

GET INVOLVED TODAY!

GO VISIT

stateassociations.nra.org

This year holds a lot of promise for the National Rifle Association of America. Here are some highlights so far and what is yet to come.

In February, the NRA Great American Outdoor Show, held at the Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex and Expo Center in Harrisburg, Pa., welcomed attendees who cherish our hunting and shooting heritage. During the nine-day show, more than 1,000 exhibitors covering 650,000 square feet presented the latest products and gear, along with outfitters offering the chance to book once-in-a-lifetime hunts and fishing trips in America and abroad. In addition, top outdoors experts conducted more than 200 educational seminars and demonstrations, covering topics such as hunting, fishing, trapping, self-defense tactics and wild-game cooking. Visit greatamericanoutdoorshow.org to learn more.

The 2024 NRA Annual Meetings and Exhibits will be held at the Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center in Dallas, Texas, May 17-19, and is expected to attract more than 80,000 NRA members. This year's exhibit hall will feature more than 14 acres of guns and gear, along with a host of special events for NRA members, including dozens of seminars and workshops, celebrity appearances and more. Make plans now to join fellow Second Amendment patriots and their families for a freedom-filled weekend—go to nraam.org for more information.

April will see the return of the NRA World Shooting Championship after a five-year hiatus. Held for the first time at Camp Atterbury, an Indiana National Guard base located about 37 miles south of Indianapolis, the 2024 NRA World Shooting Championship will boast a total prize purse

of \$250,000 thanks to title sponsor Walther Arms and other generous corporate partners. Learn more at wsc.nra.org.

This summer, the NRA National Matches will enter its fourth year at Camp Atterbury. Our flagship competition will commence July 22 with the opening ceremony and the National Precision Pistol Championships and conclude August 19 with the National High Power Long-Range Championships and Palma Matches. Our hardworking NRA Competitive Shooting Division staff consolidated some of the match days to make attendance at the NRA National Matches easier for shooters. Register now at competitions.nra.org.

Always a crowd-pleaser, the NRA National Firearms Museum at our headquarters in Fairfax, Va., is a destination that all NRA members should visit. The museum—with 15 galleries featuring approximately 3,000 firearms—is open seven days a week. Learn more at nramuseum.org.

Additionally, we would like to highlight the many NRA programs that make a difference every year, such as our extensive Education and Training programs, the Eddie Eagle Gun Safety Program, Youth Hunter Education Challenge and the NRA Youth Education Summit.

None of these programs and events would be possible without YOU and your enduring support of NRA. These programs underscore a vital NRA commitment—to keep America safe and free.

Learn more about NRA programs at explore.nra.org.



Photo by John Parker

Apply Today For NRA's Youth Education Summit (Y.E.S.)!

Don't wait a moment—March 1, 2024, is the application deadline for the NRA's Youth Education Summit (Y.E.S.), a weeklong leadership, scholarship and fellowship program for high school students that runs from July 16-21, 2024.

Y.E.S. is a unique program giving students the opportunity to more deeply explore the U.S. government, Bill of Rights and Constitution and encourages them to become responsible citizens who understand how to advocate for their natural rights. The selected 30-40 participants will enjoy visiting the NRA, practicing their debate skills, viewing our founding documents at the National Archives, touring D.C. monuments and memorials, speaking with members of Congress and much more!

Beyond the experience itself, \$40,000 in college scholarships are being offered for eligible students who display strong leadership abilities and a deep understanding of the week's activities. Thanks to Friends of NRA fundraising and grants provided by The NRA Foundation, more than \$700,000 in scholarships have been awarded since the creation of Y.E.S. in 1996.

Past participant Brayden T. from North Carolina stated, "While attending Y.E.S., I interacted with one of the chaperones who was a college student and a member of the Air Force ROTC at the University of Kentucky. My interactions with him, in addition to our visits to the various veteran's memorials, sparked a desire to serve others through military service! Today, I am a senior at

North Carolina State University and a proud member of their Air Force ROTC, with plans to commission into the Air Force next spring!"

Entry into the Y.E.S. program requires submission of a completed application form, a high school transcript, a three-page essay on the Second Amendment, a one-page personal statement and three letters of recommendation. Selected students are the best and brightest among their high school peers—actively engaging in academics, clubs and community service.

Don't miss the March 1 deadline! To find out more about Y.E.S., including frequently asked questions, please visit yes.nra.org. You can also make a lasting contribution by donating to the Y.E.S. Scholarship Fund—visit yes.nra.org/donate for more information. 



Photo by NRA

NRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Communications intended for any member of the NRA Board of Directors should be addressed to:

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



NRA®

2024 DIRECTOR NOMINATIONS

The nominees for election to the NRA Board in 2024 have been selected by the Nominating Committee and by petition of the membership.

The Board consists of 76 Directors. The terms of office of one-third of the 75 Directors expire at each Annual Meeting of Members. One Director will be elected for a one-year term at each Annual Meeting of Members. That Director shall be selected from only those candidates who were not elected by the mail ballot.

The 2024 election will fill the 25 three-year terms that expire in 2027. Voting members will vote for a total of 25 candidates. The 25 candidates receiving the highest number of votes will be elected to three-year terms.

Nominations by the Nominating Committee. The Committee, elected by the Board of Directors, includes six Directors and three Lifetime members who are not Directors. The Committee met and gave consideration to 46 names recommended by the membership.

Each person was given serious, deliberate and careful consideration. Thirty candidates were selected.

Nominations by Petition of the Membership. Four people were nominated by petition. Each petition sponsored by an NRA member or member organization required the signatures of not less than 378 voting members.

A total of 34 candidates, the combined total from the Nominating Committee and petition of the membership, will appear on the ballot. 

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| 1. Scott L. Bach
Newfoundland, New Jersey | 13. Maria Heil
New Freedom, Pennsylvania | 25. Janet D. Nyce
Elliotsburg, Pennsylvania |
| 2. William Bachenberg
Allentown, Pennsylvania | 14. Antonio A. Hernández
San Juan, Puerto Rico | 26. Kim Rhode
Monrovia, California |
| 3. Ronnie Barrett
Murfreesboro, Tennessee | 15. Niger Roy Innis
North Las Vegas, Nevada | 27. Regina Roberts
Valley Center, California |
| 4. Charles R. Beers, III
Glenville, New York | 16. Greer Johnson
Duluth, Georgia | 28. Wayne Anthony Ross
Anchorage, Alaska |
| 5. Donald J. Bradway
Hayden, Idaho | 17. Phillip B. Journey
Wichita, Kansas | 29. Don Saba
Tucson, Arizona |
| 6. Dean Cain
Henderson, Nevada | 18. David A. Keene
Ft. Washington, Maryland | 30. John C. Sigler
Dover, Delaware |
| 7. David G. Coy
Adrian, Michigan | 19. Susannah Warner Kipke
Pasadena, Maryland | 31. Craig Swartz
Adel, Iowa |
| 8. Rick Ector
Detroit, Michigan | 20. Jeffrey A. Knox
Tombstone, Arizona | 32. Jim Tomes
Wadesville, Indiana |
| 9. Edie P. Fleeman
Durham, North Carolina | 21. Rocky Marshall
Boerne, Texas | 33. James L. Wallace
Newburyport, Massachusetts |
| 10. Joel Friedman
Henderson, Nevada | 22. Carolyn D. Meadows
Marietta, Georgia | 34. Robert J. Wos
Sarasota, Florida |
| 11. Dennis Fusaro
Middletown, Virginia | 23. Bill Miller
Beckley, West Virginia | |
| 12. Craig Haggard
Mooresville, Indiana | 24. Owen Buz Mills
Paulden, Arizona | |

HANDLOADS

A .25 WSSM For Big Game

Every so often, you'll meet hunters who still shoot a .25 Winchester Super Short Magnum and claim in superlative terms that the .25 WSSM is their favorite big-game cartridge. Unfortunately, too few of those hunters bought a Browning A-Bolt or Winchester Model 70 rifle chambered in the cartridge, because it never achieved much success after it was introduced in 2004.

That's too bad, as the .25 Super Short is excellent. The cartridge's case is extremely thick and contains a sharp shoulder angle and short propellant column that promotes an efficient propellant burn and good precision. Due to its minimal case body taper, cases stretch next to nothing upon firing and sizing. I found that a case trimmer set for a length of 1.660" turned off just the rough rim from the mouths of cases reloaded and fired four times. The recipe's load of 45.0 grains of H4350 with Hornady 117-grain SST bullets registered a standard deviation of velocity of 7 f.p.s. across nine shots. Superformance and Big Game also perform well with heavy bullets, and Varget and H4895 work well when shooting lighter projectiles.

The *Hornady Handbook Of Cartridge Reloading Tenth Edition* lists a maximum of 45.9 grains of H4350 with Hornady 117-grain SST bullets. That weight of H4350, though, developed too much pressure fired in a Browning A-Bolt Hunter, causing a rather stiff bolt lift. A slightly lighter charge of 45.0 grains of the propellant developed an average velocity of 3,057 f.p.s. from the A-Bolt's 22" barrel. That's not much slower than the 24" barrel of a .25-'06 Rem. fires the Hornady bullet.

I was a fan of the .25-'06 when Winchester introduced the .25 Super Short, and after years of shooting a Browning A-Bolt chambered in .25 WSSM at the range and hunting deer and antelope, the little .25 magnum has become a personal favorite.

—JOHN HAVILAND, FIELD EDITOR



RECIPE

BULLET: 0.257", 117-GRAIN
HORNADY SST
PROPELLANT: H4350
CHARGE: 45.0 GRAINS
PRIMER: WINCHESTER LARGE RIFLE
CASE: WINCHESTER
CASE TRIM-TO LENGTH: 1.660"
CARTRIDGE OVERALL LENGTH: 2.360"
VELOCITY @ 10' (F.P.S.): 3,057*
ENERGY @ 10' (FT.-LBS.): 2,428
ACCURACY: 1.19***
USES: BIG-GAME HUNTING
NOTES: LOADS FIRED FROM A
BROWNING A-BOLT HUNTER
WITH A 22" BARREL
* AVERAGE OF NINE SHOTS.
** AVERAGE OF FIVE CONSECUTIVE,
THREE-SHOT GROUPS AT 100 YARDS.
TEMPERATURE: 37° F



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

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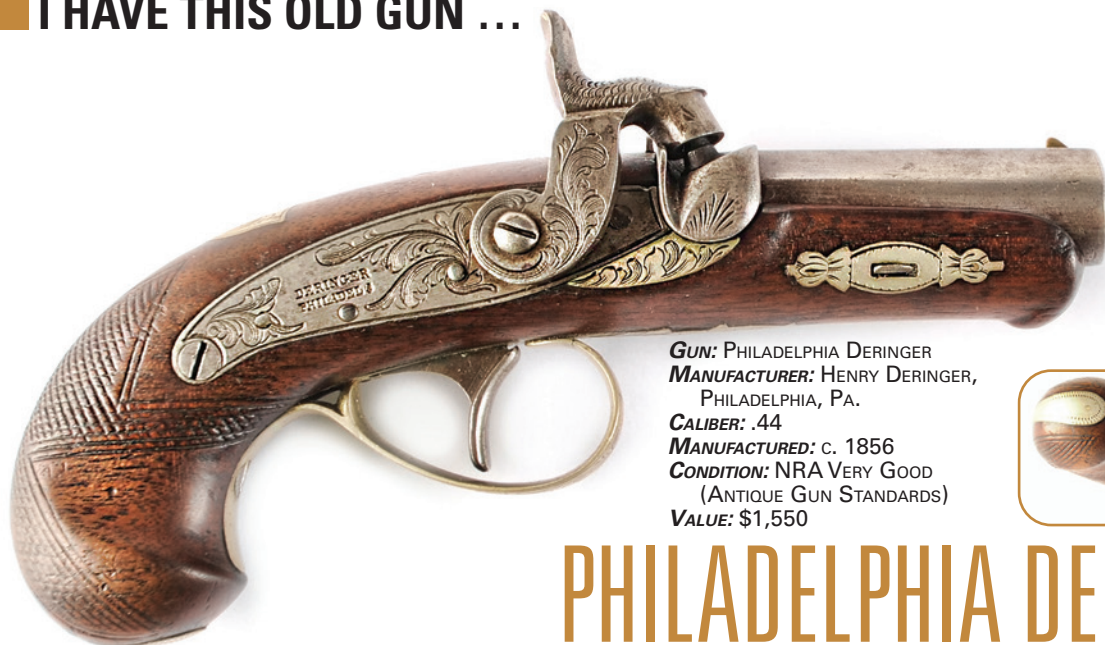
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I HAVE THIS OLD GUN ...



GUN: PHILADELPHIA DERINGER
MANUFACTURER: HENRY DERINGER,
PHILADELPHIA, PA.
CALIBER: .44
MANUFACTURED: C. 1856
CONDITION: NRA VERY GOOD
(ANTIQUE GUN STANDARDS)
VALUE: \$1,550



PHILADELPHIA DERINGER

Henry Deringer has a particular distinction: He is the only gunmaker to have an entire genre of pistols named after him. Now commonly spelled “derringer,” Deringer’s line of small, pocketable, percussion-fired single-shots provided the inspiration for a huge number of other eponymously termed percussion and cartridge pistols from the time of their inception in the early 19th century up to this day.

Henry Deringer was born in 1786 in Easton, Pa. After an apprenticeship, and some practical experience at the Virginia Manufactory of Arms at Richmond, he re-located to Philadelphia where he set up his own firearm business. Deringer offered sporting long arms, handguns, fowling pieces and edged weapons—some of his own construction and others manufactured by outsiders. Beginning around 1810, he produced a limited quantity of military rifles under contract to the state of Pennsylvania and probably fewer than 100 pistols for Maryland. Later, orders for Model 1817 rifles for the federal government were forthcoming, but, again, Deringer appears to have made them only in small numbers.

Deringer continued producing civilian rifles and handguns, with styles of the latter ranging from dueling pistols (very few) and belt pistols to, by the 1830s, the small, single-shot percussion pistols which brought him particular recognition and attendant financial success. These diminutive arms were turned out in a wide variety of sizes, ranging from small “peanut” (a modern collector’s term) versions of .36-.38 caliber with 1” barrels and measuring less than 4” overall, to medium sizes with barrels running to 3”, and larger models with 3½” to 6” barrels. The smaller guns, understandably, had no ramrods, while larger ones often did.

The lines and embellishments of Deringer’s products, beginning in the late 1840s and early 1850s, usually followed a general pattern that could fluctuate a bit, depending upon a gun’s size and the whims of the craftsman or wishes of the buyer: walnut stocks with checkered bird’s head butts, casehardened back-action locks, German silver escutcheons and buttcaps

and rifled steel barrels finished with a faux Damascus pattern. Calibers were commonly in the .40s. They were marked with Deringer’s address and a “sunburst P” barrel proof.

Philadelphia Deringers, as they later came to be called, were often produced in pairs and cased accordingly. Engraving was universal but varied in pattern and coverage. Some guns had gold and silver embellishments ranging from simple breech lines to trigger guards and stock furniture. The quality on these pistols was excellent and, appropriately, business was brisk—so brisk, in fact, that early on, copies were sold by a number of makers, domestic and European. Some were fraudulently marked with the originator’s name, and others closely appropriated Deringer’s markings, though using two “r”s in the spelling.

As well as being hot items on the East Coast, Deringer’s products were highly regarded by fortune-seekers heading to California during the Gold Rush period. Accordingly, California retailers’ names (as well as those of dealers from other regions) are commonly seen on some pistols’ barrels. John Wilkes Booth infamously employed one of Deringer’s pistols to assassinate President Abraham Lincoln at Ford’s Theatre. His pistol, now on display in Washington, D.C. at the theater, was of .44 caliber and had a 2½” barrel. One might suppose the ignominy of Booth’s act would have had a negative effect on Deringer’s fortunes, but such was not the case. The guns continued to sell well up to the originator’s death in 1868. In the cartridge era, the generic moniker attributed to the small pistols was popularly appropriated by others, a practice that continues to this day.

The example shown here is of a very common type, and except for engraving differences, is almost a ringer for Booth’s. Though lacking finish, it is otherwise in good shape and quite sound. A retailer’s name, C. Curry of San Francisco, Calif., adds to the piece’s interest and worth. The market for Der(r)ingers has taken something of a hit as of late, thus this pistol would sell for a modest \$1,550.

— GARRY JAMES, FIELD EDITOR

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

Popular CoQ10 Pills Leave Millions Suffering

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

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

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

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

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

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

Why Taking CoQ10 is Not Enough

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

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

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

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

Science Confirms the Many Benefits of PQQ

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

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

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

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

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

Will Ultra Accel II Multiply Your Energy?

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

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

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



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

cells is called mitochondrial biogenesis.

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

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

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

How To Get Ultra Accel II

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

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

Starting at 7:00 AM today, the discount offer will be available for a limited time only. All you have to do is call TOLL FREE **1-800-837-5830** right now and use promo code **ARUA224** to secure your own supply.

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



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