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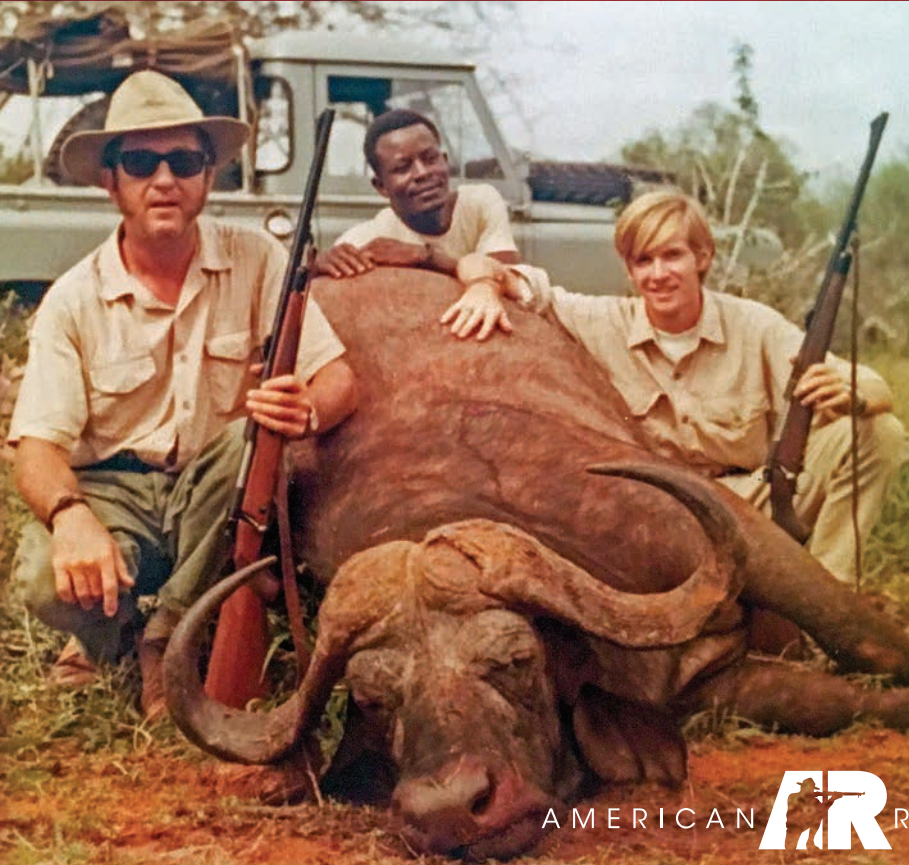
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Seen here on safari with a Cape buffalo and a pair of Winchester Model 70 bolt-actions in .458 Win. Mag. are Joe Coogan, Sr., Waliangulu tracker Kiribai Bashora and American Rifleman contributor Joe Coogan (l. to r.) in the author's youth.



AMERICAN  RIFLEMAN

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
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No. 10

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

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Kamala Harris Would Destroy The Second Amendment 18

Randy Kozuch Candidate Kamala Harris does not believe Americans have a constitutionally protected individual right to keep and bear arms, and she has called for the federal confiscation of firearms.

Raising The Bar: Ruger’s Generation II American Rifle 36

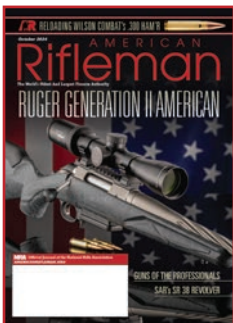
Aaron Carter Ruger’s original and well-regarded American Rifle line has been joined by a second-generation family that takes the bolt-action platform to new levels through a series of practical, attractive enhancements.

Hitting The Mark: Wilson Combat’s .300 HAM’R 44

Frank Melloni Although factory-loaded ammunition options for the .300 HAM’R are limited, handloaders can optimize this potent AR-15 cartridge to suit a variety of applications.

Guns Of The Professionals 48

Joe Coogan The rifles carried by some of Africa’s most famous professional hunters may differ, but they all have one thing in common—lives depended on them.



THE COVER: Ruger’s Generation II American Rifle, shown here topped with a Trijicon Huron 3-12X 40 mm riflescope and Remington’s 140-grain High Performance Rifle 6.5 mm Creedmoor ammunition, takes the original American platform to new heights in a variety of models stretching across several lines.



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Review: Magnum Research Custom BFR .460 "Thunder Buggy"

Following the success of his custom "Thunder Snub," the author took a crack at another one-of-a-kind single-action revolver from Magnum Research. americanrifleman.org/thunderbuggy



Retro Review: The Smith & Wesson Model 5946

This Smith & Wesson 3rd Gen semi-automatic served law enforcement faithfully before being officially retired just before the new millennium. americanrifleman.org/sw5946



Doug Hamlin: NRA's New CEO & EVP

NRA CEO & EVP Doug Hamlin discusses his background, the importance of the National Rifle Association and the support it needs from the firearm community. americanrifleman.org/doughamlin

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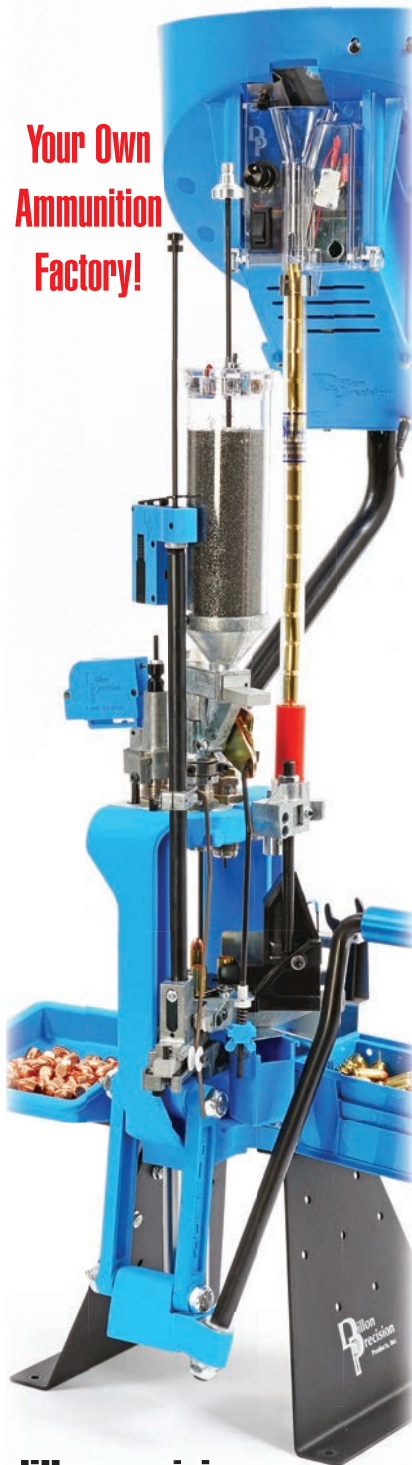
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8

THE RIFLEMAN REPORT

Shooting is a discipline that depends upon a sound mind, benefits from a fit body and is perfected by countless hours of practice and experience on the range and in the field.

American Rifleman editors and contributors put tremendous amounts of thought and countless hours of work into their writing. It is all designed to educate, enrich and encourage NRA members by increasing their understanding of firearms and related subject matter and to improve their shooting skills. To spread such passion for firearms through the written word is a calling.

For example, the work of Field Editor Justin Dyal regularly appears within these pages, and his passion for training others comes through each time. His experience in that regard, and the insights that result from it, benefit all of us. I recently witnessed Dyal's expertise with a rifle firsthand as he cleaned up on a walking course with reactive steel in the wide-open spaces at the NRA Whittington Center (p. 24)—the incomparable shooting and hunting facility in New Mexico that should be on every NRA member's bucket list. While sharing a Ruger Generation II American Rifle—along with a host of useful tips—with my wife, Kathleen, he inspired her and the other 16 participants through example, demonstrating just how quickly a bolt-action can be brought to bear on multiple targets at unknown distances.

Another one of our regular contributors, Field Editor Aaron Carter, is a former full-time staff editor with whom I've worked closely for two decades. An avid hunter and reloader who annually spends numerous days in the field practicing his skills and countless hours at the bench perfecting his loads, Aaron's examination of this month's cover gun, "Raising The Bar: Ruger's Generation II American Rifle" (p. 36), explains exactly why the newest versions of that company's trendsetting design are even more refined and capable than the originals. Again, such observations are invaluable because of how thoroughly they are informed by years of hard-won experience.



Photo by Justin Dyal

Yet another AR contributor and experienced handloader, Field Editor Frank Melloni, offers the results of his time experimenting with a relatively young cartridge designed to address the challenge of running .30-cal. bullets through AR-15 platforms. In "Hitting The Mark: Wilson Combat's .300 HAM'R" (p. 44), Melloni explains that because the cartridge's case is nearly 1/4" longer than that of the .300 Blackout, enough additional propellant space is available that .30-30 Win. performance can be wrung out of America's quintessential black rifle. Taking such time to work with the powders, bullets, cases, primers and loading techniques that go into cartridge reloading demonstrates Melloni's commitment to his craft and expands our collective knowledge on the subject.

And while African hunting is not something many of us ever get the chance to experience (if we do, it is most often for plains game), few can deny that a dangerous-game safari presents the most challenging and exhilarating form of field work for a rifle or shotgun—pitting man against deadly beast. It certainly makes for interesting reading, so we enlisted the expertise of professional hunter and longtime *American Rifleman* contributor Joe Coogan to write "Guns Of The Professionals" (p. 48). Coogan, who has worked with some of the most famous PHs of the past 50 years, recounts specific rifles preferred by a select few and why they trusted them so implicitly when life and limb were on the line.

As I've written about many times before, our passion for firearms is only possible because of our constitutional right to keep and bear arms. With a presidential election fast approaching, we should all keep in mind as we make our way to the ballot box that such passion is not only for the pursuit of a hobby but also for the preservation of liberty.

—BRIAN C. SHEETZ, EDITOR IN CHIEF



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

A man in Las Vegas, Nev., showed up intoxicated to his house-remodeling job on August 1 and was immediately fired. The ex-employee then got into an SUV and attempted to run over his former boss, chasing him up and down the street and through yards until he finally struck him, catapulting him into a wall. At least one neighbor in the area was also injured as he tried to avoid the SUV. A different neighbor witnessing the incident told her adult grandson to retrieve her shotgun. He did, and then he fired at least three shots into the window of the moving SUV as it raced directly toward him, successfully subduing the driver and stopping the attack. Witnesses said they saw injuries to the suspect’s face, and he died from his injuries. The incident was all largely captured on video, and the armed citizen who stopped the attack was only briefly detained. (8newsnow.com, Las Vegas, Nev., 8/2/24)

A 67-year-old man in Orion Township, Mich., reportedly used an ax to break into a home where his ex-girlfriend had taken refuge after a breakup on July 17. The woman and her stepson retreated to an upstairs bedroom; he braced the door while she further retreated into an attached bathroom. However, the man pursued them upstairs and fired a shot through the bedroom door, miraculously missing the stepson. He then entered, pointed his gun at the stepson and said, “I’m here for her.” When he turned toward the bathroom where the woman had retreated, however, the stepson fired one round from his own gun and killed the assailant. (fox2detroit.com, Detroit, Mich., 7/17/24)

In Indianapolis, Ind., on July 18, a road-rage incident broke out between the owner of a black Honda sedan and a white pickup truck. Although it’s unclear what incident occurred in traffic to cause the two men to become irate, a witness’ video shows the man who had been driving the Honda get out of his vehicle carrying a firearm. He reportedly approached the driver of the white truck and attempted to punch him, but the punch was deflected by the other driver. The suspect reportedly continued to berate the other man while still brandishing the gun. The other driver then fired at the alleged assailant, killing him. The man driving the white truck was initially detained, but was released upon the preliminary finding of self-defense. (nypost.com, Indianapolis, Ind., 7/18/24)

On July 29, a 22-year-old man armed with a rock and a three-foot wooden stake attempted to enter a home in Oceanside, Calif., through an open sliding-glass door to the bedroom. A woman was inside the bedroom at the time and apparently alerted others. A 54-year-old male resident confronted the suspect, who then threw the rock, striking

the homeowner in the face. The 54-year-old responded by firing three shots from a Glock, striking the intruder at least once in the chest, killing him. The investigation was ongoing but had revealed that the intruder likely had also broken into an unoccupied home nearby by throwing a rock through a sliding-glass door. (fox5sandiego.com, San Diego, Calif., 7/29/24; sandiegouniontribune.com, San Diego, Calif., 7/30/24)

In Crisp County, Ga., on August 7, a man driving a gray Dodge Charger reportedly parked behind a road construction truck he apparently intended to steal. He exited the vehicle and approached the workers, allegedly threatening to kill them, then struck a worker with rebar. Another worker retrieved a gun and fired one round at the assailant, ending the attack. The suspect was reported as being in stable condition, and was airlifted to the hospital. An investigation revealed drugs in his car and that he had likely been in a hit-and-run accident just prior to this incident. (crispcountysheriff.com, Cordele, Ga., 8/7/24)

On August 8, a man in Las Vegas, Nev., was reported to police for “acting erratically” around a few apartment complexes. The first time he was reported, he was apparently “checking door handles.” The man left that complex on foot without shoes, but then showed up at another apartment complex. Seeing some residents outside their apartment, he charged at them and attempted to enter their apartment. The residents successfully blocked him. However, they then saw a woman and two children exiting a nearby apartment and attempted to warn her about the man, but he appeared and quickly rushed into her apartment. An occupant shot the man, who was transported to the hospital, where he was pronounced dead. (8newsnow.com, Las Vegas, Nev., 8/8/24) ★

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By Doug Hamlin
NRA Executive
Vice President & CEO

The NRA Is A Steady Voice In The Political Storm

While sitting in a New York City courtroom last July, as the NRA fought for (and won) its right to exist, I quietly watched the room. The judge, of course, was the center of attention. And, as this was a bench trial, everyone was trying to read him. But there was also New York Attorney General Letitia James (D), a politician who tried to “dissolve” the NRA and who called us a “terrorist” organization. And there were the lawyers for and against us, members of the media and others. And there is a lot to say about all of that, but what I found most important, and what I want you to know, is it felt calm at the center of this political storm because we are on firm constitutional ground.

We have the Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms and we have the First Amendment right to speak our minds and to freely petition the government for a redress of grievances. Those constitutional bulwarks still matter. No amount of political noise and antics could change that.

More than this, it felt calm in that courtroom because you and millions of other NRA members were there behind us. That might sound like a bromide, but it is true, and all of the people in the courtroom could feel you there behind this 153-year-old civil-rights association. If we were just some small, regional group, then they could have easily stepped on us. But this is a huge, national association. The strength of numbers is real. The judge must have felt it, too, or he would not have ruled as he did.

This leaves the NRA right where it should be: on the solid constitutional ground we have always stood upon. And, with this critical national election just weeks away (and with early voting either underway or about to begin in most places), it is more important than ever that we stand together behind our freedom.

As I walked out of the New York City courtroom, I saw firsthand what gun-ban politicians are doing to the jurisdictions in which they have power. For example, open-border policies have allowed criminal gangs and even actual terrorists to flood into this nation amongst the unvetted masses who are, no doubt, mostly seeking the better life our nation of laws offers. Defund-the-police policies—which Vice President Kamala Harris (D) went on camera to support in 2020—and so-called “bail-reform” changes that allow caught criminals to walk right back onto the streets to rob and harm good citizens have clearly made New York City and many other places in this great nation less safe. Despite the additional threats

to safety, Harris has supported a national gun-confiscation scheme (people with her politics like to call these “buybacks”) of popular, semi-automatic rifles. She is now talking about a new ban on these rifles, but, if we consider her previously stated position, we must realize that she’d also use armed public servants to forcibly disarm law-abiding American citizens of the most-popular firearm type sold today and a type of gun that has been sold to citizens for well over a century.

In this election—Nov. 5—your freedom is unequivocally on the ballot. It is therefore critical that you go to nrapvf.org to see how your local candidates rate regarding this freedom. Talk to your friends and neighbors and politely let them know their constitutional freedom does hang in the balance of this presidential and congressional election.

THIS NATURAL RIGHT ALSO PROTECTS OTHER ELEMENTS OF OUR INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS, EVEN OUR VERY SENSE OF OURSELVES AS INDIVIDUALS WITH RIGHTS THAT EXTEND ABOVE GOVERNMENT.

I recognize that the NRA has not been right about everything, but the prior financial issues have been cleaned up, and we are right about the most important things. As I testified and sat in the courtroom, I could see that enemies of our freedom truly hate the Second Amendment of the U.S. Bill of Rights because it acts as a keystone to our freedom. A keystone (or capstone) is the wedge-shaped stone at the apex of a masonry arch. It is the final piece placed during construction and locks all the stones into position, allowing the arch (in this case the Constitution) to bear the weight. This natural right enshrined in the U.S. Constitution, by its very nature, also protects other elements of our individual rights, even our very sense of ourselves as individuals with rights that extend above government. Without the individual ability to defend our lives and our loved ones, none of the other rights are usable.

That is literally what is at stake in this election.



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Keeping A Focus On Youth

I recently spent an exciting two days at the Daisy National BB and Air Gun Championships in Rogers, Ark. While there, I met with many Daisy personnel, including the company president, and with dozens of competitors, their coaches and families.

Daisy is one of the big kids on the block when it comes to getting the next generation involved in shooting, but many other companies are also involved in youth efforts to ensure the future of the shooting sports and the Second Amendment.

At the championship, more than 400 young people aged 8 to 15 competed in this very family-friendly event. The smiles, competition and camaraderie were a pleasure to see. In fact, watching those kids shoot transported me back to my childhood. Like probably most Americans, certainly of my generation, I grew up with a BB gun, then an air rifle and then a .22. In my case, it created a lifelong love that has never left me.

Witnessing those youngsters in Arkansas enjoying the competition reminded me of how important it is to bring young people into the shooting sports—and to encourage them to stay active. We understandably often tend to focus on hunting, law enforcement, collecting and certainly on the legislative front. But we must never forget that long-term success in all of these arenas depends on our youth.

This is why events like the Daisy National BB Gun Championship Match are critical. The very nature of the sport requires and teaches young people important life skills, including safety, discipline, concentration, patience and responsibility—attributes essential for future success in education and whatever professions young people might later pursue.

While there are many things you and I can do personally to bring kids and youth into the shooting-sports fold, collectively, we're already doing a lot of good work in that area. In fact, the NRA has been actively involved in promoting the shooting sports to youth since 1903. We have a wide variety of youth programs, including competitions, awards and contests, training and safety courses, scholarships and more.

One of the most well-known and successful of these programs is the Adventure Camp at the NRA Whittington Center in New Mexico. It arguably is America's best outdoor youth camp for boys and girls aged 13 to 17. Under direct supervision of staff and trained volunteers, campers learn everything from shooting fundamentals to firearm safety, marksmanship, basic wilderness survival skills and more.

And there is much more. NRA's Youth Hunter Education Challenge (YHEC) provides a fun environment for kids to improve their hunting, marksmanship and safety skills. Through its simulated hunting situations, live fire exercises, educational and responsibility events, YHEC helps build upon skills learned in basic hunter-education courses and encourages safer, lifelong hunting habits.

The NRA's Home Air Gun Program brings marksmanship activities directly to communities across the country—a guide that provides parents, teachers, activity and club leaders with information and guidance on BB and airgun shooting sports.

THE NRA HAS BEEN ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN PROMOTING SHOOTING SPORTS TO YOUTH SINCE 1903.

Those are just a few of many NRA youth programs, but now I'd like to get down to a little more personal level. We all know at least one child, if not several, that we could introduce to the family-friendly pastime of shooting. Whether it be a child, grandchild, niece, nephew or just a youth from your neighborhood or that you know from church, I encourage NRA members everywhere to take the initiative and bring a youngster into the shooting sports. If each one of us introduced just one new young person to the sport, we'd grow the number of shooters by millions. What a win that would be!

For some, shooting and guns might become lifelong passions. Others might not become avid shooters, but they will still have been introduced to the fundamental principle that guns are tools, and, when used safely and responsibly, they are good, not evil, as anti-gun advocates would have them believe.

The youth shooters of today will be the Second Amendment advocates of tomorrow. As a kid, I had no idea what the Second Amendment was. But certainly, as I got older, being exposed to that BB gun and that .22 as a young teen truly did lay the groundwork for my understanding that the Second Amendment underpins our liberty as Americans.

As you begin your quest to get more youngsters involved in shooting sports, keep in mind that the child or youth that you safely and responsibly introduce to shooting today might someday be the man or woman leading the NRA a generation or two from now.



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By Randy Kozuch
Executive Director,
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Biden Replaced By Harris And Two More Key Races

Well, it happened. I mentioned last month that we were not sure what the top of the Democrat ticket would look like in November, as many party officials were calling for Joe Biden to step down after his miserable performance in the first debate with Donald Trump. Although Biden stated numerous times he had no intention of leaving the race, on July 21, a letter with Biden's signature was posted to social media announcing he was giving up.

We may never know the real reasons Biden quit. While many pundits have speculated it was a sort of palace coup—with Biden being forced out under threat of no more money from his rich donor friends or being removed under the 25th Amendment—others think that Biden realized he simply could not beat Trump, and dropping out was somehow more noble than losing. Whatever the reason, we currently have Kamala Harris at the top of the Democrat ticket, along with Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz as her choice for vice president.

This unprecedented swap, Biden being forced out and Harris—who has never won a single presidential primary race—being gifted the delegates Biden had won earlier this year, is an interesting move for those allegedly championing “democracy.” The kind of “democracy” these people are fighting for is one where you can ignore the ballots cast by roughly 14 million voters when polls are not trending in your direction.

And, you can bet the anti-gun extremists have had their hands in this whole sordid process.

Many, after all, are firmly entrenched in Democrat leadership positions, and some of the biggest bankrolls Democrats rely on, like billionaire Michael Bloomberg, are committed to destroying the Second Amendment. They fear a second Trump presidency more than they fear looking like puppet masters forcing out a feeble incumbent president and installing a hand-picked candidate.

NRA, of course, will continue doing everything possible to help reelect Donald Trump come November 5, as we need to ensure these undemocratic schemes are thwarted. As I also noted last month, however, there are other races to consider. So let's take a look at two of them.

In Arizona, Kari Lake (R) is running for U.S. Senate. Lake, a former TV news anchor, has been a strong, vocal proponent of the Second Amendment for several years. She opposes anti-gun proposals such as banning popular semi-automatic firearms and standard-capacity magazines, so-called “universal background

checks” and allowing veterans to be arbitrarily stripped of their Second Amendment rights by the U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs (VA).

All of these proposals are supported by her opponent, U.S. Rep. Ruben Gallego (D), who has cast votes for each of these unconstitutional infringements while in office. Gallego has earned his “F” rating from the NRA-Political Victory Fund (NRA-PVF); a grade he has held since 2014.

Lake has an “AQ” from the NRA-PVF, as well as our endorsement, which she also earned when she ran for governor in 2022. While she lost that race by the narrowest margin to decide an Arizona gubernatorial race in more than 30 years, she remains committed to serving Arizonans as a defender of the Second Amendment. Let's be sure to make that happen!

Michigan also has a critical race for U.S. Senate, and NRA-PVF has endorsed former congressman Mike Rogers (R), who has earned an “A” rating. Rogers served in Congress from 2001-2015, and was consistently A-rated and endorsed by NRA-PVF. While serving, he voted for right-to-carry reciprocity, protecting hunting as a primary use of federal lands and the critical Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act (PLCAA). Repealing the PLCAA has been a long-standing goal of anti-gun extremists, especially under the Biden-Harris administration.

Rogers' opponent, Elissa Slotkin (D), is a committed anti-Second Amendment extremist who has voted to ban semi-automatic firearms and standard-capacity magazines, outlaw most private transfers of firearms and voted against protecting our veterans from being arbitrarily stripped of their Second Amendment rights by the VA. Her consistent “F” rating from NRA-PVF is well-deserved.

If NRA is going to help retake control of the U.S. Senate from extremists like current Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.), NRA members in Michigan need to do everything they can to elect Mike Rogers.

There are still many key races, but I am limited by space and the timing of some primaries to fill you in on them all. Just keep an eye out for future communications from me and NRA as Election Day approaches. If we stand and fight together, I know we will come out victorious, and the Second Amendment will be preserved for future generations.



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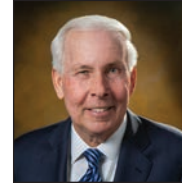
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By Randy Kozuch
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Kamala Harris WOULD DESTROY THE SECOND AMENDMENT

Democratic presidential nominee Kamala Harris is an anti-gun extremist. A detailed accounting and rebuttal of her preferred gun-control policies could fill this entire magazine. However, such an exhaustive examination would be redundant. That's because the vice president has endorsed the gun-control endgame—a world where Americans don't have an individual right to keep and bear arms under the law and the federal government confiscates guns.

The regime media has been working overtime to twist, hide and outright distort Harris' deeply unpopular record on a host of issues. Try as they might, there is no legitimate way to hide her contempt for the Second Amendment. Harris' position, that Americans do not have a constitutionally protected individual right to keep and bear arms, is available for all to read in a brief with her name on it submitted to the U.S. Supreme Court.

In 2008, the Supreme Court decided the case *District of Columbia v. Heller*. The case concerned a challenge to the Washington, D.C., total ban on handgun ownership. The ban was extreme. District of Columbia residents were even prohibited from keeping a handgun for self-defense within their own homes. In overturning the ban, the Court ruled that the Second Amendment protects an individual right to keep and bear arms for lawful purposes, including self-defense.

The individual right to keep and bear arms protected by the Second Amendment was later affirmed by the Supreme Court in *McDonald v. Chicago* (2010), which determined state and local governments may not infringe upon the right. The Court again affirmed the individual Second Amendment right in *New York State Rifle & Pistol*

Association v. Bruen (2022), which made clear the right to bear a firearm for self-defense extends outside the home.

In 2008, Harris was the district attorney of San Francisco. In this capacity, she endorsed an *amicus curiae* brief of district attorneys supporting the District of Columbia and its handgun ban in the *Heller* case.

To underscore Harris' lead role in this brief, 18 district attorneys signed onto the document; however, Harris was one of only two district attorneys whose name appeared on the cover page. A Jan. 11, 2008, press release from the San Francisco District Attorney's office noted that Harris was one of two district attorneys "leading" this effort to back D.C.'s unconstitutional gun ban. The release also boasted, "In 2007, San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom signed into law a package of strict anti-gun legislation co-authored by District Attorney Harris that will make San Francisco the U.S. city with the nation's toughest gun laws." A 2008 article from San Francisco legal publication *Daily Journal*, which the San Francisco District Attorney's Office reposted on their own website, repeatedly described the district attorney brief as "the Harris brief."

Advocating against the individual right to keep and bear arms, the brief argued that courts have consistently sustained criminal firearms laws against Second Amendment challenges by holding that, *inter alia*, (i) the Second Amendment provides only a militia-related right to bear arms, and (ii) the Second Amendment does not apply to legislation passed by state or local governments.

According to the document, the Second Amendment does not protect a pre-existing individual right, but rather, the lower court in *Heller* "create[d]" this right. The brief stated:

The lower court's decision, however, creates a broad private right to possess any firearm that is a



“lineal descendant” of a founding-era weapon and that is in “common use” with a “military application” today.

Anticipating the Supreme Court’s move in the next landmark Second Amendment case (*McDonald*), Harris’ brief reiterated that the Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms should not be incorporated to the states through the 14th Amendment. Had this thinking been adopted, state and local governments would be empowered to curtail or even extinguish Second Amendment rights entirely. State and local governments would have been able to bar their residents from owning any firearms whatsoever.

Not only is Harris wrong on the law, but her position is also extreme.

Outside of the political class in San Francisco or Washington, D.C., most Americans have long understood that the Second Amendment protects an individual right.

Just a month after Harris and her anti-Second Amendment allies filed their failed brief in *Heller*, and before the Supreme Court handed down its decision, a *USA Today*/Gallup poll asked Americans “Do you believe the Second Amendment to the U.S. constitution guarantees the rights of Americans to own guns, or do you believe it only guarantees members of state militias such as National Guard units the right to own guns?” A massive 73% of those polled responded that the Second Amendment protects the rights of Americans to own guns, with a miniscule 20% favoring the collective interpretation. More recently, a February 2018 *Economist*/YouGov poll found a paltry 21% of respondents favored repealing the Second Amendment.

As for a handgun ban—the specific measure at issue in *Heller* and that Harris advocated the Supreme Court uphold—Americans reject the policy in overwhelming numbers.

Since 1959, Gallup has intermittently asked respondents “Do you think there should or should not be a law that would ban the possession of handguns, except by the police and other authorized persons?” In 2008, a supermajority of 69% opposed such a measure. In 2023, 73% opposed a handgun ban.

Taken alone, Harris’ radical views on the Second Amendment should disqualify her from the presidency. However, this position coupled with

her plans to destroy the U.S. Supreme Court to advance her and her allies’ preferred policy outcomes make her truly dangerous.

In a 2019 article titled, “Kamala Harris Says She’s ‘Open’ to Expanding Supreme Court,” Bloomberg reported:

“I am interested in having that conversation,” [Harris] said in Nashua, N.H., in response to a question about whether she favors adding as many as four seats to the court. “I’m open to this conversation about increasing the number of people on the United States Supreme Court.”

In 2020, *New York Times* reporter Alexander Burns stated that Harris told him she was interested in packing the Supreme Court. Burns remarked, “Harris told me in an interview actually that she was absolutely open to doing that ...”

On July 29, lame-duck President Joe Biden issued a plan to “reform” the Supreme Court. The scheme would impose term limits for Supreme Court justices and diminish the Court’s independence. By marvelous coincidence, the first three justices impacted by the term-limit ploy would just so happen to be pro-Second Amendment Republican appointees. Harris issued a statement backing the cynical plot.

Harris has also repeatedly advocated for gun confiscation.

During her failed 2020 presidential campaign, Harris told reporters at an event in New Hampshire in September 2019 that confiscation of commonly owned semi-automatic firearms was “a good idea.” Expanding upon her support for a mandatory “buyback” program, Harris added, “We have to work out the details—there are a lot of details—but I do ... We have to take those guns off the streets.”

Harris reiterated her support for gun confiscation on the Sept. 16, 2019, episode of “The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon.” An audience member asked the candidate, “Do you believe in the mandatory buyback of quote-unquote assault weapons and whether or not you do, how does that idea not fundamentally go against the Second Amendment?”

Harris responded, “I do believe that we need to do buybacks.” She added, “A buyback program is a good idea. Now we need to do it the right way.”

Signifying her devotion to gun confiscation, Harris repeated her calls

for a “mandatory buyback program” at an Oct. 3, 2019, MSNBC gun control forum and during a November 2019 NBC Nightly News interview.


Further, Harris appears to have carried this position into the vice president’s office. During an Oct. 26, 2023, state luncheon with Australia Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, Harris lauded Australia’s gun-control measures. Referencing violence perpetrated with firearms, Harris remarked, “And let us be clear, it does not have to be this way, as our friends in Australia have demonstrated.”

In 1996, Australia adopted a near-total ban on civilian ownership of semi-automatic rifles and semi-automatic and pump-action shotguns. To coincide with the new restrictions, the government instituted a mandatory “buyback” confiscation scheme where gun owners were required to turn their property over to the government for a set price.

Perhaps understanding that this is an intolerable position for a general election campaign, following Harris’ coronation as the Democratic candidate for president, her staffers sought to distance the anti-gun candidate from gun confiscation. Citing campaign officials, *The New York Times* reported that Harris “echoed Mr. Biden’s call for banning assault weapons but not a requirement to sell them to the federal government.”

Harris hasn’t given Americans any reason to believe she’s had a change of heart, and no gun owner who hopes to keep their rights and property can afford to offer her the benefit of the doubt. Moreover, “echo[ing]” Biden’s position on banning so-called “assault weapons” is little better.

Biden has made clear he desires far-broader restrictions than Bill Clinton’s 1994 gun ban that would even prohibit common handguns. In 2019, the *Seattle Times* reported that while attending a private campaign event, Biden stated, “Why should we allow people to have military-style weapons including pistols with 9 mm bullets and can hold 10 or more rounds?”

Given the severity of the threat, NRA members and other gun-rights activists must do all they can to inform their family, friends, neighbors and other freedom-minded individuals about the dangers Harris poses to the Second Amendment, their way of life and their personal property. 



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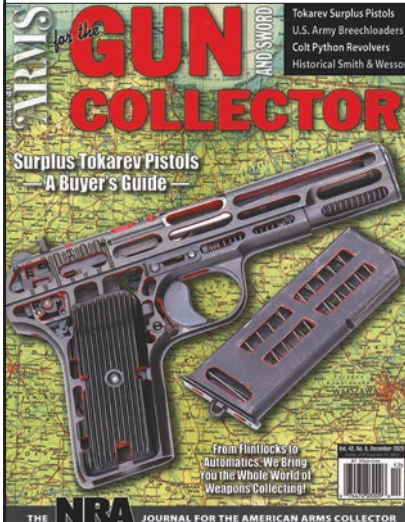
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READERS WRITE

A More Garand Finale

Regarding "The Garand Finale" (August 2024, p. 28), I had some information to add that was discovered during a 1994 research trip to the Sales and Donations section of Rock Island Arsenal. Even prior to that trip, I noticed that readers would periodically ask *American Rifleman* what the highest Garand serial number was, and the early answers quoted the accepted wisdom from government records that the last M1 was Serial No. 6084405 assembled at a May 17, 1957, ceremony in Springfield attended by John Garand and on display at the Springfield Armory Museum. Eventually, one reader wrote something like, "You said the highest Garand serial was 6084405, but I have one numbered 6091234."

That resulted in a follow-up explaining that the rifles were not assembled in serial number order and that it is possible to find higher numbers made earlier. It added that "the highest M1 serial number recorded at Springfield Armory is 6099905," and collectors accepted this as definitive—until a perfect National Match M1 numbered 6100256 turned up at the Ohio Gun Show! This engendered my trip to Moline to try to run it down. What I found was daunting: The records were small slips of paper about the size of an index card, filed in cabinets like a library catalog—drawers and drawers of them—maybe half a million. There was a slip for every rifle sold or donated to civilians, museums, VFWs, American Legions, foreign governments, etc.!

Well, the highest M1 number should be easy: go to the last slip in the last drawer and look, except that this turned out to be a 23,000,000 number! Besides that whopper, there was a 12,000,000 and several in the 7,000,000 and 8,000,000 ranges. I asked Joe Casadei, the head of the section, how that could be. He said that the data came from many different reporting agencies and that he had no choice but to accept what they submitted. In addition, Sales and Donations employed a lot of summer help to transcribe the data to the cards, mostly teenage girls from the local high school. We know mistakes are easy to make, especially if you are not familiar with the subject. The cards had boxes for "Model" and "Type"—but if you don't know the subject, an M1 is an M1, so there were innumerable M1 carbine serials mixed in. Ditto for "Rifle Cal. .30"—lots of 1903 Springfield numbers. I recorded the addresses of several American Legion Posts that had received 6,900,000 Garands and wrote to them for clarification. One was an M1 carbine, the other two were actually 5,900,000 numbers. The 23,000,000 record was clearly a 2,000,000 rifle with a duplicated digit.

However, I found five National Match rifles with serials above 6100000. The highest was 6100499 sold by the DCM to a shooter in Connecticut for \$98 in 1958. The complete account was featured in the Winter 1994 *GCA Journal* (thegca.org/high-serial-numbers/). Years later, Roger Miner showed up at a GCA convention wearing a shirt with "I Own 6100499" on the back in large letters. His daughter wrote an article about him and his rifle that appeared in the Summer 2008 issue of the magazine (thegca.org/winning-the-dcm-lottery/). The question of the highest M1 serial number was solved.

—BOB SEIJAS, CHAIRMAN EMERITUS, THE GARAND COLLECTORS ASS'N



Photo courtesy of Bob Seijas

"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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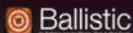
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NRA Whittington Center Hosts The Shootists, Welcomes All

Surrounded by the picturesque mountains of northeastern New Mexico, the NRA Whittington Center (nrawc.org) is a unique sight to behold and a shooting sports adventure facility without equal in the world.

Founded in 1973, the center offers: numerous ranges, from shotgun to pistol to rifle; specialized training; a firearm museum, store and research library; guided and unguided hunts; RV and tent camping; and adventure experiences for young shooters and wildlife seekers. The center's 33,000-plus-acre property courses with elk, pronghorn, mule deer and turkey, and, no matter where a visitor stands, remarkable panoramic vistas include distant mountains rising nearly twice its 6,500-plus-foot elevation.

Like most NRA members and many employees, I had never been to the center, but an invitation from The Shootists (shootists.org) for an event there in June proved to be irresistible, so my wife, Kathleen, and I decided to add it onto a vacation itinerary. The group consists of friends and firearm

enthusiasts who have met annually for an event called the Holiday since 1985 with the stated purpose to "gather together with people who have similar interests and enjoy one another's company, learn from each other, test new ideas and products, have fun, and educate and train new shooters in the proper and safe use of firearms." And while membership in the organization is by invitation only, such groups, along with NRA members and the general public, are always welcome at NRA's premier shooting facility, which features an entranceway off Highway 64 that is lined by the flags of all 50 states. At this year's event, many attendees stayed on site in RVs or facility housing, but Kathleen and I found a comfortable hotel just minutes down the road in the town of Raton whose lodging and restaurant establishments are accustomed to welcoming visitors to the center year 'round.

Describing themselves as "lawyers, clergy, teachers, businessmen, farmers, ranchers, law-enforcement

personnel, judges, writers, artists, computer programmers, and those in the firearms industry," the Shootists nonetheless are bound together by common values—along with a penchant for single-action revolvers and other cowboy-era designs. "We look for people of integrity, who have character and conviction and whose word can be trusted. Those who would 'stand in the gap' or who could be described as someone you could 'ride the river with.'"

The organization's roster includes gunwriter and founding member John Taffin, Freedom Arms President Bob Baker, gunsmith Bobby Tyler, Cold Steel Knives founder Lynn Thompson, lever gun guru Paco Kelly and the late big-bore cartridge designer John Linebaugh, who is one of several past members listed on the organization's website as having "crossed the river." Group Secretary Jason Cloessner, one of my hosts, is a vice president at firearm distributor Lipsey's and The Shootists' chairman, Mark Hargrove,



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is a noted attorney and rancher in Texas. Another familiar gunwriter in attendance was *American Rifleman* contributor and former Texas sheriff Jim Wilson, who allowed me to engage in a busman's holiday of sorts as we discussed his upcoming contributions to the magazine.

Our two days at this year's week-long event included plenty of casual gun talk and range time, too, with all manner of revolvers and both lever- and bolt-action rifles. On the second day, we accompanied a group of 18 shooters—from kids to retirees and including Kathleen—in navigating the Jeff Cooper Memorial Rifle Walk. The decidedly non-square-range experience consisted of shooting reactive, mild-steel silhouettes at varying distances across the undulating high-desert terrain. Kathleen shared a Ruger American Gen II rifle in .223 Rem.—generously provided by our co-host and Skinner Sights owner Andy Larsson—with Justin Dyal, an *American Rifleman*

field editor and nationally recognized firearm trainer who graciously offered her pointers throughout the event, bolstering her confidence and boosting her skills. In fact, as she successfully engaged each target, I found myself filled with a pride that far exceeded any I'd ever taken in my own marksmanship abilities. The experience more than made up for my minor regret of having decided to shoot the event with a camera rather than a rifle.

In all, our first time at the NRA Whittington Center—our organization's jewel of the West with its world-class facilities, professional staff and expansive scenery—was both unparalleled and unforgettable. Whether or not it was our last visit there or our sole opportunity to share a range with The Shootists, it was well worth the time and a “holiday” that will remain a fond memory until we ourselves have “crossed the river.”

—BRIAN C. SHEETZ, EDITOR IN CHIEF



The NRA Whittington Center is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization and relies on the generous contributions of donors who want to preserve our heritage of freedom for the next generation of shooters and hunters. Please call (800) 494-4853 ahead of a visit for availability, especially during the summer and holidays.

Hodgdon Powder Buys RCBS Reloading

Amid the planned split of Vista Outdoor companies into shooting and sporting segments, Hodgdon Powder Co. acquired RCBS Reloading from Revelyst, the newly named sporting segment of Vista Outdoor. The acquisition more than doubles the employee head count at Hodgdon and adds RCBS's Oroville, Calif., location to Hodgdon facilities in Kansas and Montana.

“This acquisition of RCBS, the leading brand in metallic reloading tools, is a perfect complement to our portfolio of smokeless-powder brands for our

handloading customers,” said Steve Kehrwald, president and CEO of Hodgdon. “With our world-class ballistics labs, we look forward to providing even more load data to our new RCBS customers.”

The acquisition became effective on May 2, and Hodgdon clarified that there will be no pause or delay in shipping RCBS products to customers and wholesale distributors. Revelyst's sale of RCBS leaves the company with just two firearm-industry-adjacent brands: Bushnell Optics and Primos Hunting. rcbs.com



MidwayUSA Launches Rewards Loyalty Program

MidwayUSA implemented a consumer-rewards program in June 2024, giving customers an opportunity to receive points for purchases. Accumulated points can then be exchanged for rewards coupons on future orders. Additionally, members will also receive weekly emails detailing bonus points promotions.

“This great new program helps us reward our loyal customers for their continued support,” said Adam Augustine, MidwayUSA vice president of eCommerce. “I encourage all

of our customers to join today so that they start earning MidwayUSA Rewards points.”

Consumers will receive 250 points for joining the new program, and MidwayUSA has a dedicated webpage detailing the exchange rate of points to discounts, starting at a \$5 discount for 250 points. The company promises points for “every dollar spent on qualifying products.” Points expire 12 months after a customer's last purchase. For further details, visit midwayusa.com/rewards.



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EDITOR'S CHOICE Gru-Bee WolfPup



Those who are old enough to remember the Baby Redfields of yesteryear might decry the modern trend of bigger, heavier, higher-magnification riflescopes and wonder where all the small rimfire optics went. Fortunately, Don Grubee out of Durant, Okla., is reviving the compact, classic optic in a modern guise with his Gru-Bee WolfPup 4X duplex optic, which is produced in China, built on a 3/4"-diameter tube and includes low-mount rings to match.

Recently, Gru-Bee developed a 3/8" dovetail base designed for the Winchester Xpert, so we received this rifle along with the 4X WolfPup for testing. In terms of form

factor, the WolfPup cannot be beat. Measuring just 9.25" long and weighing only 5.8 ozs., this optic is ideally suited for lightweight rimfire rifles, but the modern design and materials allow it to be used on centerfire guns as well. With its 4" eye relief, the WolfPup is designed for standard length of pulls, not youth rifles, so it mounted ideally on our Xpert, which had a 13.5" length of pull.

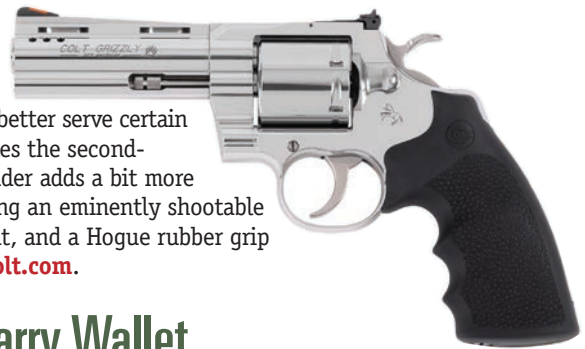
Capped windage and adjustment turrets are standard, and the design uses a simple duplex reticle. At the objective bell, a ring allows users to adjust parallax at marked distances. In our testing, the parallax settings on the bell did not focus exactly at targets placed at the corresponding distances, but the parallax could be adequately adjusted, regardless. Windage and adjustment clicks, though tactile, did not correspond exactly with Gru-Bee's promised 1/4-m.o.a. adjustments, but once zeroed, they held throughout multiple shooting sessions. For a lightweight, inexpensive, compact optic of this size and build, Gru-Bee has the market cornered, and we appreciated the classic, high-gloss finish on this Baby Redfield-inspired optic. Price: \$170.

Contact: Gru-Bee Inc.; grubee.net.

—EVAN BRUNE, EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Colt Grizzly

As popular as Colt's re-introduced Python has been among the shooting community, there are still opportunities to tweak the platform to better serve certain niches. Colt embraced that chance with its Grizzly design, which takes the second-generation Python frame and adds a few helpful features. An unfluted cylinder adds a bit more meat to the gun, and a ported, 4.25" barrel helps reduce muzzle flip, creating an eminently shootable platform. Traditional Python elements like the ventilated rib are still present, and a Hogue rubber grip further absorbs recoil. Price: \$1,599. Contact: Colt's Mfg.; (800) 962-2658; colt.com.



Origin Concealed Carry Wallet

Low-profile is the name of the game when it comes to EDC gear. Origin's Concealed Carry Wallet is a slim way to carry up to six cards and cash, and it's made in the USA from thick leather and uses heavy-duty corded stitching to keep the two halves of the wallet together. Each side of the wallet has a pocket that easily accommodates several cards and cash, and a large center pocket between the two halves can accommodate more cards, cash or even coins. Price: \$54. Contact: Origin; (207) 305-3222; originusa.com.

Wyoming Sight Drifter

Adjusting the fit of iron sights in their dovetails typically requires complex jigs or a hammer, punch and gun cradle, which can be awkward to handle or take to the range. The Wyoming Sight Drifter helps avoid such complications and is not much larger than a common ink pen. The ingenious design uses a simple extension spring attached to steel sections that feature finger grooves and end pieces of nylon and brass. Simply hold either end against the side of a dovetailed sight with one hand and use the other hand to momentarily pull up on the spring, then let go. Once the stored kinetic energy is released, the two steel sections will collide, impacting the end in contact with the sight and drifting it. The force is easily controlled by how far the spring is stretched, and the nylon and brass are non-marring. Price: \$39. Contact: Skinner Sights, LLC; (406) 745-4570; skimmersights.com.



UTG Recon Flex II Bipod

A bipod mounted to a rifle's QD stud typically protrudes about 2" below the stock, resulting in a bulky profile not ideal for shooting off bags or a pack. Gunmakers recognizing this limitation have begun integrating mounting points on each side of the fore-end, allowing the attachment of independent bipod legs. One example is the UTG Recon Flex II Bipod, available in a variety of lengths and compatible with either M-Lok or KeyMod interfaces, which features legs that attach using a pair of slots at the 3- and 9-o'clock positions. Aluminum construction keeps weight to 11.3 ozs. total, and each length-adjustable leg features a one-piece locking slider that secures it in one of five radial positions. Price: \$95. Contact: Leapers; (734) 542-1500; leapers.com.



Sentry Quick Disconnect 2 To 1 Rifle Sling

Thanks to push-button quick-detach (QD) mounts at each end and a QD sling cup integrated into a clip at its rear, the Quick Disconnect 2 To 1 Rifle Sling from Sentry Products Group is a low-profile tactical sling that can be converted from single- to two-point use, or vice versa, in only seconds. The 1.25"-wide sling is made from rugged nylon webbing that is adjustable to suit shooters of many sizes, and a section of bungee material allows the rifle to be slung tight against the body while still providing the slack needed to get the rifle quickly on target. Sentry



offers the sling in both black and coyote brown colors. Price: \$95. Contact: Sentry Products Group; (757) 689-6064; sentrytactical.com.

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Caldwell Claymore PullPup

This one-of-a-kind clay target thrower from Caldwell offers up compact, portable, handheld operation in a lightweight package that launches myriad target types at any angle with ease. Much like a traditional target thrower with adjustable spring tension, the Claymore PullPup can propel standard, midi and mini targets more than 55 yards. Much like a bullpup carbine with a rear-mounted trigger and forward grip, the PullPup comes with built-in grip safeties aimed at keeping hands clear of the arm and target when activated. Broken targets are cleared simply thanks to the unit's open design. Operation is simple: cock the arm, load a clay target, aim and release. Price: \$70. Contact: Caldwell; (833) 784-5520; caldwellshooting.com.



SRS Lever Action Brake

Depending on the weight of the firearm and the specific load used, the .45-70 Gov't. cartridge generates a level of recoil that can be daunting for many shooters, but an effective muzzle device like the Salmon River Solutions Lever Action Brake can go a long way toward taming the big-bore. Measuring 2.5" long with a 1" outer diameter, the three-port brake weighs just 2 ozs. thanks to its corrosion-resistant 6AL-4V titanium construction, and 11/16x24 TPI threads allow it to be used aboard many .45-cal. rifle designs. Timing properly to the host gun via an adjustable nut, we found the appearance of the Lever Action Brake paired particularly well with the stainless finishes on Marlin's SBL and Trapper variants of the Model 1895. Price: \$200. Contact: Salmon River Solutions; (208) 659-3030; salmonriversolutions.com.

Scope Leveling On A Budget

A level scope is vital for precision shooting as it ensures that any windage or elevation adjustments made actually work the way they're supposed to. In fact, it's more important that the scope be level with the horizon than the rifle itself be level. Most shooters level the scope body to the rifle itself as a quick "good-enough" method.

Several products on the market today can help you level a scope body to the base, but what if you don't have them around? One common method is a set of feeler gauges available at any hardware store. But there's an even easier and cheaper way to do it that you might have tucked away in a drawer: a deck of cards.

I first heard of this trick years ago from Frank Galli, an author and owner of Sniper's Hide. Mount your rings to the base and place the optic in the desired spot. Tighten down the rings enough so that you can still slightly rotate the scope in place. Then take a small stack of playing cards (or business cards) and insert them into the open space between the flat bottom of the scope and a flat surface below like the bottom of a one-piece mount or the top of a scope rail. Add one card at a time, gently rotating the scope side to side as needed until you can't wedge one under any further. Now carefully remove the stack and tighten down the optic. All done.



Photo by author

Of course, this assumes you have a flat surface below and the mount itself is square to the bore, which isn't always true. In both cases, we'll turn to the plumb line technique as a final check, but that's a tip for another day.

—MATT ROBERTSON



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QUESTIONS & ANSWERS



Gross Arms Pocket Revolver



NRA member photos

and the rear of the cylinder is removed to allow cartridges to be loaded into the chambers. The ejection of spent cases is accomplished by means of a rod beneath the barrel.

—GARRY JAMES, CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

Q I acquired a revolver that I believe is missing some parts. Can you help me figure out what I've got?

A Unfortunately, I was unable to locate any diagrams or patent drawings of your Gross Arms Pocket Revolver, so I can't confirm whether yours is missing any parts. I can tell you that the piece was manufactured by the Gross Arms Co. of Tiffin, Ohio (owned by Charles B. and Henry Gross), between 1864 and 1866. Apparently only a few hundred were manufactured. It is chambered for .25 Rimfire,

Winchester .22-Cal. Single-Shot Military Rifle

Q Could you please help me find information on this rifle. It is chambered in .22 Short.

A Your rifle is called by collectors the 3rd Model Winchester Winder Musket, caliber .22 Short, and is based on John Browning's 1879 single-shot patent. First manufactured in 1918, the Winchester catalog states they were "Designed especially for military Indoor Target Shooting and Preliminary Outdoor Practice." For some unknown reason, the Winchester factory referred to it as the Model 87 training rifle during manufacture but did not use that designation in its retail catalog.

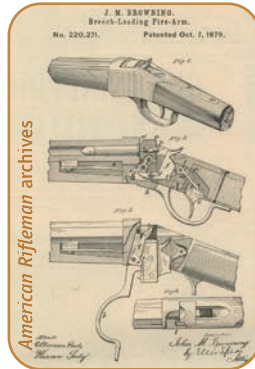
From one of your photos, I can see the U.S. and the Ordnance flaming bomb government-ownership stamps just aft of the hammer. Your rifle was used to train military members during World War I. A distinguishing feature of the 3rd Model rifle is that it comes equipped with a Lyman Model 53 receiver sight.

Apparently, the factory made approximately 13,000 of this model for the U.S. military and an additional 2,000 for NRA competition in addition to offering them to the general public. In 1919, the government canceled its order for 32,616 of these rifles, and I have not found the exact amount of guns the government received.

—MICHAEL F. GARRICK, CONTRIBUTING EDITOR



NRA member photo



American Rifleman archives

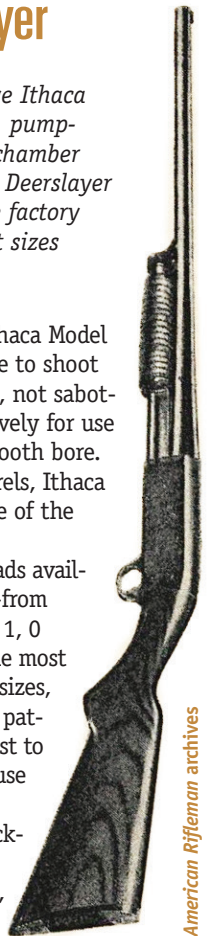
Loads For A Deerslayer

Q I have a classic, 1951-vintage Ithaca Model 37 Featherlight 20-ga. pump-action shotgun with a 2¾" chamber and a 2⅜"-chambered smoothbore Deerslayer barrel for use with slugs. Are there factory 2¾" buckshot loads that have shot sizes larger than No. 3?

A Please be aware that your Ithaca Model 37's Deerslayer barrel is made to shoot only Foster-style rifled slugs, not sabot-style slugs. Sabots are made exclusively for use in barrels with cut rifling, not a smooth bore. Of the various smoothbore slug barrels, Ithaca Deerslayers are considered to be one of the very best in terms of accuracy.

Regarding buckshot, there are loads available with pellets larger than No. 3—from smallest to largest these include No. 1, 0 and 00. Of those, the 00 loads are the most prevalent. However, of all the pellet sizes, 00s are the most unreliable as far as pattern density is concerned, so it is best to use them at short ranges only. Because of their downrange characteristics, manufacturers recommend using buckshot only with full-choked barrels.

—JOHN M. TAYLOR, CONTRIBUTING EDITOR



American Rifleman archives

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



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FAVORITE FIREARMS

“Show me a carbine with real power and I’ll buy it!”

I saw that statement in a Remington print advertisement in 1965 as a teenager. Soon afterward, I walked into our local sporting goods store, and there, on the gun rack among the traditional long-barreled, walnut-stocked rifles, was a short carbine with a multicolored stock. I recognized it immediately as the new Remington Model 600. When the clerk handed it to me, I quickly turned it over in my hands to read the barrel: “.350 Rem. Mag.”

I only had \$18 with me, but the clerk said he’d put it aside for me if I’d come back the next day. The 600 Magnum cost \$144.95 with a factory leather sling and detachable swivels; I bought it and a box of 250-grain Remington Core-Lokts early the next

morning. I mounted a Weaver K4 scope with Weaver steel rings and took the carbine to the range. I don’t think the other shooters thought much of the laminated stock or the ventilated rib. What they really didn’t like was when I shot it.

The second three-shot group I fired at 100 yards was under 1", with two holes touching! That really got everyone’s attention. Incredibly, my carbine shoots both 200- and 250-grain Remington factory loads into virtually the same spot at 100 yards. Except for the time I served in the United States Army, I’ve carried that carbine now for more than 50 years. It now wears a Leupold Vari-X III Compact scope along with an aftermarket Neil Jones steel floorplate.



NRA member photo

I’ve taken it across North America hunting bears, moose and deer. When my son Wyatt was 11, he shot his first (and second) deer with it! That sure puts the myth about the .350’s “ferocious recoil” to rest. Today, the Remington 600 Magnum is iconic. People always comment on it when they see it, and hunting guides invariably want to shoot it.

With my RCBS press and a full set of dies, Wyatt will continue to shoot the .350 Rem. Mag. for another 50 years and then some.

—JOHN ALLEN PRITCHARD

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

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— Robert F., Richardson, TX

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Raising The Bar RUGER'S GENERATION II



"New things are always better than old things." That maxim, attributed to the late artist and film director Andy Warhol, is faithfully embraced by businesses unafraid of critiquing their efficacious products in the unending search for something better. Sturm, Ruger, & Co. is one such firm. In the past three-quarters of a century, it has unveiled a litany of firearms that have not only withstood the test of time but have sold in overwhelming numbers (May 2024, p. 66). In long guns alone, there is the 10/22, M77, No. 1 and Mini-14 (Mini Thirty) that, in sum, are measured in millions of units. And yet, none of these well-liked arms went unchanged; myriad

variations of each model exist, while shortcomings, whether real or perceived, have been addressed, too.

It makes sense, then, that the company would eventually cast a discerning eye toward its meat-and-potatoes—and outrageously popular—American Rifle series, which debuted in 2012 (June 2012, p. 48). According to Mark Gurney, director of innovation for Ruger, "The American Rifle was successful, but that doesn't mean there wasn't room for improvement." As such, for 2024, Ruger unveiled the American Rifle Generation II series as "The Next Generation of America's Favorite Hunting Rifle." So, how do Generation II models differ from the original American rifles? Read on.

GEN II AMERICAN RIFLE



Ruger's original and well-regarded American Rifle line has been joined by a second-generation family that takes the bolt-action platform to new levels through a series of practical, attractive enhancements.

BY AARON CARTER, Field Editor

Compare & Contrast

As a current owner of two American Ranch rifles (.300 Blackout and .450 Bushmaster) and having previously owned a Standard version in .30-'06 Sprg., I was both overwhelmed and ecstatic—mostly the latter—by the enormity of the changes between the original and Generation II series. Perhaps the most notable upgrades involve the stock. Other than variants with Go Wild camouflage, the barreled actions of American Rifles are nestled into simple synthetic stocks of a single color. Serviceable sure, but aesthetically pleasing they aren't. What's more, minimal consideration was levied to combating the inherent slickness of the material. There is integral texturing on raised and lowered sections at the

pistol grip and fore-end, respectively, but it's insufficient for the task. Fortunately, this was addressed in the Generation II guns. The Generation II stock exudes modernity—particularly visually. On the Standard version, the dark gray synthetic stock has black and light gray splatter, which also aids purchase regardless of where the rifle is grasped. The Gen II Ranch

RUGER GENERATION II AMERICAN RIFLE

has a flat dark earth (FDE) stock with black splatter, while the new Predator combines a green stock with a splash of black and bronze. The color combinations are outstanding. Further aiding purchase are raised, textured panels and ribs on the pistol grip, which swells distinctively, and the panels are also on the recessed fore-end. Interestingly, whereas the fore-end on the original was thicker on the lower portion and thinner on top, Generation II models have this reversed. Additionally, the thinnest portion, when combined with an unchanged upper width, results in a channel that prevents fingers from slipping atop onto the barrel. In the hands, the difference in feel is significant.

The stocks of Generation II rifles enable the user to adjust fit. For instance, there is a well-blended spacer that can be removed to shorten the length of pull from 13 $\frac{3}{4}$ " to 12", thereby enabling a single rifle to fit a larger segment of the population and/or grow with the shooter. The rifle is also shipped with the removable "low" comb, or cheekpiece, installed, which adds 1/2" of height for when using a magnified optic. It creates a Monte Carlo-like stock. "Medium" and "high" combs are available for purchase from Ruger and add 5/8" and 3/4", respectively. Without the comb installed, the stock is optimal for use with reflex-style sights and other low-mounted devices. Why did Ruger adopt this design? "A majority of our engineers have gone through long-range-shooting classes at FTW Ranch," Gurney said. "We've all learned how a proper cheek weld, which aligns the shooter's eye directly behind the scope, is so important."

There is a reason that the rear sling swivel stud is angled. Removing the spacer and/or comb involves a unique, yet clever, process. Unlike other rifles (including the original American Rifle), accessing the innards of the buttstock isn't via the recoil pad; rather, unscrewing the rear sling swivel stud several turns loosens the spacer and



The Gen II American's bolt features a full-diameter body with three locking lugs. Note the sliding-plate extractor and the plunger ejector. Also, the bolt knob is replaceable.

permits the user to slide the comb to the rear for removal. This design prevents damage to the pliable, tacky recoil pad. Smart.

As with the originals, second-generation models are fed by detachable-box magazines. The configuration of the stock depends on the cartridge (and thus magazine) that it'll use. As an example, on the sample Standard rifle, which was chambered in 6.5 mm Creedmoor, there's a separate magazine-well assembly with a magazine latch immediately forward of the trigger guard. Smaller chamberings, such as .223 Rem., use a push-button-type magazine release. On .450 Bushmaster-chambered rifles, the latch is part of the single-stack magazine itself. One word of note: On the trial rifle, the magazine could only be locked into position with the bolt open (thus eliminating "topping off") or, when the bolt was closed, by applying pressure on the very rear of the magazine. Anywhere else failed to fully seat it. A pronounced "click" results when the magazine latch is fully engaged, so ideally the task would be performed before entering the intended hunting area. Alternatively, one can hold the latch forward while the magazine is inserted, followed by releasing the lever

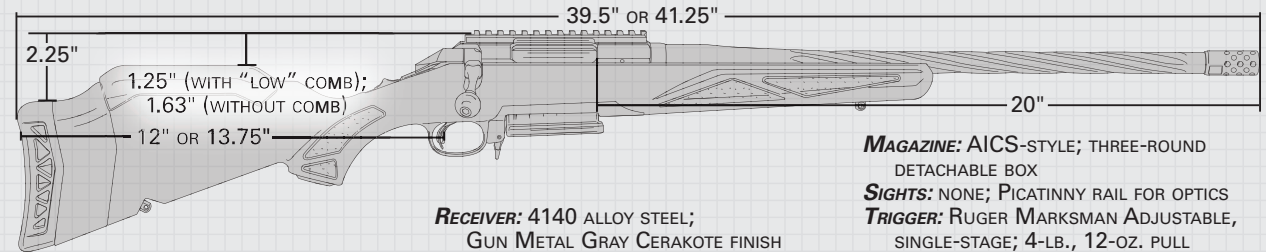


The Generation II's barreled action is held to the stock with two machine screws—one of which, on some models, is accessed by removing the magazine latch. Note the construction of the magazine well and stock (inset, far l.), the Ruger Marksman Adjustable trigger assembly (inset, l.) and the 14-slot Picatinny rail attached to the receiver with four screws (inset, above).



RUGER AMERICAN RIFLE GENERATION II STANDARD

MANUFACTURER: STURM, RUGER & CO., INC., (DEPT. AR), 411 SUNAPEE ST., NEWPORT, NH 03773; (336) 949-5200; RUGER.COM



ACTION TYPE: BOLT-ACTION, CENTERFIRE, REPEATING RIFLE
CHAMBERING: 6.5 MM CREEDMOOR

RECEIVER: 4140 ALLOY STEEL; GUN METAL GRAY CERAKOTE FINISH
STOCK: DARK GRAY SYNTHETIC; BLACK/GRAY SPLATTER
BARREL: 4140 ALLOY STEEL; FIVE-GROOVE, 1:8" RH-TWIST RIFLING; 5/8X24 TPI MUZZLE

MAGAZINE: AICS-STYLE; THREE-ROUND DETACHABLE BOX
SIGHTS: NONE; PICATINNY RAIL FOR OPTICS
TRIGGER: RUGER MARKSMAN ADJUSTABLE, SINGLE-STAGE; 4-LB., 12-OZ. PULL
WEIGHT: 6 LBS., 8 OZS.
ACCESSORIES: OWNER'S MANUAL, MAGAZINE COVER, MAGAZINE LATCH REASSEMBLY TOOL, LOCK
MSRP: \$729



A simple lever on the receiver's left rear is pressed in to allow withdrawal of the bolt assembly.

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			SMALLEST	LARGEST	AVERAGE
BERGER 140-GRAIN HT	2,698 Avg. 11 Sd	2,263	0.98	1.29	1.10
HORNADY OUTFITTER 120-GRAIN CX	2,799 Avg. 8 Sd	2,087	0.69	1.33	1.12
NOSLER 140-GRAIN BTH	2,478 Avg. 10 Sd	1,909	0.70	1.15	0.94
AVERAGE EXTREME SPREAD					1.05

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 SANDBAG REST. TEMPERATURE: 55° F. HUMIDITY: 45%. ABBREVIATIONS: BTH (BALLISTIC TIP HUNTING), CX (COPPER ALLOY EXPANDING), HT (HYBRID TARGET), Sd (STANDARD DEVIATION).

and toggling the magazine to ensure that it's secure. Doing so eliminates all noise. Why does configuration matter? Simple: full access to the trigger for adjustment and/or a thorough cleaning. On rifles that use AICS-style magazine wells, there is now a notch that provides direct access to the rear action screw using only a ball-end wrench. Generation I rifles without a notch still require removal of the magazine latch to disassemble the rifle. A tool is provided to aid re-installation of the magazine latch.

The Generation II's barreled action rests atop two V-shaped bedding blocks, which positively maintains its position and ensures that the barrel remains free-floating. Both are essential to accuracy. Ruger refers to the system as Power Bedding. The blocks engage recesses in the receiver to mitigate movement between it and the stock. The system eliminates the need for a traditional recoil lug.

Beyond the bolt-stop lever, which now projects more prominently and has grooves on the rear to make manipulation easier, little has changed with regard to the receiver. On the left receiver wall, though, is found inscribed,

"Ruger American. Mayodan, NC, USA" rather than the "Newport, NH," on the barrel of my older models. Gurney stated, "The majority of American rifles are built in North Carolina, but some are, and will continue to be, made in New Hampshire." As an aside, all of Ruger's ARs (including the SFAR) are built in North Carolina, as are Marlins, LCPs, American Rimfires and SR22 pistols. Attached to the top of the receiver at the factory is a one-piece Picatinny rail—something I always appreciate.

The tang-mounted safety on the second-gen guns is different than that on their predecessors. The fire control has three positions—fire, safe and safe, locked. In the forward-most "fire" position a single, curved red line is shown. In the "safe" setting, the bolt can be cycled for loading and unloading while the gun's safety is engaged; this is revealed with a single curved white line. When two curved white lines are displayed, and appear like a disappointing Wi-Fi coverage symbol, the bolt is locked closed. Whilst hunting and/or not taking a shot, "safe, locked" is advisable. The control was a smidge jiggly on the test rifle.



The tang-mounted safety has three positions (l. to r.): "fire," indicated by a red arc; "safe," which blocks the trigger but allows the bolt to be racked; and "safe-locked," which blocks both the trigger and the bolt.

RUGER GENERATION II AMERICAN RIFLE



The 6.5 mm Creedmoor test gun's muzzle was threaded 5/8x24 TPI for the included 30-port brake and other accessories.

The rifles have Ruger's Marksman Adjustable trigger, which has an articulating blade within the shoe—a widely used design nowadays. It is user-adjustable from approximately 3 lbs. to about 5 lbs. On the sample rifle, it averaged 4 lbs., 12 ozs. For me, it's definitely a candidate for tweaking the pull weight. No creep or overtravel was detected.

As with the original American rifles, Generation IIs use one-piece, CNC-machined stainless-steel bolts with three lugs for a 70-degree throw. This provides ample clearance for even larger optics. Extraction is via a sliding plate while a plunger-type ejector clears empties from the gun. However, the bolt handles on the Generation II guns have noticeably less curve and, due to a 5/16x24 TPI thread pattern, the oversized knob can be replaced.

Outside of the stock, the most radical departure for Generation II rifles is the cold-hammer-forged barrel. Whereas manufacturers oftentimes add shallow fluting for appeal, and perhaps claim weight savings, those on the Ruger rifles clearly achieve both. Sure, the deep, spiral flutes appeal to the eyes, but they also reduce weight and will dissipate heat faster. However, reduced mass increases the speed at which the temperature rises as well.

On the 6.5 mm Creedmoor test rifle, the barrel measures 1.16" near the receiver and 0.730" rearward of the radial, 30-port brake. Thanks to 5/8x24 TPI threading at the muzzle, the brake can be replaced with other recoil-, flash- or sound-attenuating devices; other thread patterns include 1/2x28 TPI and 11/16x24 TPI depending on the cartridge. Regardless of chambering, the barrel length remains constant within a line. For example, all Standard rifles have 20" barrels, while those of Ranch rifles are 16.10" and Predator rifles are fitted with 22" barrels.

Lastly, the barreled action (barrel, receiver and bolt handle) is covered with a Cerakote ceramic coating. The result is a durable yet easy-to-maintain finish. On the Standard model the Cerakote color used is Gun Metal Gray; meanwhile, the Ranch is Cobalt and the Predator is Burnt Bronze.

On The Range

To test the sample American Rifle Generation II, I topped it with my ever-dependable Nightforce SHV 4-14X 56 mm riflescope. As an aside, be aware that the screws of the included base should be, at a minimum, double-checked for snugness before heading to the range; applying a thread-locking compound before tightening them is preferable. The screws on the rifle I received were not fully tightened, and thus had the potential to negatively affect accuracy.

Subsequently, I gathered an assortment of high-quality 6.5 mm Creedmoor ammunition. Given its primary purpose

Unscrewing the rear sling swivel attachment stud several turns allows the user to remove or insert the buttstock spacer and select which cheekpiece to attach.

as a hunting rifle, I opted to incorporate Hornady Outfitter 120-grain CX and Nosler 140-grain Ballistic Tip Hunting (BTH) loads. For the third ammunition, I cherry-picked Berger's 140-grain Hybrid Target (HT). Why? To see what could be achieved accuracy-wise when using premium, match-grade ammunition. The results were surprising.

Frankly, "range day" was far from ideal; then again, the days preceding and following it were only marginally better. Thanks, March. While the 55° F temperature and cloudless sky were indeed inviting, the consistent 15-m.p.h. wind and frequent gusts reaching more than double that number weren't. Providentially, the elevated berms and backstop lining the 100-yard range did much to reduce the impact of the swirling winds.

Supported by a Browning sandbag front rest and a rear rest from a now-defunct firm, the trial rifle produced good accuracy—however, the best accuracy didn't come from the one you'd expect. Rather, top accuracy was realized when using Nosler's 140-grain BTH, which generated an average of 0.94" for five consecutive, five-shot groups. The smallest cluster measured 0.70", and three of the five shots bunched within 0.30". This trio was only bested by a triad in the smallest group produced by Hornady's Outfitter ammunition, which measured 0.27".

Although Hornady's 120-grain CX ammunition produced the smallest five-shot group, 0.69", it also created the largest, 1.33". For 25 shots the mean was 1.12". Berger was nearly identical in performance, averaging 1.10".

While chronographing the abovementioned loads, a large discrepancy was noted between the factory velocities and those that the MagnetoSpeed Sporter calculated. In fact, a second chronograph, a Garmin Xero C1 Pro, was purchased to confirm the numbers. They were accurate. This can be attributed to the rifle's 20" barrel, as opposed to the 24" tubes used by ammunition makers; but the disparities were striking. Whereas the Berger, Hornady and Nosler loads have advertised speeds of 2,850 f.p.s., 2,925 f.p.s. and 2,650 f.p.s., respectively, from the Generation II Standard rifle they achieved only 2,698 f.p.s., 2,799 f.p.s. and 2,478 f.p.s.

continued on p. 68



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HITTING THE MARK WILSON COMBA

America has been fascinated with the .30-cal. bullet ever since it was introduced into military service, and rightfully so. Cartridges have been created with these now-common projectiles that have won wars, clenched shooting titles and put meat on tables for more than a century. Building the ideal .30-cal. cartridge for the AR-15 was a natural step in firearm development, yet it was one that met with substantial resistance.

Early attempts began with the Russian 7.62x39 mm cartridge, as it could easily be fitted within the dimensions of the platform's magazine, but alas, its sharply tapered case caused early feeding problems, and it never completely recovered from the unreliability stigma. The advent of the .300 Blackout would come to center stage and produce exceptional results when loaded to subsonic velocities. However, as it was built primarily to operate in subsonic form, the Blackout trails off, performance-wise, when pushed beyond the sound barrier.

Dissatisfied with both cartridges (and others), prolific firearm and ammunition designer Bill Wilson set out to wring as much downrange energy as possible from the AR-15 through a dedicated supersonic .30-cal. cartridge. Years of testing and development would bear fruit in the form of the .300 HAM'R, and it would gain SAAMI

acceptance in January 2020. The case of the .300 HAM'R is nearly 1/4" longer than that of the .300 Blackout, which leaves enough room to produce .30-30 Win. energy levels out of the famed black rifle.

Arguably, with the right combination of components, one could even start to approach .308 Win. performance out of a much smaller platform, and that prospect alone was enough to get me interested in experimenting with it. So, gun in hand, I set out to build two loads that would cover all possible bases for Wilson's ultimate .30-cal. AR-15 chambering.

As I am fortunate enough to have a direct pipeline to Mr. Wilson himself, I decided to start the process with a bit of fact-finding to understand the cartridge better. Throughout a few emails, Bill informed me that there are really only three powders that work well when loading the .300 HAM'R, and they are Hodgdon CFE BLK, Shooters World SOCOM and Accurate #1680. While working with the rarer powders has a certain mystique to it, I decided to go with CFE BLK because, well, I had some on the shelf.



T's .300 HAM'R

Although factory-loaded ammunition options for the .300 HAM'R are limited, handloaders can optimize this potent AR-15 cartridge to suit a variety of applications.

BY FRANK MELLONI, Field Editor



While the author, like most handloaders, is never fully satisfied with his recipes, he nonetheless was able to get respectable accuracy out of his two resulting loads, which are catered toward the .300 HAM'R's twin core competencies of medium-game and varmint hunting.



.300 HAM'R

Like most handloaders, I am dealing with the same component shortages as the rest of the community. Moreover, holding off any longer than necessary to put together a project is not conducive to a writing career. Luckily, this was also Wilson's preferred powder, so things were coming up roses. In our closing emails, I inquired about building something that would perform at subsonic velocities. At the time of this writing, I was informed that there isn't a powder and bullet combination that can reliably cycle the action while remaining below the speed of sound.

I selected Hornady 110-grain V-Max and Nosler 150-grain Partition bullets to touch both ends of the weight spectrum that this cartridge can handle. These bullets represent two of the best uses for this chambering—medium-game and varmint hunting. Furthermore, both projectiles are known performers on whitetail deer as well as coyotes. When chambered in .300 HAM'R, the AR-15 is a multi-faceted game-getter.

I had a few options for dies but decided to go with a set of Hornady Custom grades, as these were recently released. Whenever these dies are an option, I tend to gravitate toward them because they get the job done at a price that doesn't make me question if it's even worth reloading for a particular cartridge. Lastly, cases were available from Starline that take a typical small rifle magnum primer, the one thing I have in abundance.

My go-to primers for medium-to-high-pressure cartridges have always been CCI, something I determined during 6.5 mm Grendel reloading experiments. I have found that they could handle powder charge/bullet combinations that would pierce some other brands with softer cups. It's also hard to argue with their unparalleled consistency, so a CCI man I am.

With component acquisition complete, I sized brass as I waited for my RCBS MatchMaster to warm up in order to throw my charges. Although the spherical nature of CFE BLK allows it to flow through a measure almost as if it were liquid, I opted to use this dispenser because plugging in a number to make just five rounds is far faster than adjusting a baffle to hit a 0.1-grain sweet spot.

After inspecting my first charge, I got a little nervous as things looked slightly off. While CFE BLK is billed as a ball powder, it contains a few flattened kernels that approach a

With a cartridge case nearly 1/4" longer than that of the .300 Blackout, the .300 HAM'R allows for greater propellant capacity—and a gentle tapping of the case helps even heavier charges settle into place.



flake-like nature. My first thought was that I didn't clean out the machine thoroughly enough the last time I used it and contaminated my powder with an amount of Unique or another fast-burning powder.

After inspecting another lot, however, I realized this was not the case. CFE BLK does contain a copper-reducing additive, so part of me wonders if that is what I was seeing, but I digress. Regardless of how experienced you are as a handloader, never think yourself above making a simple mistake, as we are all human. I've heard enough stories of destroyed guns, or worse, to be skeptical whenever something looks out of sorts.

Moving on to bullet seating, I first confirmed that the 26.5-grain charge I just dispensed was indeed the minimum for a 110-grain payload and poured it into my first case. Interestingly, this charge filled the case well into the neck area, which was both reassuring and concerning at the same time—although a full case is something that I strive for when selecting a propellant, it's not desirable right off the bat. Generally speaking, I like hitting this mark at somewhere around three-quarters of the maximum powder charge.

Standing side-by-side, .223 Rem., .300 Blackout and .300 HAM'R (l. to r.) illustrate each cartridge's relative case size and overall length (r.).

The author's .300 HAM'R loads (far r.)—one with the 110-grain Hornady V-Max and one with the 150-grain Nosler Partition (l. to r.)—produced groups on target that would qualify them for personal defense and hunting.





.300 HAM'R HANDLOADS (100 YARDS)

BULLET	PROPELLANT/CHARGE (GRAINS)	CARTRIDGE LENGTH (INCHES)	STANDARD DEV. (F.P.S.)	VELOCITY (F.P.S.)	ACCURACY (INCHES)
HORNADY V-MAX 110-GRAIN	HODGDON CFE BLK/ 26.5	2.260	15	2,389	0.95
NOSLER PARTITION 150-GRAIN	HODGDON CFE BLK/ 23.0	2.260	5	2,031	2.11

NOTES: VELOCITIES ARE THE AVERAGE OF FIVE SHOTS OVER A CALDWELL G2 CHRONOGRAPH AT 10 FEET THROUGH A 16"-BARRELED WILSON COMBAT UPPER WITH A 1:15" RIFLING TWIST RATE. ACCURACY IS THE FIVE-SHOT GROUP FIRED DURING LOAD DEVELOPMENT. ALL GROUPS WERE FIRED USING A RITON 5-25X 50 MM RIFLESCOPE SET TO 25X. HANDLOADS WERE ASSEMBLED WITH STARLINE CASES AND CCI LARGE PISTOL MAGNUM PRIMERS. TEMPERATURE: 76° F. HUMIDITY: 55%.

When working up a .300 HAM'R load, Hodgdon CFE BLK is the preferred propellant of both the author and Wilson Combat's Bill Wilson. The author found it to meter well and allow for more-than-adequate charges within the Starline cases he used.

With some gentle tapping, I got several other charges into their respective cases and made it to 28.5 grains, which was about one grain shy of max. I decided to seat the bullets as far out as possible, to a length of 2.260", in an effort to reduce the powder compression; but, except for the lowest charges, I doubt it was successful. The same relationship held true with the lighter powder charges and the longer 150-grain Nosler Partition bullets. Starting at 23.0 grains, I was able to seat bullets with up to 24.5 grains of powder before beginning to feel the squeeze.

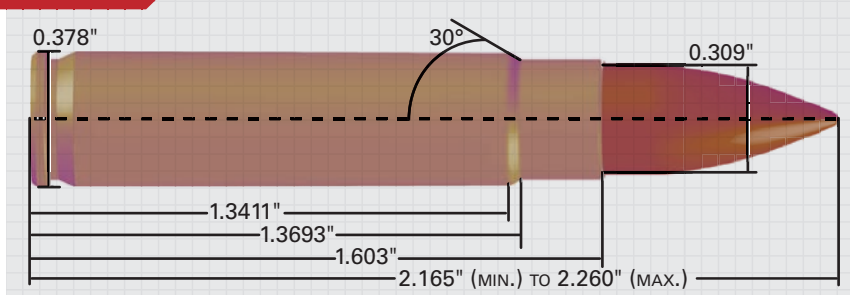
Testing these loads consisted of the usual preferred equipment and a good, sturdy, benchrest shooting position. Starting with the 110-grain V-Max load, I experienced perfect cycling and sub-m.o.a. accuracy, leaving me very little room for improvement. In fact, it was all downhill from there, as both group size and standard deviation showed great inconsistencies. As the minimum charge still yielded 1,394 ft.-lbs. of energy, I wasn't all that concerned with chasing velocity in exchange for accuracy.

I experienced the same scenario with the 150-grain Partition loads, except standard deviations were excellent across the board. I always get a chuckle when this happens because it boldly illustrates how ineffective this value alone is at determining quality ammunition, particularly in rounds that will not be used at extended range. Nonetheless, I was able to pull together a group that was

Hornady's economical custom-grade die sets (L.) work well and encourage loading for new chamberings. The company's V-Max 110-grain bullets (center) and Nosler's 150-grain Partitions (r.) stand at either end of the weight spectrum for .300 HAM'R.



.300 HAM'R



slightly larger than 2 m.o.a., which is well within "minute of hog" at the short ranges at which they are engaged. I also concluded that the 1,374 ft.-lbs. of muzzle energy that this load created was more than enough to bring home the bacon. Above all, everything cycled well and was an absolute joy to shoot, so nothing precludes the handloader from taking either load to the range just to bang steel and enjoy an AR-15 with an exotic chambering.

So, am I satisfied? Well, if you handload, then you know that the answer is never yes. If this were a rifle that I planned to compete with, I might consider testing some other components or powder charges. However, this cartridge and this upper were never intended to cut X-rings in a match setting. But, like the tool it was named after, the .300 HAM'R is a utilitarian piece of kit, and these groups are certainly small enough for its intended use. Then again, reaching sub-m.o.a. performance in the case of the V-Max certainly isn't something to sneeze at, particularly in what is essentially a hunting rifle.

Additionally, I would be very interested to test these loads in a barrel that uses the faster 1:13" twist rate, as that might pull things in tighter and open load data up to heavier bullets. In the meantime, I would have no reservation about taking either load on a hog hunt or through the densely packed deer woods of the northeast. Thirty-caliber bullets always instill confidence in an ethical harvest, and thanks to men like Bill Wilson, we can reliably drive these through the compact and maneuverable AR-15 platform. 🐗



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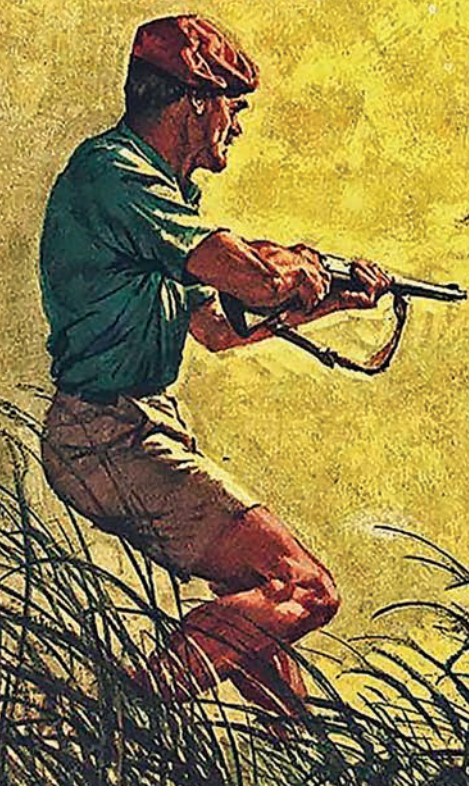


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THE MAN-EATER OF DARAJANI

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The cover artwork from a 1965 Outdoor Life magazine dramatically illustrates PH John Kingsley-Heath confronting the man-eating lion of Darajani.

Guns Of The Professionals



The rifles carried by some of Africa's most famous professional hunters may differ, but they all have one thing in common—lives depended on them.

BY JOE COOGAN

Countless conversations take place around safari campfires each season, analyzing the rifles and chamberings that are used for hunting Africa's dangerous animals. Opinions about the guns and ammunition that are best-suited for the purpose are as varied as the individuals who espouse them, which often fuels differences of opinion, if not heated debates.

One indisputable fact, though, which is unanimously agreed upon, is that regardless of the rifle/cartridge combo, there must be total familiarity with it. The rifle must fit the shooter as if it were an extension of his or her arm, and complete reliability is essential for providing the confidence needed when lives are on the line.

Here are profiles of three of Africa's most respected and recognized professional hunters, who sadly are no longer with us. The respect they earned and the success they enjoyed only came from years of experience and being very good at what they did. All of them carried rifles in which they had total and complete confidence, and they used those same rifles for most or all of their careers. All three hunters approached their choice of rifle from different angles and for different reasons, and their guns could not be more different—but they all provided unfailing service, ensuring that the PH's clients and native staff all returned safely from the hunt.

Selby's .416 Rigby

Harry Selby began his professional hunting career with a best-grade Rigby .470 Nitro Express double rifle in mint condition that, at the time, cost around 100 pounds sterling (USD \$270). However, while on safari in northern Tanganyika in 1949, Selby's rifle was damaged beyond repair when Donald Ker accidentally drove over the barrels.

Selby was devastated, and to make matters worse, he had a three-month safari starting immediately after that one finished. Upon returning to Nairobi, he began looking for a replacement, fully expecting to buy another double rifle.

Harry Selby holds the Rigby .416 Mauser 98 rifle he bought in 1949, to replace a damaged double rifle, that he had carried on safari for more than 50 years. The rifle (above) is unique in that it features a standard-length commercial Mauser 98 action rather than the magnum-length action typically used to handle the .416 Rigby cartridge.



CHRISTMAS ADVENTURE
IN THE WILDERNESS

1 DAY MOOSE HUNT

1 DAY YOUR OWN GOOSE

1 DAY DEER HUNT
Own Stuff

1 DAY Hot Lakes

1 DAY BOBCATS

GUNS OF THE PROFESSIONALS

But time was short, and there were no heavy double rifles available. The only heavy rifle he could find for sale was a Rigby magazine rifle chambered for .416 Rigby in new condition for under 100 pounds sterling. With no other options, Selby bought it, expecting that it would provide a stopgap until he could find another double rifle to his liking. Little did he know that the decision to buy the Rigby was one of the most important decisions he would make in his hunting career.

Once he was on safari, Selby very soon realized that, for him, the .416 rifle/cartridge combination was far superior to any double he'd ever fired. And so began a lifelong love affair between Selby, the .416 chambering and the Rigby rifle. One interesting fact about Harry's Rigby is that it was made on a standard commercial-grade Mauser 98 action and not a magnum action on which most of the .416s were built.

"The inherent accuracy of a bolt-action was apparent from the very first shot," he reflected. "The phenomenal penetration was to make itself evident as time went by. I also appreciated the four-round magazine and, on several occasions, was glad that those four rounds were ready and waiting."

Suffice it to say that, after just two safaris, Selby would not have gone back to a double under any circumstances. In the .416 Rigby he had found his perfect "professional hunter's rifle"—a beautifully balanced, fast-handling rifle pushing a 400-grain bullet fast enough to enable it to reach out up to 300 yards, if necessary, when trying to bring down a wounded animal and yet perform with devastating effect on large dangerous game at close range. Selby was impressed!

In 1952, fate brought Selby and Robert Ruark together for an historic safari in Tanganyika. It was an African hunt that would be immortalized in Ruark's entertaining account of six weeks in the wilds of Africa with Selby, entitled *Horn Of The Hunter*—a book that is still in print today. It would be the first of many safaris that Selby and Ruark did together over the next 10 years. The respect and admiration Ruark felt for Selby's .416 Rigby, not to mention its owner's impressive marksmanship with the gun, was not lost on a vast readership covering nearly 70 years. It resulted in the Rigby rifle achieving legendary status among generations of hunters from all over the world. Today, the .416 is in the hands of a longtime safari client and very good friend who preserves the rifle in a place of honor.

Kingsley-Heath's .470 Nitro Express

The late John Kingsley-Heath (JK-H) accompanied Jack O'Connor, *Outdoor Life* magazine's longtime shooting editor, on many of his African safaris going back to 1959. O'Connor considered JK-H a good friend and referred to him frequently enough in his hunting articles and gun columns as "the famous white hunter and crack shot" for Kingsley-Heath to become a familiar name to readers. JK-H himself even wrote a couple of articles for the magazine. In August 1961, he was severely mauled by a wounded lion while hunting with safari clients in central Tanganyika. Even though

armed with his .470 NE-chambered Westley Richards double rifle, unfortunate circumstances made him unable to stop the lion as it attacked. JK-H recalled the horrifying experience with perfect clarity in "A Lion Mangled Me," which appeared in the March 1963 issue of *Outdoor Life*.

In January 1965, JK-H was drawn into another lion incident that ended up being illustrated for a cover of *Outdoor Life* that year. He and a client happened upon a grisly scene in which a man-eater had killed a native only a few hours earlier. They followed the lion's tracks, eventually confronting the man-eater that immediately charged. JK-H knocked the man-eater down with two shots from his .470, ending the reign of terror the big cat had caused with the demise of 26 natives. JK-H's account of that tragic incident entitled "The Man-Eater of Darajani" appears in the December 1965 issue of *Outdoor Life*.

JK-H's inherent interest and experience with big-game rifles and cartridges was extensive, and it made him the ideal companion on safari with respected gunwriters and firearm aficionados of the day such as Robert Chatfield-Taylor, Warren Page, Roy Weatherby, Elmer Keith, Charles Askins, John Taylor and, of course, Jack O'Connor, with all of whom he was able to compare notes and experiences.

There were few big-game rifles with which JK-H was not familiar, but the Westley Richards .470 NE double was the one in particular that he favored, and on which he often entrusted his life. He used it for backing-up clients on the big game, and he listed the advantages he felt it provided in his book *Hunting The Dangerous Game Of Africa*. The list included the double being a shorter and handier package, providing two certain shots, handling like a shotgun on moving targets, and enabling rapid and silent loading.

"My .470 Westley Richards 'White Hunter' Model cost 185 pounds sterling (roughly half my annual salary) in 1955," JK-H wrote in his book. "It was a boxlock action with no engraving, except for the maker's name, a simple stock, no cheek piece, one solitary mounted back sight with a good V and a strong, clearly white metal foresight. I must have fired upwards of 2,000 rounds from it.

"I owe my life to its reliability and its precise and simple engineering and manufacture. It has been my right hand at nearly every tight corner in which I have found myself



Jack O'Connor, shown with his Tanzania lion, went on several safaris with John Kingsley-Heath—seen here with his .470 NE double rifle.

when hunting big game as a professional hunter ... In short, it did me proud for 40 years. No other [rifle] that I owned gave me such confidence and results. God bless Westley Richards for that."

A Westley Richards bolt gun chambered for the .425 Westley Richards cartridge, with its extended five-round magazine and 26" barrel, was another favorite heavy rifle on which JK-H relied. "The .425 Westley Richards," he wrote, "was easy to work and very accurate. The ballistics for such a small cartridge were very impressive, producing no less than 5,300 ft.-lbs. of muzzle energy." In his book, JK-H named several big-game cartridges for which he had great respect: "From my experience, I am convinced that the calibers .416, .425, .458, .470 and .577 have the best combination of 'knockdown effect' on the largest animals—elephant, rhino and hippo—and that a majority of hunters are able to handle. I would add that I am sure that there are other calibers that anyone of similar experience would add to this list, namely the .500 Jeffery.

"I can well remember the nights spent with Jack O'Connor 'round the campfire, discussing this subject," JK-H said. "Ideally, you need to kill the animal cleanly and efficiently without its knowing that it has passed on, but in doing so, you do not need to seriously impair the hunter from ever attempting to collect another trophy in the future as a result of firing too heavy a rifle."

Johnson's .375 H&H Magnum

As versatile and popular as the .375 H&H Mag. is, it has always been considered a marginal cartridge for the largest game. In Kenya, the game laws excluded the .375 from being used for the thick-skinned dangerous game, requiring a .400 caliber or larger in order to hunt buffalo, rhino and elephant. Although .375s have accounted for many buffalo and elephant throughout Africa's hunting areas, it was not a chambering generally considered large enough for backing-up safari clients hunting dangerous game.

In spite of that consensus of opinion, it was Wally Johnson's cartridge of choice for a period spanning more than 60 years. Wally, who hunted for a living, both for ivory and for meat, as well as guiding visiting hunters, never had a complaint about his choice of rifle or cartridge. During his safari-hunting career, he guided many notable clients, including *Field & Stream's* Warren Page, Fred Huntington of RCBS, Peter Barrett of Fawcett Publications, famed archer Fred Bear, TV and radio personality Arthur Godfrey, gun aficionado and ballistcian Jack Lott and novelist Robert Ruark. Many of his clients, including Ruark and Lott, hunted numerous times with Johnson, who was highly popular and often booked several years in advance.

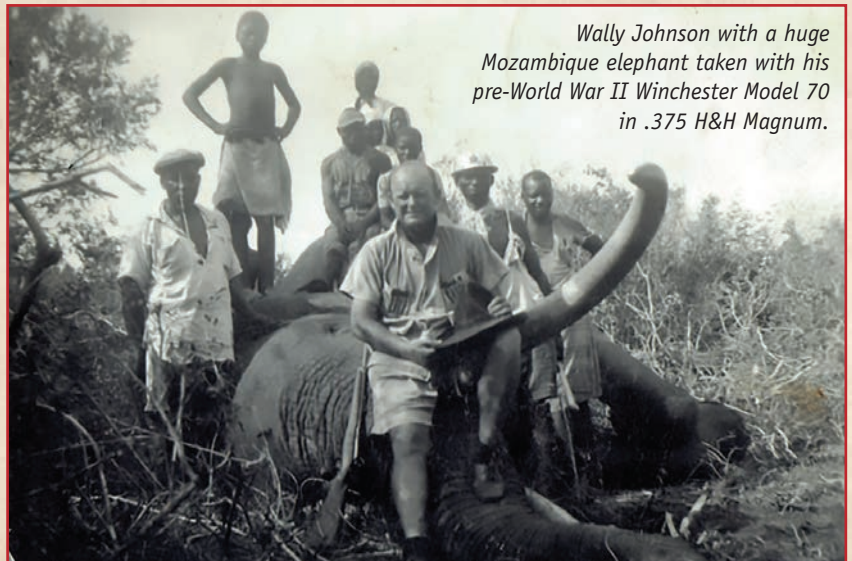


Classic big-game hunting cartridges include (l. to r.): .375 H&H Mag., .404 Jeffery, .416 Rigby, .458 Win. Mag., .458 Lott and .500 NE.

Critical to the safety of Johnson's clients was his rifle. He owned many, but the one that stood out was a Winchester Model 70 chambered for the .375 H&H Mag. This was the rifle he used the longest, relied on the most and in which he had the utmost confidence. He carried that Model 70 from before World War II right through to the end of his hunting career. Johnson expected reliable performance from the Model 70, and it never let him down, which attests to the incredible workmanship and quality of the Winchester rifles from that era. Johnson's Winchester Model 70 .375 was truly a "working" rifle that he regarded and used as a tool in the finest sense of the word.

It was the .375's versatility that endeared Johnson and so many others to this all-around cartridge. Johnson's son, Walter, quotes his father as saying, "I consider, and always will consider, the .375 Holland & Holland Magnum as 'the only gun.' In fact, I shot many hundreds of buffalo with the 9.3x62 mm Mauser to save .375 ammo, and I had no problems, but I would have preferred the .375 if I could have spared the ammo."

In 1936, Winchester chambered the Model 70 for



Wally Johnson with a huge Mozambique elephant taken with his pre-World War II Winchester Model 70 in .375 H&H Magnum.

GUNS OF THE PROFESSIONALS

the .375 H&H Mag. in its “standard grade.” The receiver features the early tang referred to as the “cloverleaf” or double-radius style of the prewar models versus the later postwar “straight” style. In 1956, Winchester introduced the .458 Winchester Magnum to its Model 70 lineup.

Johnson’s amazing and adventurous life was chronicled by Peter Capstick in his book entitled *The Last Ivory Hunter*, illustrated by Guy Coleach and published in 1988. It’s a story that Johnson recounted, keeping his safari clients spellbound around many campfires from Mozambique to Botswana and Zambia. You can be sure his .375 Winchester was always only an arm’s length away. (Read nrafamily.org/wallyjohnson for more details on Johnson’s life.)

My Own .458s

For many years, I carried a Winchester Model 70 “African” chambered for the .458 Win. Mag. cartridge as my back-up rifle while assisting hunting clients. My experience with this chambering dates back to my Kenya days in the late 1960s during which time I hunted buffalo, lion and elephant with it. It was with that same Model 70 .458 that I began hunting professionally in Botswana, and it served me well for many years backing-up clients on dangerous game. Some years later, I acquired from Harry Selby another .458 rifle built on a Mauser Model 98 action, and I semi-retired the Model 70. Availability of ammunition was the main reason I continued using the .458 Win. Mag., and I have to say that during the years I carried a .458 rifle, the cartridge never let me down. In spite of the bad press it has often received, I always found Winchester’s largest round to be a capable stopper.

Hunting elephants with clients yielded many exciting and often dangerous encounters. One particular incident stands out—when a Botswana elephant dramatically turned the tables on a safari client and me. It began when the client dropped a big bull with a single, perfectly placed brain shot. When a companion bull that had been some distance away returned to find the dead bull, he decided he was going to avenge his pal’s sudden demise. It was a strange twist, indeed, to become the hunted as we watched the bull search for us in a big, wide-open plain. We now had a fight on our hands without so much as a sapling to hide behind. And if the bull was persistent in trying to find us, I knew we faced a threat that would mean “kill or be killed!”

The bull followed scent from our tracks, which meant there was no escaping a showdown with him. I moved the client and two trackers back at a 45-degree angle from the line of retreat we’d taken from the dead elephant. I told the client to be ready to shoot as soon as the elephant reached that point and turned to face us—he would be 30 yards away, and it would confirm he was coming for us, forcing us to shoot in self-defense. When the bull reached the 30-yard mark, he turned and hardly hesitated as he came at us in a shuffling run.

The author’s father, Joe Coogan, Sr., along with Waliangulu tracker Kiribai Bashora and the author (l. to r.) are seen here with a pair of Winchester Model 70 bolt-actions in .458 Win. Mag.

“Take him now,” I told the client as we stood side by side facing the oncoming bull, knocking down tall grass as he ran. The client fired, and I fully expected to see the bull crumple but was shocked when he actually increased speed, still coming straight at us. The client’s shot had clearly missed the brain and only served to infuriate the vengeful bull even more. I was already aiming my .458, and given the low head-down angle he offered, I immediately fired at a point between and a little above his eyes. The 500-grain solid bullet smashed through the thick cellular bone structure of the skull and penetrated the brain, causing the bull’s legs to buckle mid-stride. He pitched forward, shoveling his tusks into the ground less than 15 yards from where we stood. He’d covered half the distance to us in the time it took us to fire twice.

I wasn’t aware of it at the time, but what made the situation even more dire was that the client’s Mauser-action rifle had jammed after the first shot when he short-shucked the bolt trying to rack another round into the chamber. This clearly demonstrated why a back-up rifle is so crucial when hunting dangerous game and why it needs to be in a cartridge capable of dropping an enraged elephant. Without a suitable back-up rifle coming into play, this encounter might have had a different and almost certainly tragic ending for us.

There’s almost always some amount of regret felt when an elephant goes down, but this time, we felt much more than a twinge of remorse. My respect and admiration for the amazing elephant was greatly increased, as stressful and frightening as it was to face his charge. We’d witnessed nothing less than raw emotion as one elephant tried to even the score for a dead companion.

Another remarkable, very close, shot came with my Mauser 98 .458. It happened in Botswana while looking over a herd of Cape buffalo in heavy cover. As a habit, I always carry my own rifle, which was balanced on my shoulder as I glassed the herd for a good bull from the broad base of a termite mound. My clients were a couple who, along with





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my two trackers, all stood, fortunately, on my right side. The herd of approximately 50 buffalo had bunched up in thick scrub vegetation about 50 yards in front of us. Suddenly and without warning, the sound of a cracking branch caught my attention, and I glanced left to see a buffalo bull burst from the bushes in full charge. An unwounded animal coming at you with all of his strength, stamina and speed intact undeniably presents a formidable threat.

The bull meant business, and with a reflexive reaction much like snapping off a quick shot at a fast-flushing quail or pheasant, I brought my rifle to my shoulder and fired as quickly as I could. An instant, habit-ingrained reload readied me for a second shot, but the fight was over.

The 500-grain solid bullet had slammed the buff between the eyes, passed through his brain and dropped him on his nose so quickly that all I could do was stare speechless at the dead buffalo laying just seven steps away. The recovered bullet, which was found just under the thick ropery folds of skin at the back of his neck, retained its original shape. Some might say the bullet should have exited, but you'll hear no complaints about its performance from me.

During more than 30 years of African hunting, I've had to stop a number of wounded buffalo, but having to shoot a previously unwounded charging buffalo occurred only once. When there's no margin for error, you need to be sure of yourself and your rifle.

The late gun aficionado and big-bore wildcatter Jack Lott said it best when he once described the rifles he loved the most, "Big bores serve a function in providing that extra dosage of power commensurate with the greater size of the largest game and also for the stopping of charging dangerous game." Lott did not dispute the fact that smaller conventional cartridges have all performed such work with suitable bullets at times for exceptional hunters, but he felt these feats were not to be attempted by the vast majority of us—and he was right.



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GUNS OF THE PROFESSIONALS

Wounded Cat Guns

There's always plenty of debate and opinion regarding whether a shotgun should be used when following a wounded leopard. Most PHs will agree that a shotgun is not sufficient for following a wounded lion, but many consider a shotgun loaded with buckshot to be sufficient for leopard. I offer the opinions of two very respected PHs here. After following many wounded leopards with shotguns during their extensive careers, both Harry Selby and Robin Hurt have said that when the incidents happened that changed their minds, given the same circumstances, they would have traded the shotgun for their big-bore rifle.

In Selby's case, the realization that a shotgun was vastly inferior to a big-bore rifle came when he followed a wounded leopard and jumped it at around 50 yards. At that distance, he fired as the cat dashed broadside, with no visible effect. When they finally

caught up to the cat and finished it, Selby was astonished to find that very few of the 00 Buck pellets had even penetrated the skin. That's when he realized he could have ended the affair much sooner with his trusty .416 Rigby. He never again carried a shotgun on a wounded leopard follow-up.

Hurt's encounter began when his client wounded a big forest leopard on Burka Mountain in northern Tanzania. Hurt, the client and the trackers left the blind and walked to the edge of a steep ravine where they could hear the raspy breathing of the wounded cat on the opposite side. At that time, Robin felt there was still plenty of life left in the leopard. After waiting about 30 minutes, Robin positioned the client and the game scout in a place where, if the leopard left the cover, they might safely have a shot. Meanwhile, Hurt and both trackers began looking for blood in order to track the leopard.

He started out with his .500 NE, and one of the trackers carried a 12-ga. shotgun loaded with 00 buck, while the other held a machete. When they reached an extremely steep place with almost impenetrably thick bush, Hurt handed his .500 to the tracker so that he could manage the steep climb. He debated taking the shotgun but did so thinking he might only have a better chance of a quick shot in the extremely close bush. As he claimed later, he always carried his double rifle following wounded game, but, much to his chagrin, on this occasion he opted for the shotgun.

They reached a place where the bush was so thick they had to bend down to get through a tunnel. At this point, the tracker with the machete moved up beside Hurt to hack a way through the thick bush. On the second whack of the machete, the leopard charged. The noise the enraged leopard made was

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indescribable as Hurt fired a shot at moving bushes off the end of the shotgun. The next second, the leopard was one foot from Hurt's shotgun muzzle. He aimed deliberately at the leopard's head, but the cat was moving fast, and the shot hit him on the side of the neck. It was so close, the pattern did not spread out, but instead penetrated down his back, leaving a solid hole. The shot had absolutely no effect on slowing the big cat.

In the next instant, it was on Hurt, and all he could see was the cat's big head right in front of him, its teeth just inches from his face. Hurt lost the shotgun when the leopard jumped on him and now used both hands to fight the leopard and keep him from biting his head or neck. The leopard succeeded in biting Robin's right arm, left shoulder and chest, and clawed him in various places as he tried to kick the leopard off.



Field sketch by Murray Grant

The leopard ended up at Robin's feet where he bit him through the calf quite severely. As the leopard lay there, the tracker who had taken the rifle from Robin returned to the bloody scene and, at Robin's instruction, placed the gun against the leopard and pulled the trigger. The

leopard gave no reaction to the shot, so Robin's second shot had presumably finally killed him. The client's initial shot had hit the leopard in the lower left front shoulder, which only succeeded in breaking the leg and leaving the cat very much alive and able to inflict serious injury. 🐆

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HANDLOADS

A Subsonic .357 Mag. Rifle Load

In a lever-action rifle, the .357 Mag. offers tremendous utility to the target shooter, varmint or even the short-range whitetail deer hunter. Loading this cartridge with easily expanding pistol bullets helps it retain its lethality while offering flexibility in the velocity department. When all is said and done, it's quite simple to make a .357 that is effective and, with the right equipment, exceptionally quiet.

My recipe starts with Hornady brass, as it's one of the least expensive options on the market while still offering excellent ductility. Like most, these take small pistol primers, and given the components that follow, I cap them with CCI Small Pistol Magnums. This product lights more powder during ignition, creating a cleaner, more even burn in reduced loads like this. Several propellants can get the job done, but I've found Hodgdon Titegroup to stand head and shoulders above the rest in this application. Aside from creating lower standard deviations, it takes much less than the others to achieve the same velocity. I recommend grabbing a pound, as the same is true for several .38 Spl., 9 mm Luger and .45 ACP recipes.

The bullet I used is the 180-grain Hornady XTP hollow point. Calculated serrations and a variable jacket thickness create predictable expansion even at subsonic velocities, making them excellent for use on possums, raccoons, coyotes and, with careful shot placement, whitetail deer at distances inside 100 yards. A gentle flare is needed to seat them without disturbing the jacket. I've achieved my best results by setting up a Hornady Custom seating die with a quarter turn of crimp and letting the case swallow the cannelure.

This load has become a favorite with guests due to its accuracy and surprisingly flat trajectory across our hunting-themed course. Recoil-sensitive shooters also find favor with it, as dropping velocity also drops kick. Above all, the neighbors love it, as the only noise they have to deal with is the distant ringing of a steel target.

—FRANK MELLONI, FIELD EDITOR



RECIPE

BULLET: 0.357", 180-GRAIN HORNADY XTP
PROPELLANT: HODGDON TITEGROUP
CHARGE: 5.4 GRAINS
PRIMER: CCI #550 SMALL PISTOL MAGNUM
CASE: HORNADY
CASE TRIM-TO LENGTH: 1.280"
CARTRIDGE OVERALL LENGTH: 1.575"
VELOCITY @ 10' (F.P.S.): 1,055*
ENERGY @ 10' (FT.-LBS.): 445
ACCURACY: 1.54"***
USES: SMALL/MEDIUM-GAME HUNTING, INFORMAL TARGET PRACTICE
NOTES: LOADS FIRED FROM THE 17.4" BARREL OF A HENRY BIG BOY X (1:16" twist) WITH A SILENCER CENTRAL BANISH 46 SUPPRESSOR.
 * AVERAGE OF 10 SHOTS.
 ** AVERAGE OF FIVE, FIVE-SHOT GROUPS AT 100 YARDS.
TEMPERATURE: 81° F

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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 lose.

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

In fact, demand has been so overwhelming that inventories repeatedly sell out. But a closer look at **Ultra Accel Q** reveals there are good reasons why sales are booming.

Science CPnirms the Many Benefits Pf 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 Q** 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 Q** 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 WPCF 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 Q Multiply Your Energy?

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

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

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

Instead of falling victim to that afternoon



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

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 Q** 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 Q

This is the official nationwide release of **Ultra Accel Q** 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 Q**. 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 **1-888-747-8906** right now and use promo code **ARUAQ924** to secure your own supply.

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



Sako 90 Hunter

The best word to describe the Sako 90 Hunter is “solid.”

Imagine, in today’s world, a bolt-action sporting rifle that is nothing but walnut and steel. Simple, elegant, no frills and—in the case of our test gun—possessing satin-finished stainless steel and no iron sights. Blued-steel models (shown) are also available, as are synthetic-stocked Model 90s, but the 90 Hunter is good old wood and metal.

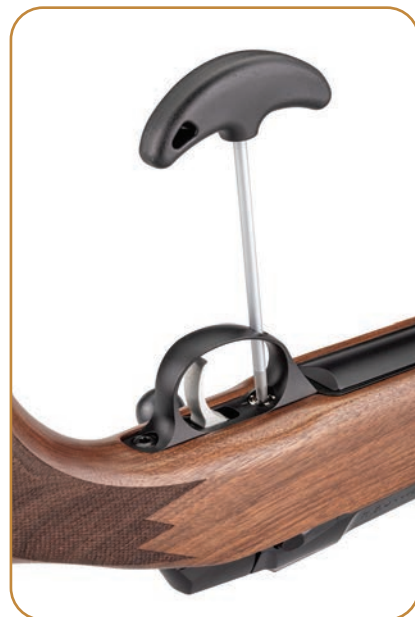
Sako’s 90 is a new series from the great Finnish gunmaker, essentially using a three-lug, short-uplift, push-feed action similar to the discontinued 85 series. The 90 further features dual plunger ejectors and the company’s signature pivoting extractor, which is powered by a spring-loaded plunger at its base. The short-action Hunter is chambered in .22-250 Rem., .243 Win., 6.5 mm Creedmoor, 7 mm-08 Rem. and .308 Win. Longer-action chamberings include 7 mm Rem. Mag., the .300 and .338 Winchester Magnums, and .375 H&H Mag. Our test rifle was in .308 Win.—a cartridge likely to shoot well and that doesn’t rattle teeth with recoil.

With a 22.5" barrel, our Hunter weighed 7 lbs., 2 ozs., as it came from the factory. Adding a Steiner Predator 2-16X 42 mm scope in steel Optilock bases and rings brought the total weight up to 8 lbs., 12 ozs.—not too

heavy to carry and downright comfortable on the bench.

The satin-finished stock has good grain, with checkered panels on the fore-end and pistol grip, and ends with a 1" recoil pad with a black spacer. The comb has a slight Monte Carlo and a nicely executed right-hand sculpted cheekpiece. Inletting is precise and even everywhere. The fore-end is trim, and the barrel channel shows minimal clearance; we tried the “dollar bill” trick, confirming that the barrel is free-floated all the way. When chambered within the .308 family, the detachable magazine holds five rounds. Flush-seated, it detaches via a lever at the forward end of the magazine well.

The Model 90 bolt shroud has no visible cocking piece. However, underneath the rear of the shroud a small cocking indicator extends rearward and shows a red marking when the rifle is cocked. The two-position safety to the rear of the bolt root also shows a red indicator when the safety is forward and the rifle is ready to fire. With the safety to the rear and on “safe,” the bolt is locked. Just ahead of the safety, however, fitted between it and the bolt handle root, is a small, square bolt-override button—pressing it down allows the action to be worked for unloading while keeping the safety engaged. The bolt release is a horizontal lever on the left side of the action.



Inserting the included Allen wrench through a hole in the trigger guard allows access to a dial that controls trigger pull weight through five settings.

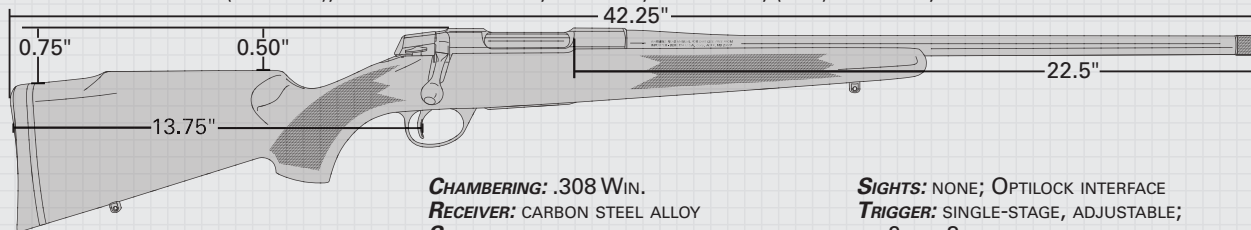
The Model 90’s trigger is interesting. Ahead of the trigger is a dial, accessed with a hex wrench through an opening in the trigger guard; requiring no disassembly, the dial has five settings, allowing either an increase or decrease in the weight of pull. The trigger itself is also adjustable for position by hex wrench, allowing for preferred finger



The Sako Model 90’s bolt features three locking lugs—resulting in a 60 degree lift and fast operation—and its head is fitted with the company’s signature extractor design opposite two plunger-style ejectors.

SAKO 90 HUNTER

IMPORTER: SAKO LIMITED (DEPT. AR), 17601 BERETTA DRIVE, ACCOKEEK, MD 20607; (800) 237-3882; SAKO.FI



MANUFACTURER: SAKO (FINLAND)
ACTION TYPE: BOLT-ACTION, CENTERFIRE, REPEATING RIFLE

CHAMBERING: .308 WIN.
RECEIVER: CARBON STEEL ALLOY
STOCK: WALNUT
BARREL: CARBON STEEL ALLOY; SIX-GROOVE, 1:11" RH TWIST RIFLING
MAGAZINE: FIVE-ROUND DETACHABLE BOX

SIGHTS: NONE; OPTILOCK INTERFACE
TRIGGER: SINGLE-STAGE, ADJUSTABLE; 2-LB., 3-OZ. PULL
WEIGHT: 7 LBS., 2 OZS.
ACCESSORIES: OWNER'S MANUAL, WRENCH
MSRP: \$2,499



The two-position safety reveals a red indicator when forward in the "fire" position, and on "safe" it locks the bolt, which can be released by pressing the square button in front of it (arrow). Note also the red cocking indicator at the rear of the tailpiece.

placement. Out of the box, the trigger measured 2 lbs., 3 ozs., on a Lyman digital gauge. Crisp and clean, we felt no need to adjust it.

Receiver rings are grooved and slotted for the simple and solid Optilock mounting system, which engages tapered grooves machined into the receiver. Assembled correctly and properly tightened, the mounts should never loosen or shift.

Sako barrels are cold-hammer-forged and deserving of their reputation for accuracy, so we were itching



SHOOTING RESULTS (100 YARDS)

.308 WIN. CARTRIDGE	VELOCITY (F.P.S.)	ENERGY (FT.-LBS.)	GROUP SIZE (INCHES)		
			SMALLEST	LARGEST	AVERAGE
FEDERAL 165-GRAIN FUSION	2,723 Avg. 15 Sd	2,716	1.25	3.87	2.44
FEDERAL PREMIUM GMM 168-GRAIN SMK	2,574 Avg. 8 Sd	2,471	0.84	2.02	1.36
HORNADY PH 178-GRAIN ELD-X	2,562 Avg. 10 Sd	2,594	0.82	1.54	1.22
AVERAGE EXTREME SPREAD					1.67

NOTES: MEASURED AVERAGE VELOCITY FOR 10 SHOTS OVER A MAGNETOSPEED SPORTER AT THE MUZZLE. ACCURACY RESULTS FOR FIVE CONSECUTIVE, FIVE-SHOT GROUPS AT 100 YARDS FROM A BENCH REST. TEMPERATURE: 65° F. HUMIDITY: 40%. ABBREVIATIONS: ELD (EXTREMELY LOW DRAG), GMM (GOLD MEDAL MATCH), PH (PRECISION HUNTER), Sd (STANDARD DEVIATION), SMK (SIERRA MATCHKING).

to get to the range to see if this rifle lived up to the Sako reputation. For testing, we brought along three loads: Federal's 165-grain Fusion; Federal Premium's Gold Medal Match with 168-grain Sierra MatchKing projectiles; and Hornady's Precision Hunter with 178-grain ELD-Xs. This particular rifle didn't care for the Fusion load. Two five-shot groups were within 1.5 m.o.a., but the others were disappointing.

We expected the 90 Hunter to do better, and it did—with the other two loads. Within the series, both the Gold Medal Match and Precision Hunter loads produced sub-m.o.a. five-shot groups, with respectable averages for a new rifle, with a barrel that was not broken-in, shooting factory ammunition. Although only slightly better than the

168-grain MatchKing, ELD-X produced the tightest single group—the last group fired—a tidy 0.82" for five shots, which brought the load's five-group average to 1.22".

The Sako Model 90 is noted for a super-fast lock time, rated at just 1.3 milliseconds. We couldn't measure it on the test gun, but off the bench one can feel that it's fast. Out of the box, the action was tight, but it had noticeably smoothed 100 rounds later. Its operation was smooth and positive, as was feeding from the magazine, and the height of the comb felt about right for good cheek weld with a medium-sized scope. In all, our testing revealed the Model 90 Hunter to be accurate and dependable, completely living up to Sako's reputation for offering high-quality sporting rifles. 🏆

This version of the Model 90 features a walnut stock with an open pistol grip and machine-cut checkering, a shadowline cheekpiece, a Monte Carlo comb and a red rubber recoil pad. Standard QD-style sling swivel studs fore and aft complete the gun's traditional, American-style treatments.



SAR Firearms SR 38

Based in Istanbul, Turkey, Sarsilmaz Silah Sanayi is a well-known firearm manufacturer with a storied history stretching back to 1880. Today, it is the official supplier of sidearms for the Turkish national police and armed forces: Its production capabilities range from .25-cal. pistols up to .50-cal. machine guns that are exported to almost 80 different countries. SAR Firearms, established in 2017 and located in Miami, Fla., is the branch of the company that imports a variety of affordably priced semi-automatic pistols for distribution here in the United States.

But tucked in among the various semi-automatics available from SAR is a selection of .357 Mag. double-action revolvers. Dubbed the SR 38 series, they have been imported off and on over the years through various distributors but were recently re-introduced by SAR Firearms. Model options include blued or stainless-steel finishes with a choice of 4" or 6" barrels. This evaluation takes a closer look at the stainless-steel 4"-barreled model.

The SR 38 is a medium-frame, double-action revolver with a six-shot cylinder and an overall profile reminiscent of the Smith & Wesson 686.

The frame is forged X12Cr13 stainless steel, with the remaining components formed from various stainless-steel alloys. The barrel, cylinder and frame are a natural silver color with a matte finish, however, the company opted for a somewhat two-tone appearance, as the stainless-steel front sight, ejector rod, yoke, extractor, trigger, cylinder release and hammer are all a matte black that matches the rubber grip. This revolver's serial number is deeply engraved on the right side of the frame below the cylinder and on the right side of the barrel.

Factory-installed sights consist of a relatively tall ramp up front that is pinned into the barrel and a fully adjustable, square-notch rear. The rear sight assembly is set into a removable black plate secured to the frame by a pair of small screws. At first glance, one would think the company is providing its customers with an optics-ready model, however, at the time of this writing, SAR Firearms is not offering an optics-mounting system to take the place of the rear sight assembly for the SR 38 series. We feel this is a wasted opportunity that the company will rectify in the future.

The 4" barrel features six-groove, right-handed rifling with an

uncommon 1:15.75" twist rate. The barrel's full underlug has a cutout that shrouds the knurled-tip ejector rod. The fluted six-shot cylinder swings out to the left side of frame in typical double-action fashion and rotates counterclockwise. The left-side cylinder release is of the S&W style; it is pressed forward to open the action. The hammer's relatively narrow spur is checkered for improved purchase when manually cocking the revolver. A traditional rounded trigger guard houses the deeply curved, smooth-faced trigger.

Double-action-revolver aficionados can discover most of what they want to know about a given model's

With its sideplate removed, the SR 38's lockwork, including the flat mainspring, S&W round-butt-style grip frame and stirrup for attaching the one-piece rubber stock are all clearly visible. The blackened stainless-steel fire-control components contrast with the natural-finish frame.





Factory-installed sights consist of a tall ramp front pinned into the barrel (above) and a fully adjustable, square-notch rear set into a removable black plate secured to the frame by screws (top).

qualities by simply dry-firing the gun. The SR 38's long double-action trigger was impressively smooth with a typical pull weight of 11 lbs., 5 ozs. Cocking the hammer for single-action fire reduced the trigger's arc of travel to just 1/8", and it exhibited a clean, if still slightly heavy, break at 5 lbs., 15 ozs., of pressure.

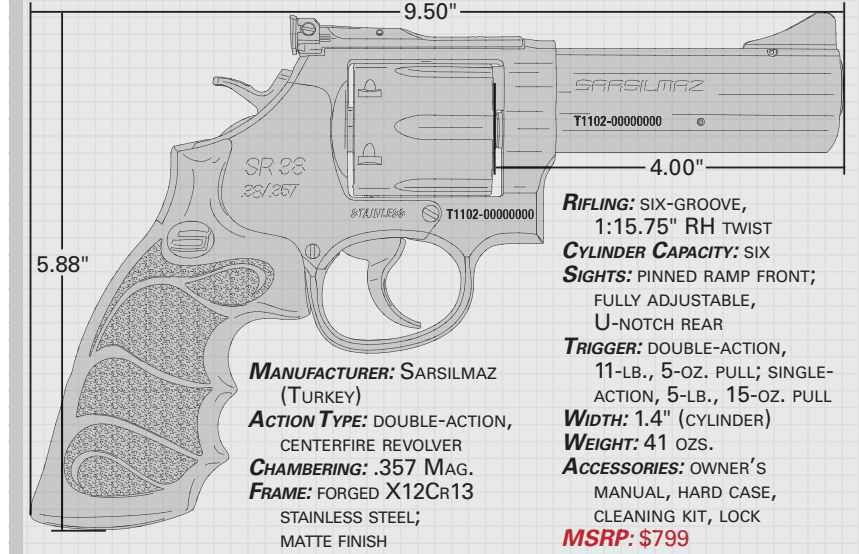
The SR 38 grip frame is of the S&W round-butt variety. It ships with a one-piece, soft-rubber grip. It features swirling panels of light texturing to either side, deep finger grooves along the frontstrap and a partially exposed backstrap. It is comfortable, hand-filling and allows for high placement of the shooting hand. The gun arrives in a foam-lined storage case along with a self-contained cleaning kit that includes a handle, brass rod, eyelet and two bore brushes—one polymer and one bronze.

At the range, the SAR SR 38 was evaluated using a variety of .38 Spl. and .357 Mag. loads. The revolver

A full underlug incorporated into the gun's barrel is recessed for its knurled-tip ejector rod. Note how the latter and the crane assembly, like the internal components, feature a blackened finish that contrasts with the satin, natural-finished frame, cylinder and barrel.

SAR FIREARMS SR 38

IMPORTER: SAR FIREARMS (DEPT. AR), 9737 N.W. 41ST ST., SUITE 530, DORAL, FL 33178; (833) 727-4867; SARUSA.COM



SHOOTING RESULTS (15 YARDS)

CARTRIDGE	VELOCITY (F.P.S.)	ENERGY (FT.-LBS.)	GROUP SIZE (INCHES)		
			SMALLEST	LARGEST	AVERAGE
.357 MAG.					
FEDERAL AE 158-GRAIN JSP	1,147 Avg. 33 Sd	462	2.16	2.52	2.34
SIG SAUER EP 125-GRAIN JHP	1,343 Avg. 17 Sd	501	1.86	2.28	2.08
.38 SPL.					
WINCHESTER T&D 130-GRAIN JHP	773 Avg. 15 Sd	172	2.55	2.90	2.76
AVERAGE EXTREME SPREAD					2.39

NOTES: MEASURED AVERAGE VELOCITY FOR 10 SHOTS FIRED NEXT TO A GARMIN XERO C1 PRO CHRONOGRAPH. ACCURACY RESULTS FOR FIVE CONSECUTIVE, FIVE-SHOT GROUPS FIRED FROM A BENCH REST. TEMPERATURE: 56° F. HUMIDITY: 32%. ABBREVIATIONS: AE (AMERICAN EAGLE), EP (ELITE PERFORMANCE), JHP (JACKETED HOLLOW POINT), JSP (JACKETED SOFT POINT), Sd (STANDARD DEVIATION), T&D (TRAIN & DEFEND).

proved to be reliable with all ammunition tested. The controls exhibited smooth and proper operations throughout the course of testing. Unloaded, this all-stainless-steel wheelgun weighs 41 ozs. Although it may be a bit on the heavy side when compared to modern polymer-frame pistols, this added weight contributes to much more manageable levels of felt recoil. This is especially evident, and appreciated, when firing full-power .357 Mag. cartridges.

Today's medium-frame-revolver fans have few options in what could be considered mid-priced models.

American-made guns from Smith & Wesson and Ruger have suggested retail prices beginning at \$1,000; imports from Brazil and the Philippines start at around \$500 but often don't show the same level of refinement in fit and finish as the more expensive models. The Turkish SR 38 offers a level of quality that can comfortably compete with basic U.S. models but has a listed price starting at only \$649. 🦋





Tanfoglio Force 22L TB

Few shooting experiences are more satisfying than firing a full-size .22 Long Rifle-chambered pistol. Most instructors agree that this is the best way to introduce new shooters to the fundamentals of firing a handgun. And one of the few things that can further enhance the experience is the ability to add a sound suppressor, as it helps mitigate flinching and allows for easy communication on the range. Tanfoglio's Force 22L TB is already popular overseas, as it satisfies the needs of beginners and competition shooters alike, and in 2023 the Italian Firearms Group started importing a "TB" version complete with a longer threaded barrel.

Tanfoglio's Force 22L is built using a polymer frame that utilizes a CZ 75-style rail system. As a result, the pistol's slide rests within its frame rather than overhanging it, which produces a lower bore axis. Just like

the standard version, the TB is a semi-automatic rimfire repeating pistol that feeds from a detachable magazine. As this cartridge only produces mild pressures when fired, there isn't a need to delay cycling, so a simple direct-blowback system was used to operate it. Upon ignition, direct pressure is applied toward the rear of the slide, forcing it open, ejecting the fired case and re-cocking the external hammer. As the slide returns to battery, it strips a fresh round off the 10-round magazine and chambers it.

The Force 22L TB employs a double-action/single-action trigger, which is handy as it allows a second strike when a rimfire cartridge doesn't ignite on the first try. Built into each side of the frame is a manual thumb safety. A mild studded pattern is found around the circumference of the grip, as well as fine checkering on the reversible push-button magazine catch. Lastly, a three-slot accessory rail is molded into the dustcover for accessories.

Getting a .22 LR pistol slide to cycle properly takes a fair bit of work, but Tanfoglio rose to the task. By utilizing lightweight aluminum, the manufacturer was able to trim enough weight to make it run reliably with the paltry

power of this tiny rimfire. Completing the package, lightening cuts are milled into the front of the slide, which also serves to balance the overall design better. Inside the slide sits a bull barrel that protrudes approximately half an inch beyond the slide to make room for the 1/2x28 TPI threading required for accessories—a knurled thread protector is included.

We began the day by checking our zero, which was a bit off for our 25-yard test distance. Using the Force 22L TB's fully adjustable rear sight, we corrected this in only a few minutes. The black-on-black sight picture was functional enough for the range, but some testers felt the pistol would have been better served by a contrasting front sight. Our impressions of the trigger were mixed but overall favorable; testers unanimously agreed that single-action was smooth and crisp, but that the double-action break was too heavy.

For our range day we selected a broad variety of ammunition types—CCI's 36-grain hollow-point Mini-Mag, Eley's 40-grain subsonic Contact and Remington's 40-grain 22 Target. After an unsuppressed 100-round warm-up and break-in period, during which



Thanks to a section of Picatinny rail incorporated into the dustcover of the Force 22L TB's frame, attaching a light or laser, in this case the Nightstick TCM-10, is straightforward.

TANFOGLIO FORCE 22L TB

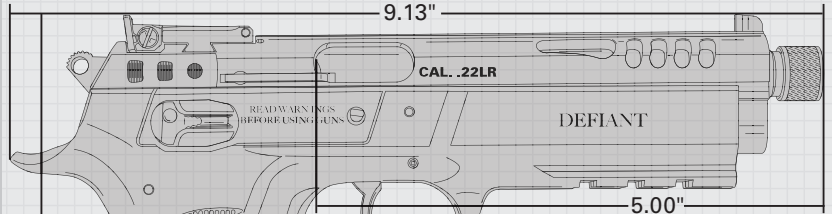
IMPORTER: ITALIAN FIREARMS GROUP (DEPT. AR), P.O. Box 300, BUSHLAND, TX 79012; (800) 450-1852; ITALIANFIREARMSGROUP.COM



Lightening cuts in the front of the slide help to balance the pistol, and a bull barrel is threaded 1/2x28 TPI for accessories (above). The fully adjustable rear sight, a rowel hammer and bilateral safety levers aid precise aim and positive operation, respectively (top).

the pistol ran flawlessly, we mounted a modular Rugged Suppressors Mustang22 to the muzzle for further testing. As none of these loads are capable of breaking the sound barrier through a pistol-length barrel, we were excited to test it suppressed. Because the design of the barrel is essentially fixed, a booster was not necessary for the pistol to run properly while wearing a can.

Even with the Mustang22 in its shortest configuration we achieved excellent volume reduction, and adding the rest of the baffles made the gun quiet enough that the hammer could be heard striking the firing pin. We digested the rest of our ammunition in this arrangement and did not see a failure until the pistol was fouled beyond acceptable use—which was rectified by a quick cleaning. Although not particularly raised, the Force 22L TB's sights were high enough to see over the 1.06"-diameter silencer without issue.



5.63"

9.13"

5.00"

MANUFACTURER: TANFOGLIO (ITALY)

ACTION TYPE: BLOWBACK-OPERATED, SEMI-AUTOMATIC, RIMFIRE PISTOL

CHAMBERING: .22 LONG RIFLE
SLIDE: 7075-T6 ALUMINUM; BLUE CERAKOTE FINISH

FRAME: POLYMER

RIFLING: SIX-GROOVE; 1:15.75" RH TWIST; 1/2X28 TPI MUZZLE

MAGAZINE: 10-ROUND DETACHABLE BOX

SIGHTS: FIXED POST FRONT; FULLY ADJUSTABLE REAR

TRIGGER: SINGLE-ACTION, 5-LB., 7-OZ. PULL; DOUBLE-ACTION, 10-LB., 8-OZ. PULL

WIDTH: 1.64"

WEIGHT: 25.2 OZS.

ACCESSORIES: OWNER'S MANUAL, HARD CASE, EXTRA MAGAZINE, BRUSH

MSRP: \$595


SHOOTING RESULTS (25 YARDS)

.22 LONG RIFLE CARTRIDGE	VELOCITY (F.P.S.)	ENERGY (FT.-LBS.)	GROUP SIZE (INCHES)		
			SMALLEST	LARGEST	AVERAGE
CCI MINI-MAG HP 36-GRAIN CPHP	1,014 Avg. 31 Sd	82	2.65	3.81	3.17
ELEY CONTACT 40-GRAIN LRN	952 Avg. 12 Sd	80	2.02	3.15	2.52
REMINGTON 22 TARGET 40-GRAIN LRN	962 Avg. 36 Sd	82	2.17	3.53	2.80
AVERAGE EXTREME SPREAD					2.83

NOTES: MEASURED AVERAGE VELOCITY FOR 10 SHOTS OVER A CALDWELL G2 CHRONOGRAPH AT 10 FEET. ACCURACY RESULTS FOR FIVE CONSECUTIVE, 10-SHOT GROUPS AT 25 YARDS FROM A SANDBAG REST. TEMPERATURE: 31° F HUMIDITY 85%. ABBREVIATIONS: CPHP (COPPER-PLATED HOLLOW POINT), HP (HOLLOW POINT), LRN (LEAD ROUND NOSE), Sd (STANDARD DEVIATION).

Cleaning is accomplished thanks to a toolless takedown method that simply requires holding the unloaded pistol out of battery and removing the slide stop. In this state, we also had an opportunity to observe the plunger-style firing-pin block that is integrated to stave off unintentional discharges.

Overall, all testers enjoyed their time with the Tanfoglio Force 22L

TB, especially when it was wearing the Rugged silencer. It ran amazingly well both suppressed and unsuppressed, particularly in light of the three very different types of ammunition used. This would be an excellent pistol for anybody looking for a smooth introduction to handgun shooting or somebody looking to hunt small game without disturbing the neighborhood. 

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

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

LATEST
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ACTION

Biden-Harris VA Testifies It Will Defy Congress And Ignore The Law

In a not-so-shocking admission, the Biden-Harris Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) told Congress it would not follow the law. That may sound like hyperbole, but it really isn't. During a July hearing of the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs of the House Veterans Affairs Committee, VA officials brazenly told incredulous members of Congress the VA "could not" and "would not" comply with proposed legislation aimed at reining in part of its unauthorized mission designed to strip veterans of their Second Amendment rights.

The issue stems from the Gun Control Act of 1968 (GCA), which, in part, created categories of persons who are prohibited from receiving or possessing firearms, including those who have been "adjudicated as a mental defective." The leading federal appellate case to examine that term (decided approximately five years after the GCA's enactment), explained that phrase as of 1968 was a term of art meaning "a person who has never possessed a normal degree of intellectual capacity." The court contrasted this with "an insane person," which it described as one

whose "faculties which were originally normal" but "have been impaired by mental disease." The court made clear that "mental defectiveness" is not synonymous with "mental illness."

Nevertheless, when the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) (under the notoriously anti-gun Clinton administration) proposed a regulation to define "mental defective" in 1996, it ignored that case and focused on others that generally indicated the GCA was broadly meant to keep firearms away from persons who were "potentially irresponsible and dangerous." In its determination to cast as broad a regulatory net as possible, the ATF specifically mentioned the definition of "mentally incompetent person" used by the VA in administering its own system of disability benefits. "That definition," ATF noted, "covers persons who because of injury or disease lack the mental capacity to contract or manage their own affairs." Such persons, according to VA's underlying statutes, can be assigned a "fiduciary" to manage their benefits.

When the FBI was setting up the National Instant Criminal Background System (NICS) in

IN MEMORY NRA-ILA CONTRIBUTIONS

July 1-31, 2024

Koy J. Sauer, Ridgeville, SC (from: Palmetto Gun Club); **Michael A. Rumph**, Mt. Pleasant, SC (from: Palmetto Gun Club); **William "Doc" Chasko**, Abell, MD (from: Gregory Chasko); Richard M. Reynolds (from: Sharon M. Lusch); Patricia Anzulewicz (from: Hamburg Rod & Gun Club).

NRA-ILA

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NRA-ILA: (703) 267-1170

NRA-ILA website: nraila.org

Secretary of Veterans Affairs
Denis McDonough testified
before Congress.



Photo by Sipa USA via AP

the late 1990s, it entered into a memorandum of understanding with the VA for the VA to provide records of its beneficiaries who were appointed fiduciaries. Such persons, according to the agreement, would be treated as prohibited “mental defectives” for purposes of NICS background checks.

The ATF’s regulatory interpretation of “mental defective,” however, has never been approved by any federal appellate court, while at least one lower court has squarely rejected it.

Over the years, there have been numerous measures designed to clarify that relevant “adjudications” must include a judicial finding that the person is a danger to self or others. Such a provision finally passed into binding law with an appropriations rider attached to this year’s Consolidated Appropriations Act to fund the government. That rider prohibits ATF from reporting beneficiaries to NICS as “mental defectives” unless a judicial order or finding of dangerousness has been made.

Nonetheless, the VA’s testimony at the July hearing made clear it would not recognize its misinterpretation of congressional law, even at the command of Congress itself.

One of the bills considered at the hearing was intended to repudiate the VA’s longstanding misapplication of the law and to ensure the FBI is apprised that NICS contains unauthorized records from the VA of mis-reported “mental defectives.”

Having created the “mental defective” prohibition, as well as NICS, Congress is certainly entitled to notify federal departments and agencies involved in the administration of those laws that they have misinterpreted them and need to take corrective action.

Incredibly, however, VA insisted at the hearing that it “could not” and “would not” comply with such a congressional mandate, based on its own interpretation of “mental defective” and its own misguided belief that gun control is central to its mission.

The VA’s intransigence on interfering with veterans’ Second Amendment rights is a longstanding scandal. Fortunately, progress has recently been made in curbing these abuses. Nevertheless, more work obviously remains to be done before the VA will finally be cured—kicking and screaming—of a gun-control fixation that is not only unnecessary to its core mission but also interferes with that mission by creating disincentives for veterans to seek the VA’s help. July’s hearing made abundantly clear the mounting urgency to relieve the VA, once and for all, of its anti-gun delusions and ambitions.

Members of the House Committee sent a letter to VA Secretary Denis McDonough, apprising him of the hearing’s testimony and demanding that he reassure the committee that VA will comply with the Veterans 2nd Amendment Restoration Act of 2024, should it be enacted into law.

We will report any updates on this situation as they become available. 🦋

Craig Campbell



Photo courtesy David "Doc" Abbott

Craig Campbell is a talented “under the radar” NRA Country artist who balances traditional values and modern industry trends in his hit songs, like “Family Man,” “Fish” and “Stick To Your Guns.” His covers of classic country hits, like Clint Black’s “Killin’ Time” and Randy Travis’ “On The Other Hand,” on his “Class of ‘89” album have also garnered acclaim. In addition to all the songs released, he started his own label, Grindstone Recordings, in 2020; and, in 2023, he started the Kenny Campbell Foundation in honor of his father who died young of cancer, opened an award-winning coffee shop, Grindstone Coffee, with his wife, Mindy, and ran for city council. You can see why Craig identifies with the term “grindstone!”

VS: You’ve had a crazy couple of years releasing music with “The Lost Files: Exhibit A&B,” “Class Of ‘89” and now “Almost Greatest Hits.” Tell us about that.

CC: The reason I released 33 songs in 2023 is because I had all those songs on hard drives and figured they needed to be released instead of collecting dust. They were songs recorded over the course of 10 years, and I felt like the world needed to hear them. “Class Of ‘89” is a passion project I wanted to do for a very long time, but every record label I was with shot the idea down. When I became an independent artist, it was one of the first things I wanted to check off my list. “Almost Greatest Hits” was an idea I had to re-release all the songs that did well for me on country radio with a fresh 2024 sound. None of them went to #1 on the country charts, though, which is where the title came from.

VS: Your celebrity cornhole tournament raised over \$28,000 for the Kenny Campbell Foundation this year. Tell us about the Foundation.

CC: The KC Foundation is a 501(c)(3) we started in honor of my late dad, Kenny Campbell. He was 36 years old when colon cancer took him from us. Since then, it has been my mission to spread the word about getting screened and having early detection. That is what we do with all the funds raised from the cornhole tournament.

VS: Your love of the outdoor lifestyle shows through your videos and interviews. What activities do you enjoy with your family?

CC: We love the outdoors. Whether it’s riding side-by-sides, hitting the lake or traveling the world, we love to be outside.

VS: What does freedom mean to you?

CC: Freedom means everything. It’s something we have, and sometimes it is taken for granted. If you look around the world at the people that don’t have freedom the way we do, it puts it into perspective.

VS: Tell us about your new single, “Stick To Your Guns.”

CC: That song is about the Second Amendment and how awesome it is. There is a reason why it was the Second Amendment—right after the First. It is the bedrock of America. It is God-given. We have to support it!

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

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nrapublications.org/regional-report

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le.nra.org

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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.



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AREA SHOOTS

ssusa.org/coming-events

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



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Equipping Young Archers For The Future

The NRA Foundation is dedicated to protecting our Second Amendment freedoms by supporting activities that promote safe and responsible firearms ownership. It's America's leading charitable organization in support of the shooting sports. Through the fundraising of Friends of NRA, the NRA Foundation provides financial support to eligible teams and organizations through its grant program.

Every year, the NRA Foundation awards more than \$10 million worth of grants to charity and youth shooting sports programs. One of the little-known partnerships the Foundation has is with the National Archery in Schools Program (NASP). The NRA Foundation buys over \$500k annually of archery supplies through NASP. Those supplies are then awarded as grants to 4-Hs, summer camps, Scouts and school-based NASP archery teams nationwide.

NASP is an in-school archery program providing archery instruction at its host schools in grades 4 through 12. Starting in 2002, as an effort to grow archery and motivate young people to learn a life skill and embrace outdoor recreation, it quietly transformed into a life-changing in-school activity that brought out the best in students. Providing standardized equipment allows for inclusion of students from all backgrounds, including students with a range of physical disabilities. Educators all over the country have confirmed that hard-to-reach students have often been eager to engage with an after-school archery club once they learn archery in gym class.

As both a vendor and recipient of grants from the NRA Foundation, NASP



Photo courtesy of NASP

is a valued partnership. NASP illustrates why it is important to the Foundation's mission. To say nothing of the camps, Boy Scouts and 4-H programs that were granted archery supplies in 2023, NASP alone had over 1.3 million student archers in the 2023-24 school year with more than 9,000 participating schools.

NASP surveys its student archers and compiles that data. NASP's president, Tommy Floyd, said, "We greatly value our NRA Foundation partnership. NASP is committed to supporting the mission of educators and growing the sport of archery. We know that NASP provides 68% of our student-archers with the opportunity to feel connected to their school. We also know that 34% of them feel that NASP is a motivator for academic success. There has never been a more-important time for all advocates of the shooting sports to work together. We all have a part to play, and the NRA Foundation grant program has been a great experience for us."

Likewise, 18% of archers introduce a family member to archery and roughly 50% go on to pursue hunting and

hunter education. Peter Churchbourne, managing director of NRA Hunting, said, "With the muted success of traditional R3 [recruiting, retention and reactivation] efforts, any opportunity to transition a recreational shooter, archery or firearm, into a hunter is very helpful. It's very encouraging to see the statistics that these new archery shooters are making the leap." Of particular interest to the Foundation, 33% of NASP archers go on to participate in firearms target shooting.

Recognizing NASP's power to train and equip the next generation of archers, equipment manufacturers are eager to support the program. This enables NASP to sell archery equipment to its participating schools and the NRA Foundation at very affordable prices.

With recruiting, retention and reactivation of shooters and hunters as a core part of its mission, the NRA Foundation is excited to have the National Archery in Schools Program as a partner. With the help of the Friends of the NRA and NASP, the NRA Foundation will continue to help students and teach freedom. 🏹

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RUGER AMERICAN

continued from p. 40

As was to be expected from a modernized variant of an established firearm, the Generation II rifle functioned flawlessly; during testing it fed, fired, extracted and ejected without issue through nearly a dozen boxes of 6.5 mm Creedmoor ammunition. The only hang-up for me was the trigger, which was too heavy. However, that's a matter of preference, and it can be adjusted at will. It obviously didn't adversely affect accuracy.

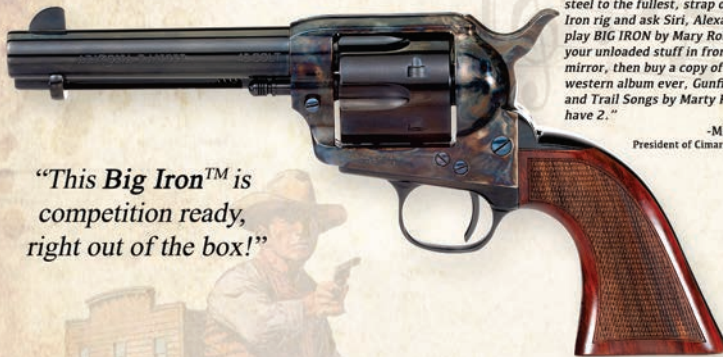
Lastly, I need to comment further on the American Rifle Generation II's re-designed stock. In the hands and on the range, the differences are readily apparent. Not only is the newer stock more thoughtfully designed, particularly for use with optics, but it is tactilely and visually superior—especially when paired with the spiral-fluted barrel. Fellow riflemen on the range will take note, too. In fact, during testing, only one shooter I encountered didn't inquire or comment about the rifle.

Parting Thoughts

You're probably wondering, "Is there a price difference between the Generation II models and the first-generation guns?" Yes, whereas an American Rifle Standard has a manufacturer's suggested retail price of \$599, that of the Generation II is \$729. An original Ranch rifle retails for \$669, while the newer version costs \$729. Lastly, the elder Predator is \$699, while the newer one is If you guessed \$729, you're correct. The rifle is comparable to other entry-to-mid-priced hunting rifles but with extras omitted elsewhere. It's better looking to boot. But both generations will be produced for the foreseeable future, so you can choose the one that meets your tastes and budget.

Obviously, Ruger continues to re-invent and re-invigorate its key-stone products, regardless of their initial success, and the American Rifle series is a perfect example of that drive to build on proven success. Given my experiences with the Generation II, there seems little reason to doubt that the American Rifle family will continue to thrive. 🦋

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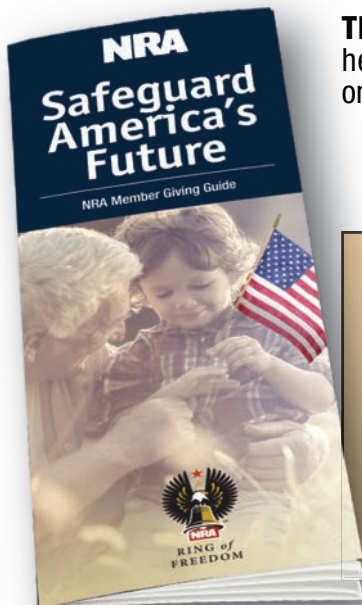
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They say lightning doesn't strike twice, but Colt Patent Firearms disproved that old adage. Colt's first lightning strike occurred in 1877, with the appearance of its Self-Cocking Central Fire Revolving Pistol, more popularly known in its .38 Long Colt version as the Lightning—a moniker bestowed upon it by B. Kittredge & Co., one of Colt's major distributors.

Evidently, the executives at Colt liked that nickname. When they came out with their new "trombone" or slide-action rifle in 1884—having shelved the previous Colt-Burgess lever-action in an alleged gentleman's agreement with Winchester, which, in turn promised not to make any revolvers—it was dubbed the New Lightning Magazine Rifle. Obviously, Colt must have felt its agreement with Winchester only pertained to lever-action rifles. By putting the words "New" and "Magazine Rifle" fore and aft of the "Lightning" name, Colt attempted to dispel any confusion between its double-action revolver and its new repeating rifle.

Indeed, Colt's slide-action rifle was the first such action type in the United States and enabled multiple shots to be rapidly fired simply by holding the trigger back while working the slide. (This rapid-fire feature is not present on current Lightning rifle replicas). Perhaps it was for this reason that the San Francisco Police Dept. purchased 401 Colt Lightnings in 1889, which were individually numbered and stamped "SFP" on the stocks. The Lightning rifle was based upon a design by Dr. William H. Elliot, a dentist by trade but also a prolific firearm inventor who created the Remington Model 95 Double Derringer some 18 years earlier. Additional "Lightning" patents were granted later to Colt employees W.B. Franklin, F.F. Knous, F.W. Weatherhead and C.J. Ehbets.

Colt's new rifle was initially brought out as a medium-frame model chambered in .32-20 Win.,

.38-40 Win. and .44-40 Win., making the Lightning compatible with Colt's Single Action Army and its double-action 1878 Frontier, and clearly positioning it to compete with the Winchester 1873. Interestingly, Colt referred to its chamberings as the .32 CLMR, .38 CLMR and .44 CLMR (for Colt Lightning Magazine Rifle), which may have resulted in some initial head scratching among potential purchasers.

A 20" round-barreled carbine and a 26" round-barreled rifle were produced, both priced at \$16.50 (an octagon-barreled rifle was \$3 extra), with the carbine holding 12 cartridges while the rifle held 15 rounds. The standard finish was blue with a case-hardened hammer, although casehardened frames and buttplates were available for a dollar extra. Special engravings and nickel plating were add-ons, as were some very scarce smoothbores. A straight-grip, plain-walnut stock was standard, although a pistol-grip stock could be special-ordered. The handguard was flared on both ends, with a hand-filling "swell" in the middle, which made the Lightning less than ideal as a saddle gun, as (unless the gun was put on half-cock to lock the action) its thick forearm could possibly cock the gun as it was crammed into a scabbard.

In 1887, Colt introduced a small-frame .22 rimfire version of the Lightning, with a half-magazine and checkered hard-rubber buttplate that proved to be extremely popular—much more so than the large-frame Express Model it brought out the same year, chambered for .38-56, .40-60, .45-60, .45-85 and .50-95 Express. In all, the Colt Lightning, in spite of a stiff action that often required sustained use before smoothing out, remained in the line until 1904, with more than 186,000 guns produced.

This 1885-production, medium-frame .44-40 Win. carbine retains 45 percent of its original bluing, although the stocks may have been refinished. Nonetheless, it sold for \$4,501 in an online auction on Feb. 20, 2022.

—RICK HACKER, 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.

Scientific Discovery Stuns Doctors

Biblical Bush Relieves Joint Discomfort in as Little as 5 Days

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

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

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

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

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

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

Deactivate 400 Agony-Causing Genes

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

78% Better Relief Than the Most Popular Joint Solution

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

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

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

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

natural you can take it every day.

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

Great Results for Knees, Hips, Shoulders and Joints

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

How to Get Mobilify

To secure the hot, new **Mobilify** formula, buyers should contact the Sears Health Hotline at **1-800-342-0154** TODAY. “It’s not available in retail stores yet,” says Dr. Sears. “The Hotline allows us to ship directly to the customer.” Dr. Sears feels so strongly about **Mobilify**, all orders are backed by a 100% money-back guarantee. “Just send me back the bottle and any unused product within 90 days from purchase date, and I’ll send you all your money back.”

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