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 — DR. MIKE FULJENZ, President, Universal Coin & Bullion



September 2024

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Gen5 Big-Bore Glocks

"Ivanhoe Trench Guns"

Smith & Wesson

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# BLAST FROM THE PAST! 80 YEARS IN STORAGE! FOUND ... A SMALL QUANTITY OF WINCHESTER MODEL 1897 MILITARY TRENCH GUNS

46

While they may be exceptionally rare, the story of the "Ivanhoe Trench Guns" proves that small caches of well-preserved, historically significant firearms are still out there to be found—which is great news for collectors.



# CONTENTS

AMERICAN  RIFLEMAN

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138th Year of Publication

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VOLUME 172,  
No. 9

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

## features

### A Critical Year For Critical Elections . . . . . 18

Randy Kozuch

It is not hyperbole to say that Joe Biden is the most anti-Second Amendment president this nation has ever seen as he has tried to do more damage to our inherent freedoms as law-abiding gun owners than any other president since the 1960s.

### Full Swing: Smith & Wesson's Model 1854 Lever-Action .. . . . 32

Brian C. Sheetz

One of America's biggest names in firearms reconnects to its roots with a new lever-action rifle platform in three fast-handling, visually appealing models. Initially chambered for .44 Magnum, and now .45 Colt, other centerfires—maybe even a rimfire—are said to be on the way.

### Sampling Fifth-Generation Big-Bore Glocks .. . . . 40

B. Gil Horman

After four decades of development, the seminal Glock pistol design is currently expressed in its Gen5 series, which includes the Standard-size G20 in 10 mm Auto and the Subcompact double-stack G30 in .45 ACP.

### A Genuine Time Capsule: The "Ivanhoe Trench Guns" . . . . . 46

Bruce N. Canfield

A treasure trove of World War I combat shotguns turns up out of nowhere, expanding knowledge in the collector market and sparking hopes for future finds.



**THE COVER:** With its new Model 1854 lever-action rifles, Smith & Wesson has circled back to its start in business 170 years ago. The two examples shown are regular-production models in an already-growing family of finish and chambering variations—with a Leupold DeltaPoint Pro red-dot featured on the factory-mounted optic rail of the naturally finished stainless-steel gun.

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Design by David Labrozzi; Photo by Forrest MacCormack

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**official journal**

The Armed Citizen . . . . .	10
<b>Special Reports</b>	
Standing Guard . . . . .	12
President’s Column . . . . .	14
Political Report . . . . .	16
ILA Report . . . . .	58
Regional Report . . . . .	60
Programs & Services . . . . .	61

**correspondence**

The Rifleman Report . . . . .	8
Readers Write . . . . .	22
Favorite Firearms . . . . .	31
<i>Fond Memories Of A Fine Fox Side-By-Side</i>	

**reports**

News & Notes . . . . .	24
Products & Projects . . . . .	25
Tips & Techniques . . . . .	29

**technical**

Questions & Answers . . . . .	30
<i>Belgian Revolver Mystery</i>	
Dope Bag . . . . .	50
<i>Ruger Super Redhawk .22 Hornet Revolver</i> <i>KFI USA Impala Plus Carbon 12-Ga. Shotgun</i>	
Handloads.. . . .	57
<i>A Premium 7.62x39 mm Load</i>	
I Have This Old Gun . . . . .	64
<i>Roth-Steyr Model 1907</i>	

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**Review: Ruger LC Carbine .45 ACP**  
Ruger's latest LC Carbine proved to be a handy little firearm. Aside from being a tremendously fun little plinker, it ate all of our .45 ACP range fodder with ease.  
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## Winchester's New Rimfire

### August 28

Winchester's New Rimfire; Rock River LAR-15M In .17 HMR; Vis 35 Radom

### September 4

New Holster Developments At CrossBreed; Smith & Wesson Model 1854 In .44 Mag.; 1796 Nock Cavalry

### September 11

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

### September 18

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

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## THE RIFLEMAN REPORT

As I unpack a few treasures culled during a weekend getaway with my wife to a score of flea markets and antique outlets, I'm compelled to stop and thumb through 14 issues of *The American Rifleman* that one vendor let go for the princely sum of \$10. The oldest is from July 1929, some are from the '30s and the most recent is from June 1957. They all make for fascinating reading, as the advertisements alone are enough to whet the appetite of any true gun crank. Items from the earliest issue are remarkable: an R.F. Sedgley Springfield sporter bolt-action rifle for \$65, a Carl Zeiss "Zielklein" 2¼X riflescope for \$25 and a Savage 28-A 12-ga. pump-action shotgun for \$44.50. And while those prices may seem paltry by today's standards, they were plenty just two months out from America's Great Depression. Fast forward 95 years and this month's issue is filled with its own slate of new firearms and related accessories.

In the cover story, "Full Swing: Smith & Wesson's Model 1854 Lever-Action" (p. 32), I provide some insight into that iconic American brand's newest offering—a long gun that harks to the company's founding 170 years ago. True, the S&W logo is well-established on fine revolvers, semi-automatic pistols and modern sporting rifles, but now it also adorns several variations of a fully modern lever-action in .44 Magnum that is likely to be accompanied by other chamberings as the company makes further inroads into that up-trending market segment. If my experiences in the field with one example and testing on the NRA range with two others by Managing Editor Christopher Olsen are any indication, the Model 1854 is certain to enhance the S&W brand.

In "Sampling Fifth-Generation Big-Bore Glocks" (p. 40), Field Editor B. Gil Horman takes a look at two examples from one of the world's most popular pistol brands. And even though it's been a full 40 years since the late Gaston Glock came to market with his self-named polymer-frame design—the lion's share of which have been



chambered in 9 mm Luger—subtle, yet continuous, developments have resulted in the Gen5 series that now includes the Standard-size G20 in 10 mm Auto and the Subcompact double-stack G30 in .45 ACP.

Then, in a historical curiosity, Field Editor Bruce Canfield recalls an unusual surplus firearm discovery from just 20 years ago in "A Genuine Time Capsule: The 'Ivanhoe Trench Guns'" (p. 46). Though few in number, the Winchester Model 1897 shotguns nonetheless represent a veritable treasure trove of World War I-era combat arms, with the added provenance of service in state police departments. The find came to light in an advertisement for the Ivanhoe Warehouse Outlet in Nutting Lake, Mass., that not only expanded collector knowledge but renewed hopes for more such discoveries.

And in this month's Dope Bag, we test the Ruger Super Redhawk chambered in .22 Hornet, an eight-shot rendition of the company's groundbreaking double-action revolver, and the KFI USA Impala Plus Carbon, a stylish 12-ga. semi-automatic shotgun with an attractive price point. Of course, many other new products can be found in our Reports section and in the advertisements sprinkled throughout this issue.

As to that last point, even as a young annual member, I studied the ads in *American Rifleman* to become familiar with what the market had to offer and to acquaint myself with the various manufacturers. Now, as a Life member, 26-year employee and current custodian of this title, I can't help but wonder how the articles and advertisements in this issue will be perceived once they are dusty and tattered nearly a century from now.

—BRIAN C. SHEETZ, EDITOR IN CHIEF

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This 16" full tang stainless steel blade is not for the faint of heart —now **ONLY \$99!**

In the blockbuster film, when a strapping Australian crocodile hunter and a lovely American journalist were getting robbed at knife point by a couple of young thugs in New York, the tough Aussie pulls out his dagger and says "That's not a knife, THIS is a knife!" Of course, the thugs scattered and he continued on to win the reporter's heart.

Our Aussie friend would approve of our rendition of his "knife." Forged of high grade 420 surgical stainless steel, this knife is an impressive 16" from pommel to point. And, the blade is full tang, meaning it runs the entirety of the knife, even though part of it is under wraps in the natural bone and wood handle.

Secured in a tooled leather sheath, this is one impressive knife, with an equally impressive price.

This fusion of substance and style can garner a high price tag out in the marketplace. In fact, we found full tang, stainless steel blades with bone handles in excess of \$2,000. Well, that won't cut it around here. We have mastered the hunt for the best deal, and in turn pass the spoils on to our customers.

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**T**wo suspected burglars broke into a Los Angeles, Calif., home through a sliding-glass door around 3 p.m. on July 8, apparently thinking the home was unoccupied since a woman had just left. However, a 56-year-old armed citizen was still inside. When they encountered the homeowner, a scuffle ensued and one of the suspects deployed pepper spray, but the man was still able to shoot several times at the alleged assailants, striking one 35-year-old man in the neck. A second suspect fled in a vehicle that a third person had waiting outside. The wounded suspect was taken to the hospital in critical condition and faced charges upon his release; he has an extensive record, including prior burglary and armed robbery convictions. The homeowner was not facing any charges at the time of reporting. ([foxla.com](http://foxla.com), Los Angeles, Calif., 7/9/24)

**A** 49-year-old man forced his way into a home in Malta, New York, around lunchtime June 14. The homeowner and residents did not know the man, and when he followed one of them to a bedroom, the resident armed himself with a shotgun and fired two rounds at the intruder. The sheriff’s office said that “the investigation has not revealed any criminal conduct by the resident who appears to have been defending himself inside of his home from a subject who was not known to him” though they emphasized that the investigation remained open. ([cbs6albany.com](http://cbs6albany.com), Albany, N.Y., 6/14/24)

**A** food-delivery driver exiting a Mexican restaurant on June 18 in Memphis, Tenn., reportedly saw a man near his red van pull out a gun and fire toward him, whereupon he returned fire. Officers found a suspect inside the restaurant with at least three gunshot wounds in his left leg, whom witnesses say had initiated the shooting, though this man told officers that unknown assailants had chased him and shot at him for no reason. The suspect and one woman who had been injured by flying glass were taken to the hospital and were in non-critical condition. ([wreg.com](http://wreg.com), Memphis, Tenn., 6/19/24)

**I**n Spring, Texas, on the morning of June 22, a homeowner called police to report that he’d shot an intruder in his home who’d “rushed” him. Though the homeowner attempted lifesaving measures after the incident, the home invader still died at the scene. The investigation was ongoing. ([woodlandsonline.com](http://woodlandsonline.com), The Woodlands, Texas, 6/22/24)

**V**ery early in the morning on July 6 in Tampa, Fla., a man broke into a beach-community home through a window, whereupon he was shot by an armed citizen

in the home. The intruder, a man in his 40s, was pronounced dead at the scene. ([fox13news.com](http://fox13news.com), Tampa, Fla., 7/6/24)

**A**n Anderson, Ind., businessman was walking downtown on July 8 and playing a scavenger-hunt game on his phone when a 43-year-old homeless man reportedly ambushed him. The assailant took the man’s phone and punched him in the face, whereupon the businessman fired at and killed the aggressor. Later investigation revealed that the homeless man had threatened several other people in the area as well. Authorities said it appears to be a “very strong self-defense case,” noting “you can use deadly force to defend yourself or your property if you have reason to believe you could be injured or killed” in Indiana. ([fox59.com](http://fox59.com), Ind., 7/11/24)

**I**n Topeka, Kan., shortly after 11 p.m. on July 10, a man entered an unnamed business and was informed by staff that the business was closed. The man allegedly drew a firearm and threatened the staff, but one of the staff members shot him instead. The suspect was taken to the hospital in stable condition and the investigation was ongoing. ([wibw.com](http://wibw.com), Topeka, Kan., 7/11/24)

**O**n the morning of July 12, a woman in her vehicle in Cincinnati, Ohio, was reportedly attacked by two other women armed with rocks. The woman defended herself by shooting the alleged assailants. The suspects were both transported to the hospital, one with life-threatening injuries. The victim’s vehicle had flat tires, and her back and side windows were broken. Police were still investigating the incident at the time of reporting. ([fox19.com](http://fox19.com), Cincinnati, Ohio, 7/12/24) 🦋

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By Doug Hamlin  
NRA Executive  
Vice President & CEO

## The NRA 2.0

I have dubbed the NRA's renewal as "NRA 2.0." This isn't a focus-group-tested slogan—we don't spend your dues on things like that. I'm using this slogan because, when I'm asked about the recent changes, I want everyone to know right away that the NRA is under new management and that, with your help, we are moving resolutely forward to defend your liberty.

I want it to be very clear that we are dedicated to transparency. We use professional outside auditors and have strict financial guidelines for all our departments to ensure fiscal responsibility. You can find all the details at [nra.org](http://nra.org).

It is critical that we get this message out, as, without your trust, this association of freedom-loving Americans could still fade away. If we allow that to happen, more than our critical Second Amendment rights would be in jeopardy, because the right to keep and bear arms is literally the right each individual needs to protect their life.

President Joe Biden (D) and all of those with his blame-the-good-citizens-for-crime politics know the Second Amendment stands in the way of their ambition to completely control the American citizenry. This is why they have been trying so hard to marginalize, even to terminate, this association.

They don't care that so-called "gun-free zones" make us less safe. To see how little they care, just look at the cities run by politicians with Biden's politics, especially the ones with George Soros-funded district attorneys in them who are choosing to let violent criminals right back onto the streets again and again. If these officials really cared about law-abiding citizens, they'd change their policies; instead of doing this, they blame good citizens and our freedom for the actions of criminals that they, in many cases, released back into society.

This can't be allowed to continue. So, to stay in this struggle to keep and—where necessary—win back our freedom, we need your support and we need every American who cherishes their freedom to join in this fight. Everyone needs to know that the NRA is unflinching in its focus on winning the legislative battles, the court cases related to your Second Amendment freedom and the elections in which this freedom is effectively on the ballot. And the larger this association is, the stronger it is.

The NRA is a family. We get together to celebrate at events throughout the year. We have a shared ethos. We stand together in defense of our fundamental rights.

This is what I've been telling radio, television and print reporters, as well as all

the gatherings of members I can speak with; indeed, when I step in front of people, I'm always delighted by the bright expectation in the faces looking back at me. This wasn't always the case over the past five years. But it is now. All of us can feel the importance of this moment. We know and can feel that America needs a strong NRA.

When you speak to others, let them know that the NRA has never been what many in the mainstream media portray us to be. The NRA is an association of citizens gathered together to defend and to celebrate American values. The essence of the NRA is akin to the National Anthem, Independence Day and the U.S. Constitution. We are patriotic Americans who cherish our freedom. We are willing to advocate for our natural right to defend our lives with modern tools built for that purpose.

**THE NRA IS A FAMILY.  
WE STAND TOGETHER  
IN DEFENSE OF OUR  
FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS.**

As such, the NRA is, and has always been, open to all who respect life, individual dignity and the equal rights of those around them; indeed, gun ranges are run like this—after all, if someone shows they respect their life and the lives around them by handling firearms responsibly, as the NRA rules of gun safety dictate, then they are welcome at the range. If, however, someone refuses to take the great responsibility of their freedom seriously, then they are a danger to themselves and to others; if that is the case, they will not be welcome at any gun range.

That's a truism that is just as valid on our streets, in our parks and downtowns. The NRA represents a mature respect for this fundamental freedom. We are the good citizens standing together in defense of each other. We, and the freedom we carry, are not, as Joe Biden and those with his politics claim, a problem. We are the backbone of American freedom.

So, be proud to be a member of this association. Tell others who love their freedom they need to join us. Tell them that NRA 2.0 is everything it should be. Tell them we are the good citizens and that, if enough of us stand together, we will win.



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By **Bob Barr**  
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## Victories In The States

**W**e often tend to focus on how our National Rifle Association repeatedly wins in the U.S. Supreme Court and in the U.S. Congress. And indeed, victories at those levels are vitally important to safeguarding our Second Amendment-protected right to keep and bear arms.

However, the diligent work NRA does at the state level is something we don't herald as much as we should. Every day that state legislatures throughout the country are in session, NRA-ILA state workers and NRA-ILA Grassroots volunteers are fighting the good fight to scuttle anti-gun bills and ensure passage of measures that protect the rights of lawful gun owners in those states.

In fact, the effort in the states is an excellent example of our Association's tenacity where legislation is concerned. Our NRA-ILA state workers, as well as our grassroots organizations, do an excellent job in bringing important issues before state legislators, keeping them before the state legislators and making sure that they get across the finish line.

One great example is the effort in many states to ban so-called "assault weapons," which seems to be never-ending. However, our effort to fight against bans on common, semi-automatic firearms is equally diligent.

In Colorado, a measure that would have banned countless semi-automatic firearms, including the AR-15 and many other rifles, pistols and shotguns that Coloradans use for hunting, target shooting and self-defense, died a much-needed death. In Maine, a measure that would have created a backdoor ban on commonly owned firearms and firearm parts by redefining a "machine gun" to include any semi-automatic firearm that includes parts that can "increase the rate of fire" was defeated, thanks to diligent efforts by NRA and Second Amendment allies in the Pine Tree State. Lawmakers in Minnesota and New Mexico also defeated such bans this year.

Another important battleground is our fight against so-called "red-flag" laws that undermine state citizens' Second Amendment rights by limiting due process. This session, NRA directors on the ground and grassroots NRA members helped defeat such Biden-backed proposals in Alaska, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, New Hampshire and Tennessee. Additionally, Virginia's governor vetoed a bill expanding that state's existing "red-flag" law.

While these are examples of arguably unconstitutional anti-gun measures being defeated in the states with our help, passage of laws that protect gun owners' rights is equally important. And this spring, efforts in supporting pro-gun state legislation also resulted in a number of important victories.

The continued expansion of constitutional, or "permitless," carry is one that can't be overstated. During the 2024 legislative sessions, lawmakers in two additional states—Louisiana and South Carolina—passed such laws with the crucial help of NRA workers and grassroots volunteers, bringing the total number of constitutional-carry states to 29.

Another prime example from this spring's state legislative sessions is our widespread effort to combat states or state entities that grant government contracts to companies that discriminate against the firearm industry. The answer to this problem is Firearm Industry Nondiscrimination (FIND) legislation, and both Idaho and Louisiana passed such legislation this year. This brings the total to eight states that now have laws to prevent "woke" corporate banks that have discriminatory policies against firearm industry members from collecting taxpayer dollars through state contracts.

In an even more insidious anti-firearm scheme, the privacy of America's gun owners has been under attack in recent years since the International Organization for Standardization adopted what is known as a special Merchant Category Code (MCC) for gun purchases. In a nutshell, MCCs are used by payment processors (like Visa and Mastercard) and other financial services companies to categorize retail transactions. Historically, firearm retailers were included in the MCC for sporting-goods stores and miscellaneous retail. When this new MCC is used, credit card companies and other payment processors can see that the purchases were for firearms, basically creating a de facto registry of guns and gun owners.

NRA-ILA's state-level effort to outlaw the use of the new MCC code has yielded significant success, with nine additional states passing such legislation already this year. Look for this effort to continue in order to protect more gun owners in more states.

I'm proud of the job our state-level employees and grassroots organizations do in working side-by-side with state lawmakers throughout the country. They have to have patience, but also must have a certain amount of chutzpah to push these issues and keep them in the forefront. At the same time, they can't alienate lawmakers. There's a very fine line there, and our legislative people and our grassroots people do a very good job of straddling that line to ensure the Second Amendment is protected against assaults, both direct and indirect, for our members and for all Americans.



*News Flash....*

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By Randy Kozuch  
Executive Director,  
NRA-ILA

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# NRA's Diagnosis Proves Correct: Biden's Surgeon General Is An Anti-Gun Hack

In July, U.S. Surgeon General Vivek Murthy launched an "unprecedented" effort to incorporate gun control into his "public health" portfolio. In so doing, he vindicated a stance NRA took back in 2013, during the second term of the Obama-Biden administration, when we opposed Murthy's appointment to that office. We had no business, the media lectured, opposing the appointment of "America's top doctor." One media narrative even claimed that NRA was making America more vulnerable to an Ebola outbreak by opposing his nomination.

As we pointed out at the time, however, Murthy wasn't just a doctor following "the science" wherever it led. He was an established gun-control activist who would try to portray "science" as supporting his preconceived political agenda, relying more on the prestige and credibility of his title than on evidence-based medicine.

Those predictions could not have been more fully realized than with the release of Murthy's "U.S. Surgeon General's Advisory" entitled, "Firearm Violence: A Public Health Crisis in America." Far from a work of science, it is simply a political tract that advocates for some of the same tired, unproven gun-control laws that firearm prohibitionists have been seeking since before Murthy even went to medical school. These include such non-medical interventions as criminal penalties for non-violent conduct, like simply owning America's most-popular semi-automatic rifles.

Notably, the advisory has nothing to do with treating gunshot wounds, dealing with potential lead exposure from handling firearms or ammunition, preventing or treating hearing loss from exposure to muzzle reports, or any other medical issue pertaining to guns. Instead, it is a simply a taxpayer-funded tract that promotes the same tired slate of oppressive gun-control laws that Murthy's fellow firearm prohibitionists have wanted for decades. It also seeks to provide cover for the disastrous crime-control failures of Murthy's Democrat party by insisting that firearm assaults and homicides are akin to a disease or contagion rather than crimes committed by predators (most with lengthy records) who too often act with impunity.

It also puts a lie to Murthy's own assertion, from his first confirmation hearing, that "I do not intend to use the surgeon general's office as a bully pulpit for gun control." While it took his second appointment under the Biden-Harris administration for Murthy to go all-in

on gun control as surgeon general, that was obviously the plan all along.

Murthy now portrays his public re-embrace of gun control as if it were the "data-driven" result of his highly dubious claim (which had already been a favorite of his patron in the White House) that guns are the "the leading cause of death among our children and teenagers." That is a slightly more-sophisticated version of a similar claim often repeated by Joe Biden and Kamala Harris that guns are the leading cause of death of "children."

Even liberal fact-checkers have refuted the White House version, but Murthy's is only slightly less dishonest with the inclusion of "teens." The fact is, violent criminality peaks in the late teens to mid-20s. So the inclusion of 18- and 19-year-olds pulls in crime-involved young adults who are both the predominant perpetrators of and victims of firearm-related assaults and homicides.

The fact that Murthy and others who use this talking point want to obscure the truth, rather than illuminate it, speaks to their motivations. Violence arising from rivalries between criminals on the street is not the same problem, nor is it amenable to the same solutions, as the far-less-frequent ways actual children die from gunfire (chiefly suicide, accidents or random attacks). And once these young adult criminals are removed from the equation, firearm-related mortality is not even close to the leading cause of death for actual children ages 0 to 14.

Firearm-prohibitionists are counting on the idea that Murthy will be an effective advocate for their agenda, as he supposedly speaks from a "professional" point of view that is somehow above politics. Yet Murthy has not discovered a new and innovative approach to using "medicine" or public-health approaches to reducing firearm-related mortality. He is simply hoping to portray politics-as-usual with his professional pedigree.

This is exactly what NRA warned he would do. It took time and a second appointment to his post, but Murthy has confirmed our prognosis for the exploitation of his office.

Even as his party shuns enforcement of existing laws against real criminals, Murthy would turn law-abiding gun owners into criminals to make America "healthier." That is a prescription for failure.



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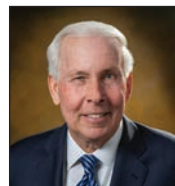
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By Randy Kozuch  
Executive Director,  
NRA-ILA



# A Critical Year For Critical Elections

It seems that every two years, I, along with many others, pronounce that the next election is the most-important one ever; even more so when the election determines who will be president. And, considering all elections have consequences, virtually every election really is incredibly important.

That said, forgive me for stating what is likely obvious to most readers when I say this one feels very different.

It is not hyperbole to say that Joe Biden is the most-anti-Second Amendment president this nation has ever seen. In his one term of occupying the White House, he has tried to do more damage to our inherent freedoms as law-abiding gun owners than any other president since the 1960s, when it became obvious that certain anti-gun elites determined that our right to keep and bear arms must be eradicated.

Then came that train-wreck of a performance by Biden during his first debate with Donald Trump in late June. Now, the NRA has been pointing out Biden's obvious shortcomings when it comes to his cognitive abilities ever since he announced he wanted to be president in 2019, and we have pointed out what seemed obvious to anyone paying attention—that his mental decline has continued, unabated, while in office.

Although his handlers and the Biden-friendly media tried to hide the steep decline in Biden's mental and physical capacities over the last several years, that horrific debate performance laid bare the truth: Joe Biden cannot possibly serve another four years.

As I write this, many Democrats are currently calling for Biden to drop out of the race, leaving possible doubt as to what the top of their ticket will look like as you are reading these words.

So, rather than talk to you about the importance of electing Donald Trump on Nov. 5 right now, let me tell you about some critical U.S. Senate and gubernatorial races where I know who the candidates will be.

Getting a pro-gun majority in the U.S. Senate is a close second in my list of priorities, right after retaking the White House. Anti-gun extremist Chuck Schumer (D) holds the reins of power with his razor-thin majority of Democrats, so if we can flip a handful of seats to Republican, it will make it far easier to derail anti-gun legislation; not to mention making it easier to appoint judges who support the original intent of the Second Amendment should Donald Trump retake the White House.

In West Virginia, Gov. Jim Justice (R) is seeking to fill the seat that will be open due to Joe Manchin's (I) decision not to seek reelection. Manchin was a lifelong Democrat until earlier this year, when he became an independent, but he continues to caucus with Democrats. Gov. Justice has signed numerous bills into law that protect and expand the rights of law-abiding gun owners over his two terms. Among the NRA-supported bills he has signed into law are campus carry, protection of gun rights during a declared state of emergency and easing the impediments to law-abiding gun owners who are visiting West Virginia to lawfully carry firearms for self-defense. Jim Justice is the clear choice to serve West Virginia in the U.S. Senate for any voter who cherishes the Second Amendment, which is why he was awarded an "A+" grade by the NRA Political Victory Fund (NRA-PVF), along with an endorsement.

Montana will likely be a close, hard-fought U.S. Senate race. Tim Sheehy, the Republican nominee, will face off against incumbent Jon Tester (D). Tester often gives lip-service to supporting the Second Amendment, but he has been a consistent vote for Joe Biden's agenda, including voting for the misnamed Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (BSCA), the law that Biden has misused to have his Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) attempt to rewrite federal law to criminalize most private firearm transfers.

Tim Sheehy is a former Navy SEAL Officer who has pledged his commitment to the Second Amendment. Having risked his life to defend our country—resulting in multiple combat decorations,



Getty photo by Chip Somodevilla

including the Bronze Star with Valor for Heroism in Combat and the Purple Heart—Sheehy can be counted on to defend our right to keep and bear arms in the U.S. Senate.

Another tight race will be in Ohio, where anti-gun incumbent Sen. Sherrod Brown (D) will be challenged by Bernie Moreno (R). Brown has been a consistent vote for anti-gun legislation for more than three decades in Congress and has been endorsed by gun-ban organizations like Giffords. Moreno, on the other hand, has earned the NRA-PVF endorsement, and pledges to “(v)igorously defend our constitutional rights, especially the Second Amendment” as one of his priorities on his campaign website.

Moving just east, to Pennsylvania, we have yet another tight U.S. Senate race, pitting anti-gun incumbent Bob Casey (D) against pro-gun challenger Dave McCormick (R). Once again, Casey is endorsed by gun-ban organizations like Giffords, while McCormick has earned the NRA-PVF endorsement. While Casey may once have been considered a moderate on guns, for more than a decade he has consistently voted for, as well as introduced, anti-gun legislation, including calling for a ban on semi-automatic firearms. According to *The Washington Post*, his conversion to being fully anti-gun came after pressure from his wife and daughter, not his constituents.

In stark contrast, McCormick states on his campaign website that he “is a strong supporter of the Second Amendment and believes law-abiding citizens have an individual right to own firearms for self-defense, hunting, collecting, and sport-shooting, for any lawful reason, and neither Congress nor the states can take that away.” Another battle-tested veteran of our armed forces, McCormick understands better than most that firearms are integral to preserving life and liberty.

Moving west, to Nevada, you might notice a bit of a trend continuing from the last three races discussed. It’s a tight U.S. Senate race where an anti-gun incumbent is facing a pro-gun challenger. This contest is between Sen. Jacky Rosen (D) and Sam Brown (R). Once again, incumbent Rosen is endorsed by radical anti-gun groups like Giffords, while challenger Brown

is endorsed by NRA-PVF. Rosen supports gun-control legislation, such as banning semi-automatics, while Brown’s campaign website makes clear his support of law-abiding gun owners, noting, “The Constitution unequivocally guarantees our right to bear arms.” Another similarity to two of the four previously mentioned races is that Brown is a military veteran. And, like Tim Sheehy in Montana, Brown is a Purple Heart recipient.

The final Senate race I’ll discuss here breaks the anti-gun-incumbent trend. Moving southeast of Nevada, we come to the great state of Texas, where Sen. Ted Cruz (R) is running for reelection. Most readers know that Cruz is one of the most-strident defenders of the Second Amendment serving in the U.S. Senate. His opponent, Colin Allred (D), is endorsed by Giffords, and has consistently voted for the Biden anti-gun agenda while serving in the U.S. House, including voting for a ban on commonly owned firearms and magazines.

## THESE ARE JUST SOME OF THE CRITICAL RACES WHERE GUN OWNERS NEED TO STEP UP AND HAVE THEIR VOICES HEARD. WE WILL BE LETTING YOU KNOW ABOUT PRO-FREEDOM CANDIDATES.

Cruz, of course, is the exact opposite of Allred on guns. Consistently endorsed by NRA-PVF (including this year), he has drafted or supported countless bills that defend the Second Amendment, worked against countless others that would undermine our gun rights, and, when President Trump was in office, Sen. Cruz helped guide hundreds of pro-Second Amendment judges through the Senate approval process—most notably, Trump’s three Supreme Court nominees.

There are several more states I am closely watching that will have competitive Senate races this cycle,

but as I write this, they have yet to hold their primaries to determine the candidates for the general election.

Moving from U.S. Senate races to gubernatorial races, I’ll mention two. The first is in North Carolina, where the current anti-gun governor is term-limited out and Lt. Gov. Mark Robinson (R) is seeking to become arguably one of the most pro-Second Amendment governors in the country.


Robinson burst onto the political stage when, speaking as a citizen, his pro-freedom comments to the Greensboro City Council went viral among the pro-gun community in 2018. He then firmly grasped the mantel as a national champion of our right to bear arms when he spoke to fellow NRA members at the 2018 NRA Leadership Forum, then was elected in 2020 as Lt. Gov., his first elected office.

His ascent over the past six years has been nothing short of remarkable. As a fervent patriot and defender of freedom, he took the courageous step to run for office, emerged victorious, and has ceaselessly upheld his solemn pledge to defend the rights of law-abiding gun owners ever since. Mark Robinson has NRA-PVF’s highest accolade, the “A+” rating, and our full endorsement for his gubernatorial bid.

Josh Stein (D), Robinson’s opponent, is a long-time anti-gun politician, and is, of course, endorsed by Giffords.

In another West Virginia contest, NRA-PVF has endorsed Attorney General Patrick Morrisey (R) in his bid to become the state’s next governor. His leadership on firearm rights litigation has been unwavering, having been involved in more than 20 consequential cases, including the landmark Second Amendment case *NYSRPA v. Bruen*, and the First Amendment case of *NRA v. Vullo*.

Like Robinson in North Carolina, Morrisey has earned an “A+” rating and the NRA-PVF endorsement.

These are just some of the critical races where gun owners need to step up and have their voices heard. I hope to cover more in the next issue of our magazines, but please also keep an eye out for other communications from NRA. As we do every election cycle, we will be letting you know about the pro-freedom candidates all gun owners need to support. 



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## READERS WRITE

### The Ladies Get Their Guns

The article "Arming My Daughter Part II: Sampling Mid-Size Nines" (July 2024, p. 48) by Justin Dyal interested me because of its mention of the Walther PDP F-Series. My wife (an NRA-certified pistol instructor) purchased one last year. She liked the gun but was unhappy with the sharp recoil encountered using my standard reloads with 125-grain Hornady HAP bullets. So, we experimented with that projectile, using different amounts of powder, as well as 147-grain bullets and a slower-burning powder. That did the trick. The PDP F-Series is now her go-to gun with the heavier bullet and slower-burning powder.

—FLOYD MORGAN

Having read "Arming My Daughter Part II" with great interest, I thought of my own daughter who is slightly younger than Mr. Dyal's. I had a sneaking suspicion that an M1911-style pistol would best suit her hands, so we started with a SIG P938 Target .22 to learn controls and basic fundamentals. Once proficient, we, too, decided on the Springfield Ronin 4.25" (with thin stocks) in 9 mm Luger, which will last her a lifetime and is easily maintained and modified. It would be great to see Mr. Dyal continue the series by evaluating PDWs and long guns for his daughter as well. God bless and godspeed.

—JIM HICKS

### Thoughts On D-Day Coverage

After reading the June 2024 *American Rifleman*, in particular the article "D-Day At 80: The Re-Discovered Small Arms" (p. 32), I noticed that it concentrated mainly on rifles and machine guns. A suggestion would be to do a follow-up article on the "Forgotten Pistols." I'm sure you will find a wealth of semi-automatic pistols and revolvers used that day. It may, however, be tough to get photos of troops on both sides carrying these arms. Love the magazine!

—THOMAS J. WHITEHAIR



I enjoyed the article on D-Day very much. It made perfect sense for the *Wehrmacht* to use weapons such as the Polish water-cooled machine guns chambered in their own 7.92x57 cartridge. Likewise, the Russian PPSH-41, which would run with the .30 Luger cartridge. Season 1, Episode 11 of the TV show "Combat!," entitled "A Day In June" features Sgt. Saunders' squad taking objectives with some weapons picked up on D-Day. The best is "Caje," played by Canadian actor Pierre Jalbert, running a Lewis gun with a French girl as his A-gunner.

—JOHN SCHRAUTH

### Happy To Be Back In Time

With regard to the story "Practical Heritage: Henry's Big Boy Revolvers" (March 2024, p. 56), I'd like to share that I recently purchased a new Henry Big Boy .357 revolver. When I took it to the range, I discovered that it would intermittently lock up and refuse to function. I sent the gun back to Henry for warranty work, and the company wound up replacing the cylinder. It now works perfectly. I just want to give kudos to Henry's customer service department. I'm very satisfied.

—JACK GILBERT



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## Smith & Wesson's Start: The Volcanic Repeater

Anyone who's accomplished anything in their life realizes that success rarely comes on the first try. Such was the case for Smith & Wesson and its lever-action, but, in this instance, it took 170 years for the company to circle back around to the concept. The new Model 1854 (reviewed on p. 32) recalls the year Horace Smith and Daniel Wesson partnered to produce a novel lever-action design that used a unique self-contained cartridge.

The original concept had been developed by Walter Hunt in 1848, who enlisted the help of a man named Courtlandt Palmer to produce the gun, initially called a volitional repeater. This first venture failed, but not before attracting the attention of Smith and Wesson. Both men saw potential in the design and enlisted the help of Palmer, who held the patents, and J.W. Post, an agent tasked with finding investors to keep the company alive. A scant few guns were made under the Smith & Wesson name before Post brought in an interested shirt-maker named Oliver Winchester. By 1855, the men had created the Volcanic Arms Co., with Winchester as the majority shareholder.

Manufacturing was soon underway, but Volcanic produced fewer than 2,000 lever-action pistols and rifles before poor sales and mechanical issues led Smith and Wesson to abandon the enterprise to Winchester. One of the rare survivors of the early manufacturing run is the Smith & Wesson-made lever-action pistol shown here, which is on display at the NRA's National Firearms Museum in Fairfax, Va. [nramuseum.org](http://nramuseum.org)



## Freedom Munitions Now Producing Cartridge Cases



To help alleviate chokepoints within the ammunition-component supply chain, Freedom Munitions built a 10,000 sq.-ft. manufacturing facility in Lewiston, Idaho, and the company recently announced that the facility is now online and producing cartridge cases.

“Research and development has been going on for some time while building the facility, but, now, the first lots of cases have been tested in live .223 with excellent results,” said Toby Thill, president of Freedom Munitions. “Now having the ability to produce our own rifle cases greatly alleviates issues with case shortages ... and pricing shifts, allowing us to consistently provide rifle ammunition at fair pricing.”

The new facility is expected to bring up to 30 new jobs to the Lewiston area. The company announced that the first 500,000 cartridges using the new cases are now available to consumers, and production is expected to increase and expand into new chamberings. [freedommunitions.com](http://freedommunitions.com)

## In Memoriam: Melvin Forbes



Photo by Richard Mann

Melvin Forbes, founder of New Ultra Light Arms and a pioneer in the building of light rifles, passed away at his Granville, W.Va., home on June 5, 2024. He was 77 years old.

Born on Nov. 25, 1946, in Morgantown, W.Va., Forbes developed an early interest in firearms that led him into a part-time job as a gunsmith. In 1984, Forbes founded Ultra Light Arms. By 1999, Ultra Light Arms was successful enough to attract the attention of Colt, which bought the company. Under Colt’s management, Ultra Light Arms struggled, leading Forbes to buy it back.

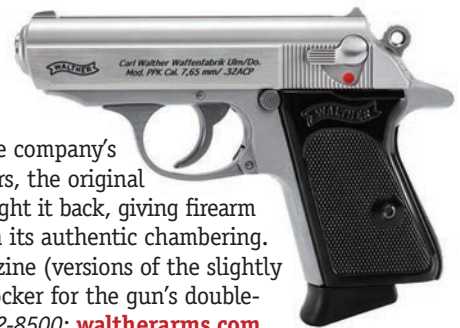
In 2011, Forbes was recognized as NRA’s Golden Bullseye Pioneer. In 2012, Titan Machine bought Ultra Light Arms from Forbes, but the name folded under the company’s management, leading Forbes to buy the brand back yet again. This time, he re-named it New Ultra Light Arms to distinguish it from the old. In 2022, Forbes sold New Ultra Light Arms to Wilson Combat, which continues to produce its signature light rifle.

Forbes was an avid outdoorsman, fond of fishing and hunting. He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Patricia, two children, six grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

## REPORTS | PRODUCTS & PROJECTS

### Walther PPK .32 ACP

Since its introduction, Walther’s *Polizeipistole Kriminal* (PPK), a smaller variant of the company’s PP, has been chambered in .22 Long Rifle, .32 ACP and .380 ACP, but, in recent years, the original .32 ACP chambering had disappeared from the company’s line. Now, Walther has brought it back, giving firearm and film enthusiasts a chance to experience British secret agent James Bond’s sidearm in its authentic chambering. Available in black or stainless steel, the PPK holds seven rounds in its single-stack magazine (versions of the slightly larger PPK/s are also offered) and features a slide-mounted safety that doubles as a decocker for the gun’s double-action/single-action operating mechanism. Price: \$969. Contact: Walther Arms; (479) 242-8500; [waltherarms.com](http://waltherarms.com).



### Irish Setter VaprTrek

Manufactured using U.S.-raised steer hides, the VaprTrek from Irish Setter is a comfortable, water-resistant, scent-blocking 8" full-grain leather boot with a multi-purpose camouflage pattern—making it a great choice for hunters putting in long days. Reinforced in high-wear areas for added durability, VaprTrek boots are surprisingly comfortable thanks to a memory foam insole and ample cushioning in the boot’s collar. A relief engineered into the tongue also minimizes pressure on the wearer’s shin that can be a source of irritation in other boots. Both regular (sizes 6-15) and extra-wide (sizes 8-14) versions of the boots are offered. Price: \$210. Contact: Red Wind Shoe Co.; (888) 738-8370; [irishsetterboots.com](http://irishsetterboots.com).



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## PRODUCTS & PROJECTS

### Nomad Outdoor Barrier NXT Camo Pant



Set between the company's lightweight Pursuit and Stretch-Lite warm-weather lines and its high-pile sherpa-fleece-lined Harvester series, the Barrier NXT Camo Pant is a versatile garment suited for mid-to-late-season hunting in a variety of climates. It features a stretchy, water-resistant and windproof exterior material and a heat-trapping micro fleece interior, along with a bevy of pockets (two each hand, rear and cargo) for storage. Available in two Mossy Oak camouflage patterns, Droptine (shown) and Migrate, the Barrier NXT pant is sized from Small to XXXL. Price: \$180. Contact: *Nomad Outdoor*; [nomadoutdoor.com](http://nomadoutdoor.com).

### Delta Velocity Gen 2 3MR



The Gen 2 3MR trigger assembly for AR-platform rifles from Delta Velocity is a drop-in fire control system featuring Safe, Semi-Automatic and an improved, patented, positive-reset "3rd" mode that dramatically reduces split times between shots. The positive-reset function works by transferring force from the bolt carrier to assist the trigger back onto the front sear. The trigger features no take-up or overtravel, and both the Semi and 3rd-mode positions exhibit a non-adjustable 4-lb., 8-oz., pull weight. Though not a forced-reset trigger, the Gen2 3MR is claimed to be the most efficient assisted-reset design ever made and the only one approved by the ATF as non-NFA. Components are treated with nickel Teflon, and the trigger ships with bilateral selector paddles of various lengths and thicknesses, a 1/16th hex wrench, and several plunger springs for fine-tuning the hammer plunger to prevent malfunctions and enhance performance. Price: \$349. Contact: *Delta Velocity*; (406) 890-5116; [deltavusa.com](http://deltavusa.com).

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## Unity FAST COG Series Mount



Unity Tactical's FAST COG Series Mount is an optic mount compatible with both the three- and five-hole variants of Trijicon's ACOG- and VCOG-series scopes that, due to its added height, promotes a more heads-up posture that the company claims is more comfortable and intuitive when wearing a plate carrier, helmet and other heavy equipment. The mount is built from durable 7075-T6 aluminum, and versions hardcoat anodized either black or flat dark earth are available. It also features a mounting interface compatible with the company's FAST Offset Optic Base (not included, \$69), which together allow an unmagnified micro red-dot to be installed to the side of the Trijicon, at a 35-degree angle, using the same 2.05" optical centerline as the magnified primary optic. Price: \$179. Contact: Unity Tactical; (337) 223-2120; [unitytactical.com](http://unitytactical.com).

## HD Targets M-16 Sight-In

Printed on highly visible, fluorescent yellow material with a muted, anti-glare black overlay and red accents, HD Targets' high-contrast M-16 Sight-In targets are easy to see and helpful when zeroing 5.56 NATO-chambered AR-15s. Designed to be shot at 25 meters, the target offers notes on windage and elevation corrections for front and rear sights and, once complete, will give a precise 300-meter zero. The entire reactive target line from HD Targets is adhesive-backed for peel-and-stick use on target boards. HD Targets are printed in the USA. Price: \$55 (100 sheets). Contact: HD Targets; [hdtargets.com](http://hdtargets.com).



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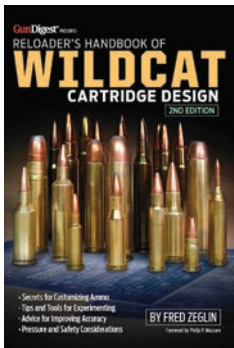
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## Gamo Arrow PCP

The Arrow, Gamo's first Spanish-made pre-charged pneumatic (PCP) air rifle model, offers great performance and a bevy of features despite its entry-level price tag. Fully ambidextrous, thanks to a symmetrical glass-filled nylon stock and a manual safety inside the trigger guard, the Arrow's straight-pull bolt design and 10-round detachable magazine allow follow-up shots to be made with surprising speed. An 11 mm dovetail atop the receiver allows for use with an optic, the company's Whisper Fusion suppressor is integrated into the rifled steel barrel, the two-stage trigger is adjustable and fiber-optic irons are included. A male Foster fitting inside the fore-end allows the Arrow's 125-cc air cylinder to be recharged via an air tank, a compressor or a hand pump. Available in either .177 or .22 caliber. Price: \$229. Contact: Gamo Outdoor USA; (479) 636-1200; [gamousa.com](http://gamousa.com).



## Reloader's Handbook Of Wildcat Cartridge Design

The time-honored tradition of "wildcatting" has led to some of today's most popular factory offerings. Approaching any wildcat concept, though, requires a thorough understanding of cartridge design and safety, and Fred Zeglin's *Reloaders Handbook Of Wildcat Cartridge Design* provides a comprehensive overview of the process. Zeglin has a thorough background in the wildcat world after spending more than 30 years building custom rifles and having written seven books on wildcat concepts. Presented in 25 chapters, the 488-page work provides details on what makes a wildcat cartridge, as well as historical background on the science of wildcatting. Design principles, pressure considerations, and testing and loading tips are shared, as are details on current-day wildcats and current wildcatters. Price: \$65. Contact: Gun Digest Books; [gundigeststore.com](http://gundigeststore.com).

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## Removing Rust Without Damaging Bluing

As a dealer and gunsmith who specializes in antique firearms, I am often asked questions about restoration techniques. One of the most common is: “How do I remove rust from my gun without disturbing its original bluing?” The answer is simpler than you might think.

First, fieldstrip the firearm, removing the stock if possible. Next, take a trip to your local hardware store and grab a pad of 0000 fine steel wool. Then, take your favorite gun oil and apply it liberally to the steel wool. Sit down in front of the TV and begin scrubbing the rusted areas of your gun with the oiled steel wool pad. The steel wool is coarse enough to remove most rust that’s formed on the external surfaces of your gun without being aggressive enough to attack the finishes that are already bonded to the steel.

The trick here is to keep plenty of oil on the steel wool, as it will prevent the pad from “biting” into the gun’s factory bluing. Keep a rag handy to occasionally wipe off the rusty oil slurry that will inevitably develop during the process. Take care not to scrub over any painted or color-casehardened surfaces; these finishes are extremely delicate and can easily be removed with steel wool. Continue scrubbing until the rust has been removed (Note that steel wool may not remove all the rust from a firearm, especially



Photo by author

if the rust has pitted the steel underneath).

This technique can also be used to remove rust from an antique patina finish—the “used, but well-cared-for” look that develops on old military muskets. Since a natural patina takes many years to develop, this warm, plum-colored finish will remain bonded to the steel while more modern red rust can easily be scrubbed off with the steel wool.

—DAVID STAVLO, LODGEWOOD MFG.

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## QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

### Belgian Revolver Mystery

**Q** I have a revolver with no indication of make, model or chambering. It is a top-break-style gun, and the cylinder freewheels in a clockwise direction. It is equipped with ejectors and has a hexagonal barrel measuring 5<sup>5</sup>/<sub>8</sub>" from muzzle to breech. The cylinder measures 1.48" and its bores are 0.47" for cartridges. The best I could find was that it could be a J Warrant, though it lacks a side release, is double-action-only and has the trigger guard spur. Am I correct in thinking this is possibly a Warrant gun?

**A** Thank you for the detailed photographs, as they usually help uncover a gun's identification, but, in this case, there's not much to go on. It is common to find Belgian handguns with no indication of who, where or when the gun was made. These unmarked guns would



NRA member photos

be sold by catalog houses, hardware stores, sporting goods stores, etc. The most important marking present in your photos is the "E L G" inside the oval, which means "Epreuve Liege" and is the mark of the government proofhouse in Liege, Belgium. From 1893 onward, it had a crown over the top. Unfortunately, the top part of the mark did not impress when stamped on the cylinder. So, if no crown is present, guns were made prior to 1893; if it had a crown, it would have been made after 1893. The nearby mark of a star over "G" is just the private mark of the inspector. From the style of your revolver, I would guess it was made post-1893. Also, it appears the stocks are not original. Yours is not a "Montenegrin" but is of the general type.

—MICHAEL F. CARRICK, CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

"Questions & Answers" is compiled by staff, Field and Contributing Editors from the inquiries about guns, ammunition and their use received by *American Rifleman*. Direct answers to technical and historical questions are provided only to NRA members. Submit letters to: Dope Bag, NRA Publications, 11250 Waples Mill Road, Fairfax, VA 22030-9400 or to: [americanrifleman@nrahq.org](mailto: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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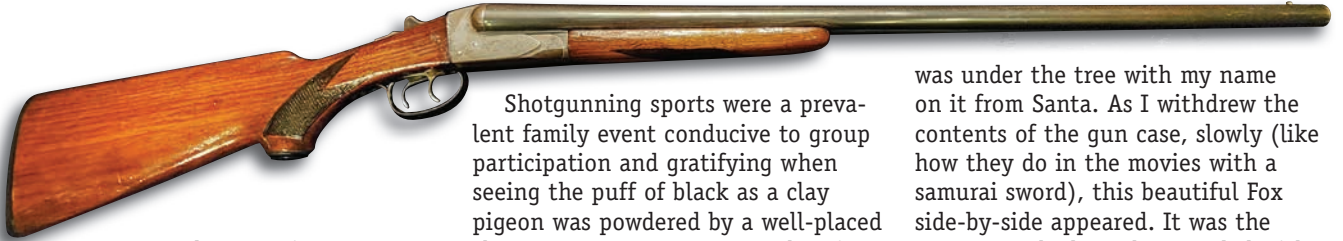
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## Fond Memories Of A Fine Fox Side-By-Side

NRA member photo



I am a second-generation gun-related outdoor enthusiast now close to 50 years old. Still, to this day, shooting skeet takes me back to the musty smell of dad's shop when I was a kid. There was the chemical smell of Hoppe's No. 9, the canisters of gunpowder and bags of shot, the soft pop of the primer we poked out of the shotgun shells and the jingle as the primer then rolled down into the tray after pumping the magic lever of the green RCBS reloader.

Shotgunning sports were a prevalent family event conducive to group participation and gratifying when seeing the puff of black as a clay pigeon was powdered by a well-placed shot. Many years ago, I was shooting skeet with my dad, and he let me use his Fox Model B side-by-side. I was not familiar with Fox shotguns but fell in love immediately with their buttery smooth triggers, the shouldering as if it was tailored for me and the silky-smooth break-action. I outshot my dad that day—a rare occurrence—as he didn't like to miss when shooting. Missing a shot was a “waste of bullets” in his eyes.

Christmas that year, a gun case

was under the tree with my name on it from Santa. As I withdrew the contents of the gun case, slowly (like how they do in the movies with a samurai sword), this beautiful Fox side-by-side appeared. It was the same one I had outshot my dad with earlier in the year. He said I had earned it with that skeet shoot.

I have proudly sported that Fox B for years and happily re-tell the story of “winning it” off my dad. He passed away four years ago, and as I was going through his safe, I found a Fox Model A—the “big older brother” to my Fox B. Now I have two Foxes, and each one has a special place in my safe and a special place in my heart.

—NATHAN WOOTEN

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](http://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](mailto:americanrifleman@nrahq.org). Photos and submissions cannot be returned and may be edited for clarity and brevity.

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**Back**

**Front**

# Full Swing Smith & Wesson's Model



**W**hen a major gun manufacturer enters a new product category, the first reaction is often to ask, "Why?" And in the case of Smith & Wesson and its recently launched Model 1854 lever-action rifles, there are at least four answers provided by the maker itself: First, a new product always sparks renewed interest in a brand—even one as popular as S&W. Second,

in this case, it helps move the iconic revolver manufacturer more firmly into the hunting space. Third, it helps to elevate an already well-known brand among the ranks of even more shooters—in this case, lever-action-rifle fanatics whose choices are more limited than those for fans of bolt-actions. Finally, the new Model 1854 line represents an opportunity for Smith & Wesson to reconnect with its past.

# 1854 Lever-Action



One of America's biggest names in firearms reconnects to its roots with a new lever-action rifle platform in several fast-handling, visually appealing models. Initially chambered for .44 Magnum, then .45 Colt, other centerfires—even a rimfire—are said to be on the way.

BY BRIAN C. SHEETZ, Editor In Chief



Though not commonly associated with the brand today, lever-actions—both handgun and rifle variants—were in the company's DNA at its founding in 1854 just before it became the Volcanic Repeating Arms Co.—hence the new gun's model designation. And while Horace Smith and Daniel B. Wesson's lever-action short and long guns and improved Rocket Ball ammunition were short-lived,

the partners would go on to form one of the most famous marques in American firearms, primarily making a name for themselves in revolving handguns, particularly during that format's heyday within law-enforcement markets. Meanwhile, investor Oliver Winchester would eventually do quite well on his own providing western explorers and cowboys with lever-action rifles.

# S&W MODEL 1854 LEVER-ACTION

## *In Concept*

A full 170 years later, Smith & Wesson President & CEO Mark Smith summed up the company's new venture to reconnect with its past in staid, albeit apropos, terms: "Meticulously crafted, these rifles fuse the classic craftsmanship of the iconic lever-action with modern engineering to deliver a platform built on reliability and performance. Our new Model 1854 rifles are a nod to tradition and a testament to Smith & Wesson's legacy as an American firearms manufacturer." Indeed, the Model 1854's design appears to effectively blend the classic American lever-action aesthetic with the enhancements that shooters of today's more modern platforms have come to expect. Further, the guns' understated appearance belies mechanical refinements garnered from a close study of the competition and implementation of product-development and testing protocols that have seen the company reap huge successes in the semi-automatic-pistol and AR-rifle segments.

Initial broad-market offerings include three models made with stainless-steel receivers and barrels: one with a natural finish and synthetic stocks featuring M-Lok slots at the front of the fore-end at the 3-, 6- and 9-o'clock positions; another with a polished black PVD finish and walnut stocks; and a Limited Edition version with the same dark finish and high-grade walnut. Even more exclusive examples of the Model 1854 lent punch to its introduction by incorporating fancy wood and inlaid engraving and were paired with like-chambered revolvers to benefit such organizations as Safari Club Intl. and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation.

The Model 1854 was first introduced in .44 Mag., and a .45 Colt version was just announced. The 36" long, 6-lb., 13-oz., gun is handy, yet the 19.25" barrel wrings the full potential from its ammunition—something I would come to appreciate later. Mounted to the receiver is a nine-slot Picatinny base measuring 4¾" in length with an inset, fully adjustable XS aperture rear sight to complement the XS gold-bead front sight. Since the base's hole pattern matches that of the Marlin 1894, a variety of existing bases

and rings could be substituted. A large-loop lever, crossbolt safety and distinctive flat-face trigger comprise the user-friendly controls. The gun features a traditional side gate in the receiver for loading and a somewhat unconventional removable underbarrel magazine tube.

## *In The Field*

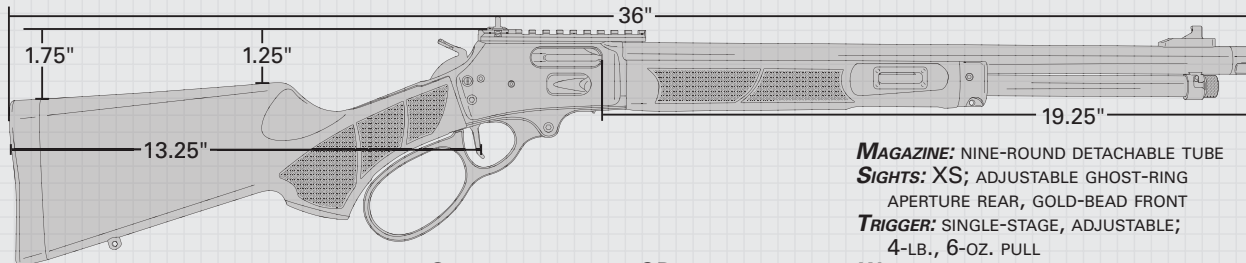
The stainless-and-synthetic model is most immediately modern in appearance and, given its all-weather materials and aforementioned accessory mounts, unquestionably the more practical. I was fortunate to take temporary possession of one during a company-sponsored launch event several months ago. It proved to be an ideal test bed for our baker's dozen hunters who set out after wild boar across the sometimes rainy, foggy environs that comprise Wilderness Hunting Lodge near Monterey, Tenn.—midway between Nashville and Knoxville in the foothills of the Cumberland Mountains. From the first day of hunting, the gun's buttstock and fore-end texturing, borrowed from the firm's well-regarded polymer handgun line, proved particularly useful since I elected to carry the trim little lever gun sans sling. During our two-day adventure, some hunters followed suit and others used a variety of supplied or personal slings—either way, I heard no complaints about the rifles' weight, despite a barrel profile that appears somewhat thick and a full payload of Hornady's 200-grain MonoFlex Handgun Hunter cartridges that increased the rifle's weight to 7 lbs., 5 ozs., not counting the scope and its rings.

Despite the group's wide range of experience, terrain and distances that varied widely, and wary pigs that proved excellent at evasion and concealment, everyone eventually connected on an animal. Some examples approached 300 lbs. and were dispatched with just a single shot while



*Fieldstripping of the Model 1854 is accomplished by removing the lever pivot screw with a T20 Torx key. An XS gold-bead front sight (far l.) is affixed to the barrel with two screws. Note the round-cross-section bolt (inset, above). M-Lok slots are located at 3-, 6- and 9-o'clock on the fore-end, and a sling point is integrated into its cap (inset, l.).*

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



**ACTION TYPE:** LEVER-ACTION, CENTERFIRE, REPEATING RIFLE  
**CHAMBERING:** .44 MAG. (.44 SPL.)  
**RECEIVER:** FORGED 416 STAINLESS STEEL

**STOCK:** SYNTHETIC WITH QD STUDS AND M-LOK-EQUIPPED FORE-END  
**BARREL:** 410 STAINLESS STEEL; EIGHT-GROOVE, 1:20" RH TWIST; 11/16x24 TPI MUZZLE

**MAGAZINE:** NINE-ROUND DETACHABLE TUBE  
**SIGHTS:** XS; ADJUSTABLE GHOST-RING APERTURE REAR, GOLD-BEAD FRONT  
**TRIGGER:** SINGLE-STAGE, ADJUSTABLE; 4-LB., 6-OZ. PULL  
**WEIGHT:** 6 LBS., 13 OZS.  
**ACCESSORIES:** OWNER'S MANUAL, THREAD PROTECTOR, REVERSIBLE HAMMER SPUR EXTENSION, LOCK  
**MSRP:** \$1,279



*Clustered near the receiver's tang are the fully adjustable XS rear aperture sight, a reversible hammer spur extension and the crossbolt safety, on which a red annular groove is visible when in the "fire" mode.*

**SHOOTING RESULTS (50 YARDS)**

.44 MAG. CARTRIDGE	VELOCITY (F.P.S.)	ENERGY (FT.-LBS.)	GROUP SIZE (INCHES)		
			SMALLEST	LARGEST	AVERAGE
HORNADY CUSTOM 240-GRAIN XTP	1,818 AVG. 15 SD	1,761	1.20	2.33	1.64
HORNADY HANDGUN HUNTER 200-GRAIN MONOFLEX	1,612 AVG. 64 SD	1,154	0.98	2.32	1.34
SIG SAUER 240-GRAIN JHP	1,703 AVG. 12 SD	1,545	1.07	2.05	1.56
<b>AVERAGE EXTREME SPREAD</b>					1.51

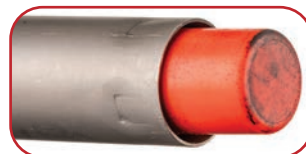
NOTES: MEASURED AVERAGE VELOCITY FOR 10 SHOTS OVER AN OEHLER MODEL 36 CHRONOGRAPH AT 15 FEET. ACCURACY RESULTS FOR FIVE CONSECUTIVE, FIVE-SHOT GROUPS AT 50 YARDS FROM A SANDBAG REST. TEMPERATURE: 70° F. HUMIDITY 72%. ABBREVIATIONS: JHP (JACKETED HOLLOW POINT), SD (STANDARD DEVIATION), XTP (EXtREME TERMINAL PERFORMANCE).

others required several shots, and distances varied from as close as 8 yards to more than 175. Most of the rifles were equipped with Vortex Viper HS 2.5-10X 44 mm riflescopes that the hunters dialed down toward the lower end of their magnification range, at least one red-dot was pressed into service and yet another hunter elected to use the factory iron sights. All but one of the recovered Hornady bullets that I saw exhibited perfect mushrooming of their petals—initiated by the elastomeric material that fills the MonoFlex's hollow point—with one example measuring 0.76" across and retaining 218 grains, or 91 percent, of its original 240-grain weight.

I was fortunate to have been paired with Grant Dubuc, S&W's director of product innovation, who is not only a mechanical engineer but who has been with the company for 15 years and has been intimately involved with its revolver production. When asked how long Smith & Wesson had been working on the Model 1854, he explained, "We had a working prototype within three months, but the gun has been in development for two years." He said engineers had examined other lever-actions on the market and used 3D printing extensively to prototype the first guns' receivers and other parts. "Feeding and chambering and getting the lever and lifter arm right were the biggest challenges."



*A twist of its knurled cap releases the magazine tube from its catch (above, l. & r.), and the bright orange follower is visible through the receiver's loading gate (r.).*



The team even sought the expertise of the company's Performance Center to enhance the rifle's sear.

Such attention to detail through the CNC-manufacture of components ensures that the gun's internal parts mate properly by way of precise angles and radii—exactly the approach that today's manufacturers must take to produce modern lever-actions that feel smooth, operate well and come in at a price point that provides acceptable profits. In the case of the Model 1854, Smith & Wesson seems to have taken the time to refine its components in such a way as to achieve flawless mechanical operation. The guns are manufactured at the company's longtime headquarters in Springfield, Mass., with the receivers being forged on the same massive drop hammers that have been used for decades to pound out revolver frames. When I asked Dubuc if he felt the Model 1854 met the expectations that grew from the project's launch, he was quick to cite his teammates' efforts



*The muzzle of the Model 1854's 19.25" barrel is threaded 11/16x24 TPI, and a protective cap with wrench flats on either side is included with each rifle.*



in what seemed to me to be a genuinely humble assessment: "We did a good job with it."

My opportunity to verify that claim came on the first day of the hunt when a group of wild hogs seemed intent on hanging out far out of range of the two of us at a nearby pond. Having observed several acceptable examples from inside a ground blind, neither of us was able to get a shot within the hoped-for range of 50 yards. Finally, we elected to get out and station ourselves among a cluster of mature oaks and boulders nearby. Not long afterward, part of the herd, including two worthy animals, came toward us. I managed to hit one right behind the ear at 8 yards, which sent it circling around us, so I wheeled and sent another shot into its rear end as it fled. But the tough hog kept on running and was making its way back toward the pond when I hit it again from a standing position at 80 yards. After at least one more shot to ensure that it was down for good, I had finally dispatched the roughly 225-lb. sow. The Model 1854, Vortex scope and Hornady ammunition all performed as intended, with the rifle shouldering and cycling so quickly that it served as the proverbial extension of my arms and eyes during the melee. In all, I had gone through half the magazine's ammunition in a matter of a few seconds.

## *In Hand*

When first handling the Model 1854, several details stand out: The natural-finish metalwork and polymer stocks of the weather-resistant version are the obvious tipoffs that this is not your grandfather's lever gun. Further, the M-Lok slots in the fore-end, while tastefully integrated, signal a fully modern rifle. And even though the latter are lacking on the walnut-stocked models, both have stippled panels on the pistol grip area and fore-end that greatly enhance purchase even when hands may be sweaty or the weather takes a turn for the worse. Other shared, decidedly modern, cues include the flat, serrated-face trigger and Torx-head action screws. The big-loop lever forms a generous enough oval to easily accommodate even larger, gloved hands and lends itself to manipulating the action positively and rapidly without crowding the fingers. A projection at its top disengages a trigger-block safety when the lever is fully closed against the stock.

The 19.25" barrel has broach-cut rifling in an eight-groove pattern and at a 1:20" twist rate. It measures 0.90" in diameter at the breech and 0.825" at the muzzle end, which is threaded 11/16x24 TPI to accept a brake or suppressor. The latter would be an excellent way to go as, frankly, the recoil of the .44 Mag. cartridge in a carbine simply isn't significant, and the Model 1854's relatively short 36" overall length would still be reasonably handy with a short can attached. The barrel's rather stout profile may account for the gun's admirable accuracy, and its length allows the magazine tube to accommodate nine

*The Limited Edition Model 1854 features high-grade wood (top). S&W's Grant Dubuc (l.) scans for hogs with a standard, walnut-stocked Model 1854 during a hunt in Tennessee. The plain-finish stainless rifle's Picatinny rail, bolt, extractor and loading gate (r.) are blackened, which contrasts with its receiver.*

rounds for an all-up capacity of 10 rounds of .44 Magnum or .44 Spl.—offering no small hedge in big-bore power in the hunting fields or in defensive encounters. It's worth noting that the Model 1854's owner's manual discourages the use of +P loads and entirely disallows +P+ ammunition.

The round-cross-section bolt measures 0.667" in diameter and features a pinned, spring-steel extractor, and a leaf-spring-powered ejector fits a mortise in the receiver's left wall. The gun's method of operation is not unlike that of similar models from other makers before it, with the tip of the operating lever engaging a slot in the bolt to run it fore and aft. A cutout on the bolt's underside mates with a locking block to secure it in battery, and firing cannot occur unless the lever is closed fully to deactivate the trigger-block safety. Dubuc said the bolt's size was designed for compatibility with other chamberings planned to expand the line in the future. While .45 Colt has already been announced, he forecast that .357 Mag. would follow and further hinted that a .22 Long Rifle version was not out of the question. He also added that, with a re-design of the receiver and attendant parts, the .45-70 Gov't and .30-30 Win. were on the short list. When asked about the possibility of a .500 or .460 S&W Mag. lever gun, he would not commit but did say it was under consideration.

Perhaps the S&W's most unique feature is its detachable magazine tube. Rather than permanently affix an outer tube to the receiver and barrel—allowing for loading through the side by withdrawing an inner tube as do many rimfire and some centerfire designs—engineers elected to make the single 0.625"-diameter tube entirely removable from the gun. Simply press down on the knurled cap and twist it one-quarter turn counterclockwise from the muzzle end and the tube can be withdrawn from its hanger, which is dovetailed to the barrel. The advantage is that the user can safely and quickly unload the gun without working live cartridges through the action. While unconventional, the design appears to be a wise choice regarding safety, although it requires that the user be aware that, when the tube is removed, up to the full load of nine cartridges can simply cascade out of the gun. When the magazine is in place, a bright orange follower at the breech end of the tube, visible when the loading gate is depressed, indicates that the magazine is empty.

# S&W MODEL 1854 LEVER-ACTION

## In Testing


Throughout 250 rounds of firing a variety of loads ranging from 180-grain soft points to 240-grain jacketed hollow points—including running through the *American Rifleman* protocol of five, five-shot groups with three different loads to produce the accompanying accuracy results—the Model 1854 exhibited perfect functioning and remarkable accuracy. I had already noted its ability to print small groups during an informal session at the lodge's range during the hunt—several times managing to place three shots into 2.5" firing prone from a few paces shy of 100 yards using the Vortex scope set at 10X. Later, at NRA Headquarters, *American Rifleman* Managing Editor Christopher Olsen conducted a formal accuracy evaluation at 50 yards using a Leupold VX 5HD 3-15X 44 mm optic at its highest setting, producing an average extreme spread of 1.51". Those results belie the demands of such a stringent regimen on a lever-action rifle built with a two-piece stock and fired off sandbags, yet, according to Olsen, the Model 1854's obvious penchant for accuracy was largely unaffected by the various ways he rested it on the supports. One load that did defy tight groups was Remington's UMC 180-grain jacketed soft point, which produced 4.5" five-shot groups. One .44 Spl. load, the SIG Sauer V-Crown 200-grain JHP, was also tested and resulted in respectable groups averaging just under 2".

Olsen also noted that despite the Model 1854's stout barrel contour—and he neither rushed nor tarried to produce the groups on target—heat built up rapidly in the gun as he worked a magazine full of ammunition through it, especially the 240-grain loads. The gun's shootability was enhanced by its flat-faced trigger, which features a small lobe near the tip that aids consistent finger positioning. It broke consistently at 4 lbs., 6 ozs., and exhibited a crisp letoff with a small amount of takeup and no creep. Of course, depending on the chosen load, and the user's preferences and vision, the Model 1854's factory iron sights should lend themselves to practical field accuracy since the sight picture is intuitive, the radius is a generous 21.25", and there is enough elevation and windage adjustment to account for a range of bullet weights.

Removing the rifle's operating lever pivot screw with a T20 Torx wrench is all that's required to detach the lever and the bolt from the receiver, thus field-stripping the mechanism for routine cleaning and lubrication. An included hammer spur extension can be attached to project either to the right or left side of a mounted optic to aid placing the gun in its half- or full-cock positions, and the crossbolt safety is pressed from right to left to fire.

## In The End

Smith & Wesson's current advertising campaign for the Model 1854 keys on the word "smooth," and after spending some time with it, I can understand why. Not only does the gun have appealing lines, its internal engineering results in fluid operation. Such has long been the hallmark of beloved lever-actions. In fact, the only thing stiff about the Model 1854 is likely to remain in the form of competition—something from which S&W has never retreated. That Smith & Wesson has chosen to take on the lever-action market at all is evidence that it possesses a healthy sense of corporate intuition and no small measure of marketplace boldness. Owing to its famous brand affiliation, high-quality of manufacture and smart design, the Model 1854 will no doubt strike a chord with lever-action aficionados. It would be an ideal companion to a .44 Mag. revolver—especially one bearing the S&W logo.

Horace and Dan B. would likely be amazed at the new Model 1854's refinement—its smoothness and firepower—and at how the company is in full-swing and has come full-circle since the days they founded it. They would no doubt be proud, too. 



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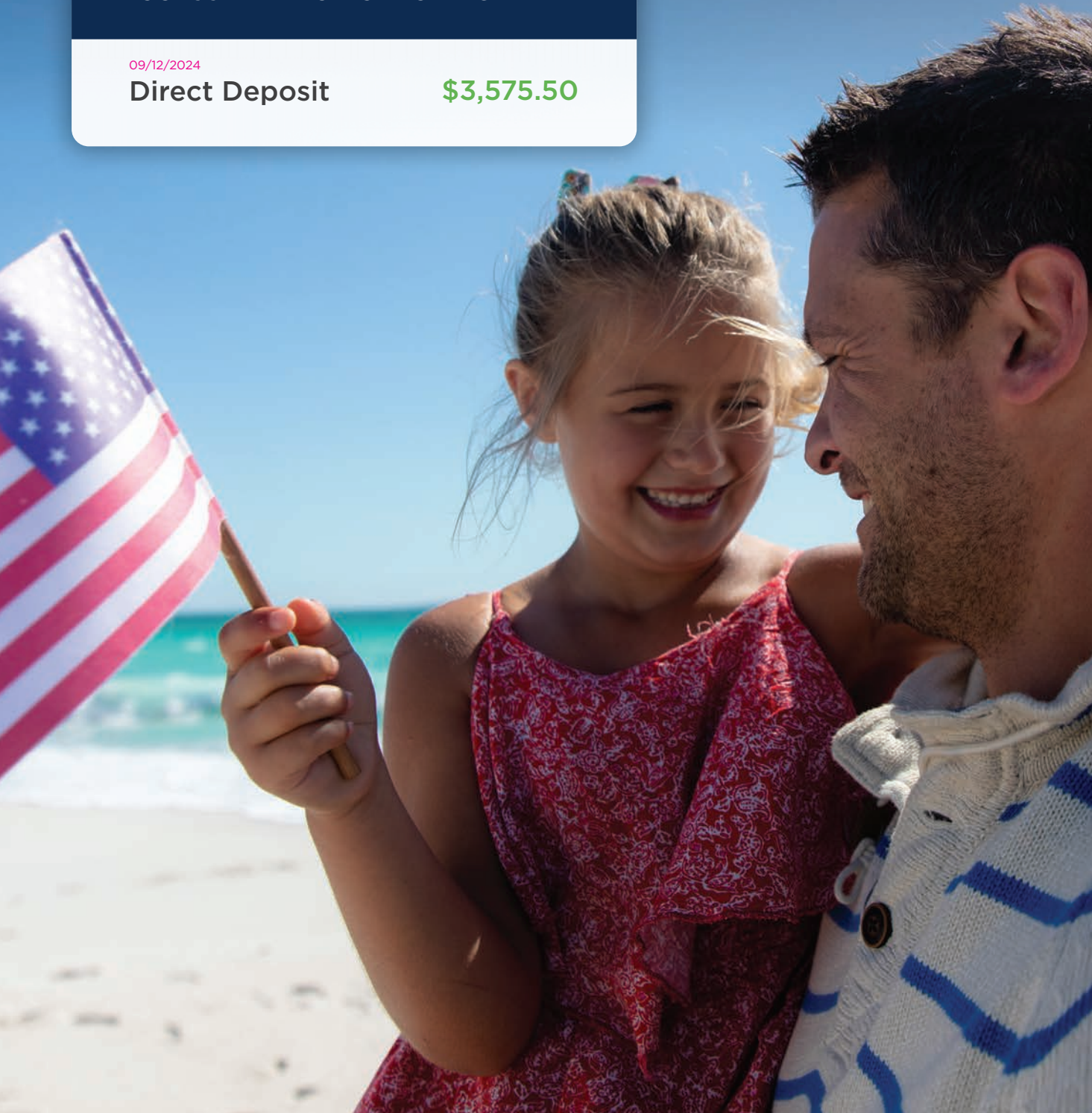
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# SAMPLING FIFTH-GENERATION



After four decades of development, the seminal Glock pistol design is currently expressed in its Gen5 series, which includes the Standard-size G20 in 10 mm Auto and the Subcompact double-stack G30 in .45 ACP.

BY B. GIL HORMAN, Field Editor

**O**n Dec. 27, 2023, Austrian engineer and businessman Gaston Glock passed away at the age of 94. Although he was an experienced manufacturer, he had no training as a firearm designer when he decided to develop a semi-automatic pistol in the early 1980s. The goal was to make a gun

that could successfully compete as a replacement for the Austrian armed forces' World War II-era Walther P38 sidearm. He gathered a team of European experts drawn from civilian shooting sports and military and law-enforcement backgrounds to ascertain the most advantageous features for a combat pistol.

Glock did not come to the table empty-handed. His extensive background in advanced synthetic materials led to his invention of Polymer 2, a high-strength, nylon-based material that proved to be more resilient than many steel alloys. Using polymer to form the pistols' frame and various components made the

*The relatively large muzzle of Glock's Gen5 G20 is a visual clue to its 10 mm Auto chambering. Note the slide's vertical forward serrations and its beveled nose.*



# TION BIG-BORE GLOCKS



guns lighter, more weather-resistant and less costly to manufacture. Glock would also introduce the gun-manufacturing industry to ferritic nitrocarburizing as a corrosion-resistant treatment for metallic gun components that it refers to as Tenifer.

Along with what would become the first commercially successful polymer pistol frame, the Glock design incorporated the Safe Action striker-fired ignition system. In place of a traditional frame- or slide-mounted thumb lever, the external safety is a thin blade set within the trigger itself. This integral blade safety works in conjunction with internal firing-pin and drop safeties to

prevent the partially cocked striker from releasing unless the trigger is fully depressed.

The initial pistols that would become the Standard-size Glock 17, chambered in 9 mm Luger, were ready for testing early in 1982. Several G17 pistols were submitted for the military's rigorous tests and trials; the Glock emerged the winner due to its superior performance, handling characteristics, ammunition capacity and more affordable cost to produce. It was adopted by the Austrians and designated the P80. Word of Glock's durable, reliable polymer pistol quickly spread across Europe and eventually to the United States.

# GLOCK GEN5

In 1988, the same year that the G17 was adopted as a NATO-standard sidearm, Glock introduced the Gen2 series. It would include one of the company's all-time best sellers, the Compact-size G19 chambered in 9 mm, along with models chambered in .40 S&W, 10 mm Auto and .45 ACP. By 1996, the Gen3 series was ready to launch. Among these options were the first double-stack Subcompact models, or "Baby Glocks," which were the smallest models to date. Over the next few years, customers would see the introduction of the Gen3 Short-Frame (SF) models, with grips that are more compact, front to-back, along with early versions of the Rough Texture Frame (RTF) grip texturing. In 2000, the first Slimline single-stack frame was released in the form of the G36 chambered in .45 ACP.

The Gen4 models were announced in 2010 with two of the most notable changes being the standardization of the RTF3 rough texturing for the grip and the use of more robust dual-spring recoil assemblies in all three frame sizes instead of just the Subcompacts. In 2014, Glock finally conceded to customer requests for pocket-size pistols. The long-awaited Subcompact-size, single-stack Slimline frame lineup was expanded to include the U.S.-made G42 in .380 ACP followed by the popular G43 in 9 mm released in 2015. This was the same year that marked the arrival of models outfitted with the Glock Modular Optic System (MOS)—slides cut to allow the mounting of micro red-dot optics.

The Gen5 series launched in 2017 with more than 20 modifications according to company literature. Some were brand-new additions while others were reversions to preferred features from previous generations, and a few changes are essentially the migration of features introduced with the G42 and G43 pistols. It's worth noting that with the launch of the Gen5 options the Gen3 and Gen4 lines remained in production. The Gen3 options most likely continue in the catalog due to the popularity of the expansive selection of compatible aftermarket parts. Meanwhile, the Gen4 guns are likely filling the product gaps as various models transition to the Gen5 feature set.

Among the latest additions to the Gen5 lineup are the Standard-size G20 chambered in 10 mm Auto, which launched in 2023, and the double-stack G30 Subcompact in .45 ACP that is a new-for-2024 addition. Both of these models piqued my interest. But before we delve into the



*The Gen5 big-bores rely on the same operating principles that made Glocks in 9 mm Luger familiar worldwide. Note the right-side slide lock (opposite).*

range results, let's take a look at how this series' models have changed, and yet, in some ways, remained the same.

Like previous generations, the Glock Gen5 models are short-recoil-operated, locked-breech, semi-automatic pistols chambered for centerfire pistol cartridges. The one notable exception to the rule being the model G44. Released in 2019, this was the first Glock chambered for the rimfire .22 Long Rifle cartridge.

Glock slides have previously been treated with Tenifer finishes. The Gen5 slides instead ship with a deep black nDLC, a diamond-like carbon treatment, which is among the latest options for weather-proofing and protecting the steel from scratches and wear. The slide markings, including the model, chambering and serial number, were formerly stamped into the slide, which gave them a subtle raised surface you could feel by running your finger across the letters and numbers. Now they are engraved into the steel in such a way as to leave the surfaces of the metal smooth.

The factory-installed sight system consists of the familiar polymer white-dot post sight up front and the dove-tailed, square-notch sight at the rear; however, the rear sight's white outline has been thinned a bit and the notch slightly enlarged for an improved sight picture. Available with or without the MOS system, the slides feature front and rear vertical cocking serrations.

The nose of the slide is beveled with the flush-fit front end of the dustcover shaped to match. Although this rounding does little to alleviate the Glock's signature blocky profile, it does contribute to smoother reholstering. The recoil assembly support loop, just below the muzzle port, is thicker than those of past models for added strength. The ejection port and the extractor, with its visible and tactile loaded-chamber indicator extension, are unchanged. The polymer slide cover plate's two ports have been modified to accommodate the two square protrusions that are now found at the rear of the frame.

Inside the slide, the once-rounded firing pin safety plunger has been exchanged for a G43-style plunger with a distinctive wedge-like shape. Conversely, the strikers now have a rounded firing pin shape instead of the wedge-like shape of previous versions. This and other dimensional changes to the strikers make them incompatible with Gen4 pistols.

The Gen5 models ship with Glock Marksman Barrels. They are easy to visually identify due to the muzzles' target-style recessed crown, which is absent from previous



*The Gen5 G20 comes with a slide cover plate along with an MOS optics-mounting plate and hardware.*



barrel configurations. These barrels are said to have modified lugs, tighter chambers and improved polygonal rifling, although the exact nature of the changes to the rifling are not clearly defined. The dual recoil assemblies look much like those of the Gen4 guns but appear to be about 0.25" longer. This, in turn, requires the slide lock to be moved back along the frame the same distance.

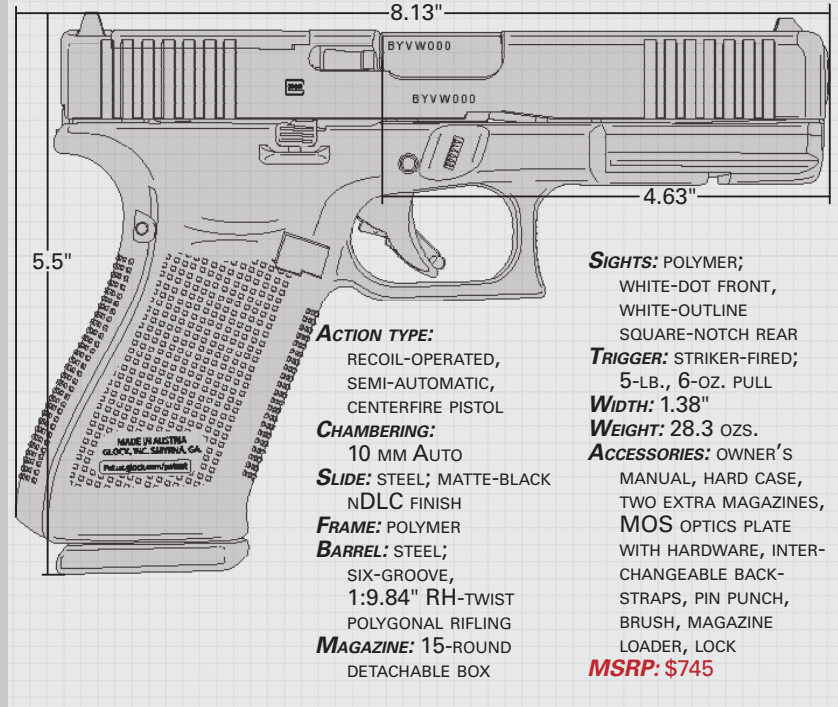
The polymer frames sport just two support pins including those for the trigger and trigger housing; the third locking-block pin has been omitted. Dustcovers still house silver serial-number plates along with molded-in accessory rails that have a single Picatinny-compatible slot. A set of digital calipers confirmed that the slots of the accessory rails for the Gen3 and Gen4 frames I had on hand measured 0.15" while those of the two Gen5 frames were 0.20". This slight widening allows for a broader variety of light and laser modules to be mounted to these pistols.

With the slides removed, more G43-influenced changes are readily apparent. The slide lock is supported by a coil spring instead of a flat spring. The looped end of the trigger return spring has been replaced with a four-piece trigger spring assembly and a trigger bar modified to match.

Among the most notable changes unique to the Gen5 models are the bilateral slide stop levers. This somewhat V-shaped, one-piece lever is shaped from thicker metal, powered by a coil spring, and the right- and left-side tabs protrude a bit more from the sides of the frame. The leading point of the lever brackets the slightly narrowed pivot point of the trigger shoe. This neatly solves the problem of added space for the lever without deducting

## GLOCK G20 GEN5

**MANUFACTURER:** GLOCK, INC. (DEPT. AR), 6000 HIGHLANDS PARKWAY S.E., SMYRNA, GA 30082; (770) 432-1202; [GLOCK.COM](http://GLOCK.COM)



### ACTION TYPE:

RECOIL-OPERATED,  
SEMI-AUTOMATIC,  
CENTERFIRE PISTOL

### CHAMBERING:

10 MM AUTO

**SLIDE:** STEEL; MATTE-BLACK  
NDLC FINISH

**FRAME:** POLYMER

**BARREL:** STEEL;  
SIX-GROOVE,  
1:9.84" RH-TWIST  
POLYGONAL RIFLING

**MAGAZINE:** 15-ROUND  
DETACHABLE BOX

### SIGHTS:

POLYMER;  
WHITE-DOT FRONT,  
WHITE-OUTLINE  
SQUARE-NOTCH REAR

**TRIGGER:** STRIKER-FIRED;  
5-LB., 6-OZ. PULL

**WIDTH:** 1.38"

**WEIGHT:** 28.3 OZS.

**ACCESSORIES:** OWNER'S  
MANUAL, HARD CASE,  
TWO EXTRA MAGAZINES,  
MOS OPTICS PLATE  
WITH HARDWARE, INTER-  
CHANGEABLE BACK-  
STRAPS, PIN PUNCH,  
BRUSH, MAGAZINE  
LOADER, LOCK

**MSRP: \$745**

## SHOOTING RESULTS: GLOCK G20 GEN5 (25 YARDS)

10 MM AUTO CARTRIDGE	VELOCITY (F.P.S.)	ENERGY (FT.-LBS.)	GROUP SIZE (INCHES)		
			SMALLEST	LARGEST	AVERAGE
<b>FEDERAL AE 180-GRAIN FMJ</b>	1,027 Avg. 9 Sd	422	2.85	3.10	2.95
<b>FEDERAL HST 175-GRAIN JHP</b>	1,064 Avg. 7 Sd	440	2.40	2.91	2.70
<b>HORNADY CD 175-GRAIN FLEXLOCK</b>	1,099 Avg. 7 Sd	469	2.67	3.06	2.89
<b>AVERAGE EXTREME SPREAD</b>					2.85

NOTES: MEASURED AVERAGE VELOCITY FOR 10 SHOTS FIRED NEXT TO A LABRADAR CHRONOGRAPH AT THE MUZZLE. ACCURACY RESULTS FOR FIVE CONSECUTIVE, FIVE-SHOT GROUPS FIRED FROM A BENCH REST. TEMPERATURE: 44° F HUMIDITY: 24%. ABBREVIATIONS: AE (AMERICAN EAGLE), CD (CRITICAL DUTY), FMJ (FULL METAL JACKET), JHP (JACKETED HOLLOW POINT), Sd (STANDARD DEVIATION).

material from the frame. It also means the trigger shoe is shifting back and forth against steel on both sides instead of the polymer of the frame.

The trigger guard, with its curved and textured finger rest along the front edge, is lifted straight from the Gen4 playbook along with the curvature of the polymer trigger shoe, the rectangular reversible magazine-release button and the rough grip texturing on all sides. Some say the

*continued on p. 62*

Included magazines with each Gen5 pistol (l.)—10-rounders for the G30 and 15-rounders for the G20—are the familiar polymer-clad steel. The slides (r.) differ only in the G20's facility for the mounting of an optic.



# M&P<sup>®</sup> M2.0<sup>®</sup>



# BUILT ON TRUST.

## Trust in Smith & Wesson's Legacy - The M2.0<sup>®</sup> Pistol

Our commitment to excellence shines through our M&P<sup>®</sup> family of polymer-frame pistols, renowned for their reliability and performance. As the landscape continued to shift, we rose to the challenge, developing cutting-edge polymer-frame, striker-fired pistols that have become top sellers in the industry. Today, our M&P<sup>®</sup> M2.0<sup>®</sup> stands as a testament to our dedication to constant improvement, addressing critiques to deliver the best-in-class firearms.



# A Genuine Time Capsule THE "IVANHOE"

M

any of us have, at one time or another, heard stories about guns or other desirable collectibles offered for sale that were "found in an old warehouse" or "in storage for 80 years" or some

similar intriguing provenance. All too often, unfortunately, such claims turn out to be apocryphal tales with little or no basis in fact. On rare occasions, however, such stories turn out to be true.



*This early 1920s photo shows members of the Denver, Colo., Police Dept. examining Model 1897 trench guns. As was also the case with the Richmond, Va., Police Dept., the Denver PD received the trench guns by way of the U.S. Army a few years after the end of World War I. Note that the guns are fitted with Model 1917 rifle bayonets.*



# TRENCH GUNS"

A treasure trove of World War I combat shotguns turns up out of nowhere, expanding knowledge in the collector market and sparking hopes for future finds.

BY BRUCE N. CANFIELD, Field Editor



# THE "IVANHOE TRENCH GUNS"

IVANHOE TRENCH GUN, SERIAL No. 689043  
Rock Island Auction Co.



A great example occurred in the fall of 2004 with an advertisement in the venerable *Shotgun News* classified firearms publication. The ad stated that the firm of Ivanhoe Warehouse Outlet in Nutting Lake, Mass., had just acquired a "small quantity" of genuine World War I-vintage Winchester Model 1897 "trench guns" that had been in storage for most of the last 80 years. Although not stated in the ad, the lot consisted of 74 guns. They were offered in three grades based on condition:

- GRADE A** - \$2,995 - 97 percent bright factory blue with a few small scratches.
- GRADE B** - \$2,495 - 95 percent bright factory blue with a few blemishes and scratches.
- GRADE C** - \$1,995 - 90 percent mostly bright factory blue with most of the wear on the magazine tube, action bar and handguard, some scratches on the frame. Wood shows some storage blemishes.

Also included were Model 1917 bayonets and scabbards. The prices were quite reasonable given their relative scarcity and popularity with martial arms collectors. Needless to say, the lot sold out in a matter of days. For the most part, the guns were properly graded and most purchasers were quite satisfied. Many have subsequently changed hands over the past 20 years, typically at very substantial premiums over the original sales price. The guns were a significant find as they represented something of a "time capsule" of World War I-era Winchester Model 1897 trench guns, and a brief historical overview is necessary to put the story of the Ivanhoe guns in the proper context.

In the early days of America's active involvement in the First World War, the U.S. Army Ordnance Dept. sought to have a firearm that would assist our Doughboys in the unfamiliar environment of trench warfare. It was determined that a 12-ga. slide-action repeating shotgun with 00 buckshot would be an ideal arm for close-quarters trench combat. In order to make the guns even more formidable, it was mandated that they be equipped with a bayonet. A bayonet adapter/handguard assembly was developed to enable the shotguns to be fitted with the standard Model 1917 rifle bayonet. The guns were widely referred to as "trench guns," although that was never an official designation. Remington made a small number of its Model 10 shotgun in a trench-gun configuration

*This Model 1917 bayonet, shown above with its scabbard, bears the "circled W" logo (r.) but no additional markings. It is believed that the bayonets, which attached to the heat shield assembly of the shotgun, were manufactured in the early 1920s to support the Model 1897 trench guns that were acquired from the U.S. Army by various law-enforcement agencies.*

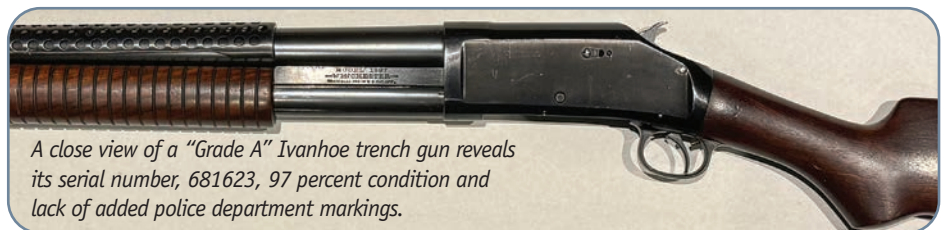


Author's collection

that differed from the Winchester model in several respects. The trench guns began to arrive in the battle zones of France during the summer of 1918 and soon became sought-after small arms, even though only limited numbers were available until late in the war. The trench guns gained notoriety when the Germans protested the use of such "barbaric" firearms and threatened to execute any captured American soldier with a shotgun or shotgun ammunition in his possession. The United States government responded in a forceful manner, and the Germans apparently did not follow through with their threats.

Even though the company was already engaged in the manufacture of Model 1917 rifles, Winchester ramped up production of the trench gun as quickly as possible. But the rather sudden declaration of the Armistice on Nov. 11, 1918, soon resulted in the demobilization of most of the U.S. Army, which obviously negated the need for additional arms, and the outstanding production contracts were canceled. However, provisions of the contracts typically allowed for the manufacturers to be paid for guns that were "in process" at the time of cancellation. Thus, it made sense for the companies to complete their orders rather than have the government pay for partially finished firearms. Winchester remained in production of the trench guns (and Model 1917 rifles) until early 1919.

The end of hostilities resulted in the Army having many more firearms, including trench guns, in inventory than was required to meet the foreseeable demand. Some of the trench guns were provided to the Marine Corps and the Navy along with other governmental entities such as



*A close view of a "Grade A" Ivanhoe trench gun reveals its serial number, 681623, 97 percent condition and lack of added police department markings.*

Author's collection

the Post Office, Justice Dept. and Border Patrol. Even after transfer of these guns, the Army still had a surplus of trench guns, and a number were sent to several National Guard units where they generally remained in storage.

In the early 1920s, some of these trench guns were supplied to various civilian law-enforcement entities, ostensibly for potential "riot-control" use due to the domestic labor unrest prevalent at the time. One such example occurred when the National Guard Armory in Richmond, Va., was closed in 1924, and some of its Model 1897 trench guns were provided to the Richmond Police Dept. A number of these guns were subsequently used by patrol officers and marked with various identifying initials on the stock to identify the particular unit, such as TRAF (Traffic), HDQTS (Headquarters), STA. 1 (Station 1) and some simply R.P.D.

However, some of the guns were apparently never issued or stamped with the added departmental markings and remained in storage. During World War II, some of the guns were "borrowed" by the U.S. Army for security duty and then returned to the Richmond PD after the war, only to ride out most of the next 60 years in storage. In April 2004, the Richmond Police Dept. wanted to upgrade its issued handguns and arranged a trade with SIGARMS (now SIG Sauer) for the 74 trench guns to be swapped for the desired SIG pistols. SIGARMS then sold the trench guns to the Interstate Arms Corp., which marketed the guns under the Ivanhoe Warehouse Outlet name. Other than the Richmond PD markings added to some of the guns, they remained in the same configuration as manufactured in 1918/1919 and were never overhauled or refinished.

Some, if not all, of the Model 1917 bayonets supplied with the Ivanhoe trench guns represent a little-known and rather scarce variant. These bayonets are marked with only a "circled W" on the left ricasso of the blade to denote manufacture by Winchester and unmarked on the right ricasso. The bayonets made under government contract during World War I were marked with a "circled W" and "1917" on the left ricasso and a "U.S.," flaming bomb and "eagle head" inspection stamp on the right ricasso.

It is believed that the bayonets with only the "circled W" were made by Winchester in the early 1920s for the civilian law-enforcement agencies that had received trench guns but no bayonets, since they were often in short supply in the Army's inventory. Since these later bayonets were made for the civilian market, they did not bear any government inspection or identification markings. It may seem strange that a civilian police department would want bayonets for their shotguns, but the aforementioned potential for riot control suggests that bayonets were considered as a useful accessory.

From a research standpoint today, the Ivanhoe grouping is significant as it expanded the confirmed serial-number

## BLAST FROM THE PAST! 80 YEARS IN STORAGE!

### FOUND . . . A SMALL QUANTITY OF WINCHESTER MODEL 1897 MILITARY TRENCH GUNS



12 GA solid frame with 20 1/4" Barrel. These hard-to-find trench guns were manufactured around 1918 and are in unaltered condition with bright, excellent bores. A 1917 winchester bayonet in excellent condition with original scabbard is included.

**GRADE A - \$2,995.00**

97% BRIGHT FACTORY BLUE WITH A FEW SMALL SCRATCHES.

**GRADE B - \$2,495.00**

95% BRIGHT FACTORY BLUE WITH A FEW BLEMISHES AND SCRATCHES.

**GRADE C - \$1,995.00**

90% MOSTLY BRIGHT FACTORY BLUE WITH MOST OF THE WEAR ON THE MAGAZINE TUBE, ACTION BAR AND HANDGUARD. SOME SCRATCHES/WEAR ON THE FRAME. WOOD SHOWS SOME STORAGE BLEMISHES.

**IVANHOE'S WAREHOUSE OUTLET**  
P.O. BOX 937, NUTTING LAKE, MA 01865

A 2004 ad in Shotgun News heralds the Ivanhoe trench gun discovery.

range of the World War I-vintage trench guns. Some researchers and collectors had maintained that Model 1897 trench guns in the 690,000-and-higher serial-number range were postwar civilian production guns—the Ivanhoe guns clearly refute this erroneous assumption, as some have serial numbers as high as the 705,000 range.

As is the case with the majority of World War I-era Model 1897 trench guns, none of the Ivanhoe guns have the hand-stamped "US" and flaming bomb markings on the receiver adjacent to the ejection port. Only an estimated 20 percent of Model 1897 trench guns from this period have these markings, and the "who, when, where and why" have not been confirmed and are the subject of much speculation today. In any event, the Ivanhoe trench guns have an unquestioned provenance as U.S. military arms and are doubly desirable since they also have an identifiable chain of custody from the U.S. Army to the Virginia National Guard to the Richmond Police Dept.

The Ivanhoe trench guns that were sold some 20 years ago proved to be a treasure trove of collectibles, but, unfortunately, the possibility of acquiring a quantity of historically significant military firearms of the World War I era is increasingly unlikely today. On the other hand, there may still be some "good stuff" still out there waiting to be discovered. 🦋

*Author's note: Thanks goes to Saul Arnstein, owner of Interstate Arms Corp. and Ivanhoe Warehouse Outlet, for much of the information contained in this article.*



IVANHOE TRENCH GUN, SERIAL NO. 686668  
Rock Island Auction Co.



# Ruger Super Redhawk .22 Hornet

Ruger's Super Redhawk is rightfully regarded as a top-tier handgun for big-game hunting and large-predator defense. Introduced in 1986, it was overbuilt for strength and durability to provide long, reliable service. Originally chambered in .44 Mag., it was subsequently offered in .454 Casull and .480 Ruger—a cartridge designed specifically for it. The Super Redhawk is still typically found in one of those three chamberings, befitting its intended mission, although Ruger also briefly chambered the Super Redhawk in .41 Mag., and it's currently available in 10 mm Auto. These "smaller" cartridges provide lower-recoil options but serve the same purpose as earlier chamberings. Ruger's latest chambering for the big revolver is the .22 Hornet, which may sound like an unusual choice for the platform, but it expands the list of chores the gun is qualified to perform.

Ruger has long embraced the .22 Hornet, chambering it in several rifles. A modernized, smokeless-powder version of the blackpowder .22 Winchester Center Fire, the Hornet could achieve 2,400 f.p.s. with 45-grain jacketed bullets when fired from rifle barrels. Accurate and soft-shooting, the cartridge became a popular choice for hunting small game animals, as it could be housed in smaller rifles, and it didn't erode barrels as much as its higher-pressure .22-cal. rivals were prone to do.

The diminutive dimensions of the .22 Hornet case lend it well to use within a Super Redhawk. It has a maximum loaded cartridge length of 1.723", making it viable for the 1.755"-long Super Redhawk cylinder, and the thin body of the tapered case allows eight rounds to be housed in the large, unfluted cylinder; the cylinder latch notches are cut slightly



The .22 Hornet-chambered version of the Ruger Super Redhawk's sights consist of a fully adjustable rear unit with a U-notch and a white outline paired with a green Hi-Viz fiber-optic fixed front post.



The Super Redhawk is distinguished from its progenitor by a frame extension that features integral recesses for Ruger factory rings.

offset from the chambers. Ruger opted for a 9.5"-long barrel to squeeze the most velocity out of the Hornet—it measures 0.907" in diameter and gives the revolver a muzzle-heavy balance.

The front of the barrel has a wide recessed crown angling slightly down to the muzzle. The rear portion of the barrel extending into the cylinder window still measures nearly 0.70" in diameter. It forms more of a "forcing surface" than a traditional forcing cone, with a significant amount of steel meeting up with the cylinder at the barrel/cylinder gap. The front sight has a green fiber-optic pipe, and the rear sight is the standard adjustable unit with a white outline. The gun's matte-stainless finish is attractively utilitarian, with no discernible tool marks.

Despite its small-caliber chambering, the revolver maintains the proven triple-lock design the Super Redhawk is known for. The cylinder secures with the center pin lock to the rear, the front crane latch and the cylinder latch at the bottom. A Hogue Tamer Monogrip comes standard on the Super Redhawk. It's functional, but not as necessary on the .22 Hornet as on the heavier-recoiling chamberings. The grip "peg" on the frame facilitates easily changing stocks to suit the shooter's preference.

The trigger is smooth and well-shaped, with a double-action pull measuring 11 lbs., 15 ozs., on average, and it feels lighter once the trigger is in motion. Thumb-cocking the hammer and pressing the trigger in single-action mode yielded a pleasing 3-lb., 8-oz., pull. The Super Redhawk uses separate springs for hammer and trigger function, which makes for a better trigger pull than with other designs relying on a single spring.

Based on this gun's purpose, a 4X Leupold M8 Extended ER scope was attached using the factory-supplied



The Super Redhawk's unfluted cylinder accommodates eight .22 Hornet cartridges and features latch notches that are slightly offset from the chambers.

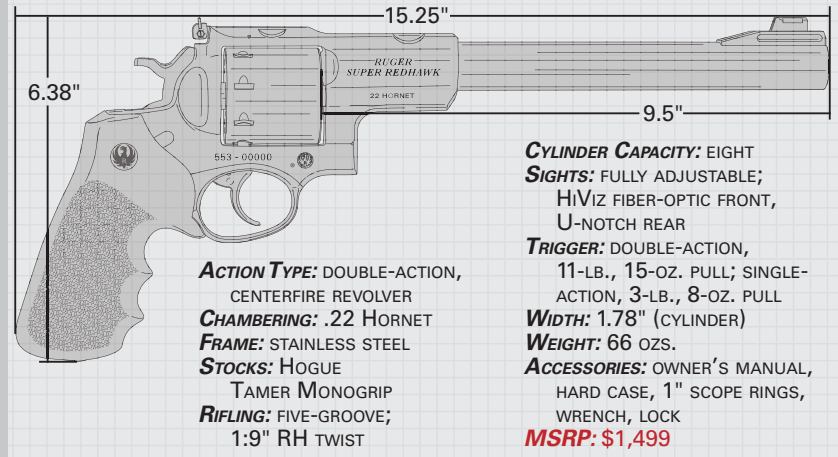
1" scope rings (30 mm rings are also available from Ruger). Mounting was straightforward and simple after referring to the relevant page in the owner's manual. The Super Redhawk was fired single-action from a rest at 25 yards, and the first five rounds grouped into 0.9". This performance level justified extending the distance of the accuracy testing to 50 yards. The big revolver shot well, especially considering the wintry conditions in which it was tested; it was cold and a 12-to-16 m.p.h. wind was blowing, swirling from half to full value. Better conditions and careful ammunition selection would almost certainly produce smaller groups.

Advertised velocities for the loads tested were garnered from rifle-length test barrels, so captured velocities were predictably lower. The shorter barrel also likely contributed to the high standard deviations recorded. Any of the rounds tested in the Super Redhawk would deliver adequate



## RUGER SUPER REDHAWK .22 HORNET

MANUFACTURER: STURM, RUGER & Co. (DEPT. AR), 411 SUNAPEE ST., NEWPORT, NH 03773; (336) 949-5200; [RUGER.COM](http://RUGER.COM)




## SHOOTING RESULTS (50 YARDS)

.22 HORNET CARTRIDGE	VELOCITY (F.P.S.)	ENERGY (FT.-LBS.)	GROUP SIZE (INCHES)		
			SMALLEST	LARGEST	AVERAGE
BROWNING 35-GRAIN BXV	2,216 Avg. 93 Sd	382	1.83	2.38	2.09
HORNADY 35-GRAIN V-MAX	2,300 Avg. 54 Sd	411	1.01	2.79	2.05
WINCHESTER 45-GRAIN SP	1,794 Avg. 19 Sd	322	1.71	4.32	2.89
<b>AVERAGE EXTREME SPREAD</b>					2.34

NOTES: MEASURED AVERAGE VELOCITY FOR 10 SHOTS FIRED OVER A COMPETITION ELECTRONICS PROCHRONO DIGITAL CHRONOGRAPH AT 10 FEET. ACCURACY RESULTS FOR FIVE CONSECUTIVE, FIVE-SHOT GROUPS AT 50 YARDS FROM A BENCH REST. TEMPERATURE: 39° F. HUMIDITY: 26%. ABBREVIATIONS: Sd (STANDARD DEVIATION), SP (SOFT POINT).

performance for harvesting small game and eradicating varmints up to coyote size at ranges out to 200 yards.

The revolver functioned perfectly throughout the 105 rounds our testers fired from it—extraction and ejection were smooth and sure. Recoil was virtually nonexistent; the .22 Hornet maintains its mild manners even when fired from a handgun. But caution needs to be taken with what's placed near the barrel/cylinder gap when the Super Redhawk is fired, as it acts like a magnum in that respect.

Notwithstanding the availability of ammunition—it's been quite a while since .22 Hornet was readily available at every brick-and-mortar gun shop, and none of the 13 loads listed on MidwayUSA's website were in stock when we checked—the newest Super Redhawk proved itself to be a capable performer and a lot of fun to shoot. And hopefully, by offering a quality double-action revolver chambered to fire it, Ruger may help remedy the current lack of love for this fine old cartridge. 

The Ruger's grip "peg" is cast integrally with its frame, a configuration that allows for a completely enclosed, one-piece stock—in this case, a factory-supplied Hogue Tamer Monogrip, which more than mitigates the .22 Hornet's mild recoil.

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.



# KFI USA Impala Plus Carbon

Truth be told, there are few repeating shotguns made in the United States. There are multiple reasons why, but the conspicuous one is that imported shotguns from countries such as Italy, Japan and Turkey can be as good as, if not better than, those produced domestically—and they're usually less costly, to boot. The latter country, in particular, has made significant inroads in recent years.

Why? Look no further than the subject of this review, the Impala Plus Carbon.

Manufactured by Istanbul Silah in Turkey, the 12-ga., 3" Impala Plus Carbon semi-automatic shotgun employs an inertia-powered operating system (a.k.a. kinetic reaction system) made popular by a certain Italian manufacturer. The key to its operation is the "bolt slide group," as it's coined. It's visually similar to others of its ilk, however, the rotary bolt differs markedly. Instead of the emblematic two-lug rotary bolt, the Impala Plus Carbon uses a six-lug unit. Why? Because its 15 degrees of rotation requires less energy for operation, thereby resulting in faster cycling. It's also described as being stronger.

The bolt slide group is housed in an aluminum receiver with modern, if not futuristic, lines and an eye-catching,



*Although the barrel, receiver and synthetic furniture of the KFI USA Impala Plus Carbon shotgun all appear to have been constructed from carbon fiber, it is actually just a well-executed finish that mimics that material's appearance.*

well-executed carbon-fiber finish. Inside, on the left receiver wall is a spring-loaded ejector. Stainless-steel rails within the receiver add rigidity and minimize abrasion from the reciprocating bolt. A wonderful addition is an inventive cocking handle. Featuring aggressive checkering and sized suitably, the control is easily grasped. What sets it apart from others, however, is that by rotating it from the vertical to horizontal position it can be easily removed.

The receiver's top is drilled and tapped for scope bases, and an oversize, triangular carrier latch button is on its right side. Secured to the bottom is the trigger group, and contained within it are the fire controls, including a crossbolt safety, a disconnecter and the single-stage trigger. On our test sample, the

trigger broke at 5 lbs., 15 ozs., with only the slightest hint of creep.

Barrels for the Impala Plus Carbon, which are available in 28", 30" and 32" lengths, are drilled from 4140 steel and examined via magnetic resonance for cracks. The barrel extension is relatively short and, to accommodate the unique rotating bolt, distinctive. Topping the chrome-lined tube is a ventilated rib ending in a TruGlo fiber-optic sight. The barrel, which has the same finish as the receiver, is threaded to accept Browning Invector-Plus choke tubes, and five flush-fitting tubes accompany the shotgun.

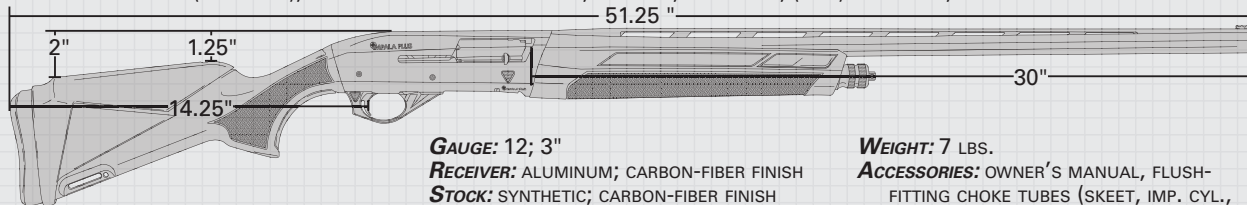
Consistent with the rest of the gun, the synthetic fore-end and buttstock appear to be made from carbon fiber but aren't. Rather, it's a fine finish—well-executed enough to fool all who see it. As for the fore-end, the combination of a swelled lower half, channels (one per side) and anti-slip texturing enhance purchase of the otherwise smooth surface.

*Unlike most other inertia-powered shotguns, the Impala Plus Carbon's rotating bolt head has six lugs instead of the usual two, allowing for faster cycling.*



## KFI IMPALA PLUS CARBON

IMPORTER: KFI USA (DEPT. AR), 5415 WEST HOMOSASSA TRAIL, LECANTO, FL 34461; (352) 419-4185; [KFIFIREARMS.COM](http://KFIFIREARMS.COM)



**MANUFACTURER:** ISTANBUL SILAH (TURKEY)  
**ACTION TYPE:** INERTIA-OPERATED, SEMI-AUTOMATIC SHOTGUN

**GAUGE:** 12; 3"  
**RECEIVER:** ALUMINUM; CARBON-FIBER FINISH  
**STOCK:** SYNTHETIC; CARBON-FIBER FINISH  
**MAGAZINE:** TUBULAR; FOUR-ROUND (2¾")  
**TRIGGER:** SINGLE-STAGE; 5-LB., 15-OZ. PULL  
**SIGHT:** TRUGLO FIBER-OPTIC FRONT

**WEIGHT:** 7 LBS.  
**ACCESSORIES:** OWNER'S MANUAL, FLUSH-FITTING CHOKE TUBES (SKEET, IMP. CYL., MOD., IMP. MOD., FULL), CHOKE TUBE WRENCH, SHIMS, SPACER, SLING, LOCK  
**MSRP:** \$599



The shotgun ships from the factory with a set of five flush-fitting choke tubes of the Browning Invector-Plus pattern (above), and the end of the chrome-lined, vent-ribbed barrel (l.) is topped with a red fiber-optic pipe for aiming.

The buttstock is equipped with a removable cheekpiece. As requested by a previous importer (and still available) it's reminiscent of a Monte Carlo-style rifle stock, which is impractical for most shotgunners. Fortunately, by removing the pliable recoil pad, snugged by two screws, and a screw securing its front, the cheekpiece can be taken off. Then just re-install the recoil pad and you're done—which is exactly what we did before hitting the range.

KFI USA, which currently imports Impala Plus shotguns, changed this to a parallel comb, only slightly elevated, which is a much better choice. Shims and a spacer are provided to further adjust for fit. The swell-less pistol grip has texturing mimicking that on the fore-end, and an integral sling attachment point on the buttstock works with a sling swivel stud on the magazine tube cap for the installation of the provided sling.

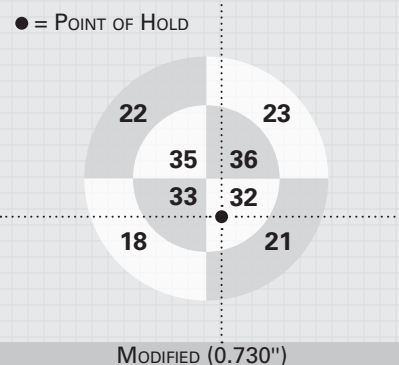
According to the owner's manual, "Istanbul Silah Sanayi advises the use of minimum

28-gram (1-oz.) 2¾" and maximum 52-gram (1.83-oz., essentially 1⅞-oz.) 3" cartridges" in the Impala Plus Carbon. As such, we opted to pattern test the sample using 12-ga., 2¾" NSI Due Europe loads containing 1 oz. of No. 7½ shot at 1,250 f.p.s. The supplied modified choke tube was used. The results are tabulated nearby.

Once completed, we headed to a local sporting clays course to engage a variety of targets both near and far. Here, we found the 7-lb. shotgun lightning-quick to the shoulder from the low-gun position and that it swung effortlessly. Crushed clays were the rule; steep angling or distant crossers were no match. This continued on an illuminated skeet field, where an evaluator connected with 23 targets on the first and only attempt. Cycling with the NSI loads, as well as Estate Super Sport Competition 1-oz. No. 8s at 1,290 f.p.s. and Federal Field & Target 1⅞-oz. No. 7½s at 1,200 f.p.s., was flawless. We also function tested the Impala Plus Carbon with an assortment of hunting loads—in 2¾"


### SHOOTING RESULTS (40 YARDS)

NSI DUE EUROPE  
12-GA., 2¾", 1 OZ., NO. 7½  
AVERAGE PELLET COUNT: 339  
LISTED VELOCITY: 1,250 F.P.S.  
AVERAGE OF 10 PATTERNS



<b>21" INNER CIRCLE:</b>	136	(40%)
<b>30" OUTER RING:</b>	84	(25%)
<b>TOTAL HITS:</b>	220	(65%)

from 1¼-oz. to 1½-oz. and in 3" from 1⅞-oz. to 1⅞-oz.—and all loads fed, fired, extracted and ejected flawlessly.

As evidenced through our exhaustive testing, the KFI USA Impala Plus Carbon is a rugged and reliable semi-automatic shotgun that'll be at home on the back forty or in serious competition. It offers everything desirable in a kinetic-reaction gun at a reasonable price. 



The Impala Plus Carbon's receiver (l.) is drilled and tapped for the mounting of an optic, and a removable raised cheekpiece (r.) provides better alignment when one is installed.



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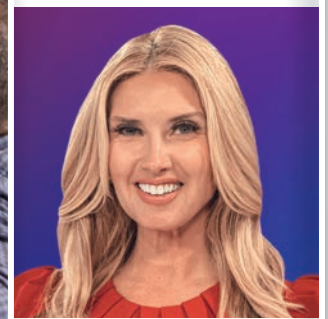
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## HANDLOADS

### A Premium 7.62x39 mm Load

I've always felt that the 7.62x39 mm cartridge doesn't get the credit it deserves. Often treated as a novel noisemaker, we forget that the case shares many of the same properties as highly regarded benchrest cartridges. Additionally, with a power factor similar to .30-30 Win., it makes an excellent choice for deer-size game. As we begin to see the last of the inexpensive Russian 7.62x39 mm hit our shores, perhaps this is an appropriate opportunity to legitimize the cartridge and encourage its use beyond plinking.

Bore diameters on rifles chambered in this cartridge vary, so it is especially important to start at the published minimum and work your way up; if you have the means to slug the firearm before starting out, that would be ideal. This recipe involves Hornady's 0.310" 123-grain polymer-tipped SST bullet. Hornady's custom dies are the best bet for loading it, as the company includes an expander for this diameter of bullet. GECO brass is my go-to, as I have a pile of these cases lying around from once-fired Freedom Munitions training ammunition.

After cleaning and sizing, I use a primer pocket uniforming tool to square-up this area before seating a Remington 9½ Large Rifle primer. These primers stand up well to the abuse they might receive from a free-floating firing pin and ignite spherical powders more reliably than others, in my experience. Accurate 1680 is my preferred powder, as a charge of 24.7 grains adequately fills the case while leaving enough room to seat the bullet to the cannellure. Crimping is the wild card in this load, as I've had success both with and without it, depending on the firearm.

Loading these with a powder measure and a single-stage press seems to offer the best balance of precision and speed, but all the parts are there if you wish to roll off a larger quantity with a progressive. Either way, this load will have you dusting off your SKS or rethinking the capabilities of your AK-47.

—FRANK MELLONI, FIELD EDITOR



#### RECIPE

**BULLET:** 0.310", 123-GRAIN HORNADY SST  
**PROPELLANT:** ACCURATE 1680  
**CHARGE:** 24.7 GRAINS  
**PRIMER:** REMINGTON 9½  
**CASE:** GECO  
**CASE TRIM-TO LENGTH:** 1.518"  
**CARTRIDGE OVERALL LENGTH:** 2.190"  
**VELOCITY @ 10' (F.P.S.):** 2,348\*  
**ENERGY @ 10' (FT.-LBS.):** 1,506  
**ACCURACY:** 1.76"\*\*\*  
**USES:** HUNTING (MEDIUM GAME), PLINKING  
**NOTES:** LOADS FIRED FROM THE 20" BARREL OF A YUGOSLAVIAN SKS WITH A PRIMARY ARMS 1-6X OPTIC.  
\* AVERAGE OF 10 SHOTS.  
\*\* AVERAGE OF FIVE CONSECUTIVE, FIVE-SHOT GROUPS AT 100 YARDS.  
TEMPERATURE: 45° F

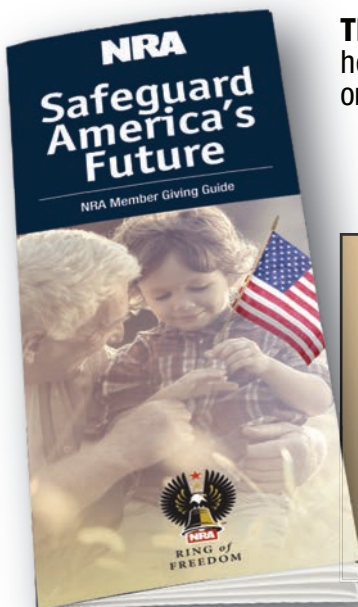
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“ All [or state a \_\_\_\_%] of the rest, residue, and remainder of my property, both real and personal and wheresoever situated, I give, devise and bequeath to the NRA (Federal Tax ID # 53-0116130), 11250 Waples Mill Road, Fairfax, Virginia 22030,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

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# SCOTUS Deals Major Blow To Executive Overreach

On June 28, the Supreme Court issued its decision in *Loper Bright Enterprises v. Raimondo* and overturned *Chevron U.S.A. Inc. v. Natural Resources Defense Council, Inc.* While the *Loper Bright* case dealt with the federal government's regulation of commercial herring fishing, overruling the Court's *Chevron* decision will have far-reaching consequences for federal firearm regulations.

Under the so-called "*Chevron* deference," federal courts have deferred to any "permissible" reading of a federal statute made by a federal agency if the court determined that the intent of Congress under the statute was unclear. This rule led federal courts to uphold many federal regulations that bore little resemblance to the statutes they were supposedly implementing.

It is also antithetical to America's constitutional structure for an executive branch agency to be given the power to create binding interpretations of the laws they are charged with enforcing. As Chief Justice Roberts put it in the Court's majority opinion, "The Framers ... envisioned that the final 'interpretation of the laws' would be 'the proper and peculiar province of the courts.'"

In recent years, most federal gun control has been created through regulations implemented by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF). This includes ATF's treatment of all pistols with attached stabilizing braces as short-barreled rifles, ATF's re-definition of the term "frame or receiver" to effectively ban parts used by hobbyist gun builders and ATF's attempt to expand who must be licensed as a gun dealer before selling firearms.

Thanks to the Court's decision to reject the *Chevron* deference, all of these ATF rules are now on very questionable legal footing.

In fact, the Court's decision to depart from agency deference has already played a role in the invalidation of a federal firearm regulation. When the Court rejected ATF's ban on bump-fire stocks two weeks ago, it notably did not give any deference to ATF's interpretation of the term "machinegun." Many Court watchers (correctly) assumed this meant the Court would be overturning or limiting *Chevron* when it released its decision in *Loper Bright*.

Gun owners, and all freedom-loving Americans, should look forward to a future where our liberties are (at least a little) less subject to the whims of unelected federal bureaucrats.

## NRA-ILA

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## IN MEMORY NRA-ILA CONTRIBUTIONS

June 1-30, 2024

Officer Jonathan Diller, NYPD (from: Thomas & Susan Dwyer); Clarence E. Bartlett, Swannanoa, NC, (from: Helen W. Bartlett).



iStock photo by euraibanks

## NRA Challenges California Tax Scheme

On July 2, the NRA, together with the Second Amendment Foundation, Firearms Policy Coalition, and California Rifle & Pistol Association, filed a lawsuit challenging California's 11% excise tax on gross receipts from the retail sale of firearms, firearm precursor parts and ammunition.

Although the tax—which is imposed by Assembly Bill 28—is technically levied on the sellers, the amount is passed through to law-abiding Californians every time they purchase such items.

This was demonstrated when the two individual plaintiffs, Danielle Jaymes and Joshua Gerken, purchased a firearm and ammunition on July 1, 2024—the date the excise tax provision took effect. The cost of their purchases increased by 11% due to the tax.

"The National Rifle Association has a record of challenging laws that needlessly abridge the rights of law-abiding Americans," said Randy Kozuch, executive director of the NRA-ILA. "California's firearms excise tax is a blatant and egregious attack on the rights of Californians and a calculated maneuver to dismantle the Second Amendment."

The plaintiffs, including the two individuals and four organizations, sued Nicolas Maduros in his official capacity as the director of the California Dept. of Tax and Fee Administration, alleging a violation of their Second Amendment rights. They seek a declaratory judgment stating that the tax is unconstitutional and a preliminary injunction enjoining its enforcement. The case, *Jaymes v. Maduros*, was filed in the Superior Court of California in the County of San Diego.

## Louisiana Governor Signs NRA-Supported Bills

Gov. Jeff Landry (R) signed three NRA-backed, pro-Second Amendment bills in June.

Senate Bill 234 creates the Firearm Industry Non-Discrimination Act (FIND Act) that discourages companies—including banks, payment processors, insurers and other financial services providers—from discriminating against members of the firearm and ammunition industries. This law prohibits businesses that engage in this practice from contracting with governmental entities in the Pelican State.

Senate Bill 301 prohibits payment processors from using firearm/ammunition-specific merchant category codes. This is an important protection for gun owners, preventing abuse of private purchasing information by third parties.

House Bill 819 provides that the state shall have the burden of proof in any criminal proceeding in which the justification of self-defense is raised.

All of these important reforms went into effect on Aug. 1, 2024. 🦋

Photo by David "Doc" Abbott



# Gretchen Wilson is **NRA** COUNTRY



**N**RA Country artist Gretchen Wilson probably needs no introduction. With one hit song after another, from her first single, "Redneck Woman," to her latest, "Little Miss Runner Up," she's sold more than 10 million albums, earned 11 major music awards (including a GRAMMY), created her own label (Redneck Records) and just keeps on rolling. But Gretchen still kindly took time out of her busy schedule to answer a few questions from NRA Country's Vanessa Shahidi.

**VS:** We are so excited you have new music out! Tell us about "Little Miss Runner Up."

**GW:** "Little Miss Runner Up" follows the same girl we all know and love to roll our eyes at! It's a follow-up song to my "Homewrecker" single, which I wrote with the same songwriters, Rivers Rutherford and George Teren.

**VS:** "Redneck Woman" is a theme song for so many of us out there, including myself. Do you write all your songs from life experiences?

**GW:** All of my songs come from life experiences, whether I wrote them or not.

"Redneck Woman" is me. I still remember sitting in John Rich's apartment and talking about not being like all of the other women who were singing country music at the time. John said, "Well, what are you?" and I said, "I guess I'm just a redneck woman." John said, "Let's write that." It's hard to believe that song came out 20 years ago!

**VS:** Tell us about the best female artist that you had the pleasure performing with?

**GW:** I hate to single out one, but that reminds me of a great Dolly Parton story. I was a part of a Women of Country segment with her. I was talking to Dolly about what I was going to wear. I told her I wanted something like what she was wearing, and she said, "You can have these." So, if you watch that show, I am literally wearing Dolly Parton's pants!

**VS:** What does freedom mean to you?

**GW:** Freedom means everything to me. It means I get to do what I love to do for a living. When I tour, I cross state lines without being stopped. I have a vote in what happens in my city, state and country. I can carry a gun.

**VS:** You took a little break from touring and performing; what was the inspiration to come back now?

**GW:** I toured for many years—and I'm very thankful for that. But I really felt I needed to be a mom to my daughter, so I came off the road. During COVID, I broke my leg in two places—get this—dancing "Ring Around The Rosie" with a four-year-old at a friend's wedding. Between that and long-COVID complications, I was knocked out for two years. This is the 20th anniversary of "Redneck Woman" and my "Here For The Party" album, so it felt like the right time to jump back in.

**VS:** What activities do you do with your daughter to pass on your love of the outdoors?

**GW:** When Grace was younger, we had all kinds of animals. We watched life happen right there on our farm, and that was priceless. We also had a shooting range, so we shot targets and skeet.

**VS:** We are so proud to have you as NRA Life Member. What does that membership mean to you?

**GW:** I'll never forget signing my lifetime membership in Nashville. It was an NRA event here with a bunch of artists. I was so proud of that and still am. No one protects any of our constitutional rights like the NRA protects the Second Amendment, and I am thankful for that!

*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](http://nracountry.com), follow on Twitter @NRACountry, and NRA\_Country on Instagram.*

# NRA Online Regional Report

To search for events in your area, go to

[nrapublications.org/regional-report](http://nrapublications.org/regional-report)

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



## LAW ENFORCEMENT

[le.nra.org](http://le.nra.org)

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



## FRIENDS OF NRA

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## GUN SHOWS

[gunshows.nra.org](http://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](mailto:recruiter@nrahq.org).



## TRAINING

[refuse.nra.org](http://refuse.nra.org) | [nrainstructors.org](http://nrainstructors.org)

The NRA's Refuse to Be a Victim® program provides information on crime prevention and personal safety. To learn more about the program, visit [refuse.nra.org](http://refuse.nra.org). The most up-to-date seminar and instructor training schedule is available on the Internet by visiting [nrainstructors.org](http://nrainstructors.org), or online training is available at [nraonlinetraining.org](http://nraonlinetraining.org).

Questions? Email to [refuse@nrahq.org](mailto:refuse@nrahq.org) or by calling (800) 861-1166.



## AREA SHOOT

[ssusa.org/coming-events](http://ssusa.org/coming-events)

For more information, please contact the NRA Competitive Shooting Division at [comphelp@nrahq.org](mailto:comphelp@nrahq.org).



## STATE ASSOCIATIONS

[stateassociations.nra.org](http://stateassociations.nra.org)

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**APRIL 24-27, 2025**

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## NRA Community Shield And School Shield



Statistics show that criminals target “gun-free” zones, particularly when they expect a large number of disarmed people in attendance. In fact, according to the Crime Prevention Research Center, a staggering 94% of U.S. mass-murder attempts have taken place in “gun-free” zones since 1950. (Even if you accept a much lower number claimed by gun-control activists, it should be obvious that you don’t want to openly assert that your location is a “soft target” since no one will be able to defend themselves or others.)

“Gun-free” zones are vulnerable. This is a fact that must be faced by society in general, but it’s even more relevant to those responsible for the wellbeing of others.

Accordingly, many churches are training security teams to respond should such a horrific crime be attempted on their congregants. The NRA Community Shield program exists to help implement such programs effectively. This program will help you to assess vulnerabilities and learn how to mitigate them. You’ll learn to develop a specific strategy for your location, including assessing whether to incorporate armed protection as part of your plan.

Similarly, the NRA School Shield program exists to help administrators assess the complex issue of adequately protecting staff members and the children entrusted in their care. The program will help you to develop and implement a

plan that addresses working with security and law-enforcement professionals, visitation policies, door-locking policies, planning and incorporating drills, emergency management and training personnel on situational awareness and threat detection.

If you’re not a church leader or school administrator, and you’re concerned about security in these locations, the programs’ websites can help you get started with asking the right questions and equipping others with the information they need.

Remember, it’s not just our duty to protect them; it’s our right to protect them.

Go to [le.nra.org/community-shield](http://le.nra.org/community-shield) or to [nraschoolshield.org](http://nraschoolshield.org) to learn more about these two important programs. 



Photos by NRA Staff

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# GLOCK GEN5

continued from p. 43



The Gen5 G20 (l.) is 3/4" taller than the Gen5 G30, though both are the same width, and it holds 15 rounds of 10 mm ammunition as compared to the G30's 10 rounds of .45 ACP.

undercut and beveling where the guard connects with the grip frame are different, but it looks and feels similar to that of the larger Gen4 frames to me. The manufacturer's mark was formerly located at the top of the right side of the grip. It's now found in the same box as the patent-pending information near the opening of the pistol's magazine well.

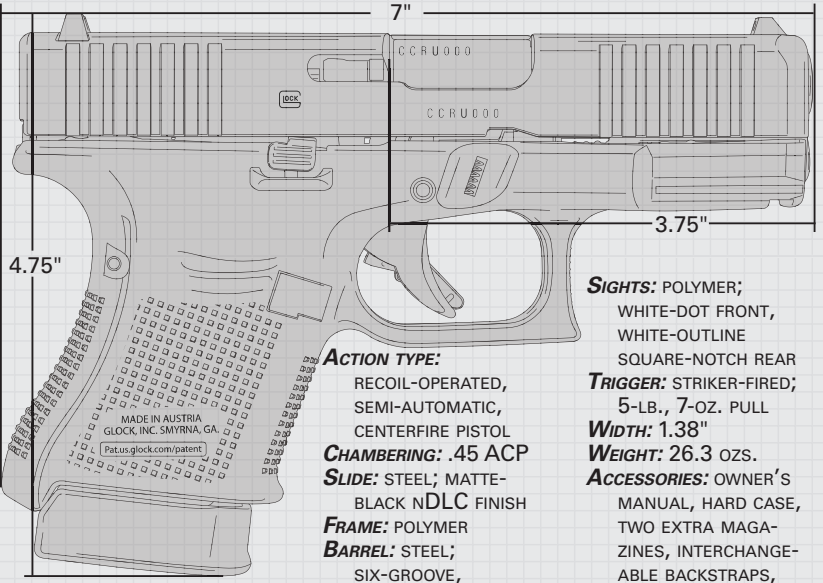
The other frame change folks will notice right off the bat is the flat profile of the grip's frontstrap. Although the Gen3 and 4 finger grooves were not a concern for many fans of the platform, the return of the Gen1- and Gen2-type straight profile is a decided improvement for a variety of hand shapes. The grip frame is grooved to accommodate the medium and large interchangeable backstraps provided with the gun. The magazine well is externally beveled along the front and both sides for speedier reloading. The G30, however, has an uncommon extended magazine baseplate with the front edge flared and beveled while the sides remain flattened.

The factory magazines for Gen5 pistols continue to be metal-lined with polymer shells. However, the metal liner is completely enclosed with polymer around the magazine-release cutout. The previously black polymer followers have been replaced with bright orange units; this color change makes it easier to verify the magazine is completely unloaded and to see the follower as it moves past the numbered ports along the magazine's spine. In most cases, the baseplates have been tapered along the front edge and the sides have been slightly enlarged to match the shape of the flared magazine well so that they can still be manually stripped from the grip if necessary. A total of three magazines and a magazine loader are standard equipment that ship with this pistol series.

Glock's 10 mm pistols are a longtime favorite of mine, so I was perfectly happy to have an opportunity to work with the Standard-size Gen5 G20. The pistol was outfitted with

## GLOCK G30 GEN5

MANUFACTURER: GLOCK, INC. (DEPT. AR), 6000 HIGHLANDS PARKWAY S.E., SMYRNA, GA 30082; (770) 432-1202; [GLOCK.COM](http://GLOCK.COM)



### ACTION TYPE:

RECOIL-OPERATED, SEMI-AUTOMATIC, CENTERFIRE PISTOL

### CHAMBERING: .45 ACP

SLIDE: STEEL; MATTE-BLACK NDLC FINISH

### FRAME: POLYMER

BARREL: STEEL; SIX-GROOVE, 1:15.75" RH-TWIST POLYGONAL RIFLING

MAGAZINE: 10-ROUND DETACHABLE BOX

### SIGHTS: POLYMER;

WHITE-DOT FRONT, WHITE-OUTLINE SQUARE-NOTCH REAR

TRIGGER: STRIKER-FIRED; 5-LB., 7-OZ. PULL

WIDTH: 1.38"

WEIGHT: 26.3 OZS.

ACCESSORIES: OWNER'S MANUAL, HARD CASE, TWO EXTRA MAGAZINES, INTERCHANGEABLE BACKSTRAPS, PIN PUNCH, BRUSH, MAGAZINE LOADER, LOCK

**MSRP: \$647**

## SHOOTING RESULTS: GLOCK G30 GEN5 (15 YARDS)

.45 ACP CARTRIDGE	VELOCITY (F.P.S.)	ENERGY (FT.-LBS.)	GROUP SIZE (INCHES)		
			SMALLEST	LARGEST	AVERAGE
FEDERAL SD 205-GRAIN SJSHP	780 Avg. 21 Sd	277	2.31	2.70	2.53
HORNADY CD 185-GRAIN FTX	917 Avg. 16 Sd	345	2.23	2.57	2.36
WINCHESTER DEFEND 230-GRAIN JHP	785 Avg. 14 Sd	315	2.31	2.64	2.46
<b>AVERAGE EXTREME SPREAD</b>					2.45

NOTES: MEASURED AVERAGE VELOCITY FOR 10 SHOTS FIRED NEXT TO A GARMIN XERO C1 PRO CHRONOGRAPH AT THE MUZZLE. ACCURACY RESULTS FOR FIVE CONSECUTIVE, FIVE-SHOT GROUPS FIRED FROM A BENCH REST. TEMPERATURE: 56° F. HUMIDITY: 32%. ABBREVIATIONS: CD (CRITICAL DEFENSE), FTX (FLEX TIP EXPANDING), JHP (JACKETED HOLLOW POINT), Sd (STANDARD DEVIATION), SD (SYNTECH DEFENSE), SJSHP (SYNTHETIC JACKET SEGMENTED HOLLOW POINT).

the MOS-compatible Swampfox Kraken enclosed-emitter 3-m.o.a. red-dot optic for formal accuracy testing at 25 yards. The grip shape and texturing were a pleasure to work with as this particular pistol fed, fired and ejected all loads of ammunition tested without any malfunction using the three magazines provided in the box.

As for the Subcompact G30, I walked away from the Gen3 version years ago because it was a poor fit for my somewhat smaller hands. I purchased the slimmer G36 instead. For this reason, I was curious to see if two generations of grip modifications would make a difference. Not only did the G30 prove to be a good fit, but it was fun to shoot! Tested at 15 yards using the factory polymer sights, it was more of a handful than some guns in this size class but certainly not punishing to fire. This pistol was also utterly reliable and malfunction-free throughout the entire course of informal and formal testing.

As of this writing, Glock pistols have been in circulation for slightly more than four decades, and I've been shooting



various examples of these polymer-frame, striker-fired pistols for about 25 of those years. It began with finding my way to the popular Gen3 models in the late 1990s and continued from there. At this point in time, I've had opportunities to work the triggers of pistols representative of all the generations and even took a Glock armorer's certification course. That day-long class taught me that you don't need an armorer's course to fix or modify these semi-automatics. Their simple and modular design allows for a variety of uncomplicated at-home, table-top component exchanges using just a pin punch and perhaps a pair of thin-profile needle-nose pliers if you need to get to the Gen4 or earlier magazine-release button's spring.

With the first Gen5 models shipping for a few years now, and more models still being added, two things have become clear about what to expect from future additions. First, this company is willing to make some changes to its iconic design. I found good reasons to like both of the Gen5 models evaluated for this review. The grips are a good fit for my hands and the bilateral slide release is a welcome, if not overdue, improvement. Secondly, Glock is likely to continue clinging doggedly to keeping its pistols' profile fundamentally the same.

Pick a dozen different models from across the five generations, set them all side by side and unsurprisingly they all look like Glocks. Some shooting-sports enthusiasts chafe at this lack of cosmetic diversity. But why fix something that isn't broken? It was built from the ground up as a tool with a utilitarian design, not as a highly polished show piece. Factory-produced Glocks are unlikely to ever be "handsome" handguns. These pistols would not be among the most popular in the world if they didn't work and work well. Thus, if you are in the market for a reliable pistol that keeps on punching the clock, year after year, then take the advice of U.S. Marshal Samuel Gerard, played by actor Tommy Lee Jones in the movie "The Fugitive" (1993), and "Get yourself a Glock." 🏃



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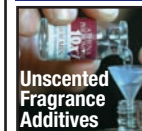


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# I HAVE THIS OLD GUN ...

**GUN:** ROTH-STEYR M1907

**MANUFACTURER:**  
OESTERRICHISCHE  
WAFFENFABRIK  
GESELLSCHAFT,  
(AUSTRIA)

**CHAMBERING:**  
8 MM ROTH-STEYR

**MANUFACTURED:** C. 1916

**CONDITION:** NRA VERY  
GOOD (MODERN GUN  
STANDARDS)

**VALUE:** \$1,450



## ROTH-STEYR MODEL 1907

Though Switzerland broke the ice by choosing the semi-automatic German Parabellum as its official sidearm as early as 1900, the accolade for the first major military power to adopt a self-loading handgun goes to Austria-Hungary and the Roth-Steyr Model 1907.

Unlike the Luger, which is one of the world's most recognizable and widely dispersed semi-automatics ever, the M1907 Roth-Steyr, though a worthy repeater, has sunk into relative obscurity, primarily only recognized by devoted collectors and enthusiasts of early martial handguns. Additionally, the fact that 8 mm Steyr ammunition is difficult to come by and that the pistol has an unorthodox loading arrangement relegates it to being a non-starter with most shooters.

At the time of its premier, however, the Roth-Steyr was highly regarded and considered something of a wonder—persevering through two world wars, despite being eclipsed by simpler, more efficient designs.

Though the pistol includes the armsmaker Steyr's name in its popular designation, that respected Austrian firm had little to do with its development. It was really devised by Czech inventor Karel Krnka, an employee of the *Georg Roth Actien-Gesellschaft* ammunition company.

During the Austro-Hungarian handgun trials of 1906, a perfected version of the Roth-Krnka emerged triumphant and was duly accepted by Emperor Franz Josef's cavalry as the *Repetierpistole M.7.* (Repeating Pistol Model 1907).

The M1907 was a sturdy piece of hardware that stressed safety over facility with its slow, heavy, almost-double-action-style trigger. This factor was appreciated by the Austro-Hungarian military, which felt the triggers on cavalry arms should not be too light or responsive, as a trooper on horseback had enough to deal with managing his mount and equipment without having to worry about a sidearm that might be discharged accidentally.

The cartridge designed for the 1907 Roth-Steyr was a proprietary 8x18 mm straight, rimless round that pushed its 116-grain jacketed bullet out at 1,088 f.p.s., producing a muzzle energy of some 305 ft.-lbs.—not exactly a barn-burner, but

effective enough, especially when compared with many other handgun chamberings of the period.

The M1907's 10-round magazine was fixed and contained within the butt (though it can be removed if pistol is disassembled). An intricate clip with a sliding thumbpiece was required to load the gun. Today these clips are actually scarcer than the pistols themselves and often sell in the \$200 range (when one can be found). To remove cartridges from the magazine without operating the slide, one has to simply push down on a knurled button sited on the left side of the frame, which causes the remaining rounds to eject into the surrounding environs.

Though initially intended for cavalry use, 1907 Roth-Steyrs were eventually issued to other units, including infantry and artillery. An inset disc on the gun's right stock panel identified the unit to which it was issued. The disc in the example shown here displays the initials "FKR" (*Feldkanonartillerie* Regiment—Field Artillery).

Model 1907s were manufactured at two sites—*Oesterrichische Waffenfabrik Gesellschaft* in Steyr, Austria, and *Fegyver és Gépgyár* (FEG) of Budapest, Hungary—the former producing some 60,000 and the latter 30,000. Quality of workmanship on guns from both factories was superb. Those pistols made in Austria are marked on some parts with a "K" and Hungarian versions with an "R."

Model 1907s saw considerable use with Austro-Hungarian forces in the years preceding and during World War I and also in dwindling numbers with military and police in the years following. Additionally, the guns were fielded by Italy and in Eastern European nations such as Poland, Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia.

Though fascinating arms, Roth-Steyr M1907s have not ascended to the upper echelons of desirability among collectors, thus a pretty decent specimen, such as the one seen here in NRA Very Good (Modern Gun Standards) condition, would sell for \$1,450.

—GARRY JAMES, FIELD EDITOR

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



# Americans can finally grow thick, lustrous hair

## “This will help your thinning hair and receding hairline in just 30 days” says top US Doctor

*Clinical trials show a new hair loss breakthrough can help both men and women naturally regrow a thick, full head of hair – without drugs, surgery, or side effects*

Thousands are rushing to get a new hair restoration method based on surprising new studies from the University of California.

It is the world's first and only hair loss solution that revives dead hair follicles. And studies confirm it helps men and women regrow a thick, full head of hair, even after years of balding.

Now, with news of this breakthrough spreading like wildfire — the manufacturers are struggling to keep up with overwhelming demand.

That's because, unlike other methods, it is prescription-free, drug-free, and has no side effects. And while hair transplants can cost \$4,000 or more, this new approach costs pennies on the dollar and doesn't involve going to the doctor's office.

Instead, it leverages cutting-edge technology to prevent hair loss, fills in embarrassing bald spots, and **Re-Nourishes** thinning hair — with results you can see and feel in 30 days or less.

As Jeanne F. from San Diego, CA reports: “When my husband began to use this product, all he had on top of his head was fuzz. His hair began to grow after 30 days and now it is about 2 to 3 inches long!”

### Surprising Truth About Hair Loss

It is commonly believed that hair loss is hereditary.

Unfortunately, most people think there is nothing they can do to stop it. However, while many doctors will tell you that thinning hair, a receding hairline, and bald spots are due to your genetics, this is not the whole story.

“While genetics play a role, it's not the main reason you lose hair,” says Dr. Al Sears, the nation's top anti-aging doctor. “And surprisingly it's not just your age, thyroid, hormones, stress, or a vitamin deficiency, either.”

The latest scientific research reveals that hair loss is primarily

caused by the stem cells in your hair follicles dying.

“This discovery is a true breakthrough because by reviving these stem cells on your scalp, you can stop hair loss dead in its tracks and trigger new hair growth, even in areas that have been thinning for years,” explains Dr. Sears.

Now, at his world-famous clinic, the Sears Institute for Anti-Aging Medicine in Palm Beach, FL, Dr. Sears and his team have used this game-changing discovery to develop a brand-new hair restoration formula that is taking the country by storm.

Sold under the name **Re-Nourish**, it is flying off the shelves with men and women of all ages raving about the results it delivers.

**Breakthrough research proves this discovery helps fill in bald spots, re-nourishes thinning hair, and leads to noticeable growth in as little as 30 days.**

“I have seen a significant improvement in hair growth. Previously, you could see thinning areas at the back of my head and now hair has grown over it,” says Peter W. from Ontario, Canada.

And Susan D. from Fort Pierce, Florida reports, “My hair was thinning. So, I began to use **Re-Nourish** every day on the front part of my scalp. Now I have thicker hair.”

### Regrows Hair In Just 30 Days

Scientists now know that stem cells are the lifeblood of your hair follicles.

Research from the University of California shows they're the reason you're able to grow hair. However, these stem cells aren't always active. In fact, studies reveal they're only active during certain phases of the hair growth

cycle.

“Your hair grows in three phases,” explains Dr. Sears. “First, you have the anagen phase, the hair growing phase. Then the catagen phase, when hair gets ready to shed. And finally, the telogen phase, where your hair is pushed from the follicle and falls out.”

As you get older it becomes harder for your hair follicles to complete this three-phase cycle. The results? Your hairs get stuck in the telogen phase. This is when they start falling out and stop regrowing, no matter what you try.

This process doesn't happen overnight, says Dr. Sears.

“At first, your hair dries out, becoming brittle, thin, and harder to style. Then, you start finding hairs on your pillow and down the drain. Finally, you're left with bald spots that age you prematurely.”

Fortunately, **Re-Nourish** puts a stop to this. It revives the dead stem cells in your hair follicles and reactivates your hair's three-phase cycle, triggering new growth in as little as 30 days — even in areas that've been balding for years.

### Reawakens Dead Hair Follicles

For years, scientists couldn't figure out why hair follicle stem cells died.

However, a study from the University of California finally found the answer.

It has to do with T-cells — an important immune cell in your body. The researchers discovered these T-cells are the only way to command hair follicles to grow new hair.

More importantly, they showed that T-cells helped revive the stem cells in your hair follicles — spurring new growth, filling in bald spots and natural hairline.

**Re-Nourish** uses a unique blend of all-natural ingredients. By spraying it on your hair once per day, scientific studies show

you can revive dead stem cells and improve the appearance of thicker, fuller hair.

For example, the key nutrient of **Re-Nourish** was tested on a group of severely balding women.

After 6 months, nearly 70% of the women saw significant improvement in hair growth. Their hair was noticeably fuller, thicker, and healthier looking. Most exciting of all, they grew new hair on parts of their scalp that had been bald for years.

In another study, Italian researchers gathered a group of both men and women with thinning hair and applied the core ingredient of **Re-Nourish**. After 12 weeks, they reported a staggering 74% increase in hair growth.

“It's really mind-boggling that my hair started growing back,” says Zan R., another **Re-Nourish** customer.

With results like this, it's no surprise that demand for **Re-Nourish** is soaring. Thousands of men and women are scrambling to get their hands on the limited supply available.

**Re-Nourish** is not currently available in any store at any price. But we've secured a small batch for our readers.

### Try Re-Nourish 100% Risk-Free

To secure the hot, new **Re-Nourish** formula, buyers should contact the Sears Health Hotline at **1-800-586-4952** 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 **Re-Nourish**, all orders are backed by a 100% money-back guarantee. “Just send me back the bottle and any unused product within 90 days from purchase date, and I'll send you all your money back.”

Call NOW at **1-800-586-4952** to secure your supply of **Re-Nourish**. Use Promo Code **ARRN824** when you call. Lines are frequently busy, but all calls will be answered!

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