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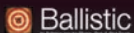
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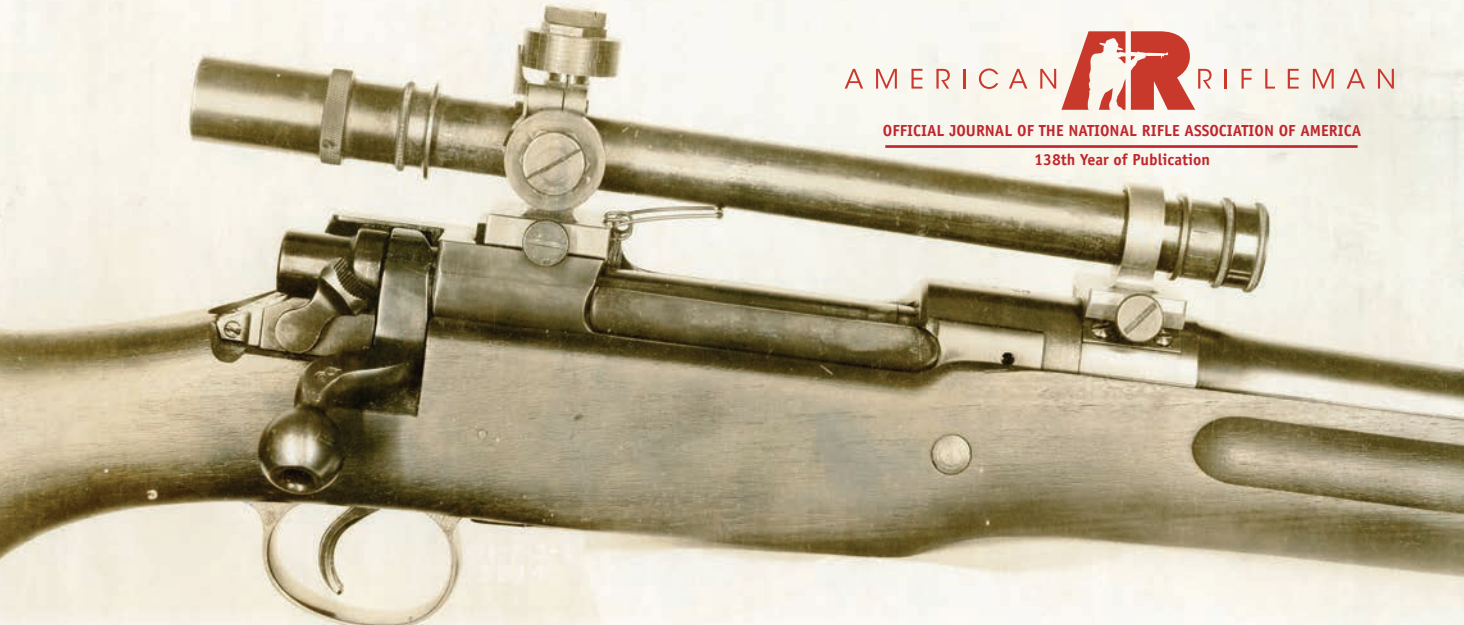
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The NRA, the foremost guardian of the traditional American right to “keep and bear arms,” believes every law-abiding citizen is entitled to the ownership and legal use of firearms, and that every reputable gun owner should be an NRA Member.

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Review: Taurus TX22 Black T.O.R.O.

The latest TX22 model from Taurus, the TX22 Black T.O.R.O., combines features from many of the company's previous rimfire handguns. americanrifleman.org/tx22black

I Defend The 2nd: Ronnie Barrett

Ronnie Barrett, NRA director and founder of Barrett Firearms, talks about the support needed to ensure that the NRA continues to thrive. americanrifleman.org/ronniebarrett



From Slave To Gunsmith: The James Jones Story

Born into slavery, James Monroe Jones obtained his freedom and migrated north to Canada, where he turned out exquisite derringers and long guns. americanrifleman.org/jamesjones

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THE RIFLEMAN REPORT

Slogans along the lines of “Your voice matters” are not uncommon during election cycles—including the one now upon us, which may indeed be the most consequential yet for gun owners. And while there are serious questions as to whether such declarations reflect reality or exist to serve as nothing more than trite turns of phrase, they nonetheless represent a valid principle. Of course, that doesn’t mean our commitment to freedom begins and ends with our decision on Tuesday, November 5.

When it comes to the content contained in each monthly issue of *American Rifleman* magazine, rest assured that your voice definitely matters. The editors would like to remind you, our NRA member readers, that we have three columns set aside through which you can contribute to this magazine.

First, of course, is Readers Write (p. 22), where you can express thoughts, observations, suggestions and corrections—whether critical or complimentary—about the content you read in the departments and features we run each month. Second is Q&A (p. 30), a forum in which our contributing editors can respond to your inquiries on a wide variety of firearm topics. Third is Favorite Firearms (p. 32), which is where you can share stories about particular guns that, for one reason or another, hold a special place in your heart.

Whether you contact us by email at publications@nrahq.org or by way of a good-old-fashioned letter through the mail, all we ask is that your comments be courteous, concise and pertinent to the subject at hand. (*For specific instructions on how to submit correspondence, refer to the bold text at the bottom of each department.*)

In addition to those sections and all the other regular departments in this issue—along with the critical Political Preference Charts bound into its center—we have our signature Dope Bag section, where we take a deep dive into currently available firearms and optics, along with a slate of in-depth features on guns new and old.



For example, in “Wringing Out The KelTec SUB2000 GEN3 Folding PCC” (p. 40), Field Editor Gil Horman takes a look at the latest version of that innovative company’s signature hinged pistol-caliber carbine. It is a design that has established a loyal fan base and that, now, comes with a “twist,” allowing for more convenient optic mounting and deployment.

In “A Pair Of Feisty Felines: The 80X Cheetah And 30X Tomcat Get Home Bag” (p. 46), Field Editor Justin Dyal puts two of the latest versions of Beretta’s pocket pistols through their paces with good success, helping to prove the point that not all carry guns have to be chambered in 9 mm Luger.

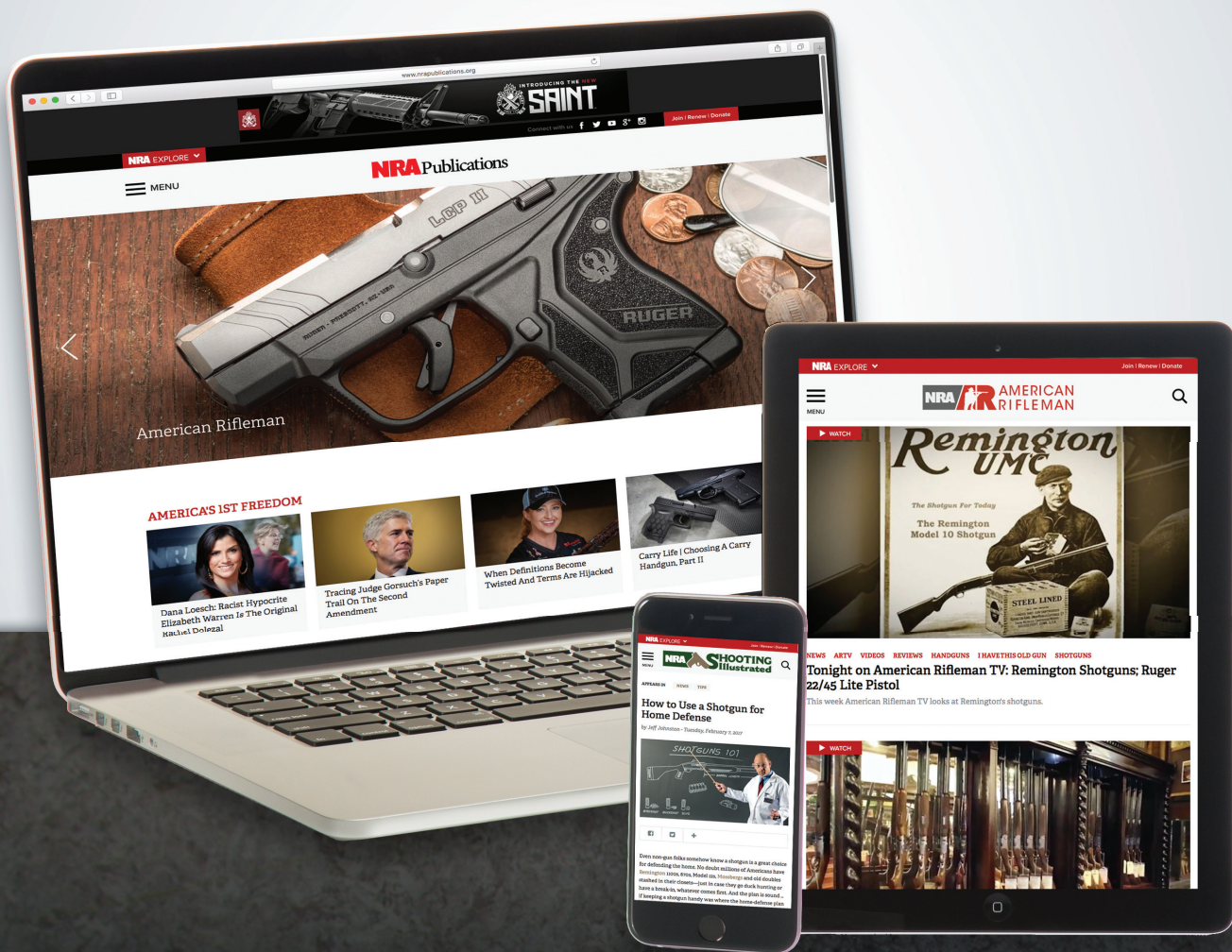
And in “Model 1918: The Sniper Rifle That Never Was” (p. 52), Field Editor Bruce Canfield examines the “launch-pad implosion” of a variant of one of the best-known bolt-actions of World War I.

Back to that slogan, though, please do not hesitate to let us know how we’re doing in our ongoing efforts to provide you with the best firearm content possible. And, whatever you do, don’t forget to get out to the polls in this year’s fast-approaching presidential election and make your voice count for our country. As firearm enthusiasts, we understand better than most the gravity of our current state of affairs and how it could quickly veer into the realm of a full-on totalitarian attack of our Second Amendment rights.

So, remember, your voice really does matter when it comes to this magazine—and it matters even more when you cast your vote for the future of America.

—BRIAN C. SHEETZ, EDITOR IN CHIEF

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In Hart County, Ga., near midnight on Sept. 1, a man heard a woman screaming for help and saw her being choked by another man on her front porch. The armed citizen shot the man who was allegedly assaulting her, stopping the attack. The suspect ran into the house and was wielding a knife when police found him. He was ordered to drop the knife, which he did, but he otherwise remained non-compliant, so officers tased him and took him to the hospital for treatment of a gunshot wound. Investigators found that the woman, who was the alleged assailant’s girlfriend’s mother, had also been cut numerous times before the choking. The suspect was to be charged with multiple counts of felony obstruction, aggravated assault and battery and other charges. (921wlhr.com, Lavonia, Ga., 9/4/24)

At 7:30 a.m. on Aug. 31, a homeowner in Lee’s Summit, Mo., discovered a stranger who had broken into the home. The homeowner reportedly told the man to leave, but he did not comply, so the homeowner shot him. The suspect then got into a car and left, but officers soon stopped the vehicle and detained two people inside it. The suspect was sent to the hospital for treatment of unspecified minor injuries. The investigation was ongoing. (kmcb.com, Kansas City, Mo., 8/31/24)

In Daviess County, Ind., a man was in front of his home the evening of Sept. 2 when another man pulled into the driveway, got out and started arguing with him. When the stranger pointed a gun at the homeowner, he drew his own gun and fired two shots. The assailant got back into his car, but later died of his injuries. The county sheriff said there was no connection between the two men, but the man who’d initiated the incident was known to have “mental-health issues.” (withtv.com, Terra Haute, Ind., 9/5/24)

On Sept. 3 in Tulsa, Okla., a man was at home when five individuals rushed him, pinned him against his car and assaulted him. “With overwhelming odds against him, he did pull out a pistol and start firing,” a police captain told reporters. Two of the alleged assailants were struck, with one, a 47-year-old man, later dying of his wounds. The investigation was ongoing. (fox23.com, Tulsa, Okla., 9/5/24)

Two armed men reportedly broke into the home of a 23-year-old woman in Chicago, Ill., at 6:30 a.m. on Sept. 4. The woman, however, who had been through the extensive process of obtaining a Firearm Owners Identification (FOID) card in Illinois,

produced her own firearm and shot at the men. After an exchange of gunfire, one of the men was shot in the chest and was later pronounced dead at the hospital. The other intruder fled and it was not known if he had been detained at the time of reporting. (wgntv.com, Chicago, Ill., 9/4/24)

On the morning of Sept. 5, a homeowner in Sweetwater, Tenn., was awakened by his dogs barking and lights turning on inside his home. When he investigated, he found a stranger in his home, whom he escorted out at gunpoint to wait for law enforcement. The home invader initially complied, but then shoved the armed citizen down, re-entered the home and locked the door. Other people in the home were now in danger, so the homeowner discharged his firearm, striking the intruder, who then exited and collapsed. The homeowner and first responders rendered aid, but the suspect later died in the hospital. The man reportedly had a history of entering random houses along with a recent “mental status change,” which his family reported to police. No charges were to be filed against the homeowner. (wate.com, Knoxville, Tenn., 9/5/24)

In Escambia County, Fla., on Sept. 8, a woman was cleaning out a rental property she owned, with two men helping. One of the men allegedly pulled out a gun and tried to steal the woman’s purse; however, she drew her own gun and fired one shot at the would-be robber. The men fled, but police later located and arrested one of them at a hospital with a gunshot wound in his foot; the second suspect now has an active warrant for several robbery charges. (Escambia County Sheriff’s Office Facebook post, Escambia County, Fla., 9/10/24) 🗨️

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By Doug Hamlin
NRA Executive
Vice President & CEO

Gun Owners Need To Vote

Let me begin this column by thanking you. I have received so many letters, emails and phone calls from members who deeply care about the NRA. There is an excitement rising from the base of this critical association. The members have noticed that the NRA is back. The common thread in the messages is they have been animated by our NRA 2.0 new beginning in this vital political moment, as our freedom is entwined within this election.

We have endured nearly four years of President Joe Biden (D)—and Vice President Kamala Harris (D)—blaming you and me for the actions of violent criminals. We have endured their attacks on law and order, including Harris' support for defunding the police.

We have endured their weaponization of government agencies against law-abiding citizens' right to keep and bear arms, their attempts to bankrupt gun manufacturers and stores, their executive actions written to infringe on our freedom, their many attempts to disempower those who can't afford armed security, their many lies about the nature of our freedom, their endeavor to allow a federal agency to write gun-control laws, and their wanton desires for gun bans and confiscations. We have even endured attempts by elected officials in New York state to bankrupt and dissolve the NRA.

Now we can push back at the voting booth. Now we can toss them out of office. The prospect of four years of a Harris administration actively at war with lawfully armed citizens is too much.

Go to [NRAPVF.org](https://www.nrapvf.org), select your state and look over the grades for your candidates. We do this research so you'll know precisely how the people who want your vote stand on your freedom. We hope you'll also take the time to talk about these substantive issues at the dinner table and wherever you go. When you have such conversations, don't hesitate to take out your phone and offer to share links to help voters understand what is at stake in this election.

Show them all the legal analyses, the state specific stories and more at [NRA-ILA.org](https://www.nra-ila.org). For breaking news and more in-depth stories and video interviews about these issues, show them *America's 1st Freedom's* website, [A1F.com](https://www.a1f.com). If someone is not a member, but they are listening, send them a link to [membership.nra.org](https://www.membership.nra.org). Show them the videos I have done and that many others have done for us explaining the recent changes at the NRA and all we're fighting for in the nation's legislatures and courts.

The truth about the vast, law-abiding, gun-owning segment of our society does open peoples' minds. They soon find out that they have not been told the truth by many

mainstream-news outlets and politicians they support. Precisely because the truth about lawful gun ownership changes minds, many in the mainstream media eschew the real stories about armed citizens and, instead, force-feed America narrowly tailored narratives designed to convince people to vote away their Second Amendment-protected freedom.

This is why we need to stand together to stop this all-out war from the Democratic Party's leaders on this fundamental right. Now, I don't like calling out one party, as the NRA is not a partisan organization. We are an association with members from every background and category. We don't rate candidates based on their party affiliation; we rate them based on their votes and what they tell us. At the NRA, we believe that the love of freedom should never be a partisan thing; indeed, the U.S. Bill of Rights is the common ground that used to—and, to some extent, still does—bring us together upon shared values. I only mention a political party here because the official 2024 Democratic Party Platform stands against your individual right to own and carry firearms; indeed, the party's nominee, Kamala Harris, has supported gun confiscations and every other gun restriction in recent memory.

So, I am saying that the best way to reform a political party that has, at least at the top, turned against your freedom is to vote out the members of that party who treat you as subjects who must disarm before them. It is time to again remind them you are free citizens who have the natural right to defend yourselves. They have opened the borders to criminal gangs and, in many of the places they control, they have created a revolving-door criminal-justice system that allows violent individuals to go right back into our neighborhoods.

That is the path into chaos that Kamala Harris would continue to push us down.

Former President Donald J. Trump (R), in contrast, offers us a brighter future. During the four years he was president, he nominated judges to the federal judiciary, including justices to the U.S. Supreme Court, who honestly apply the U.S. Constitution and our body of laws. That return to stability, to freedom, is badly needed in America today. Indeed, the world needs us to stand resolutely for freedom again.

The critical time is now. We must stand together and vote for our freedom!



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Kamala Harris' Complete Disconnect

As an association, we often focus on specific attacks on the Second Amendment, whether they be red-flag expansion proposals, one-gun-a-month schemes, efforts to expand background checks or other similar infringements. Of course, since any threat to the right to keep and bear arms is a threat to our freedom, it's very important that we track all such proposals and do our utmost to ensure they are soundly defeated.

With Vice President Kamala Harris, however, the dangers are even worse.

Here's the far-more-serious problem with Harris, the Democrat nominee for the highest office in the land: She doesn't even accept the fundamental underpinning of the Second Amendment. Kamala Harris refuses to accept that the Second Amendment protects an individual right to keep and bear arms. She refuses to accept that it is not a collective right shared by a group of people, but a right given to each of us by our Creator and guaranteed to us by the Bill of Rights.

If you have a public official, like Harris, who takes the position that any of the rights enumerated in the Bill of Rights don't pertain to the individual, she is never going to understand the impact her proposed gun-control laws will have on lawful American citizens. To her, such concerns simply will not matter.

As NRA members well know, the first 10 amendments to our Constitution are known as the Bill of Rights for a reason—within it are denoted numerous "rights" that belong to the individual and that are guaranteed against government limitation and infringement. Any American elected official who fails to grasp this foundational principle, or who understands it and simply refuses to accept it, is undeserving of holding public office at any level—and especially the office of president of the United States.

With Harris, this is not a hypothetical concern. She is on record declaring that the Second Amendment does not protect an individual right at all. So much for the clear language and history underpinning the Bill of Rights. In fact, Harris proudly lent her name as the district attorney of San Francisco to a legal brief opposing what turned out to be the seminal 2008 ruling in the important Second Amendment case *District of Columbia v. Heller*.

In that brief, Harris and several fellow anti-gun DAs from other big, Leftist-run cities throughout the nation claimed that the lower court considering the case had invented a new individual right that would only make it harder for them to fight crime in their various cities.

In that brief, they wrote: "For nearly 70 years, courts have consistently sustained criminal firearms laws against Second Amendment

challenges by holding that, (i) the Second Amendment provides only a militia-related right to bear arms, (ii) the Second Amendment does not apply to legislation passed by state or local governments, and (iii) the restrictions bear a reasonable relationship to protecting public safety and thus do not violate a personal constitutional right. The lower court's decision, however, creates a broad private right to possess any firearm that is a 'lineal descendant' of a founding era weapon and that is in 'common use' with a 'military application' today."

These anti-Second Amendment prosecutors also argued in that brief supporting D.C.'s restrictive gun laws: "The District Attorneys respectfully join in the arguments set forth in Petitioners' brief. For all the reasons set forth by Petitioners, as well as the various reasons advanced by the amici in support of Petitioners, the three statutes at issue in the D.C. Code do not violate the Second Amendment rights of individuals who are not affiliated with any state-regulated militia."

Harris' stance, set forth in that legal brief, tells us all we need to know about her disdain for the Second Amendment and other individual rights. And in the years since the *Heller* decision, she has continued to support all manner of government restrictions on possession of firearms by law-abiding citizens, including constantly promoting confiscatory bans on the country's most popular rifle, the AR-15. Along the way, she has lauded Australia's gun-confiscation program while criticizing the U.S. Supreme Court for its *Bruen* decision and a number of subsequent rulings striking down various gun-control schemes.

In August, Harris chose an equally anti-gun running mate in Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz. Once a supporter of the individual right to keep and bear arms, Walz turned his back on Americans when running for statewide and now federal office, cynically embracing all the same gun bans and other infringements Harris extols.

It will be interesting to see how the Harris-Walz translation of the Second Amendment being nothing more than the right to form a state militia resonates nationally with voters outside the states the duo has represented in public office (California and Minnesota). Hopefully a majority of votes tallied after the polls close on Election Day will reflect the fact that Americans reject the view that the Bill of Rights can be so casually discarded based on their vague notion of "common sense." We must make our voices heard at the ballot box on November 5!



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By Randy Kozuch
Executive Director,
NRA-ILA

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Camo Hats Can't Hide Anti-Gun Record

Versions of this have been said before, but it bears repeating: Sportsmen wear camouflage to not be seen, while anti-gun politicians wear it to be seen. Such is the case with the 2024 Democratic presidential ticket of Vice President Kamala Harris and Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz.

This summer, the Harris-Walz campaign's merchandise store released a camo baseball cap with the pair's names printed in hunter orange. To hear it from the fawning regime press, the mere existence of a camo hat bearing the names of the most anti-Second Amendment presidential ticket in history is some sort of achievement. The camouflage campaign hat, along with Walz's folksy affectation, are supposed to get ordinary American voters to forget about the ticket's extreme views.

The New York City-based *Rolling Stone* proclaimed, "The hat reclaims the rural and Southern identity that mainstream Democrats have long ignored." According to MSNBC, the hat helps define "Walz's place in the Harris campaign"; that "He is to be that Midwest everyman."

Of course, no amount of camouflage can disguise Harris and Walz's radical anti-gun records.

During her failed 2020 presidential campaign, Harris repeatedly stated that she supports banning and confiscating commonly owned semi-automatic firearms, including the AR-15. As San Francisco district attorney, Harris argued that the Second Amendment does not protect an individual right to keep and bear arms.

For all his down-home posturing, Walz also wants to ban common semi-automatic firearms. The anti-gun extremist even inflated his military record to argue for a gun ban. In 2018, Walz told a crowd, "We can make sure those weapons of war, that I carried in war, are only carried in war." The statement conflated the types of full-auto-capable rifles typically issued to soldiers in the U.S. military with semi-automatic-only rifles available to law-abiding civilians. Worse, Walz never served in a combat zone, and the campaign was forced to admit that he "misspoke."

Gun owners are used to this sort of camo-clad subterfuge.

On more than one occasion in the 1990s, President Bill Clinton played the part of a duck hunter. In 1993, the *Los Angeles Times* described one of these outings as an "image-making exercise," noting that "President Clinton sacrificed a duck to the cause of gun control."

Following the 2000 presidential election, in which Vice President Al Gore lost to George W. Bush, Clinton blamed gun owners. Clinton told CBS' Dan Rather, "[I]n at least five states I can think of, the NRA had a decisive influence."

In 2004, Democrat presidential candidate John Kerry was determined to avoid Gore's

fate. The anti-gun Massachusetts senator with the Boston Brahmin accent tried to affect an everyman image by being photographed handling shotguns. This farce was made even more absurd when, at a Labor Day rally in West Virginia, Kerry accepted a Remington Model 11-87 shotgun that the senator's own legislation would have prohibited.

In an unsuccessful last-ditch effort to woo gun owners, Kerry went on a widely publicized October goose hunt in Ohio. The *Washington Times* described the event as "tightly choreographed," while *The New York Times* called the scene a "hunting photo-op." As an NRA official explained at the time, "Sen. Kerry is a fraud. Spending an hour in a goose blind doesn't make up for 20 years of voting against hunters."

Similarly, this most recent cynical effort to hoodwink normal Americans likely stems from anti-gun Democrats' abysmal performance with rural voters. A few days after Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin's (R) 2021 victory, *The New York Times* ran a story with a headline lamenting that, while Democrats had thought they had "bottomed out" in rural communities, the election in the Old Dominion showed "it wasn't the bottom." A similar item from *Politico* carried the title, "Rural Democrats stare into the abyss after Virginia."

The New York Times article cited Virginia's Bath County, a rural jurisdiction along the state's border with West Virginia, as emblematic of this political reality. The article explained, "Many of the ideas and issues that animate the Democratic base can be off-putting in small towns or untethered to rural life. Voters in Bath County, many of whom are avid hunters and conservative evangelicals, have long opposed liberal stances on gun rights" Youngkin's opponent, New York-native Terry McAuliffe, ran on an anti-gun platform that included banning commonly owned semi-automatic firearms and their magazines, restricting the right to carry and using tax dollars to fund gun-control propaganda.

Gun owners could be forgiven for taking anti-gun politicians' unconvincing camo-costumed trickery as an insult to their intelligence. The better way to understand it is as an acknowledgement of the power hunters and other gun owners have over American elections. Informed gun owners should take this as further motivation to supply their families, friends, neighbors and other freedom-minded individuals with the facts about the threat Harris and Walz pose to the Second Amendment, their way of life and their personal property.



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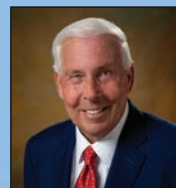
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By Randy Kozuch
Executive Director,
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TWO CANDIDATES, TWO FUTURES: One Choice For Gun Owners

Americans understand we face a momentous presidential contest this year. There is little need for my usual warning—no less true for how often it's been repeated—that this is the most important election of our lifetimes. Each cycle in recent years has seen a sharper divergence on Second Amendment issues between the parties and their candidates. The Republican Party's platform expressly speaks of the need to "defend ... the right to keep and bear arms." The Democrat Party platform, meanwhile, doesn't even recognize the Second Amendment's existence, and instead devotes one of its nine chapters to endorsing end-stage gun control.

If your vision of the future includes the right to keep and bear arms, Donald J. Trump is your only choice for president. Trump is a Second Amendment champion and would create a firewall of executive support and appointments to protect our sacred liberties. Kamala Harris, on the other hand, would escalate the whole-of-government assault she and Joe Biden have perpetrated against America's gun owners and the firearm industry, regardless of any constitutional constraint on her objectives.

Fortunately, we don't need a crystal ball to predict what these two alternative futures would look like. We can look to the recent past and the political careers of both candidates.

Kamala Harris, like Donald Trump, ran for president against Joe Biden in 2020. Unlike Donald Trump, however, Harris did not even clear the starting blocks. She suspended her campaign in December 2019, after failing to secure even a single delegate in primary voting.

Yet Harris' bid was notable for the fact that she attempted to run to the left of Biden on gun control—not an easy task, considering his own fixation on the issue.

Relying on Australia's example (a country with no constitutional right to arms), Harris supported not just banning AR-15s and other semi-automatic firearms ("assault weapons" in gun-control speak), but also forcing those who had already obtained them legally to surrender their guns to the government. The media misleadingly referred to this policy as a "buyback," because surrender would supposedly be encouraged by compensation. But, to paraphrase Vito Corleone, it would be an offer the gun owner could not refuse.

During a televised debate in September 2019, Harris went even further. Congress, she said, would have 100 days to enact further gun control under her administration. Failing that, she would invoke

executive authority. Pressing this point, the moderator asked Harris what she thought of Joe Biden's reluctance to use executive action to "eliminate" so-called "assault weapons." Harris then looked over at Biden and mockingly said, "I mean, I would just say, 'Hey, Joe, instead of saying no we can't, let's say, yes we can.'" She then laughed over Biden's rejoinder, "Let's be constitutional," as if the notion of a constitutional barrier to eliminating America's most-popular centerfire rifle by executive decree was a self-evident joke.

Harris' ignorance, arrogance and cavalier attitude toward the constitutional rights of the nation's citizens was more reminiscent of Marie Antoinette than any serious contender for the White House. Yet Biden would go on to pick her as his running mate, and though rejected by her own party's voters, she would become a fixture of what would prove to be the most anti-gun administration in American history.

To be sure, Biden did not disagree with Harris on the desirability of banning and seizing AR-15s; he just believed it would take an act of Congress to achieve. During an August 2019 interview with CNN's Anderson Cooper, Biden was asked what he would say to "gun owners out there who say, 'Well, a Biden administration means they're going to come for my guns.'" Biden answered: "Bingo! You're right, if you have an assault weapon. The fact of the matter is they should be illegal, period." Throughout the Biden-Harris administration, both politicians made a regular habit of using the White House's bully pulpit to call for sweeping bans on semi-automatic firearms, as well as the magazines that come standard on America's most-popular self-defense guns.

Harris and her media collaborators are now desperately trying to walk back this record, insisting that she does not currently support firearm confiscation. They act as if the AR-15 doesn't even count when it comes to discussing gun bans, as if it were an obscurity that could disappear without most gun owners even noticing. Lamely trying to "debunk" Harris' own prior statements about gun confiscation, PolitiFact virtually dismissed rifles as worthy of consideration, stating, "the majority of guns sold in the U.S. are handguns." But in a series of articles last year, ironically meant to demonize the AR-15, *The Washington Post* could not deny

its massive popularity, acknowledging it is "iconic," "revered" and "truly mainstream." The *Post* even punctuated this point by noting: "1 in 20 U.S. adults owns at least one AR-15."

Whether or not existing owners were able to keep their guns, a ban on AR-15s and similar semi-automatics would radically alter the landscape of gun ownership in America. And, as we have seen again and again both overseas and in anti-gun states, a ban on one category of gun inevitably leads to bans on others. California, for example, has expanded its own "assault weapons" ban multiple times. And in Canada, a country with a robust history of private gun ownership, the Trudeau administration now considers itself empowered to unilaterally decide which firearms can and cannot be acquired and possessed by the public. If guns are the scapegoat for problems of human behavior, no gun will ever be safe.

That is the future under a Kamala Harris administration.

Harris has a very thin record of accomplishments as Biden's vice president, but she can boast of being the nominal head of the first-ever White House Office of Gun Violence Prevention. Through this initiative, the Biden-Harris administration brought career gun-control activists into the White House, where they are paid by taxpayers like you and me to coordinate with their private sector and state-level counterparts to suppress Second Amendment rights.

Early initiatives of this office include developing "model legislation" and road maps to facilitate deep-blue states' enactment of the same sorts of gun controls rejected by the U.S. Congress. There is also an Extreme Risk Protection Order clearinghouse, located within the U.S. Department of Justice, to encourage states to adopt "red-flag" firearm-seizure laws. States are now also coordinating in campaigns to sue members of the firearm industry for third-party crimes, a return to the bad old days of similar efforts under the Bill Clinton administration. Those efforts led to remedial federal legislation, the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act, which remains in effect. But if Harris is willing to ignore the U.S. Constitution itself, congressional legislation poses even less of an impediment. In any case, win or lose, subjecting industry to never-ending litigation is a slow-acting death sentence in its own right.

Contrast this with Donald Trump, whose pro-Second Amendment policies and actions have continued to pay dividends for gun owners even during the Biden-Harris administration. The most important of these has been the three justices President Trump appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court, all of whom were in the majority of 2022's pivotal *Bruen* decision, which solidified right to carry and a strong standard of review for Second Amendment cases.


Almost as important has been the high court's recent decisions on administrative actions, which constrain agencies like the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives from simply making the law up as it goes along. All of the Biden-Harris administration's over-reaching gun-control rulemakings—including on brace-equipped pistols, "universal" background checks and which unfinished parts count as "firearms" under federal law—are now in limbo thanks to these developments.

President Trump also withstood every form of pressure to hold the line against the enactment of additional congressional gun control. His immovable leadership prevented defections in the pro-gun caucus like those that led to the misnamed Bipartisan Safer Communities Act under Biden-Harris, a sprawling gun-control law that later brought shame and embarrassment to its moderate and "pro-gun" supporters.

Even in America, freedom is not the default. It has to be protected and safeguarded at all times. It is a rare individual who can stand up to the coordinated assault of activist politicians, legacy media outlets and others who stand ready to exploit any unexpected, emotional or destabilizing development to advance their objectives.

Trump's unshakeable commitment was evident for all to see when he narrowly escaped death in Butler, Pa., only to arise with his fist in the air, exhorting his supporters to "fight, fight, fight" for their common vision of a renewed, ever-free America.

The contrast between Kamala Harris and Donald Trump's approach to the Second Amendment is as sharp as the contrast between the former's political gamesmanship and the latter's raw courage.

This election season, gun owners have perhaps the final chance to ensure a future that includes the right to keep and bear arms. That future begins with a vote for Donald J. Trump. 



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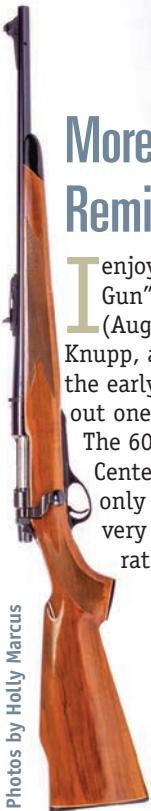
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READERS WRITE



Photos by Holly Marcus

More On The Remington Model 600

I enjoyed reading the “I Have This Old Gun” on the Remington 600/660 (August 2024, p. 64) by Jeremiah Knupp, as I have collected them since the early 1970s. He did, however, leave out one of the 600s that was produced. The 600 came out in the Montana Centennial in 6 mm Remington, with only 1,020 made in 1964. Also, the very early 600s had an aluminum rib rather than the plastic one.

—JIM VAUGHN



Python Nightmares



Photo by Forrest MacCormack

I have another perspective on the early Colt Python (August 2024, p. 30). Upon being hired in 1974 as a deputy sheriff in Siskiyou County, Calif., I bought a Python, a Colt Detective Special and associated duty leather from the deputy I was replacing. I used the Python on duty until 1980, when I was trying to fire slow double-action during an incident. The Python failed to fire—twice! I was vastly relieved when I was still able to fire single-action.

My gunsmith, Dave, said, “Son, you are trying to make a race-tuned Ferrari do the work of a Chevy! I can re-tune it, but sooner or later, you will have the same problem again.”

I bought a Ruger GP100 as soon as I could. It had a smoother trigger and still fit in the Python’s holster. An excellent replacement! I sold the Python and didn’t look back. The department went to semi-automatics a year or so later. That Python still fails to fire sometimes in my nightmares.

—ART GRIGG

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1920s Style for a 1920s Price

It was a warm summer afternoon and my wife and I were mingling with the best of them. The occasion was a 1920s-themed party, and everyone was dressed to the nines. Parked on the manse's circular driveway was a beautiful classic convertible. It was here that I got the idea for our new 1920s Retrograde Watch.

Never ones to miss an opportunity, we carefully steadied our glasses of bubbly and climbed into the car's long front seat. Among the many opulent features on display was a series of dashboard dials that accentuated the car's lavish aura. One of those dials inspired our 1920s Retrograde Watch, a genuinely unique timepiece that marries timeless style with modern technology.

With its remarkable retrograde hour and minute indicators, sunburst guilloche face and precision movement, this design is truly one of a kind. What does retrograde mean? Instead of displaying the hands rotating on an axis like most watches, the hands sweep in a semicircle, then return to their starting point and begin all over again.

Retrograde watches by the big brands can set you back thousands; one recent offering from a big French fashion house is selling for more than \$150,000! But because we've designed the 1920s Retrograde Watch in-house, we can offer it to you for just \$99!

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Vincent Hancock: Most Decorated Men's Skeet Olympian In History

American men's skeet competitor Vincent Hancock made waves at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games as the first Olympic shooter to win four gold medals in the same individual event. Not only that, he joined an elite list of athletes—Hancock is one of only seven Olympians throughout history to capture four gold medals in the same event, including four Americans—Al Oerter (discus), Carl Lewis (long jump), Michael Phelps (200 m butterfly) and Katie Ledecky (800 m freestyle).

"It's pretty special for me because I love the Olympics," Hancock said. "The fact that I've been able to do what I've done in this sport and just have my name in the same breath as them—that's special to me."

Hancock missed just two of 60 targets in the men's skeet final. After four finalists were eliminated, it came down to Hancock and U.S. teammate Conner Prince for the gold. Upping the ante even further—Hancock is Prince's shooting coach. Although Hancock held the lead for most of the final, it was all on the line at the end. After Prince missed his 54th shot, Hancock shattered his last four targets to win gold and become a four-time champion. "This was the hardest one yet," Hancock said. "But it was good to see Conner shooting

the way he was and knowing I was going to have to bring everything I had in order to beat him."

When asked if something other than a gold medal would have been acceptable to him this year, Hancock emphasized that a podium finish at the Olympics is a monumental accomplishment for any athlete. "I knew that coming into this, it's a crapshoot," he said. "With everything going perfectly, I'll win gold. If it doesn't, I can still win a medal. And that's okay—you're still an Olympic medalist, and you'll always be an Olympic medalist."

Apart from his Olympic gold medals, Hancock's greatest legacy may be the shooters he coaches. In addition to Prince, the men's skeet silver medalist, another Hancock pupil, Team USA's Austen Smith, walked away from the women's skeet final with a bronze medal. Hancock and Smith also picked up a mixed team skeet silver medal to close out the Paris 2024 Olympics, making them the first U.S. shooters to earn two medals at the same Games since Lones Wigger in Tokyo 1964. Learn more about how the U.S. Shooting Team fared at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games at [ssusa.org](https://www.ssusa.org).

—John Parker, Editor In Chief, *Shooting Sports USA*

Gunsite To Mark NRA Birthday With Radio Call-In

GUNSITE



Gunsite Academy firearm training center will host the Yavapai Amateur Radio Club (YARC) of Prescott, Ariz., Nov. 17, 2024, in celebration of the National Rifle Association's 154th birthday. The event will feature a special call sign, K7GST, which is an FCC-licensed amateur radio station. From 8 a.m. MST to 5 p.m. MST, the station will conduct operations on the following amateur frequencies: 7.250, 14.040, 14.250 and 21.335 MHz.

As an acknowledgement of communications received during the commemorative event, a special NRA/Gunsite Academy certificate will be available to all stations contacted. All amateur radio stations, particularly those operated by NRA members and Gunsite alumni, are urged to participate. More information can be found on the YARC website at w7yrc.org.

Cimarron Celebrates 40 Years In Business



Mike Harvey's passion for the arms of the American West eventually led him to establish a company dedicated to reproduction arms, and 40 years later, Cimarron Firearms is one of the leaders in the importation and sale of reproduction arms in the United States.

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REPORTS | PRODUCTS & PROJECTS



Tikka T3x Arctic

In 2018, the Canadian Rangers officially replaced the Lee-Enfield No. 4 rifle with the Colt Canada C19, marking the end of the Lee-Enfield in Canadian service. The C19 is a Tikka design produced under license in Canada. Now, that design, the T3x Arctic, is available to U.S. consumers. Built on a stainless-steel receiver and using a distinctive orange-and-gray laminate stock design, the T3x Arctic was built for use in harsh, frigid environments.

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Armaspec SRS AR-15 Kit



Armaspec's Stealth Recoil Spring, currently in its fourth generation, is a self-contained upgrade to the AR-15's standard buffer and spring—and the company now offers the unit as a kit that includes a trio of interchangeable buffer weights that allow the user to tune it to his or her rifle/load. The SRS runs more quietly than the traditional buffer assembly—as the buffer spring no

longer scrapes along the inner wall of the receiver extension tube during the cycling of the bolt—and a two-stage spring design provides better recoil absorption than the original setup. The kit comes assembled with a 3.3-oz. carbine weight attached, but H (3.8 ozs.) and H2 (4.7 ozs.) weights are also included and can be installed in only a minute or two. Price: \$82. Contact: Armaspec, Inc.; armaspec.com.



Smith & Wesson Performance Center M&P Carry Comp

As part of its upgraded Performance Center line of guns, Smith & Wesson has released the Carry Comp family of M&P handguns, which incorporates a “Power Port” system in the slide and barrel. A port at 12 o’clock near the muzzle, with corresponding cuts at the top and sides of the slide, diverts propellant gases to counteract recoil. S&W also incorporates a “ClearSight Cut” at the top of the slide to divert gases away from the window of a mounted optic. Slide serrations have been updated to accommodate the ports, giving the guns a different look than traditional M&Ps. Three M&P models are available with the Carry Comp system: Shield Plus, M&P Compact and M&P Full Size. The full-size M&P Carry Comp model is built on an aluminum frame instead of a polymer frame. All guns are chambered in 9 mm Luger. Price: \$649 (Shield Plus) to \$999 (M&P Full Size).

Contact: Smith & Wesson; (800) 331-0852; smith-wesson.com.

Underdog Glasses

Sunglasses are often misplaced, forgotten and lost, so Underdog resolves such dilemmas with its clip-on lenses. Comprised of high-grade polycarbonate for sharp visuals with minimized distortion and offered in a variety of colors from yellow to polarized green, the lenses simply fasten to a ball cap brim for unobtrusive use—no more slippage, constant adjustments or head and ear irritation. Once attached to a hat, the lenses allow for effortless adjustments with a flip-up and -down action that makes them ready when needed. Price: \$70. Contact: Underdog Glasses; underdogglasses.com.



Hyperion Munitions PTC

Hyperion Munitions produces an innovative enhancement for the AR-15’s mil-spec trigger design that allows for custom tuning by the end user. The Precise Trigger Control (PTC) is an AR-15 trigger guard replacement, but with a few twists. Within the PTC’s black aluminum structure are a series of threaded holes that house setscrews used to limit the trigger’s overtravel. A replacement grip screw has a hollow, threaded center to accommodate yet another setscrew for adjusting the trigger’s take-up. The PTC design addresses sloppiness in the mil-spec AR-15 trigger and does so in a unique, thoughtful and simple way. Price: \$50. Contact: Hyperion Munitions; (844) 622-8339; hyperionmunitions.com.

Bad Ace Tactical Mauser K98k Ultra Low-Profile NDT Scout Mount

Owners of K98k Mauser rifles seeking to scope them without making permanent modifications should consider the Bad Ace Tactical Ultra Low-Profile NDT Scout Mount. Precision CNC milled from a block of aircraft-grade aluminum alloy that is then hard anodized, the no-drill-or-tap design works by replacing the original rear sight elevator and spring and is held securely using only four screws. Its placement allows an intermediate-eye-relief scope to be mounted as near to the bore axis as possible and forward of the ejection port, affording a comfortable cheek weld and permitting the use of stripper clips for loading the rifle. The mount, which comes with all required hardware and two Allen wrenches, can be installed in just a few minutes. Price: \$75. Contact: Bad Ace Tactical; badacetactical.com.





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Streamlight TLR-7 HL-X USB

Streamlight recently introduced the TLR-7 HL-X USB handgun light, a higher-intensity version of the TLR-7 X USB that shares the latter's ability to draw from two different types of batteries, but instead generates up to a 1,000-lumen/22,000-candela concentrated beam of light that can reach out to 325 yards—more than twice the distance of other TLR-7s. Capable of using either a standard CR123A lithium battery or a USB-C-rechargeable SL-B9 battery pack,

the HL-X is compatible with a broad assortment of full-size and compact semi-automatic pistol models. The 2.8-oz. unit features customizable paddle switches and comes with six modular rail inserts that take only a minute to change out. Price: \$295 (black), \$310 (flat dark earth). Contact: Streamlight; (800) 523-7488; streamlight.com.



Federal Premium Ultra Steel Waterfowl Load

In a new load designed specifically for waterfowl hunting, Federal Ammunition has combined the technology of its FliteControl Flex wad with a special blend of its zinc-plated steel shot to produce tight patterns that have greater reach and improved lethality. Available in both 12- and 20-ga. shotshells, the new load is available with traditional shot payloads comprised with up to 1¼ ozs. of No. 2 shot or double-stack payloads featuring varying sizes of shot. The double-stack loads in particular are designed to blend small and large pellets to fill out the pattern while also delivering greater energy on target. Federal claims the double-stack shotshells are ideal for multi-species hunts. Price: \$38 (20 gauge) or \$43 (12 gauge) per 25-count box. Contact: Federal Ammunition; (800) 831-8100; federalpremium.com.



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Wildgame Innovations ZeroTrace Portable

The PureION technology employed by Wildgame Innovations' ZeroTrace line of odor-elimination products chemically neutralizes offending smells—without resorting to an ozone generator—and the company's Portable unit is the line's most versatile product yet. Capable of running via either a standard 110-volt wall outlet, a USB port or a 12-volt vehicle plug (hardware for all of which are included), the Portable draws in odors through the sides of the housing where the scent contaminants are rendered inert through an ion-bonding process. For convenient use inside a car or truck, the Portable is shaped to fit most standard cup holders. Price: \$99. Contact: Wildgame Innovations; (877) 269-8490; wildgameinnovations.com.



N8 Tactical Mini Xecutive

Similar to the company's full-size Xecutive, but more compact with an even thinner profile to further reduce printing, the Mini Xecutive from N8 Tactical is an inside-the-waistband holster intended to be carried in the appendix position. Formed from a single sheet of Kydex molded to fit the contours of a specific carry gun (fits are currently offered for the Kimber Micro 9, Ruger LCP MAX and SIG Sauer's P238 and P938 pistols), the Mini Xecutive features adjustable retention and is available in a number of colors and several attachment options. Price: \$35. Contact: N8 Tactical; (888) 732-5011; n8.crossbreedholsters.com.



Columbia River Knife & Tool Redemption

Collaboration has been a hallmark of successful factory knife launches for many years now, and the CRKT Redemption exemplifies that concept by combining the design talents of Ken Onion with the manufacturing capabilities of Hogue. The U.S.-made Redemption weighs 4.9 ozs. and features a plain-finish 4.06" spear-point blade of CPM MagnaCut steel sharpened only on one side. In a



style evocative of old West poker players, scales of G10 mate with stainless-steel bolsters and recessed liners, along with an ambidextrous Crossbar Lock, to produce a knife that is solid yet lithe in the hand and ultra speedy to deploy. A deep-carry pocket clip is reversible, and the knife comes with a padded, zippered pouch. Price: \$225. Contact: CRKT; (503) 685-5015; crkt.com.

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QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

A Curious Concoction

Q My husband owns an antique fowling piece, and we wish to establish a possible date range during which it could have been made. It is interesting to note that the barrel is from a Springfield Model 1816 smoothbore musket mated to a custom Atkinson lock and beautiful half stock. It seems doubtful that Atkinson is the maker of this piece, although it may be possible. We hope that you will be able to shed a little bit more light and knowledge about this gun.

A Your husband's interesting shotgun appears to have been fabricated by some circa-1840-'50s gunmaker using the barrel (and possibly the stock) from a U.S. Model 1816 flintlock musket. The sporting-style percussion lockplate bears the name "Atkinson," who could have been the fabricator of the



NRA member photos

piece or perhaps just the maker of the lock. It was not uncommon during this period for smiths to specialize in various components (locks, barrels, furniture, etc.), which were sold piecemeal to craftsmen who used them to build entire firearms.

I checked several sources and was unable to turn up who Atkinson was from the period this gun was likely constructed.

—GARRY JAMES, FIELD EDITOR



Converted muskets and other military arms often still bear original proofmarks from before the time of their modification.

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

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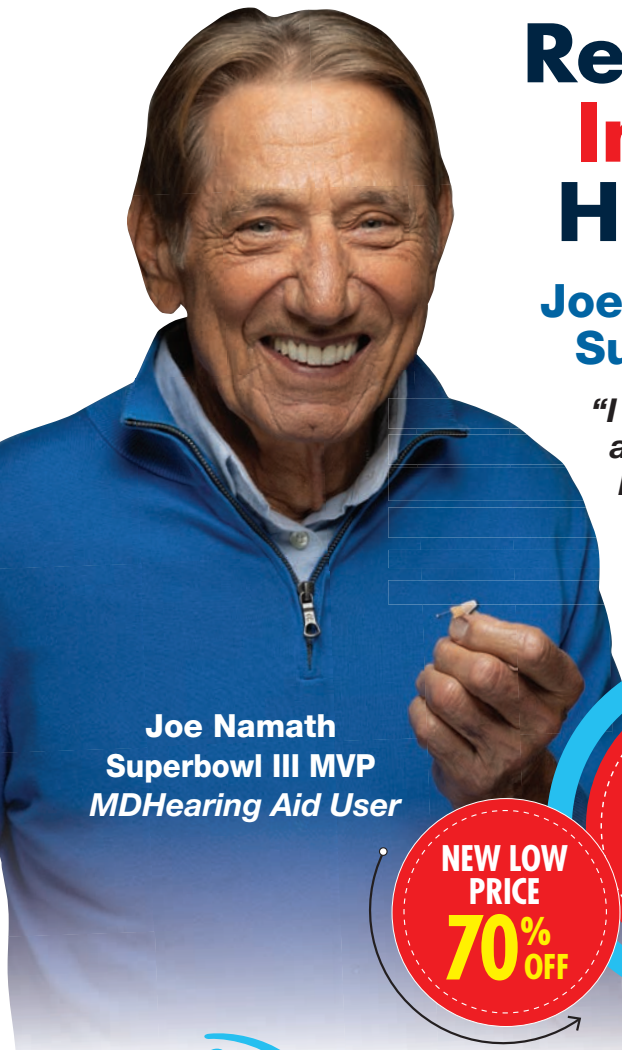
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Outstanding Customer Service!

I purchased my first pistol, a .32-cal. Walther PPK in 1969. Why choose a .32 ACP and not a more powerful .380 ACP? Because .32 was the chambering that Ian Fleming's fictional character James Bond switched to when Q forced him to give up his beloved .25-cal. Beretta. Q stated that the Beretta was underpowered and that the cartridge the Walther fired, "hit like a brick through a plate-glass window."

I had read all the Bond books in high school, and when I returned home on summer leave from West Point in 1969, I was determined to own one. So, I walked down to the local sporting goods store and plunked down the princely sum of \$131.25. I immediately took this storied gun to the range and put more than 200 rounds through it. The gun was exceedingly accurate

for a small pocket pistol and never malfunctioned. And even though I have large hands, it never once bit me. The last day I fired it, the thin blade at the end of the safety/decocking lever snapped off. What a disappointment! Remember, those were the days with no Internet and limited gunsmithing information. Wondering what to do, I noticed the inscription on the Walther's slide read, "Carl Walther Waffenfabrik, Ulm/Donau, West Germany."

I was taking my first year of German at West Point, so I wrote a letter in rather primitive German stating in effect that the slide lever had broken and asking what I should do. Astonishingly, within a month, I received a response from a Walther factory representative written in basic English that stated that I

must be mistaken: Walther PPKs don't break—they are too well-engineered. In the remote case I was correct, two new safety levers were included in the envelope along with instructions on how to install them. The letter also stated that if I couldn't install the replacement lever myself, that I should take the gun to a qualified gunsmith, have him install it and send the factory the bill so that the company could reimburse me. Yes, I was able to replace the lever.

I've never forgotten that outstanding customer service from half a century ago, and I have no doubt that a number of folks I've told this story to have gone on to become Walther customers.

—JERRY B. EDELEN



NRA member photo

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

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What Would Trump Do?

The former president's team answered our questions.

By AIF Staff

If someone were to write out a two-column comparison of the Second Amendment-related policy positions of former President Donald J. Trump (R) and Vice President Kamala Harris (D), they'd see a list of opposites. On the right side, they'd see that Trump sides with our individual freedoms. On the left, they'd see that Harris is for gun confiscations and bans, for nominating judges who don't believe the Second Amendment protects an individual right and more.

You can find deep analyses of these differences in many articles and videos at [ATF.com](https://www.atf.com), [NRA-ILA.org](https://www.nra-ila.org) and from other NRA resources. But, as voters need to be fully informed on this critical issue, we also thought it would be helpful to ask Trump and his team for specifics. So, here is specifically what a second Trump administration would do.

1 *During the first Trump presidential term, nearly 300 judges were nominated to the federal bench. These nominations were focused on giving America judges who are most likely to uphold the U.S. Constitution. Will this continue if Trump is elected as America's 47th president?*

No president in almost 100 years so consistently appointed judges who take the U.S. Bill of Rights as seriously as did President Trump. Even President Ronald Reagan (R), who generally appointed excellent judges, appointed a few circuit court judges who consistently spoke out against the Second Amendment. President Trump's track record for nominating judges speaks for itself, and he will continue that pattern during his second term.

This is crucial. By the end of this year, Democrats will have appointed over 60% of the federal circuit and district court judges, and by the end of the next administration, Clarence Thomas will be 80 and Sam Alito will be 78. Those two justices are among the strongest supporters of the Second Amendment on the U.S. Supreme Court. If Kamala Harris has the chance to replace either

of those justices, those who value self-defense will face a very different Supreme Court.

2 *President Trump previously agreed he would sign a national reciprocity law that allows law-abiding citizens to carry firearms for self-defense over state lines. Can we expect continued support for national reciprocity?*

Besides Kamala Harris' stance against the Second Amendment, the Democrat vice-presidential candidate, Gov. Tim Walz (D), is on record strongly opposing the recognition of concealed-permit reciprocity, but President Trump will continue to support national reciprocity. With more than 22 million concealed-handgun permit holders nationwide, Americans must be able to protect themselves when they travel across the country. There are decades of data on the behavior of permit holders. Some states have detailed data. In Florida and Texas, the data shows that permit holders are convicted of firearms-related violations at one-twelfth the rate at which police officers are. And police are convicted at just one-twentieth of the rate for the general population.

3 *In NRA v. Vullo, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled 9-0 that officials with the state of New York had attacked, indeed suppressed, the NRA's First Amendment rights. In its ruling, the high court sent the case back to a lower court for a remedy—and the NRA is seeking financial damages. Would the next Trump administration work to stop this type of weaponization of government agencies?*

The weaponization of government agencies is an end-run around the rule of law and must end. Having government agencies put pressure on private companies not to do business with the NRA is outrageous. But the Biden administration revived the Obama administration's Operation Choke Point that puts pressure on financial companies not to do business with companies in disfavored industries, from

energy to firearms. President Trump ended Operation Choke Point when he became president in 2017. President Trump will quickly move to end it again.

4 *Under a new Trump administration, what qualities would a nominee to head the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) need to have?*

Time after time, courts have struck down the Biden administration's ATF regulations because they have gone well beyond the laws that Congress passed. Unfortunately, Biden signed the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (BSCA), which changed the definition of a firearms dealer and provided the ATF a chance to issue long and extremely complicated rules that will result in many gun owners having to register as gun dealers. If you sell a friend a gun once and discuss the sale of a second gun, you must be a licensed dealer. Similarly, if you sell one gun and keep any record of what you bought and sold it for, you must also be a licensed dealer. Other rules are vague and give the government discretion to classify you as a dealer when it sees fit. The reason that the Biden administration is pushing these rules is to make sure that their national gun registry, which President Trump will also undo, will be able to track more people who own guns.

Because of the BSCA, we can't be certain that the courts will strike down these rules. So, President Trump will appoint an ATF Director who will review these extremely burdensome regulations that make Americans less safe. The person President Trump will appoint would also reflect the overwhelming view of law enforcement that private ownership of guns is important for reducing crime.

5 *The Biden-Harris administration has focused the agencies within the Department of Justice (DOJ) on criminalizing lawful gun ownership. What qualities would a Trump pick for*



attorney general have that would be of interest to gun owners?

Yes, the Biden-Harris administration has weaponized the DOJ against lawful gun ownership. The ATF is part of the DOJ. Operation Choke Point has also been an initiative by the DOJ. Too often, Democrats blame law-abiding gun ownership for the problems created by their own unwillingness to catch and punish criminals. President Trump will have an attorney general who will stop the weaponization of government against lawful gun ownership and who will prioritize traditional law enforcement by catching and punishing criminals.

6 The politicization of the FBI has eroded the American public's confidence in the agency. How would Trump and his team fix this?

There are many great special agents at the FBI, but decisions on everything from whom to bring criminal charges against to whom to promote within the agency to even the data produced by the FBI have become much too political. The FBI can't function effectively if Americans think their decisions are political. A new, nonpolitical culture must be created within the agency. To do that, someone willing to clean out many of those on the 7th floor must be appointed to run the agency.

7 Kamala Harris is running on a platform of new infringements on the Second Amendment of the U.S. Bill of Rights. Her plan includes a ban on popular semi-automatic rifles and, if her rhetoric accurately reflects her intentions, even popular pistols. Would a new Trump administration support any such ban?

Kamala Harris has been the Biden administration's "gun-control czar," overseeing the administration's gun-control effort through the White House's new Office of Gun Violence Prevention (OGVP), which coordinates the administration's gun-control efforts. She therefore has her fingerprints on many of Biden's gun-control policies, and Biden is the most-activist president ever on gun control. His "zero-tolerance" policy put thousands of gun dealers out of business by the middle of last year for trivial, inconsequential paperwork mistakes. He used government regulations to "debank" gun makers and dealers, and those that survived were faced with higher costs. The Biden administration has also put together



Photo by Isaac Apon

a national gun registry. Continuing these policies, along with others, such as undoing the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act (PLCAA), risks destroying Americans' ability to defend themselves and their families.

As to your question about an "assault-weapons" ban, no, President Trump doesn't support any such ban on rifles or pistols. Some politicians will continue calling AR-15s "assault weapons" and "weapons of war." And some seem to think "AR" means "assault rifle" when it stands for ArmaLite rifle, after the company that developed it in the 1950s. But at least some of the media are now recognizing that "AR- or AK-style rifles designed for the civilian market" are fundamentally different than military weapons. Even the Associated Press now acknowledges that the term "assault weapon" conveys "little meaning" and is "highly politicized."

Under the 1994-2004 ban, there was no drop in the number of attacks with "assault weapons," and the share of mass public shootings using them actually rose. The overwhelming share of academic research shows that assault-weapon bans don't make Americans safer in terms of murders or mass public shootings.

8 How would the next Trump administration make America safer again?

The Bureau of Justice Statistics National Crime Victimization Survey shows that total violent crime fell by 17% during President Trump's administration and has soared by 43% so far under Biden-Harris. Of course, news outlets routinely assert that Americans are mistaken in believing that violent crime is rising. But Democrats and the media don't understand the difference between the number of crimes reported to police and the total number of crimes.

Part of the reason for the increase in crime is that law enforcement collapsed

in the United States, particularly in large cities. The FBI data show that arrest rates for reported violent crime in cities of over a million people plunged by more than half, from 44% in the five years before the COVID pandemic to just 20% by 2022—the largest drop ever. The arrest rate has never been close to that low before. And the decline in arrests for property crimes is even greater.

But not even all those arrested are charged, let alone prosecuted or convicted. So, criminals face little risk of being punished for committing crimes.

The federal government should consider the efficacy of tying federal funding for state and local law enforcement to arrest and prosecution rates. In this scenario, those places that do a poor job could face funding cuts if they don't get their rates up within a specified period, such as a year. Local politicians have burdened police departments with all sorts of rules that discourage arrests.

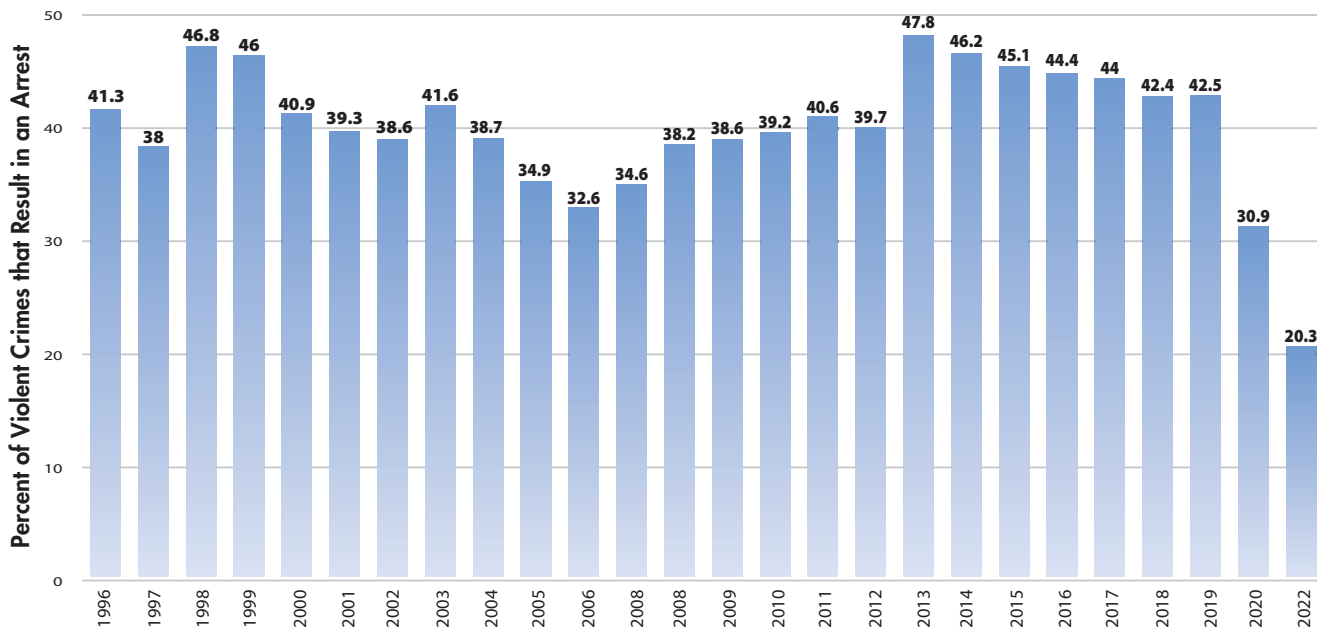
In connection with that, we should expand the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) to provide a look at individual cities. The problem is that the FBI only looks at the arrest rate for reported crimes, but the rate at which people report crimes depends on the arrest rate. If victims don't think that police will arrest criminals, they are less likely to report crimes. The NCVS allows us to measure total crime (reported and unreported), providing a much more accurate picture of how crime is changing.

9 Repeat violent offenders—at times released back onto the streets by George Soros-backed district attorneys—have murdered a lot of citizens, including police officers. How would Trump and his choice for attorney general remedy that?

Take the case last year in Michigan of Jonathan Welch, who faced charges

ARREST RATES FOR VIOLENT CRIME IN LARGE CITIES WITH OVER 1 MILLION PEOPLE: 1996 - 2022

Source: FBI Uniform Crime Reports



for three murders. He was released on a low bond, after which he went out and murdered a fourth person. This accused murderer was already facing three life sentences and other felonies. Is the threat of a fourth life sentence going to matter?

Or take the case of Darrell Brooks, who tried to murder the mother of his child by hitting her with his car. He was released on \$1,000 bail despite facing four criminal charges that could have resulted in decades in jail. But Brooks then drove the same car through the Waukesha Christmas parade, killing six people and injuring 62 others. Given his age, 39, Brooks already faced penalties that might result in what was effectively a life-in-prison sentence. He committed the additional murders without facing much of a real additional penalty.

There are already too many similar examples to cite. Part of the solution is educational, making Americans understand that such lenient bail laws actually encourage criminals to commit more crime.

10 *Kamala Harris wants to repeal the PLCAA. Her claims about the PLCAA have been fact-checked as false, even by mainstream-media outlets, but Harris continues to maintain that the PLCAA gives blanket immunity to gun manufacturers and stores. What are Trump's views on PLCAA?*

Harris' proposal would make gun manufacturers civilly liable for the misuse

of guns they sell. This would mean that people could sue manufacturers and sellers whenever a crime, accident or suicide occurs with a firearm. The straightforward result would be to put gun makers out of business.

Imagine what would happen if such liability applied to the car industry. The National Safety Council estimates that 46,027 Americans died and 5.2 million others were injured from car accidents in 2022. People can also use cars to commit crimes.

Gun-control advocates sometimes claim that gun makers cater to the criminal market with low prices and easy concealability. But lightweight, compact firearms also make life easier for the 21.8 million Americans with concealed handgun permits and the millions more in Constitutional Carry states who carry without a permit. Research shows the people who benefit the most from carrying concealed handguns are the most likely victims of crime. Making guns more expensive prevents some of those very people from being able to defend themselves.

11 *Studies show that armed citizens stop crimes well over a million times a year in this nation—in most instances without even firing a shot. Trump has talked about, even appeared with, some of the folks who have used this critical freedom to stay safe. Will Trump continue speaking out as president?*

Yes. Police are extremely important

in stopping crime, but the police can't be there all the time and usually arrive after the crime has occurred. Police also believe gun ownership helps to combat crime. When PoliceOne, the largest organization of police, surveyed its 450,000 members, around 76% answered that legally armed citizens are very or extremely important in reducing crime. Research finds increases in gun ownership are associated with drops in crime, not rises. Indeed, every place in the world that has banned guns has seen an increase in murder.

12 *In contrast to others who have called the millions of NRA members "terrorists" and "criminals," Trump called NRA members "good people." How will a new Trump administration continue to protect our freedom and make our streets safe again?*

While Democrats want to prevent criminals from being punished through the legal system, they also want to prevent law-abiding citizens from being able to protect themselves. At least Democrats are consistent in ensuring that criminals face little risk in committing crime. By nominating judges who respect the U.S. Bill of Rights, punishing criminals, controlling illegal immigration and appointing the right people at the DOJ, President Trump will protect our freedom and make our streets safe again. When it comes to gun ownership by law-abiding Americans, freedom and safety go together. 🇺🇸

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Wringing Out The KelTec

Swedish-born firearm designer and inventor George Kellgren has a gift for developing models that are often unique and ahead of their time. KelTec's P11 polymer-frame 9 mm Luger pistol started shipping more than two decades before micro-nine pistols became all the rage. And the KSG series of dual-tube, pump-action shotguns, which were a big surprise to the industry 13 years ago, are still diversifying and selling well—and being imitated by other makers.

Along with pistols and shotguns, KelTec offers a selection of rifles. These days, many gun shops carry multiple examples of rimfire and pistol-caliber carbines that either break down or fold in half for easy storage or transport. Here again, Kellgren designed and launched the SUB2000 folding PCC back in 2001, which was years ahead of many

competitors. Since then, this gun has been available chambered in 9 mm Luger or .40 S&W with grip magazine wells designed for specific pistol magazines from various gunmakers, including Beretta, Glock and Smith & Wesson.

The original SUB2000 was still in production when I had my first opportunity to write about it in 2013. I opted to work with the 9 mm version configured for Glock magazines; I liked this little carbine so well that the test gun was added to my collection. It was upgraded with two in-house add-ons—a 2" Picatinny rail was mounted to the underside of the fore-end to support a flashlight, and a clamp-on polymer buttplate was added to shroud the front sight assembly and extend the length of pull to 14.25". Otherwise, it's still in the stock factory configuration.



The latest variation on this nearly quarter-century-old platform includes welcome up-to-date features—along with a radical new twist.

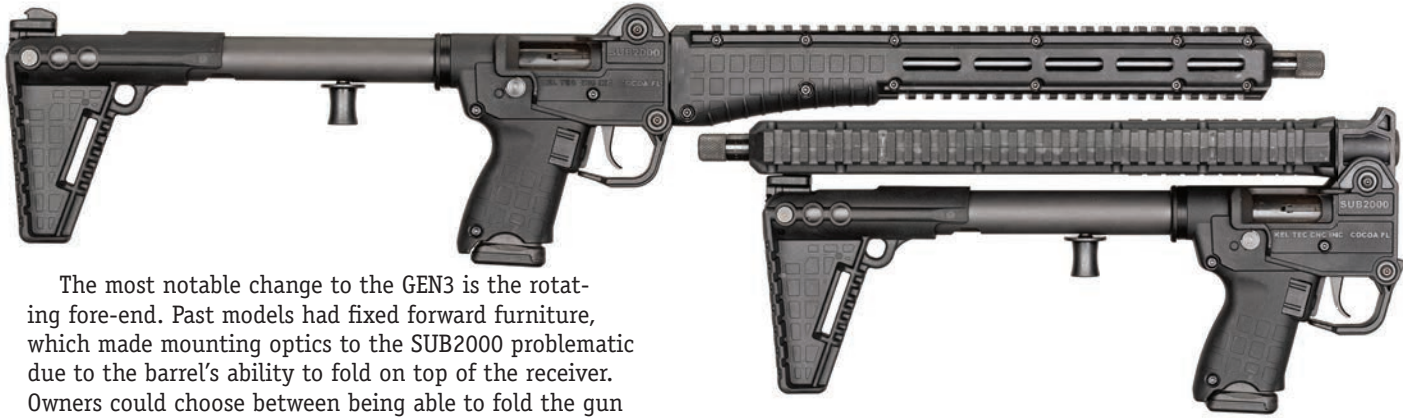
BY B. GIL HORMAN, Field Editor

SUB2000 GEN3 Folding PCC

Just two years later, the GEN2 SUB2000 was on the market with a variety of useful updates to the nearly 15-year-old design. I don't recall exactly why, but I didn't ever quite get around to working with this version, and nearly another decade would pass before the GEN3 model was launched. Could it have been the release of Smith & Wesson's folding 9 mm M&P FPC carbine in 2023 that inspired KelTec to introduce the next iteration of the SUB2000 in 2024? Perhaps. But whatever the reason, the changes made are good ones for this platform. Looking at the GEN1 and GEN3 models side-by-side, it was easy to see how the platform has been updated while maintaining the core features that have kept this gun selling well throughout the years.

Like previous generations, the SUB2000 GEN3 is a blowback-operated pistol-caliber carbine that uses polymer and aluminum components to minimize weight. Initially chambered in 9 mm Luger for Glock-pattern magazines—a new variant was just announced chambered for the 5.7×28 mm FN cartridge using that company's Five-seveN pistol magazines—the example reviewed here is a 9 mm that weighs just 4 lbs., 6 ozs., with an empty 15-round box in place. The black polymer receiver and fore-end are both clamshell designs with the halves mated via machine screws. This version does not have a set of iron sights. Instead, the top of the fore-end features a 12.75"-long molded-in Picatinny rail that can be used to support magnified riflescopes, red-dot optics or AR-15-type folding back-up sights.

KELTEC'S SUB2000 GEN3



The most notable change to the GEN3 is the rotating fore-end. Past models had fixed forward furniture, which made mounting optics to the SUB2000 problematic due to the barrel's ability to fold on top of the receiver. Owners could choose between being able to fold the gun completely in half or use an optic, but not both. When unlocked from the receiver, the new fore-end rotates 90 degrees to the right or the left as the barrel swings into the folded position. This allows devices mounted to the top-side optics rail, or to the 8.5" accessory rail along the bottom of the fore-end, to remain attached.

In addition to the rails, the fore-end features four M-Lok accessory slots on each side with a ridged and waffle-pattern textured gripping surface near the receiver. When the barrel is folded, the forwardmost M-Lok slot facing the shoulder stock engages the one-piece latch that also serves as the end plug for the buffer tube. This keeps the barrel locked in the folded position. The 16.15"-long, round-profile, carbon-steel barrel's muzzle is threaded at 1/2x28 TPI to accept a variety of muzzle devices, including brakes, compensators and sound suppressors; a knurled thread protector is provided with the carbine.

The trigger guard serves double-duty as the barrel's release lever. Other external controls include a crossbolt safety button and a left-side magazine-release button. This version of the carbine ships with a curved and grooved aluminum trigger instead of the polymer trigger found on previous models. The test gun's two-stage trigger pull was smooth and clean. The front half of the trigger's 0.5" arc of travel is almost effortless with a fairly firm stop—it then broke at 4 lbs., 7 ozs., of pull before stopping against the interior of the trigger guard.

The carbine's grip has been shortened to accept 15-round Glock 19 magazines in addition to G17 and extended magazines that hold 20 rounds or more. Cropping the grip also brings its height in line with that of the shoulder stock. And, unsurprisingly, the grip's texturing is of KelTec's signature waffle-pattern variety.

The bolt carrier group is housed in the same buffer tube that serves as the rifle's stock. The rounded, reciprocating charging handle, located under the buffer tube, can be manually pulled back and locked to the right or the left to hold the action open; it feels great to give the handle the ol' "H&K slap" to close it. The recoil assembly provides the spring pressure to hold the barrel latch in place.

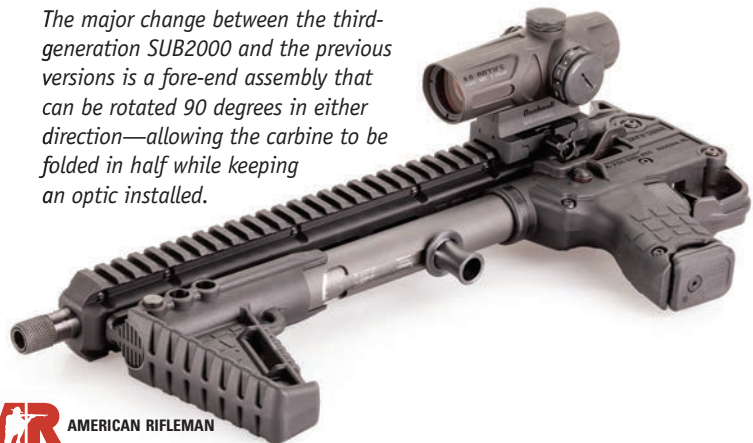
The one-piece polymer shoulder stock features a ridge-textured buttplate and mounting points for sling straps or a sling hook. Technically speaking, this is a three-position shoulder stock. It can be adjusted for a 13.25", 13.75" or 14.5" length of pull by removing the stock pin—a procedure outlined in the owner's manual.

The SUB2000 has always been an affordable option, with the current suggested retail price listed at \$499 and real-world prices closer to \$450. For this reason, it only seemed logical to seek out a solid red-dot optic that doesn't cost more than the gun. I tried several different low-mount optics, but no matter how hard I hunkered down, I just couldn't find an alignment I liked. So, I went with Riton Optics' X1 TACTIX ARD red-dot (\$199) mounted to the carbine using the provided quick-release, AR-height riser (a low mount is also included). This rifle optic features an anodized 6061-T6 aluminum housing, fully multi-coated lenses, 1-m.o.a. elevation and windage adjustments, six brightness settings and up to 40,000 hours of run time using a single CR2032 battery. Using the taller riser allowed for a surprisingly comfortable cheek weld, considering the stock is almost entirely a 1"-diameter steel tube.

At the range, I put the carbine through its paces using typical full-metal-jacket loads, one of which was Federal's American Eagle 147-grain subsonic. The defense-grade hollow points included SIG Sauer's M17 V-Crown 124-grain +P.

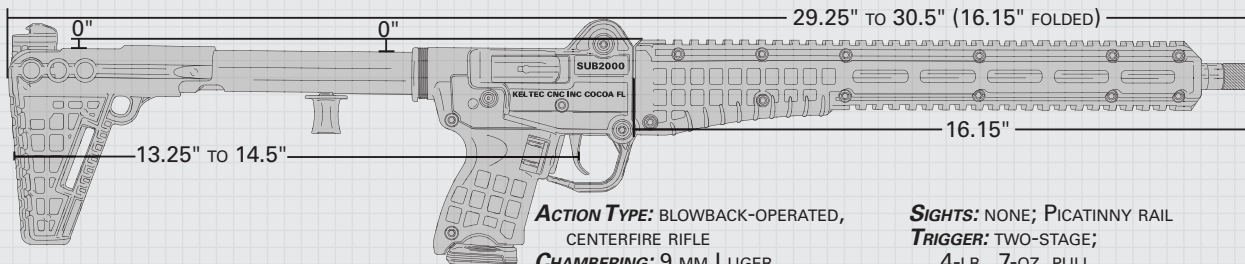


The major change between the third-generation SUB2000 and the previous versions is a fore-end assembly that can be rotated 90 degrees in either direction—allowing the carbine to be folded in half while keeping an optic installed.



KELTEC SUB2000 GEN3

MANUFACTURER: KELTEC CNC INDUSTRIES (DEPT. AR), 1505 COX ROAD, COCOA, FL 32926; (321) 631-0068; KELTECWEAPONS.COM



ACTION TYPE: BLOWBACK-OPERATED, CENTERFIRE RIFLE
CHAMBERING: 9 MM LUGER
BARREL: STEEL; BLACK-OXIDE FINISH; 1/2X28 TPI MUZZLE
RECEIVER: POLYMER
MAGAZINE: 15-ROUND DETACHABLE BOX

SIGHTS: NONE; PICATINNY RAIL
TRIGGER: TWO-STAGE; 4-LB., 7-OZ. PULL
WEIGHT: 4 LBS., 6 OZS.
ACCESSORIES: OWNER'S MANUAL, THREAD PROTECTOR, LOCK
MSRP: \$499

The KelTec SUB2000 GEN3 ships with one flush-fitting 15-round Glock 19 magazine, but it can accommodate extended magazines as well.



One somewhat exotic thing, which was included to keep things interesting, was an 80-grain fluted copper solid that the company, G9 Defense, refers to as an "external hollow point." Glock-compatible magazines included those by Elite Tactical Systems (ETS), Extar, Glock, KCI USA and Magpul in capacities ranging from 15 to 33 rounds.

As for reliability, the only ammunition that exhibited zero malfunctions was the SIG M17, while the only magazines that were wholly jam-free were the 15-round, flush-fit models. Considering the variety of magazines and ammunition used, the jams were not necessarily excessive, but every other magazine and ammunition mix exhibited somewhere between one and three jams during the course of testing. Based on this, it's safe to say that, like rimfire pistols, it's going to take a bit of trial-and-error on the owner's part to find the just-right blend of magazines and ammunition for any particular combination of carbine, magazine and load.

KelTec's new SUB2000 GEN3 folding PCC successfully integrates useful updates while maintaining the features and price point that make this gun a popular seller for the company. But the burning question is whether or not the GEN3's rotating fore-end resolves the optics issue. I would say it depends on the owner's needs and the sighting system selected.

Without any sights, the folded SUB2000 should fit into a backpack, carry bag or storage case measuring roughly 16.5"x6.5"x2.5" with a bit of wiggle room to slide the rifle in and out. That's not too challenging of a profile

SHOOTING RESULTS (50 YARDS)

9 MM LUGER CARTRIDGE	VELOCITY (F.P.S.)	ENERGY (FT.-LBS.)	GROUP SIZE (INCHES)		
			SMALLEST	LARGEST	AVERAGE
FEDERAL AE 147-GRAIN FMJ	1,186 AVG. 17 Sd	459	1.81	2.37	2.12
G9 DEFENSE EHP 80-GRAIN FCS	1,848 AVG. 25 Sd	607	2.20	2.44	2.31
SIG SAUER M17 124-GRAIN +P JHP	1,420 AVG. 12 Sd	555	1.74	2.13	1.92
AVERAGE EXTREME SPREAD					2.12

NOTES: MEASURED AVERAGE VELOCITY FOR 10 SHOTS FIRED NEXT TO A GARMIN XERO C1 PRO CHRONOGRAPH AT THE MUZZLE. ACCURACY MEASURED FOR FIVE CONSECUTIVE, FIVE-SHOT GROUPS AT 50 YARDS FIRED FROM A BENCH REST. TEMPERATURE: 47° F. HUMIDITY: 89%. ABBREVIATIONS: AE (AMERICAN EAGLE), EHP (EXTERNAL HOLLOW POINT), FCS (FLUTED COPPER SOLID), FMJ (FULL METAL JACKET), JHP (JACKETED HOLLOW POINT), Sd (STANDARD DEVIATION).

to accommodate. However, the AR-height red-dot optic used for the range evaluation is 2.5" tall as configured. This can change the storage-space requirements noticeably depending on the bag being used, as would the addition of a light or laser module to the fore-end's accessory rail. If a taller optic fits into your particular storage and transportation plans, then there's nothing to worry about.



But for those looking to keep the SUB2000 as lean as possible, two other sighting systems may be a better fit. A low-mount micro red-dot optic, if it works with your body shape and shooting style, is around an inch shorter than an AR-height optic. Also, consider folding AR-15 back-up sights such as the ruggedly built Mission First Tactical Extreme Duty set, which add only about 0.5" of height when stored in the folded position.

The point is that, whichever sighting system or accessories you choose, the GEN3 model can be folded without taking them off—and this is a significant improvement. The SUB2000 continues to be lightweight, compact and easy-to-use, and it accepts popular Glock magazines. The latest version competes well with models in this class offered by other manufacturers—all thanks to a simple new twist. 🦋



The carbine's muzzle (L) is threaded 1/2x28 TPI for use with accessories, and a knurled thread protector is provided by the factory. Its operating controls (above) are located on the left side of the frame.

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FIREARMS

A PAIR



BIG CAT

When Beretta introduced the 80-Series Cheetahs in 1976 they were one of very few available options to combine capacity and shootability in a compact, concealable format. The Cheetah line was well-regarded for concealment but also quite well thought of for its feel, overall quality and ease of shooting in the world before the Glock 19. But the era launched by the G19 and subsequent competitors pushed the deluxe Italian Cheetahs aside until Beretta made the decision to pause the series in 2017.

Shooters are famous for not appreciating models until they are dropped from the catalog, and the grumbling soon began. Recent years have shown there is a market for

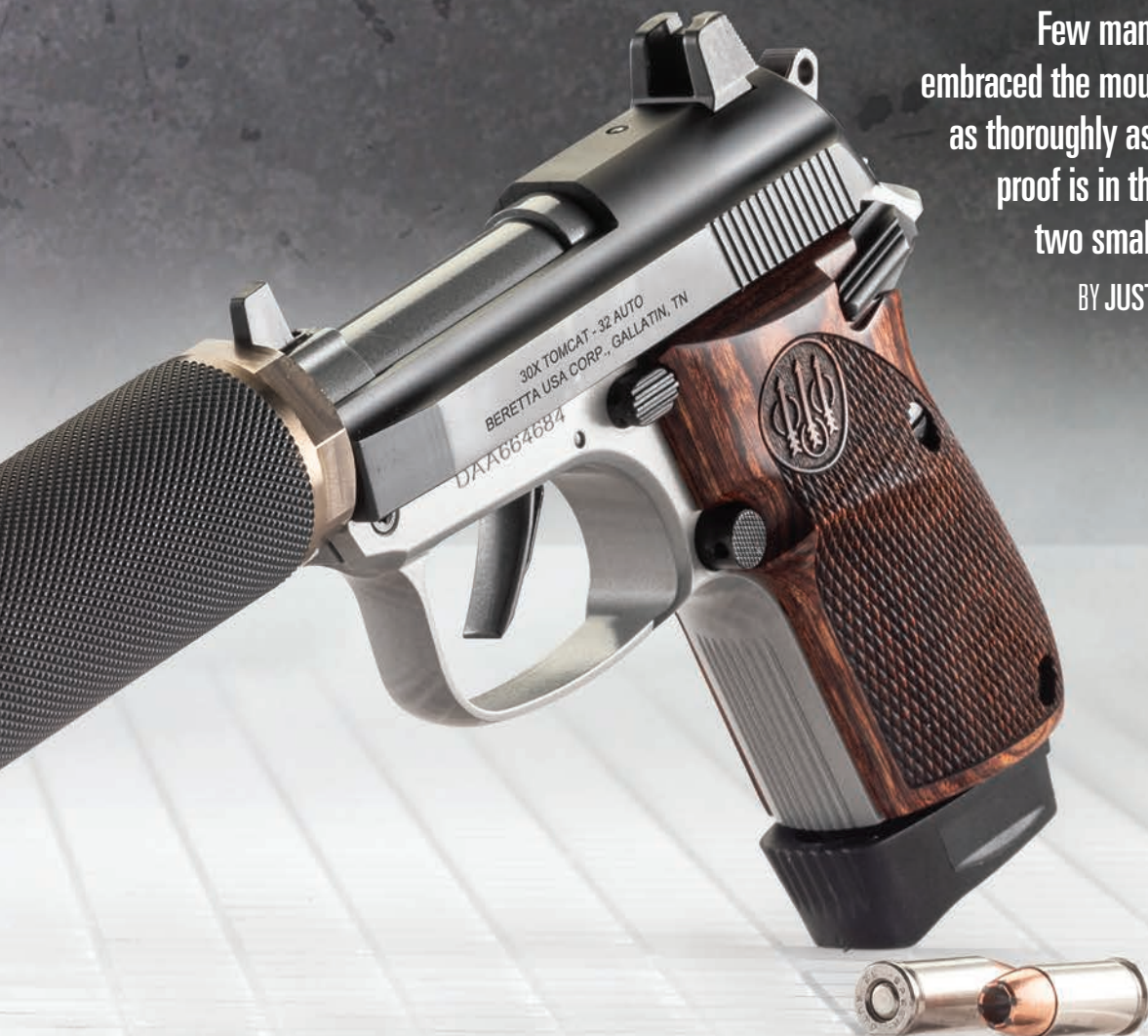
Beretta has offered several lines of iconic pistol models throughout the decades, and two that were staples as I came into my concealed-carry years were the 80 Series in .380 ACP and the little tip-barreled double-action pocket autoloaders in, among other chamberings, .32 ACP. Well, during the past year or so, the company has revamped both lines with the introduction of the 80X Cheetah and the 30X Tomcat Get Home Bag. And despite countless concealed-carry options available today, the choices within each of these pistols' chamberings and size classes are still extremely limited, so both new Berettas are noteworthy additions to the market.

OF FEISTY FELINES

THE 80X CHEETAH AND 30X TOMCAT GET HOME BAG

Few manufacturers have embraced the mouse-gun concept as thoroughly as Beretta—and proof is in the updates to its two smallest pistol lines.

BY JUSTIN DYAL, Field Editor



compact, easy-to-handle .380 ACPs, so Beretta responded with an updated cat capable of mounting optics, the 80X.

The new Cheetah looks, in many ways, like a 60 percent scale model of the latest 92X Series of the legendary Model 92FS; the family lineage is obvious and the resemblance undeniable. I suspect that this contributes, at least subconsciously, to the undeniable appeal as one picks up the familiar-seeming “miniature” Beretta. More than simply mimicking the look of the larger 9 mm Luger-chambered Model 92-family pistols, however, the size of the 80X is nearly ideal for a compact .380 ACP. The pistol’s dimensions are in that hard-to-define sweet spot where the segments

of the market overlap. It is a conveniently small pistol for some, but just large enough and with enough heft to confidently handle and manipulate for others. The pistol looks like a full-size service piece in petite hands, scaled almost perfectly, while still allowing large-handed shooters to get a full firing grasp on the frame. The weight is similarly friendly; the 80X’s 25 ozs. steady the pistol nicely and help dampen recoil while in no way feeling heavy.

The overall build and feel of the Beretta is high-quality and refined. The market often trends toward low-cost options in .380, so a quality, Italian-made, metal-frame compact stands out next to the competition.



The 80X's slide (l.) comes with a very usable set of three-dot irons, but is also cut to accommodate any one of several available footprint-specific optic-mounting plates. The Beretta 80X Cheetah may look a lot like its 9 mm Luger-chambered 92X stablemates, but it has been reduced in scale to ideally suit its less-powerful .380 ACP chambering.

Attached to the frame of the 80X is a combination safety/decocker. When the shooter pushes up on one of the bilateral levers, the hammer is safely dropped to a rest position. Leaving the levers up places the pistol on safe and disengages the trigger from the hammer, giving the shooter a tactile cue, since the trigger compresses with almost no resistance when the safety is engaged. The pistol can safely be carried with the hammer down and manual safety either engaged or lowered. The safety lever falls nicely under the thumb in much the same way that an extended M1911 safety would. A shooter wanting the additional safety could easily swipe the safety off as he or she brings the pistol onto target. Those who prefer a decocker can use the lever in that fashion and simply return it to the down position to rely on the weight and travel of the double-action trigger for safety until the first shot.

The Vertec/92X-style grip frame has serrations and deep checkering to anchor the pistol in the hand. The stock panels are quite thin, and the overall effect is a small grip that works well for most. I was surprised at just how well the frame felt in hand for both me and my wife, as we occupy both ends of the hand-size spectrum. Aftermarket G10 panels are available from LOK Grips, and I tried a set of the Veloce wraparound models. These create an “arch” on the rear of the frame and give it a feel much more similar to the legacy 80-Series pistols, although with reduced width to accommodate more hands. I liked the factory panels but really enjoyed the LOK wraparound.

I found the double-action stroke on the 80X to be somewhat unusual. The decocker drops the hammer into a “half-cock” position accessible only by using the lever. The shooter then has a lightweight take-up until nearly the midpoint in the trigger arc, after which the trigger stacks quickly and releases over a short travel. This pull weighed just 6 lbs., 8 ozs., and was quite shootable. Even those with diminished hand strength or minimal DA experience should be able to shoot the double-action mode acceptably well. Single-action dropped the hammer right at 5 lbs. with some movement and creep over the break.

The sights on the 80X consist of a dovetailed front and a rear notch integral to the optics-ready cover plate; two Torx screws secure the plate. The iron sights have three white dots for rapid acquisition in low light. Legacy 80-Series pistols had somewhat small sights typical of the era, so it was nice to have very usable sights on the new-generation pistol. I shot about half of the test rounds through the 80X using the iron sights and was happy with their visibility and regulation. The rear sight did begin to loosen at about 100 rounds, which required a simple tightening with a driver bit. If the pistol were mine, I would

liberally apply threadlocker to the cover plate screws for serious use.

Beretta offers optics-mounting plates as an accessory, and it is a simple swap to remove the rear sight plate and install the correct footprint-specific mount. As of now, Beretta offers mounts for the Holosun K, Docter and Shield footprints, covering most of the small dots on the market. I mounted a Bushnell RXC 200, the new Holosun Solar Charging Sight (SCS) and a Holosun EPS Carry to the 80X with no issues; most of the dot shooting was done with the EPS Carry on board. I had thought the compact was an easy-shooting little gun with the irons—but the carry-size red-dot made the Beretta into a “hitting gun.” The hits just came with no undue effort. The small, enclosed-emitter Holosun was almost a competition-size optic in relation to the small pistol, but the two worked well in tandem. The new Cheetah could reliably ring steel plates out to 50 yards as long as I did my part, and the EPS/80X combo cleaned up on standard skill drills like the 5 Yard Roundup.

The 80X is blowback-operated, meaning the action is held closed only by the force of the recoil spring and slide mass. Upon firing, the recoil cycles the action against their combined resistance then compresses both the mainspring and recoil spring as the slide reciprocates. Blowback operation is common in compact .380 ACP pistols and has been traditional since the cartridge's launch more than 100 years ago. And even though blowback pistols can sometimes have somewhat heavy recoil springs, resulting in difficult-to-rack actions, the 80X's slide was surprisingly easy to cycle, and the deep serrations at its front and rear assisted further.

Fixed-barrel blowback operation typically produces a different recoil impulse than the Browning-style, tilting-barrel arrangement. The impulse feels “faster,” but often with less perceived muzzle rise. How pleasant the impulse feels is a highly subjective question—the 80X recoils quickly but remains within confident control. “Highly

In a control scheme typical of many modern Beretta pistol models, a lever on the right side of the handgun is flipped downward to allow the 80X's slide to be removed from its frame.



BERETTA 30X CHEETAH

IMPORTER: BERETTA USA (DEPT. AR), 17601 BERETTA DRIVE, ACCOKEEK, MD 20607;
(800) 237-3882; BERETTA.COM

controllable" is perhaps the best way to describe it. The speed of return and the limited muzzle rise let me run the plate rack with the little .380 at heavy, full-size 9 mm pistol speeds. The recoil is by no means "sharp" and should be tolerable to all but the highly sensitive.

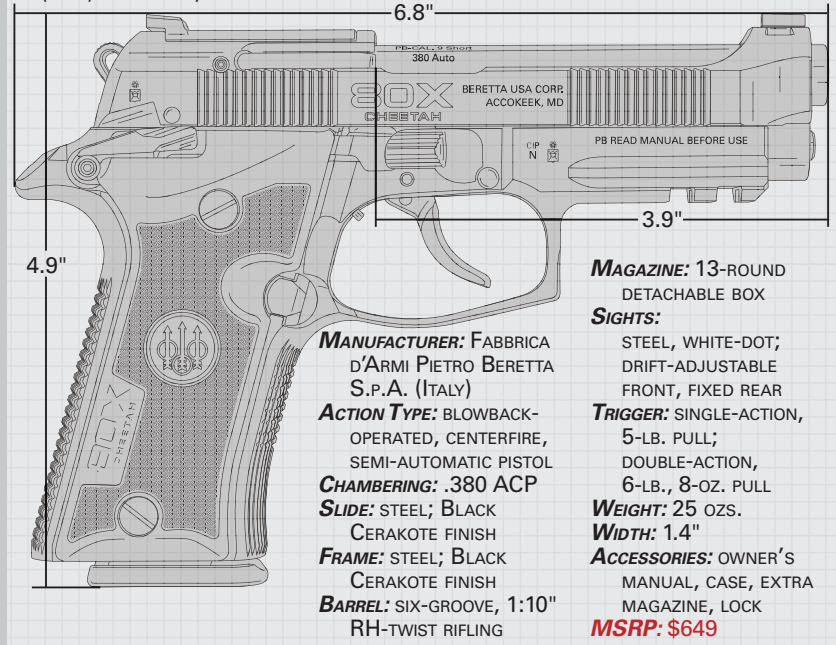
With the lighter-weight copper projectiles, such as the Black Hills HoneyBadgers or the DoubleTap 60-grain solid copper hollow points, the recoil dips down a level or two more. An 80X filled with either becomes a formidable pistol for even the most recoil-shy shooter.

SMALL CAT

With the launch of the 30X Get Home Bag, Beretta has updated the 3032 Tomcat into a new-generation .32 ACP. The Tomcat sits nearly alone in a unique size bracket for a pocketable semi-automatic, being smaller than the typical snub-nose .38 Spl. revolver but larger than the tiny auto-loaders typified by the Ruger LCP. The extended eight-shot magazine and hand-filling checkered wood stocks make for a mini pistol that can be confidently manipulated. The length, width and girth of the grip, however, may also preclude true pocket carry in many of today's pants. I suspect the new .32 ACP will be attractive for many in a purse/off-body role.

The new model's frame has been made more durable by strengthening key areas. The magazine allows for a full grip and releases in the American style with a thumb-actuated button at the lower rear of the trigger guard rather than at the previous location on the bottom of the left stock panel. The new magazines are reverse-compatible with the 3032, but the previous-gen magazines will not fit the 30X. For now, 30X magazines are only available in the extended, eight-round format.

The trigger is a reshaped straight lever, and the high-visibility sights are now dovetailed. The nicely checkered wooden stocks have more shape on the 30X than on its older brothers, and the barrel latch is now a simple push button. The barrel pin is also new to more easily allow swapping to accessory barrels like the threaded unit on the Get Home Bag. The blowback-operated Tomcat's tip-up barrel allows shooters with diminished hand strength to bypass having to rack the slide and, instead, directly insert a round into the chamber. The slide can be racked if the shooter wishes, and I found the suppressor-height rear sight on the Get Home Bag model convenient to use as a "racking hook" to easily cycle the action.



SHOOTING RESULTS (15 YARDS)

.380 ACP CARTRIDGE	VELOCITY (F.P.S.)	ENERGY (FT.-LBS.)	GROUP SIZE (INCHES)		
			SMALLEST	LARGEST	AVERAGE
BLACK HILLS 60-GRAIN HB	1,210 AVG. 15 Sd	195	1.20	1.74	1.52
DOUBLETAP 100-GRAIN FMJ	931 AVG. 21 Sd	192	1.42	2.51	1.92
FEDERAL PUNCH 85-GRAIN JHP	970 AVG. 7 Sd	178	0.57	1.41	1.05
AVERAGE EXTREME SPREAD					1.50

NOTES: MEASURED AVERAGE VELOCITY FOR 10 SHOTS OVER A COMPETITION ELECTRONICS CHRONOGRAPH AT 10 FEET. ACCURACY RESULTS FOR FIVE CONSECUTIVE, FIVE-SHOT GROUPS AT 15 YARDS FROM A BAG REST. TEMPERATURE: 82° F HUMIDITY: 52%. ABBREVIATIONS: FMJ (FULL METAL JACKET), HB (HONEYBADGER), JHP (JACKETED HOLLOW POINT), Sd (STANDARD DEVIATION).

The 30X Get Home Bag will appeal equally to two groups of shooters. The first will be those interested in using the threaded barrel to make the Beretta an ultra-compact suppressor host with centerfire energy and reliability. The 30X may be the most compact centerfire available to suppress, and its fixed barrel allows a can to directly thread onto the pistol with no booster. The second group of natural 30X shooters will be those interested in the low-recoil, easy-handling features in a small form factor. Truthfully, the largest share of the 30X market may simply be those who find the little Beretta interesting, and dare I say, even cute.

For the suppressor-interested crowd, the 30X makes a compelling package. Most .32 ACP loads are subsonic by nature and therefore ideal for suppressed use. The 1/2x28 TPI threaded barrel is ready to accept any common 9 mm Luger silencer—the 0.312" bullets just allowing some extra gas, and therefore noise, to exit the accessory as they race down the cans intended for 0.355" projectiles.

I fired the test gun with a Ballistic Research & Machine unit intended specifically for .32 ACP built on the company's titanium M.S.C. model. The M.S.C. was originally designed

BERETTA 30X GET HOME BAG

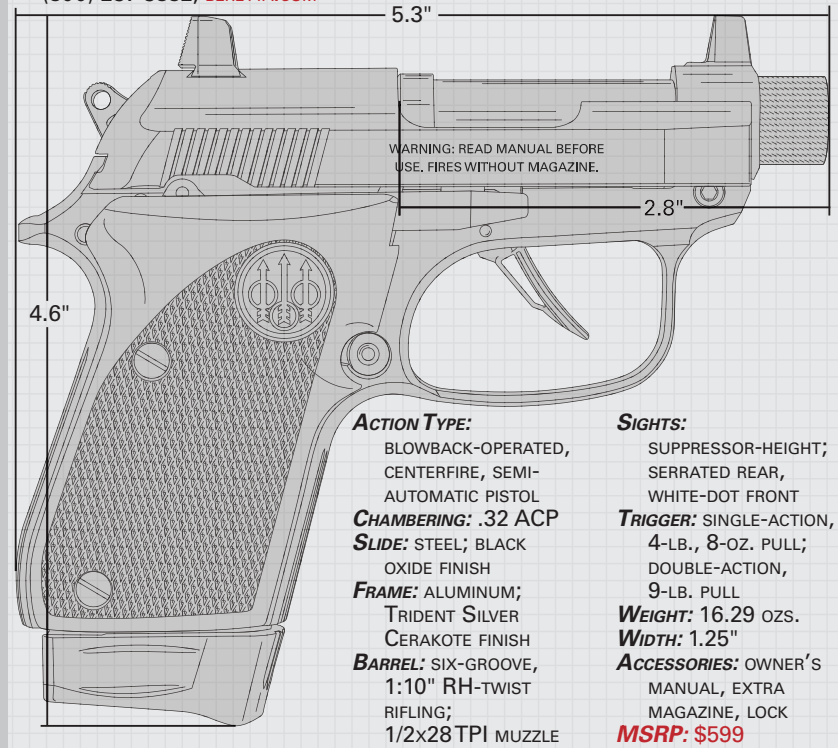
MANUFACTURER: BERETTA USA (DEPT. AR), 17601 BERETTA DRIVE, ACCOKEEK, MD 20607; (800) 237-3882; BERETTA.COM

around full-automatic 5.7x28 mm FN fire in the P90 and is a flow-through, user-serviceable design with no discernible back pressure. The suppressor worked excellently on the Beretta, giving the pistol enough “barrel” to point and hang nicely.

The suppressor-height sights were easily visible over the small-diameter tube, and the combined weight of the pistol and silencer came in at only 23 ozs. The overall length and weight of the combo was less than many popular rimfire trail and plinking handguns such as the Ruger Wrangler. The practically minded will find that the suppressed 30X provides real utility for low-noise varmint control—but most shooters are likely to find it is simply great fun. Beretta plans to offer an accessory dovetail optic mount before long to add to the appeal.

Like the 80X, the 30X Get Home Bag is a DA/SA autoloader, however, the .32's single-sided thumb safety allows the pistol to be carried single-action “cocked and locked,” with the hammer back and the safety engaged. The safety can also be engaged with the hammer down in double-action mode for the first shot, and the lever is well-placed and large enough to disengage confidently when used in either way. The 30X does not have a decocker; the shooter must carefully manually lower the hammer. However, the tip-up barrel design allows the pistol to be decocked with an empty chamber and then the barrel tipped up to add the live round.

Two somewhat unusual features on the 30X are its lack of an extractor and unique recoil springs. The pistol relies on pure blowback to propel the fired case into the ejector; the resulting ejection pattern is more random than many shooters are accustomed to but still quite positive. The recoil springs are housed in tiny tubes attached to the grip frame and inlet into the wood



SHOOTING RESULTS (7 YARDS)

.32 ACP CARTRIDGE	VELOCITY (F.P.S.)	ENERGY (FT.-LBS.)	GROUP SIZE (INCHES)		
			SMALLEST	LARGEST	AVERAGE
HORNADY CD 60-GRAIN FT	842 Avg. 14 Sd	94	0.68	1.64	1.16
NORMA 71-GRAIN FMJ	808 Avg. 11 Sd	103	0.80	1.60	1.18
SPEER GOLD DOT 60-GRAIN JHP	822 Avg. 16 Sd	90	0.90	1.39	1.20
AVERAGE EXTREME SPREAD					1.18

NOTES: MEASURED AVERAGE VELOCITY FOR 10 SHOTS OVER A COMPETITION ELECTRONICS CHRONOGRAPH AT 10 FEET. ACCURACY RESULTS FOR FIVE CONSECUTIVE, FIVE-SHOT GROUPS AT 7 YARDS FROM A BAG REST. TEMPERATURE: 82° F. HUMIDITY: 52%. ABBREVIATIONS: CD (CRITICAL DEFENSE), FMJ (FULL METAL JACKET), FT (FLEX TIP), JHP (JACKETED HOLLOW POINT), Sd (STANDARD DEVIATION).

stocks. Small struts, much like a M1911 hammer strut, engage the slide to return it after its short travel. The arrangement cycles smoothly and works positively.

The double-action trigger pull on the test pistol measured 9 lbs., with the weight building throughout the arc and releasing smoothly. The effect works well with the new, straight Trident trigger sitting forward in the guard; the shooter can confidently get the trigger moving rearward and, as the trigger is nearing a vertical orientation, the shooter has 4 or 5 lbs. of resistance remaining. I found the DA pull to be easy to hit with both at max speed up close and more slowly on longer-range shots.

The 30X Get Home Bag's muzzle is threaded 1/2x28 TPI for compatibility with most suppressors designed for use with 9 mm Luger-chambered pistols, and, during testing, the raised sights worked well with Ballistic Research & Machine's M.S.C. model.



The single-action break was measured at 4 lbs., 8 ozs., with considerable creep and movement through the release. There is about a 1/4" of take-up and then the shooter feels sear engagement and has to press through another 1/4" of creep. The single-action pull is appropriate to the role for the pistol and no detriment to accuracy at close range, but I found myself preferring to use double-action for tougher shots at distance. And the little 30X was capable of hits at distance; I could reliably keep a payload of .32 ACPs on an 8" plate at 20 yards and could keep seven out of eight on a steel silhouette at 50 yards.

The Beretta is a very small pistol, and shooters accustomed to "choking-up" high on pistol frames may have to adjust to prevent the 30X's reciprocating slide from leaving "railroad tracks" on their hands. I have extra-large gloved hands and tend to choke-up very high, so I had to continually remind myself—the reminder coming by way of getting "bit." This is an issue for me on a number of even larger pistols, so it's not a knock on the 30X as much as a note for those with large or meaty hands. Even when my "overgripping" the .32 caused a bite to occur, the pistol still cycled reliably and the slide tracks never fully broke the skin.

The 30X is most appropriately an alternative for the tiny-but-rowdy .380 pocket pistol or the snubby .38 Spl. revolver, so I shot it using drills and tests aligned to those handguns.



Unlike previous models, the barrels on the new generation of Tomcats can be tipped up by simply pressing in on a push-button control (arrow). Note the 30X Get Home Bag's straight trigger.

The .32's light recoil and high-visibility sights allowed it to shine inside of 7 yards. I fired the "Super Snub Test" by trainers Darryl Bolke and Wayne Dobbs with five-shot strings in aggressive times at three, five and 10 yards and was able to keep 13 of 15 hits inside the 10 ring of the bullseye. During some of my own drills, the Beretta was able to easily hit a little tighter and faster than my typical scores with snubbie .38s or micro nines.

In one contextual exercise, I started with the 30X gripped in my pants pocket and, on the shot timer's signal, drew and fired three shots into a 5" circle three paces away. The best

continued on p. 66



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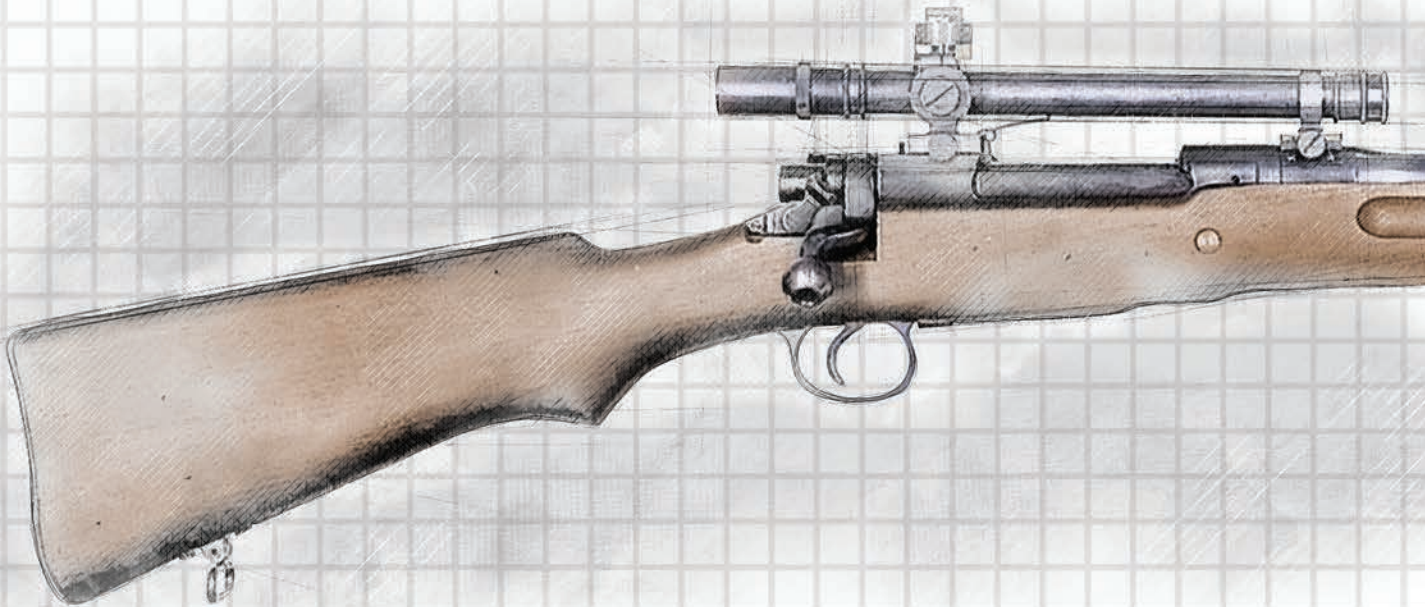
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MODELS



The Sniper Rifle

When the United States entered the First World War in April 1917, our military was woefully unprepared to fight an overseas war against an experienced and determined foe, especially in the unfamiliar environment of trench warfare. It was soon evident that one type of longarm the newly formed American Expeditionary Force needed was an effective sniper rifle. The standard U.S. Army sniper rifle at the time of America's entrance in the war was a Model 1903 rifle fitted with the Model 1913 prismatic "Musket Sight" made by the Warner & Swasey Co. A fair number of these were fielded in the war, but they proved to be less than optimal sniping rifles and were not particularly well-liked.

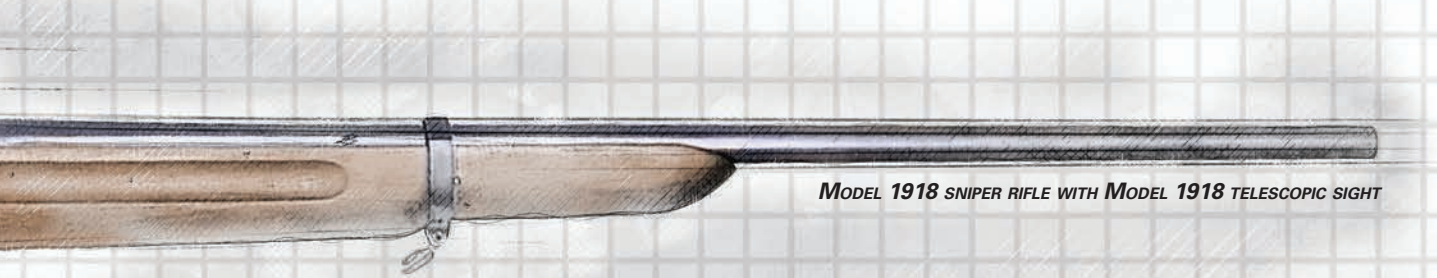
The Marine Corps utilized some Model 1903 rifles with Winchester A-5 telescopic sights and special Mann-Niedner tapered mounting blocks for competitive marksmanship teams and as ad hoc sniper rifles. While better than the Warner & Swasey sight, the A-5 was a commercial scope that was not designed, nor intended, to endure the rigors of combat, and it proved to be prone to damage. Given the deficiencies of both

the Warner & Swasey and Winchester A-5 telescopic sights, it was clear that something better was needed.

In May 1918, Major L.O. Wright of the U.S. Army's Engineering Bureau consulted with Winchester Repeating Arms regarding the feasibility of a sniping version of the Model 1917 rifle the company was then manufacturing. The chief reason why the Model 1917 was selected as the basis for the new sniper rifle, rather than the Model 1903, was because its concave bolt handle and side-mounted safety were more conducive for use with a riflescope than would have been the case with the '03. It is not known why Winchester was the only prime contractor apparently contacted for development of the proposed sniper rifle, since two other firms, Remington and Eddystone (an affiliate of Remington), were also making the Model 1917 rifle.

Regardless, any new sniper rifle would only be as good as the telescopic sight used with it; to this end, the Ordnance Dept. tested a number of scopes. Eventually a 2.6X sight developed by Winchester was selected and designated as the "Telescopic Musket Sight, Model of 1918."

L 1918

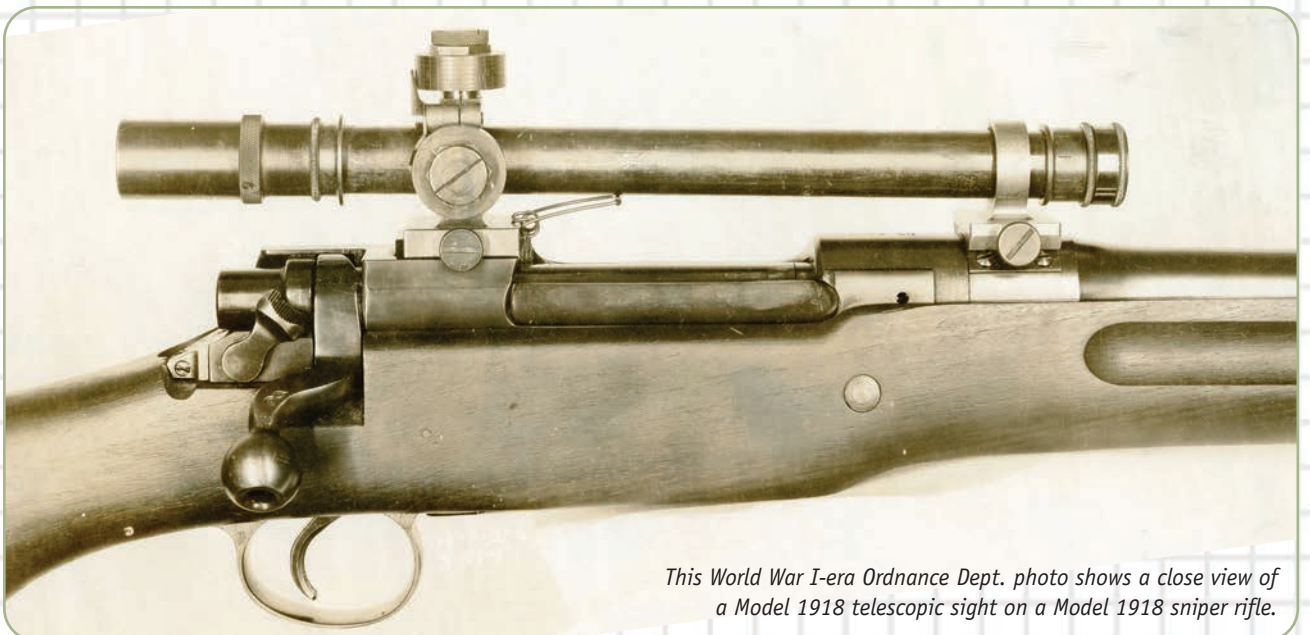


MODEL 1918 SNIPER RIFLE WITH MODEL 1918 TELESCOPIC SIGHT

Despite the best efforts of the Ordnance Department and civilian contractors, the quest for a suitable U.S. rifle with which to arm World War I snipers eventually led to a dead end.

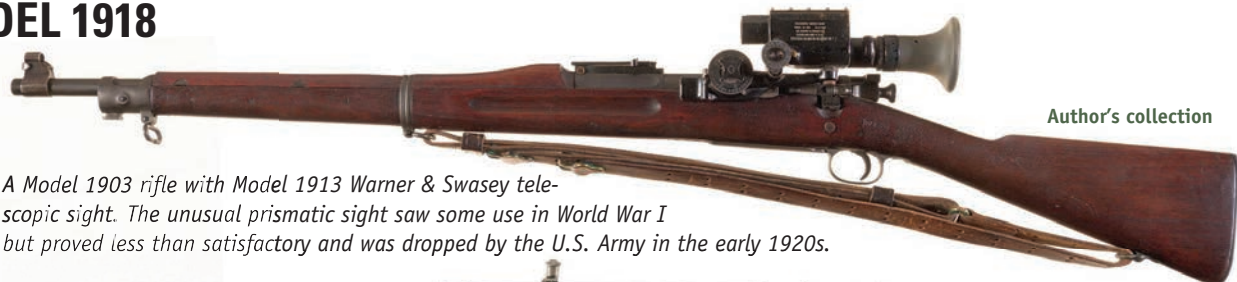
BY BRUCE N. CANFIELD, Field Editor

That Never Was



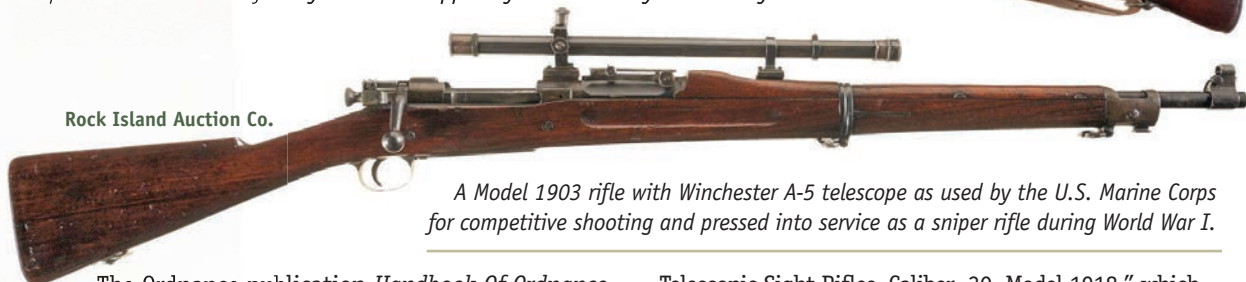
This World War I-era Ordnance Dept. photo shows a close view of a Model 1918 telescopic sight on a Model 1918 sniper rifle.

MODEL 1918



Author's collection

A Model 1903 rifle with Model 1913 Warner & Swasey telescopic sight. The unusual prismatic sight saw some use in World War I but proved less than satisfactory and was dropped by the U.S. Army in the early 1920s.



Rock Island Auction Co.

A Model 1903 rifle with Winchester A-5 telescope as used by the U.S. Marine Corps for competitive shooting and pressed into service as a sniper rifle during World War I.

The Ordnance publication *Handbook Of Ordnance Data* contained the following information on the new sniper rifle and scope:

"United States telescopic rifle, model 1918 - This rifle, which is derived from the United States rifle, model 1917, is adopted for the telescopic musket sight, model of 1918. It is intended primarily for sniping and most of its parts are interchangeable with the parts of the 1917 rifle. The exceptions are as follows:

Receiver – There is no rear sight base and no rear sight. A dovetail base for the rear telescope mount takes the place of them.

Barrel – There is no front sight, the barrel being adapted to receive screws for the front telescopic parts. The rifling is right-hand twist with one turn in 10 inches and the standard tolerances and type of land of the Springfield rifle are employed. The stock is of special construction with no hand guard, nor upper band, while the lower band is of special design.

Telescopic musket sight, model of 1918 – The telescopic musket sight, model of 1918, for use with the United States telescopic sight rifle, model of 1918, was formerly called the Winchester 2.6-2.7 telescopic sight, having been developed by the Winchester Repeating Arms Co. It was adopted as the United States Army standard in lieu of the model of 1913. It is mounted over the receiver and consists of a direct or nonreflecting telescope 2.7 power, with independent front and rear mounts. On the rear mount there is a windage and range adjustment. At 100 yards the field is 44' 1". Aiming point is a post at the optical center of the telescope. A cross hair serves to level the instrument. This telescope possesses unusual optical and mechanical properties, and was adopted as standard after long competitive tests at Camp Meade. It is made by Winchester Repeating Arms Co."

On June 7, 1918, the Ordnance Dept. issued a contract (No. 8514) to Winchester for the production of 52,635 "U.S.

Telescopic Sight Rifles, Caliber .30, Model 1918," which was followed by a Supplemental Order (No. 16302 Supplement 2) that increased the total to 59,472 rifles.

Orders were placed in the summer of 1918 for 32,000 Model 1918 telescopic sights to be manufactured for Winchester under subcontract by the Eastman-Kodak Co. of Rochester, N.Y. In October 1918, three of the scopes were sent to the Infantry School at Camp Benning, Ga., for testing and evaluation. The testing resulted in the Infantry School recommending against adoption of the telescope. As events transpired, production difficulties resulted in only a few scopes being made before the Armistice.

Despite the attempts to come up with the best telescope available, the Model 1918 proved to be less than stellar. As discussed by E.C. Crossman in his authoritative *Book Of The Springfield*: "The 1918 telescope was never a good glass and proved it promptly when subjected to use ... I was one of the Department of Experiment (members)." The main deficiencies noted by Crossman were that the lenses became loose and useless after moderate firing, the rear mounting bracket was prone to breaking and the eye relief was unsatisfactory.

The end of the war and the poor performance of the Model 1918 rifle and telescope during testing resulted in only 189 rifles being fabricated before the balance of the order was canceled on Jan. 10, 1919. Presumably, most, if not all, of these rifles were destroyed, and there are no known extant genuine Model 1918 sniper rifles complete with Model 1918 telescopic sights. However, there is what appears to be a Model 1918 sniper rifle, sans its riflescope, in the Cody Firearms Museum's collection in Cody, Wyo.

Although there were initially high hopes for the new Model 1918 sniper rifle, it proved to be unsatisfactory, and none were issued to American troops. It is now but a footnote in American ordnance history. The Model 1903 rifle with the Warner & Swasey sight was dropped from use by the U.S. Army in the early 1920s, and it was not until the eve of America's involvement in World War II that efforts were resumed to develop another sniper rifle. ★

This Model 1918 sniper rifle, without its telescope, is in the Cody Firearms Museum collection.



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 1911, 45ACP 5-3/4" **\$70. #C45321**
 1911, 10mm, 5" **\$65. #C45399**
 1911, 38 Super, 5" Commander **\$65. #C45386**
 1911, 9mm, 5" Commander **\$65. #C45385**
 1911, 9mm, 5-3/4" **\$66. #C45360**

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 new mnfr. **Garand Bayonet w/Scabbard \$47.50 #BAY182**

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 FN Hi Power w/stand.ham., 13rd. mag. VG. **\$615. #GUN957**
 FN Hi Power 'Syrian Contract', 1946, w/contract cartouche Very Rare **\$3,500. #SGR050**

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Fine collection of bayonets & fighting knives, both original and late mnfr.

Marked 1942 UHF

M1 Garand 16"
 new mnfr. **Garand Bayonet w/Scabbard \$47.50 #BAY182**

M1 Garand 10"
 new mnfr. **Garand 10" Bayonet w/Scab. marked 1943 UHF \$34.95 #BAY183**

U.S. 1918 Trench Knife with solid brass knuckles. Marked with the 'French Au Lion' on the ricasso. **\$39. #BAY333**

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WW1 U.S. Shotgun accessory that made the shotgun even more menacing. There are times when having a 17 inch blade on the end of your shotgun, as in combat, being attacked by a charging wild pig, or needing a good stand off from an attacker. This steel ventilated handguard is of new manufacture and fits the Model 1917 bayonet (sold separately). Specifically fits the Winchester Model 1897 and can be modified to some other shotguns with a little work. **\$129. #W97058**

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New, PE ballistic FAST helmet with side rails, front mount, bungees and chin suspension. Large size fits heads between circumference of 22-1/2" to 23-5/4" basically U.S. size 7-1/4 to 7-5/8". Olive Drab Color. **\$150. #HLM095**

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 Stripped New Beech stock is strong, ergonomic, and based on the Vietnam era Automatic Rifleman stock. Perfect for your M14 or M1A1 rifle. **\$165. #M14364**

Hardware set for the M14E2 stock - also in stock. **\$159.95 #M14379**

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RUGER 10/22" Paratrooper folding buttstock just like the GI M1A1 WW2 buttstock, but fits the Ruger 10/22" barreled action. **\$150. #5TK362**

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Springfield 03A3 C-Stock Also fits original 1903 Rifle
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Citadel Trakr Bolt Action

Where recoil mitigation is concerned, few solutions trump a healthy serving of additional mass. However, if the cartridge in question doesn't produce a whole lot of kick, keeping the firearm trim probably makes more sense. Case in point, Citadel's Trakr bolt-action rimfire is missing more than just a few letters—at less than 4 lbs., this repeating rifle is easy on the back while also being extraordinarily easy on the budget. Chambered in .22 Long Rifle, .22 WMR or .17 HMR, we reached out to Legacy Sports Intl. to procure a sample chambered in the former to see how it fared during formal testing.

The heart of this Trakr is a slim-line bolt-action mechanism with an extractor on the right and an opposed guide that securely handles cartridges and spent cases as they are run to and from the chamber. Ammunition is drawn from a 10-round detachable box magazine. Pressed and pinned to the receiver is an 18" carbon-steel barrel

that is finished with a conventional bluing process and topped with a set of fiber-optic sights; it is of a thin contour and, in its .22 LR rendition, is not threaded at the muzzle. The rear sight is fully adjustable, and a 3/8" dovetail is cut into the receiver for easy scope mounting. There are only two controls on the Trakr: the magazine release and the safety. Pressing forward on a recessed lever directly behind the magazine well allows the box magazine to be removed from the rifle. The safety is of the crossbolt variety and is located just in front of the trigger.

While the Trakr's receiver is quite similar to that of other inexpensive rimfire bolt guns on the market, such as the Mossberg 802 Plinkster and the Rossi RB 22, its stock is radically different. Comprised entirely of polymer, it floats the barrel along its entirety and skips the additional weight of aluminum bedding. A move that might cost it a bit of accuracy, this simpler approach helps keep both the weight and the price point down. Superb ergonomics are achieved through AR-style furniture.

The rifle's buttstock may appear to be adjustable at first glance, but it is a continuous piece of molded polymer that provides a fixed 13⁵/₈" length of pull. Citadel calls the fore-end "vented," which apparently means it features M-Lok slots on both sides and its bottom. For our testing, we outfitted the Trakr with a Magpul MOE Bipod and a Tract 22 Fire 4-12X 40 mm scope. To accomplish this without resorting to extra-high scope rings, we removed the rear sight by unscrewing the adjustment wheel and backing out the two mounting screws.

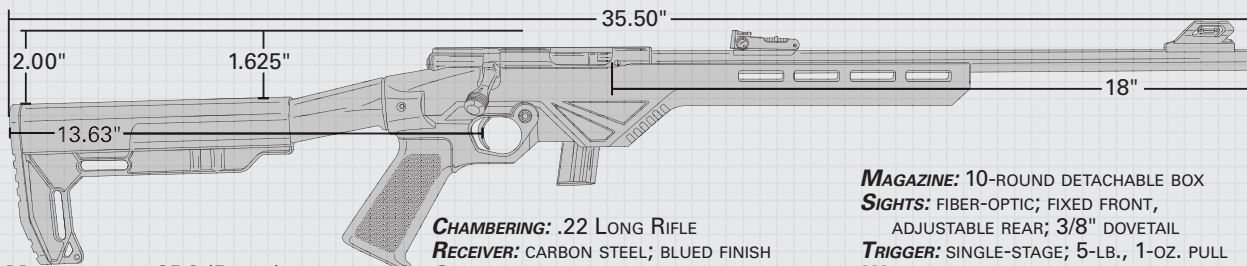
With our rifle now ready for the range, it was time to select test ammunition. Considering the rifle's economical \$179 MSRP, we opted to use affordable loads in our testing. We chose CCI's new



While it comes with irons, those who would prefer to mount an optic atop the bolt-action Citadel Trakr will find a 3/8" dovetail (l.) for this purpose. A cocking indicator at the back of the bolt (above) provides visual confirmation that the rifle is ready to fire.

CITADEL TRAKR BOLT ACTION

IMPORTER: LEGACY SPORTS INTL. (DEPT. AR), 4674 AIRCENTER CIRCLE, RENO, NV 89502; (800) 553-4229; CITADELFIREARMS.COM



MANUFACTURER: CBC (BRAZIL)
ACTION TYPE: BOLT-ACTION, RIMFIRE, REPEATING RIFLE

CHAMBERING: .22 LONG RIFLE
RECEIVER: CARBON STEEL; BLUED FINISH
STOCK: SYNTHETIC, TEXTURED
BARREL: CARBON STEEL; EIGHT-GROOVE, 1:16" RH-TWIST RIFLING

MAGAZINE: 10-ROUND DETACHABLE BOX
SIGHTS: FIBER-OPTIC; FIXED FRONT, ADJUSTABLE REAR; 3/8" DOVETAIL
TRIGGER: SINGLE-STAGE; 5-LB., 1-OZ. PULL
WEIGHT: 3 LBS., 11 OZS.
ACCESSORIES: OWNER'S MANUAL, LOCK
MSRP: \$179

The rifle's sights consist of three fiber-optic pipes; the front post is fixed, but the rear is adjustable for both windage and elevation.



SHOOTING RESULTS (50 YARDS)

.22 LONG RIFLE CARTRIDGE	VELOCITY (F.P.S.)	ENERGY (FT.-LBS.)	GROUP SIZE (INCHES)		
			SMALLEST	LARGEST	AVERAGE
AGUILA INTERCEPTOR 40-GRAIN CFPF	1,369 AVG. 23 Sd	166	1.99	2.71	2.37
CCI MINI-MAG 40-GRAIN SHP	1,143 AVG. 23 Sd	116	2.11	3.01	2.64
REMINGTON VIPER 36-GRAIN PTC	1,256 AVG. 30 Sd	126	1.21	2.24	1.69
AVERAGE EXTREME SPREAD					2.23

NOTES: MEASURED AVERAGE VELOCITY FOR 10 SHOTS OVER A CALDWELL G2 CHRONOGRAPH AT 10 FEET. ACCURACY RESULTS FOR FIVE CONSECUTIVE, 10-SHOT GROUPS AT 50 YARDS FROM A BIPOD AND A REAR SANDBAG SUPPORT. TEMPERATURE: 31° F. HUMIDITY: 60%. ABBREVIATIONS: CFPF (COPPER-PLATED FLAT POINT), PTC (PLATED TRUNCATED CONE), Sd (STANDARD DEVIATION), SHP (SEGMENTED HOLLOW POINT).

segmented Mini-Mags, Remington's lighter 22 Vipers and Aguila's relatively hard-hitting Interceptors.

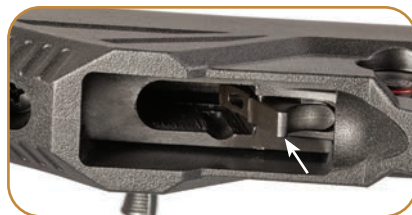
We began testing from a bench, with the rifle supported both fore and aft. Each shooter remarked on the trigger being of higher quality than initially expected; measuring just north of 5 lbs., it was fairly light for a low-dollar rifle, and we did not expect it to break as cleanly as it did. Accuracy was not exceptional, but our test rifle did seem to have a preference for the 36-grain Viper load, which we then used to engage targets during a woods walk to simulate field use. But before stepping away from

Pressing forward on a recessed lever directly behind the magazine well (r., arrow) allows the box magazine to be removed. The extractor acts in conjunction with an opposed guide (below) to control cases to and from the chamber.



the bench, we removed the scope, re-installed and re-zeroed the rear sight to get a feel for the rifle in the condition it would arrive at a dealer.

The woods walk consisted of a total of 10 Caldwell AR-500 steel targets that ranged from 23 to 125 yards. Each tester was to walk the course and engage each with no more than three rounds, using only what was available from Mother Nature for support. Shooters were challenged to fire offhand, sitting and kneeling, as well as while maneuvering



around boulders and through a bevy of vegetation. All enjoyed the weight-saving measures taken by Citadel, as we found the rifle extremely easy to carry and fire offhand.

We concluded the day by tallying hits, with each tester scoring better than 85 percent. This is a tough feat on this course, as it is designed to induce uncomfortable shooting. Overall, Citadel's affordable rimfire provided trouble-free operation, simple execution and features that might seem to be outside of its price range. This firearm can fill many roles, including as a trainer for new shooters or as a small-game hunting tool. Given how gentle it is on the pocketbook, it's also a great firearm to purchase as you figure out where the shooting sports will take you. 🏹

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.



Turning the eyepiece's adjustment collar clockwise increases the optic's magnification.

Riton 5 Primal 15-45X 60 mm

Unfortunately, due to their size and weight, spotting scopes too often get left behind. Their bulk precludes them from being packed away, save for strapping one to the outside of a pack or range bag, and just a small amount of internal moisture can render carrying them an exercise in futility. Understanding these issues, Riton Optics branched out from its usual line of riflescopes and binoculars to create a solution that breaks the mold without breaking your back.

The 5 Primal spotting scope is a compact, angled-viewing optic designed to be as condensed as possible. It measures a paltry 12.5" overall thanks to a roof-prism system that bends light toward the user's eye using minimal internal components. Weight is kept to a minimum by Riton selecting an aluminum alloy for the main body construction—which yields a product that weighs less than 3 lbs. The exterior is anodized a dark green hue and accented with rubber inlays for enhanced purchase, which is particularly useful during inclement weather.

Riton builds the spotter with high-density Extra Dispersion glass to maximize its effectiveness in all lighting conditions. Once the lenses are set in place, the entire unit is purged with nitrogen to ensure it remains

waterproof and fogproof throughout use—the finished product qualifies for an IPX7 waterproof rating. This rating signifies that it can be submerged in one meter of fresh water for at least 30 minutes without sustaining moisture seepage. This is important should you slip and fall during a water crossing, a hazard that resonates deeply with our staff and many hunters.

Using a 60 mm objective lens and a 15-45X eyepiece, users can achieve an impressive field of view varying between 44 and 110 feet at 1,000 yards, depending on the power setting. This eyepiece simply threads into the body and is kept in place with a lock ring. Turning the adjustment collar clockwise increases magnification; counterclockwise does the opposite. Target focus is controlled via an adjustment ring located halfway up the main body.

We used our test sample while participating in a long-range shooting course that ran from dawn until nearly dusk; this gave us the opportunity to evaluate the 5 Primal in an array of lighting conditions. Upon the twilight of first light, the usual low-light challenges were present. However, since this hour is still before legal "shooting time," this was not an issue. The spotter became adequately useful about 30 minutes later, and we became more and more impressed as the sun rose.

When that occurred, a patch of fog

RITON 5 PRIMAL 15-45X 60 MM

IMPORTER: RITON OPTICS (DEPT. AR),
1684 S. RESEARCH LOOP, SUITE 508,
TUCSON, AZ 85710; (855) 397-4866;
RITONOPTICS.COM

FINISH: GREEN WITH BLACK RUBBER INLAYS
FIELD OF VIEW @ 1,000 YARDS:

110' (15X) TO 44' (45X)

EYE RELIEF: 0.43"

EXIT PUPIL (MM): 4 (15X) TO 1.33 (45X)

LENGTH: 12.5"

WEIGHT: 2 LBS., 12 OZS.

ACCESSORIES: OBJECTIVE LENS COVER,
EYEPIECE CAP, LOCKING CARRYING CASE,
LENS CLOTH

MSRP: \$999

rolled in and obscured nearly anything we tried to view beyond the 300-yard berm. Despite the muggy weather, we noted that the interior of the optic remained fog-free. At full light, we found that target resolution within the shadows was excellent; there was only a slight hint of chromatic aberration, but even that was limited to only the lightest of objects. Users found that they were able to observe impacts out to 1,040 yards with the spotter in broad daylight and could even determine the sex of a curious turkey that visited the 600-yard berm later in the day.

Testers had positive remarks about the external functionality of the scope as well. Most referred to the adjustment tension as being "just tight enough"—not so stiff that twisting the controls changed the scope's position, yet positive enough for fine-tuning. Additionally, the ability to rotate and lock its mounted position was appreciated, as was the onboard sunshade.

Overall, impressions of the Riton 5 Primal were favorable, and, for a scope that was meant to be taken along, we had a hard time prying it out of some testers' hands. 🦋



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Court Rules Against Federal Machinegun Law

A district court in Kansas ruled in August that the federal law prohibiting the possession of “machineguns” failed the test set out in *New York State Rifle & Pistol Association v. Bruen* (2022). “The court finds that the Second Amendment applies to the weapons charged because they are ‘bearable arms’ within the original meaning of the amendment. The court further finds that the government has failed to establish that this nation’s history of gun regulation justifies the application of 18 U.S.C. § 922(o) to Defendant.”

The case is *United States v. Morgan*, and the defendant, Tamori Morgan, was charged with two counts of possessing a “machinegun” (a machinegun, and a full-auto switch “machinegun conversion device”) in violation of federal law.

In simple terms, Judge John Broomes determined the federal law was unconstitutional as it applied to the defendant’s specific case, noting what some refer to as the *Bruen* two-part test. First, the Second Amendment must cover an individual’s conduct in relation to challenging the constitutionality of a particular law. Second, if the burden of the first test is met, the government must then show that the law or regulation being challenged “is consistent with the Nation’s historical tradition of firearm regulation.”

The weapons at issue satisfied the first *Bruen* test, being bearable arms covered by the Second Amendment’s plain text. Attempting to satisfy the “historical tradition” test, the government referred to old English common law that prohibited riding or going armed with dangerous or unusual weapons, and a North Carolina case from 1824 that recognized the offense of arming oneself “with dangerous and unusual weapons, in such a manner as will naturally cause a terror to the people.”

The Supreme Court in *Bruen* considered that such English laws (dating back to the Middle Ages, “more than 450 years before the ratification of the Constitution, and nearly 550 years before the adoption of the Fourteenth Amendment”) were predicated on the manner in which arms were carried or displayed in



AP photo by Carolyn Kaster

John Broomes, district judge for the District of Kansas, speaks at a U.S. Senate hearing in 2017.

public rather than the sole fact of being armed, and in any event, had “little bearing on the Second Amendment adopted in 1791.”

Judge Broomes ruled that neither example succeeded as a sufficiently relevant analog because the law at issue criminalized simple possession “without regard to whether the weapon is carried or otherwise employed.” The statute Morgan was charged under “requires no more than possession, and, more importantly in an as-applied challenge, the indictment in this case alleges nothing more.”

Broomes also declined to make any finding that machineguns were “dangerous and unusual,” pointing to the fact that machine guns have been in existence for more than 100 years, with currently over 740,000 legally registered machineguns in the United States.

While this ruling is noteworthy, its current scope is confined to the defendant’s case. You can find a more detailed analysis on the decision online, at nraaila.org.

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Mike Kuhns, Fremont, NE (from: Elkhorn Valley Rifle Club); **George E. Alves** (from: Warren & Vickie Alves); **George Stone**, Niantic, CT (from: Harold Wong); **Edward E. Chapman**, Mocksville, NC (from: Ferne L. Chapman); **Arthur Ray Glover** (from: William & Dorothy Wilson); **John W. McCann**, Onalaska, WI (from: Mike Roach).




NRA Files Supreme Court Amicus Brief in Challenge to ATF's "Frame or Receiver" Rule

On August 20, NRA filed an amicus brief in the U.S. Supreme Court in a challenge to the ATF's Final Rule that redefines the Gun Control Act of 1968's definition of "firearm" to include precursors of frames or receivers and weapon parts kits.

The Gun Control Act allows for the regulation and taxation of certain "firearms." The Act includes in its definition of "firearm" "any weapon ... which will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive" and "the frame or receiver of any such weapon."

The ATF's Final Rule, which intended to address privately made firearms—sometimes called "ghost guns"—expanded the definition of "frame or receiver" to include "a partially complete, disassembled, or nonfunctional frame or receiver" and expanded the definition of "firearm" to include a "weapon parts kit."

The Final Rule was challenged, and the Supreme Court agreed to hear the case after the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals held that the ATF exceeded its authority by essentially rewriting the law.

NRA's brief argues that the Final Rule infringes upon the constitutionally protected right to privately build firearms. It provides a detailed historical analysis explaining that gunmaking by private individuals was a celebrated craft in colonial America; privately made firearms were essential to the Americans' success in the Revolutionary War; the Founders intended to protect private gunmaking in the Second Amendment; many of the greatest innovations in firearms technology derived from amateur gunsmiths; and that there were no historical restrictions on private gunmaking. In short, as Thomas Jefferson explained, "Our citizens have always been free to make . . . arms." 

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

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By Robert Mensinger,
NRA Chief Compliance
Officer

A Message On NRA's Compliance

I have the privilege of being elected to serve as NRA's first Chief Compliance Officer (CCO). I would like to thank the members for voting overwhelmingly to amend the bylaws to create the CCO position. I would also like to thank the Board of Directors for their support and confidence in elevating me to the position.

There is no more important goal in my compliance role at the NRA than to restore the members' trust and confidence by demonstrating that the NRA has learned from its past and is committed to compliance and integrity.

Let me share two quick and plain observations when I came aboard almost a year ago:

- **No. 1:** The NRA is only as strong as its members. Without loyal members, there is no NRA.
- **No. 2:** The NRA employees and Board members are committed to compliance and integrity and moving forward. No one suffered as much from our past indiscretions as our dedicated, patriotic employees who come to work every day to do the right thing.

Naturally, because this is a new position, the NRA receives questions regarding the scope of this new role, reporting structure, hiring process and my background. I hope to help answer these questions below.

CCO RESPONSIBILITIES

The Bylaw amendment provides additional details of the CCO's responsibilities, but, in short, the CCO position is responsible for developing and implementing a well-designed compliance program that ensures the NRA adheres to its bylaws, policies, procedures and applicable laws. This is accomplished, in part, by implementing effective internal controls, policies, procedures and training. Additionally, the CCO and leadership are responsible for promoting a culture of compliance, integrity and ethics, where employees and others feel comfortable reporting noncompliance and misconduct matters.

INDEPENDENCE AND AUTONOMY

It's always critical for the CCO position to have the independence and autonomy needed to accomplish its mission, but most importantly to have the authority to do the right thing for the organization. Fortunately, the NRA Board recognized this and designed the CCO position to report directly to the Board through the Audit Committee and not through management like the majority of other corporations.

The reporting structure provides the position with the autonomy, independence and security needed to carry out the mission effectively and provides the Board's Audit Committee with the appropriate level of visibility and oversight. At the same time, it is also important for the CCO to be transparent and keep leadership informed of any issues.

MY BACKGROUND

I served 25 years in federal law enforcement as a criminal investigator and manager for investigative agencies. During my law-enforcement tenure, I became a licensed attorney after attending law school at night. My post-government service includes working for two large global companies in various compliance, regulatory and legal roles, where I directed, built and strengthened compliance, integrity and regulatory programs in the United States and abroad. I also responded to government regulatory and investigative matters.


I was originally hired by the NRA as a Managing Director of Compliance so I could hit the ground running while waiting to see if the membership approved the bylaw amendment. The NRA Board's Audit Committee was resolute that, even before the bylaw change, my position should report directly to the Audit Committee and be independent of NRA's staff management reporting. Again, the purpose of this reporting structure is to be more transparent with the Audit Committee and the Board so they can effectively execute their oversight role.

As a result, the Audit Committee engaged an external executive search firm specializing in compliance to forward qualified candidates for review. NRA staff leadership was not involved in the selection process, which resulted in my selection. Having no affiliation with the NRA or its contractors was necessary so the position could objectively assess the state of compliance and bring outside experience to the program.

WHERE WE ARE NOW AS AN ORGANIZATION

Prior to my arrival, the staff, especially the Financial Services and Legal departments, embarked on a plan to strengthen compliance. Internal controls, redundancy measures and training to improve our compliance framework. I also hired an experienced Director of Internal Audit and Compliance to test, monitor and improve the controls that are in place to prevent any one person from circumventing the controls.

Compliance is not static. It is always about continuous improvement, so there are no perfect compliance programs or organizations. Misconduct and noncompliance will occur within every organization. That is an unfortunate but obvious fact. However, how the organization reports, responds to and remediates those activities is what makes an effective compliance and ethics program. My government and corporate experience ensure that issues will be addressed appropriately.

With the support from the NRA's Board, officers, management and staff, I am committed to honoring the trust and confidence of our members by continuously improving our compliance program and promoting integrity, accountability and transparency throughout the organization. 

A .257 Ackley Improved Load Worth The Effort

In his *Handbook For Shooters And Reloaders (Volume 1)*, P.O. Ackley wrote of the .257 Ackley Improved that, "It is a relatively efficient cartridge, flexible and comes close to the mythical 'all around cartridge.'"

To make .257 Ack. Imp. cases requires fire-forming .257 Roberts cases in an Ackley Improved chamber; cases come out of the Improved chamber with a reduced body taper and increased shoulder angle. Be careful of this approach, though, as there are no established chamber dimensions for the .257 Ack. Imp. To fire-form empty Roberts cases, I loaded them with 10.0 grains of Bullseye powder—cases tamped full of Puff-Lon ballistic filler and a dab of glue on the case mouth to hold everything in place—and then fired them in my rifle's Improved chamber. This method resulted in cases with 0.026" less case body taper, the body lengthened by 0.075" and the shoulder angle increased to 40 degrees. Fire-forming cases also shortened them in length a few thousandths of an inch, but after four reloads, they still have not required trimming.

The Improved shape results in about a 7 percent total case capacity increase compared to the Roberts. Comparing my handloading records and loads from a couple of handloading manuals for both cartridges, .257 Ack. Imp. burns 12 percent to 17 percent more propellant than the Roberts to achieve 4 percent to 7 percent higher velocities.

Trustworthy load data is rather limited for the .257 Ack. Imp. *The Nosler Reloading Guide 9*, though, contains plenty of reliable information. Both H4895 and Reloder 15 perform well shooting bullets weighing up to 80 grains, and H4831, IMR 4350 and 4831 and Reloder 22 are excellent paired with heavier bullets. The recipe's load of 49.0 grains of IMR 4350 fired Nosler 100-grain Ballistic Tips at 3,214 f.p.s. from the Montana Rifle Co.'s 24" barrel. That's about a 200 f.p.s. increase above what the .257 Roberts will fire the same weight bullet—which makes forming Improved cases well worth the toil.

—JOHN HAVILAND, FIELD EDITOR



RECIPE

BULLET: 0.257", 100-GRAIN NOSLER BALLISTIC TIP
PROPELLANT: IMR 4350
CHARGE: 49.0 GRAINS
PRIMER: FEDERAL 210
CASE: REMINGTON
CASE TRIM-TO LENGTH: 2.223"
CARTRIDGE OVERALL LENGTH: 2.850"
VELOCITY @ 10' (F.P.S.): 3,214*
ENERGY @ 10' (FT.-LBS.): 2,293
ACCURACY: 1.36"***
USES: BIG-GAME HUNTING
NOTES: LOADS FIRED FROM THE 24" BARREL OF AN MRC MODEL 1999 WITH A 1:10" TWIST.
 * AVERAGE OF 10 SHOTS.
 ** AVERAGE OF FIVE, FIVE-SHOT GROUPS AT 100 YARDS.
TEMPERATURE: 75° F



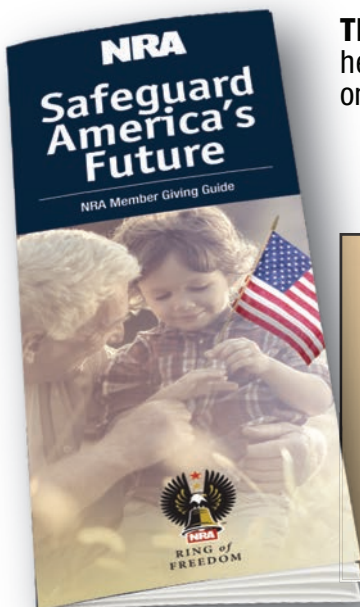
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New Blood Flow Breakthrough Helps Men Enjoy Strong, Long-Lasting Intimacy – At Any Age

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

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

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

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

And this became **Primal Max Red**.

THIS PROVEN SOLUTION IS MORE MECHANICAL THAN HORMONAL

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

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

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

and enhancing this essential performance function.

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

maintain a healthy bloodflow when they needed it.

BETTER BLOOD FLOW, STRONGER RESULTS

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

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

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

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

than ever, and enjoy intimacy at any age."

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

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

To secure free bottles of **Primal Max Black** and get the hot, new **Primal Max Red** formula, buyers should contact the Sears Health Hotline at **1-800-906-6696 TODAY**. "It's not available in retail stores yet," says Dr. Sears. "The Hotline allows us to ship directly to the customer." Dr. Sears feels so strongly about **Primal Max**, all orders are backed by a 100% money-back guarantee. "Just send me back the bottle and any unused product within 90 days from purchase date, and I'll send you all your money back."

Call NOW at **1-800-906-6696** to secure your supply of **Primal Max Red** and free bottles of **Primal Max Black**. Use Promo Code **ARPMAX1024** when you call. Lines are frequently busy, but all calls will be answered!

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BERETTA


continued from p. 51

time to draw and fire three good hits was just 1.47 seconds. I own very few pants that could practically conceal the 30X, but I suspect others may carry similarly in coat pockets or in purses/commuter bags. My sense is that many shooters who struggle to shoot a pocket-size .38 Spl. or .380 confidently will find the 30X at a threshold where they are able to use it quite well.

The 30X was reliable throughout testing with one large asterisk. My pistol had a tendency for the final shot in the magazine to occasionally be ejected rather than chambered. This happened a total of seven times with both provided magazines. It seemed to be correlated to a few makes of FMJ loads rather than the premium defensive ammunition, but that may simply be because I shot much more of the FMJs. I would consider the 30X an 8.9-shot pistol—with a likelihood, but no guarantee, of the ninth round. Even as an eight-shot semi-automatic, there is still much utility for the little .32.

CHOICES

Both .32 and .380 ACP are useful cartridges inside of their limitations. Each was designed many years before jacketed hollow points became the norm, and neither can compete with purpose-designed 9 mm Luger defensive loads. With both cartridges the shooter can choose a load that penetrates deeply or one that expands well, but it is difficult to find one that will do both reliably. It is a trade-off that a shooter must consider in these chamberings—although loads continue to improve, with selections such as the Federal Hydra-Shok Deep pushing the boundaries of pocket-gun performance.

Beretta has a swath of options in ultra-small carry guns in service chamberings. I have family on both sides of the age spectrum who are perhaps better served with a compact pistol of significantly reduced recoil, overall friendly features and centerfire reliability. Each of the new Berettas would serve these loved ones better than a 9 mm they are unlikely to control with confidence. It is good to see both of the company's updated felines on the market as viable options. 

Adam Greathouse



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PRODUCT RECALL NOTICE
HORNADY BLACK® 350 LEGEND 150 GR. SP

Hornady® Manufacturing Company is recalling ALL lots of item #81199, 350 Legend 150 gr. SP Hornady BLACK® ammunition. These lots were shipped between the dates of November 2, 2023, and August 19, 2024.

Hornady ballisticians have determined that cartridges from all lot #s: 3234613, 3241530, 3241634, 3241678, 3241990, 3241991, 3242096, 3242414, 3242590, 3242597, 3242695, 3242868, 3242894, 3243421, 3243705, 3243974 may exhibit high pressure. Use of this product may result in firearm damage and/or personal injury.

DO NOT USE HORNADY® 350 LEGEND 150 GRAIN SPIRE POINT HORNADY BLACK® AMMUNITION.

THIS NOTICE ONLY APPLIES TO ITEM # 81199, ALL LOT #s 3234613, 3241530, 3241634, 3241678, 3241990, 3241991, 3242096, 3242414, 3242590, 3242597, 3242695, 3242868, 3242894, 3243421, 3243705, and 3243974. If you own any of the lot numbers listed above or have any questions regarding this recall, please call 800-338-3220. Hornady Mfg. Company will make all arrangements associated with this return and replacement of the product.

Any other lot numbers or item numbers are not subject to this recall and require no action.

Thank you for your attention. We apologize for this inconvenience.

The item number and lot number can be found printed on the box label.

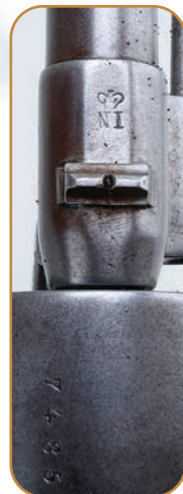


ITEM # 81199

LOT # LOCATION

Hornady

3625 W. Old Potash Hwy
Grand Island, NE 68803



GUN: MONTENEGRIN MODEL 1870/74 GASSER
MANUFACTURER: LEOPOLD GASSER
 WAFFENFABRIK (AUSTRIA)
CHAMBERING: 11.3x36 MM R
MANUFACTURED: C. 1890
CONDITION: NRA VERY GOOD
 (ANTIQUÉ GUN STANDARDS)
VALUE: \$850

MONTENEGRIN GASSER REVOLVER

Montenegro, a moderately sized country on the Balkan Peninsula that today shares borders with Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo and Serbia, has a long, fascinating history that, unfortunately, is far too convoluted to be adequately covered in the space provided here. As we are concerned with a particular style or “genre” of firearm, the “Montenegrin revolver,” rather than Balkan politics, it is best to pick up the story in 1860 with the accession of Nikola Petrović-Njegoš as the prince of Montenegro. Prince Nikola’s childhood had stressed an education in the martial arts, and thus, when he became ruler, he embarked on a series of successful wars against the Ottoman Empire.

His efforts to beef up the Montenegrin military consisted of a number of measures, the one most germane to this article being his requirement that every male citizen of Montenegro, as a member of the militia, equip himself with at least one revolver. The model chosen was a version of the behemoth Austrian Model 1870 six-shot repeater manufactured by the firm of Leopold Gasser in Vienna, Austria. It is suspected, but not positively proven, that Prince Nikola actually held some stock in the Gasser company, hence his championing of its product.

The Model 1870 was upgraded slightly in 1874 when its frame material was changed from iron to steel. It is likely the largest cartridge handgun of its type to have been a general-issue arm. Chambering a powerful rimmed 11.3x36 mm cartridge, originally designed as a carbine load, the Model 1870/74 measured 12.75" long with a 9.33" barrel and weighed a formidable 2 lbs., 14 ozs.

An open-top, double-action design, the gun’s mechanism was interesting in that it featured an external bar that locked the hammer into the safety position when manually thumb-cocked about 1/4" or when the trigger was pulled slightly to the rear. This allowed the cylinder to rotate freely and the chambers to be individually loaded through a bottom-hinged swinging side gate. Empty cases were manually ejected one by one by means of a sliding rod that was held in its forward position by a thumbscrew when not in use.

The guns manufactured by Gasser for Montenegro were virtually identical to those used by the Austro-Hungarian military. Montenegrin Gassers normally featured the crowned “NI” monogram of Prince/King Nikola on the top flat of the rear of their barrel housings. On the side of the housings was “L GASSER/WIEN.”

Original Austro-Hungarian products sported standard checkered walnut stocks, but the Montenegrins very often decided to customize their revolvers with elaborate, bag-shaped silver panels incorporating semi-precious stones, niello work and pearls. As these revolvers were carried thrust into sashes at the midriff with the grips protruding, the quality and intricacy of the silver work was a considerable matter of pride and affirmation of the wearer’s status.

While the Gasser-made Model 1870/74 was the principal choice of most users, production of the guns in Vienna was not robust enough to handle the requirements of both Austria-Hungary and Montenegro at the same time. Thus, many similar arms of varying style and quality were offered by firms in Belgium and Spain. Quality, chambering and decoration varied considerably. Many can be found with spurious Gasser and King’s monogram markings. Often these arms were sold on the open market in lands other than Montenegro, the renown of the original product being strong enough to support robust civilian sales. Decoration, finish and stock styles and materials (horn, ivory, wood) varied wildly.

The Montenegrin Gasser shown here is a classic 1870/74 style and is the real article, actually produced by Gasser in Vienna. It has typical Montenegrin aftermarket silver stocks embellished with turquoise, coral and pearls. Needless to say, ease of use, balance and comfort have been sacrificed for the sake of “bling.” It may or may not have originally been blued, but currently, it is completely “in the white.”

Though these revolvers are flashy, well-built (the Gasser-made ones, at least) and have a fascinating history, their value on the open market, despite unquestionable cachet, is somewhat tepid. This particular piece would likely sell for a modest \$850.

—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.

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