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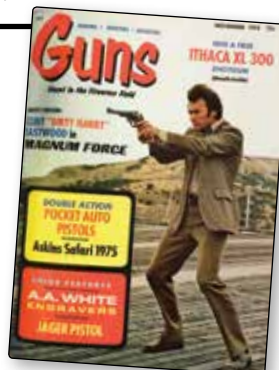
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MAKE MY DAY

If you've seen *Dirty Harry* more times than you can count and prefer loading moonclips over magazines, *Wheelgun Wednesday* is the newsletter for you! Subscribe to receive revolver-related editorial from *American Handgunner* and *GUNS Magazine*, delivered to your inbox every Wednesday. Visit ahandgunner.online/wheelgun to subscribe!



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A DOSE OF SANITY

I'm not in the habit of writing letters to the editor, but Tiger McKee's column about being "Un-Tactical" (*Tactics & Training*, Nov/Dec 2019) was so on-the-head perfect I just had to. His drawing the distinction between LE/Military and civilian use of firearms was masterful. Most of the trainers I see are teaching LE/Military tactics to us plain folk and in the real world those will get us in trouble fast. Thanks to Tiger — and *Handgunner* — for putting this into print.

John Sullivan
Via email

And ...

Tiger's article was a breath of fresh air. Attended my first formal training course back in 1996. At that time, the recommendation to wear the clothing and gear you'd most likely be wearing as part of your daily attire was obvious for civilians. It was also intended to suggest to patrol officers they use their Sam Browne duty gear. It's for

this reason I curse the global war on terrorism for the impact it has had on the typical civilian student. Years ago I observed with disgust some class pictures from a course that displayed civilians jockeyed-up in all manner of battle-rattle. It looked like a modern rendition of the Bianchi Wild Bunch poster. Real world? Yeah, right.

Name withheld by request

Good Council

These are indeed troubled times, and in times like we're experiencing now we need the counsel of people like Tiger McKee. I really like Tiger's new column *Tactics & Training*, it's the first article I read when I receive a new *Handgunner*. Tiger's columns are logical, and well thought out — as he points out when he says most of us are not warriors. There



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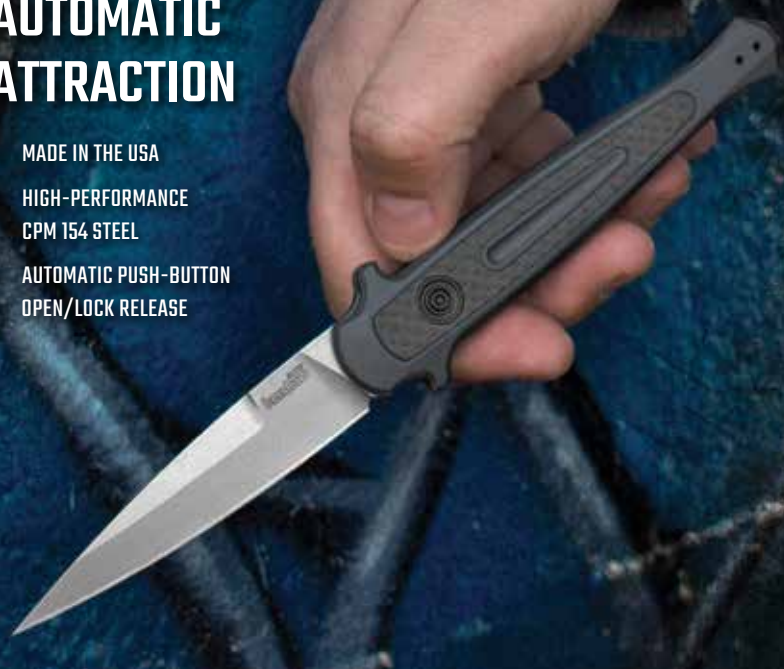
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SPEAK OUT

may have been a time when many of us performed this type of work, but that was a while ago. Today we're concerned with protecting ourselves and our families and trying to keep what we've got.

Robert Heinlein said, "Adversity is a strainer which refuses to pass the ill-equipped." Hopefully with critical thinking like that found in Tiger's columns we will be much better prepared.

Donald Cox
Las Vegas, NV

Tiger's Right

I just finished reading the recent *Tactics & Training* by Tiger McKee. Under the heading of "Your Actions" in the center of the page is a paragraph starting with "If absolutely necessary ..." and ending with "But, your intent is not to kill." Everything in this paragraph was testimony I provided, under oath, in a preliminary hearing more than 20 years ago.

The matter was dismissed and the officer went on with his life. Some officers said I saved the day but that's what I taught. I'm sure Mr. McKee makes more sense than anyone I've read, and not because I agree with him — but because he's absolutely right!

Walter Leonetti
Via email

Karla Rocks

I've really had a good time reading Karla Van Horn's leather stories, what a hoot! Your magazine surpasses all others, please keep strong!

Rod Campbell
Montana

Rod, check out this issue to find Karla's take on how to care for exotic handgun grips. Another "vintage Karla" take on things. —RH

Hackles Raised?

I absolutely love *Handgunner* and *GUNS* magazines and never bother reading any other gun mags, except *American Rifleman*. But I have to say Roy Huntington's article, "A Retro-Mod 1911" (Nov/Dec, 2019) issue raised my pet peeve hackles a might. Gun scribes often advise against refinishing old guns because it "Removes the history of that gun," but this carefully applied "worn and patinaed" finish basically attempts to create a "history" that never existed! Sounds downright Soviet to me! But hey, to each his own, it's your money, beauty is in the eye, and any other clichés you can think of!

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SEMIAUTOMATIC PEACE OF MIND

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MIKE "DUKE" VENTURINO

REUNITED

Back in 1973 a friend and I got it in our heads we should take a couple saddle horses and my trusty steed "Duke" as a pack horse and head south. As in south from our normal stomping grounds around the Livingston/Bozeman area of southern Montana. We didn't have a specific goal; we would ride until our money or our enthusiasm ran out. Coincidentally, both happened a little past Jackson, Wyoming. We won't go into detail about a couple of blondes met along the way of whom we didn't want to lose track.

For people who live in the area under discussion, it will be no surprise to hear the weather in this high country can be fierce in June. So, rather stupidly, we started our adventure on the first day of June. It rained and snowed much of the trip, and then the sky cleared. Temperatures rose instantly into the comfort zone for mosquitoes, which was another factor in our quitting.

People living in this area also are aware it's the best grizzly bear habitat left in the continental United States. Admittedly much of our journey was poorly planned, but one factor given considerable thought was the handguns we would pack. Up front we decided they should be chambered for the same cartridge. We figured robust Ruger Super Blackhawk .44 Magnums would be best except for the long 7½" barrel which can be uncomfortable in a belt holster while riding. Thus we got the idea of having our Rugers' barrels shortened to 5½". Although those two handgun barrels were cut by different gunsmiths far apart they both came out nicely. His got a matte blue in the process but mine got a less attractive but functional touch up around where the front sight was silver-soldered in place.

Duke and a friend had these Ruger Super Blackhawk .44 Magnum barrels shortened to 5½" for comfortable carrying in the saddle. After being separated and thought lost, Duke was able to reunite them briefly after almost 50 years.

Photos: Yvonne Venturino

Besides shortening their Super Blackhawk's barrels Duke and his friend had them fitted with more hand-filling grips — one of fancy walnut and one of rosewood.



HORSE SENSE?

One factor about the Rugers we both disliked was their factory grips. They were homely and too thin. On a side trip before our trail excursion started we roamed through Twin Falls, Idaho, where we had heard of a small custom grip maker named Cloyce's Gun Stocks. Anyway they fitted us up with fancy walnut for my buddy and rosewood for me. They were more hand-filling than factory stocks and far more attractive.

We also needed leather gear for the big Rugers. My friend was a talented leather worker and made his own beautiful belt and holster. I turned to S.D. Myres of El Paso for a Threepersons style single-action holster with my initials "MLV" hand carved, and a matching belt with only 10 cartridge loops. We figured 10 on belts and five in .44's was enough.

Only once on the trip was one of the Rugers unholstered. Our packhorse, Duke, was big and intelligent, which was why I was nicknamed after him — or at least it's what I say about it. Unfortunately his smarts sometimes got him in trouble, just like me. Toward the end of the ride he learned he could pull his lead rope free just by laying back on it. I remember my palm sizzling as the rope burned through.

I'm ashamed to admit it but in my fatigued, irritable state, the sixth time this happened I dismounted and gave him a good whack up the side of his head. Not so smart on my part; after the seventh time when I dismounted he ran from me. As he rounded a curve in the trail I pulled my .44 and put a bullet in the ground about 10 feet ahead of him. When the plume of dust rose he froze in his tracks until I walked up and retrieved the lead rope. Like I said he was smart.

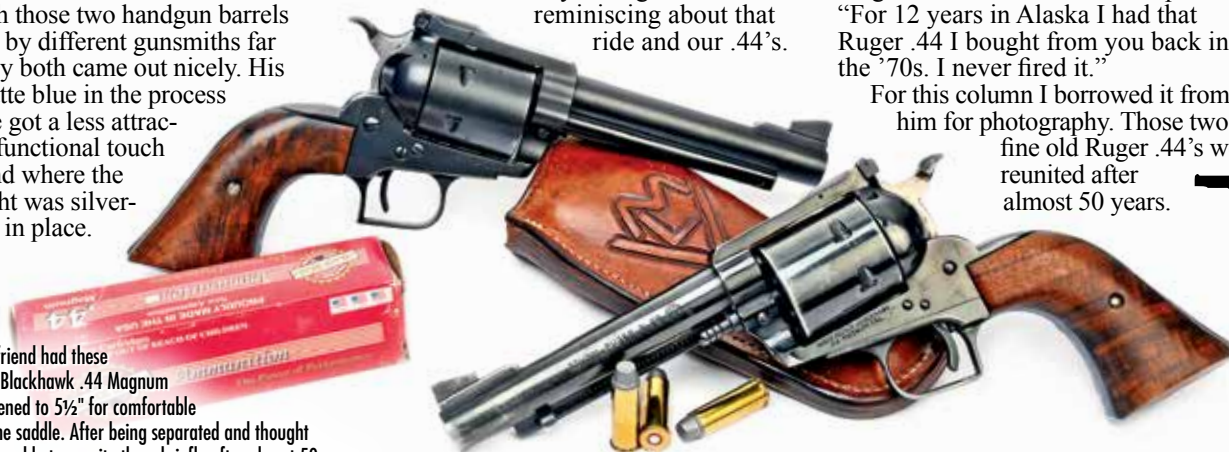
LOST PARTNERS

My riding partner on that trip and I have now been friends for 48 years. Although he's been living "Down Under" for the last 24 we have always kept in touch. These last five years he has come to Montana for summers. A few years ago we were reminiscing about that ride and our .44's.

He said his Ruger and holster had been stolen from his mother's home in California where he left it when going abroad. I had no memory whatsoever of where my Ruger had gone.

Then *surprise, surprise*. My friend found his Ruger (sans belt and holster) in storage along with some of his other property. About the same time another long-time friend mentioned in passing, "For 12 years in Alaska I had that Ruger .44 I bought from you back in the '70s. I never fired it."

For this column I borrowed it from him for photography. Those two fine old Ruger .44's were reunited after almost 50 years.



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.38 SUPER—

From top, clockwise, a Wilson Combat, Kimber Target II and Colt Custom Combat Government — all .38 Supers.



Bill Wilson's Custom .38 Super rests on a copy of Col. Cooper's book. It proved to John a "Super .38" could shoot.



Unique is still an excellent choice for reloading the .38 Super — and here's a rare early Springfield Armory Super!

OR SUPER .38?

When it came to semi-autos, like many teenagers from my era I had one of the 1911 Government Model .45's and a source for military hardball. When I moved my family across the country in 1966 the .45 was in a flap holster under the seat of my 1965 Ford Station Wagon. As far as I was concerned the .45 was the do-all and end-all when it came to semi-autos. I also had a copy of Jeff Cooper's book *Fighting Handguns* from 1958 and it definitely supported my choice. However, Col. Cooper mentioned another cartridge I hardly paid any attention to until the Gun Control Act of 1968.

With the passing of GCA '68 we really did not know what effect it would

have on firearms availability. When it was originally announced I did not wait to see what implementation would bring but grabbed my credit card and headed to the local department store with a gun department. They had three Colt Commanders in the display case and just as now, I had a hard time making decisions. I did what I almost always advise those who ask, namely "Buy 'em both." Except in this case I bought all three.

One was a .45 ACP, one was a 9mm, and the third was a .38 Super. I had never shot or even seen a .38 Super, however I did recall Col. Cooper had good things to say about the .38 Super as what he called a "Trail Gun." For me the .38 Super was only the beginning

and it soon became my favorite choice of semi-auto cartridges.

It took some doing for this to become a favored cartridge, though, as that original .38 Super would not keep all its shots on a piece of notebook paper at 25 yards. I sent it off to Bill Wilson to see what could be done and he fitted it with a new barrel. The new barrel was not marked .38 Super but rather Wilson Super .38. Whatever the marking, this barrel was a great improvement and my first magazine full of cartridges through this new barrel not only stayed on a piece of notebook paper — it put all 10 shots inside 2". Now I had a .38 Super that worked.

EARLY SHOOTERS

I looked through some of the early writings on the .38 Super such as found in John Henry Fitzgerald's 1930 book *Shooting* to see what Fitz, who was basically the face of Colt during the time between the two world wars, had to say. He praised the .38 Super as not only being flatter shooting but more

Continued on page 85



There's no accuracy problem with Colt .38 Supers produced in the last several decades. Here a stock Colt proves it.



These Colt .38 Supers are a satin-finished stainless steel Commander and a high-polished stainless Custom — John's favorite .38 Super Bar-B-Q gun.

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In deep thought, the knock on the door is startling. Not expecting any test guns, I'm perplexed to see the UPS driver through the window. In hand, an overnighted envelope, the kind important messages come in. It's from Editor Roy — it must be urgent! He never answers my phone calls or emails, so it's gotta' be important!

Roy's Secret Assignment

"Tank, some readers are worried the nut jobs threatening to invade Area 51 are going to start some sort of ruckus everywhere," it says. "Now they're worrying just maybe 'real' aliens might invade us just to stop this nonsense. They wanna' know what's the best gun to defend against an alien invasion. I know ... I know ... I don't make this up, I just make the assignments, so no questions. Now get on it and quit tellin' me you're seein' stuff glow in the dark around your house. It's probably that hot sauce you always try to get me to eat when you visit. Speaking of visits, the answer is no. *Your Boss*."

It was true, though. I *was* seeing stuff glow around my house. Seems it started after I melted those little lead canisters, the ones they ship nuclear medicine in. I used them for my last cast bullet project. I thought maybe fireflies invaded my house or something, but dang, they make good bullets. Now I can see my fingertips at night — but will confess the dog stares at me now. I wonder what she can see?

Taking On The Challenge

Roy knows I'm a hunter, and like him, a retired copper, and handloader. I guess he figured I was the man for the "huntin' down those aliens" job. First things first though, so I start investigating Area 51. I learn it's in Nevada, in a dry lakebed.

Nellis AFB and Range complex is made up of grids numbered from 1-125 and grid #51 — "Area 51" get it? — is the place "believed" to be where the government is housing a UFO, along



with a small colony of aliens. Some locals believe they've seen these aliens shopping at the local Super-Shopper Store buying anti-freeze and nickel-cadmium batteries by the shopping cart.

Said to be good folklore, Roy and I know differently. Otherwise, he wouldn't have assigned it to me, right? It's all the proof I need! Plus, all these other folks were headed there to learn the truth, maybe even free these aliens from captivity.

What if the aliens' fellow space people (we can't call them spacemen anymore 'cause we're politically correct now) knew of this ruckus, figuring it was the perfect time to launch a rescue mission?

This really got me to thinking. The whole Area 51 people invasion just might be a ruse for a real alien invasion to free their captured kin. The more I thought about it — the more I thought The Boss should come with me.

Punt Away

I'm thinking of the kind of firepower I'd need for such a complicated mission. Since I don't know what powder to use for a ray gun (Galaxy Thrust FFFg?) and don't have one anyway, this wasn't an option. So I got to thinkin' — serious-like.

I wished I knew how to create a force field, one that would protect us all from extraterrestrial beings. Then it came to me — transportation! Aliens use flying saucers as their mode of transportation. These aircraft are shaped just like — clay pigeons! I figured a Punt Gun, like the market hunters used to use on the Eastern shore, would do the trick.

Standing 10 feet tall and able to

shoot a pound of black powder — and a pound-and-a-half of lead shot — I'd be able to down any saucer acting like an innocent clay bird. Ha, got cha'.

I knew aliens also liked to abduct humans for examination, comparison and hideous experiments. They'd levitate the human with an anti-gravity force field, and up they'd float. I better be prepared.

Baited Field

I knew aliens preferred humans with well-developed brains. This would put The Boss at risk, but I could use him as a decoy in a field full of alien crop circles, as I laid in wait. Whenever I saw a UFO hovering over my bait, er, I mean, The Boss, I'd give the ship a blast full of 1.5 lbs. of 00 buckshot right in its transducerifer.

Surely this would knock it down, or at least cause feeding problems to its condosensual putrifier, causing a stall, and falling to earth.

Then I Thought

What if the alien invasion has already been years in the making? Using cybernetic androids, human beings are mutating into cyberpunks, the fusion of man and machine complete. Sounds crazy, doesn't it?

The aliens have started their infiltration. Just go to any large gathering. Instead of talking, these cyberpunks are holding their very brains in their hands — all in the guise of a smartphone. They're already among us, I'm bettin'.

You better get prepared. Punt guns ain't easy to make. His Editorship was right — again.



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1.2 GAL.	TANK SIZE	.95 GAL.
3	OUTLETS	3
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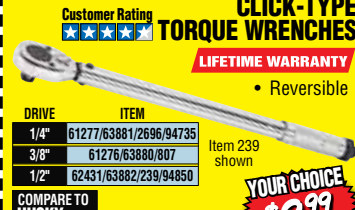


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THE IMPORTANCE OF THE LOCKED WRIST

The coming of dashcams and later, bodycams gave us a treasure trove of visually recorded gunfights for study. Every now and then we see one in which an L.E.O.'s pistol malfunctions. One cause of this is firing from an unlocked wrist due to poor training or an awkward position necessitated by exigent circumstances. Even when it doesn't cause the gun to malfunction, the unlocked wrist impairs shooting speed and perhaps even accuracy.

We seek accuracy when we shoot a handgun, but we may also want — or need — speed. For speed with repeatable accuracy, a locked wrist is pretty much mandated, and it's one of the most common corrections I have to make when teaching on the firing line.

In the late 19th century and into the



Locked wrist, support hand in isosceles — straight line across the top of the radius bone to the tip of the thumb.

early 20th, we find pictures of marksmen holding their pistols and revolvers with elbow bent sharply downward, and the wrist bent to near maximum flexion. Perhaps drawing the gun that much closer to the eyes made the primitive, tiny sights

of those days easier to see, because the best marksmen of the era certainly registered some good scores. But target shooting back then was primarily slow fire. But fast shooting with hard kicking guns demands a locked wrist.



The effect of unlocked wrist on semi-auto pistol control. Note muzzle flip.



The same shooter after correction, with locked wrist. Note ejected case and flat level muzzle.

RIGID STRUCTURAL UNIT

In the late Col. Jeff Cooper's 1961 *Complete Book of Modern Handgunning*, we find this commentary on page 75: "All successful shooters of the big auto, on targets and especially in combat shooting, develop a very firmly locked wrist. The gunhand-wrist-forearm assembly becomes trained into what is, in effect, a rigid structural unit. This not only provides a more uniformly stable base for the recoiling parts, but it allows instant recoil recovery for rapid fire or burst firing. A loose wrist is an almost sure sign of an

ineffective gunman, and this is most apparent in the case of the .45 auto." And again, on page 116, "When you have achieved a solid, comfortable grip, *freeze that wrist*. Your muscles must not be placed under unnecessary stress, but they must become trained to 'set,' locking up the gun mount, if you are ever to be a good pistol shot." The archaic stance we mentioned at the beginning of this article was done primarily with single-shot pistols and revolvers. The coming of the semi-auto put another nail in that old technique's coffin, because of what is commonly called the "limp wrist malfunction" or, less commonly, the "broken wrist malfunction." The autoloading pistol was designed on the assumption the slide would work against the rigid abutment of a firmly held frame. When the wrist unlocks, and whipsaw recoil follows, some of the force running the slide dissipates through the moving frame and gun hand, impairing cycling function. The result may be a failure of the next round to go into battery, or an extraction or ejection failure, perhaps with a stove-piped casing stuck in the ejection port.

EVEN SHOTGUNS

This has been noticed with other autoloading firearms, notably autoloading shotguns when fired from an armpit tuck or hip-shooting stance. The whole shotgun recoils to the rear without the butt being held in place

by the shoulder. The receiver moves backward along with the bolt, and the bolt runs out of inertia and can't complete the cycle.

Some 30 or 40 years ago when "service auto versus service revolver" was an active debate, the revolver's immunity to limp-wrist malfunctions was one of the strongest arguments in its favor. It's still among the reasons

cited by many officers today who choose to back up their duty pistol with a small revolver instead of an auto of equivalent size.

The locked wrist isn't just for better shooting and better scores. In terms of both reliability and speed of accurate fire, the locked wrist is a critically important element in defensive firearms training.



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PISTOLSMITHING

THE INSIDE SCOOP ON PISTOLSMITHING TECHNIQUES

GREG DERR

National Guard and AMU gunsmiths are kept busy helping repair guns during matches all over the country. They also repair "civilian" competitors' guns but the parts are supplied by the shooter — labor is free.

HAVE TOOLS — WILL TRAVEL

Most gunsmiths who hang a shingle tend to have very spacious workspaces, room to roam, maybe pace once in a while. Not so for the Military Gunsmith.

At Camp Perry I got a firsthand look at the hard work service gunsmiths perform in portable trailers. The U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit based in Fort Benning, Georgia and National Guard Training Center based in North Little Rock, Arkansas are two of the best mobile gunsmith shops in the country.

Each year moving from major matches like the Bianchi Cup to Camp Perry and many in between, they provide gunsmith support to their unit's shooters as well as civilians. At the NRA Pistol Championships at Camp Perry, Ohio in July over 500 pistol shooters participated for a week.

During the week military gunsmiths like Sergeant First Class Craig Nelson of the USAMU will see almost 100 guns a day. He and Brad Throlson, who retired from the unit but came back as a civilian employee will repair extractors, tune triggers and replace parts on many pistols from the 1911 to High Standard 22's to the Beretta M9. Civilians must provide their own parts, which can be bought on a well-supplied commercial row. The labor is free.

The AMU that has been servicing the National Match competitor since 1906 has evolved from a tent and bench to a state-of-the-art 5th-wheel trailer equipped with a drill press, sander and small TIG welder. Most of the work is meant to be repairs so no heavy machining or lathe work is available. The two smiths have rigid benches and strong vices to handle repairs. Every hand tool is in neat drawers.



KGB Customs and Bunker Arms came up with this nifty solution to solve the Novak/BoMar sight fitting issue. Available just as the base or as the complete sight.



OLD SCHOOL HAND WORK

Sergeant Dan Norwood of the National Guard is in his 29th year of working support for Camp Perry. He travels around the country supporting Guard pistol and rifle shooters across the country in service and interservice matches. Assisted by Vermont National Guard Sgt. Bill Fisher they will work on about 30 guns a day from 8AM till about 6PM. Most of the pistols are 1911 variants, popular with bullseye shooters. Triggers are weighed in competition so checking them and adjusting the pull weight is the most popular task in the shop.

At the trailer window a woman who is having function issues with her Ruger MKII talks it over with Norwood who makes notes and fills out a repair ticket. The woman will need it fast. She shoots in a few hours. Norwood puts it up for repair next. To his left, Sgt. Fisher is working on a Smith and Wesson .38 revolver having trigger creep. One of the side plate screws is too tight and causing drag. He makes some adjustment and sets the screw with LocTite.

Outside, service members who use the trailer as a kind of base camp are cleaning guns in portable parts washing tanks for the next day's matches. Civilians and service members recount the scores of the day. On the outside of the National Guard trailer members hang "clean" targets scoring 100. The same is happening at the AMU trailer.

Armorer's Row, as it's called, is always busy. It seems if it's going to break, it's going to break during the biggest match of the year.



SIGHT SENSE

New fix, old problem. In 1911 work, many times a client wants to switch from a fixed rear sight to adjustable target style sights. Novak being the most popular fixed sight and BoMar being the most common target sight, are not compatible. BoMar did make a sight at one point that was a direct fit for the Novak-style cut, but it was rather large and clumsy.

Now two smiths have come up with a better way. Karl Beining of KGB Customs, and Brandan Bunker of Bunker Arms put their heads together, designing a streamlined base, which, with some mods to the slide, sits low and looks proper. It does require machining the slide for the base, but the final result is excellent. It's available as just the base or as a complete sight.



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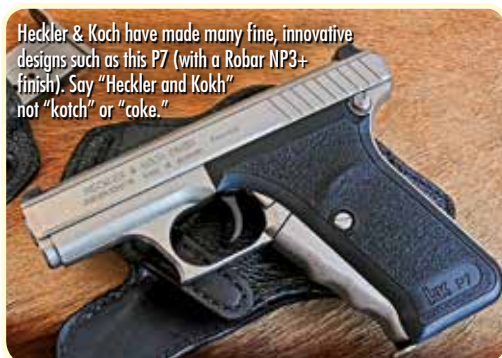
If a gunwriter ever worries whether anyone actually reads his stuff, he should try writing a sentence such as this:

I blasted the big ol' mulie through the front shoulders with a 180-grain boolit from my venerable '06. He dropped as though hit by the Hammer of Thor.

Such a sentence would drive most gun magazine readers to distraction. "Mulie" for mule deer is a term I hate. Why not say moosie or elk or grizzly? Oh wait, grizzly is correct. There's another lesson, if you're going to lecture on grammar or spelling you better never make a mistake. "Front shoulders" is redundant as animals don't have rear shoulders. "Boolits" for bullets is okay if you are writing dialog of a conversation among a group of morons. Apparently the only time the word "venerable" is used is when discussing old cartridges.

And Odin preserve me from the Hammer of Thor.

Of the various sins a gun writer can commit, saying clip instead of magazine is about the worst. I remember an editor — it may have been Roy — suggesting an autocorrect filter for every column and article to automatically change any overlooked "clip" to "magazine." I said, what if I write a sentence and it comes out reading, "I was watching a film magazine of a secretary wearing a hair magazine making a chain of paper magazines." Roy said, "If you do, I'll bash you over the earhole with a loaded 30-round AR magazine the next time we meet."



Heckler & Koch have made many fine, innovative designs such as this P7 (with a Robar NP3+ finish). Say "Heckler and Kokh" not "kotch" or "coke."

EMFASIS ON THE WRONG SI-LA-BLE

It's important to use the right word, but also important to use proper pronunciation. If you're hanging out with some buds at the range, you don't want to be the guy boasting about his new Say-ko rifle. No, the vulgar boasting isn't the problem (it's expected, we all do it), and owning a fine Sako rifle (as I do, and it's a beauty!) certainly isn't a problem. What marks you as a rube and a hick is the way you pronounced it. Sako, an acronym for some unpronounceable Finnish words, is pronounced "socko," not "say-ko." In fact you could go a step further and say "sahko" though at the risk of coming across as pretentious. Personally I've been a rube and a hick for decades so I always start out "Say-," remember just too late, and end up pronouncing it "Say-socko."

THIS—NOT THAT

LET'S TRY A FEW MORE EXAMPLES OFTEN MISPRONOUNCED:

HECKLER & KOCH: HECKLER & KOKH, NOT "KOTCH" OR "COKE"

FRANCHI: FRAHN-KEY

MAUSER: MOWZER

CARBINE: RHYMES WITH CAR-WINE, NOT CAR-BEEN

LEUPOLD: LOO-POLD

KAHLES: KAH-LESS

LAPUA: LOP-WAH

OGIVE: OH-JIVE

SABOT: SA BOW

DIEUDONNÉ SAÏVE: DOODONNAY SAÏVE (BRILLIANT FN FIREARMS DESIGNER AND PROTÉGÉ OF JOHN BROWNING)

MEPLAT: ME PLAH

SHILEN: SHILL-UN

MANNLICHER: MAN-LICKER

SCHÖNAUER: SHOWN-OWER

LILJA: NAME OF SWEDISH ORIGIN, PRONOUNCED LIL-YAH IN SWEDISH. HOWEVER I HAVE HEARD BARREL MAKER DAN LILJA ON VIDEOS PRONOUNCING IT LIL-JA.

VIHTAVUORI: VEETAVOORY

STEYR: SHTAYAR

FABRIQUE NATIONALE: FABREEK NASHONAL

GEISSELE: GUYS-EL (MAKERS OF SUPERB AR-15 TRIGGERS)

KREIGHOFF: CREEK-OFF

ANSCHUTZ: AHN-SHUTZ (RHYMES WITH PUTS)

PERAZZI: PEAR-AHTZ-EE

ZEISS: TSICE

.30-'06: THE VENERABLE THIRTY OUGHT SIX

LÜGER: THE UMLAUT IS JUST ABOUT IMPOSSIBLE FOR ANYONE NOT FLUENT IN GERMAN. EDITOR ROY, WHO TOOK LESSONS IN THE GERMAN LANGUAGE, SAYS IT'S EASY: "HOLD YOUR MOUTH AS THOUGH GOING TO SAY 'OH' AND THEN SAY 'E' INSTEAD." I CAN'T DO IT. I JUST SAY LOOGER AND CALL IT GOOD.

BRNO: BRUNO

STEINER: SCHTINER

FIOCCHI: FEE-OH-KEY

BLASER: BLAHZERR

GARAND: CAIREND

SAAMI: SPORTING ARMS AND AMMUNITION MANUFACTURERS' INSTITUTE OR "SAMMY"

HOPPE'S: HOP-EASE

WALTHER: VAL (RHYMES WITH PAL) TER

STAR: ESTAR

LLAMA: EYAMMA

WHAT A CLASSIC

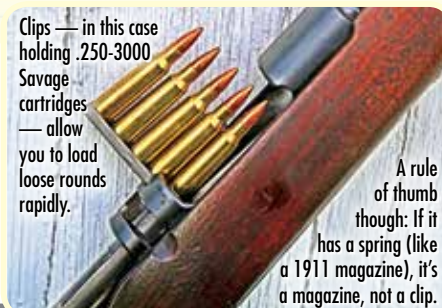
Long ago (when newspapers still had classified ads) I came across an ad — either the Titanic of miscommunications — or more likely a gag to make the ad stand out. It ran about like this:

"For Sale: Seiko bold action thirty

odd six with three two nine very able loop hole scope." Classic! I was tempted to call even though I already have more than enough thirty odd sixes. And don't get me started on clips vs. magazines! Thanks to *Handgunner* reader Meyer W. for suggesting this topic, by the way.



Clips — in this case holding .250-3000 Savage cartridges — allow you to load loose rounds rapidly.



A rule of thumb though: If it has a spring (like a 1911 magazine), it's a magazine, not a clip.

 **DESERT EAGLE**

DE50LSBC

.50 AE | 5" Barrel
NEW YORK APPROVED

DE429SRMB

.429 DE | 6" Barrel

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BFR45-70B

.45/70 Govt. | 7.5" Barrel

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THE SIXGUNS OF CIMARRON

QUALITY AND AUTHENTICITY ABOUND

Colt dropped the single action from production prior to World War II and announced it would never be produced again. Beginning in the early 1950s, I believe, Turner Kirkland of Dixie Gun Works and Val Forgett of Navy Arms began importing replicas of black powder arms, percussion revolvers and percussion and flintlock long guns. I had one of the early replicas of the .44 Remington 1858 and it was a pretty good shooting sixgun. When it came to replicas of cartridge-firing revolvers the road was rocky for a long time.

Colt did resume producing the Single Action Army in late 1955, and one year earlier, Great Western started making American-made replicas in Los Angeles. They had gone into business being reassured Colt would not be bringing back the Single Action Army and when they did, Great Western did not last very long.

In the early 1970s I wanted a Colt New Frontier badly, however with three young kids money was tight. So I took a less expensive path and bought a copy of the New Frontier, a Uberti Buckhorn .357 Magnum with a 7½" barrel. I thought this would satisfy my desire for a New Frontier, however all it did was to prove once



Cimarron also offers replicas of Colt's competition, the 1890 Remington.

again "cheap is too expensive."

The finish was second rate, the case hardening was poorly done, the action was gritty and it may have been a good shooter, however I've always had a hard time shooting something well when it didn't look so well. I also have never been able to enjoy all the Spaghetti Westerns of the time period as the guns were so obviously Spaghetti guns. It was definitely time for an improvement in replica Western sixguns.

Cimarron Arrives

Mike Harvey of Cimarron Firearms and I go back a long ways. Mike started the long road to coming up with

truly authentic replicas by purchasing a small importer of replica guns known as Allen Firearms. He changed the name to Cimarron and that's when I first made contact with him. I was the first writer to have the privilege of spotlighting Cimarron Firearms (CFA) more than 30 years ago. Over the years Mike has worked diligently to have Italian replicas constantly updated and improved in fit and finish and quality of steel. Today's replica single actions are well made and very good-looking — let's say very authentic looking sixguns.

Cimarron now offers replicas of not only Colt Single Actions, but Remington and Smith & Wessons as well. By the

These Cimarron Richards-Mason Conversions are identical, except for the 1860 and 1851 grip frames.



Cimarron's latest offering is the 1862 Pocket Navy Cartridge Conversion chambered in .380 ACP!

time you read this their latest S&W replica, the .44 American, should be available in .44 Russian, .44 Special, .44-40 and .45 Colt. I should also point out Cimarron not only offers single actions but also several variations of the .45 ACP Colt Model 1911.

Roosevelt's Gun

One of my all time heroes is Theodore Roosevelt. When his wife and mother both died on the same day, Theodore ran off. That is, he gave his newborn daughter to his sister and he took off. He went to the Dakota Territory, probably to lose himself, and instead found himself. Without his time as a rancher he probably never would've become the man he was destined to be. While ranching in the Dakotas TR carried a highly engraved, ivory stocked Colt Single Action, 7½" barrel chambered in .44 WCF.

Today, Cimarron offers a replica of this famous Colt, complete with ivory-style grips. Mine is in .45 Colt with plain ivories instead of the normal carved stocks. I did make one change to it, toning down the extreme whiteness of the stocks by applying brown leather dye and then wiping it off with a rag, giving it an antique look.

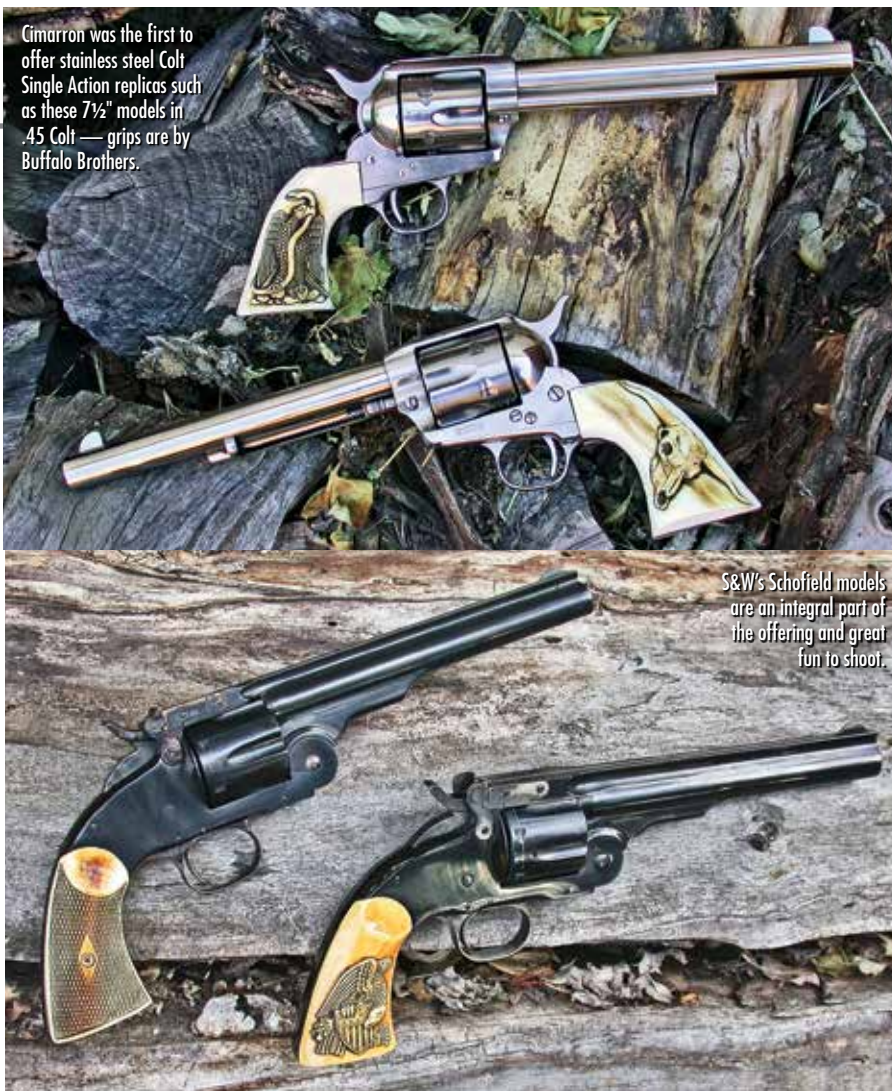
This gun is a shooter, and "replica" ammunition performs exceptionally well. I use the Black Hills 230 .45 Schofield and their 250 .45 Colt as well as HSM's 250 .45 Colt. They all clock out over 700 fps making them very pleasant shooting, and all group five shots at 20 yards right at 1". With a 255-gr. bullet loaded in .45 Colt cases over 5.5 grains of Red Dot, muzzle velocity is a very respectable 800 fps and loads group well under 1". One thing I've noticed about Cimarron's replicas over the years is how well they shoot.

Cartridge Guns

Samuel Colt made his mark producing excellent percussion revolvers beginning with the Paterson of 1836. But, he would not live to see cartridge-firing Colts. The Colt Single Action arrived in 1873, however the Cartridge Conversions are the bridge from Colt's percussion revolvers to the Colt Single Action Army. Colt Cartridge Conversions were based on the 1860 Colt Army which used a 0.451" round ball.

When the switch was made to a cartridge firing system, the 1860 Army .44 was chambered for the .44 Colt, a round using a heel-type bullet, a bullet whose base was smaller in diameter than the rest of the bullet, resulting in a bullet the same diameter as the outside

Cimarron was the first to offer stainless steel Colt Single Action replicas such as these 7½" models in .45 Colt — grips are by Buffalo Brothers.



S&W's Schofield models are an integral part of the offering and great fun to shoot.

of the case, much like today's .22 rim-fire rounds. The original loading for the .44 Colt was 21 grains of black powder with a thick lube wad between a conical bullet and powder. Bullets weighed approximately 208 grains and muzzle velocity was around 750 fps.

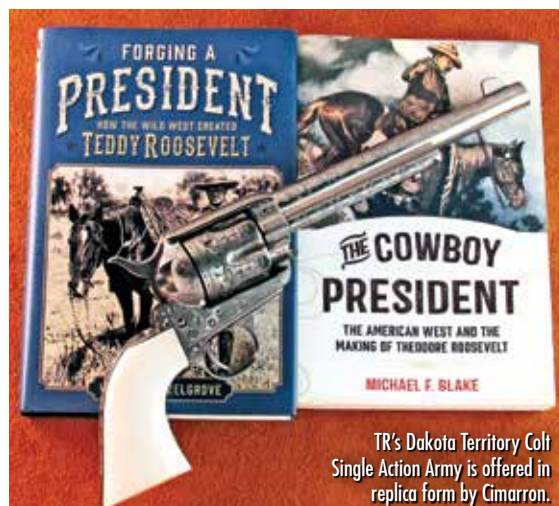
The U.S. Army had been using the 1860 Army .44 percussion revolver and the purchase of these sixguns for Civil War use made Sam Colt a rich man. With the coming of the Cartridge Conversions the military switched to the .44 Colt as one of its official cartridges for two years. With the coming of cartridges thousands of perfectly good cap and ball sixguns were still in service. The conversions performed on these revolvers kept many of them shooting right through the turn of the 20th century.

Conversions Too

Today Cimarron offers these early cartridge firing

revolvers in the original Richards Conversion, the improved Richards-Mason Conversion, and the 1871-72 Open-Top which was the original sixgun Colt hoped to see the military adopt. Versions of all of these are chambered in a modernized version of the .44 Colt. Today Cimarron's .44 Colt Cartridge Conversions are available with a larger

Continued on page 75



TR's Dakota Territory Colt Single Action Army is offered in replica form by Cimarron.



RE-VISITING AN OLD FRIEND

It's confession time. For many years I've neglected the .357 Magnum. When hunting big game with straight-walled pistol cartridges, I generally reach for the .44 Mag. or some other big bore cartridge. I've always felt the .357 was a bit marginal for deer and hogs, even though I've taken a few critters with the little magnum. The .357 Mag. seems to always be compared to the larger magnums and, as a result, takes a back seat. It dawned on me recently this was unfair, as the .357 is sort of in its own class. Call it a "little" big bore?

To make amends, I've been enjoying lengthy range sessions with three .357 Mag. revolvers. One characteristic making the .357 so versatile is the ability to shoot less expensive .38 Special ammo. You can enjoy quality trigger time without depleting your wallet. All three revolvers showed themselves to be very accurate with both .38 Specials and .357 Mag. ammo.

THE .357 MAG.



One of the neatest DA revolvers I've shot is the "Mongoose" from Nighthawk Customs. It's the very famous German Korth. These DA revolvers are built one at a time by one gunsmith, from start to finish. One feature I appreciate is the ability to have interchangeable cylinders. The change of cylinders is simple. You rotate the cylinder and press the silver button on the right-hand side of the frame. The cylinder simply slides forward and the 9mm cylinder inserts back in place.

The twist rate is 1:10 to ensure common bullet weights are stabilized in both calibers. This adds to the versatility of the Korth and I was impressed by

how well the 9mm performed. On the 9mm cylinder, the ejection system was designed to allow the use of rimless cartridges. Unlike revolvers cut for moon clips, the Mongoose 9mm cylinder has six individual chambers cut into the cylinder and its own set of extractors for each chamber. Pretty nifty!

The grip is very similar to a S&W L-Frame, and my gun came with a set of rubber Hogue grips, but Korth offers two-piece walnut grips as well. The trigger feels very smooth, incorporating a roller bearing in the top, engaging the hammer during DA fire. The trigger on my test gun broke cleanly just a bit over 3 lbs.

Another S&W 686 with 8 3/4" barrel wearing beautiful Culina combat grips.



Leupold's 4x scope is fitted in Weigand's base and three rings.

S&W TOO

I've also been shooting my S&W Model 686 guns. One's a 6" while the other is the classic 8 3/4" version. The 6" wears an UltraDot reflex sight mounted on a Weigand Machine and Design mini-mount. This revolver wears a set of combat grips from Eagle. Talk about a fun shooting revolver — this is it!

The 8 3/4" version wears a 4x Leupold scope fitted on top of Weigand's mount, and three rings. A set of Culina combat grips are not only attractive but extremely comfortable as well. This is a serious hunting revolver, primarily for varmints and such. However, this sixgun is very accurate and I wouldn't hesitate shooting whitetail out to 75 yards or so with the right ammo.

LOADING

Ammo for both cartridges is readily available just about everywhere. Handloaders can also tailor loads for specific applications with the huge variety of bullets out there. Thanks to Redding's T-7 turret press and four die set of Redding dies — including their micrometer adjustable crimping die — handloads can be tweaked for top performance. I've been shooting a lot of Nosler, Sierra and Hornady's 158-gr. XTP jacketed bullets. There are a multitude of powder choices for every bullet weight, and brass is readily available. I usually lean on Star-line brass for my handloads.

Small game like rabbits or squirrels

can be taken with the .357 Mag. and is great practice. I've taken rabbits with .38 Special wadcutters and they work perfectly with head or body shots. Those flat bullets work! For deer I make certain shot placement is dialed-in and keep to that 75-yard max. Many handgun hunters use Hornady's 158-gr. XTP for whitetail and they work with well-placed shots. If a big hog hits the radar screen, I grab Swift's 180-gr. A-Frame.

The .357 Magnum makes a fine choice especially for those who don't want to deal with heavy recoil. When shots are kept inside sane, realistic ranges, the .357 Mag. will deliver. If you're looking for a

mild-mannered, accurate, easy-to-hand-load fun revolver, with a wide selection of factory ammo for a variety of applications, the .357 Magnum easily fits in this category. I plum forgot just how fun this caliber can be.



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DA SEMI-AUTOS

GOOD, BAD — OR INDIFFERENT?

It's been 90 years since Walther made what's generally considered the first commercially successful DA semi-auto pistol, the model PP. Most previous semi-autos were single-action designs in which the hammer or striker had to be cocked as a separate step before firing. The Walther PP and the many similar designs of the last 90 years are currently referred to as "traditional" double actions. With these designs the hammer is cocked as the slide is racked to chamber a cartridge. Depressing a decocking lever (located on either slide or frame) then drops the hammer to a decocked position.

With the PP design the decocking lever remains down and serves as an additional safety until manually flipped up again, also letting the trigger return to its full forward position. With some later designs the lever is spring-loaded so it acts only as a decocker, not as a safety device.

Carried with chamber loaded, hammer down and trigger in its forward position, the DA semiauto can be fired with one long heavy pull on the trigger, similar to the DA pull of a revolver. After the first shot it functions like any other semi-auto pistol, with the hammer cocked by the slide as the action cycles, and subsequent shots fired by a short, lighter trigger press.

All the designs, safety devices, levers and carrying options are attempts to solve a basic conundrum — how to keep the pistol as secure as possible from being fired unintentionally. At the same time, however, it has to be fired accurately and quickly if needed. Circa 1930 the issue was actually quite well addressed by the DA revolver.

With popular models such as the S&W Military & Police and the Colt Official Police, the revolver required a long, fairly heavy (10+ lb.), deliberate trigger pull in order to fire. Yet in the face of an imminent threat, you simply point gun — pull trigger.



Dave's favorite traditional DA pistol is the SIG-SAUER P220 series such as this early model distributed by Browning.



CONS

But many people simply do not feel comfortable carrying cocked-and-locked. There's also the concern about the relatively light, short trigger press of a cocked pistol at a time when the stress level is high. The DA semi-auto addresses these issues with its hammer-down carry mode and long, heavy first shot trigger pull. The first shot offers the same speed and simplicity as the DA revolver with no safety to release or fumbling. Point gun — pull trigger.

Some early DA semi-autos had very heavy DA pulls. I own Walther PP and PPK pistols (including a pre-war PPK), have tested others and have never seen one with a decent DA pull. Wartime P38's typically had a very heavy DA pull and as a result many shooters of the post-war era took a dim view of the

whole concept. Current DA semi-autos by makers such as Beretta, CZ, HK, Ruger, S&W and others are very good. We all have our favorites and mine is the SIG-SAUER P220 series. Not only are these very high quality, accurate pistols, the DA pulls are smooth, reasonably light and consistent.

The big objection to traditional DA designs is the transition from a long, heavy first-shot trigger pull to a short, lighter pull for subsequent shots. According to some this is an insurmountable obstacle. If the grip and finger position on the trigger is right for the DA pull, they say, it's wrong for the SA press. Others say the DA pull is so heavy as to make first-shot hits impossible. Some have even suggested firing off the first shot into the air just to get the gun cocked. Right, run the idea past a lawyer and see what the response is — and no, don't do it.

I'm certainly no great athlete.

Traditional DA semi-autos would not be my first choice for competition, but competition is not what interests most handgunners. What they want — and need — are threat management tools. They don't want to shoot themselves, their loved ones, their co-workers or passersby. They would much prefer an assailant surrender or go away, but if they must shoot they want to hit. For many individuals and police agencies, the traditional DA semi-auto ticks the most boxes.



PROS

Such objections may have had merit back in the 1940s when DA semi-autos often had DA pulls of 15 or 20 lbs. Although most of my shooting is with SA semiautos, I do shoot DA semiautos, not to mention GLOCKS and similar designs, plus single- and double-action revolvers. Frankly I just don't see it's so terribly difficult. I can also drive cars, tractors, trucks, automatic and manual transmissions, motorcycles, ATVs and boats and

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CONSISTENCY AND COMMONALITY

CONSISTENCY

Consistently applying the four firearm safety rules greatly reduces the chances you'll make a mistake, or that your negligence will have tragic consequences. Bad guys aren't concerned with sweeping others with their muzzle, keeping their fingers off the trigger or even where their bullets end up. Dogmatic application of the four rules — consistency — is mandatory, especially during the stress of a violent attack.

During Shootrite classes I stress the need to consistently use proper technique when manipulating the firearm. No, I'm not saying what I teach is the only way to perform these actions, although I believe they are. Using the proper technique, whether on the range, at home or defending against an attacker, makes you efficient.

Learning requires repetition. You perform a sequence over and over until it occurs seemingly without thought. The only way to operate at this level is to execute that action the same way, every time. One wrong repetition — according to the experts — requires 50 good

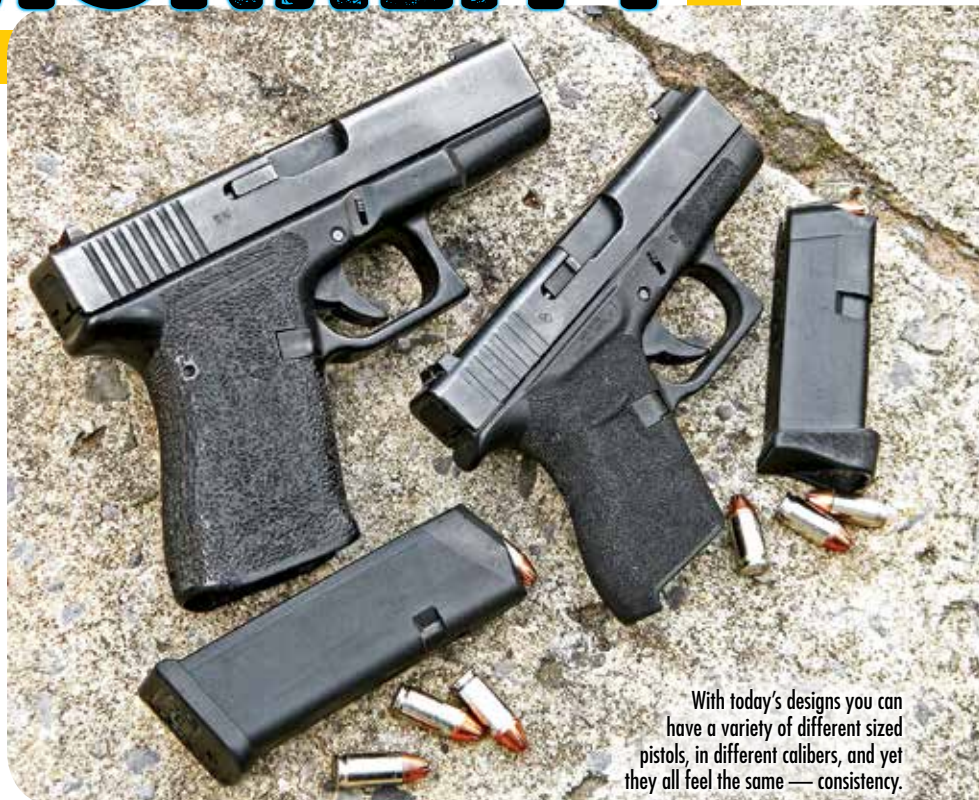
reiterations to push that single, incorrect rep over to the side. If you're not doing it right you're better off not doing it at all.

You've likely heard the saying, "You don't rise to the occasion, but

default to your lowest level of training."

The "wrong" repetitions are your "lowest" level. Using proper technique every time ensures your lowest level is "right," meaning efficient. Under stress, when time is crucial, you don't have to take time to "think" about the proper manipulation techniques because there's only one way you *always* do it — as if lives depend on your performance. Which they do.

Consistency applies to the firearms I use and carry. In the semi-auto category are the 1911 and Browning Hi Power. They're both single-action pistols, there's a thumb safety to manipulate and the mag release is in the same location. My 1911's have a 5½-lb. trigger, and the Hi Power trigger is about the same. When I carry a GLOCK, it too has a 5½-lb. trigger. Anyone looking in my gun safe would be bored; there's several of the same weapons, but not much variety.



With today's designs you can have a variety of different sized pistols, in different calibers, and yet they all feel the same — consistency.

A defensive trifecta: A K-Frame in .357, a J-Frame in .38 Special back-up and a Marlin lever action for longer — or more accurate — shots. This is a great package for those living in areas where AR platforms are illegal.



CONSISTENCY and **COMMONALITY** are important principles for self-defense. They are the foundation for safety — your primary concern with firearms, regardless of the application. They create efficiency, a flow — and predictable results from your actions. Simplicity is another benefit, making it easier to solve your violent problem. These two “laws” apply to every aspect of self-defense, even seemingly “small” details.

Although the 1911 and Browning Hi Power are distinctly different internally, they are very common in terms of operation. It's easy to swap between these two pistols.



COMMONALITY

The principle of commonality is often ignored. Shooters are constantly trying to swap between completely different pistol types, such as single action, double and the double/single action — which also have different safety features. This is difficult to do under the controlled environment of the range. In a self-defense situation it's almost impossible. Commonality, using the same type weapon consistently, simplifies matters.

With today's offering of handguns, commonality is easily achieved. You have a full-size pistol for the home, and a mid or compact weapon for a carry and/or backup gun. They all operate the same and on some models the full-size mags will also fit the smaller pistols.

With revolvers you can carry a full size .357 Magnum on the belt, and a compact .38 Special as a backup, maybe in an ankle holster. Operation is the same and the .38 Special ammo you carry works in both revolvers. For the ultimate commonality, get a lever action rifle/carbine shooting the same ammunition as your revolvers.

Commonality applies to team work too. My better half, Gretchen, carries a GLOCK 19 and a 42. When traveling together I carry the same pistols she does. Same pistols, same calibers and magazines. Either one of us can use the other's weapons and magazines. The ability to arm a partner — with a weapon they know how to use — or supply them with a mag of ammo is a huge advantage. Individuality is best expressed in the arts or choice of automobile. “Sometimes,” I tell students, “commonality requires a little compromise.”

BE SMART

Don't get me wrong, you *should* know how to operate all the different and common types of weapons. Any time you get the opportunity to test fire a gun you're unfamiliar with take advantage of the

opportunity. You never know when it will be necessary to “adapt, improvise and overcome.”

But there's no denying focusing on consistency and commonality will make you and yours more efficient. After all, if required to shoot, stopping the threat(s) as efficiently as possible is the ultimate goal.



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John uses Speer 115- and 125-Gold Dots, Acme coated 122- and 147-gr. FN bullets and XTPs in 115-, 124- and 147-gr. weights. Cases are usually Starline.

Along with both Hornady and Speer bullets, John prefers Power Pistol and Accurate #9 as his powders of choice.



LOADING THE .357 SIG

A COUSIN TO THE .357 MAGNUM?

The .357 SIG has been around now for about 25 years. It's a bottleneck cartridge, basically a .40 S&W necked down to .357. The very short neck is designed to use 9mm/0.355" bullets but this does not mean .357 SIG cases can be made from .40 S&W brass. In fact the .357 SIG brass is slightly longer than the .40 S&W and shorter than the 10mm. The original idea was to come up with a cartridge equivalent to the .357 Magnum but at an overall cartridge length for use in standard-sized semi-autos.

Factory loads for the .357 SIG clock out at 1,325 fps from a pair of SIG SAUER pistols I have, one a 4.2" 1911 and the other a 3.9" Model 229 Legion. This load has a 125-gr. V-Crown JHP bullet. Checking the Black Hills 125-gr. JHP .357 Magnum through a 4.2" S&W Model 19 Combat Magnum results in a muzzle velocity of 1,350 fps — so there's basically no difference.

As far as headspacing concerns go, I simply follow the directions coming with the Lee .357 SIG dies. When setting them as directed I have had no problem whatsoever with brass headspacing properly. When I first started reloading the .357 SIG I began by making dummy rounds to check for overall length. The industry standard seems to be 1.14" OAL, however some magazines will accept longer loaded rounds and they will also chamber properly. Before loading a large amount of ammunition it's a good idea to make dummy rounds first for checking.

I found out if cases were expanded and belled it was very likely the bullet would drop right into the case. There had to be a better way so I decided to try some cases that were full-length resized only and not expanded and belled. This solved the problem somewhat, however another problem



resulted. If the case is not belled, most brass will be ruined when trying to seat square-based bullets.

With bullets having a standard base I use the Lee Universal Expander and just kiss the mouth of the case enough to allow the bullet to enter. Then the bullet is seated to the proper depth, resulting in the tight fit necessary. It takes a little extra effort to reload .357 SIG, as first the bullets must be seated and not crimped. Once bullets are seated to the proper length I use the Lee Collet Crimp Die, holding things in place nicely.

LOAD IDEAS

Brass is available from Starline, using small pistol primers. My powders of choice are Accurate #9, Power Pistol and Unique with the first two powders being used for full power loads. With Unique and Power Pistol I use #500 CCI Standard Pistol Primers, however, just as with sixgun loads, I switch to #550 CCI Magnum Pistol Primers with Accurate #9. My rule of thumb for handguns is to use standard primers on loads found on the burn rate chart up to and through #2400 and then switch to Magnum primers after that. Using Magnum primers with #9 in the .357 SIG results in much smaller extreme spreads.

My bullets of choice are the Hornady 115-XTP JHP, 124-XTP JHP and the 147-XTP JHP BT (boat tail). From Speer, I like their 115- and 124-Gold Dot HPs. My most-used factory load is the SIG 125-V-Crown JHP clocking out at 1,325 fps from my pair of SIG .357 SIG pistols. This load is duplicated with 8.7 grains of Power Pistol with either the Hornady or Speer bullets.

My most accurate reloads for the SIG .357 3.9" Model 229 Legion would be the Hornady 124-XTP and 115-XTP, both over 8.7 grains of Power Pistol, (1,330 fps and 1,325 fps); and the Hornady 115-XTP with 13.5 grains Accurate #9, clocking out at 1,374 fps. All loads will shoot into 1" for five shots at 15 yards.

THE STATUS?

Several companies other than SIG SAUER have offered pistols chambered in the .357 SIG and there is a list of government and law enforcement agencies that have chosen it as a standard sidearm. However, many are returning to the 9mm for many reasons, recoil and muzzle blast being two. Just as with most other bottle-necked cartridges such as the .22 Jet, .256 Winchester, it's never gone over in a big way with the shooting public.

For concealed carry use I prefer the lighter weight bullets, however with general outdoor use I will go with the 147-gr. JHPs as an alternative for the .357 Magnum with 158-gr. JHPs.



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Skeeter Skelton summed it up when he stated, "My holster maker is more important to me than my doctor!" I can't think of a better statement emphasizing just how crucial our holsters are. Both holster and doctor are necessary to keep our hides healthy, right?

I'm fortunate to own several Milt Sparks holsters, so I can tell you firsthand of their quality, comfort and ability to securely carry your shooter. I have a beautifully carved 200AW for a 4" N-Frame, and a brace of 55BN models for an Officer's-sized 1911 and a couple of S&W M&P 2.0's. I told you I liked them!

Some styles and techniques are endless in form and function, especially when it comes to holsters. The folks at Milt Sparks are committed to producing practical designs for everyday use. Nick Harvey and staff are shooting enthusiasts and licensed concealed carriers who carry everyday, using their own tried and true products.

They constantly test and evaluate product features through extensive field use, including training, hunting, competition and everyday carry. Milt Sparks Holsters carries proven traditional styles and newer, cutting edge holster designs. One thing for certain, the quality of Milt Sparks Holster's is second to none.

THE CORRAL

My own 200AW (adjustable welt) was carved by an old saddle-maker who continues to carve for MSH. The depth of his work provides a 3-dimensional portrait of a perfect desert flower. However, you can go the traditional route, and simply leave your rig plain, or perhaps go with a border stamp, accenting the flowing lines of the holster itself.

The 200AW allows for custom tension adjustment with a single tension screw. The wrap-around hammer shroud protects the hammer and sights from any inadvertent bumps. The 200AW was a favorite of Elmer Keith, by the way.

The 55BN (Bruce Nelson) is a long-standing classic model in the Milt Sparks line. My own 55BN's are boned-out perfection, almost looking like an X-rayed outline of the pistol riding comfortably in its cocoon. The pistols "snap" when fully holstered, for safe, secure carry. Milt Sparks received permission from Bruce

Nelson to make the design, when demand became too high for Bruce in the early '70s when he was still active in law enforcement.

The Summer Special 2 was introduced in 1992 and is of rough-side out construction, with a metal reinforced mouth for ease of holstering. Sewn-in sight rails and a protective shirt guard extension make it a popular choice in warmer weather as it rides lower and spots an FBI style slant, with a straight drop available.

The Criterion was developed for customers preferring a metal reinforced mouth for easier holstering while maintaining the rake and ride height of the Nexus model. The Criterion features a self-closing neodymium magnetic belt loop system, duplicating a one-way snap function, but is much easier to contend with.

The Versa Max 2 is a classic Milt Sparks original and by far, their most popular IWB holster. Key features include a fully encased metal reinforced mouth, protective back flap to avoid skin on gun contact, offset, non-pivoting belt loops ensuring gun butt won't shift, and horsehide construction on the body side of all VM 2's for extra moisture protection. MSH has many more designs available, so dig deeper if you need to.

This Versa Max 2 is sporting elephant hide trim, both functional and good-looking. Milt Sparks Holsters' exude quality!



BACKGROUND

Milt Sparks has been in business since 1969. The company has changed hands twice over the years and Nick Harvey is currently at the reigns, where he and his staff continue turning out traditional, custom leather with several offerings in both IWB and OWB carry. Milt Sparks Holsters has a current lead of 14-20 weeks, depending on the model.

Do yourself a favor and order yourself a Milt Sparks holster for your favorite shooter. You'll be amazed at the quality — and glad you did.



For more info: www.miltsparks.com, Ph: (208) 377-5577



Here's Tank's 200AW Milt Sparks carved holster. Don't get too close to the carving, you may just fall in — fall in love, that is!



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HANDGUNNER

A CLOSE LOOK AT

2



ROY HUNTINGTON

GOODIES FOR YOUR GUNNER

EDITOR'S NOTE: LEAVE OPEN IN OBVIOUS PLACES AT HOME



I know, I know ... if you need it, you likely just buy it. But we need to keep in mind those who care for us constantly struggle to buy for us. "Um, Unique or Trail Boss powder?" they ask themselves. "Snap Caps or hearing protection?" They may not know! Brains overheat and days tick by. Help out by simply "tactically" stashing this issue in an obvious place, complete with marked-up pages in your favorite Sharpie color. Suddenly gift-buying despair turns into a package-laden Christmas tree for their favorite shooter! Bravo!

3



1 Lyman's StrikerCaps solve the striker-fire pistol dry-fire dilemma. Regular snap-caps will eject when you run the slide to cock the pistol. The rimless StrikerCaps stay in the chamber as you run the slide. Presto — easy dry-fire practice. They stay centered using an O-ring and are available in common calibers. MSRP \$8.95 for one. www.lymanproducts.com

2 SIG's P365 compact 9mm pistol has raced to the top of favorite CCW guns. Their CO2 powered clone shooting BBs is a natural companion piece. The 12-gram CO2 cartridges send BBs out at about 300 fps and the "magazine" assures realistic "semi-auto" action. It handles and "feels" the same as the "real" brother and is great for

GIFT GUIDE



1

backyard fun and training. It's not a toy though so keep your thinking cap on. MSRP \$99.99. www.sigsauer.com

3 Starline's new .455 Webley MKII brass is unusual, but trust me when I say thousands of these old guns are still out there and I'm sure shooters are doing a jig these days over this. This brass will work in the MKII, MKIII, MKIV and MKVI. Some guns have been converted to use the .45 Auto Rim and will *not* work with this brass. MSRP \$109.50 for 250. www.starlinebrass.com

4 TAC SHIELD's new 1.75" Tactical Gun Belt is light, offering a polymer stiffener lining in the holster/mag pouch areas, leaving the spine area softer for comfort. The dual quick-release "Cobra" buckle is secure, but quick to use. Available in brown or black, it's been proven in combat and comes with a lifetime warranty. MSRP \$73.99. www.tacshield.com

5 Walkers Digital Razor slim electronic muffs and companion clip-on walkie-talkie accessory is a great duo! You get elec-



5

tronic noise suppression coupled with the ability to communicate to other shooters on the range or in the field. Instructors could talk to specific students and hunters could talk to each other. Perfect for any noisy environment, construction workers, farmers, ranchers, equipment operators — anyone needing hearing protection and communication would appreciate this set-up! MSRP \$130 for both. www.walkersgameear.com



4



KEEP YER' HEAD DOWN PARDNER

Posing at the Carey family ranch in Saugus, CA, are from left: Olive Carey's sister, Mignonette Fuller; Olive Carey; director "Breezy" Easton; Harry Carey, Sr.; Harry "Dobe" Carey, Jr. (age 4); cowboy Otto Myer; artist Charles Russell; Ed "Pardner" Jones and an unnamed friend.



WHEN THE MOVIES USED LIVE AMMO!

GARY PAUL JOHNSTON

Today when there's gun play in the movies, small explosive electrical "squibs" are planted and camouflaged to simulate ricochets off rocks, holes in wood and even body hits with "Hollywood blood." They're detonated remotely by experts behind the camera. However, from about 1916 until "squibs" were developed in the early 1950s, real bullets were used — not on the actors — but they came pretty close!

From 1992 to 2000 my wife and I lived near and were close friends with the late actor, Harry "Dobe" Carey, Jr. and his wife Marilyn, in Durango, Colorado. This was when Dobe wrote his famous book, *Company Of Heroes*, filled with tales behind the scenes of western movies he made with John Wayne, Ward Bond, Ben Johnson and others who were members of the "John Ford Stock Company." Dobe also told

me many stories that weren't in the book, one of which I can repeat here.

Personal Sharpshooters

In the early days of silent films a small group of sharpshooters were employed to work in western movies where they carefully fired .22 ammunition mainly at specially selected rocks around the cowboy actors to simulate a real gunfight.

The big stars of the day had their own sharpshooters with whom they carefully rehearsed their scenes. For example the hero or other actor would come up and fire a blank, and then quickly duck behind an angled rock so his sharpshooter could fire one or two rounds of .22 rimfire against the rock, making dust and leaving a mark. Dobe's famous father, Harry Carey, Sr. was "The" biggest Hollywood cowboy star in the early days of motion pictures and his personal sharpshooter was a man called Ed

Harry Carey, Sr. in a scene from one of his many movies with his Colt S&W and .44 WCF cal. Winchester Model 1892 SRC.



A strong-minded Olive Carey, ca. 1920, starred in many films with her husband Harry Carey.



“Pardner” Jones. Little is known about “Pardner” Jones’ past, except his real name was Ed Garrett, a cousin of Pat Garrett’s. Ed killed a man in Texas around 1890 and fled to California, where he changed his name to Jones.

An Apple A Day?

Dobe’s favorite story of Pardner Jones occurred about 1920 during a Wild West show put on by Universal Studios to entertain automobile maker, Henry Ford and others. Movie stars such as Hoot Gibson and Art Acord were in the show and each had a special act. But Harry Carey, Sr., one of the biggest cowboy stars at the time, didn’t have anything special planned.

According to Dobe, his father and Pardner Jones sat on a bale of hay behind a tent drinking bootleg whiskey talking about what the elder Carey could put together in such a short time when Pardner suggested he shoot an apple off Harry Carey’s head. Carey thought it was a great idea and after a short rehearsal, the two staggered out in front of the crowd where Harry Carey announced what he and Pardner were going to do. Carey took off his Stetson and put a big red apple on his head. Facing Carey, who was standing

in front of several hay bales, Pardner Jones chambered a round of .22 Long Rifle into his Model 90 Winchester and aimed at the apple.

Just then, Carey’s wife, actress Olive Golden Carey, came around a corner to watch in horror as Pardner fired the shot and see the apple fly apart. Harry Carey and Pardner Jones bowed and the audience went wild with applause.

Olive Carey, a beautiful girl in her 20s, who never lacked a choice of words, angrily ran to her husband and screamed, “Goddammit Harry, you could have been killed!” When Carey assured her there was no chance of that, Olive replied, “Oh, no? You’re both drunk and both of you were weaving.”

“Yeah, I know,” replied Harry, but we were weaving together!” Dobe

said his mother repeated this story dozens of times.

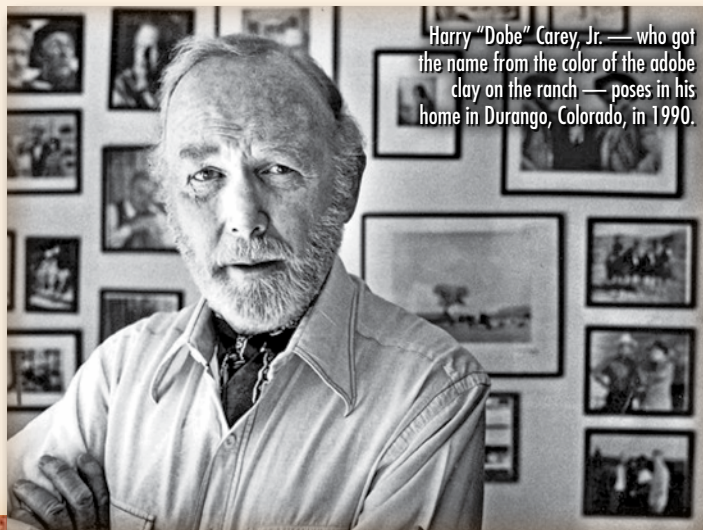
No Injuries — Ever

The incident was the first of hundreds of trick shots safely fired by Pardner Jones at Harry Carey, Sr. and other cast members in the western movies of yesteryear. Dobe told me he never heard of anyone getting hurt by it.

Harry “Dobe” Carey, Jr. grew up knowing Ed “Pardner” Jones, and described him as one of the finest men he ever knew, and one hell of a good shot. Nearly all of the hundred or more silent films starring Harry Carey, Sr. were not preserved after “talkies” came in, but one of his most famous talking westerns can now be owned and seen in your own living room. It’s *Powder*

Smoke Range, also starring Hoot Gibson, Bob Steele, Gwen “Big Boy” Williams and Tom Tyler. *Powder Smoke Range* was the prototype for the western series, *The Three Musketeers*, and features a number of scenes where Pardner Jones shoots rocks using real bullets, with Harry Carey and others ducking behind them — just in time!

Harry “Dobe” Carey, Jr. passed on in 2012, the last member of John Ford’s Stock Company of Heroes.



Harry “Dobe” Carey, Jr. — who got the name from the color of the adobe clay on the ranch — poses in his home in Durango, Colorado, in 1990.

The 610 can be loaded and unloaded easily with the aid of moon clips.

S&W's MODEL 610

10mm AUTO

MARK HAMPTON

A few months ago I stumbled across a couple of S&W 657 models in .41 Mag. One was a 6.5" version while the other wore a 7.5" barrel. Both had full underlugs and unfluted cylinders. The more I shot these revolvers, the more attached I became. I started looking for a discontinued model 610 in 10mm to go with them, but they were hard to find. When I did find one it came with a hefty price tag. I wanted one badly — but not bad enough to cause my wife to throw rocks at me.

This clean living must be paying off because S&W just reintroduced their Model 610, and I ordered one immediately! The 610 will be offered in two barrel lengths, 4" and 6.5", and since I would be hunting, the longer 6.5" model was my choice.

The gun arrived in a blue, hard case

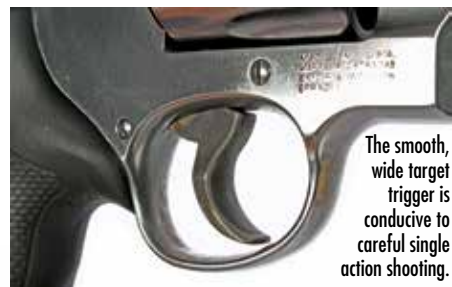
with three moon clips provided. The frame, barrel and cylinder are stainless steel and the black synthetic grips feature a slightly textured surface with subtle finger grooves. Those grips surround a round butt grip frame. The S&W Model 610 is chambered in 10mm Auto and built on the large N-Frame with a 6-round capacity. You can also shoot .40 S&W in this revolver in case you have some ammo gathering dust.

Benefits

Several features of the gun are standard on many S&W models, including an interchangeable black blade on the front sight. Depending on the shooter, some prefer the solid black blade over colored inserts. The fully adjustable rear sight wears a classic S&W white outline.

My test gun weighed a pretty hefty 50.1 oz. but balanced perfectly. The

The smooth, wide target trigger is conducive to careful single action shooting.



TOO GOOD TO KEEP DOWN!



S&W's new Model 610 with a 6.5" barrel is prime hunting power, with lots of new 10mm ammo available.



HSM's 180-gr. JHP load performed well out of the 610 — that's a 25-yard group.

target trigger is wide and smooth, made for single-action shooting, consistent with the wide, checkered target hammer. I like the full underlug and I only wish the gun came with an unfluted cylinder. Perhaps in the future we will see other variations of the 610 become available.

Without a doubt, the 10mm Auto has seen a resurrection in recent years gathering more and more market-share. I often wonder what drives the interest in this cartridge. Is it handgun hunting, recreational shooting, home or personal defense, or a combination of these and more? Whatever the reason, the 10mm Auto has made a remarkable rebound.

Jan Mladek, General Manager of S&W and M&P brands said, "With the recent increase in interest in the 10mm Auto cartridge, we felt it was important to offer a 10mm revolver for personal protection and handgun hunting. The N-Frame has long been a staple in big bore revolvers, and the 10mm is a natural caliber addition to the line."

An Odd Combo?

I frequently hear some ask why chamber a revolver with a cartridge designed for a semi-auto pistol? I have

shot and own several semi-autos in 10mm and they certainly have a place. Those high-capacity magazines are mighty handy if you need extra fire-power for some reason. To be honest, you can reload a revolver pretty darn fast, with practice, using moon clips. And quite frankly, I don't really enjoy chasing brass all over the range when shooting the semi-autos, so the wheelgun makes sense there too.

The 10mm cartridge is a good round in any platform, including

single shots like the T/C. It's perfectly capable of doing double-duty as a personal protection round or for handgun hunting. The S&W N-Frame handles the recoil of the 10mm with ease and

Continued on page 71



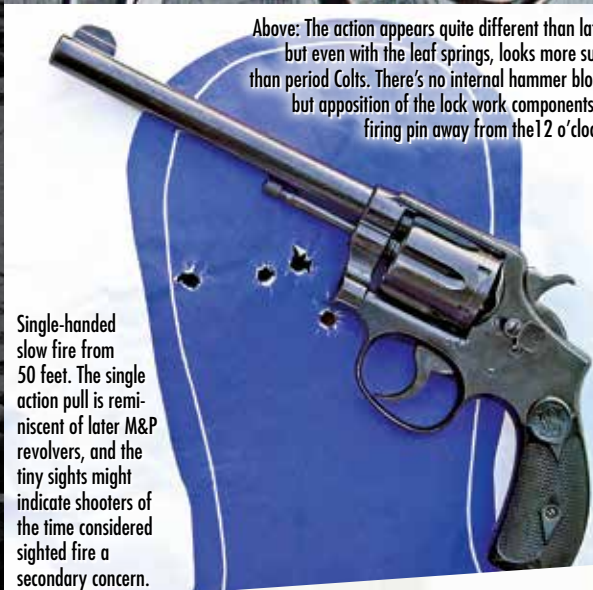
The UltraDot L/T is a great choice for an optic on the 610 revolver, here in a Weigand Machine and Design Mini-Mount.



Diamond D Custom Leather offers their Guide's Choice chest holster — great for field use or even while just doing farm chores.



Above: The action appears quite different than later M&Ps but even with the leaf springs, looks more substantial than period Colts. There's no internal hammer block safety but apposition of the lock work components held the firing pin away from the 12 o'clock round.



Single-handed slow fire from 50 feet. The single action pull is reminiscent of later M&P revolvers, and the tiny sights might indicate shooters of the time considered sighted fire a secondary concern.

HAND

S&W'S FIRST MILITARY AND POLICE WAS— SPECIAL

MIKE CUMPSTON

A previous owner had the revolver "Lettered" by Roy Jinks in 1975.

SMITH & WESSON
75 BOSTON PLACE COMPANY

SPRINGFIELD, MASS. 01101



Mr. Joe B. Carter
201 Acklen Drive
Midland, TX 79701

PLEASE ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO THE COMPANY

November 5, 1975

Dear Mr. Carter:

The revolver about which you inquired in your letter of recent date is the .38 Hand Ejector, Military & Police Model. This model was introduced in 1899 and designed to fire the .38 S&W Special Cartridge. It has been in continued production since it was originally introduced. However, during the past years many design improvements have been made to this model to improve the revolver's function. The collector has classified all of the improvements which occurred before 1945. Therefore, your revolver is classified as the .38 Hand Ejector, Military & Police First Model. This was the original design of our famous M&P Revolver, which was introduced in 1899 and produced until 1902, with a total production of 20,975 revolvers. These revolvers were produced between serial numbers 1 and 20975 of the .38 Hand Ejector series. The current production model of this series is known as the Model 10.

Your revolver, Serial Number 8200, was shipped from the factory on December 20, 1900, and originally purchased by Bekeart & Company, San Francisco, California.

We hope you find the above information of interest.

Very truly yours,

SMITH & WESSON

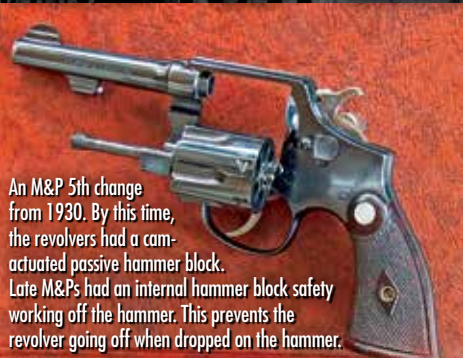
R. G. Jinks
Product Manager-Handguns
Historian

Colt Patent Firearms had an 8-year head start when it came to solid-frame revolvers with swing-out cylinders. This began to change in 1896 when S&W wrapped one of these around the new .32 S&W Long Cartridge. It was a singular beast with no frame-mounted cylinder latch, and the single locking lug riding the top strap in the same fashion as the Numbers 1 and 2 rimfire handguns of 40 years before.

The development of the first M&P, and particularly its .38 Special Cartridge, is generally mentioned in the same sentence as language about the fierce Philippine Moros and their resistance to American rule and .38 long colt bullets. Never mind the Moro rebellion didn't start until 1901 and the .38 Special M&P came out in 99. One has to imagine the Moros smelled a frame-up immediately after the defeat of Spain and went in to pre-game mode.

The .38 Special boasted eight grains more bullet and three grains more black powder than the old .38 Colt/USA Army round. It seems unlikely a cannabis-fueled warrior struck by either round would be able to nuance the difference.

ELECTORS



An M&P 5th change from 1930. By this time, the revolvers had a cam-actuated passive hammer block. Late M&Ps had an internal hammer block safety working off the hammer. This prevents the revolver going off when dropped on the hammer.

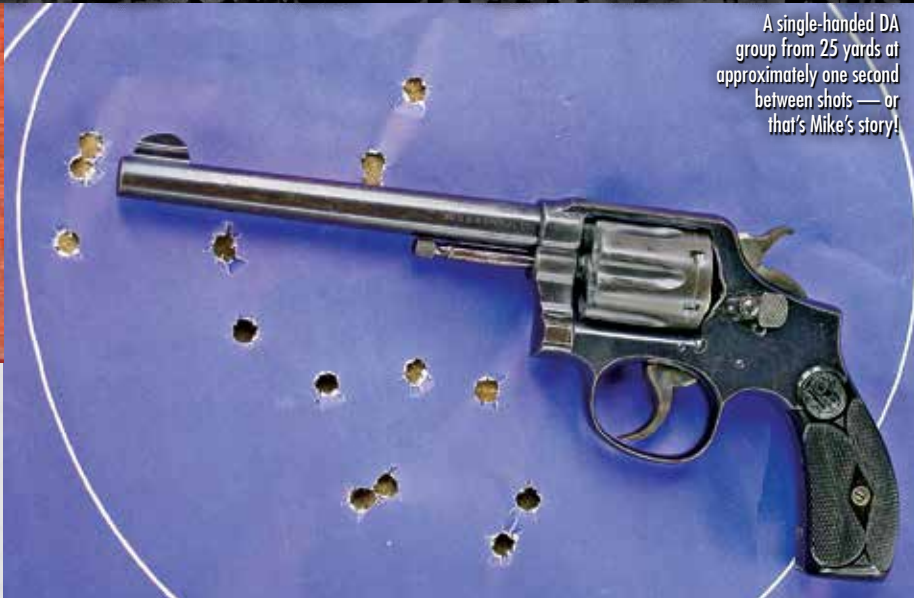
Nevertheless, the .38 Special was an immediate and long-standing success. This prompted the early introduction of a smokeless powder loading of the 158-gr. round-nosed bullet. The long-standing belief among “gun experts” and editors of reloading manuals is the .38 Special wasn’t introduced until 1902 and the eponymous model of that year. For a long time the accepted date of introduction came down to which “foremost authority” yelled the loudest.

Resolution & Moving On

The sample on-hand comes with a factory letter from Roy Jinks averring it’s chambered for .38 Special and was sent to Bekeart and Company, San Francisco, home of the Bekeart .22 Target Model. That is the predecessor of the S&W Kit Gun, by the by. It left the factory in December, 1900 and is one of 20,975 produced in .38 Special. That’s also minus 2,000 of those chambered in the old .38 Long Colt sent to fulfill orders from the Army and Navy at serial numbers circa-14,000.

The cylinder locks up on two points, the center pin into the breech and frame locking bolt. The center pin-ejector is free-standing under the barrel, absent the forward lug under the barrel present on all subsequent models and changes.

Most surviving examples suffer from sustained use, the very early black powder loads and corrosion from chlorate priming. This one is pristine by comparison. Carry-up and timing is perfect and the arm overall is free of corrosion inside and out. The original finish shows some “browning” but is largely intact. Amazingly, the gutta percha grips are intact without the usual missing piece. The front sight and sighting



A single-handed DA group from 25 yards at approximately one second between shots — or that’s Mike’s story!

groove in the frame, like most of the Colts of the era, are miniscule.

Shooting It

The action is smooth with trigger pulls on the order of the later K-Frame models, particularly the “long action” favored by Ed McGivern. The small, round-butt grips and the tiny sight picture presented the major challenges later addressed by service and target models, although I found it easy to produce tight single-action head-shot groups at 50 feet and reliable center-

mass hits double action at 25 yards. The equestrians and buck-board jockeys of yore shot from one hand so I did too. Smith K-cylinders were free of heat treating until about 1920 so, consequently my loads were current factory standard-pressure round-nosed lead.

The .38 Military and Police First Model enjoyed a brief span in the sun but proved usable on the onset and a sound foundation for the M&P, K-Frame Target and Magnum improvements to come. 



This S&W Military and Police First Model of 1899 .38 Special was shipped to Bekeart and Company of San Francisco in December 1900. They were a major distributor of S&W revolvers in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Ruger's Officer-sized SR1911 and 9mm Security-9 have styles and prices to make any budget happy.



AN OFFICER AND A GENTLEMAN



Choose your poison: 15+1 9mm (left) or 7+1 .45 ACP? Let the debate begin!

JEFF "TANK" HOOVER

RUGER'S OFFICER-STYLE 1911 AND SECURITY-9

The folks at Ruger have an annoying habit of releasing new guns I just can't resist. I'll bet you know the feeling? Just when you think there's nothing else you could possibly want, BAM, they're clobbering you over the head with it!

Ruger's problem stems from the fact they're constantly being bombarded with letters, emails and phone calls from their customers, all confessing their wants, needs and wishes. The hitch here is unlike most companies, Ruger listens, continuing to tease us with com-

elling new ideas. A case in point is our two test guns. I call them "Officer and a Gentleman" and you'll soon know why.

Ruger Security-9

What would you call a gun exhibiting good manners, performing the way it's supposed to perform and priced below reasonable? These are the traits of a true gentleman and Ruger's Security-9 with Veridian laser sights is just that.

A mid-sized pistol, the Security-9 is a easily concealed and basically the same size as the GLOCK 19 —

along with entry-level pricing. The Security-9 is built around a precision-machined, hard-coated, aluminum chassis with full-length rails. The Secure Action used in the Security-9 is the same one used in Ruger's LCP II, derived from the tried and true Ruger LCP fire control system.

It has a 15+1 capacity and a 4" barrel. Overall length is 7.24" and width is 1.02". Height is 5" and weighs in at 23.7 oz., shipping with two alloy steel magazines. A smooth, short, crisp trigger-pull, combined with the positive reset, contributes to the Security-9's

Like the 1911, the Security-9 is accurate, and ran like the proverbial top. A lot of value for not a lot of cash.



The great trigger contributed to the Ruger SR1911 Officer-Style pistol's accuracy. Tank pronounced it great fun to shoot!



accuracy and control. Shooting it is a blast! The textured grip-frame provides a comfortable, non-slip grip-foundation for a steady hold and is very comfy. The high-visibility sight system is dove-tailed, with a drift-adjustable rear sight and fixed front sight. These sights can be easily replaced, should you prefer something different.

The hardened alloy-steel slide has front and rear serrations, providing a positive grip during slide manipulation and press checking.

The Security-9 comes complete with a factory installed Viridian E series red laser. The laser unit only weighs 1/2 oz. with installed battery and is anchored at the rail and trigger guard. Amazing technology if you ask me.

Safe And Affordable

Safety features include a bladed trigger safety, external manual safety, a neutrally balanced sear with significant engagement and strong spring tension.

A "hammer catch" helps prevent the hammer from contacting the firing pin, unless the trigger is pulled. If by some impossible reason the hammers falls on its own, the hammer catch will absolutely catch the hammer. I heard in testing the only way they could get the hammer catch to fail — was to

machine it off! The Security-9 also has a chamber witness-hole for fast confirmation of chamber status.

For a minimal cost, Ruger provides us the chance to own a high-capacity, safe, reliable and affordable form of protection for our families without breaking the budget. Ruger makes it easy to protect yourself and your family with the Security-9.

Shooting

As any gentleman would, the Security-9 functioned well, digesting all

ammo shot with nary a hiccup, belch or burp. While no target pistol, this affordable shooter can keep 10 shots around 3" with no problem. Some ammo, including handloads, shot half this when I shot from the bench at 25 yards. Amazing, actually, for the price.

I would feel cool and confident carrying this pistol concealed, or for home defense. I know I'm different, but I get a kick in the pants when a gun performs this well, especially at bargain basement prices. MSRP is \$439, but realistically

Continued on page 68



Left: Housed in holsters, the Officer Style rides in a Milt Sparks 55-BN Bruce Nelson and the Security-9 in a Kydex holster Tank made with a knifekits.com kit.



Old Reliable and the New Kid on the block — both provide reliable protection no matter their material differences. Note the Viridian laser on the Security-9.

THE PRECISION REVOLVER NRA PPC

Team member John Pride showing the kneeling position. Note the heavy-barreled custom PPC revolver.



Right-hand barricade position. Note how Fred is standing comfortably with the gun brought up to eye level.

A while back I was reading my copy of *American Hangunner* when I came across the back page column (*The Insider*) written by Roy Huntington. I thought it was an interesting piece about accuracy, enjoying it so much I sent Roy an email “attaboy.” This morphed into a few back-and-forth emails during which we had a great time chatting about our mutual past service as cops in So. Cal. and shooting PPC matches. Roy soon asked me if I would consider penning an article on PPC shooting from “back in the day” as they say.

My response was a guarded “yes,” and immediately after we hung up I ransacked my den for any and all info on a style of shooting I had spent a lot of time, money and effort trying to perfect over the course of most of my police career. What follows, then, is a recap of this unique law enforcement shooting sport — and for me, a very pleasurable trip down memory lane.

PPC?

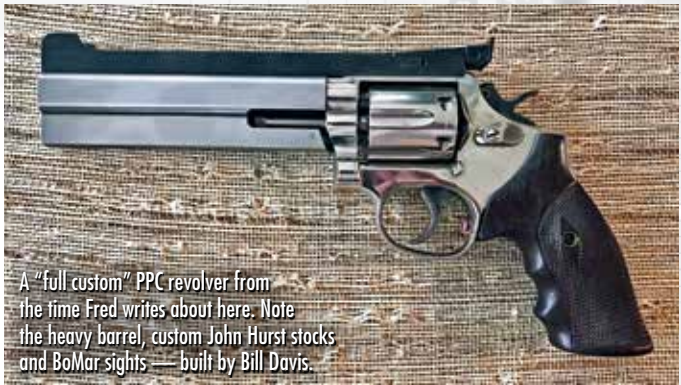
The term PPC has several historical variations on a theme. Practical Pistol Course, Police Practical Course and Police Pistol Combat are all cited. For all intents and purposes the course of fire is officially recognized as the NRA Police Pistol Combat course of fire, so going forward we’ll consider this designation

COURSE OF

SHOOTING — TO 50 YARDS FRED ROMERO, LAPD RETIRED



A "Grand Master Deluxe" PPC revolver from famous pistolsmith Ron Power: Custom barrel, underlug weight, custom sights, custom cylinder release, trigger stop — the works!



A "full custom" PPC revolver from the time Fred writes about here. Note the heavy barrel, custom John Hurst stocks and BoMar sights — built by Bill Davis.

as both official and NRA approved. Historically, and way before there were PPC matches, there have been law enforcement agencies using advanced shooting scenarios, kicking in after the basics of marksmanship. In the early days, bullseye shooting was taught to police rookies but it wasn't really enough.

Sometimes the courses were ad-hoc exercises requiring shooting from different distances and positions. More often than not there were reloading requirements as well. The bottom line being to allow officers in training to recognize street encounters can occur at different distances and may require reloading under stress. It also showed shooting from different positions, other than the classic offhand stance or combat squat.

Beginnings

In 1957/58, the University of Indiana (located in Bloomington) had an academic course for students hoping to pursue a career in law enforcement. Along with class studies the curriculum also exposed students to firearms and pistol shooting. Man-shaped silhouette targets were used — a rarity at the time — as was a requirement for reloading revolvers during the course of fire. Keep in mind during this period revolvers were used by about 99 percent of all police departments, so the wheelgun was the firearm of choice for LEOs.

Without a doubt this updated course of fire became a hit with forward thinking police departments across the country. Enough so in 1959 the very first

PPC match was held in Bloomington, and it drew 429 police shooters from 22 states, with some coming from Canada as well. The response was so positive, shortly thereafter the NRA took over the responsibility of overseeing PPC competitions. Shooting in the police sector has never been the same since.

The Course

Fast forward to the present and the NRA PPC course used in part or wholly

by a number of police agencies around the country. It's essentially similar to the original course of fire used 60 years ago. Individual "matches" are fired at seven to 50 yards.

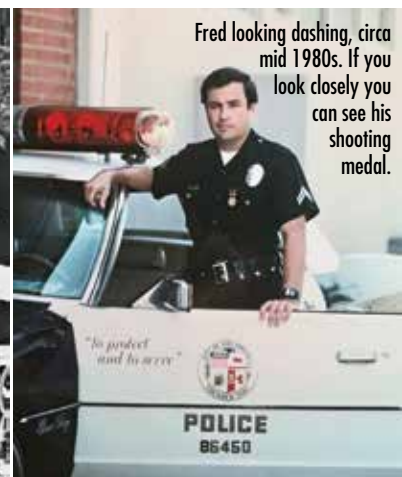
Match 1: Standing and from the holster, 24 shots total, two 12-shot strings 20 secs each at seven and 15 yards. Reloading is required.

Match 2: Kneeling, six shots from the holster, standing left-hand barricade

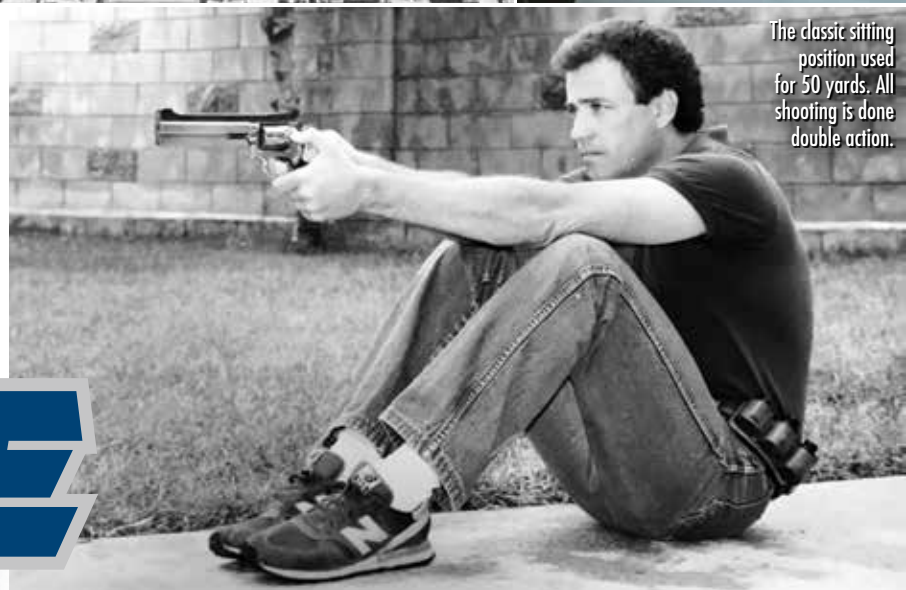
Continued on page 78



The LAPD pistol team in the mid 1980s. They had a reputation for being the team to beat!



Fred looking dashing, circa mid 1980s. If you look closely you can see his shooting medal.



The classic sitting position used for 50 yards. All shooting is done double action.

FIRE



KIMBER 9MM EVO SP (CS)



KIMBER'S 'ULTIMATE' CCW PISTOL?

JEFF "TANK" HOOVER

PHOTOS: ROB JONES/THE IMAGESMITH, LLC

Believe it or not, Thomas Alva Edison was a hero of mine. Yeah, *that* Edison. As a young kid, I wanted to be a scientist. I figured working in a laboratory, doing experiments, inventing stuff, or maybe just blowing something up — would be fun. Heck, I still think it'd be fun.

Thomas was the man who invented the incandescent light bulb and phonograph, among other things. He was

also known for his tremendous work ethic, saying, "Genius is one percent inspiration and 99 percent perspiration." He also said, when talking about adversity in the laboratory, "I did not *fail* 10,000 times, I learned 10,000 things that didn't *work!*" It's all in how we look at things, eh? It was this attitude that made him successful.

Kimber's Light Goes On

Back in 2011, Kimber broke away from their traditional 1911 platform,

releasing their first striker-fired 9mm model, the Solo. A finicky eater for some, the Solo was very choosy with the type of ammunition you fed it. In the owner's manual, Kimber even went so far as to recommend the types of ammunition to use. Not uncommon though, for some gun designs can be choosy.

Kimber finally dropped the Solo in 2017. Having the resilience of Thomas Alva Edison though, Kimber went back to the drawing board, releasing



AMERICAN
HANDGUNNER

KIMBER 9MM EVO SP (CS)





another totally redesigned series of striker-fired pistols, the Kimber EVO line, of which there are four different models. We laid hands on a Custom Shop version of Kimber's very cool EVO SP (CS).

Bonkers In Yonkers

Who doesn't love a custom shop gun? It gives workers the chance to showcase just how skilled they are, allowing them to break away from the mundaneness of factory-reproduced commodity. Everyone wants the kind of gun others envy, right?

Kimber's Custom Shop, in Yonkers, NY offers the opportunity of owning a gun capable of inducing jealousy — with a dash of envy — as others watch you happily shooting it. You'll likely have a knowing smirk on your face too. Ain't life grand?

In my opinion, the Custom Shop option is the crown jewel of the EVO SP line. Let's start at the top, working our way down this racy shooter.

Sexy Slide

Boasting a solid stainless steel slide as its canvas, Kimber uses advanced modern machining techniques to stylishly apply "framed gripping points" called Stiplex serrations. This trend-setting cluster of "dimples" provides a user-friendly gripping surface, while not being overly aggressive, as some traditional serrations tend to be. Plus, they're snag-free — handy during a draw.

The ultra-modern Stiplex serrations shave weight, provide a positive purchase for slide manipulation and exhibit just how swanky Kimber's talented crew can be. Plus, the Stiplex design just plain looks cool. I told you, the Custom Shop has very special offerings!

The slide also has weight-trimming recesses milled into it, providing good looks and artful depth. In furniture making it's called a "reveal" when a line catches the eye, showing depth and design highlights. Also visible on the outside, an externally mounted extractor, combined with a flared ejection port, provides positive, trouble-free extraction and ejection. Lastly, a striker indicator allows for both a visual and tactile confirmation of the striker's status.

Sights

The upgraded TRUGLO TritiumPro sights are worthy of a gun in this class. The large orange-dot front sight is also easy to "pick up" in the glare of daylight. Combined with the 2-dot, ledged rear-sight, faster target acquisition is possible, boosting low/no light sight-alignment with the tritium inserts. The



ledged rear sight allows one-handed slide manipulation — just don't shoot your foot off if you practice it!

Grip-frame

The lightweight grip-frame is made of aluminum, sporting identical machined Stiplex Serrations on the front strap. The G10 grip panels and back-strap are also given the Stiplex Serration treatment, ensuring positive retention and a proper grip. This same snazzy scheme also locks your grip in place, forming a point of reference for your hand, allowing for a consistent hold, each and every time you grip your gun. You've got to hold one to see what I'm talking about. It's a small gun — but easy to hold on to.

The grip panels are part of an innovative "grip system" without external hardware on the stock's surface. The magazine release can be reconfigured for either left, or right-handed shooters, and the extended beavertail grip allows for a high handhold, without fear of getting "slide-bit." Simply stated, the EVO SP (CS) just feels good in your hand. Kimber's design team put a lot of thought into it, and it shows.

Round Butts Are Best

The grip-frame extends down to a classic round-butt style with a beveled magazine well. Besides being stylishly good-looking, the rounded butt feels, um ... er ... good in the hand, if you'll



pardon the expression, with no sharp rear corner to bite your palm during recoil. It also won't poke into your side during concealed carry. A nicely beveled magazine well assists with magazine changes.

The CS is given Kimber's patented KimPro II Charcoal Gray finish on the frame, and black Ferric Nitrocarburizing (FNC) on the slide, ensuring long-lasting durability. I think it looks smashing too, serious — but attractive.

The Details

If you need specifics, we can deliver. The EVO SP (CS) is a striker-fired, alu-

minum-framed sub-compact 9mm. The slide and barrel are of stainless steel. The barrel is deep-crowned and slightly flared in design, with a 1:16" left rate of twist. Grips on our test gun are gray/black G10, while the trigger is made of premium aluminum, factory set at 6-7 lbs. Note the "lever" safety in the center of the trigger. There's no need for an external safety to clutter things up. Oh, and you don't need to pull the trigger for take-down.

The EVO is 6.1" in overall length and 4.03" in height, weighing a mere 18 oz., empty. The barrel is 3.16" long and the width is 1.06". While not necessarily





a pocket piece, the Kimber EVP SP (CS) can be worn either IWB or OWB without ever noticing it's there. The gun ships with two 7-round mags.

Shooting Help

We did a sort of fun thing here too. His Editorship, Roy, actually has the cover/photo gun on-hand, while I used a sample gun for specs and such. We thought it'd be best to shoot and report on the actual photo gun, so I'll hand-off to Sir Roy now.

Roy Says ...

The truth is Tank was too busy at the beach to do enough shooting to really write it up, so I intervened to keep things on-track. Before sending it off to our ace photog Rob Jones, I shot the photo gun a couple of mags worth just to get a feel for it. After Rob's prettified photos were finished, I shot it a bunch more. As a long-time Solo carrier (virtually every day since they were new), it was interesting to compare the two.

I'm still sad Kimber stopped production of the Solo. Mine has run smoothly and effortlessly, is very accurate and truly easy to carry in a pocket of your cargo shorts or BDU type pants. It's also an honest 25-yard gun, easy to take "head" shots if you do your part. Mine has never been ammo-fussy unlike some seem to be, and my carry load over the past year has been Black Hills HoneyBadger, a fluted solid copper 9mm load. I found the EVO SP to run just fine using the same ammo, and other styles and makes too.

The EVO SP is slightly bigger than the Solo and at least for me, a bit big for

comfy pocket carry. I tried it and can do it, but it feels bulkier than the Solo and I'm constantly aware it's in my pocket. Having said that, the EVO is also just enough bigger to feel a bit more secure in my hand. Overall, I agree with Tank in that it feels excellent in the hand, points well, runs smoothly and lends confidence to the shooter using it. Trade-offs, eh?

I kept accuracy testing to 15 yards and found it to be an easy 1.5" to 2" gun if you squeeze the excellent trigger correctly. It ran fine as long as I kept a firm wrist, not at all uncommon with any sort of pocket-sized auto. After about 300 rounds of assorted 9mm ammo, I honestly couldn't detect any issues. It just kept chugging along. I keep a 10" gong at 25 yards outside my office door to plink at. It was very easy to hit it again and again with the EVO SP. Different bullet weights did affect the point of impact but at sub-10-yard ranges it'd be a moot point. It'll be fun to get it dialed in with one load and go squirrel hunting!

For me, I'd consider this a hip or IWB holster gun, possibly in a pocket holster in an outer garment pocket (a coat or vest), but a bit big for comfortable pocket carry. Then again, I know someone who carries a 4" round butt Model 29 .44 in a pocket holster so maybe I'm just a wuss. I have to admit though, I feel my fingers reaching for my checkbook here, rather than the box to send it back!

Back To Tank

Returning to your regularly scheduled programming now. All these custom



features add up to a great concealed carry defensive pistol. Guns in the EVO SP series are machined to the tightest allowable tolerances, ensuring top-rate accuracy, reliability and functionality — all in a nifty, neat package.

The Custom Shop EVO SP is the "brainstorm" outcome between Kimber's engineers and gunsmiths. This teamwork led to what might be called "Kimber's ultimate concealed carry pistol." At least so far. It just shows what can be accomplished with good communication among professionals with differing skill sets. It's a win-win kind of deal for the rest of us. MSRP for this custom shop model is \$1,047.



For more info: www.kimberamerica.com



Karsino10 Folders

PHOTOS: ROB JONES/THE IMAGESMITH, LLC

KRUDO'S KUTTERS!

**LOUIS KRUDO DOESN'T MARCH
TO A DIFFERENT DRUMMER —
HE IS THE DRUMMER! PAT COVERT**



Sanktum Folder



KWK Waller-Knife

Louis Krudo was inspired to make knives not because he grew up hunting and camping. Nor was he inspired by the knife his Papaw gave him as a kid. Krudo took a different route, one driven by fighting to bring your opponent into submission or ultimately take him out. Krudo is a highly trained, highly motivated martial artist and trainer at his own K.U.T. (Krudo Urban Tactics) school. His



Feroce Fixed



Feroce Folder

motivation was to design knives fitting his discipline. In essence, Louis is a designer, not a knifemaker.

The road wasn't easy. "In 1993 I designed a knife, my first one. A couple of my friends told me the design was too aggressive and dangerous," Krudo tells *Handgunner*. "Unfortunately, I listened to those friends. Before putting the design away, I mailed it to myself and never opened it. Three-and-a-half years later, I decided I wanted to make it no matter what anyone said. I found a master knife maker and brought my sealed envelope to him. He unsealed the envelope and quietly looked over the drawings."

"The knife maker said, 'You designed this?' I replied, yes, not knowing why he was asking. He put the drawings down and walked away without a word. After several minutes, he came back and laid a magazine down on his workbench. There, on the cover, was my design. I was feeling so many emotions in that moment. I left that day, driving away thinking, I will never listen to anyone's opinions again."

It would be a pivotal moment for Louis and his wife Andrea, who takes care of the business side of the company.

"In 1997, I carved out of wood what would become my SNAG design," Krudo told us. "Using various non-bladed versions — wood, plastic, or aluminum — in my martial arts classes to test its uses and feasibility, I realized this design was much more useful and effective than the first design. In 2005, I made my first run of handmade SNAG fixed blades and in 2008 applied for and got a patent on the SNAG design."

Krudo Knives was born.

"My wife Andrea and I founded the company as an LLC in 2006 and then incorporated in 2013."

Off To The Races

Louis' original SNAG, which some have described as a *Reverse Karambit*,

morphed into folding models with hitting points designed-in, one which actually folds out from the base. In Krudo's K.U.T. martial arts system, hitting is as important as cutting, and the SNAG does both. "After producing SNAG I questioned if I could design other tools and knives," Louis went on. "A one hit wonder I did not want to be."

Other knife designs started evolving in his lineup and the line continues to grow.

"Initially, with the SNAG line as the focus of the company, the direction of KRUDO remained tactical," notes Andrea. "As the years have progressed Louis' designs have begun to morph away from tactical into what he calls, 'pocket art.' This design path widens KRUDO beyond tactical to anyone from the executive, the hunter, the collector, and particularly to the EDC enthusiast. Louis' current design efforts

Continued on page 69



Manicomio Fixed



Manicomio — logo detail

BABY OIL AND EASY BAKE OVEN'S

THE CARE AND FEEDING OF EXOTIC GRIPS

KARLA VAN HORNE

So there I was rubbing baby oil into a set of ivory grips when I suddenly had a thought: “Gee, I wonder if all the people who have exotic grips on their guns and knives know how to take care of them?” So I dropped the proverbial dime and checked with “His Roy-Ness” about someone doing an article. “His Editorship” pointed out since I brought it up, I had the assignment, then the phone clicked off. That’s

where old Doc McCoy crossed my mind — “Dammit Roy, I’m a holster maker not a grip guru.”

Putting momentary panic aside, I realized the Blade Show was just around the corner and everyone who had anything to do with exotic and weird grip materials would conveniently be there and

I was already going. Maybe this might work out after all? And what I learned was pretty darn interesting.

To a person, there were cautions about leaving anything with a grip or

handle made of natural materials in a hot vehicle — think: “Easy Bake Oven.” There were similar flags waved over extended placement of “exotics” and woods in direct sunlight as well as sudden, prolonged changes in humidity. Heat can cause cracking or warping of materials.

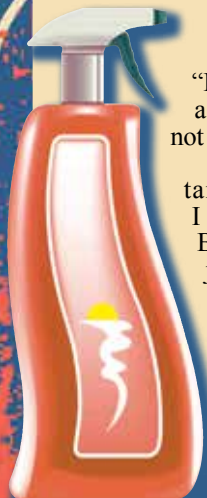
Thin scales and grips like a 1911 wears can be particularly susceptible. Sunlight has the same effect as heat, with the additional joys of fading some materials while darkening others. Humidity also causes warping, splitting, shrinkage or swelling depending on the swing high or low. Museums try to keep their displays at about 75 degrees F and 50 percent humidity, sort of the “safe” range. It’s a bit harder to do this in a home but it can be helped along by judicious use of humidifiers, air conditioners and desiccant depending on your climate.

Magic Materials

To keep elephant, walrus and warthog ivory, oosic and bone in top shape use mineral oil or baby oil. Baby oil is just perfumed mineral oil, nice smelling and a little less coin to boot. Don’t saturate the grip though. A couple of drops and a light rub once or twice



Top to bottom: Stag, deer antler, elk 1911 scales and kudu horn. The weird stuff in the middle is a cross section of axis antler showing no pith at all, the back of an elk 1911 scale showing pith and good wall depth and one of Karla's stitching groove tools made with a deer antler stabilized with cyanoacrylate glue after severe exposure to the seasons in the field.



a year will do it. Slathering it on is not only messy but unneeded.

Depending on the originating species, some, not all, sheep horn can delaminate. Keep all of it cool and out of the sun. It benefits from mineral oil and especially oil from your hands so use it for all it's worth! No safe queens allowed! Using, handling and getting hand oils on the grips are good things!

Sambar stag is very stable. Moose, elk and deer can be a bit less so. The degree of stability depends on how much pith is in the antler. Axis deer is extremely stable as it's mostly solid "bone" with no pith. Antler from other members of the deer family may have more pith. Most good makers try to choose slabs with heavy walls and as little pith as possible. Why do I keep saying pith?

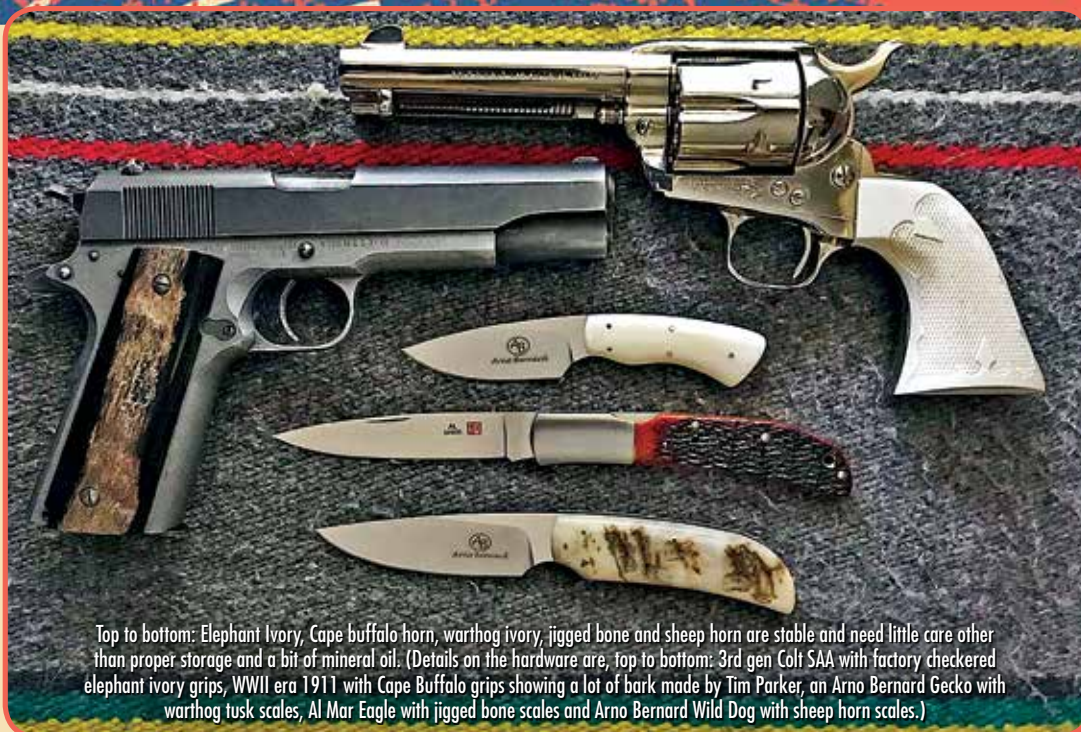
Antler can degrade with sweat so a quick wipe down with a damp rag after a session on the range or a romp out hunting is a good idea. A bit of mineral oil once or twice a year won't hurt either. Finally — mice and other members of team rodentia like to munch on antler, so keeping it from their little fangs is another important consideration. I'm not kidding here, they'll eat it. It's one way bones go away in nature.

Buffalo, cow and most other horn benefits from a dab of mineral oil. Light scratches can be sanded with super fine grit paper and some judicious buffing. Don't go insane. Light scratches only! Like antler, horn can suffer the indignities of being munched on. Horn beetles are no bueno so proper storage and an occasional light swipe with an almost dry bug wipe can avert disaster. Who'd a thought?

Mammoth Musings

Mammoth tooth and ivory is extremely stable because it's fossilized. Just clean it with a damp cloth as needed, it's more like a rock than actual ivory. Muskox and kudu horn is stabilized with resin and needs no care other than a wipe-down. A bit of wax won't hurt it, especially if you like shiny.

Wood comes three ways generally. There's stabilized (impregnated with resins), oily woods and then the rest.



Top to bottom: Elephant Ivory, Cape buffalo horn, warthog ivory, jugged bone and sheep horn are stable and need little care other than proper storage and a bit of mineral oil. (Details on the hardware are, top to bottom: 3rd gen Colt SAA with factory checkered elephant ivory grips, WWII era 1911 with Cape Buffalo grips showing a lot of bark made by Tim Parker, an Arno Bernard Gecko with warthog tusk scales, Al Mar Eagle with jugged bone scales and Arno Bernard Wild Dog with sheep horn scales.)

"THAT'S WHERE OLD DOC MCCOY CROSSED MY MIND — DAMMIT ROY, I'M A HOLSTER MAKER NOT A GRIP GURU."

Stabilized needs little care since it's essentially hard plastic once treated. A wipe-down and some elbow grease with a soft cloth will do it. It polishes well too. Oily woods like cocobolo, rosewood and teak need a rub now and again with oil. All unstabilized woods need oil on a more regular basis. Just don't go overboard. Let it dry then apply some wax to hold the oil in. Anything commercial for gun stocks or furniture will work. Renaissance Wax was developed by the British Museum Research Laboratory in the late 1950s to protect all sorts of items like leather and metal.

Not being made of beeswax or carnuba wax but from crude oil it won't become acidic over time. Get it online easily. You can apply it over the well-rubbed-in mineral oil on anything for a final protective coat.

I know gutta percha and vulcanite aren't exotic but since they're antique and becoming rarer and more difficult to replace, take care of them with a gentle rub of mineral oil.

Gee — wasn't so hard after all. Maybe McCoy doesn't need to crab about being a doctor all the time either?



Stabilizing makes burls like the ones on this Springfield Officers 1911 (left) easier to work with and less vulnerable to warping and other problems unstabilized wood would have. The Herrera on the pre-model 15 (right) are oily and stable. The tiger maple on the first knife is not stabilized and in need of careful care. The paring knife shows extreme neglect from water immersion and lack of oiling. Karla's mom — sigh — and her predilection for putting knives in the dishwasher shows what happens if you do that without regular maintenance!

EVERY DAY

A CLOSE LOOK AT



MARK KAKKURI

EDC ESSENTIALS

EVERY DAY CARRY MEANS JUST THAT — EVERY DAY!

Everyday carry (EDC) gear options have exploded in recent years, offering fantastic innovation to those who like to be prepared — having the actual tools on their person at all times. Here we enjoy some thoughtful designs around ankle holstering, a flashlight well designed for pocket

carry, a highly-engineered front-opening automatic knife, another flashlight to handle the basics and a well-equipped rescue knife. Send us a good picture of your own EDC gear to editor@americanhandgunner.com and we'll post it. People always enjoy seeing how others solve this challenge.

1 Ankles are great places for backup guns but also do double-duty for backup gear. With the Wilderness Tactical Ankle Cargo Cuff you've got plenty of places to store your stuff — five primary cells and one compact slip pocket. The whole unit measuring 19"x4.75" (5" version) or 3.75"x0.25" (4" version), weighs 5 oz. Made from extra heavy duty elastic webbing, the Ankle Cargo Cuff comes in black or brown.

MSRP \$40. Ph: (800) 775-5650, www.thewilderness.com

2 Small flashlights are must-haves for EDC and the Surefire Stiletto makes it very easy to carry and deploy a useful light. About the size of a large folding knife, Stiletto carries in a pocket via a sturdy Melonite-coated, spring steel clip. The primary switch activates 650-, 250- or 5-lumen beams. A second, tactical switch



CARRY (EDC)



3

activates the high-output beam only (a strobe is optional). The Mil-Spec hard anodized aluminum head assembly is tough and durable and the battery recharges via Micro USB cable. IPX7 water resistant. MSRP \$109. www.surefire.com

3 With a push/pull release, machined aluminum handle, carbide tip glass breaker, and reversible deep pocket carry clip, the Mini IncurSION sports a useful blade length of 3". The blade action is very smooth, and it's made in the USA for HK Knives by Hogue Knives. For sale to legally permitted users through authorized dealers only. MSRP \$289.95. www.hogueinc.com

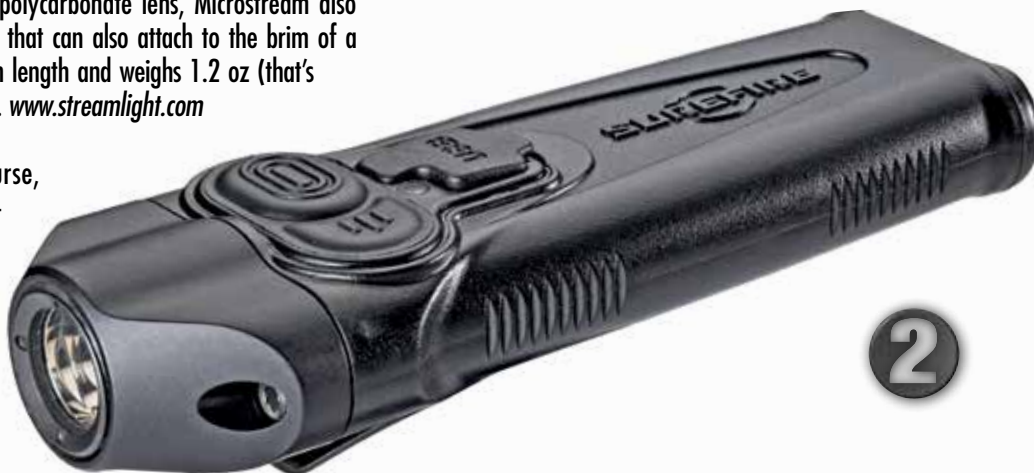


4

4 Yes, a second flashlight recommendation — this time for more mundane tasks. Streamlight's Microstream recharges via a USB cord, offering IPX4 water resistance and high/low modes delivering 250 and 50 lumens. Made from machined anodized aluminum and sporting a scratch-resistant polycarbonate lens, Microstream also has a removable pocket clip that can also attach to the brim of a hat. Measures less than 4" in length and weighs 1.2 oz (that's a .308 in the pic). MSRP \$17. www.streamlight.com

closed length of 4.25" and a weight of 4.1 oz. On board are an assisted opening blade (3.25" in length), glass breaker, seatbelt cutter and a robust pocket clip to keep it handy.  MSRP \$99.99. www.bearandsoncutlery.com

5 Carry a knife, of course, but carry a multi-functional knife for maximum usefulness. The Swipe IV Rescue Knife from Bear features a Sandvik 14C28N Stainless Steel blade, black G10 handles, an overall



2



WIN!

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HANDGUN OF THE MONTH

**SPRINGFIELD
ARMORY**



ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BEFORE JANUARY 31, 2020 WINNERS CHOSEN BY RANDOM DRAWING. Limit one entry per household. To protect the privacy and security of winners, their names will NOT be made public. Contest void where prohibited by law. Winners must undergo a background check and comply with all other federal, state and local laws. Taxes and fees will be the responsibility of the winner. Contest open to U.S. residents only. Employees and agents of Publishers' Development Corp. are not eligible. No purchase necessary. Winners will be notified by certified mail on official letterhead. Winners must respond within 30 days of receiving notification or an alternate winner will be selected. Attention deployed military: use stateside address! Giveaway guns and accessories may have evidence of being test fired or exhibit minor handling marks. Factory warranties may apply in some cases. The *Handgun of the Month* package is awarded only to the entrant drawn and will not be awarded if the firearm presented is illegal in the jurisdiction of the winner. An alternate, authorized winner will be selected. No substitutions or transfers to a third party are allowed. **UNABLE TO ENTER ONLINE?** Mail a postcard with your name and address (no envelopes please) to *American Handgunner Magazine*, GOM January/February 2020, P.O. Box 501377, San Diego, CA, 92150-1377.



SCAN TO ENTER

9MM HELLCAT PACKAGE



PLUS



SHIELD SIGHTS RMSc



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CROSSBREED THE RECKONING

Springfield Armory, a revered name in the firearms industry, offers a new gun and we get to feature it in the giveaway for *American Handgunner's* first issue of 2020 — and with accessories too! What a terrific way to usher in the year!

The **HELLCAT 3" Micro-Compact OSP** in 9mm gives you "the Capacity to Defend" yourself. Designed specifically for every day carry, Springfield Armory's HELLCAT has a black polymer frame with adaptive grip texture and a billet-machined slide with a Melonite finish. It features a patented magazine with a capacity of 11+1 and 13+1 with the included extended mag.

Zero in on your target with the **Reflex Mini Sight Compact (RMSc)** from Shield Sights. Encased in aerospace-grade aluminum, it's tougher than most products using glass optics.

Secure the HELLCAT, that is if you win, in a **LifePod** from Vaultek. Just touch the keys on the fiber-reinforced shell housing to lock and unlock the case. It's great for every day carry and travel too because it's TSA compliant.

Carry your HELLCAT, again that is if you win, in CrossBreed Holsters' **The Reckoning**. Made of black cowhide, premium horsehide or vegetable tanned leather, this holster can be worn IWB, appendix, cross draw or even OWB.

Since it's a jungle out there, you should enter our giveaway for a chance to win the HELLCAT prize package. Just go to www.americanhandgunner.com/giveaways or mail a postcard. — Jazz Jimenez

HELLCAT 3" MICRO-COMPACT OSP

MAKER: SPRINGFIELD ARMORY, (800) 680-6866

WWW.SPRINGFIELD-ARMORY.COM

CALIBER: 9MM, CAPACITY: 11+1 AND 13+1, BARREL LENGTH: 3"

OAL: 6", WEIGHT: 17.9 OZ. (EMPTY)

VALUE: \$599

REFLEX MINI SIGHT COMPACT (RMSc)

MAKER: SHIELD SIGHTS, WWW.SHIELDPSD.COM

VALUE: \$370

LIFEPOD

MAKER: VAULTEK, (407) 329-4164, WWW.VAULTEKSAFE.COM

VALUE: \$99.99

THE RECKONING

MAKER: CROSSBREED HOLSTERS INC., (888) 732-5011

WWW.CROSSBREEDHOLSTERS.COM

VALUE: \$55.96

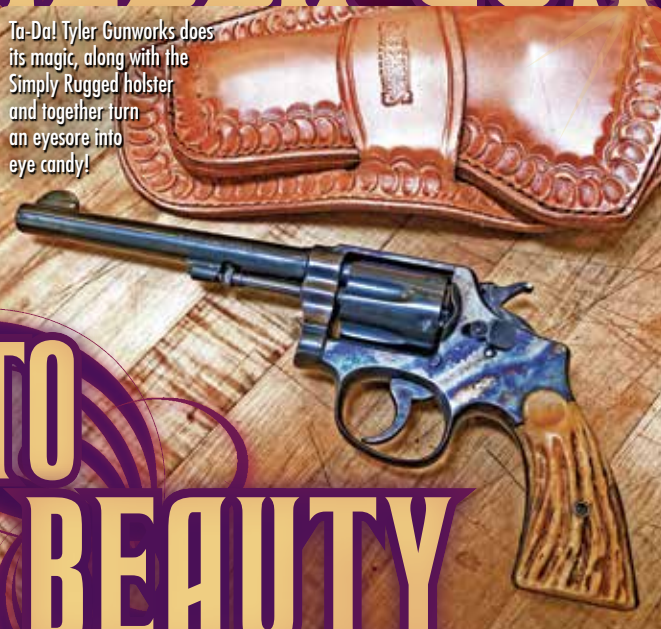
TOTAL VALUE: \$1,124.95

THE CINDERELLA GUN

A sorry sight indeed. The "before" picture of Peter's woesome S&W.



Ta-Da! Tyler Gunworks does its magic, along with the Simply Rugged holster and together turn an eyesore into eye candy!



FROM BEATER TO

BEAUTY

PETER CAROLINE

Several years ago, I was at a local gun show helping my shooting buddies offload a bunch of guns from departed friends. There were some pricey items, but at the end of the day all that was left were a few odds and ends — including a rather decrepit 1920s-vintage S&W M&P .38 revolver. It had maybe 5–10 percent of its original blue finish. It appeared to be in working order, and had a nice old pair of stag grips. I felt sorry for it, and bought it for the grips.

I'll readily admit I have a weakness for guns with character, guns having been around the block a few times, reeking of history. My friend Bill refers to them as "catfish anchors," and claims I run a no-kill shelter for old junk. Now, that's just cruel, but we're still friends.

At the range, several days later, I fired the old Smith with some mild 148-gr. target wadcutters. The groups were decent, not tight, but nothing tumbled and the gun stayed in one piece. I retired it to my gunroom, where it shared a display wall with other dubious treasures.

A Door's Opened

Last year, at Shootists Holiday at the NRA Whittington Center, I was introduced to a gentleman by the name of Bobby Tyler. Bobby is the proprietor of an enterprise called Tyler Gun Works in Friona, Texas. He turns ordinary — and some not-so-ordinary guns — into works of art. He does color casehardening and bluing,

and has some highly talented engravers on call. He can even color caseharden stainless steel.

I saw a number of very impressive examples of his work, including some Ruger Shopkeeper .22's, and Republic Forge 1911's far beyond my budgetary constraints. Several months later, at a writers' event at Gunsite, I had an opportunity to shoot a number of these guns — and I saw an opportunity.

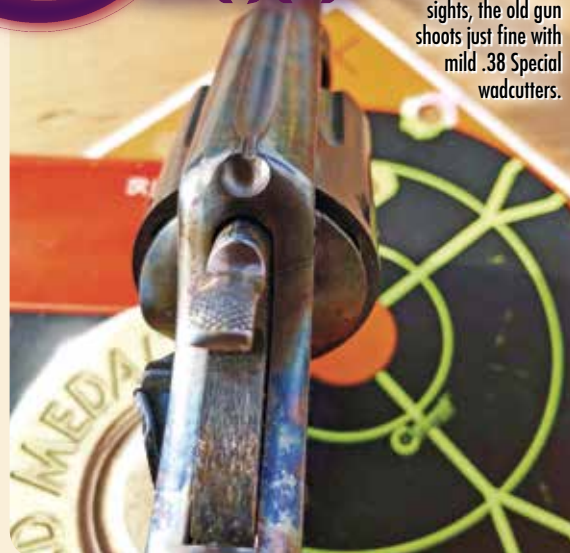
Change Is Afoot

When I attended the 2018 Shootists Holiday, I brought along my aesthetically challenged M&P and handed it to Bobby. I'll have to give him credit, he didn't even snicker. I opted for a color casehardened frame and a blued barrel and cylinder.

The Friday before the Labor Day weekend, I received a package from Friona, Texas. Inside, was my old beater — transformed. The vivid colors on the frame, trigger and hammer were amazing. The barrel and cylinder looked like they had just come out of the factory. In addition, Bobby had re-timed the gun and adjusted the SA trigger pull to a lovely, crisp 2¼ lbs. I cleaned up the old stag grips with some mineral oil and reinstalled them.

Despite the wretched, period-correct

In spite of, as Peter says, the "wretched" sights, the old gun shoots just fine with mild .38 Special wadcutters.

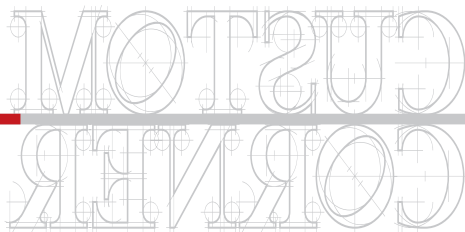


sights and my equally wretched, astigmatic marksmanship, it's a very decent shooter. All it needed was a proper showcase for this treasure. I contacted Rob Leahy at Simply Rugged Holsters and ordered an appropriately decorated Shootist holster. Cinderella is now ready for the ball.

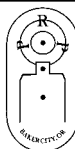


For more info: www.tylergunworks.com, Ph: (806) 729-7292; www.simplyruggedholsters.com, Ph: (928) 227-0432

CUSTOM CORNER



Custom Corner features paid listings by the identified pistolsmiths. Many are members of the American Pistolsmiths Guild and the American Handgunner Club 100. Advertising information is available from: AMERICAN HANDGUNNER, Adv. Dept., 13741 Danielson St. Ste. A, Poway, CA 92064; delano.amaguin@fmghq.com; (888) 732-6461.



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GUN RIGHTS

Alan Korwin



THEY'VE GONE TOO FAR

LEFT-WING POLITICIANS HAVE LEFT THE CLOSET

If a political party with significant power abandons the rule of law, proceeding headlong down a path with no Constitution, no due process and brute force thinly disguised as court decisions — is this why America's public is armed?

Back in Colonial times, the public understood the only deterrent to a government run amok was power in the hands of the people:

The strongest reason for the people to retain the right to keep and bear arms is, as a last resort, to protect themselves against tyranny in government.

— Thomas Jefferson

To disarm the people is the best and most effectual way to enslave them.

— George Mason

Okay, so we're well armed, at least the half of us who understands these things. The other half, unfortunately, collectively cloistered in a single political party, is clueless. They have reached a point, whipped on by their "democratically elected leaders" where they've been convinced they must vote us out of our rights.

They can't legitimately confiscate property we already own, but this doesn't seem to matter in present presidential debates. An entire party's worth of candidates don't see it, or ask each other — they have actually put it in their platform. A full palette of prohibited acts have become their goals — *ex post facto* laws — taking without compensation, warrantless searches and seizures, even total bans on firearms. It's as if the Constitution does not exist.

The so-called "news" media doesn't question it either, not even a little. If there ever was a third rail of politics, it's no longer Social Security, at least not with millennials cheering skateboarders onto a stage. It is *guns* — and not just keeping and bearing them. It's the disarming, sub-arming and confiscation part. The part no reporter will address. Not because they don't care — they care deeply. They *want* you disarmed as much as these campaigning pols. They won't touch it out of electrified fear.

One candidate after another has a more ambitious plan to outlaw, confiscate and ban the best firearms we own. The types police prefer because

Continued on page 79



STRONG HANDS SHOOT STRAIGHT



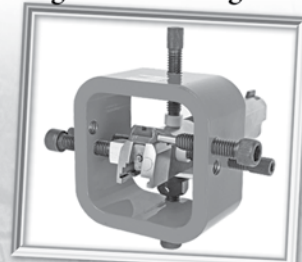
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RUGER

Continued from page 45

sells for much less. I've seen them listed for about \$350 when snooping around.

Officer-Style SR1911

In March of 1911, the U.S. Army adopted Colt's semi-auto pistol as its official sidearm, calling it the Model 1911. One hundred years later, Sturm, Ruger and Co. releases their SR1911. Ruger has recently expanded their SR1911 line further, releasing their Officer-Style SR1911, a chopped version, sporting a 3.6" barrel and shorter grip.

The Ruger Officer-Style 1911 goes through a precision CNC-controlled machining process ensuring a superior slide-to-frame fit. My gun was extremely smooth in this regard. This gun sports a bull-barrel, adding weight up front for increased muzzle control, also aided by the full-length guide rod.

The bushing-less barrel provides positive barrel lock-up, ensuring excellent accuracy. The skeletonized aluminum trigger has a quick, positive reset and is adjustable for over-travel stop. The skeletonized hammer and titanium firing pin makes lock-time faster too. The beavertail, thumb-safety, magazine release and slide-stop lever are oversized, improving the feel,

mechanics and manipulation of these controls. The ejection port is also oversized and flared.

A visual inspection port allows you to peek into the chamber to check the status of things. Stylish rear serrations promote good looks and positive grip during slide manipulation. The main-spring housing is rounded and checkered for a positive grip and makes it more comfortable to carry too.

Grips panels are sharp-looking G10 material, checkered with an artistic flair of the Ruger Phoenix wing with the Ruger Phoenix logo inside the wing. The roughness of the wing design and logo provide a slip-free, positive grip.

Sights are drift-adjustable, a dove-tailed Novak three-dot system, providing fast sight alignment and a quick sight-picture. This modest-sized SR1911 ships with 2 stainless-steel magazines. At only 7.25" long and 5" tall, it's definitely carry-friendly. At 1.34" wide and a steel-framed 31 oz. unloaded, it's "enough gun" to hang onto, and the 7+1 capacity also means there's enough gun to defend yourself with.

Shooting The Shorty

For a factory trigger, Ruger should be commended on the trigger my test sample has. While not creep-free, it was negligible, and let-off very light for one of today's lawsuit-proof triggers. My trigger pull gauge was on the blink so I

can't give an exact poundage. Suffice to say, it was surprisingly good.

My gun showed a penchant for Lee 200-gr. cast handloads loaded over 7 grains of Unique, and Blackhills 135-gr. HoneyBadger ammo. Shooting from the hind-legs at 50 feet, groups ran around 2", give or take. While carrying a lightweight aluminum frame gun is more convenient, the steel-frame version of this gun is nice for soaking up the recoil. This pistol just feels right in your hand.

My gun preformed flawlessly, and there were no misfires, failures to eject or extract. But keep in mind, we always clean and lube test guns and use good ammo and strong firing grips. You should too. Empties were thrown with authority over my right shoulder. Like most Rugers, this is a good, solid gun and a great contender for someone wanting to get into the 1911 platform without breaking the bank.

Something For Everyone

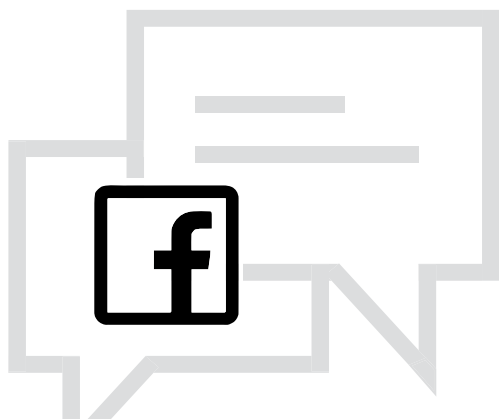
With these two shooters, Ruger can fill quite a few niches with their entry-level priced 9mm Security-9 and Officer-style 1911 in .45 ACP. There's no excuse not to be armed these days, and Ruger continues to make sturdy, accurate and reliable guns fitting most people's budgets.



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KRUDO'S KUTTERS

Continued from page 57

are channeled into exploring different angles, lines, materials and uses."

Today, with over 20 designs in the Krudo stable, there's no lack of diversity. All of Louis' designs tend to be over-built, yet they all have a slick design flare. Two of his newest models, the Feroce and Karsino10, couldn't be more different. The Feroce has dolphin-like curves into which Louis has ingeniously designed-in five different methods of opening the blade. On the opposite pole stands the Karsino10, a straightforward, all-business folder with its own classy design traits, such as a flat ground drop point blade design. Both knives have sturdy integral locks built into the back-sides of their frames, and Krudo adds spice to both by adding attractive inserts of Carbon Fiber and other materials.

In yet another design take, Krudo's Manikomio fixed-blade blends the symmetrical lines of the classic dagger with futuristic Star Wars wings and angles. Louis' greatest design trait is perhaps the fact he never went to art school or believed things had to be done a certain way. Rather, the basis of each Krudo creation is years of experience knowing what a knife must do to be effective. "As of this writing I'm currently working on a new folder inspired by Frank Lloyd Wright's Taliesin West property. In his private office there, where he would meet with his clients through a 6-sided door. It got me to thinking," notes Louis.

There it is, all laid out for you. Free thinking unleashed. A Krudo trait.

Future Wide Open

With zero reserve, Louis states, "I love to design. It happens to be that knives are the current majority of my designs, but I enjoy designing many other things as well. With my son, Miclain, I'm also working on a guitar design. Miclain is currently in Nashville, Tennessee climbing the ladder as a sound engineer/musician and composer. Other projects I'm working on include new pen designs, a scalpel knife, cigar rests and cutters as well as a modular wallet — and yes, more knives."

You'll find Krudo Knives affordable, with folders like the Feroce and Karsino19 retailing at \$165 and \$297 respectively. The Manikomio fixed-blade, complete with Kydex sheath, goes for \$147. As for us, we can't wait to see what comes down the pike. Given Louis Krudo's trajectory over the past few years, you know it's going to be outa sight!



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S&W MODEL 610

Continued from page 41

it's very pleasant to shoot with both 10mm and .40 S&W ammo.

Optional Optics

Before I headed to the range for a lengthy shooting session, I fitted the 610 with an optic. In good lighting conditions I can see iron sights well enough to shoot targets at close range. But with aging eyes like mine, that's about as far as I get. Since this revolver will be a hunting rig for me, I need optics in order to place a bullet where it belongs. This is especially true for early morning and late evening opportunities.

For years I've enjoyed various red dot sights by UltraDot. These units are rugged, being able to withstand consistent, brutal recoil. I have some friends who use UltraDots on their rhino-stomping, big-bore revolvers producing teeth-jarring recoil. They continue singing praises on the reliability of UltraDot.

I mounted an UltraDot L/T reflex sight on the 610. The L/T is a very compact sight and does not appear obnoxious. It has 10 brightness settings too, allowing the shooter to adjust the brightness of the dot depending on the lighting conditions. This is extremely valuable for hunting since you're apt to encounter different situations. The 4-MOA dot size will show up nicely when placed on the shoulders of a big mean hog too. The UltraDot looks as if it belongs on the 610 — and it does for me.

Mounting the reflex sight on the 610 was accomplished without the services and expense of a gunsmith. Believe me, the gunsmithing tool I use most frequently is my checkbook, so if I was able to mount the sight, anyone can in a matter of minutes. The new mini-scope mount from Weigand Machine and Design is just the ticket. This Weig-A-Tinny mount comes in silver or black and is available for all K-, L-, N- and X-Frame S&W revolvers. It's only 2.5" long, is clean and sleek looking and it doesn't protrude over the barrel. This was a great choice for the 610 and reflex sight.

Does It Shoot?

DoubleTap, Hornady, HSM, Winchester, SIG, Federal, Underwood and other ammos were tested. No doubt, there's plenty of premium ammo designed for multiple purposes and like any gun, I was curious to see if my 610 had any strong preferences. After the first few shots, the red dot was easily adjusted.

Since a variety of ammo was being tested, in different bullet weights, the point of impact changed some but

I was more interested in group size for the moment. The 610's size and weight made it easy to shoot, and when shooting for groups, I did all my testing from a sandbag at 25 yards.

My initial groups were better than I expected. The trigger of the 610 was on par with other S&W models I've shot, breaking clean and crisp. At the end of the day, HSM 180-gr. JHP load put four rounds touching and the other two almost touching. Other factory loads shot well, and the 610 wasn't picky. Loading and unloading the revolver was painless thanks to the moon clips. And I didn't have to go looking for brass all afternoon.

“The S&W N-Frame handles the recoil of the 10mm with ease and it's very pleasant to shoot with both 10mm and .40 S&W ammo.”

For personal defense, there are many loads available, including a 135-gr. Nosler JHP offering from DoubleTap. As for hunting, several great choices come to mind depending on the game sought. Buffalo Bore's 220-gr. Hard Cast Flat Nose, 230-gr. Hard Cast from DoubleTap, Hornady's 180-gr. XTP, Federal's 180-gr. Trophy Bonded JSP and Underwood's 200-gr. XTP would all be good options for the field.

Friendly Carry

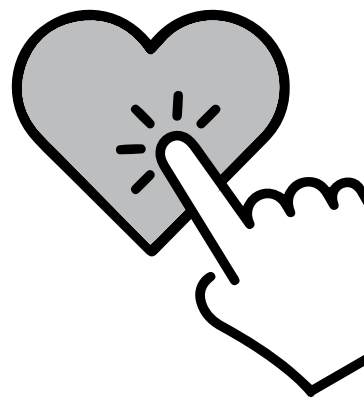
Carrying the 610 around with the reflex sight was a concern. Thanks to Diamond D Custom Leather and their Guide's Choice holster, packing the revolver around all day is a non-issue. The Guide's Choice holster carries the gun across your chest in a most comfortable manner. Getting in and out of the tractor, UTV, or vehicle is not a bother at all. This holster is well made and well designed with the hunter and fisherman in mind. You couldn't ask for more.

If I were looking for a personal protection handgun, the 4" version would be a solid choice. For hunting, I'm well satisfied the reintroduced 610 will be ideal for deer and hogs. It has found a secure spot in my hunting handgun battery. Now if S&W would reintroduce their model 657 with full underlug and unfluted cylinder I'd be tempted again!



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AYOOB FILES

Continued from page 87

It is the gunfire that finally pierces the oblivion. One shopper will say later he and his friends were in denial, hoping they had heard balloons popping. But, at the front of the store, experienced shooter David George knows gunfire when he hears it. So does his adult daughter, who instantly scoops up her child, abandons her shopping cart, and makes her way to an exit. She will be, David later remembers proudly, the first to exit the danger scene by a good five or six seconds.

Confrontation

At the front of the store, David George is in Tim Day's escape path as the latter runs toward the front doors. He sees George staring at him and swings the Ruger up at him.

As a part-time EMT, George has treated at least three gunshot victims he can remember, a fatal rifle-shot and two non-fatal handgun wounds. The thought "This is gonna hurt" races through his mind as he ducks behind cover. Day does not fire, turning away and running out the front door.

David begins to follow. He knows his family must be out of danger by now. They've gone over this beforehand. Just as he has told his daughter to expeditiously leave the scene if something like this ever happens, he has also told his family to move away from him in such a situation so they're not in the line of the criminal gunfire he knows he will attract if he draws his gun. They have followed the plan.

At the door, David discovers he's not the only armed citizen at the scene. Jesse Zamora is there too, putting a hand on David's chest and telling him protectively, "I've got a gun, man." The two bond, and move out of the WalMart into the parking lot.

More Gunfire

They see Day attempt a carjacking, and can't know it's not the gunman's first such attempt of the afternoon. The driver of the vehicle, Rickey Fievez, resists. As he reverses his car and backs away, Day shoots him twice, in the chest and neck. Instantly paralyzed from the neck down by the wounds, Fievez crashes into a parked vehicle. The frustrated gunman turns to the next person he can see by a vehicle, a woman.

He points a gun at her too, and she tells him to take the car, the keys are in it. He jumps into the driver's seat. She hides, inexplicably, behind the same car.

Finale

This is the situation confronting David George as he approaches the vehicle in the parking lot: the woman

crouching desperately behind her own vehicle for cover, and Day in her car with an expression of rage on his face. Day is pounding fist and gun on the dashboard in frustration — desperate to survive, the woman has misled him. There are no keys in the car and he can't get it started.

And now, at last, David George's GLOCK 19 is in his hand, leveled on the gunman as George approaches from behind the vehicle.

Instead of surrendering at gunpoint, Day begins to turn his revolver toward George.

Five staccato shots explode in the parking lot: BAMBAM — BAMBAMBAM.

Perhaps seven feet away, on the passenger side of what the gunman had hoped would be his getaway car, David George fires a double-tap from a two-handed Isosceles stance. The gunman's body seems to freeze for an instant, but then he tries to bring the revolver back at him again, and George launches three more shots.

Day reaches to open the driver's door of the stolen car. "Hands! Hands! I want to see your hands," David yells at the gunman. Then, able to see the revolver has been dropped on the front seat, David holds his fire.

Day manages to emerge from the car, but the five gunshot wounds in his upper torso have taken effect. He slumps to the pavement. George can see his shots have all gone into the chest, the lowest appearing to be diaphragm high. The gunman rattles off a bit of agonal breathing, and then, very soon, it's over.

Immediate Aftermath

Police officers had been only about a mile and a half away, investigating the earlier carjacking and shooting scene, when the calls came in from WalMart. They made it to the new shooting scene quickly. By that time, the pastor/EMT had holstered his GLOCK and was already treating the gravely wounded Rickey Fievez.

Police emerged from their vehicles and asked, "Who shot him?" People pointed their fingers at David George and shouted, "That guy!" At the point of an AR15 patrol rifle, they ordered him into a kneeling position, his hands visible at his head, and took his gun.

However, the "who did what to who" quickly sorted out. Paramedics had not yet arrived. When George asked if he could go back to treating the wounded victim, the officers consented.

George gave a recorded statement at the police station. He asked the investigating officer if he needed an attorney. "I can't tell you that," the cop answered, "but I can tell you this: my supervisor says you're a witness, not a suspect."

By 10:30 the next morning, the Tumwater Police Department had offi-

cially declared David George had been cleared in the shooting.

And the press was calling him more than a witness.

They were calling him a hero.

Long-Term Aftermath

No lawsuit has been filed on behalf of the estate of the dead gunman. Tim Day's long-suffering ex-wife was asked by a reporter how she felt toward David George, the man who had killed her husband. She answered, "I don't judge. He did what he had to do." Fox News called David "The Good Samaritan Pastor." One of the witnesses and potential victims at the WalMart, Bryan Adams, spoke for many more when he told a reporter, "He is a hero. He took action. I really think more people could have been shot ... he saved us all."

Detective Lieutenant Jennifer Kolb of Tumwater PD told *American Handgunner*, "We had a lot of agencies assisting us. This allowed us to complete the investigation in such a timely manner.... Our recommendation was a finding of justifiable homicide; one of the prosecutors did a thorough review over a few weeks, and agreed. There is absolutely no doubt Mr. George saved many lives."

It's hard to imagine a more quintessential "Good Guy" than a full-time pastor and volunteer emergency medical technician. And it's hard to imagine a more archetypal bad guy than a long-term felon, serial abuser, meth-head and spree shooter. This certainly helps the good guy involved to deal with the psychological and emotional aftermath.

What is called colloquially "post-shooting trauma" seems to have two manifestations which are almost universal, no matter how righteous the use of force may have been: some element of sleep disturbance, and the sociological phenomenon the great police psychologist Dr. Walter Gorski defined as "Mark of Cain" syndrome. David George did not escape either.

He told us he stayed up most of that night going over the incident in his mind, tormenting himself with the question, "What could he have done to keep Tim Day from shooting and horribly crippling Rickey Fievez?" Logically, he concluded with what knowledge he had to work with at each stage of the event, he had done the best anyone in his position could.

"Mark of Cain" syndrome is the realization people are treating you differently as a result of your having shot someone. In David's case, the attention was positive but almost overwhelmingly so.

At David's request, the police kept his name out of it. They described the Samaritan-rescuer as a pastor in a small town nearby who was also an EMT and lieutenant rank on the local fire department. There weren't too many

folks who fit that profile, and the media quickly sniffed him out. Soon, David told us, "The press was all over it." He figured a press release would put an end to it, and put one together with the help of Alan Gottlieb at the Second Amendment Foundation.

"The funniest phone call of all," David remembers, "was from a major network that wanted me on its morning show. I said 'No, I'm giving a press release.' She said, 'This is a hot story, tomorrow no one may want to know it.' I said, 'That's fine with me!'"

Most people in every circle of his life were supportive of the hero who was credited with stopping what might well have become a mass murder spree. But not all. "A few people became standoffish," he says. He later learned in most of these cases, it was because they simply didn't know what to say to him.

Altered Perceptions

Most people involved in life or death situations experience altered perceptions to some degree, and again, this case was no exception. I teach every summer at the Firearms Academy of Seattle, and a month or so after the shooting, David was kind enough to drop by and give my class a lecture. He had trained at FAS before the shooting. A year later, at which time he had learned more about the incident and the man he had been forced to kill, he returned to take my MAG-40 class, and gave an expanded lecture on the occasion. Part of the curriculum includes the physio-psychological aspects of violent encounters, and David told the class, "I experienced just about everything in last night's homework."

Tachypsychia, the sense of things happening in slow motion? Check. "I felt I had all the time in the world," he told me. Auditory exclusion, gunfire sounding muted or even silent? Check. "I was wondering why my ears weren't ringing as I sat on the sidewalk afterward."

Tunnel vision? Check. He had thought fellow armed citizen Jesse Zamora was right behind him as he approached the gunman in the parking lot, but he was wrong. Zamora's pistol, a Phoenix .22, had jammed when he went to activate the slide and put a round in the chamber. By the time he got the now-damaged round out, jacked a new one into the chamber, and ran to assist George, the last shots had been fired. Zamora's equipment had not lived up to his courage.

Lessons

First responder confidence and competence. David George had trained extensively with his GLOCK 19 at the Firearms Academy of Seattle and elsewhere. The training held. He remembers actually thinking "Front sight, press!" as he fired the shots ending Day's

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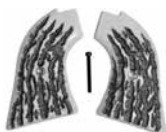
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deadly spree. All five shots struck where aimed: a 100 percent hit ratio, resulting in relatively swift threat neutralization.

Smart engagement tactics prevented mistaken identity tragedy when two law-abiding armed citizens who didn't know each other responded to the threat. George, in his EMT role, had trained with police for response to active killer situations, and had been told by the cops any person with a gun not wearing a uniform was highly likely to be shot by mistake by responding officers. Accordingly, he did not draw his gun until he saw Day firing directly at the innocent. A role model for us all, including plainclothes and off-duty or retired cops.

Both men secured their lambs from the wolf before they went after the wolf. George had long since worked out a plan with his wife and daughter that in such a situation, they would expeditiously leave the danger scene while he engaged, and it worked out perfectly. Zamora told me he hadn't worked that out beforehand with his girlfriend and her kids, but when the first shots went off in the WalMart he instructed them to escape safely, and they did so.

A highly reliable pistol with an already-chambered round allowed George to prevail in a very rapid time-frame. By contrast, Zamora's inexpensive .22 jammed when he attempted to rack a round into the empty chamber, essentially taking him out of the fight at the most crucial time. Would his .22 ammo have worked as well as George's 9mm HST rounds? We'll never know, but no professional would bet on it.

Use of cover. David George told us he faults himself for squaring up with the threat on the passenger side of the car instead of taking better cover. I don't think he should beat himself up over this. Looking at the surveillance video of the shooting, it appears he had to get pretty close to where he wound up to guarantee safe and efficient neutralization of the gunman.

Moreover, challenging Day from behind the stolen car would have been problematic. For one thing, that's where the woman who owned it had huddled. Taking a challenge position there could have drawn the gunman's fire to her location.

American Handgunner wishes to thank David George, Jesse Zamora, and Lt. Jennifer Kolb for their assistance in making this article possible. We also applaud lead investigator Tim Eikum, Detective Bryant Finch, the Thurston County prosecutor's office and all the emergency service personnel who handled this case so competently and fairly. This incident stands as a classic example of the life-saving value of competent armed citizens at such deadly danger scenes, and the truism it takes a "Good Guy With a Gun" to stop a "Bad Guy With a Gun."



TAFFIN TESTS

Continued from page 25

diameter cylinder so they will accept the larger rimmed .44 Russian cartridges. Some of them are chambered in .44 Special, allowing all three .44 cartridges to be used in the same cylinder.

I've been shooting replicas of the Colt Cartridge Conversions ever since they first began nearly 40 years ago. Currently, I'm using two relatively new Cimarron Colt Cartridge Conversions. These are Richards-Mason Conversions with the improved ejector rod assembly and are basically identical except for the grip frames. The Army Model has a steel 1860 grip frame while the Navy Model has the 1851 Navy grip frame of brass. The former grip frame of steel became the standard Colt Single Action Army frame. Both examples have 7½" barrels, are very nicely finished with a deep blue, have smooth actions and lock up tightly.

Although they will handle all three of the .44 cartridges, I only use them with the two cartridges coming from the same era as the Cartridge Conversions, the .44 Colt and .44 Russian. With the loads basically duplicating the original black powder loads but using smokeless powders, these Richards-Mason Cartridge Conversions from Cimarron are quite accurate and pleasant to shoot, with minimum felt recoil.

1862 Pocket Navy

The latest offering from Cimarron is one I have been eagerly awaiting for quite a while. It is a Cartridge Conversion but unlike any of the others mentioned thus far. This little gem is on the 1862 Pocket Navy Colt that was one of the last percussion revolvers introduced by Colt. Mike has combined the old with the new and this Cartridge Conversion is fitted with a 5-shot cylinder chambered not in .38 Special or .38 Long Colt, but rather .380 ACP.

Pocket auto-pistols chambered in .380 ACP are quite popular, however this .380 Pocket Pistol is a revolver. This is one of those little pistols one could shoot with pleasure all day. Sights are very crude, with the rear sight being a notch in the hammer that's visible when it's cocked. But with patience you can hit what you're aiming at!

This is only a small sample of what's available from Cimarron. In addition to handguns they also offer the beautifully crafted Winchester rifles including the latest, a replica of the 1894 Winchester, and wonderful Browning-style low- and high-wall rifles.



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SPEAK OUT

Continued from page 10

If whacking your credenza with a rusty chain to make it “antique” is your thing, then this gun is probably right up your alley. Just do me a favor and be sure to wear your jeans when you take this gun to the range. You know, the “stonewashed” poly-blend ones with the carefully placed holes in the knees. As for me, I prefer the “history” on my guns comes naturally, and by my own hand. Keep up the great work, and God bless!

Robert Sweeney
Pahrump, NV

Point well taken, Robert. Like you, I like my old Colts with genuine wear and tear. But having said this, I recently put some patina on a pair of clone-guns (an SAA and a Model 92) for a weekend cowboy action shooter. I have to admit, it turned what were boring, almost invisible guns into ones catching the eye a bit. A friend visited while I was finishing up and spotted the Model 92. “Hey, where’d you get that great old Winchester?” he exclaimed. Once he picked it up, it took him a few seconds, then he said, “I’ll be damned, you sure fooled me for a bit there! This looks great!” I admit it was a fun project. —RH

Shooting Back

Thanks to Alan Korwin for his article “Shooting Back Checks Out Bad Guys” (Gun Rights, Nov/Dec, 2019). His statements, “Even plainly clothed congregants are learning about directed observation, pattern recognition, spotting things out of the ordinary. Dangerous lone strangers are facing a new threat to their safety, to which they are virtually unaware. The Rabbis know who is armed in the congregation, pastors are participating, priests are privy to reports. Training is taking place.” — are exactly on-target. As a pastor, I am involved in training my congregation to take those exact measures. Although I would never have thought of this necessity a few years ago, it’s certainly a reality now and my congregation is thankful for the security measures we have established.

Perhaps a lesson from the founding of our nation can help. One of my heroes from the American Revolution is Rev. Jonas Clark. John Hancock and Samuel Adams were visiting in the home of Rev. Clark one night. As they discussed tyranny, oppression and independence, Hancock and Adams asked Rev. Clark, “If war came, will the people of Lexington fight?” Rev. Clark didn’t wring his hands and wonder, he simply replied, “I have trained them

for just that.” The next day the “Shot heard ’round the world” was fired in the buggy lot of Rev. Clark’s church.

People of his congregation were killed. Looking with anguish, Clark said, “From this day will be dated the liberty of the world.” It began with the church, with a pastor — and many other pastors who were not afraid to speak out on liberty, oppression and tyranny. It must continue the same way in America today.

Rev. Jeff Jinks

Via email

As a pastor, I am involved in training my congregation to take those exact measures. Although I would never have thought of this necessity a few years ago, it’s certainly a reality now and my congregation is thankful for the security measures we have established.

Close ‘Em Down!

I’m seeing a lot of the “close it down” mentality for sites that are simply hate sites. I strongly suggest all these be left up and open. Put an invisible listener/tag on the site, showing who is visiting it, and as much info as is possible to get about that person. Make it a legal requirement to inform about a person who is getting ready to cause a mass shooting. It seems most all post their intent, so they can be identified. When the police get a notification, it can be run against any tag list/data base, to see if the report might be valid. If that person has a “follow” tag, go get them.

The thing is, if Google and Facebook can do this for underwear ads (remember how they follow you from browser to browser or website to website?), these tech people can do the same against mass shooters and terrorists. I feel methods of this nature would work better than the ignored laws all the knee jerk reactionaries propose.

Drake

Via email

.40 Or 9mm?

I’m fast approaching 80, but I still attend shooting classes at least 2–3 times a year. In the meantime, I shoot monthly in the Arizona desert where I can practice realistic shooting drills. For almost as long as I can remember, instructors

recommend a 9mm as the smallest caliber firearm that should be used in self defense — and most still do.

When I first got into self-defense shooting I started out with the 9mm. Then came police reports the 9mm could not put down a drug-crazed bad guy. Thus the police started going to the .40 S&W. So, I dumped my 9mm guns and went to the .40 as my self-defense caliber.

Now I see the craze is back to the 9mm, and even the .380. What am I missing here? Most of what I see in *Handgunner* are articles on 9mm and .380 pistols and how great they are. How are these two calibers useful as self-defense loads? I just do not get it. I’m sticking with my .40 HPs for my self-defense loads.

Chuck Stury aka “Bwana”
Tucson, AZ

Much of it is ammo technology changes, Chuck. In the early days of the 9mm (say, in the late 1970s and into the middle 1980s) bullet technology was unable to assure reliable performance in 9mm/.380 loads. So the idea of bigger holes (bigger calibers) made some sense. But by the early 1990s bullet tech caught up, and now today’s 9mm and .380 loads are extremely effective. Indeed, in the real world of documented shootings, there is essentially no difference between terminal performance between the 9mm/.40/.45 calibers. And recently, with the advent of some extremely effective .380 loads (like Black Hills Honey-Badger, CCI loads, Federal loads, etc.) the .380 is showing itself to be a reliable performer too.

I was a beat cop in San Diego, retiring in 1998. By then we had been carrying autos in 9mm for about 12 years. We used Winchester, then Federal 147-gr. sub-sonic loads in 9mm. When I retired we’d killed 74 bad guys with nothing I’d call a failure as long as the suspect was hit well. The 9mm worked fine and was easy to handle. Most agencies using the .40 are moving back to the 9mm for cost and the fact officers can shoot them better (faster follow-up shots, more accuracy, etc.) especially among the novice shooters being hired today.

You’re fine with the .40, but you can also be assured any good quality modern 9mm defensive ammo or even .380 ammo in a good gun would be fine too. I particularly like the S&W EZ .380 M&P. It’s a sort of medium-sized .380 with an easy-to-run slide, great sights, crisp trigger and easy to load magazine. Keep an open mind. —RH

Mass Shooter Studies

Mass shootings and suicides have something in common. They are generally perpetrated by those with mental issues. Yet because elected officials of a certain political bent do not want to

stigmatize or label someone as having mental health issues they have drastically reduced funding for mental health services of all kinds over the past few decades. I am not a psychologist, but my wife (who is a concealed carrier by the way) holds her PhD in the mental health field. According to her there are multiple, valid testing tools available which could identify (and hopefully help) potential mass shooters or suicidal subjects in advance, but the funding to support such testing and the mental health professionals who could provide appropriate intervention is simply not there.

On another subject, Dave Anderson's article on "One Eye Or Two?" (*Better Shooting*, Nov/Dec 2019) caught my attention. I am an old school cop taught to shoot a handgun well over 50 years ago, and the non-dominant eye closed was what was taught. I stayed with that for decades until it occurred to me one-eyed shooting contributes to a loss of depth perception and results in more tunnel vision than desired in a combat shooting. I tried like heck to break the old habit. Two things have made it much easier. One is fiber optic sights and the other is a red dot optic on my handguns. My daily CCW gun has fiber optics and for those (even in retirement) times I choose to carry, I use my last duty weapon with the added advantage of the red dot. Maybe it's just me but those two sight enhancements (compared to classic iron sights) make shooting with both eyes open much easier.

Thanks for the very best handgun magazine ever.

Jerry Boyd
Via email

Violence

Terry Baker's letter "Our Responsibilities" (*Speak Out*, Nov/Dec 2019) was most thought provoking. While he addressed the use of firearms in violent crimes and suicides, he neglected to confront the cause of violence we are now experiencing. Over the last 60 years our society has abandoned its customs, morals, traditions and self-restraint to limit bad behavior, including criminality. Many of our politicians, clergy and educators avoid condemning the worst among us and the atrocities they commit. It has become commonplace for teachers to be threatened with violence, or actually to suffer it. Much of our "art" is little more than filth that in many circles is celebrated and defended. Much of this is aimed directly at our children. Our language too has become debased. Terrorist acts and other criminal mass murders commonly are referred to as "tragedies" when in fact they are atrocities. Those committing such violence are referred to as "extremists," "militants,"

"depressed," "angry" or other euphemisms. Moreover, when the responsible parties are caught they are rarely ever executed. Does anybody remember Nicholas Cruz? For 20 months since he murdered over a score of students at Douglas High School in Florida he's been provided with "three hots and a cot" at taxpayer expense. Why has he not been hung? We have become inured to behavior our parents and grandparents would never have tolerated.

Our violence problem is not caused by guns — it's cultural degeneration and deviancy. These are incredibly complex issues, and not amenable to any "quick fixes." However, until those matters are addressed and dealt with, the past is but a prelude to the future. It will not be affected by limiting the rights of the citizenry, limiting the kinds of firearms we can own or the number of cartridges they can hold. Such proposals come from fools or charlatans, and will do nothing to cure our nation.

I appreciate *Handgunner's* willingness to allow people to be heard.

Nevin D. Holmberg
Via email

Our violence problem is not caused by guns — it's cultural degeneration and deviancy. These are incredibly complex issues, and not amenable to any 'quick fixes.' However, until those matters are addressed and dealt with, the past is but a prelude to the future.

Home Defense Revolvers

Thanks to Tiger McKee for his article (*Tactics & Training*, July/Aug 2019) about revolvers and home defense. While my carry gun is a compact 9, my nightstand gun is a lightweight .38 snub. It's also a great around-the-house gun. Nothing slides out of a pocket (holstered, of course) than the round frame of a wheel gun. With a bobbed hammer and smooth grips, it's a pound of personal protection. It does take practice to keep up with it, but a box or two a month at the range will keep you consistent. You will not improve, that will take more time and ammo. But if you are at a good place, it will keep you consistent.

And for we lefties, Charter Arms makes the Southpaw. A lightweight .38 snub, +P rated revolver made from the

ground up for we "10 percenters" — with the cylinder latch on the "proper" right side! I got one and I'm wondering where it has been all my life.

Keep up the great work!

Nathan Snell
Via email

A Changed Victim

In regard to Tim Schmeling's letter about training new shooters (*Speak Out*, May/June 2019) I second the "Hat's Off" given by *Handgunner*!

I was a victim of an armed robbery in Philadelphia in 1991 and since then, my wife/social worker says I was psychologically traumatized (which I can't confirm or deny). I was not carrying at the time because I was a new concealed carry license holder and was unsure of all the rules and regulations regarding the responsibility. But I educated myself quickly after that.

I can say since then I have more situational awareness. The incident made me a firm believer in carrying concealed for protection and I do it all the time now. I don't sit with my back to a door, I examine situations and places as I enter, I scan the area for potential hazards and exits, etc., and above all I don't allow myself to appear as a target.

If more people like Tim and me — and you fine folks at *American Handgunner* — spread the word on the 2nd Amendment there would be a lot less thievery in the world. Tim has done his job and done it well. I preach concealed carry to anyone who will listen and I speak from experience. I even use my hobbies to make concealed carry holsters for those who own and carry firearms. Your publication provides information and education on a regular basis as well. I'm not saying to go all out Charles Bronson in *Death Wish*, but if all of this effort spares even one person the fear Alyssa Wade and I went through, then we can all give ourselves a pat on the back.

Thanks for a great publication — and keep up the great work you do!

Bill Murdorf
Fairfield, PA

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NRA PPC COURSE

Continued from page 47

six shots and standing right-hand barricade six shots within 90 seconds at 25 yards. Reloading is required.

Match 3: Sitting, six shots from the holster, prone six shots, standing left-hand barricade six shots, and standing right hand barricade six shots, all within 2 mins and 45 secs at 50 yards.

Match 4: At 25-yards, standing from the holster, two strings of 12 shots, 35 secs each.

Match 5: The aggregate of Matches 1-4 fired again for a total of 60 shots.

Guns

Today NRA PPC matches can be fired with either a revolver or semi-auto, and categories for both revolver and semi-auto are "Production" and "Open Class." The difference being if you go in with a production gun it has to look like and operate exactly as if it came out of a retail box.

However, if you're serious about your shooting, the gun will have been gone over with a fine tooth comb — and fine stones! — by a top-notch gunsmith who knows revolvers and semis well.

As compared to an out-of-the-box production pistol, a full-on race-ready PPC revolver comes with a heavy bull barrel, after-market sights (on a sight rib), as well as after-market grips, usually custom fitted to your hand. And since this gun is for competition, the trigger pull can be reduced somewhat by a qualified gunsmith to soften the D/A pull. Often, the installation of a custom trigger stop was part of the process. But in reality, the vast majority of the best shooters shoot double action at every stage — even at 50 yards.

In those days, a pencil eraser glued to the back of the trigger guard — and carefully filed down — would do wonders for taking up trigger slack without the hammer falling unexpectedly. But the one thing you never ever want to do is play with the hammer spring tension, smoothing the action is one thing, but fooling around with hammer spring tension is foolish unless it's done by an expert and trusted gunsmith.

As an old, big city street cop I cringe when I think of days gone by when "kitchen gunsmiths" would take a good working competition revolver and attempt to smooth the action by reducing spring tension way past the critical point, only to have misfires on the line. And what really made me hyperventilate was when someone tried one of these hack and whack gunsmith jobs on their duty pistol. Even now just talking about it makes me uneasy. Leave the internal stuff to people who know what they're doing.

Semi-autos have their own design issues that are also best left to a qualified gunsmith.

Ammo Too

Another consideration is if you want to shoot PPC — even half seriously — you're going to need ammo and lots of it. The really lucky shooters have support from their department and/or maybe they get discounts through their department. But truth be known very few people get a chance to be sponsored in some fashion, and ammo is a big expense if it's being paid for out-of-pocket. Two workarounds for the ammo crunch come to mind. First, use factory ammo only at 50 yards and burn reloads on the closer distances.

Second, think about loading your own. I loaded tons of ammo back in the day and so did a lot of my buddies on the LAPD Pistol Team. The only time we enjoyed shooting factory ammo was when we got better and sponsors started wanting to share in our glory. But even then I felt like I was splurging if I used factory ammo up-close. As for the difference between factory ammo and reloads, unless you become a really good shooter you probably won't notice any difference, so don't feel cheated if you have to use reloads.

Accuracy Quest

Of all the "action courses" available I will go on record as saying PPC is the perfect balance between speed and accuracy. Even at the closer distances you really need to try and use your sights — no matter what you think about point shooting and trigger slapping. You can get suggestions on shooting all day long but nothing supports the basics of marksmanship like actually shooting. And actually shooting under pressure is the best teaching scenario of all.

If you're in law enforcement and you'd like to try PPC I encourage you to make some inquiries in your area/state and hook up with whatever PPC organization is available. If you're not a cop, you'll be pleased to know there are also PPC groups available for you if you beat the bushes a little. So go out there and pop some caps, and remember to watch those sights — even  if you don't want to!

Editor's Note: It was great fun to hook up with Fred. He actually used to write for Handgunner in the 1980s, and we both likely shot at some of the same matches in the late 1970s. I attribute my own ability to actually hit things with handguns today to the five or so years I spent shooting very carefully, all DA, at tiny points on targets, out to 50 yards. Bullet holes don't lie, and white paint on steel plates didn't cover up your mistakes! —RH

GUN RIGHTS

Continued from page 67

they're the best. America, we have reached a tipping point. We have reached the point the Founders armed us for, and only we the armed seem to notice. It's because we're old enough to have been educated before socialism overtook and overwhelmed the education system.

Lazy Us

America has gotten so opulent, comfortable and frankly lazy, the idea of using the front end of guns for their intended purpose — defense of freedom against a confiscatory, unconstitutional, radicalized government seems virtually unthinkable. Candidates don't fear our arms. They're proudly — proudly! — promising to confiscate, well, virtually everything that launches lead. Ask what they believe is protected, they stammer. Some believe and have said the Constitution protects muzzleloaders, from the time the document was written.

They say this into microphones that spread speech worldwide instantly. When the Constitution was written, speech traveled as far as you could throw your voice from a soapbox, and no farther. The irony is lost on them.

Their hatred — yes hatred — of you and your guns knows no bounds. The

days of denying it have ended. They are out of the closet. Some do hate guns in a hoplophobic way, like arachnophobes hate spiders and aquaphobes fear water. It's just blind medical hatred, and subject to cure, but medical magicians have their heads firmly up where the sun don't shine. They are "in denial," the left's favorite phrase for everyone but themselves.

But others hate you for the root cause — you represent freedom. The firearm in your hands is power, just like guns in their alphabet-soup agencies is power. Sure, power comes from the barrel of a pen, and they have those, but hard power comes from the barrel of a gun. They know this. They want yours which, just coincidentally, will leave you powerless. It will make their tyrannical leadership more secure. They understand it like the communist Chinese leadership understands it. And like every dictatorship that rules ("leads") a nation of people who are disarmed.

It Is Not Allowed

So at what point does the muzzle of your gun protect your gun from tyranny? When one of these socialist-dictator types (running as "green" candidates but actually outspoken virtual commie red ones) decides you can't keep a decent rifle you already own, and assaults it with "a bill"? Do you file a letter or protest? Do you wait for an official vote? Go to courts they run, with judges they

pay, and lawyers — yours and theirs — licensed by them, and learn, as Lenny Bruce poignantly noted, "In the halls of justice, the only justice is in the halls"? They're coming for your guns, loudly, proudly, in the open, now, on center stage. Do you really expect to get the kind of fair treatment the Central Park Five got?

It is beyond comprehension; ambitious candidates of an entire party are campaigning on things the Constitution bans, and getting cheering support.

I certainly don't advocate violence. On the other hand, like my armed countrymen, I vigorously support self-defense and am prepared to act if desperate immediate proximate criminal trouble were to arise, God forbid. I've been through intensive training, classes, reading, etc. for decades. I've written 10 books on the subject — so far.

What I haven't done is consider the dire threat politicians present to the nation, when they stoke the flames of revolution by doing precisely what the British did that got us there those many years ago. They have announced they're coming for our guns. It is not subtle. It is not limited. It 

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GUNNYSACK

WALKER SILENCER- BLUETOOTH EAR BUDS



Sometimes, especially when hunting, muffs, even electronic muffs, can be awkward and inconvenient, especially if you have a brimmed hat. The idea of in-ear, Bluetooth-enabled electronic noise suppression makes perfect sense. Until the past couple of years, the technology was still pretty basic, but these latest from Walker nails it. Basically they can be fitted to your ear using different size supplied tips, then controlled by a simple app on your phone. You can adjust noise filtering options, high frequency boost, power and general functions, all at your fingertips.

They are rechargeable using their carry box, have auto shut-off, and offer voice prompts in your ear so you know what the settings are. The Lithium charging battery is charged with a USB plug. The average battery life is about 14 hours in general use mode, and noise reduction is rated at 26. If you combined them with standard muffs it'd be even

higher. There's wind noise reduction, variable gunshot noise suppression, and I like the fact you can hear what's going on around you!

In actually using these, I found it pays to spend a few minutes to fit them correctly and learn how to use the app. You can control them using the buttons on the plugs but the app is sure convenient. I found they worked just fine, were comfortable and for me personally, I'd tend to use them more for field and hunting use rather than range use. For range use (especially indoor ranges) I prefer soft plugs combined with electronic muffs. For casual plinking, hunting or moderate target shooting outdoors, you forget you're wearing them. MSRP is about \$299. They make several models including similar units powered by No. 10 batteries (\$229). *For more info: www.walkersgameear.com, Ph: (877) 269-8490.*

CA-LEGAL COLT NIGHT COBRA

Four Colt revolvers were recently added to the California "certified for sale" roster approved by the state's Department of Justice. They passed all the hoopla-tests and can now be sold through licensed dealers there. The models include the 2" stainless matte Cobra with fiber-optic sight (Model SM2FO), and the bigger brushed stainless 3" .357 King Cobra with brass bead front sight (Model KCOBRA-SB3BB).

I particularly like the variants of the 2" matte blue DLC-coated (Diamond-Like Carbon) Night Cobra model — both are .38's. One has custom Colt G10 grips and night sights (Model COBRA-MB2NS). The other, our photo gun, has hyena brown grips (I think they're VZ grips) and a brass bead front sight (Model COBRA-HB2BB-HB). Note the snubbed hammer. This is very much like an old school "Detective Special" or "Cobra." The base gun is stainless steel so unlike the original weighing 15 oz., this model



weighs about 25 oz., or about like a Walther PPK at 24 oz.

It's a 6-shooter, with an overall length right at 7.25" and is rated for +P ammo if this matters to you. We've tried the parent guns and the action is smooth and pretty light and we've been impressed with them. Price is likely around the \$800 range but wasn't quite set when we wrote this. It's nice to see Colt return to the revolver business! *For more info: www.colt.com*

GUNNYSACK



CRKT MODEL 5400 XOC

lock will not fail, period. The easy-to-find button sits right at the pivot point for the blade and is a simple press away from releasing it to fold home. It's fast, easy and convenient, but most importantly, it allows you to keep your fingers out of the blade's path. A liner-lock design forces you to put your finger or thumb right in the path of the sharp edge of a blade as you unlock it to close. If you're already putting a bit of pressure on the blade in anticipation of closing it you have to keep your wits about you to avoid getting nipped — or worse. This can't happen with the Deadbolt, so a hurried closure means just that, with no blood involved.

XOC is pronounced "Shock" just to sort of set the tone on this over-the-top, over-built beast of a blade. Designed by Flavio Ikoma in Brazil, and produced by industry veteran CRKT, is this design overkill? You bet. If there ever was a case when bigger is better, you're looking at it now. Justifiably a limited run, if the 4.25" CTS XHP blade doesn't get your attention, the 10.37" overall length should. There's also a "pocket" clip hiding on the opposite side. Yeah, right, a pocket clip. Handle scales are weaved carbon fiber, mated to titanium for light weight and strength.

One of the most important things about this knife is its ground-breaking locking mechanism — The Deadbolt. Flavio worked for years perfecting it, and the XOC is one of the first knives to showcase it. The deadbolt has steel bolts interlocking with the blade when the blade is open. This solid, literal "bank-vault" lockup gives outrageous strength. This

I won't beat around the bush here, this knife costs \$750. Is it worth this much? It's beautifully made, innovative, built by a top-notch American company and designed by a true groundbreaker when it comes to knife-making. Factor in the extremely limited run, lifetime warranty and sheer attention-getting presence, the XOC will be the centerpiece of your collection. And it will always be worth more than you paid for it. If you choose to use this knife — and it's tempting — think: an ultimate survival or tactical tool, a first line of defense and performance for a soldier or cop, or simply a sublimely satisfying everyday carry if you're burly enough to manage it. If someone asks, "Anyone have a knife?" You can smile and say, "Sure, will this work?" *For more info: www.crkt.com, Ph: (800) 891-3100*

SNAGMAG

I use a SnagMag model every single day and have for about the past five or six years. In my mind, it's *the* way to carry a spare magazine if you're not wearing a belt pouch. The inventor, a plain clothes police officer, was struggling to find a good/easy way to carry a back-up mag. One day he looked at his knife clipped to his pocket and bingo — there it was. After messing with kydex the SnagMag was born. It rides in your off-side pocket (right-handed shooter uses a SnagMag in his left pocket), and looks exactly like a folding knife clipped to the pocket. It's simple, and the designed-in "snag" hook catches the pocket corner as you draw the magazine out, allowing a fast reload.

Each SnagMag is custom designed to fit particular magazines, and they have dozens. Basically, pretty much regardless of the model semi-auto you carry, they have a fit. I use one for a Kimber Solo mag and one for my Ruger LCPII mag (shown). At \$34.95 they're affordable, made in the USA and have a lifetime warranty. I noticed on their website they show 400+ reviews and five gold stars. Reviewers rave about them. Mine show zero wear and function 100 percent, and the older Solo model has lived a hard life. I also really



like the way it allows safe and efficient pocket carry for both your handgun and the reload. T-shirts and shorts on hot days are suddenly not a compromise time when it comes to carry guns. I can't recommend this product too highly — and it's a family-owned business! *For more info: www.snagmag.com, Ph: (425) 879-3238.*



NEWPRODUCTS



KING COBRA TARGET REVOLVER

Colt's Mfg. Co. LLC

Colt has added to its line of "snake guns" with the release of the *King Cobra Target Revolver*. Forged from American stainless steel, the 6-round capacity, double-action revolver features a 4" barrel, adjustable rear sight, elevated fiber optic front sight and custom wood medallion grips. It is the third model in the modern King Cobra series and was developed to bring the .357 magnum King Cobra to a competitive range. Colt reintroduced the King Cobra .357 in January 2019, followed by the King Cobra Carry in May 2019. Colt's snake guns continue to be popular for defense, target shooting and with collectors. *For more info: (800) 962-2658, www.colt.com*



AMMO KLIP

Ammo Armor

Ammo Armor is adding belt clips to their products after numerous customer requests. The *Ammo Klip* will eventually be available for all existing AMMO ARMOR models. The adjustable spring-steel clips allow users to carry the Ammo Klip on their belts or in their pockets for fast and easy access to spare magazines. *For more info: (800) 542-2666, www.ammo-armor.com*



MC1SC STAINLESS TWO-TONE PISTOL

O.F. Mossberg & Sons Inc.

Mossberg introduces the *MC1sc Stainless Two-Tone Pistol* featuring a bead-blasted, stainless-steel slide over a matte-black polymer frame. The slide has multi-angle serrations and is topped with low-profile, dovetail-mounted, white 3-dot sights. The 3.4" stainless-steel barrel features a black DLC (Diamond-Like Coating) finish and a 1:16 twist rate. This two-toned pistol joins the family of MC1sc models as Mossberg's first semi-autos in the company's 100-year history. *For more info: (203) 230-5300, www.mossberg.com*



FN 509 MIDSIZE MRD UPGRADES

Apex Tactical Specialties

Apex Tactical announces the availability of *FN 509 Midsize MRD Upgrades*. Here are the upgrades currently offered for the FN 509: 1) Action Enhancement Kit (part# 119-125); 2) Apex 9mm Threaded Barrel, 4" (part# 105-072); 3) Apex Heavy Duty Striker (part# 119-185); 4) Apex Failure Resistant Extractor (part# 119-168); and 5) Apex Optic Mount for the Aimpoint Acro P-1 optic (part# 119-109). *For more information: (623) 322-0200, www.apextactical.com*

X5 BUCKLE & TAN TACTICAL GUN BELT

Kore Essentials

Like other Kore Essentials gun belts, the *X5 Buckle & Tan Tactical Gun Belt* has no holes and no Velcro. Instead it uses a hidden track system with 40-plus micro-size positions to choose from. This gives the belt a ziptie-like fit keeping both holster and firearm secure. The newest version of the tactical belt has a reinforced power-core center for added strength and rigidity but remains flexible and comfortable to use. *For more info: (619) 303-9663, www.koreessentials.com*



TAURUS G3 HOLSTERS

CrossBreed Holsters



Predicting a high consumer demand, CrossBreed worked with Taurus to ensure holsters will be available when the latter's G3 semi-auto 9mm pistol was launched. The *Taurus G3 Holsters* are custom fit for the new polymer striker-fired G3. They include the IWB SuperTuck (in picture) and Freedom Carry for concealed carry and the SnapSlide, DropSlide, Open Top Pancake and SuperSlide for OWB. CrossBreed has also developed mag carriers to support the G3 holster options. *For more info: (888) 732-5011, www.crossbreedholsters.com*

STAINLESS SUENAMI 5

Grayman Knives



Grayman Knives is introducing the redesigned *Suenami 5* for those who want a handy, all-purpose knife with a 5" blade. The Suenami 5 features a full double-bevel, flat grind, 3/16"-thick 440C stainless steel blade for optimal cutting. The Suenami 5 is ruggedly built and corrosion resistant with a well-balanced configuration making it ideal for a wide range of uses. *For more info: www.graymanknives.com*



108 COMPADRE CHOPPING FROE Buck Knives

The *108 Compadre Chopping Froe* from Buck Knives is a multi-purpose wood-working tool for outdoor activities. Made of 5160 steel, the 9.5" blade is ideal for clearing brush, heavy chopping, splitting and batoning. Weighing under 2 lbs. and with an overall length of 16¾", the Compadre Chopping Froe is the right size for all outdoor tasks. It comes with a genuine leather sheath. For more info: (208) 262-0500, www.buckknives.com



12.7X42MM Starline Brass

Starline Brass will now manufacture its Part #3055 with the headstamp 12.7x42mm. The cartridge cases will still be in its original design but will no longer be stamped .50 Beowulf to comply with trademark restrictions. Designed for AR-

style rifles, the 12.7x42mm is a powerful big-bore cartridge using a large magnum pistol primer. For more info: (800) 280-6660, www.starlinebrass.com

N1 MICRO-COMPACT 9MM PISTOL Naroh Arms

The *N1 Micro-Compact 9mm Pistol* is the first firearm designed and produced by Naroh Arms, known for their skeletonized billet AR grips and rifle accessories. The N1 is packed with innovative features including a DAO hammer-fired operating system and aluminum internal frame offering the rigidity of an all-metal gun with the



interface of a polymer pistol. The 6.1"-long N1 has a width of less than 1" and weighs 16 oz. empty and just over 19 oz. loaded. It comes with a 7-round magazine with flush fit and extended base pads. The pistol ships with white 3-dot polymer sights and is compatible with all aftermarket G43/42 sight options. For more info: (321) 806-4875, www.naroharms.com



CLASSIC PT 92S Taurus

Taurus has added two models to its PT 92 semi-auto pistol line. The enhanced *Classic PT 92s* with Brazilian walnut wood grips reflect the heritage and classic styling of the popular full-frame handgun. Available in 9mm Luger, the pistols are built on drop-hammer-forged alloy frames in matte black or natural anodized finish. The alloy steel and stainless steel slide models are offered in black matte or matte stainless finishes, respectively, both with a 5" barrel and 17-round capacity. Other features include a manual safety and ambi decocker, integrated front sights, drift adjustable rear sights and more. For more info: (305) 624-1115, www.taurususa.com



MASADA PISTOL IWI US



The *IWI US MASADA* is a 9mm polymer-

framed, striker-fired pistol. Developed to meet modern battlefield requirements, its features were selected based on input from the military, LEOs and gun enthusiasts.

Ergonomically designed with ambidextrous controls, the optics-ready MASADA comes with three interchangeable back-straps and a 17+1 steel magazine. Its cold hammer-forged barrel is 4.1" long; OAL is 7.4". The frame is made of high-strength, impact-resistant fiberglass-reinforced polymers. For more info: (717) 695-2081, www.iwi.us

ADJUSTABLE POCKET HOLSTER Versacarry

Versacarry

Versacarry introduces the the *Adjustable Pocket Holster*, a stylish holster with a slim design for those who carry in their pockets. Handcrafted in Texas from water buffalo leather, it uses a unique Kydex claw to retain the holster in the pocket and enables the owner to adjust it to his needs. The claw grabs the pants pocket when the pistol is drawn allowing the gun to slide out cleanly. The Adjustable Pocket Holster is offered in a variety of sizes to fit most popular handguns. For more info: (979) 778-2000, www.versacarry.com



DEVIL'S CLAW 2

TOPS Knives

The *Devil's Claw 2* was originally designed as a deep-conceal knife. Reminiscent of karambits, it was only a matter of time before it got a makeover to become one. However, the new version is slightly more difficult to conceal. The Devil's Claw 2 has an OAL of 7.38" and weighs 5.6 oz. It still has the hawk bill blade shape but has a longer G10 handle with a ring at the end. Made of 1095 RC 56-58 with a Black Traction finish, the blade is 3.13" long, 0.19" thick and with a cutting edge of 2.75". The Devil's Claw 2 comes with a black Kydex sheath. For more info: (208) 542-0113, www.topsknives.com





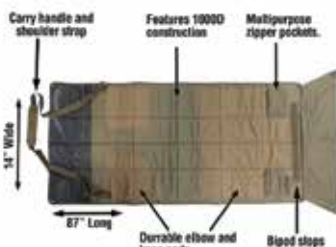
NEW PRODUCTS

TAC-MAT HD LONG-RANGE PADDED SHOOTING MAT

Lyman Products Corp.

Lyman's *Long-Range Shooting Mat* is ideal for target or tactical shooting as well as varmint hunting. It offers a large footprint that works well even for tall shooters, yet rolls up to a compact, easy-to-transport size. The Long-Range Shooting Mat comes in two versions: a basic design with a 600D construction in black or FDE; or a heavy-duty (HD) version with 1000D construction in black. The comfort-

able 2-lb. mats will protect you from dirt, rocks, wet surfaces, insects, hot truck beds, gravel or pavement. For more info: (800) 225-9629, www.lymanproducts.com



WALTHER PPQ 9MM COMPENSATOR

Jarvis Inc.

The *Walther PPQ 9mm Compensator* from Jarvis Inc. reduces muzzle rise and recoil felt by the shooter while firing. With a sleek design that follows the profile of the PPQ slide, the compensator will work on both Walther factory and Jarvis threaded barrels. To install, just screw the compensator on and tighten the single set screw at the bottom with the provided hex key wrench. For more info: (406) 625-2562, www.jarvis-custom.com



ABSOLUTE ZERO

Axeon Optics

Axeon Optics' *Absolute Zero* makes sighting in your rifle easy. Using two precision lasers, it guarantees your hold on the rifle will be in the same place for each shot to eliminate

error. It's a quick, efficient and accurate way to find your zero at 25 yards and allows you to zero in at 100 yards with cold-barrel accuracy. Recently improved, the Absolute Zero is now easier to mount on a rifle via Picatinny rail or clamped to a 1" or 30mm scope tube. It works across multiple platforms and calibers (including crossbows) and with any optic. For more info: (479) 646-4210, www.axeonoptics.com



NEW TACTICAL CARRY COMMANDER

Wilson Combat

Wilson Combat's *Tactical Carry Commander* has a traditional 4.25" Commander bushing barrel for a shorter, more concealable muzzle. An ideal choice for an everyday carry piece, the pistol's full-size carbon steel frame is fitted with a bulletproof round-butt one-piece magwell to enhance speed reloading and keep the handling similar to a full-size model. With an OAL of 7.85", the 8-round capacity Tactical Carry Commander comes with performance and cosmetic options as carry cuts, ball end mill slide cuts, serrated top and rear of the slide and countersunk slide stop post. It is offered in .45 ACP, 9mm and 38 Super. For more info: (800) 955-4856, www.wilsoncombat.com

563 STAG BONE HUNTER KNIFE

Bear & Son Cutlery

The *563 Small Stag Bone Hunter* from Bear & Son Cutlery is designed for big game hunters. Its 2 7/8" 440

stainless steel blade is rust-resistant and easy to sharpen. The clip-point fixed blade cuts cleanly into hard-to-reach places. A genuine India Stag Bone handle gives the 563 a traditional look yet this all-around cutting tool can be confidently used with or without gloves. A nickel silver finger guard gives additional control for tough jobs. With an OAL of 6 1/4", the 563 weighs 1.7 oz. and comes with a handmade leather sheath. For more info: (256) 435-2227, www.bearandsoncutlery.com



TACTICA CONCEALED CARRY LEGGINGS

Tactica Defense Fashion

Tactica Defense Fashion introduces the *Tactica Concealed Carry Leggings*. It adds defense options to your wardrobe allowing you to be "dressed to protect." The leggings can be worn underneath a skirt or dress, during a workout, or anytime you want to conceal a firearm. Made of spandex and nylon, they are stretchy, soft, flexible enough to allow free movement yet thick enough for complete coverage. With two built-in holsters for a right-hand draw, you can carry appendix at the 4:30 position. A separate left-hand pocket is for your cell phone or credit card. Two additional pockets on the thighs offer additional storage. For more info: (208) 618-4101, www.tacticaefashion.com



CZ 75 SP01 EXECUTIVE SERIES

Guncrafter Industries

Guncrafter Industries takes the *CZ 75 SP01 Executive Series* of pistols to the next level by adding distinct upgrades and finishes. The pistols now have Hot Salt Blue slides with polished flats, a flush cut and crowned barrel and the company's Slim-Tac G10 Grips.

The barrel and small parts are also DLC-coated. Clear Cerakote has been applied to the color case hardened frame sporting an engraved Guncrafter Industries logo. For more info: (224) 321-5044, www.guncrafterindustries.com

SIXGUNNER

Continued from page 14

accurate than the .45 ACP.

The first review of the .38 Super appeared in the May 1929 *American Rifleman*, written by Major Hatcher, who was a mainstay at the magazine at the time. He also praised the .38 Super for its accuracy and pointed out the new cartridge did not headspace on the mouth of the case as did the .45 ACP but rather on the rim of the case. The rim of the .38 Super cartridge is quite small. Both of these men found nothing lacking when it came to accuracy. However something must've gone wrong in the ensuing years.

By the time I had my first .38 Super that little rim was the problem when it came to accuracy. It was simply not large enough to hold the case properly and accuracy suffered. Bill Wilson understood this and it's exactly how he addressed the problem. His barrel did not headspace on the rim but rather on the mouth of the case, and it made all the difference.

What's In A Name?

I've always referred to it as ".38 Super" however I've noticed others referring to the "Super .38" so I begin to try to find out which is correct. Fitz, in his 1930 book, refers to it as the .38 Super Colt. However, Major Hatcher, one year earlier, entitled his article "The New Colt Super .38 Automatic."

Hatcher talks of shooting long-range with the Super .38: "My first shot with it was over the water. We stood on a little headland and fired at a floating oil can 200 yards offshore. The bullet seemed to be right there as soon as the trigger was pulled, and there was a vicious crack as the bullet struck the water just under the can. Then I fired with the same hold, using an Army .45. There was an appreciable interval before the bullet dropped in the water with a dull plop about three fourths of the way out.... A number of shots with both guns showed the results described was no accident, for the same thing happened each time." Later on he talks of shooting with his son and he says: "The gun shoots better than the shooter holds."

He also addresses how the Super .38 headspaces: "The .38 Automatic cartridge is crimped over at the front end, and there is no shoulder at the front end of the case. The cartridge is stopped in its position in the gun by a small shoulder formed on the overhanging lip on the top of the barrel."

Things Change

Apparently this was all it needed at the time, however something went wrong, as by the 1960s the .38 Super had a notorious reputation for inaccuracy. Hatcher

closes his evaluation of the Super .38 thusly: "A good shot armed with the new Super .38 would have no reason to be afraid of a man 150 yards away armed with a Government automatic .45. Chances are the man with the Super .38 can make the other lay down his gun."

Col. Cooper also refers to it as the Super .38 and says, "The Super shoots flat and accurately and is about the only auto pistol I like to use for trail work on small game and varmints."

**I've always referred to it
as '38 Super' however
I've noticed others
referring to the 'Super
.38' so I begin to try to
find out which is correct.**

This brings us to Douglas Sheldon's excellent book *Colt's Super .38: The Production History from 1929 through 1971* (1997). He says the year 1971 was picked as the cutoff since before this time "... The Super .38 Model was listed in the company catalog as a separate model. It was replaced by the 70 Series pistols which simply offered the Model O in three different calibers."

The Samples

I then looked at all the .38 Super/Super .38 pistols I could come up with. Six of these were Colt versions. All of them, whether they were full-sized 1911's or Commanders, were marked on the barrel: "Colt Super .38 Auto" and only one of the six was marked on the slide with the chambering. This was a Colt Commander marked: ".38 Super Automatic."

Whatever the problem with Colts in the 1960s has been solved and all of these .38 Supers now shoot very well. My first .38 Super with the Wilson barrel is marked on the barrel: "Wilson Super .38" as is a 1911-sized Wilson Combat Classic. Both Springfield Armory and Kimber mark their semi-automatics ".38 Super." It has been a while since Springfield Armory offered the .38 Super, however a few decades back they did produce their Mil-Spec 1911 in this favored cartridge.

We have companies marking their semi-autos pistols both ways, and all the ammunition I have seen is marked .38 Super. The best I can come up with is patterned after Sheldon's theory, which is, the original model was the Super .38 and all subsequent models have been .38 Supers. It really doesn't matter what we call them today. I just know it's a "Super" semi-auto pistol and cartridge.



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PS Form 3526 SE 8-10

ARMED CITIZEN STOPS SPREE KILLER: THE TUMWATER WALMART INCIDENT

SITUATION: You are shopping with your family when a gunman on a rampage opens fire in the store ... and you are armed.

LESSON: Planning for emergencies — and training for them — can save more lives than just your own.

Sunday, June 17, 2018, late afternoon. It's Father's Day. David George, 47, enters the WalMart in Tumwater, Washington with his wife, his adult daughter, and his young granddaughter. They are exchanging the little girl's tricycle, and David heads to the customer service desk at the front of the store. It's a pleasant day and David is dressed casually, in shorts and a tee shirt. The untucked tee conceals a Gen3 GLOCK 19 pistol with Ameri-Glo sights, worn at the 3:30 position behind his right hip in a Blade-Tech Nano inside the waistband holster. A pastor by vocation, he's also a volunteer EMT. Both jobs have made him a natural protector of others and his daily wear of a concealed handgun is simply an extension of this identity.

In the next few minutes, David George will find a desperate need to use his GLOCK.

Rampage

Timothy Day, 44, has been convicted of at least seven crimes, and has twice served hard time for being a felon in possession of a firearm. He has a history of abusing his wife and others. He will later be described by his former wife of 13 years as a paranoid drug user. Northwest Public Broadcasting reporter Austin Jenkins will later write, "... Day had a history of mental illness and was prone to bouts of paranoia — often fueled by using meth. [His former wife] started carrying a concealed pistol to protect herself against Day. She also had a protection order against him because of Day's history of domestic violence [and said], 'He would put his hands over my face, covering my mouth and my nose and, of course, I would try to fight back and he would hold on and I would almost pass out ... I tried so hard to tell the courts not to let him out, that he would hurt somebody.'"

Her plea had apparently fallen on deaf ears. On this day, he has borrowed a car and gotten a gun from someone else, a Ruger LCR. He begins his spree attempting to steal another car from a family near a gas station. Unsuccessful, he flees, driving in the wrong direction on a highway entering the city of Tumwater.

Near Tumwater High School, he crashes his vehicle at an intersection. Q13 News will later report, "He then left his car and attempted to carjack at least two other people, fired shots at the vehicles, and demanded owners abandon their cars. Day was successful in carjacking a third vehicle that he drove to WalMart, police said. Upon arriving, officers found a 16-year-old boy and another victim suffering from minor injuries."

The boy's "minor injury" was a gunshot wound. Day had shot the boy in the hand while trying to steal his car. Another motorist was the luckiest of all: the bullet Day had fired at his head had barely missed, striking the headrest instead.

Violent Spree Continues

At or shortly before 4:40 PM, the many WalMart security cameras begin to capture the image of Tim Day in action. His stolen SUV is seen trying to back into a cart corral and bump into it instead, then move jerkily away and park in front of the main entrance. The cameras now record proof of the general public's obliviousness to their surroundings.

Not only does no one so much as glance when he jumps out of a car rudely and obstructively parked out of place: *No one seems to take notice when Day emerges, gun in hand, and runs through the inside of the WalMart, traversing nearly the length of the building diagonally.* One person obligingly, automatically steps out of his way without so much as a backward glance; another, bumped by Day, turns with an indignant "What?!" body language but does not appear to see the loaded revolver the man who ran into him is plainly holding.

Day makes his way to the sporting goods section, where he approaches the locked glass-front ammunition display. A security camera shows us two muzzle flashes and flying glass as he shoots it open, pulls out a box of .38 Special ammo, and calmly proceeds to reload the LCR. He then closes the cylinder and moves away briskly, only to return to snatch up the box with the remaining rounds. Day then races toward the front door.

Continued on page 72

top of the Colt and one broken tap as I recall, it went together. Much to my surprise and delight, the cross-hairs were even straight. That was a good thing as the scope can't be rotated in the mount.

Did it work? In spades, as they say.

I shot a zillion rounds out of this combo and it chased no-end of Southern California jack rabbits, Necco Wafer targets (remember those?) and counted plinking adventures in the thousands. I remember at the time being able to keep pretty much ragged, one-hole groups at 25 yards with the right ammo. It was a deadly combo and I've never seen one like it since. Today, it's easy to scope a .22 pistol, and my S&W Victory .22 in the picture is sort of a modern version of what I did 33 years ago — but the Woodsman still rocks, if you ask me.

When I saw it in my safe not long ago I dug it out and put it to work. It'd been years since I had shot it last. I found it was glitchy though, failing to engage the sear sometimes, and even doubling now and again. Hmmm ...

I dug into it and guessed the sear spring had taken a set or weakened some — hey, 70 years is a long time — so tuned it up a bit, re-shaping and re-tempering it. After the install, all ran just fine again. I went ahead and put in a new hammer spring and recoil spring while I was at it too. A good lesson here if your Woodsman is doing the same thing — it's likely the sear spring is not engaging the sear reliably.

My target shooting afterward revealed the old girl still shoots. That ragged one hole, 5-shot group at 25 yards was done with CCI Stinger ammo, of all things! It was the best at that range. One group with CCI Mini-Mag HP at 40 yards measured about 1.25". Nothing went over 1" at 25 yards. I don't care who you are, that sort of performance out of a 70-year-old gun with a 50-year-old scope and 65-year-old trigger-man is amazing — and great fun. If all this sounds interesting, dig up a beater Ruger Standard Auto, or old Browning Buckmark .22 and go to work. Let me know how it goes if you do it.



CROSSBREED FOR TAURUS G3

If you're looking for a good holster to fit your new Taurus G3 9mm, you can stop searching. CrossBreed has developed an entire lineup of holsters fitting the G3, along with accessories like mag carriers. Look for OWB carry, Pancake, SuperSlide and more models. A trusted maker for years and one we can highly recommend without hesitation. www.crossbreedholsters.com



ROBAR'S DONE BUT NP3'S STILL ALIVE!

Robar has shut its doors, but Robbie Barrkman, the gent who started it all decades ago (and sold Robar a few years ago), said he didn't want the coating side of things to die. So, Robbie (who owns the NP3 brand and others) is going to continue to offer NP3, NP3+, Nickel, Bluing, Parkerizing and his hot new ArmorLube. Robbie told me, "I didn't want my old customers, new customers, friends and industry people to lose access to these great products so we'll keep them going!" While the custom gunsmithing side of things is gone now, Robbie's commitment to keep one of the best coating technologies going is great news for we shooters. Everything is done to aerospace quality specs, and it shows in the final product. Drop them a note at info@coatingtechnologiesllc.com and they'll get you going on how to take advantage of this great service!



LISTER ENGRAVING BOOK

This is a coffee table book in the fullest sense of the description. While guns are the medium, I'd simply call this an unparalleled art book. Weldon Lister also does stunning engraved jewelry (knives, bracelets, etc.) so there's a good dose of that in here too. His work has always impressed me due to the depth and three dimensional look he gets. If you're planning a project, you'll refer to this book again and again. It's a limited edition, so don't drag your heels — \$125, shipping included in the U.S. Email: wlister@gvtc.com, Weldon Lister Engraving, 116 Juniper Ln., Boerne, TX 78006.

ADD IT UP

701,389

Facebook logins per minute.

510,000

Comments posted per minute.

\$4,722

Sales per second on Amazon.

\$17 MILLION

Sales per hour on Amazon.

350,000

Tweets per minute.

500 MILLION

Tweets per day.

700

Hours of video added to YouTube — per minute.



GARDEN GUN BACK

My grandfather kept a single shot .22 loaded with LR shot cartridges handy to keep pests out of their vegetable garden. The funny thing is this was in Long Beach, in the city, in the early 1960s. I don't know if that rifle was a smoothbore but Henry has recently revitalized the concept of the Garden Gun. In the old days, makers made rifles without rifling specifically to shoot small bore "shot" cartridges to rid pests from barns, gardens, sheds and the like. The shot cartridges shoot much better without rifling. Henry's new Garden Gun holds 15 rounds and I predict is going to be hugely popular. How about Oreo Cookie skeet! Ha! www.henryusa.com

FLATEYE LIGHT



This light has an "unround" body, allowing you to index it easily. It doesn't roll off things and it tucks into a back pocket. It uses eight (!) CR123 batteries delivering 2,100 lumens for four hours, 1,100 lumens for six hours and 50 lumens for 40 hours. It's an aluminum body, polymer grip, double-switched for safety, waterproof, shockproof and rugged as hell. At 2,100 lumens it lights up my entire west pasture out to several hundred yards. Between \$50 and \$200, it's an ultimate life-saving, survival light at every level. I noticed amazon.com has them in different sizes. www.panthervision.com

THE INSIDER

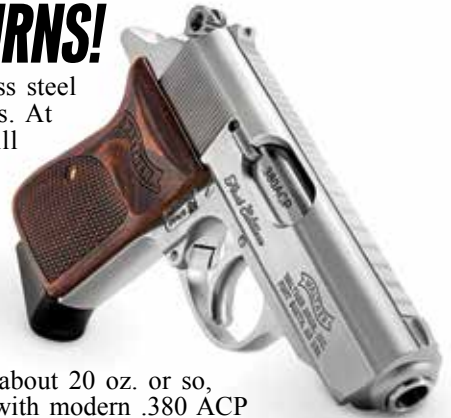
HI-POINT FAILURE?

Okay so what you're seeing here is the muzzle of a Hi-Point 9mm carbine showing bullets stuck in the bore. That first one stuck, then 29 more followed, filling the entire barrel, with no bulging or untoward things transpiring. The owner returned the gun for "inaccuracy" as it "failed to hit the target" during his shooting. Hi-Point honored the guarantee, sending a new gun to the shooter, along with a note recommending how using the proper ammo and load might make the gun "more accurate" in the future! A testimony to Hi-Point's strength, and earns points to the factory for honoring their guarantee even in light of the screwball behind the trigger! www.hi-pointfirearms.com



WALTHER PPK/S RETURNS!

The First Edition PPK/S .380 in stainless steel is a limited run by TALO distributors. At only 1,250 pistols, serial numbers will be 101 to 1350 and will be a one-time run. These are U.S. guns, built right in Fort Smith, Arkansas, having cocobolo wood grips and "First Edition" marked on the slide. We've got our order in for one as we speak. I wasn't able to find out a price but all the features seem to be classic PPK/S design. Sometimes old-school is just fine, and this looks like one of those times. At about 20 oz. or so, it's light enough to carry — and effective with modern .380 ACP ammo. We'll let you know what we learn. www.waltherarms.com



S&W'S NEW/OLD MODEL 648

Built on the classic K-Frame, the 648 in stainless offers eight rounds of .22 Magnum from a full-underlug 6" barrel. If you pay attention to modern .22 Magnum loads, you'll find some of them are tailored for better performance from the shorter barrels of handguns. In the old days, much of the .22 Magnum punch was lost due to unburnt powder. I like the .22 Magnum in a rifle a great deal and the killing power is several levels above .22 LR ammo. This brings some serious versatility to the idea of a .22 hunting revolver. MSRP is \$749. www.smith-wesson.com

JANELLE COOPER PASSES



Mrs. Cooper passed recently surrounded by her family. She was 99 years old. Janelle was the wife of Col. Jeff Cooper, who, with her able help, founded Gunsite in 1976. Since Jeff's passing some years ago, Janelle's residence at Gunsite, The Sconce, has been the scene of countless legendary tea, lemonade and brownie get-togethers for Gunsite's "250 Class" students. I've had the pleasure of chatting with Janelle many times, have visited her at the Sconce and know members of the Cooper family. To call Janelle an icon is to understate her presence in our industry. Our hearts go out to the extended Cooper family.





A WOEBEGONE WOODSMAN NO MORE

This all started typically for me. I walked into a gun store on University Avenue in San Diego about 1980 and there, staring at me from the display case, was a “sorta’ rusty” Second Series Colt Woodsman, which “mostly worked” according to the counter guy. In those pre-internet days his “Colt” book showed it to have been made in the 1949 to 1950 time frame. For a “Hunnert bucks” I owned it.

I had been hankering after a real Colt Woodsman for a long time but most were outside of my pay grade. Sure, Ruger Standard .22 Autos likely did the same job, but they didn’t have the elegant lines of the fabled Woodsman. Besides, all my old *Gun Digest* books had old guys wearing fedoras taking aim with those early slender Woodsman autos and it all seemed very mysterious. They looked like they knew something I wasn’t privy to. But now I’d find out, wouldn’t I?

Thanks to Numrich Arms, I soon had a new firing pin and found the Colt shot just fine. The rifling was clean and sharp and it seemed to run well. Accuracy was also excellent with my then-young eyes. But the light pitting and patina just didn’t set right to me so after much slow work



S&W’s SW22 Victory (top) is a sort of modern version of what Roy did 33 years ago with the Colt Woodsman below.

with wet-or-dry paper and even a fine file at times, it was looking pretty good in the white. A local gunshop handled a re-blue — \$49 since I had done all the hard work — and the result is what you see in the pics. While not that lovely early Colt blue, it got the job done and I had a “real” Woodsman. While not as rakish as the early ones having the pencil barrel, it was still fun to own and shoot.

Years Passed

Around 1986 the Colt was on my work bench and by an odd coincidence, so was a very early Bushnell Phantom scope.

That was the 1.5 power scope which, when you looked through it, always seemed to make the target seem smaller than real life.

I once had an optics engineer explain it to me but it still didn’t make any sense, so I just nodded like I was understanding him, then trundled off still confused. I still don’t

understand how a 1.5x “magnification” makes things smaller.

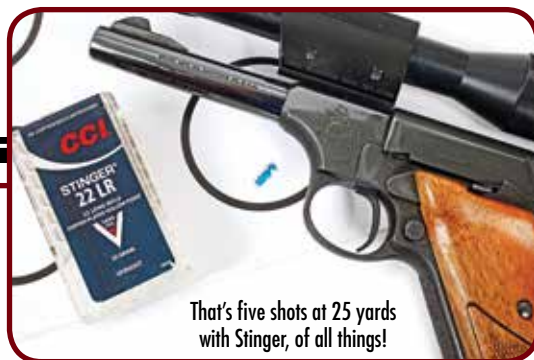
Nonetheless, smaller or not, I started to eyeball that scope, then the Colt sitting nearby, then the scope, then the Colt — this going on for some time. I even held the scope up to the top of the gun and it sorta’ looked right. I dug into my “scope bits” box and found a rail from an early TC Contender which the scope’s integral mount would fit on.

Then I eyed my bench-top milling machine — and an idea was born.

“Bein’ since” — as they say here in Missouri — this wasn’t a collectible Colt I figured installing the scope on it wouldn’t hurt a thing and just might be pretty darn fun to boot. With no small amount of eye-balling involved, some breath-holding while I drilled into the



Roy tried a bunch of .22 ammo just for fun. The CCI seemed to shoot the best in this old gun.



That’s five shots at 25 yards with Stinger, of all things!



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