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Official Journal of the National Rifle Association

May 2018

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NRA MENTOR

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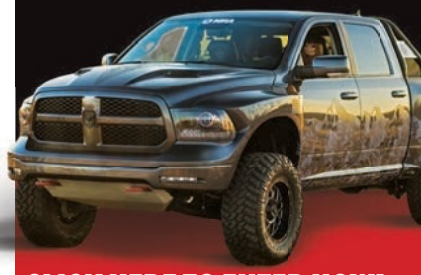

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SHOOTING Illustrated

Volume 17 • Number 5 | May 2018

Official Journal of the National Rifle Association of America

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

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18 Gun Owners Framed to Take the Fall for a Crime They Did Not Commit

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By Jeff Gonzales

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OLEG VOLK

Budget Bullpup: High Tower Armory MBS95 Hi-Point Carbine Stock

The Hi-Point pistol-caliber carbine is a popular budget firearm for many shooters, and the company boasts that more than 750,000 have been purchased by consumers across the country. Now, owners of this platform can take their carbine to the next level with this bullpup-conversion stock from High Tower Armory. With a simple furniture change, the carbine is transformed into an easily maneuverable defensive firearm with plenty of room for extras.

Smith & Wesson M&P M2.0 Compact Torture Test: Part One

The Smith & Wesson M&P has proven to be a go-to platform for use by individuals and agencies all over America. Recently, the company launched its upgraded M2.0 series of handguns and supported the release with a compact design built for concealed-carry. How does this new platform stack up in terms of performance, reliability and durability? We embarked on a 2,000-round test to find out.

I Carry: FN 509 in a Galco Combat Master Holster

When the U.S. Army's Modular Handgun System program was in full swing, FN America dedicated a million rounds of testing to its entry, which eventually developed into the FN 509. This pistol is a solid choice for personal protection, so we built an everyday-carry kit around the platform using materials from manufacturers including 5.11 Tactical, Galco Gunleather, Coast Products and Ontario Knife Company.

News

FN America Kicks Off 'Battle-Proven Tour'

Steyr Arms Launches All-New Training Academy

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Springfield Armory Professional 1911-A1

Rise Armament 1121XR 6.5 Creedmoor Rifle

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Some of the photographs in this magazine illustrate specific shooting stances or positions in which it was occasionally necessary to position the camera in front of the muzzle for instructional purposes. At no time was a loaded, functioning firearm used in these photographs; special, deactivated guns or solid plastic gun simulators were employed. In some cases the image was taken using a remotely triggered camera.

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Letter from the Publisher

Dear Fellow Member,

For the fourth year in a row, NRA Publications is leading the charge to promote safe shooting through our Mentor Initiative. And this year, it's more important than ever, as our firearms freedom has come under attack in light of national tragedies.

Despite the negative press in the wake of the Florida school shooting, the NRA remains committed to preserving our Second Amendment rights. We all need to do our part to get more Americans to stand with us.

That's why I'm urging you to be a Mentor.

To take part in the NRA Mentor Initiative, like 55,000 NRA members have done in the past, all you have to do is take a new shooter to the range during May 2018. This will give you the opportunity to enter the Mentor Sweepstakes, where you will have a chance to win one of dozens of prizes.

This year the sweepstakes prizes are brought to you by donors Taurus USA, Winchester Ammunition, Walker's and Davidson's.

In the center of this issue, you'll find details about the Mentor Initiative and the sweepstakes.

And because we believe every new shooter can benefit from NRA membership, we encourage you to tell newcomers they can join by calling (800) 977-4672 or going online to **nra.org/mentor2018**.

With the upcoming mid-term elections, where it will be imperative for us to keep pro-gun majorities in the U.S. House and Senate, we need new members who can expand our grassroots efforts to keep our right to bear arms.

By lending a hand and introducing new shooters to our ranks, we can show that NRA members are the good guys. So join me in becoming an NRA Mentor!

Doug Hamlin
Executive Director, NRA Publications

Editor's Note

Many readers wrote to express their displeasure with our covering a Scottevest product in the March "Pro Shop" column, owing to the company founder's disparaging comments about his customers and conservative Americans in general. Those comments were made after the March issue went to press, so we could not pull the Scottevest product from the article, which we would have done had he made his insipid views known earlier.

While we found his company's products to be worthy of coverage, as potential customers we share your anger at the founder's disrespect for his fellow Americans and will not cover those products in the future.

—Ed Friedman

We're Witty!

I got the joke in the review of the Midland Arms Backpack shotgun in the March issue. The comparison box showed the cost of the Backpack shotgun versus various other products. One of those products was a 1-year digital subscription to the *New York Times*. When I saw that, I laughed so hard I had to stop reading. The idea that anyone foolish enough to read the New York Fishwrap would also have the sense to be interested in *Shooting Illustrated* is funny indeed. What is positively hilarious, however, is the comparison. Measuring the price of a Backpack shotgun to a *New York Times* subscription is unfair—the Backpack shotgun looks like a well-built, reliable traveling shotgun affordably priced and well worth it. You and I both know that a subscription to the *New York Times* in any form is worth absolutely nothing. Good one!

Scott James
via e-mail

Recoilless

Wiley Clapp mentioned in the March "Fightin' Iron" column that he never laid eyes on the 90 mm recoilless rifle. I spent the good part of a day while I was at ROTC Summer Camp in 1969 in the company of three different recoilless weapons. The camp was held at Fort Indiantown Gap Military Reservation in Pennsylvania. The class and range time covered the 90 mm and 106 mm recoilless rifles and the 3.5-inch rocket launcher (bazooka). Clapp mentioned the backblast area—we were given a very effective demonstration of its danger. A wooden ammunition crate was placed directly behind the breech of a 106 mm. When it was fired, not only was the crate blown apart, some of the pieces had holes burned through them by the burning powder grains ejected from the breech. The 106 mm was interesting because it had a .50-caliber spotting rifle on it. When you stood in the loader's position to observe the backblast area during firing, you saw a vision out of Dante's "Inferno."

Johnsey Cabaniss
Roanoke, VA

Correspondence is welcomed and encouraged

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

Swansboro, N.C., lost a little of its small-town charm one day in February, when a law enforcement officer and someone he had pulled over for a traffic violation got into a tussle. Fortunately for officer Aaron Thompson, an armed citizen, who was not too far behind, prevented the situation from escalating. Thompson had been on patrol when he noticed a box truck being driven erratically. The vehicle pulled over when Thompson flashed his lights and siren, but when the police officer exited his car, the truck driver took off. Thompson caught up and the vehicle stopped again. This time, the police officer ordered the driver out of the truck and took him to the side of the road, where the culprit started "fighting or pulling away from the officer," according to Swansboro Police Chief Ken Jackson. A passing armed citizen saw the two men wrestling in the roadside ditch. He stopped his car, grabbed his Smith & Wesson handgun and yelled at the scoundrel to stop resisting. Upon noticing the gun, the suspect complied. (*Jacksonville Daily News*, Jacksonville, N.C., 2/19/18)

In a second recent case of an armed citizen helping out law enforcement, a Utah police officer was scuffling with someone near a clothing donation collection bin. A passerby who was carrying a concealed handgun did what a law-abiding gun owner would be expected to do. He stopped his car, got out, aimed at the assailant and yelled at him to stop. The man scurried off and was later arrested and charged with assaulting a law enforcement officer. The officer sustained a fractured eye socket and lacerations. (Associated Press, Springville, Utah, 2/4/18)

Law-abiding citizens who have a firearm to protect themselves or their loved ones typically use the gun only as a last resort. This was apparently the case in Tulsa, Okla., when the owners of a liquor store that was being robbed tried other options first, but eventually ended up shooting an armed thief. The man entered the store with a shotgun, and the owner's daughter cooperated with his demands for money, giving him access to the cash register. Video surveillance showed that the thug began to leave but came back. While he was moving away, the owner joined her daughter behind the counter and grabbed a gun. They crouched behind the cover until the bad guy came back around to them and the owner then fired. The troublemaker backed off, but came back, grabbed the owner, pistol whipped her and tried to wrestle the gun from her. At that point, her adult daughter shot the intruder, ending the situation. (*Tulsa World*, Tulsa, Okla., 2/25/18)

An escaped convict is probably thinking twice about his decision to try carjacking someone while he was on the run from corrections officers. Turns out, the driver of the car he tried to take had a concealed-carry permit and was armed. The prisoner had stolen a truck and escaped from custody on Feb. 3, and several days later was in a Department of Corrections medical facility being treated for a gunshot wound. He was originally imprisoned in 2003 on a 30-year sentence for armed robbery. (*Clarion Ledger*, Jackson, Miss., 2/7/18)

During a 911 call, a Georgia woman reported she had shot a man who tried to assault her after emerging from his hiding place in a closet. She said she initially tried to fight him off with a spoon, but he was relentless in his attack. She had to shoot to protect herself and her 12-year-old daughter. When police arrived, they found the wounded troublemaker lying outside the home. Investigators say he apparently stumbled out of the house before collapsing on the ground. The miscreant later was pronounced dead at a hospital. Police identified him as a one-time child molester who was listed on the state registry of sex offenders. No charges were filed against the armed citizen. (wtvy.com, Dothan, Ga., 2/6/18)

An armed citizen in Maryland said he would have been content to "give [an intruder] a pass" if only the troublemaker had stayed away from the bedroom. But when the suspect crashed through the bedroom door, the retired teacher said he had no choice. He fired, hitting the burglar twice. The resident had woken up around midnight to take some medicine when he heard noises and thought an animal was scuttling around outside. However, he then heard someone walking through the house. The homeowner holed up in his bedroom, but had his gun at the ready. The evildoer fled through the basement and was caught later by police. (wusa9.com, Washington, D.C., 1/31/18)

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By Wayne LaPierre
Executive Vice President

We Won't Waver Despite Media Attacks

I have long believed, and often said, that one of America's greatest threats is a national news media that fails to tell the truth.

When members of the news media ignore truth and, instead, distort it to deceive Americans to fit their own agenda, the democratic principles upon which our nation was founded are threatened.

NRA members and gun owners have long witnessed the media's deliberate distortion of the truth. Reporters who couldn't tell the difference between a semi-automatic and a sharp stick rush to the cameras with calls for bans on all sorts of firearms and magazines and anything else they can think of. Media pundits mock the more than 100 million law-abiding American gun owners, and the media outlets waste no time in exploiting tragedy to blame and shame NRA members for the violent, criminal acts of deranged madmen.

In the nearly four decades I've been helping the NRA defend our freedom, I've never seen the national media consistently tell the truth about our Association and our Second Amendment. But gun owners—and the freedom we fight to preserve—have never been as savagely attacked as during the past year.

Think about it. Is there an evil, nasty name the media hasn't called us? Killers. Crazy. Gun nuts. Whackos. Bullies. Insane. Cold-hearted. Evil. Nut jobs. Murderers. Not to mention a lot of names most of us would never repeat.

For the national news media, it's not about truth. It's about destroying the NRA to destroy the Second Amendment. So they'll go on any attack they can and tell any lie they conjure. It reminds me of the lyrics of that old Don Henley song, "Dirty Laundry."

Dirty little secrets
Dirty little lies
We got our dirty little fingers
In everybody's pie
We love to cut you down to size
We love dirty laundry

We can do "The Innuendo"
We can dance and sing
When it's said and done
We haven't told you a thing
We all know that Kraft is king
Give us dirty laundry

If it were just a matter of most of the media hating NRA members, that would be one thing. But it's far more than that. We face a well-orchestrated, coordinated, deliberate effort to demean and diminish the NRA and regulate our freedom out of existence. You see, the national news media have been taken over by a new wave of European-style socialists who don't believe in our constitutional freedom or free-market capitalism. These are the principles that have made America the greatest nation on Earth.

The 5 million men and women of the NRA, and the millions of American gun owners who look to us for leadership, might be the only group capable of stopping these European-style socialists from achieving their dream state.

That is why the national media attacks against the NRA have become so aggressive.

Just this past February, NBC's Chuck Todd said this about the NRA: "They [NRA] are showing no empathy. … They seem to stick their head in the sand. Not even wanting to pretend to offer answers or solutions or alternative ideas. … They have not presented themselves as part of the solution."

Not part of the solution? We've offered the only solutions that work. So, one more time, I'll remind all of the national news media about where the NRA stands.

- We remain steadfast in our commitment to individual freedom, and empowering law-abiding Americans to make their own decisions about the safety and security of themselves and their families.
- We are absolutely determined to pass the Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act.

We have repeatedly offered real solutions that are proven to work:

- Put trained, armed security in every school.
- Fix the broken mental health system.
- Enforce the federal gun laws against every drug dealer and criminal gang member on the street to stop them before they get to their next victim.
- Immediately prosecute dangerous people when they show up to buy a gun.
- And once and for all, heed our call that has gone unanswered for 25 years: force every state to submit the name of every last prohibited person into the background check system.

These are real solutions that respect the individual freedom that is the birthright of every law-abiding American citizen.

No matter how hard the national news media tries to bully and cow us into submission, NRA members will never, ever waver in defense of the individual liberty of every single law-abiding American.

Together, we will always stand as "Freedom's Safest Place."

Wayne LaPierre

GUN OWNERS, AND THE FREEDOM WE FIGHT TO PRESERVE, HAVE NEVER BEEN AS SAVAGELY ATTACKED AS DURING THE PAST YEAR.

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By Pete R. Brownell
President

Mentor a New Shooter, Save the Second Amendment

May has been designated NRA Mentor Initiative month. The NRA, with support from the firearm industry, has designed an initiative with a very simple objective; we are calling on each of our 5-million-and-growing NRA members—and everyone else in the firearm community—to find someone who has never fired a firearm before, take them to the range and help them put their first rounds on target.

There's no better way to inform Americans on the Second Amendment than to provide a positive, first-hand experience. It's been my experience that within minutes of the safety briefing, a lesson on marksmanship and the first pull of the trigger, all of the preconceived notions and media-fueled biases melt away, leaving only an excited smile and a desire for more.

Whether your newcomer ultimately joins the firearm community or simply walks away more informed, they've left learning some invaluable lessons—not the least of which is gun safety. I would also hope the next time they hear a discussion regarding firearms, gun rights or gun owners that doesn't relate with their own, first-hand experience, they will be much more likely to see and call out bogus information for what it is. Perhaps more importantly, they will be inclined to speak up and set the record straight for those less informed.

It's often said, "A lie will make its way around the globe before the truth can get its boots laced up." Sadly, plenty of media outlets are happy to give globe-trotting untruths a free ride. Each and every person who knows the facts can serve as a stoplight long enough for the truth about firearms and gun owners to catch up.

The benefits of mentorship don't end there. Serving as a mentor is also a great refresher course in gun safety and marksmanship for yourself. Plus, you're doing your part to improve public safety. A more knowledgeable firearm owner in a community makes a positive overall difference to everyone's safety.

This mentoring initiative is an extension of NRA's founding principles—providing gun safety, training and education to all Americans. By becoming a mentor, you get to introduce the training process to a newcomer. While we advise all new shooters to train with NRA Certified Instructors, we recognize that many people are more comfortable getting started with a knowledgeable friend or loved one.

This mentorship effort reminds me of a question I sometimes hear, "What is the NRA doing for me today?" I challenge you to ask yourself, "What am I doing for the Second Amendment and America?" I suggest you can do something for America, for our treasured Second Amendment today after you finish reading this. You can get up, make a phone call and take your niece, nephew, neighbor, grandson, granddaughter or friend to the shooting range.

It's on all of us to be chief ambassadors for the Second Amendment and to ensure its viability for generations to come. It's no secret, more and more young Americans grow up in urban environments void of family and friends to teach them about responsible firearm ownership. Frighteningly, more and more young Americans are learning about guns from television news stories, movies, video games or newspaper headlines. The best way to counteract misinformation gained from any of these sources is to help people learn the truth through first-hand experiences.

TO HELP YOU GET STARTED AS A MENTOR, I ENCOURAGE YOU TO VISIT **NRAPUBLICATIONS.ORG/MENTOR** TO DOWNLOAD A FREE COPY OF THE NRA'S "A GUIDE FOR NEW SHOOTERS."

We've all had mentors in life. Virtually all of us owe our successes to the critical guidance of at least a handful of people. We remember those people; we hold them in high regard, and in many ways we emulate them in our everyday lives. This is your opportunity to be that person for someone else.

Do your part to keep our communities safer, to keep our kids on the right track and to forever secure our precious Second Amendment.

Become a mentor.

Pete R. Brownell

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By Chris W. Cox
NRA-ILA
Executive Director

Gun Control Supporters Are Counting on Appeasement

"The notion that I, or Hillary, or Democrats, or whoever you want to choose, are hell-bent on taking away folks' guns is just not true—and I don't care how many times the NRA says it."

—Barack Obama, June 1, 2016.

The former president's statement was a lie when he said it. Less than a year earlier, the 44th president had lauded Great Britain and Australia's confiscatory gun control policies.

Like Obama, the more clever anti-gun activists, eager to curry favor with moderate Americans, have sought to assure the public that they seek only minor, "reasonable" or "common-sense" changes to current policy. According to these con artists, they only want to restrict a small subset of extremely dangerous firearms or keep firearms away from unpopular demographics.

What these gun controllers don't tell you is that the guns they want to ban are yours, whether that is an AR-15, a pump-action shotgun or a .38 revolver. The unsavory demographic they want to prohibit from owning firearms is law-abiding Americans. Aside from being bad policy on their own merits, each incremental step that Americans acquiesce to facilitates the next and brings gun control advocates closer to their ultimate goal of civilian disarmament.

The blueprint was laid out by National Council to Control Handguns (now Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence) Chairman Nelson T. "Pete" Shields in a 1976 interview with *The New Yorker*. Shields explained, "I'm convinced that we have to have federal legislation to build on. We're going to have to take one step at a time, and the first step is necessarily—given the political realities—going to be very modest." Elaborating, Shields went on to say, "So then we'll have to start working again to strengthen that law, and then again to strengthen the next law, and maybe again and again. Right now, though, we'd be satisfied not with half a loaf but with a slice. Our ultimate goal—total control of handguns in the United States—is going to take time."

In their more candid moments, gun controllers have confessed to this approach. In a 1996 piece for *The Washington Post* titled, "Disarm the Citizenry. But not yet," columnist Charles Krauthammer wrote, "Passing a law like the assault weapons ban is a symbolic—purely symbolic—move in that direction. Its only real justification is not to reduce crime but to desensitize the public to the regulation of weapons in preparation for their ultimate confiscation."

Such brazen admissions used to be infrequent. If anything good can be said about the ugly tenor of recent anti-gun outbursts, it is that by embracing fanaticism our opponents have betrayed the terminal goals of the measured strategy pursued by more prudent gun control advocates.

Take *The New York Times*, which has long served as the chief propaganda arm of the gun control establishment. In 2015, a *Times* editorial declared that "large categories" of commonly owned firearms "must be outlawed." Endorsing confiscation, the *Times* declared that a law must be enacted that "would require Americans who own those kinds of weapons to give them up." In October and February, *Times* columnist Bret Stephens advocated for the U.S. to "Repeal the Second Amendment."

Not to be outdone, in February, *The Washington Post* published a piece from commentator Max Boot which argued that the country should "rethink the Second Amendment." *The Boston Globe* ran a piece in November in which writer David Scharfenberg contended that gun control supporters will "have to persuade more people of the need to confiscate millions of those firearms." That same month, former Obama Senior Advisor Dan Pfeiffer called for Australian-style gun confiscation.

Like their friends in the media, more anti-gun politicians have revealed the full scope of their ambitions. In recent years, each session of the California State Assembly has degenerated into a perverse search for the most severe gun restrictions the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals will sanction. In 2013, New York City officials sent permit holders letters ordering them to surrender registered semi-automatic rifles or remove them from the city. As of press time, the Illinois House has voted to confiscate commonly owned semi-automatic rifles held by the state's 18- to 20-year-old Firearm Owner Identification (FOID) Card holders. If enacted, these young adults would have 90 days to turn in their guns.

We know where the gun control measures that our opposition markets as "common sense" lead, because our opponents have told us time and again. Law-abiding gun owners must recognize that the so-called "reasonable regulations" proposed by gun control proponents are nothing but a foothold for greater restrictions on our rights.

Chris W. Cox

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GUN OWNERS *Framed* TO TAKE THE FALL FOR A CRIME THEY DID NOT COMMIT

The American Gun Owner

By Chris W. Cox
NRA-ILA
Executive Director

"Reasonable restrictions."

■

"Gun violence prevention."

■

"Gun safety measures."

■

"Keeping firearms out of the wrong hands."

■

"#gunsense."

However gun control advocates couch their agenda these days, the end result is always the same: innocent, upstanding people are scapegoated for the evil acts of others who broke the law. Just ask the young adults in Illinois who are now facing the possible confiscation of their lawfully obtained firearms.

They did everything the law required of them. They kept their noses clean and passed background checks. They dutifully obtained their mandatory Firearm Owner's Identification (FOID) Card. They patiently endured Illinois' mandatory waiting period. They made sure the firearm of their choice was lawful in their local jurisdiction.

None of that matters under legislation that has already passed the House of the Illinois General Assembly and will likely be law by the time you are reading this. That bill, H.R. 1465, categorically bans adults ages 18 to 20 from possessing certain firearms otherwise available under state law. These include essentially all semi-automatic, magazine-fed, center-fire rifles and various other semi-automatic handguns and shotguns that have specified features.

The proponents of the bill refer to some of the newly regulated firearms with the epithet "assault weapon," but that term is as malleable and unfixed in the gun control universe as other trendy "social justice" catchphrases that are used to express moral disapproval. Just as a restaurant can be accused of "cultural appropriation" for serving an inauthentic variant of regional cuisine, for example, a telescoping stock could turn an otherwise lawful rifle or shotgun into contraband under H.R. 1465, no matter what the firearm's overall length or weight.

What is evil about being able to adjust the length of pull on a long gun to a person's particular physical dimensions or outerwear as to merit criminal punishment?

Absolutely nothing.

And what is dangerous about FOID-carrying young adults in the Land of Lincoln that they must relinquish their guns or risk having them confiscated by force?

Absolutely nothing.

The Legislature hasn't claimed the targeted firearms or population are suddenly at the center of an emergent violent crime wave in Illinois. To the contrary, even as the bill was making its way through the General Assembly, newspapers were highlighting the welcome news that

Illustration by David Labrozzi

firearm-related violence in Chicago had fallen for the 12th straight month in a row, with shootings down nearly 30 percent compared to the first two months of 2017.

Instead, what anti-gun forces in Illinois were reacting to—or, more accurately, exploiting—was a single crime committed in Parkland, Fla., by a 19-year-old who legally purchased his murder weapon. As horrific as that crime was, it is hardly representative of the sorts of daily firearm-related crimes that criminals in Chicago and other places continue to commit on a much more regular and predictable basis, defying every law that would purport to stand in their way.

Indeed, mass shootings are so rare that James Alan Fox, a professor of criminology at Northeastern University who studies those types of crimes, noted in a *USA Today* opinion column that students are 10 times more likely to be accidentally killed while walking or biking to school.

Like Chicago's typical gang-related homicides, these types of accidents rarely make the national news. But then, they're not being used to push a long-standing national agenda that plays on fear, ignorance and misinformation, rather than on an honest and accurate assessment of the facts and a willingness to confront complex and multifaceted problems.

In the case of the Parkland accused murderer, one red flag after another was raised and ignored. This was not a case where the confessed killer escaped prior notice. He had extensive disciplinary problems in school. Police had responded to calls at his residence dozens of times. He even called the police to report himself, confessing to fighting and struggling with the recent death of his mother. He was the subject of at least two FBI tips warning of the potential for violence. And he had been examined—but ultimately not committed—by local mental health authorities.

Perhaps most shocking of all were reports that once the shooting at the school actually started, at least one—perhaps more—armed, uniformed deputies were present but did not immediately intervene, instead taking up a defensive posture outside the school as shots within could be heard. No doubt a clear and accurate picture of just what happened on the scene is months away, if it ever emerges at all.

But despite all these missed opportunities for intervention to stop an obviously deranged individual, the national debate has focused neither on the confessed killer nor on the fact that every official mechanism that might have been able to make a difference somehow failed.

YOUNG ADULTS WHO OWN GUNS ARE BEING PORTRAYED AS MENACES TO PUBLIC SAFETY.

Instead, the debate has been centered squarely on the NRA and its 5 million members, as well as semi-automatic rifles that are statistically under-represented in firearm-related homicide. The takeaway promoted by the media, social justice activists and opportunistic corporate virtue-signalers is that *you*, the law-abiding American gun owner, are to blame. And *you* must accept curbs on your rights, if not necessarily to stop further crime, then at least as an act of civic penance for someone else's misdeeds.

The national response, in other words, could hardly be more misdirected.

Well-meaning gun owners who want nothing more than for all young Americans to grow up free from fear of violent crime, some with kids of their own, were portrayed as the enemies of their countrymen by a media seized with the conviction that the tide had finally turned against the Second Amendment. Their voices and their perspectives were shouted down or vilified, simply because they did not embrace the agenda.

In addition, young adults who happened to own guns were being categorically portrayed as menaces to public safety. And it didn't matter who they were or how their own circumstances might deviate from caricatures of clueless teenagers. People who are 20-year-olds with children, jobs and residences of their own—who as much as anyone need to protect themselves and their families—were stereotyped as impulsive, irresponsible and ignorant. Americans at the prime age for military service—the demographic the nation literally depends on for national defense—were dismissed *en masse* as being incapable of safely and responsibly exercising their constitutional right to arms.

It remains to be seen how Illinois' FOID card system might be used to enforce any new age restrictions in the state. That system is effectively a registry of gun owners—including their birth dates—but it doesn't record the specific firearms they own. Still, it could precipitate visits from law enforcement personnel seeking "voluntary" cooperation with the new restrictions, much like the "knock and talk" system California uses to "request" cooperation from persons who lawfully obtained firearms that later became prohibited. The further irony, of course, is that exploiting the FOID system would promote enforcement action against those who originally obtained the newly banned guns lawfully but not against those who didn't.

Which brings me back to my original point. Blameworthiness and moral agency are irrelevant to the modern gun control movement. If you have guns, they want them, whoever you are. And if they are willing to claim that young adults as a class are not safe enough to have them, who's to say they won't eventually paint the elderly and others with the same broad brush?

That's why no gun owner, young or old, no matter what type of gun he or she owns, can afford to be complacent about their rights. We can't know when the next high-profile firearm-related offense will make national news. But we certainly know who will be blamed for it.

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Safe in Your Car

Vehicles are an easy target for opportunistic criminals, which makes locking a carry gun in your car—even for a few minutes—a risky proposition. Installing a dedicated safe is critical if situations arise that make you even consider doing so, and the pros have some tips to help you make the right choice.

At some point, you may find yourself making an unplanned trip to a facility where guns are banned. A loved one's visit to an emergency room, for example, is never on the schedule and when the unthinkable happens while you're carrying it's understandable—although probably still illegal—if you forget in your rush to be at their side.

"Most people don't even turn their head when a car alarm goes off anymore," Neal Emery, Hornady communications manager said. "For a quick smash-and-grab-type robbery, the alarm does little to no good."

Dire situations don't hold an exclusive on the quandary, either. EAA Corp.'s Sales and Marketing Specialist Justin Peters explained further, "Common examples include visiting the post office, federal building or bank…."

And criminals are catching on. "In 2017, over one-third of firearms that were stolen in the city of Abilene (TX) were from car burglaries alone," ABC-TV affiliate KTXS stated on Jan. 28. The same day, the Kansas City Star reported, "Some of Kansas City's (MO) worst spots for gun thefts included KCI Expo Center during gun shows, and in the parking lot for Chiefs games at Arrowhead Stadium and in cars outside nightclubs and concerts that don't allow customers to bring guns inside."

"Many, if not all, states have certain places you cannot carry concealed into," Emery said. "…and having a secure area in your vehicle to store a firearm is a smart move. Having a secure storage device that offers quick access when you need it is even smarter."

Finding the right one for your needs can be difficult. Hornady Project Engineer Matt Mack wrote in an e-mail, "When most safes just look like black metal boxes, it is tough for consumers to see the difference between a quality firearm-storage device and a cheap tin can. That is why Hornady deliberately designed the RAPiD safes to exceed ASTM and CA DOJ standards."

Cody Keyser, national sales manager for GunVault agrees on the Golden State certification. "California Department of Justice is a good standard to look for when choosing a personal safe for your vehicle," he said. In addition, you should look for a "slim-body style to easily conceal out of plain sight and proper cables or mounting to fixture the safe to the vehicle," he added.

"Construction and easy access are definitely important," Emery said. "Having 14-gauge steel with multiple locking lugs thwarts easy break-in and provides strong pry resistance."

Hornady and GunVault have models that are ideal for the job. EAA's ABDO doesn't quite fit the precise definition of a vehicular safe, but the security and versatility the models offer makes them worthy of consideration—whether your access concerns are at home, work or on the road.

Peters bluntly explained why anyone with a carry permit should invest in a vehicle safe. "You don't want to be unarmed for your whole day because you need to make a stop in a gun-free zone," he summarized.

"Don't make yourself an easy target for theft," Keyser added. "Putting your carry gun under a seat, in a console or in a glove box are not good forms of security for your firearm."

Quick Shots

The United States Marine Corps is in the process of fielding the M38 designated marksman rifle, which features a Leupold TS-30A2 Mark 4 MR/T riflescope. The configuration is to be known as the Squad-Designated Marksman Rifle. The TS-30A2 Mark 4 MR/T has previously been fielded with the Mk 12 Special Purpose Rifle. Featuring a 2.5-8x36 mm design, this scope was engineered with mid-range applications in mind, and includes tactical turrets and range-estimating reticles.

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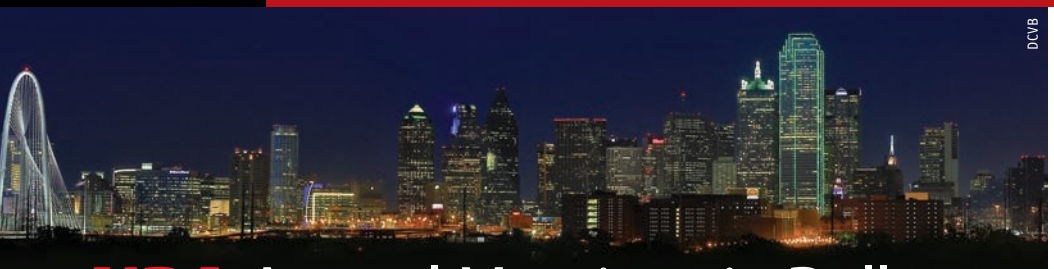
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NRA Annual Meetings in Dallas

Early this month, more than 80,000 NRA members, supporters and media will gather in Dallas, TX, for the 147th NRA Annual Meetings and Exhibits. From May 3 to 6 the city will be the center of the firearm universe, attracting more than 800 exhibitors eager to showcase their latest guns, gear and services.

The gathering always attracts the industry's finest, and assembled experts will also be sharing their wealth of knowledge at seminars, workshops, special events and banquets. There's much more on tap, something for

CLAY COLEMAN

the entire family and the list is long enough that it's impossible to cover everything here. Visit NRAAM.org for full details, but the area also has quite a few unique attractions you might try to squeeze into your schedule. Here's a look at a few.

Sights

The Dallas Museum of Art features more than 24,000 pieces, spanning 5,000 years of humankind's creativity in all cultures. Add the Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden with the farmer's market, and there's plenty to do outdoors, too. You might always want to put the George W. Bush Presidential Center on your schedule.

Food

There are 12,000 eateries in Dallas, but one of the top

DCVB

choices is Fearing's Restaurant. It specializes in "Elevated American Cuisine," with no borders and bold flavors. Esquire named it restaurant of the year and table of the year, and it was number one in a Zagat survey for in-hotel dining. Of course, no visit to the Lone Star State is complete without some Tex-Mex, and Ojeda's Restaurant is known for serving up the real deal. If you're into the knight life, check out Medieval Times Dinner and Tournament.

Ranges

There's no shortage of shooting facilities in Texas, and the Dallas area is no exception. The Target Master Indoor Shooting Center in nearby Garland has 18 pistol lanes, six 50-yarders for rifle, a full-service store and rentals available. Located on

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467 acres, Elm Forks Shooting Sports Facility contains two pro shops, clubhouse, trap, skeet, 5-stand, pistol bays, tactical bays, rifle range and is also home to a dedicated airgun range.

Outdoor Edge **Para-Claw**

When the worst happens, the utility of a paracord survival bracelet can be life-saving. Unfortunately, they don't usually provide a winning edge in a deadly confrontation with an opportunistic predator.

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It's available in three colors and each come with a stainless steel blade. Visit outdooredge.com to order; MSRP: $29.95.

Quick Shots Continued

Federal Premium has won a five-year contract worth up to $20 million from the U.S. Naval Surface Warfare Center-Crane Division, operated under the U.S. Navy's Naval Sea Systems Command. Terms of the agreement begin this year for the delivery of .40-caliber frangible training rounds employing Federal Premium's lead-free Catalyst high-performance primer.

The French National Police recently awarded Speer a long-term contract for its 124-grain, 9 mm Gold Dot Duty ammunition. France's Ministry of Interior mandated in 2010 that the use of cartridges with full-metal-jacketed bullets be discontinued.

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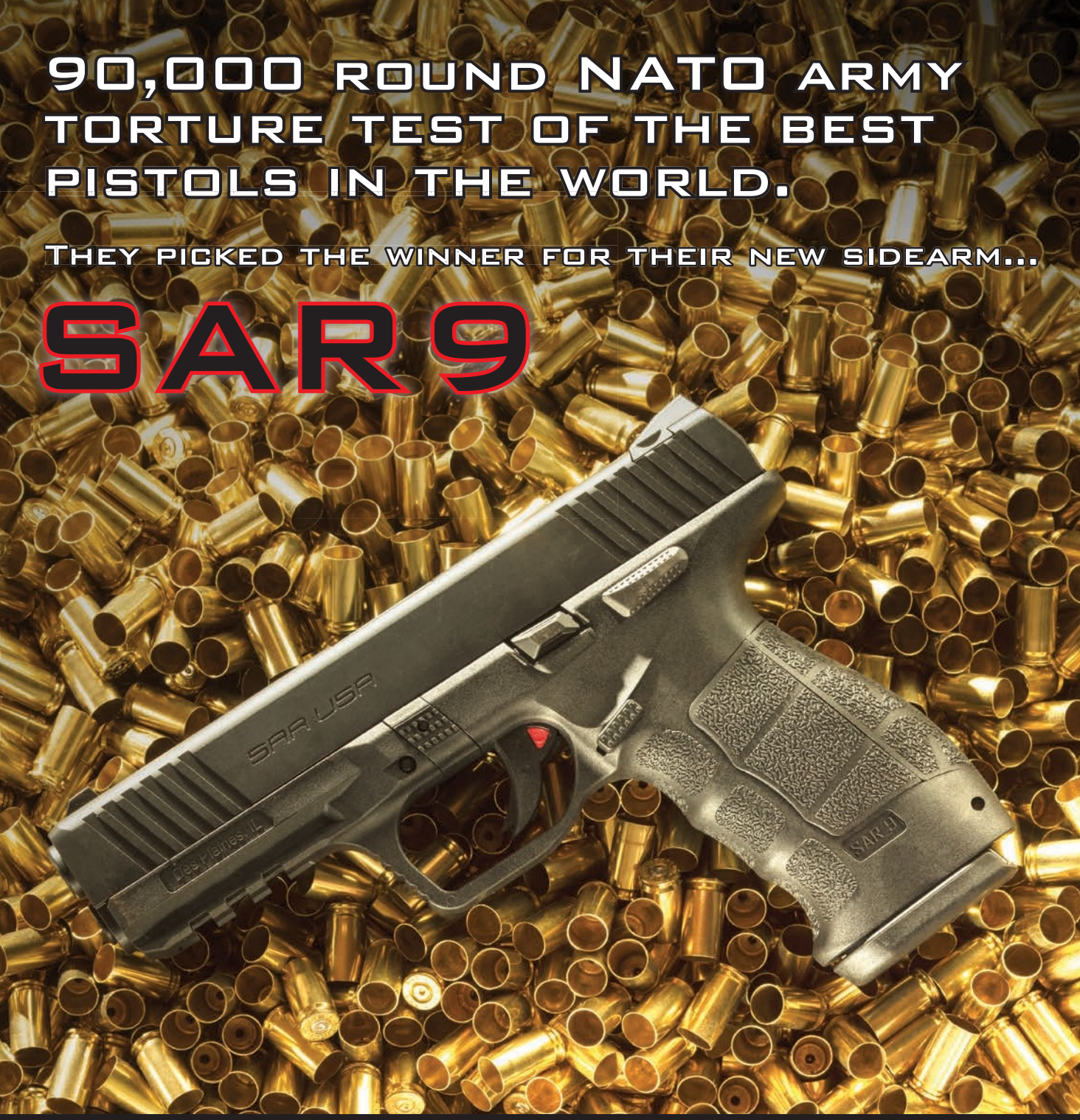

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Shooter's Bookshelf

The Dry Fire Primer
By Annette Evans
Self-published
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Dry-fire practice is one of those things, like exercising or flossing your teeth. You know it's good for you. You know you should be doing it every day. Yet, when it comes down to it, you find a million and one excuses not to do it.

From a brief description of dry fire—practicing without live ammunition—to describe the when, why and how, "The Dry Fire Primer" really does cover the subject thoroughly. Evans begins with the "Why," focusing on the benefits of running your firearm off the range and lists solid reasons and examples why dry practice is beneficial. Obviously, gaining familiarity with your pistol is a huge benefit, but dry fire brings even more. Adding in difficult drills, drawing from a holster, moving while shooting; these next-level concepts are excellent challenges to overcome in dry practice. On the live range, a mistake can be quite costly; it makes sense to work through the hardest parts in the privacy of your own home.

Obviously, a dry-fire practice area should be defined, ideally with a "safe direction" should something go wrong. Evans offers several recommendations that even apartment-dwellers can use, and stresses the importance of being safe in one's dry practice (a theme carried throughout the book).

The largest section of "The Dry Fire Primer" obviously centers on the "How." Tips, drills and other helpful items are liberally placed throughout this lengthy section, well-worth reading and re-reading a few times. There are plain and hard truths in this book, and certainly much to learn.

Shooting Off

"Had he not been in the right place at the right time, who knows what would have happened… But, he definitely stopped the attack from continuing and becoming much worse. He might have even saved either one of their lives. It could have gone really bad, even for the suspect."

—Cpl. Cory Waters of the Springville, UT, police told Salt Lake City's Fox 13 news after Derek Meyer presented his handgun to stop a perpetrator severely beating a law enforcement officer during a traffic stop in early February.

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Browning Hi-Power Bows Out

Browning has announced its Hi-Power pistols are no longer in production. "Current dealer inventories will be the last available from Browning for the foreseeable future," its website explains. Supply is scarce, however, because availability to dealers ended sometime in 2017. Recent production Mark IIIs or Standards are easiest to find, being the last models to come out of the factory.

John Moses Browning's 1911 handgun design, and its subsequent 100 years of popularity, cast a long and unearned shadow over his subsequent Hi-Power work. When Browning was commissioned by Belgium's Fabrique National to create a new military sidearm, the design required an all-new approach because he'd sold the 1911 patents to Colt. In 1925 he'd completed the work, and a year later he was dead—making this his last gun design. U.S. patent inspectors approved it in 1927, but FN relied on the expertise of Dieudonné Saive to improve on the locked-breech recoil version. He's credited with completing the project, rightfully so, and the final product included his staggered-cartridge magazine. The handgun was officially adopted by the Belgian military in 1935.

Quick Shots Continued

When Elon Musk's The Boring Company—the SpaceX and Tesla founder's offshoot to create tunnels under major cities to ease traffic congestion—announced it was making a limited run of 20,000 flamethrowers for $500 each, pre-orders were sold out in less than a week. Unfortunately, *Shooting Illustrated* was unable to secure one for exhaustive BBQ testing over the Memorial Day weekend.

Peterson Cartridge Company, which specializes in producing match-grade brass, has announced a small number of the 6.5 Creedmoor SRP casings it produced in Lot No. W1TL0070 with QC No. 012218, have slightly oversize primer pockets. Customers with the affected lot should e-mail bpreston@petersoncartridge.com, and the company will cover shipping and replacement of product.

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Remington Bankruptcy Reorganization

Remington Outdoors announced it was restructuring and filing for protection under Chapter 11. The press release explained it has reached a "…Restructuring Support Agreement (RSA) with creditors holding a majority of the FGI Operating Company, LLC Term Loans due in 2019 and 7.875% Senior Secured Notes due in 2020…The RSA provides for the reduction of approximately $700 million of Remington's consolidated outstanding indebtedness and the contribution of $145 million of new capital into Remington's operating subsidiaries, markedly strengthening the Company's consolidated liquidity, balance sheet and competitiveness."

The company isn't the industry's first to file for protection during reorganization, although it is America's oldest gunmaker, a legacy addressed by Remington Executive Chairman Jim Geisler in the announcement.

"Since its founding over 200 years ago, Remington has been a uniquely American company and brand," he said. "Our longevity is owed to generations of loyal customers and hard-working employees who met challenges and delivered results. Difficult industry conditions make today's agreement prudent. I am confident this regrouping ensures that Remington will continue as both a strong company and an indelible part of our national heritage."

"Remington's business operations will continue to operate in the normal course and will not be disrupted by the restructuring process," the press release stated.

Quick Shots Continued

The Swedish Army has awarded Aimpoint a contract for roughly $2.5 million for CompM5 and MPS3 red-dot sights. The U.S. State Department is already using the former, and more than 1.5 million Aimpoint sights are in use by militaries worldwide. The Civilian Marksmanship Program received its first shipment of U.S. military surplus 1911s in late January. The lot of 8,000 needed to be inventoried, graded and test fired prior to sale. Federal Premium secured a contract for Immigration and Customs Enforcement for up to 180 million rounds of .40 S&W Tactical HST ammo. The contract is valid for up to five years.

FLIES IN THE FACE OF NO ONE

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Easy Scope Mounting and Rifle Zero

Adding a magnified optic or red-dot sight to your longarm doesn't have to be difficult.

As someone who shoots and tests a lot of rifles and scopes, I've learned how to make the process as easy as possible. While I usually deal with one or two new rifles a month, there are times when I have set up 20 or 30 for a media event at Gunsite. Here's some guidance on how to put everything together and zero the rifle with a minimum of difficulty.

When I set up a new rifle the first thing I do is go over it and check all the screws and bolts to make sure they're tight or torqued to the correct value if called for. You'd be surprised how many scope mounts I've found that need attention. There have been times when I've skipped this step only to find I can't get the rifle to group because parts are wobbling. Unless you want to get smacked in the eyebrow by a scope, it's generally a good idea to move the scope as far forward as you can. To determine this, install the scope bases, put the scope in the rings loosely and move it fore and aft as you look through it. If it's a variable-power scope, do this with the scope set on the highest magnification so you can determine where it needs to be to get a full image in the eyepiece.

Leveling the scope in relation to the rifle is next. I like to put the rifle in a rest, secure it, level it with a bubble level then place the level on the top scope cap, turning the scope until it lines up. Next, I tighten the rings just a bit, take the rifle out of the rest and look through it with the rifle to my shoulder, both standing and on a benchrest. If everything looks lined up, I'm good to go and can proceed with tightening down the scope ring screws. I usually don't use thread locker, but when I do, I use non-permanent versions. I move scopes around a lot, but if you're going for a permanent setup you may want to go ahead and use thread locker, especially on rifles that have a lot of recoil. While you have the rifle in a rest you might want to bore sight it. This involves placing a target at 25 yards (I use one on a cardboard box in my driveway) and looking through the scope to see if the crosshair and boresight are pointing in the same place. If not, adjust the scope until you're close.

At the range, I first shoot at 25 yards to see if I'm on the paper. If so, a couple of shots can be made to adjust the point-of-impact to coincide with 25 yards. I then move back to 100 yards and refine the zero. Knowing the ballistics of your ammunition can help you determine a zero range. The ammo companies have ballistic programs online and you can download them for your smartphone. Often, the trajectory information is printed on the ammunition box. As an example, for a 200-yard zero you may want to be hitting 1.5 inches high at 100 yards. Although this magazine wants me to shoot five-shot groups, I use three-shot groups when I'm not shooting for an article. I figure those extra two shots tell you more about my skill, or lack thereof, than they do about the accuracy of the rifle, scope and ammunition.

Here's your drill: With your properly mounted scope, get to the range and properly zero your rifle.

With the rifle in a secure rest, fire a three-shot group at 25 yards.

Noting the distance to the target and the location of your group in relation to your aiming point, adjust your point-of-impact accordingly.

Fire a second, three-shot group to confirm proper zero.

Move the target out to 100 yards and fire a third three-shot group, making necessary adjustments for increased distance.

With proper adjustments and trigger control, this should be easily accomplished with less than a box of ammo.

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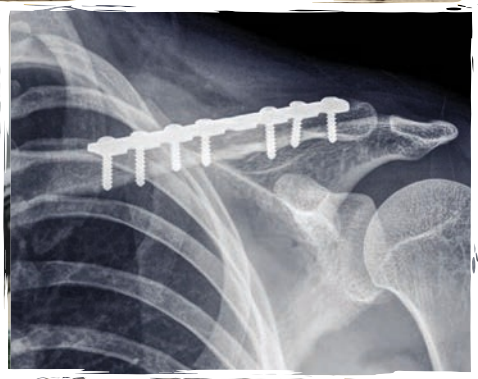

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MSRP: $159.99
ninelineapparel.com

Designed for left- or right-handed use, the **Gungoddess.com Classic Hobo Concealed-Carry Purse** includes a wire-reinforced removable shoulder strap that safeguards against slash-and-grab theft attempts, while its 7-inch-tall, side-zippered opening allows even gloved hands to easily access the spacious pistol compartment, complete with holster. The back also contains a zippered pocket.

MSRP: $84
gungoddess.com

In addition to including a day-planner calendar and a pad of ruled paper, the **Galco Hidden Agenda** measures 9.5 inches long and contains a built-in holster, plus room for spare ammo, concealed beneath its padded, elegant-looking, full-grain leather lid that prevents printing. A lockable zipper and a wrist strap provide added security.

MSRP: $170
galcogunleather.com

Constructed of 1000-denier nylon with reinforced stitching for hard use, the **Blackhawk Covert Carry Messenger Bag** allows you to bug-out at a moment's notice with crucial, life-saving gear**.** Interior pockets of various sizes can accommodate pens, maps, glasses, a flashlight, ID, tablet and other accessories like spare magazines.

MSRP: $112.45
blackhawk.com

Offering discretion and security for select subcompact semi-automatic handguns, the **EAA ABDO Safe** is constructed from robust, thick-walled polymer, features a wide metal belt clip and resembles the "armored" cases for larger mobile phones. Simply flicking the top-mounted latch grants access to the pistol. There's even a recessed lock for a small security key.

MSRP: $49
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Get the Lead Out

I am a big fan of shooting lead bullets in my handguns because they are inexpensive, easy to load and easier on the barrels than jacketed variants. The downside is they leave a significant amount of lead buildup in the barrel (in some of my guns), which requires a lot of work to remove with regular bore cleaner and a brush. There has to be a quicker and better way to remove the lead fouling than the method I am presently using. Your suggestions would be greatly appreciated.

K.C. Diaz
Taos, NM

A favorite among wheelgun enthusiasts, the Lewis Lead Remover remains one tried-and-true method of ridding revolvers of pesky lead deposits.

Loading and shooting both cast and swaged-lead bullets in my pistols and revolvers has always been one of my passions. One of the things to remember with lead bullets in handguns is to match the bullet to the application, which helps to limit lead deposits in the barrel. Another consideration is to ensure the bullet diameter is compatible with the bore of the barrel and in the case of a revolver, the throat diameter of the cylinder. There are several ways to remove lead from the barrels and throats of handguns. All have some pros and cons. I'll list them in the order of my preference and you can choose which one best fits your particular needs.

My favorite method is to disassemble the gun as soon as I have finished the shooting session, and run a tight-fitting bore brush through the barrel and throats in the case of a revolver, while the gun is still hot. This method has worked for me consistently over the years with handguns and long guns when shooting lead bullets. Once the gun cools, lead has a tendency to bond a little tighter to the surfaces where is has collected, making it more difficult to remove. Should it be the case where the gun has cooled and the lead has become more difficult to remove, the Lewis Lead Remover is an excellent tool to remove deposits from barrels as well as cylinder throats. It works very well through pulling a tight-fitting patch made of soft wire screen material through the bore or cylinder throat to scrub the lead away from the surfaces being cleaned. Several passes may be necessary to remove every last particle of lead, but I've never known this handy tool to fail.

The two aforementioned methods are the most time-saving and work well, however there are others to consider: Chemical removal of lead is always and option. In the "old days" some folks used mercury to amalgamate with the lead and remove it from a gun. This was before they realized mercury was extremely toxic and would shorten a person's lifespan considerably. (For that reason alone, do not use mercury to remove lead from your guns.)

Today, modern chemical removal involves using penetrating fluids to undermine and loosen the lead deposits. This takes time but usually works if sufficient time is allowed for the chemical action to do its work. It usually takes a bit of scrubbing with a bore brush to completely remove all traces of the lead, which adds to the time needed to clean the gun. If you are not inclined to use a brush for lead removal, Outers has an electro-chemical product that it markets under the name of Foul Out that comes in several iterations. Once applied, it takes some time and monitoring, but is easy on the elbow.

I always like to spend more time shooting and less time cleaning. That's the reason I clean the lead out of my guns while they are still warm because it reduces my work once I get home.

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STEVE ADELMANN

AR uppers can be swapped in seconds, allowing fast caliber changes.

Quick Change

With the advent of the AR-style platform, having multiple calibers in a single rifle has never been easier.

New catch words and phrases creep into our lives on a regular basis. Current favorites in the rifle-shooting world like "extreme-long-range" give us a glimpse of what is popular or important to modern shooters. While these shifts in verbiage are very much driven by the things people are interested in, they would not be possible without technological advancements. Consider that using an off-the-shelf, medium-caliber, shoulder-fired rifle to consistently hit a torso-size target a mile away was unthinkable just 20 years ago. Today that same mile marker is just a reference point along the way to truly long-range shooting. Another example can be found in one word that pops up all over the place in relation to firearms: modularity.

The push to make our firearms modular has resulted in the ability to easily and quickly modify them to each shooter's specific needs. We can add or subtract lights, laser-aiming devices, optics, backup sights, stocks, grips, slings and more with little effort and often without tools. Some accessories increase our downrange effectiveness, others make our firearms more comfortable and a few just leave me scratching my bald head. While most changes are focused on our rifles' external profiles, the biggest benefits are actually on the inside. The ease with which we can change calibers in a single firearm is perhaps the best example of modularity in motion.

Switching rifle barrels is hardly a new concept. Custom gunsmiths and a few manufacturers have offered various means of swapping barrel lengths and chamberings for many decades. In 1964, Harrington and Richardson added rifle barrel options to its popular Topper line of single-shot, break-action shotguns. The Model 158 Trapper could be purchased with two centerfire rifle barrels and two shotgun barrels as a "four-in-one" package. Thompson/Center's Contender family advanced the ball in 1967 by introducing a switch-barrel, top-break system of vastly superior strength and accuracy. While originally offered as a pistol that could be chambered in many common factory calibers, the Contender's potential was quickly recognized by wizards like J.D. Jones (SSK Industries), who came up with a dizzying array of wildcat chamberings and customizations. The Contender and its offspring have since been offered in carbine, rifle, blackpowder and shotgun variants. It is easier to list the cartridges that T/C's switch-barrel firearms cannot be chambered in than to list those that have benefitted from the strength and simplicity of this design. You do not get much more modular than that.

Modern Switch Barrels

Rifles that are better suited for tactical and practical shooting pursuits are also available with barrel swapping capabilities. One example is the Switch bolt-action rifle from Proof Research. The Switch is currently

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available in eight chamberings and is at the high end of the price spectrum with stainless steel or very light, carbon-fiber-wrapped barrels. At about one-fifth of that cost, Thompson Center's Dimension bolt-action rifles are currently available in 11 calibers, with both left- and right-hand stocks.

On the purpose-built, semi-automatic side of the house, MGI's Hydra AR platform is one of the older modular systems available today. The Hydra's lower receiver is adaptable to different magazine styles so that it can accept 5.56 NATO-pattern AR mags, traditional AK magazines and even Colt 9 mm SMG magazines. The quick-change-barreled Hydra is currently available in 11 different chamberings, as well. Ruger's SR556 Takedown is currently available in 5.56 NATO with a .300 BLK switch barrel. Other MSRs like the FN SCAR and IWI Tavor families are designed for multiple barrel-length and caliber-change options, too. Traditional-style AR users can retrofit their firearms with takedown barrel kits from companies like Tac2, Pantheon Arms, Cry Havoc Tactical and Frontier Tactical. I plan to cover a couple of these aftermarket kits in a later column.

In most cases, modern switch-barrel systems are easy to adapt from one caliber to another. One downside to using multiple barrels on the same receiver, however, is that your sighting system(s) may need to be adjusted for different calibers (or even when changing barrel lengths in the same caliber). That will be a problem for tactical scenarios if the return-to-zero of each barrel is not consistent from one installation to another. Still, if I ever found myself again having to carry my house on my back for a living, the spare-barrel option would present an attractive way to have the capability to alternate calibers in hostile environments.

Upper Kits

The most common caliber conversion taking place among American rifle shooters today is through the use of multiple upper-receiver assemblies on AR-style firearms. As long as you use compatible receiver types, caliber changes are accomplished in a few seconds by simply exchanging uppers via two captive takedown pins and—depending on caliber—magazines. Bare-bones, small-frame uppers (sans bolt-carrier group or charging handle) can currently be had as cheaply as $200. You can also endeavor to build one for the fun and experience or go the custom route to squeeze the most performance out of your upper kit. One big benefit to this approach is that because your sighting system(s) remain on each upper, no re-zeroing is required.

The big downside is that you must invest in a bunch of redundant parts, including sights. Additional uppers also require more storage space and create a much heavier load if you need to carry a multi-caliber setup. I do not see myself ever humping around a spare upper in a rucksack… again, that is. These days my "load out" is limited to range bags, camping gear and the occasional suitcase. For that reason I decided to simplify my "which rifle" question by assembling a multi-upper kit last fall. I built a budget-level, 18-inch-barreled 6.5 Grendel rifle upper and combined it with an old 14.5-inch (pinned and welded to 16 inches) 5.56 NATO carbine and a 16-inch 7.62x39 mm upper. The result is a very flexible rifle kit that covers a wide range of needs.

These are only a few of the options for maintaining caliber modularity in rifles. Other switch-barrel rifles exist, and cheaper options like chamber inserts or guns that can shoot more than one cartridge in the same barrel (such as .38 Spl. and .357 Mag.) are available as well. As firearm and ammunition technology progress, I suspect we will see a greater emphasis on modularity in the warfighter, law enforcement and civilian shooting communities. The motivations in each group may be different, but we all reap the same benefits of rifle-caliber modularity in the end.

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Is AIWB For Me?

Keeping your gun close at hand in appendix-carry position is starting to make a lot of sense.

My hands were raised shoulder-high in a non-threatening posture as I walked away from the armed robber behind me. He had me cold, and I felt fortunate he'd been satisfied with the car keys, when I heard my companion yelling behind me. Apparently I was the only one being allowed to walk away.

I dropped the flashlight I'd been holding in my left hand and, as I fumbled for it while it clattered to the ground, I thought "If I'd been carrying appendix-style, this would have been the perfect time to draw…"

As it was, I didn't want to risk a huge telegraphing move of reaching behind my right hip with the bad guy right behind me a dozen feet away, so I raised my hands again and kept walking around the corner before drawing and coming back to try and rescue my friend in a botched marking-round gunfight that left me bruised and stinging when the lights in the imaginary "city street" were turned back on.

Appendix Inside-the-Waistband, or AIWB carry for short, first came to my attention because of the speed it allowed on the draw, but as the years have gone by, I've learned of or observed so many other benefits of this style of carry that I've decided to make the jump from my usual inside-the-waistband, 4-o'clock carry position.

One of those benefits is the one I mentioned in the opening paragraphs: It's so much easier to make a surreptitious draw. As long as your hands are free and somewhere around your waistline, you can move straight into the drawstroke without the distinct telegraphing reach-behind-the-hip

Continued on page 118

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Ultimate (Budget) Home-Defense Shotgun

Here's how to build the ultimate home-defense tool for less than $600.

If you have a serviceable pump-action or semi-automatic shotgun that you're willing to cannibalize for this project, then obviously that's the cheapest route. Remington 870s and Mossberg 500s are best for three reasons: First, they're wonderfully reliable shotguns. Second, they are cheap in price, but not in construction. And third, there are copious aftermarket add-ons readily available.

If you're willing to turn your 870 Express duck gun with a 28-inch barrel into a home-defense dynamo, it'll need a shorter barrel so you can fight with it without it getting knocked out of your hands by every ceiling fan in the house. Sure, you can legally shorten the barrel (provided it stays longer than 18 inches), but there are advantages to simply buying a new barrel, because after you cut it and file the burrs, you'll have to solder the rib back in place, and even then it will likely look unpleasant. Then you'll need to buy a brass bead and install it, which will require labor, skill and tools. But the biggest plus of an aftermarket barrel is that you can always reuse the original barrel if you wish. Midway USA offers an 18-inch 870 barrel with a brass bead for $139. Mossberg 500 barrels are $99. It's the way to go.

If you don't have a decent shotgun action to spare, worry not. A new, synthetic-stocked, six-plus-one round Remington 870 Tactical with an 18.5-inch barrel costs $319 from Academy. At this time, my budget shotgun of choice is Mossberg's 12-gauge 500 Persuader for $371 at Cheaper than Dirt. With a 20-inch barrel, the extended magazine holds eight rounds total. With either of these guns, you won't need some of the aftermarket items we discussed. So, if you intend to buy a new gun, it's cheaper to go with these tactical versions rather to buy a hunting gun and converting it. Frankly, I'd be just fine with either of these shotguns as-is, but then I wouldn't have much to write about, would I?

Finally, you can buy a used shotgun. Make sure it's in tip-top shape, as this is the gun you could bet your life on. You'll probably spend around $225, and it likely won't be with the 18.5-inch barrel, but you never know what your local pawn shop might turn up.

Magazine Extension:

If you are converting a hunting gun, you'll need a three-round magazine extension tube for around $50. Make sure it includes a sling swivel.

Stocks:

I like traditional stocks, rather than pistol grips, so I won't have to add anything there, but you might feel differently. If so, Magpul's SGA stock is terrific for $99. (FYI: there is nothing wrong with wooden stocks, unless your bedroom happens to be in a Panama jungle during the rainy season, so don't rule out a bargain-priced shotgun just because it wears walnut.)

Sights:

While the tritium Big Dot shotgun bead from XS is an excellent upgrade in the sight

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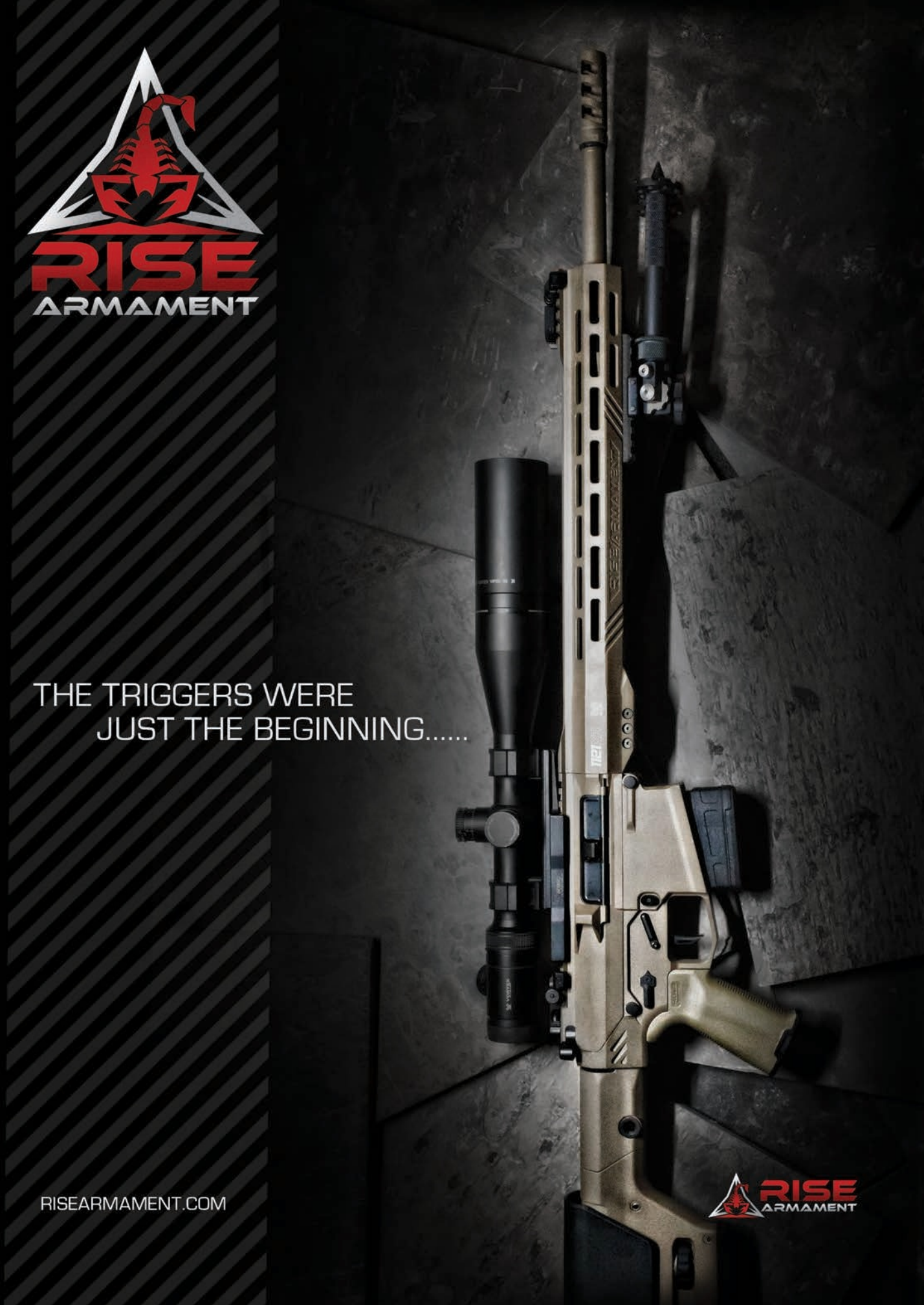
department, it costs $71. But, a dab of Cool Glow nail polish, which will glow in the dark, is available from any big-box retailer, costs about $2 and will do fine. Even without charging under a light, it's easier to see than a brass bead when it's "Silence of the Lambs"-type dark in your basement.

After actually having to grab my shotgun and clear my house recently, I now feel like the sling is worth the risk of it getting hung up on things. A shotgun is big and heavy, and even dialing a number on a cell phone, while also holding onto something, is near-impossible while clutching the shotgun with the other hand. So, I like a sling so I can quickly put the gun on my shoulder and move with it or use my hands for other tasks if I must. A simple nylon sling from Uncle Mike's will cost you about $22 if you don't have one already.

Unless you're an octopus, you'll need a flashlight on your shotty if you desire to shoot it and see your target simultaneously. While SureFire's DFS Series integral fore-end shotgun flashlight is the Cadillac, it costs $399. If you can afford it, go for it, but I'm becoming cheap in my old age, and a flashlight that costs more than my shotgun seems silly. So I recommend something like the Tuf Force 1-inch tube ring rail mount that allows you to attach many types of flashlights to the side or underside of your shotgun's barrel or mag tube. It's $16 from Amazon. Then you'll need a flashlight with a pressure switch, because you'll need to be able to work the light while death-gripping the shotgun's fore-end. I've seen weapon-mounted lights as cheap as $19 at Amazon, but a flashlight is very important, so I'm not getting too parsimonious here. Streamlight's ProTac 1 is $109 from Cabela's.

Finally, I like extra ammo on my shotgun so I don't have to fumble for it when danger comes knocking. And while I've tried hook-and-loop tabs that stick on the side of my shotgun via adhesive, they eventually fall off. So, either go with a proven, plastic sidesaddle like that from TacStar for $31 at Midway USA, or try a cheaper one like the Aim Sports at Cheaper Than Dirt for $10.

While some people prefer more junk on their shotguns than I do, including pistol grips, oversize bolt handles, red-dot optics or ghost-ring sights, I don't believe these things are necessary in your home. The total price of my ultimate defender shotgun ranges from $329 to $536 depending on what route you go on the gun itself. Any way you look at it, it's a lot of home-defense firepower for the money. Place it in your bedroom where you can get to it swiftly and then rest easy knowing your family—and your bank account—is sitting pretty.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RICHARD MANN

Filled with load data, tips, tricks and cartridge information, Western Powder's Handloading Guide is something that should be on every loading bench.

Going Western

Western Powders offers its first, long-awaited resource for reloaders.

Since 1972, Western Powders has been one of North America's leading distributors of DuPont and IMR gunpowders. In 1988, the company launched its own brand of powders under the Ramshot name, and in 2005 it purchased Accurate Arms. Western Powders has a state-of-the-art ballistics laboratory, and it's staffed with knowledgeable humans. When I become ballistically confused, my first call is to Western Powders.

Early in my gunwriting career, I wrote a lot about guns you load from the front end instead of the back. Editors seemed to think—with me being a hillbilly and all—I was the man for muzzleloading. So, I traveled to the Western Powders laboratory for a blackpowder education. However, while there, I made it a point to get my unofficial degree in metallic cartridges, as well.

In the past, Western Powders offered a pamphlet with load data for Ramshot and Accurate Arms powders. For 2018, the company is introducing its first real handloading guide. It's a soft-bound, 488-page, 8.5x11-inch book, filled with glossy, full-color pages. Now, I know what you're probably thinking: with the Ramshot and Accurate load data free on the internet, why would the company publish a book?

Valid question. If you're only loading a couple cartridges, and only loading a couple different bullets for each, web data is sufficient. However, if you're a serial reloader—someone who loads for many cartridges—and someone who is continually comparing cartridges, loads and data, having that information in a book format makes things easier. In addition, every handloader should have a sufficient resource for general information on their loading bench, where they actually need it.

One of the best features of this guide is the instructional section. It starts with the obligatory chapters on "Getting Started" and "The Basics," but there are also chapters on "Tip, Tricks, and Signs of Trouble," where things like measuring pressure and bullet stabilization are discussed. The chapter I really liked is, "A Beginner's Guide to Advanced Handloading Techniques." This is essentially a chapter that teaches you to use things like a neck turner, flash-hole deburrer and comparator gauge.

Another chapter deals with a question frequently asked, and that's how powder position impacts pressure. For example, did you know that the ability for powder to migrate—move—in the case is a major cause of higher velocity standard deviation numbers? In this chapter you also learn about the extreme versatility of Accurate 5744 powder, and about using fillers in cases with minimal powder charges.

Of specific interest to readers of this publication will be the chapters on AR-15 pistol performance, dangerous ammunition

Continued on page 116

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Don't Believe Everything You See

As shocking as it may be to hear, what you see on television and in the movies may not be completely accurate with regard to firearms.

A few years ago I was working on a story about Tom Horn, the frontier hit man. Checking on facts through my historical sources, I kept finding the notation that Horn used a Winchester Model 1894 rifle during his Wyoming escapades. Well now, heck, that just couldn't be! I knew that Tom Horn packed a big-bore Winchester Model 1876 during that time. I had seen the gun, with its worn finish and button magazine.

I blew about an hour going back over the various books that referenced Horn and his various killings. Finally, it dawned on me that Tom Horn did, in fact, use a Model 1894 chambered in .30-30 Win. during his last years in Wyoming. It was Steve McQueen who had used the Model 1876 in that great "Tom Horn" movie, which I had enjoyed watching on several occasions.

Certainly, if you ask any of us if movies influence our ideas about personal defense, we would give you a resounding negative response. But, I really don't think that anyone really realizes how much they are subconsciously affected by what they see on the screen.

This is especially true with people who have never been involved in an actual gunfight, or folks who have never even witnessed one. It is even more of a reality for people who have never taken defensive training from instructors who know what really happens in gunfights because they have actually been there. The subconscious influence of movies becomes the only reference that they have regarding people using guns to defend themselves. While you can undoubtedly think of more, a few examples might be in order.

In countless films, we have seen the hero whip out his shooting iron, fire from the hip, and smoke the bad guy at 25 yards, or more. In reality, most gunfight survivors will tell you that when they saw their sights, they got hits. And when they didn't see their sights, they didn't get fight-stopping hits. Using your sights in a defensive situation doesn't add to your ability to win, it multiplies it.

Westerns, cop shows and adventure flicks all tend to show the hero stepping out into the open, planting his feet, squaring his shoulders, and taking on all comers. In the movies, heroes don't hide behind stuff to shoot the bad guys. That's what cowards and villains do.

In truth, being aware of and using cover is another defensive skill that greatly increases your ability to survive a deadly encounter. When a person quickly gets behind something that will stop bullets, he has gone a long way toward successfully surviving the

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— Mechanic

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P320 Nitron	**Full**	**Large**	**9mm**

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conflict. We preach this to our students, but it often seems like it just isn't getting through to them. This is yet another problem I blame on the subconscious influence of movies.

Right in line with this, while we munch away on the popcorn, is seeing the hero facing an attack by multiple aggressors. He solves this particular challenge by standing flat-footed out in the open and shooting with blinding speed, shooting so fast that he knocks down all of his attackers before they can even get a bullet into him.

In the real world, if you tried this with two (or more) attackers, you would, more than likely, get shot. Yes, I know that some people can clean the El Presidente drill with impressive speed. But it is a good idea to remember that those three silhouette targets are not shooting back. If the defensive shooter can't find a way to get completely away from an attack by multiple shooters, the use of cover and proper attention to the pistol sights are the only hope he has of surviving.

I could go on and on with examples of the faulty pistolcraft that we see in movies. But I'm sure that you get my point. We are all affected, to one degree or another, by the gun handling that we have seen in the movies and on the TV screen. When discussing it, we can quickly see the mistakes, but the bad examples still lurk back there in that part of our mind that we call the subconscious. And those bad examples can take charge of our actions if we don't have something of value to take their place.

This is why getting good professional training is so important. The instructor who has actually "seen the elephant," as the old timers used to say, can help us avoid these mistakes by teaching us better skills that greatly increase our chances of survival. They help us build a personal-defense plan that is based on reality instead of fiction.

By now some of you must be thinking that I am really down on movies and TV shows. Nothing could be further from the truth. I find them to be great entertainment. And not all of them demonstrate bad defensive gun handling. Tom Selleck's "Jesse Stone" series is a good example of one actor who tries to do it right. Sadly, however, for every show that demonstrates good gun handling, we can name many that do not.

So I encourage you to continue to enjoy the movies and good TV shows. Just remember that they are fiction and entertainment, not training films. And be aware of the subconscious influence that they have on all of us to one extent or another. Being conscious of the difference helps us to deal with reality while we still enjoy the fiction.

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	.260 REM	.358 WIN
AR15 PLATFORM	.204 RUGER	6.5 GRENDEL
	.22 NOSLER	6.8 SPC
	.223/5.56	300BLK
	.223 WYLDE	7.62X40 WT
	.224 VALKYRIE	.458 SOCOM
OTHER AR PLATFORMS	.458 HAM'R	
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A *Shooting Illustrated* Staff Report

Handgun of the Year

FN America FN 509

The Army's loss is the shooting public's gain. While the FN 509 did not win the military's Modular Handgun System trials, it was an easy choice for our Handgun of the Year thanks to the features it incorporated for that program. From varied texturing on the grip to ensure comfort and purchase to the modularity of its interchangeable backstraps, the FN 509 is accurate, impeccably reliable and a joy to shoot. Combine that with an eminently affordable price, and pretty much all boxes are checked for a handgun any armed citizen will love.

FN America; (703) 288-3500, fnamerica.com

Caliber: 9 mm
Capacity: 17+1 rounds
Barrel Length: 4 inches
Overall Length: 7.4 inches
Weight: 26.5 ounces
MSRP: $649

Winning Features

- Interchangeable backstraps to aid fit
- Varied texturing for superior comfort and purchase
- Sunken controls to prevent accidental actuation
- Outstanding factory trigger

"[The FN 509] runs reliably, shoots accurately and has a very usable trigger right out of the box."

—Tamara Keel, Handgun Editor

Rifle of the Year

Savage MSR

Rather than dip its toe in the AR market, Savage elected to introduce an entire line of AR-pattern rifles and carbines—one that continues to expand. The company's MSR line is also not full of "M4geries," but rather consists of purpose-built designs using quality components and Savage's renowned barrels. Not only does the entire line boast the accuracy we've come to expect from Savage, each rifle is also competitively priced (another characteristic of the company's rifles we've loved for many years).

Savage Arms; (800) 370-0708, savagearms.com

Caliber: .223 Wylde (tested), .308 Win., 6.5 Creedmoor
Capacity: 30 rounds (tested), 20 rounds (.308 Win., 6.5 Creedmoor)
Barrel Length: 16.13 inches (tested), 20 inches
Overall Length: 33.5 to 36.75 inches
Weight: 7 pounds
MSRP: $999 (tested)

Winning Features

- Mid-length gas system enhances reliability
- 5R rifling for superior accuracy
- Blackhawk furniture, trigger and BUIS
- Slim handguard with M-Lok slots

"Savage chose to aim high in the AR market. The company is not participating in the 'race to the bottom' that many other manufacturers are trying to win."

—Evan Brune, Assistant Editor, Digital

Shotgun of the Year

Mossberg 590 Shockwave

Our Shotgun of the Year is technically not a shotgun, but rather a firearm that fires shot. Mossberg followed the letter of the law—literally; a letter from the ATF declaring the Shockwave's legality ships with each gun—to create what looks like an NFA-regulated short-barreled shotgun, but isn't. The Shockwave is not a mere gimmick, thanks to its ability to feed Aguila Minishells (with an aftermarket adapter), which turns this diminutive scatter…firearm into a nine-round home-defense dynamo.

Winning Features

- Ultra-compact size
- Receiver drilled and tapped for optics/rail mounting
- Proven reliability of Mossberg's Model 590 action
- Ambidextrous center-line safety

O.F. Mossberg and Sons; (203) 230-5300, mossberg.com

Gauge: 12; 3-inch chamber
Capacity: 5 rounds (2¾-inch shells)
Barrel Length: 14 inches
Overall Length: 26.4 inches
Weight: 5 pounds, 4 ounces
MSRP: $455

"Suddenly, the Shockwave is now a serious arm that's also great for vermin like rabid skunks, attacking rattlesnakes and other critters. It's perfect for boats and for travel [when unloaded]…"

—**Jeff Johnston,** Shotgun Editor

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Optic of the Year

Steiner P4Xi

Great optics tend to come in one of two categories: innovative, but expensive or bland, but affordable. The Steiner P4Xi boasts innovative features in a platform that is quite affordable by tactical-optics standards. From its illuminated, ballistic-compensating reticle that's calibrated for both 5.56 NATO and 7.62 NATO to its compact size, this scope is an outstanding choice for home defense and 3-gun competition.

Steiner Optics; (888) 550-6255, steiner-optics.com

Magnification: 1-4X
Objective Lens Diameter: 24 mm
Adjustability: 100 MOA in .5-MOA clicks
Eye Relief: 3.5 inches
Length: 10.3 inches
Weight: 17.3 ounces
MSRP: $579.99

Winning Features

- Illuminated, P3TR ballistic reticle
- Quick-focus eyepiece
- Easily adjusted magnification
- Durable construction

"Lightweight and easy to use, the Steiner P4Xi will be a first-rate choice for patrol rifles and AR platforms. Priced less than $600, you can't ask much more from a quality piece of tactical shooting glass."

—Brian McCombie

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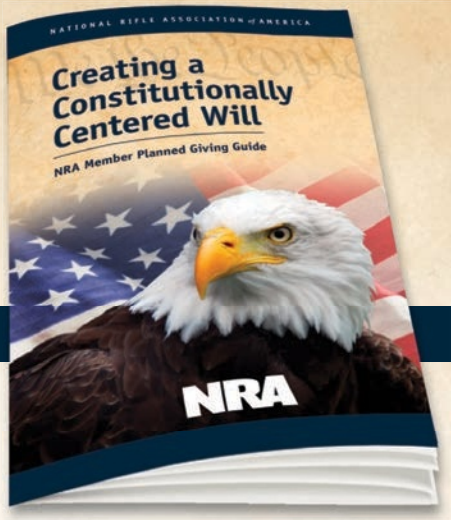

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Championing the causes you cherish through a carefully designed estate strategy could take months of planning and costly legal legwork.

Now, NRA can help you knock this task down to size with our NRA Member Planned Giving Guide. NRA's *Creating a Constitutionally Centered Will* lays out tips and strategies that help you maximize charitable gifts while minimizing estate taxes and meeting your long-term financial goals.

Written by experts in the field, in easy-to-read, no-nonsense language, this guide is the one tool to craft the estate strategy that's right for you.

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WEB: www.NRAPlannedGiving.org

Ammunition Product of the Year

Hornady Black HD SBR

Short-barreled rifles (SBR) and AR pistols are all the rage (see our New Gun Guide if you don't believe us), but their abbreviated pipes mean that traditional 5.56 NATO ballistics don't apply. Hornady remedied this potential problem with a load specifically designed for use in SBRs. From its heavy-for-caliber bullet to low-flash, low-fouling powder, the HD SBR offering in the company's new Black line is the ideal choice for any AR-pattern firearm with a short barrel. Accuracy and terminal performance are both stellar, and this ammunition helps ensure reliability.

Hornady; (800) 338-3220, hornady.com

"…Hornady's Black ammunition is made up of loads ideally adapted—for common practical use—to the guns for which they are intended. The 5.56 NATO HD SBR load is a perfect example."

—**Richard Mann,** Ammo Editor

Winning Features

- Designed for flawless performance from short barrels
- Low-flash propellant
- 75-grain, purpose-built projectile
- Meets FBI testing protocol parameters

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Item #:	Caliber	Capacity	BBL	Weight
18045	308	10+1	20"	9.8 lbs
18046	6.5 Creedmoor	10+1	24"	10.6 lbs

- Barrett Brown Cerakote Finish
- M-LOK Handguard
- Two 10-Round Magpul PMAGs
- Hybrid Muzzle Brake
- 20 MOA Picatinny Rail
- Cold Hammer Forged Barrel
- Reversible Safety Selector
- Marksman Adjustable Trigger

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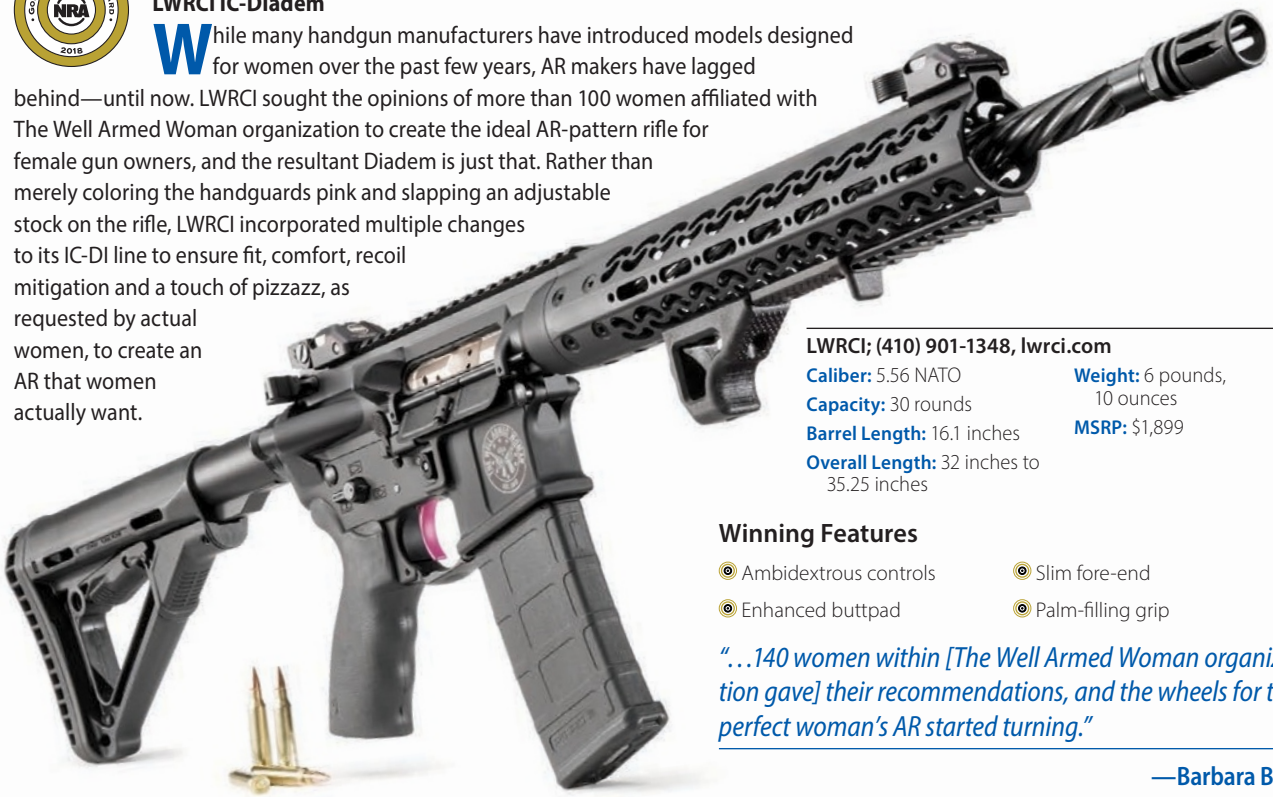
Women's Innovation Product of the Year

LWRCI IC-Diadem

While many handgun manufacturers have introduced models designed for women over the past few years, AR makers have lagged behind—until now. LWRCI sought the opinions of more than 100 women affiliated with The Well Armed Woman organization to create the ideal AR-pattern rifle for female gun owners, and the resultant Diadem is just that. Rather than merely coloring the handguards pink and slapping an adjustable stock on the rifle, LWRCI incorporated multiple changes to its IC-DI line to ensure fit, comfort, recoil mitigation and a touch of pizzazz, as requested by actual women, to create an AR that women actually want.



LWRCI; (410) 901-1348, lwrci.com

Caliber: 5.56 NATO
Capacity: 30 rounds
Barrel Length: 16.1 inches
Overall Length: 32 inches to 35.25 inches
Weight: 6 pounds, 10 ounces
MSRP: $1,899

Winning Features

- Ambidextrous controls
- Enhanced buttpad
- Slim fore-end
- Palm-filling grip

"…140 women within [The Well Armed Woman organization gave] their recommendations, and the wheels for the perfect woman's AR started turning."

—Barbara Baird

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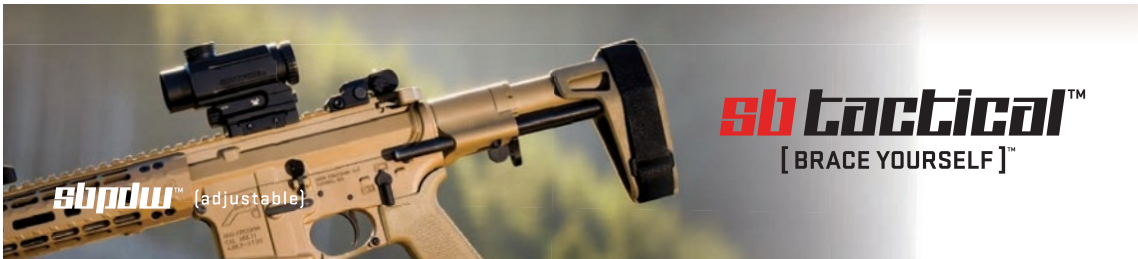

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Accessory of the Year

Blue Force Gear Micro Trauma Kit NOW

One of the most important things you can carry every day is an individual first-aid kit (IFAK), and this offering from Blue Force Gear is a perfect way to ensure you are prepared for a medical emergency. First, its small size and ease of mounting eliminates excuses for not carrying an IFAK. Beyond that, it is available loaded with the most important first-aid supplies—from a tourniquet to bandages to rubber gloves and more—that give you or a trained bystander the ability to save a life, which could be your own. Its innovative design and the value it provides easily cover the relatively affordable cost.

Blue Force Gear; (877) 430-2583, blueforcegear.com

MSRP: $68 (empty), $129 (with basic medical supplies), $200 (with advanced medical supplies)

Winning Features

- Compact size for ease of carry
- First-aid supplies can deploy with one hand
- Durable Cordura and elastic construction
- Multiple color options available

"My go-to med kit comes from Blue Force Gear. It's called the Micro Trauma kit. The very cool thing about [this] kit is there are several levels you can purchase, from the Advanced Kit for law enforcement use to the Basic Kit that's better for most civilian uses like at the range, in a car, at a school or in an office."

—Travis "Doc T"

Pioneer Award

Richard Fitzpatrick, founder of Magpul Industries

While serving in the U.S. Marine Corps in 1991, Fitzpatrick pondered reinventing a common work-around troops had used for decades to ease handling of M16 magazines. Rather than duct tape and parachute-cord loops that afforded soldiers under stress a better grip on their magazines, Fitzpatrick had the idea for what became the dual-friction band we all now know as the Magpul.

In short order, Magpul—adopted as the company name—attracted customers clamoring for what has been a seemingly inexhaustible stream of new products that likewise improve functionality and value. Today, the company makes a tremendous array of stocks and accessories for multiple firearm platforms, plus personal kit like the Everyday Wallet and iPhone Field case.

Known for its Foundations, a series of clearly stated principles, ethics and operational philosophies, Magpul lived up to its creed after the Colorado legislature passed sweeping gun-control measures in 2013. Included was a restriction on the future sale and ownership of magazines capable of holding more than 15 rounds. That would have meant the company's signature PMag could no longer be sold in its home state.

Though it came at a time when Magpul was preparing to break ground on a new facility, the company joined other like-minded firearm-industry firms in refusing to yield to the loss of freedom. Before the restrictions went into effect, Magpul undertook a massive effort to produce and distribute as many so-called "high-capacity" magazines as it could. A number of PMags were given away for free, and many more were sold at sharply discounted prices, with all proceeds going to recall-election campaigns targeting chief anti-gun politicians, two of whom were ultimately voted out of office.

When the magazine ban went into effect, Magpul made good on its word. Following a detailed search, manufacturing, distribution and shipping operations relocated to Cheyenne, WY, while the corporate office moved to Texas. Despite all that, the company has maintained a presence in its home state, vowing, "Magpul will…support efforts to restore rights taken away from lawful gun owners in Colorado."

Richard Fitzpatrick retired from day-to-day operations in March 2017, but continues to be involved as a major shareholder and member of the Magpul Board of Directors. His ingenuity and leadership created a company that designs and builds what are likely the most popular firearm accessories in the world, manufactures magazines preferred by our servicemen and women in combat and stands up for our Second Amendment rights whenever they are threatened. Thanks to Fitzpatrick and Magpul, the entire firearm industry and every firearm enthusiast has benefitted, both in terms of innovative products and the protection of our liberty.

Urgent: Special Summer Driving Notice

To some, sunglasses are a fashion accessory…

But When Driving, These Sunglasses May Save Your Life!

Studies by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) show that most (74%) of the crashes occurred on clear, sunny days

Drivers' Alert: Driving can expose you to more dangerous glare than any sunny day at the beach can… do you know how to protect yourself?

The sun rises and sets at peak travel periods, during the early morning and afternoon rush hours and many drivers find themselves temporarily blinded while driving directly into the glare of the sun. Deadly accidents are regularly caused by such blinding glare with danger arising from reflected light off another vehicle, the pavement, or even from waxed and oily windshields that can make matters worse. Early morning dew can exacerbate this situation. Yet, motorists struggle on despite being blinded by the sun's glare that can cause countless accidents every year.

Not all sunglasses are created equal. Protecting your eyes is serious business. With all the fancy fashion frames out there it can be easy to overlook what really matters—the lenses. So we did our research and looked to the very best in optic innovation and technology.

Sometimes it does take a rocket scientist. A NASA rocket scientist. Some ordinary sunglasses can obscure your vision by exposing your eyes to harmful UV rays, blue light, and reflective glare. They can also darken useful vision-enhancing light. But now, independent research conducted by scientists from NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory has brought forth ground-breaking technology to help protect human eyesight from the harmful effects of solar radiation light. This superior lens technology was first discovered when NASA scientists looked to nature for a means to superior eye protection—specifically, by studying the eyes of eagles, known for their extreme visual acuity. This discovery resulted in what is now known as Eagle Eyes®.

Slip on a pair of Eagle Eyes® and everything instantly appears more vivid and sharp. You'll immediately notice that your eyes are more comfortable and relaxed and you'll feel no need to squint. The scientifically designed sunglasses are not just fashion accessories—they are necessary to protect your eyes from those harmful rays produced by the sun during peak driving times.

The Only Sunglass Technology Certified by the Space Foundation for UV and Blue-Light Eye Protection. Eagle Eyes® features the most advanced eye protection technology ever created. The TriLenium® Lens Technology offers triple-filter polarization to block 99.9% UVA and UVB—plus the added benefit of blue-light eye protection. Eagle Eyes® is the only optic technology that has earned official recognition from the Space Certification Program for this remarkable technology. Now, that's proven science-based protection.

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That's two pairs to protect your eyes with the best technology available for less than the price of one pair of traditional sunglasses. You get a pair of Navigators with stainless steel black frames and the other with stainless steel gold, plus one hard zipper case and one micro-fiber drawstring cleaning pouch are included. Keep one pair in your pocket and one in your car.

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Navigator™ Gold Stainless Steel Sunglasses

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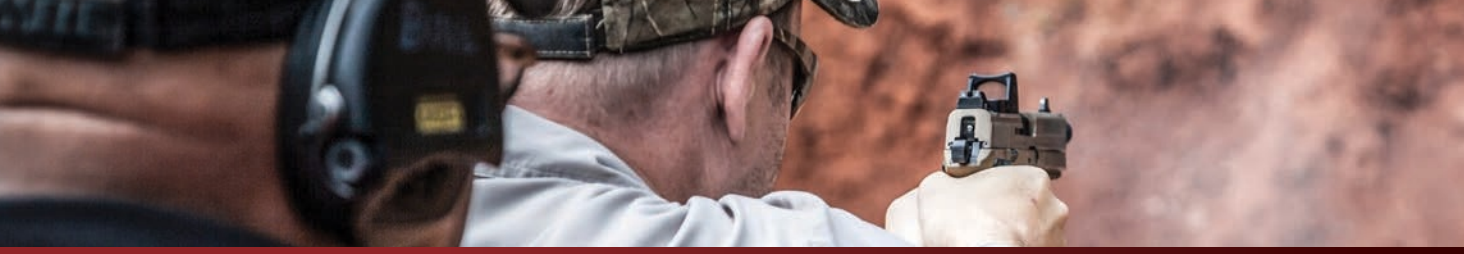


4TH ANNUAL MENTOR INITIATIVE:

Take Someone To The Range This Month

Along with encouraging budding shooters to enroll with local NRA Certified Instructors for expert training, mentors can provide actual places to shoot that are safe and welcoming, help new shooters understand firearm safety, handling and range protocol, and help them locate nearby ranges. **By Jim Handlon,** NRA Publications Director of Marketing

Under the NRA Mentor Initiative—organized by NRA Publications and sponsored by Taurus, Winchester Ammunition, Davidson's and Walker's—we're encouraging every NRA member to take a new shooter to the range so we can grow the ranks of freedom-loving Americans. And when you pledge to do it in May, you can enter the Mentor Sweepstakes for the chance to win valuable prizes.

As mentors, your first duty is to acquaint budding shooters with firearm safety, gun care and range protocol. You can also encourage them to enroll with local NRA Certified Instructors for the expert training they need to become safe and skilled with their firearms.

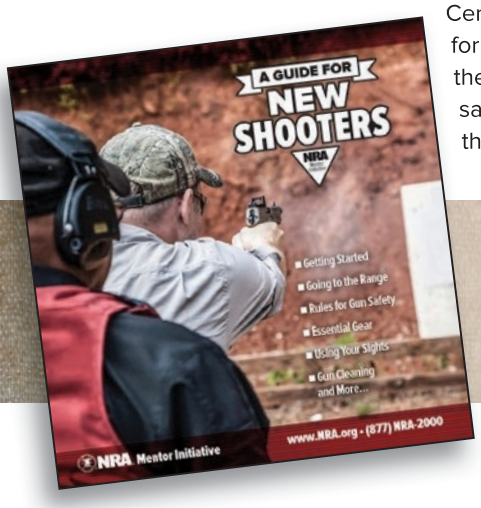
When you realize that over the past five years many Americans have purchased their first firearms, you know the ground is fertile for introducing newcomers to shooting and persuading them to join us in standing tall to protect our Second Amendment.

As part of the Mentor Initiative, the NRA offers a *Guide for New Shooters*—you can download a PDF copy by visiting the link in the shaded box below. *The Guide for New Shooters* provides useful information about range rules, gun safety, gear, shooting tips, gun cleaning and storage. It was created for new shooters, and mentors can use it as a teaching aid.

Please identify new shooters and help them gain confidence. Take the time to talk about how NRA protects our rights and works to support shooting sports and train new shooters. Encourage them to become NRA members.

And if you commit to mentoring someone soon, there's something in it for you, too. The facing page explains the Mentor Sweepstakes, including official rules, entry guidelines and a list of prizes.

Mentoring can help thousands of new members learn in a safe and familiar environment with you on hand to help take the guesswork out of shooting. Don't miss out! Devoting a few hours to helping new shooters and promoting the NRA will stand as one of your best days ever at the range.



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NRA MENTOR SWEEPSTAKES

Go to **nrapublications.org/mentor** and sign up today for your chance to win valuable prizes!

Sweepstakes registration is online only

1 Winner will receive a **Taurus® 1911™ Commander Pistol in 45 ACP**

10 Winners will each receive a **Davidson's, Inc. Gift Card in the amount of $500**

5 Winners will each receive a **Winchester gift card in the amount of $100 redeemable at winchestergear.com**

5 Winners will each receive a pair of **GSM Walker - Silencer In The Ear**

NO PURCHASE OR DONATION NECESSARY TO ENTER OR WIN. A PURCHASE OR DONATION WILL NOT IMPROVE YOUR CHANCES OF WINNING. The NRA Mentor Sweepstakes is open to legal residents of the 50 United States and Washington, D.C., age 21 years or older at time of entry. Sweepstakes begins at 9:00 AM Eastern Time ("ET") on 4/16/18 and ends at 11:59 PM ET on 7/2/18. To enter and view complete Official Rules, which govern this Sweepstakes, visit www.nrapublications.org/mentor. Void where prohibited by law. Sponsor: National Rifle Association of America.

NEW GUNS 2018

In a year that was expected to be marked by a glut of ARs, gun manufacturers rose to the challenge of creating new and innovative firearms to excite a customer base that seemingly had seen it all.

This year was expected to be a quiet one for gun sales. We have a pro-gun administration in Washington and the market has an enormous inventory of ARs, a platform at risk of buyer fatigue. Then along came regulatory reinterpretations from—of all places—BATFE, and suddenly we began to witness the phenomena of short, smoothbore "any other weapons" and semi-automatic pistols with shoulder-mountable arm braces. And if that wasn't enough to stir interest in the market, law-abiding American gunowners suddenly found themselves the targets of a well-orchestrated, well-funded political and social attack that exploited tragedy, ignorance and corporate cowardice in a frontal assault on our rights. What once looked to be fair weather was only the calm before the storm.

A *Shooting Illustrated* Staff Report

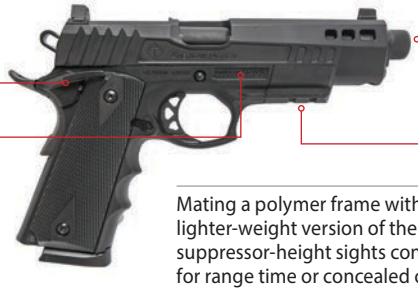
Handguns 67 | Rifles 84 | Shotguns 92

Combining an Officer's-size compact frame with a Commander-length barrel and slide make the Brimstone a CCO—and ideal for concealed carry. Despite its compactness and quick handling, the Brimstone nonetheless comes with an accuracy guarantee of 1.5 inches at 25 yards.

Alchemy Custom Weaponry Brimstone

Caliber	.45 ACP
Magazine Capacity	8 rounds
Barrel Length	4.25 inches
Overall Length	7.85 inches
Weight	33.4 ounces
MSRP	$2,795

(724) 676-1911
alchemy1911.com



Mating a polymer frame with a steel slide, the FXH Hybrid offers a lighter-weight version of the 1911 platform. Unique styling and suppressor-height sights contribute to a one-of-a-kind pistol suitable for range time or concealed carry.

American Tactical FXH Hybrid

Caliber	9 mm
Magazine Capacity	10 rounds
Barrel Length	5 inches
Overall Length	8.7 inches
Weight	31.2 ounces
MSRP	$679.95

(800) 290-0065
americantactical.us

Designed with practical-shooting competition in mind, this DA/SA pistol sports a steel frame, a redesigned grip and an extended beavertail to enhance shootability on the line.

Arex Rex Alpha

Caliber	9 mm
Magazine Capacity	17 rounds
Barrel Length	5 inches
Overall Length	8.9 inches
Weight	39 ounces
MSRP	$1,099

(702) 215-3600
fimegroup.com

Tricked-out for tactical use from the factory, this variant of the popular Rex Zero 1 DA/SA handgun also features optics-mounting capability and ships with four adapter plates to fit a variety of micro red dots.

Arex Rex Zero 1 Tactical Compact

Caliber	9 mm
Magazine Capacity	17 rounds
Barrel Length	4.5 inches
Overall Length	8.1 inches
Weight	28.7 ounces
MSRP	$869

(702) 215-3600
fimegroup.com

A compact, full-featured pistol with traditional DA/SA operation, the TPR9C is made for concealed carry. It's a reduced-size version of the already successful TPR9. It uses an aluminum-alloy frame matched to a steel slide, polygonal rifling and a three-dot sight sytem. A 13-round extended magazine is included.

Bersa TPR9C

Caliber	9 mm
Magazine Capacity	10 rounds
Barrel Length	3.25 inches
Overall Length	6.5 inches
Weight	23 ounces
MSRP	$508

(732) 493-0333
eagleimportsinc.com

Cabot's Gentleman's Carry optimizes the 1911 for concealed or open carry. Its Commander-length barrel is mated to a bobtail frame for a pistol that won't "print" under clothing and which clears leather fast on the draw. However, as a Cabot, functionality teams with luxury as can be seen in every detail. The pistol is also available in .45 ACP.

Cabot Guns Gentleman's Carry

Caliber	9 mm
Magazine Capacity	8 rounds
Barrel Length	4.25 inches
Overall Length	7.85 inches
Weight	33 ounces
MSRP	$4,795

(724) 524-1002
cabotgun.com

Cabot Guns Icon Government Model

Caliber ..... .45 ACP
Magazine Capacity ..... 8 rounds
Barrel Length ..... 5 inches
Overall Length ..... 8.72 inches
Weight ..... 39.5 ounces
MSRP $4,995

(724) 676-1911
cabotgun.com

Crafted from a single block of stainless steel, the Icon exemplifies the potential for perfection possible through simplicity. The elegant, meticulously refined pistol is available in a 5-inch Government Model or the 4.25-inch Commander, in either .45 ACP or 9 mm. Both versions come with an accuracy guarantee of 1.5 inches at 25 yards.

Canik TP9SA Mod. 2

Caliber ..... 9 mm
Magazine Capacity ..... 18 rounds
Barrel Length ..... 4.46 inches
Overall Length ..... 7.5 inches
Weight ..... 28.5 ounces
MSRP $399.99

(800) 527-1252
centuryarms.com

The latest version of the TP9SA boasts improvements requested by military and law enforcement users, including a flattop slide for easier sight acquisition, a top-slide-mounted disassembly button and an aggressively stippled grip for added purchase.

Century International Arms C39v2 Pistol with Shockwave Brace

Caliber ..... 7.62x39 mm
Magazine Capacity ..... 30 rounds
Barrel Length ..... 10.6 inches
Overall Length .... 28.75 to 31.25 inches
Weight ..... 121.6 ounces
MSRP $949.99

(800) 527-1252
centuryarms.com

Now available from the factory with the Shockwave Blade arm brace, this 100-percent American-made AK sports a side-rail scope mount that has a return-to-zero capability.

Century International Arms Draco NAK9

Caliber ..... 9 mm
Magazine Capacity ..... 33 rounds
Barrel Length ..... 11.1 inches
Overall Length ..... 19.1 inches
Weight ..... 102.1 ounces
MSRP $724.99

(800) 527-1252
centuryarms.com

An AK-style pistol that takes Glock magazines? That's the new Draco NAK9. This Romanian-made handgun is also compatible with AKM furniture, making replacing the handguards or grip easy.

Charles Daly 1911 Superior Grade

Caliber ..... .45 ACP
Magazine Capacity ..... 8 rounds
Barrel Length ..... 5 inches
Overall Length ..... 9.63 inches
Weight ..... 41.12 ounces
MSRP $699

(937) 835-5000
charlesdaly.com

Charles Daly entered the 1911 market with this full-size model that incorporates all of the essentials in an affordably priced variant of one of the world's most recognizable handguns.

Charter Arms Bulldog pistol

Caliber ..... .45 Colt
Capacity ..... 5 rounds
Barrel Length ..... 2.5 inches
Overall Length ..... 7.38 inches
Weight ..... 22 ounces
MSRP $433

(866) 769-4867
charterfirearms.com

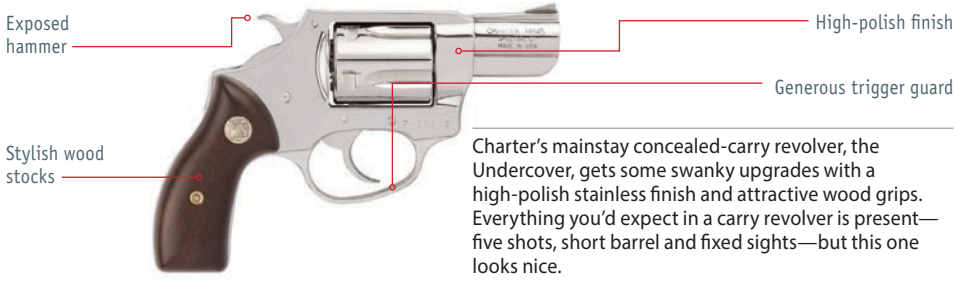
The Bulldog line gets another big-bore option with the .45 Colt variant. In addition to the .44 Spl. offering Charter has maintained for decades, the historical .45 Colt now has a home in the company's Bulldog revolvers.

Featuring an attractive color combination of magenta-anodized aluminum and polished-stainless steel barrel, cylinder, trigger and cylinder release, the Chic Lady Magenta brings peace of mind in a stylish package amenable to concealed carry.

Charter Arms Chic Lady Magenta

Caliber	.38 Spl.
Capacity	5 rounds
Barrel Length	2 inches
Overall Length	6.75 inches
Weight	12 ounces
MSRP	$445.50

(866) 769-4867
charterfirearms.com



Charter's mainstay concealed-carry revolver, the Undercover, gets some swanky upgrades with a high-polish stainless finish and attractive wood grips. Everything you'd expect in a carry revolver is present—five shots, short barrel and fixed sights—but this one looks nice.

Charter Arms Undercover

Caliber	.38 Spl.
Capacity	5 rounds
Barrel Length	2 inches
Overall Length	6.75 inches
Weight	16 ounces
MSRP	$396

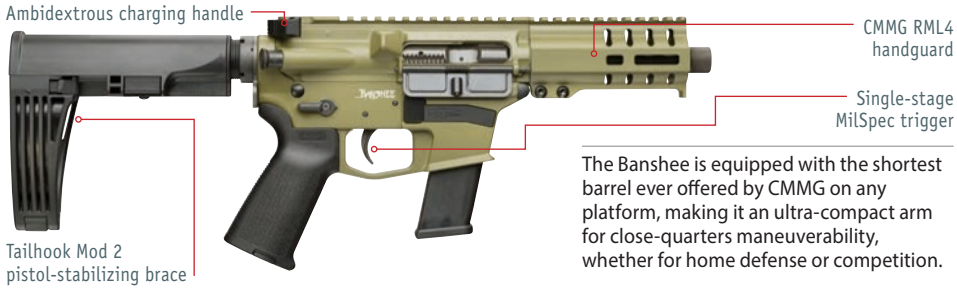
(866) 769-4867
charterfirearms.com

Now offered with an olive-drab green finish, this unique revolver is designed to reduce recoil with its innovative firing system that ignites rounds at the bottom of the cylinder.

Chiappa Firearms Rhino 30DS OD Green

Caliber	.357 Mag.
Capacity	6 rounds
Barrel Length	3 inches
Overall Length	7.5 inches
Weight	27.2 ounces
MSRP	$1,154

(937) 835-5000
chiappafirearms.com



The Banshee is equipped with the shortest barrel ever offered by CMMG on any platform, making it an ultra-compact arm for close-quarters maneuverability, whether for home defense or competition.

CMMG Inc. Banshee

Caliber	.45 ACP
Magazine Capacity	13 rounds
Barrel Length	5 inches
Overall Length	20 inches
Weight	73.6 ounces
MSRP	$1,499.95

(660) 248-2203
cmmginc.com

Built one-at-a-time by the master gunsmiths in the Colt custom Shop, this pistol's forgings and other components come from top manufacturers built specifically for Colt pistols. The adjustable rear sight is melted in with the hidden Bomar Cut, and ball-cut serrations span the top of the slide.

Colt Custom Competition Pistol

Caliber	.45 ACP
Magazine Capacity	7 rounds
Barrel Length	5 inches
Overall Length	8.5 inches
Weight	41 ounces
MSRP	$2,499

(800) 962-2658
colt.com

For 2018, Colt's latest iteration of its Cobra line of revolvers is the ideal companion for the concealed-carry licensee, thanks to its corrosion-resistant coating, tritium front sight and an elongated trigger guard allows use of gloves.

Colt Night Cobra

Caliber	.38 Spl.
Capacity	6 rounds
Barrel Length	2.1 inches
Overall Length	7.25 inches
Weight	25 ounces
MSRP	$899

(800) 962-2658
colt.com

Coonan MOT 10 Compensated

Caliber ..... 10 mm
Magazine Capacity ..... 8 rounds
Barrel Length ..... 5.7 inches
Overall Length ..... 10 inches
Weight ..... 44 ounces
MSRP $1,700

(763) 786-1720
coonaninc.com

From the manufacturer known for bridging the gap between the .357 Mag. and America's pistol, the 1911, the company's latest offering pairs the powerhouse 10 mm with a compensator for those who want the terminal performance without the abusive recoil.

CZ-USA P-10C Urban Grey Suppressor-Ready

Caliber ..... 9 mm
Magazine Capacity ..... 17 rounds
Barrel Length ..... 4.61 inches
Overall Length ..... 8 inches
Weight ..... 26 ounces
MSRP $549

(800) 955-4486
cz-usa.com

New this year, CZ's striker-fired P-10 comes in the combination of FDE and light grey that the company calls Urban Grey. The suppressor-ready barrel is threaded ½x28. Capacity is now 17 rounds, thanks to an extended base pad.

CZ-USA Scorpion EVO 3 S1 Pistol with Flash Can and Folding Brace

Caliber ..... 9 mm
Magazine Capacity ..... 20 rounds
Barrel Length ..... 7.72 inches
Overall Length ..... 21 to 29.4 inches
Weight ..... 104 ounces
MSRP: $999

(800)-955-4486
cz-usa.com

By installing an SB Tactical brace at the factory, CZ-USA offers a complete braced-pistol package right off the shelf. The popular Scorpion pistol features an extended carbine handguard and flash can muzzle device.

Daniel Defense DDM4V7 P

Caliber ..... 5.56 NATO
Magazine Capacity ..... 30 rounds
Barrel Length ..... 10.3 inches
Overall Length ..... 28.6 inches
Weight ..... 87 ounces
MSRP $1,679

(866) 554-4867
danieldefense.com

Daniel Defense's latest pistol ships with SB Tactical's SOB Stabilizing Brace and is also available in a variant sporting Law Tactical's folding stock adapter for $1,942.

European American Armory Witness P Match Pro

Caliber ..... 9 mm
Magazine Capacity ..... 17 rounds
Barrel Length ..... 4.75 inches
Overall Length ..... 8.75 inches
Weight ..... 30.4 ounces
MSRP $815

(321) 639-4842
eaacorp.com

Though it was designed initially for competitve shooting, the P Match Pro's ambidextrous fire controls, generous capacity and DA/SA configuration make it a winner no matter the mission. Other chamberings include .38 Super, .40 S&W, 10 mm and .45 ACP, too.

FN America FN 15 Pistol

Caliber ..... .300 BLK
Magazine Capacity ..... 30 rounds
Barrel Length ..... 12 inches
Overall Length ..... 28.63 inches
Weight ..... 90.4 ounces
MSRP $1,599

(703) 288-3500
fnamerica.com

Checking a ton of boxes for popular features—from the .300 BLK chambering to the suppressor-ready muzzle device—this AR-style pistol also ships with the increasingly popular SB Tactical Pistol Stabilizing Brace, allowing for added versatility.

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M1 SCOUT
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BLACK TEXTURED WALNUT STOCK
15 ROUND MAGAZINE
INLAND MFG · DAYTON OH
*VORTEX VENOM, AND 30 ROUND MAGAZINE NOT INCLUDED
SEE MORE M1 CARBINES AT INLAND-MFG.COM

Glock G19X

Caliber ..... 9 mm
Magazine Capacity ..... 17 rounds
Barrel Length ..... 4.02 inches
Overall Length ..... 7.44 inches
Weight ..... 24.83 ounces
MSRP $749

(770) 432-1202
us.glock.com

Glock loaded the G19X with a variety of improvements that has earned the gun plenty of attention. In addition to mating a G19 upper to a G17 lower, it has the factory's first colored slide, a PVD-treated one in Coyote. Further, the pistol comes with two 17-round magazines as well as two "+2" 19-rounders. Moreover, the G19X includes all of Glock's Gen5 enhancements.

Glock Gen5 G26

Caliber ..... 9 mm
Magazine Capacity ..... 10 rounds
Barrel Length ..... 3.43 inches
Overall Length ..... 6.42 inches
Weight ..... 21.69 ounces
MSRP $699

(770) 432-1202
us.glock.com

More of the Glock lineup, including the G26, now incorporate the Gen5 improvements. Those improvements include the Glock Marksman barrel said to shoot sub-4-inch groups at 50 yards, a smoother trigger pull, flared magazine well, an nDLC finish on the slide and the absence of finger grooves.

Grand Power Q1S

Caliber ..... 9 mm
Magazine Capacity ..... 12 rounds
Barrel Length ..... 3.35 inches
Overall Length ..... 8.70 inches
Weight ..... 28.10 ounces
MSRP $574

(732) 493-0333
eagleimportsinc.com

The Grand Power Q1S is built for concealed carry. Though compact, the polymer-frame pistol incorporates a Picatinny rail, ambidextrous controls and 12 rounds of firepower. Internally, it uses a rotating-barrel system and is striker-fired.

Grand Power Stribog

Caliber ..... 9 mm
Magazine Capacity ..... 20 rounds
Barrel Length ..... 8 inches
Overall Length ..... 14.74 inches
Weight ..... 82 ounces
MSRP $799

(732) 493-0333
eagleimportsinc.com

With dynamic blowback operation and a dual-mass bolt to mitigate felt recoil, the Stribog is a serious piece of ordnance. It utilizes an aluminum frame paired with a polymer grip, and includes an ambidextrous safety. The barrel is threaded to be suppressor ready.

Heckler & Koch VP9 with Crimson Trace Laserguard

Caliber ..... 9 mm
Magazine Capacity ..... 15 rounds
Barrel Length ..... 4.09 inches
Overall Length ..... 7.34 inches
Weight ..... 27.52 ounces
MSRP $889

(706) 568-1906
hk-usa.com

HK's popular, full-size VP9 is now offered with a choice of Crimson Trace's red-beam Laserguard or the more expensive green-beam model. Featuring an instinctive, front-activation button, the beam is fully adjustable for windage and elevation.

Heckler & Koch VP9SK in NATO Green

Caliber ..... 9 mm
Magazine Capacity ..... 10 rounds
Barrel Length ..... 3.39 inches
Overall Length ..... 6.61 inches
Weight ..... 23.3 ounces
MSRP $719

(706) 568-1906
hk-usa.com

The compact version of HK's premium striker-fired pistol is now offered in a variety of frame colors, including NATO green. The pistol retains its excellent ergonomics and reliability, but it can now be had from the factory in Flat Dark Earth or grey, as well as standard black.

Randy Luth
Founder & Former Owner DPMS

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Rifle

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Carbine

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$19.95

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$14.95

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Honor Defense Captain America Honor Guard

Caliber ..... 9 mm
Magazine Capacity ..... 8 rounds
Barrel Length ..... 3.8 inches
Overall Length ..... 6.8 inches
Weight ..... 25 ounces
MSRP $499

(678) 943-8035
honordefense.com

With its red, white and blue color scheme, the Captain America Honor Guard is quite patriotic. The compact, polymer-frame, double-action-only pistol relies on more than sentiment, though, with its stainless steel chassis and comfortable ergonomics.

Kahr ST9

Caliber ..... 9 mm
Magazine Capacity ..... 8 rounds
Barrel Length ..... 4 inches
Overall Length ..... 6.5 inches
Weight ..... 20.6 ounces
MSRP $541

(508) 795-3919
kahr.com

First in the TIG series, the Kahr ST9 is a limited-edition pistol honoring John "TIG" Tiegen. Production will be held to 1,000 pistols. Each will feature a the TIG logo, TIG's signature and the Beyond the Battlefield logo. A portion of every sale will be donated to the Beyond the Battlefield Foundation by Kahr's parent company.

Kimber K6s CDP

Caliber ..... .357 Mag.
Capacity ..... 6 rounds
Barrel Length ..... 2 inches
Overall Length ..... 6.62 inches
Weight ..... 23 ounces
MSRP $1,155

(888) 243-4522
kimberamerica.com

Putting the "C" in "CDP (Custom Defense Package) are upgrades like fancy stocks and a two-tone appearance, but don't overlook the functional upgrades like night sights and a smooth, non-stacking trigger in the new CDP.

Kimber KHX Pro (OR)

Caliber ..... .45 ACP
Magazine Capacity ..... 7 rounds
Barrel Length ..... 4 inches
Overall Length ..... 7.7 inches
Weight ..... 38 ounces
MSRP $1,087

(888) 243-4522
kimberamerica.com

With "Optics Ready" (the "OR" in the name), obviously the new KHX has micro-red-dot optics in mind—it even features raised front and rear sights. The KHX family—including the Optics Ready version—includes a full-size and compact version.

Kimber Micro 9 Desert Night (DN)

Caliber ..... 9 mm
Magazine Capacity ..... 7 rounds
Barrel Length ..... 3.15 inches
Overall Length ..... 6.1 inches
Weight ..... 15.6 ounces
MSRP $755

(888) 243-4522
kimberamerica.com

Bringing some style to the Micro 9 series is the Desert Night variant, presented in a desert tan finish with rounded edges. Upgraded sights, grip and frame all add to the Desert Night's agility as a concealed-carry option.

Les Baer Thunder Ranch 25th Anniversary Limited Edition

Caliber ..... .45 ACP
Magazine Capacity ..... 7 rounds
Barrel Length ..... 5 inches
Overall Length ..... 8.5 inches
Weight ..... 36 ounces
MSRP $2,520

(563) 289-2126
lesbaer.com

Commemorating the 25th anniversary of one of America's most-respected firearm's-training facilities, this offering of only 250 pistols will feature checkered grips with the Thunder Ranch logo and special serial numbers with a "TRXXV" (Thunder Ranch 25) prefix.

$165 VALUE!

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Magnum Research Mark XIX L5

Caliber	.50 AE
Magazine Capacity	7 rounds
Barrel Length	5 inches
Overall Length	9.75 inches
Weight	48.6 ounces
MSRP	$1,790

(218) 746-4597
magnumresearch.com

Designated the DE50L5IMB, the lighter, more compact L5 configuration of the Desert Eagle is now available chambered in .50 AE. Its weight makes it New York State compliant in addition to being easier to carry and quicker handling. Premium features from the .44 Mag.-caliber L5 are retained in the new chambering.

MG Arms Wraithe 1911

Caliber	.45 ACP
Magazine Capacity	7 rounds
Barrel Length	4.25 inches
Overall Length	8 inches
Weight	25 ounces
MSRP	$2,895

(281) 821-8282
mgarmsinc.com

Your choice of an aluminum or titanium frame combined with a meticulously hand-fitted/lapped slide and a match-grade barrel make MG Arms' Wraithe the perfect candidate for everyday carry.

Nigthawk Custom Custom Agent 2

Caliber	9 mm
Magazine Capacity	10 rounds
Barrel Length	5 inches
Overall Length	8.59 inches
Weight	40.1 ounces
MSRP	$4,495

(877) 268-4867
nighthawkcustom.com

The result of a collaboration between Nighthawk Custom, Agency Arms, Railscales and Hillbilly 223, each Custom Agent 2 is nonetheless crafted by a single gunsmith. Whether in 9 mm or traditional .45 ACP, it explores the outer limits of the 1911 platform.

Nighthawk Custom Chairman

Caliber	9 mm
Magazine Capacity	10 rounds
Barrel Length	6 inches
Overall Length	9.58 inches
Weight	40.9 ounces
MSRP	$4,195

(877) 268-4867
nighthawkcustom.com

Available in both 9 mm and .45 ACP, the long-slide Chairman is the first of Nighthawk Custom's Boardroom series. The slide cuts keep weight down while highlighting the gold Titanium Nitride barrel. The greater barrel length results in increased sight radius, reduced felt recoil and enhanced velocity.

Nighthawk Custom Lady Hawk 2.0

Caliber	9 mm
Magazine Capacity	10 rounds
Barrel Length	4.25 inches
Overall Length	7.85 inches
Weight	36 ounces
MSRP	$4,695

(877) 268-4867
nighthawkcustom.com

The very popular Lady Hawk has been upgraded as the Lady Hawk 2.0. The slender, dehorned 1911 is now offered in polished-stainless steel or with a DLC (Diamond Like Carbon) coating, with rose gold-colored TiCN appointments and unique Obsidian, Abalone and zinc grips.

PTR Industries 9CT

Caliber	9 mm
Magazine Capacity	30 rounds
Barrel Length	8.86 inches
Overall Length	17.6 inches
Weight	80.8 ounces
MSRP	$1,899

(843) 358-2222
ptr-us.com

While it may not be made in Germany, this semi-automatic clone of the iconic submachine gun ships with a hard case, a single-point sling and two 30-round magazines, getting a whole lot of 9 mm ready to send downrange.

MISSION ESSENTIAL

The modernized Galil ACE is based upon the reliable mechanism of the original Galil assault rifle first developed by IMI in the late 1960's. Drawing inspiration from the legendary Russian AK-47 and the Finnish Valmet RK 62, the IWI Galil ACE has been continuously improved over the last 40+ years, resulting in today's extremely reliable and highly accurate Galil ACE. Rifle and pistol models available in 7.62x39mm, 7.62 NATO & 5.56 NATO.

GAP 556SB

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IWI US, Inc. | info@iwi.us
www.iwi.us

Galil ACE® Rifle

Remington R1 1911 Ultralight Executive Pistol

Caliber	.45 ACP
Magazine Capacity	7 rounds
Barrel Length	3.5 inches
Overall Length	7 inches
Weight	28 ounces
MSRP	$1,250

(800) 243-9700
remington.com

Remington launches a new line with the Ultralight Executive, featuring an aluminum frame for weight reduction and rounded frame for snag-free operation. Other custom features like an extended beavertail, bobtail frame and checkered frontstrap promote superior operation.

Remington RP45

Caliber	.45 ACP
Magazine Capacity	15 rounds
Barrel Length	4.5 inches
Overall Length	7.91 inches
Weight	26.4 ounces
MSRP	$418

(800) 243-9700
remington.com

Joining its 9 mm counterpart, the RP45 continues the trend of offering utilitarian pistols featuring excellent ammo capacity, ease of fit and affordability. The RP45 brings big-bore capability to Remington's new polymer-frame, striker-fired line of pistols.

Roberts Defense Rogue 1911

Caliber	.45 ACP
Magazine Capacity	8 rounds
Barrel Length	5.75 inches
Overall Length	9.5 inches
Weight	44 ounces
MSRP	$3,589

(920) 236-4157
robertsdefense.com

Micro-red-dot-equipped pistols are gaining in popularity, but few are as heavily customized as the new Rogue from Roberts Defense. With an impressive list of top-tier parts and upgrades, not to mention a Trijicon RMR, the Rogue helps define "top of the line."

Rock River Arms 1911 Poly 4.25"

Caliber	.45 ACP
Magazine Capacity	7 rounds
Barrel Length	4.25 inches
Overall Length	7.9 inches
Weight	30.4 ounces
MSRP	$1,075

(866) 980-7625
rockriverarms.com

Short for easy concealment but not on features, the Rock River Arms 1911 Poly 4.25" also offers the convenience of a lightweight polymer frame for enhanced comfort, all welcome features for an everyday carry pistol.

Ruger EC9s

Caliber	9 mm
Capacity	7 rounds
Barrel Length	3.12 inches
Overall Length	6 inches
Weight	17.2 ounces
MSRP	$299

(336) 949-5200
ruger.com

Less than 1 inch taller and 1 inch longer than Ruger's popular LCP, the EC9s features all the comfort of an ultracompact striker-fired pistol, with redundant safety mechanisms for added peace of mind.

Ruger GP100

Caliber	.357 Mag.
Capacity	7 rounds
Barrel Length	2.5 inches
Overall Length	8 inches
Weight	36 ounces
MSRP	$899

(336) 949-5200
ruger.com

A shorter barrel isn't all that the latest addition to Ruger's popular GP100 line has to offer. Other practical concealed-carry-based options include a high-visibility front sight and an extra round of fight-stopping .357 Mag.

The Security-9 utilizes a polymer frame, which minimizes weight for comfortable all-day carry of a mid-size semi-auto. The pistol also ships with two steel magazines.

Ruger Security-9

Caliber	9 mm
Magazine Capacity	15 rounds
Barrel Length	4 inches
Overall Length	7.24 inches
Weight	23.7 ounces
MSRP	$379

(336) 949-5200
ruger.com

In the SAR 9, SAR USA brings to the market a full-featured, polymer-frame, striker-fired pistol at an affordable price. In addition to its low bore axis to minimize felt recoil, the SAR 9 comes with steel sights, a customizable grip and single-stage Triad trigger.

SAR USA SAR 9

Caliber	9 mm
Magazine Capacity	17 rounds
Barrel Length	4.4 inches
Overall Length	7.5 inches
Weight	27.1 ounces
MSRP	$439

(847) 768-1011
sarusa.com

Continuing to expand the Legion line, SIG now offers the P226 in a single-action-only, red-dot-equipped variant. With upgraded components throughout and a Romeo1 red-dot sight, the P226 Legion RX might just be the cure you're looking for.

SIG Sauer P226 Legion SAO RX

Caliber	9 mm
Magazine Capacity	15 rounds
Barrel Length	4.4 inches
Overall Length	7.7 inches
Weight	34.4 ounces
MSRP	$1,767

(603) 610 - 3000
sigsauer.com

SIG's new P365 took 2018 SHOT Show by storm, as many expected the pistol to be the company's new single-stack competitor to the Shield or G43. Except, of course, that it wasn't a single stack—even though the P365 is actually smaller than the competition.

SIG Sauer P365

Caliber	9 mm
Magazine Capacity	10 rounds
Barrel Length	3.1 inches
Overall Length	5.8 inches
Weight	17.8 ounces
MSRP	$599

(603) 610-3000
sigsauer.com

Surprising many for 2018, the M&P380 is a mid-size, hammer-fired offering that Smith & Wesson claims is easy to rack and fire for pretty much any shooter. This gun features eight-round capacity and a loaded-chamber indicator, as well as offering a full three-finger grip.

Smith & Wesson M&P380 Shield EZ

Caliber	.380 ACP
Magazine Capacity	8 rounds
Barrel Length	3.68 inches
Overall Length	6.7 inches
Weight	18.5 ounces
MSRP	$399

(800) 331-0582
smith-wesson.com

For fans of quiet, Smith & Wesson now offer the M&P M2.0 series with a threaded barrel (a variant in .45 ACP is also available). All of the M2.0 upgrades are present, as are suppressor-height sights—all you need to add is the suppressor.

Smith & Wesson M&P9 Threaded Barrel

Caliber	9 mm
Magazine Capacity	17 rounds
Barrel Length	4.63 inches
Overall Length	7.88 inches
Weight	25.3 ounces
MSRP	$599

(800) 331-0582
smith-wesson.com

Springfield Armory 911

Caliber ..... .380 ACP
Magazine Capacity ..... 6 rounds
Barrel Length ..... 2.7 inches
Overall Length ..... 5.5 inches
Weight ..... 12.6 ounces
MSRP $599

(800) 680-6866
springfield-armory.com

Springfield's first .380 ACP continues the familiar 1911 feel in a pocket-size variant. With familiar operation and convenient size, the 911 fills the role of the gun to have at all times, easily.

Springfield Armory Saint Pistol

Caliber ..... .223 Rem.
Magazine Capacity ..... 30 rounds
Barrel Length ..... 7.5 inches
Overall Length ..... 26.5 inches
Weight ..... 88 ounces
MSRP $989

(800) 680-6866
springfield-armory.com

The popular Saint line gets a pistol added for 2018, complete with an M-Lok-compatible fore-end and handstop. A proprietary muzzle device keeps the Saint Pistol on target while helping ensure proper operation.

Springfield Armory XD-E 45

Caliber ..... .45 ACP
Magazine Capacity ..... 6 rounds
Barrel Length ..... 3.3 inches
Overall Length ..... 6.75 inches
Weight ..... 23 ounces
MSRP $568

(800) 680-6866
springfield-armory.com

Joining its extant sibling in 9 mm, the hammer-fired XD-E brings a DA/SA action to Springfield Armory's .45 ACP offerings. One-inch width makes the XD-E in .45 ACP easy to carry and up to seven-round capacity proffers peace of mind.

Springfield Armory XD-S Mod.2

Caliber ..... .45 ACP
Magazine Capacity ..... 5 rounds
Barrel Length ..... 3.3 inches
Overall Length ..... 6.5 inches
Weight ..... 21.5 ounces
MSRP $568

(800) 680-6866
springfield-armory.com

Springfield Armory brings the Mod.2 updates to the XD-S line of pistols, starting with the XD-S Mod.2 in .45 ACP. Numerous updates will improve how the pistol is carried, charged and fired.

Taurus 692

Caliber ..... .357 Mag. and 9 mm
Capacity ..... 7 rounds
Barrel Length ..... 3 inches
Overall Length ..... 8.2 inches
Weight ..... 35 ounces
MSRP $609

(800) 327-3776
taurususa.com

Three calibers from one gun. That's what the 692 offers. A simple swap of the included cylinders enables the user to switch from .38 Spl./.357 Mag. to 9 mm. It is also available with a stainless finish and/or a 6-inch barrel.

Taurus 856

Caliber ..... .38 Spl.
Capacity ..... 6 rounds
Barrel Length ..... 2 inches
Overall Length ..... 6.55 inches
Weight ..... 22.1 ounces
MSRP $329

(800) 327-3776
taurususa.com

Designed for everyday carry, the 856 is comfortable to shoot, thanks to its multi-textured grip, and affordable price. The simple, compact wheelgun is also offered in stainless steel.

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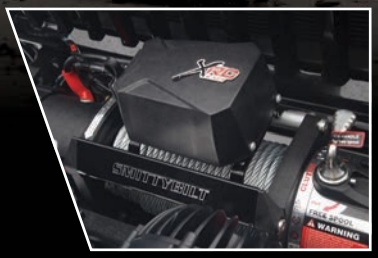

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Taurus 1911 Commander

Caliber	.45 ACP
Magazine Capacity	8 rounds
Barrel Length	4.25 inches
Overall Length	7.9 inches
Weight	38 ounces
MSRP	$609

(800) 327-3776
taurususa.com

Taurus' popular 1911 platform is now available in Commander size, with a shortened barrel and full-size grip. Enhanced sights add to its appeal, as does its relatively low cost.

Walther PPQ SC

Caliber	9 mm
Magazine Capacity	10 rounds
Barrel Length	3.5 inches
Overall Length	6.6 inches
Weight	21.2 ounces
MSRP	$649

(479) 242-8500
waltherarms.com

Diminutive for deep concealment, yet still ergonomic, the PPQ SC comes with a flush-fitting 10-round magazine and an extended 15-rounder.

Walther PPS M2

Caliber	9 mm
Magazine Capacity	8 rounds
Barrel Length	3.18 inches
Overall Length	6.3 inches
Weight	21.1 ounces
MSRP	$699

(479) 242-8500
waltherarms.com

The slim, concealable PPS M2 is now offered with the Shield RMSc optic, which has an aluminum body and parallax-free polymer optic for toughness. The optic co-witnesses with the factory iron sights and its variable-intensity circuitry provides optimum dot visibility according to light levels at the target.

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RATON NEW MEXICO www.exploreraton.com

American Built Arms .22 Chassis Rifle

Caliber ..... .22 LR
Magazine Capacity ..... 7 rounds
Barrel Length ..... 16.5 inches
Overall Length ..... 30.75 to 34 inches
Weight ..... 6 pounds
MSRP $599

(443) 310-8777
abarms.com

Designed and manufactured in the U.S., this lightweight chassis rifle is perfect for practice and plinking for shooters of all ages. The chassis is made from 6061 T6 aluminum and the rifle features a heavy bull barrel.

Black Rain Ordnance BRO .458 SOCOM Rifle

Caliber ..... .458 SOCOM
Magazine Capacity ..... 10 rounds
Barrel Length ..... 16 inches
Overall Length ..... 34.5 inches
Weight ..... 8 pounds
MSRP $1,399

(888) 836-2620
blackrainordnance.com

Chambered in the big-bore .458 SOCOM, this hard-hitting AR is loaded with premium components and can be easily configured for home defense or hunting.

Brownells BRN-10A

Caliber ..... 7.62 NATO
Magazine Capacity ..... 20 rounds
Barrel Length ..... 20 inches
Overall Length ..... 42 inches
Weight ..... 8 pounds
MSRP $1,699

(800) 741-0015
brownells.com

Though some don't realize it, the original chambering of the AR platform was 7.62 NATO back in the 1950s. It was only when ArmaLite's "afterthought" 5.56 NATO-caliber rifle was embraced by foreign militaries that it went to the forefront.

Brownells BRN-601

Caliber ..... .5.56 NATO
Magazine Capacity ..... 20 rounds
Barrel Length ..... 20 inches
Overall Length ..... 40 inches
Weight ..... 6 pounds, 11 ounces
MSRP $1,299

(800) 741-0015
brownells.com

Designed to be a close copy of the rifle that so impressed Gen. Curtis LeMay, the BRN-601 has the green furniture of the USAF contract rifle. This was the early version of the ArmaLite rifle used in the Vietnam War.

Bushmaster 450 SD

Caliber ..... .450 Bushmaster
Magazine Capacity ..... 5 rounds
Barrel Length ..... 16 inches
Overall Length ..... 36.63 inches
Weight ..... 6 pounds, 14 ounces
MSRP $1,299

(844) 700-0870
bushmaster.com

It makes sense that Bushmaster would introduce a carbine chambered in the eponymous .450 Bushmaster. There's also a rifle variant with a fixed stock, and both variants offer Hogue grips and a muzzle brake built to tame the big-bore round.

Christensen Arms Modern Precision Rifle

Caliber ..... .300 Win. Mag.
Magazine Capacity ..... 5 rounds
Barrel Length ..... 24 inches
Overall Length ..... 38.5 to 47 inches
Weight ..... 8.5 pounds
MSRP $2,395

(435) 528-7999
christensenarms.com

The Modern Precision Rifle takes advantage of a 100-percent proprietary chassis built with premium aerospace materials to assure maximum potential accuracy. The rifle is available in several popular longe-range calibers, including short-action 6.5 PRC and .308 Win., and long-action .300 Norma Mag. and .338 Lapua Mag.

With the introduction of the 224 Valkyrie, CMMG set out to build the ideal rifle that could take full advantage of the long-range characteristics of this new round from Federal Premium.

CMMG Inc. Mk4 DTR2 224 Valkyrie

Caliber	224 Valkyrie
Magazine Capacity	10 rounds
Barrel Length	24 inches
Overall Length	44.5 inches
Weight	9.2 pounds
MSRP	$1,699

(660) 248-2203
cmmginc.com

Offering a choice of four foundation and accent colors, a premium trigger and a host of other upgrades and top-shelf options, the BAMF XL Overwatch PRS rifle needs only a riflescope to get out in the field and make your mark at long range.

Cobalt Kinetics BAMF XL Overwatch PRS

Caliber	6.5 Creedmoor
Magazine Capacity	10 rounds
Barrel Length	24 inches
Overall Length	46 inches
Weight	12 pounds, 8 ounces
MSRP	$5,495

(435) 656-0599
cobaltkinetics.com

Also available in .260 Rem., the STAR10-BX offers a good example of the AR platform versatility without unwanted bulk. A Samsom 15-inch Evolution fore-end provides welcome adaptability, allowing you to add accessories as the situation dictates.

DoubleStar STAR10-BX

Caliber	6 mm Creedmoor
Magazine Capacity	20 rounds
Barrel Length	22 inches
Overall Length	45.5 inches
Weight	10 pounds
MSRP	$2,549

(888) 736-7725
star15.com

More than a mere MilSpec M4 carbine, the MOE Warrior features some of the most popular aftermarket accessories, resulting in a factory-tricked-out AR at an attractive price. Best of all, the MOE SL handguard accepts M-Lok attachments.

DPMS MOE Warrior

Caliber	5.56 NATO
Magazine Capacity	30 rounds
Barrel Length	16 inches
Overall Length	33.75 to 37.5 inches
Weight	7 pounds, 5 ounces
MSRP	$1,099

(800) 578-3767
dpms.com

Featuring a MilSpec lower receiver, a match-grade, freefloat, chrome-lined, cold hammer-forged barrel and a mid-length gas system, this carbine promises to be super reliable and accurate.

FN America FN 15 Tactical Carbine FDE P-Lok

Caliber	5.56 NATO
Magazine Capacity	30 rounds
Barrel Length	16 inches
Overall Length	34 to 37.2 inches
Weight	7 pounds, 3 ounces
MSRP	$1,499

(703) 288-3500
fnamerica.com

Franchi's first rifle, the bolt-action Momentum offers numerous popular chamberings in three distinct configurations. The cold-hammer-forged, chrome-moly barrel is freefloated for superior accuracy and has an easy-to-maintain matte finish.

Franchi Momentum

Caliber	6.5 Creedmoor
Magazine Capacity	4 rounds
Barrel Length	24 inches
Overall Length	44.3 inches
Weight	6 pounds, 10 ounces
MSRP	$609

(301) 283-6981
franchiusa.com

Howa Australian Precision Chassis Rifle

Caliber ..... 6.5 Creedmoor
Magazine Capacity ..... 10 rounds
Barrel Length ..... 24 inches
Overall Length ..... 44.5 inches
Weight ..... 10 pounds, 12 ounces
MSRP $1,149

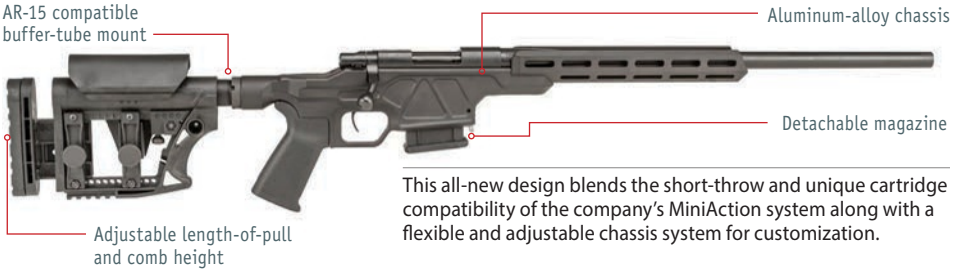
(775) 828-0555
legacysports.com

Specially designed to fill the needs of modern-day precision shooters, the APC rifle can be adjusted to fit individuals and is easily customizable by the end user.

Howa MiniAction Chassis Rifle

Caliber ..... 6.5 Grendel
Magazine Capacity ..... 5 rounds
Barrel Length ..... 20 inches
Overall Length ..... 39.5 inches
Weight ..... 7 pounds
MSRP $1,199

(775) 828-0555
legacysports.com



This all-new design blends the short-throw and unique cartridge compatibility of the company's MiniAction system along with a flexible and adjustable chassis system for customization.

IWI US Tavor 7

Caliber ..... 7.62 NATO
Magazine Capacity ..... 20 rounds
Barrel Length ..... 16.5 inches
Overall Length ..... 26.75 inches
Weight ..... 9 pounds
MSRP $2,299

(717) 695-2081
iwi.us

The popular Tavor bullpup gets a power boost with its newest model chambered in 7.62 NATO. It is fully ambidextrous—ejection direction can easily be switched by the user—and the charging handle can be locked back without the use of the bolt catch.

Kel-Tec RDB-C

Caliber ..... 5.56 NATO
Magazine Capacity ..... 30 rounds
Barrel Length ..... 20.5 inches
Overall Length ..... 30.4 inches
Weight ..... 6 pounds, 14 ounces
MSRP $1,275

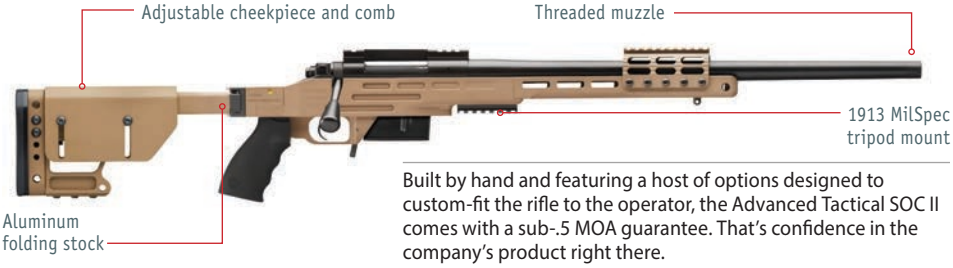
(321) 631-0068
keltecweapons.com

Designed as a compact, take-anywhere rifle ideal for right- or left-handed shooters, the RDB-C features a 20.5-inch, threaded barrel for accuracy and maintains the ability to mount a sound suppressor.

Kimber Advanced Tactical SOC II (FDE)

Caliber ..... 6.5 Creedmoor
Magazine Capacity ..... 5 rounds
Barrel Length ..... 22 inches
Overall Length ..... 40 to 43 inches
Weight ..... 11 pounds, 8 ounces
MSRP $2,449

(888) 243-4522
kimberamerica.com



Built by hand and featuring a host of options designed to custom-fit the rifle to the operator, the Advanced Tactical SOC II comes with a sub-.5 MOA guarantee. That's confidence in the company's product right there.

Lithgow Arms LA105 Woomera

Caliber ..... .308 Win.
Magazine Capacity ..... 10 rounds
Barrel Length ..... 24 inches
Overall Length ..... 42.5 to 45 inches
Weight ..... 11 pounds
MSRP ..... TBD

(775) 828-0555
legacysports.com

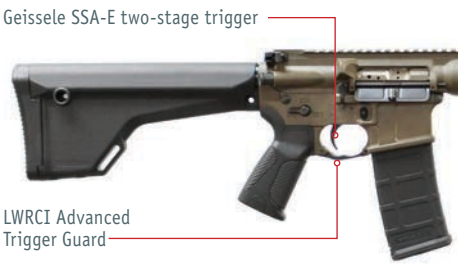
Also known as the "Woomera," the Aboriginal word for "spear thrower," the LA105 was constructed with input and advice from experienced snipers in both the U.S. and Australian military.

LWRCI's SIX8 has long been the gold standard for 6.8 SPC ARs, so a new rifle chambered in the new 6.8 SPC-case-based 224 Valkyrie was a no-brainer. Loaded with performance-enhancing features, this rifle should squeeze every bit of performance from the hottest new cartridge of 2018.

LWRCI IC-DI 224 Valkyrie

Caliber	224 Valkyrie
Magazine Capacity	30 rounds
Barrel Length	20.1 inches
Overall Length	40 inches
Weight	8 pounds, 2 ounces
MSRP	$1,995

(410) 901-1348
lwrci.com



Chambered in .223 Wylde for optimum performance with either .223 Rem. or 5.56 NATO ammunition and sporting a cold-hammer-forged, NiCorr-treated barrel, this rifle promises enhanced accuracy in most any situation.

LWRCI IC-DI MKII Target

Caliber	.223 Wylde
Magazine Capacity	30 rounds
Barrel Length	18.1 inches
Overall Length	38 inches
Weight	7 pounds, 12 ounces
MSRP	$2,363

(410) 901-1348
lwrci.com

From its carbon-fiber barrel to its Geissele trigger and fully ambidextrous controls (including the charging handle), everything about this rifle is ultra-high end. It should be no problem at all to achieve sub-MOA accuracy with this version of the REPR in 6.5 Creedmoor.

LWRCI REPR MKII 6.5 Creedmoor Elite

Caliber	6.5 Creedmoor
Magazine Capacity	20 rounds
Barrel Length	22 inches
Overall Length	43.5 inches
Weight	10 pounds, 1 ounce
MSRP	$5,103

(410) 901-1348
lwrci.com

For 2018, Mossberg redesigned its MVP Precision rifle, giving it an all-new chassis design and greater flexibility in magazine feeding, thanks to its compatibility with all AR-15-style magazines.

Mossberg MVP Precision

Caliber	224 Valkyrie
Magazine Capacity	10 rounds
Barrel Length	20 inches
Overall Length	38.62 inches
Weight	9 pounds, 3 ounces
MSRP	$1,407

(800) 363-3555
mossberg.com

Detachable-box magazine, upgraded Magpul furniture, heavy barrel and a bipod? Remington's new 700 Magpul Enhanced now comes in 6.5 Creedmoor, needing only an optic to get you well on your way to long-range success.

Remington 700 Magpul Enhanced rifle

Caliber	6.5 Creedmoor
Magazine Capacity	10 rounds
Barrel Length	20 inches
Overall Length	39.5 inches
Weight	8 pounds, 8 ounces
MSRP	$1,249

(800) 243-9700
remington.com

Weighing in at a featherweight 5 ½ pounds, the Model Seven Threaded is the lightest rifle in Remington's lineup. Available in .300 BLK in addition to .308 Win., the threaded, 16.5-inch barrel is a prime candidate for sound suppression.

Remington Model Seven Threaded

Caliber	.308 Win.
Magazine Capacity	4 rounds
Barrel Length	16.5 inches
Overall Length	34.5 inches
Weight	5 pounds, 8 ounces
MSRP	$795

(800) 243-9700
remington.com

Rise Armament 1121XR in 6.5 Creedmoor

Caliber	6.5 Creedmoor
Magazine Capacity	10 rounds
Barrel Length	22 inches
Overall Length	44 inches
Weight	10 pounds, 4 ounces
MSRP	$2,449

(844) 747-3308
risearmament.com

Designed to improve the performance of a heavy-caliber gas gun without unnecessary weight, the 6.5 Creedmoor-caliber exploits the potential of that round in a proven operating system from a company known for precision. Rise incorporates many of company's premium components in building the 1121XR rifle.

Rock Island Armory M22 TCM Tactical

Caliber	.22 TCM
Magazine Capacity	5 rounds
Barrel Length	18.5 inches
Overall Length	36.5 inches
Weight	7 pounds, 9 ounces
MSRP	$531

(775) 537-1444
armscor.com

Rock Island Armory's latest offering blends the company's popular .22 TCM cartridge with its M22 TCM rifle. The result is a practical pairing whether your goal is plinking or predator eradication, capable of delivering a 40-grain projectile in excess of 2,800 fps. Best of all, it can accept RIA's 17-round .22 TCM 1911 magazine for even more trigger time.

Ruger 10/22 Target Lite

Caliber	.22 LR
Magazine Capacity	10 rounds
Barrel Length	16.13 inches
Overall Length	35.25 inches
Weight	5 pounds
MSRP	$649

(336) 919-5200
ruger.com

Featuring an attractive laminate stock and a heavy bull barrel, the Target Lite sports numerous upgrades for your rimfire target shooting enjoyment. It even comes drilled and tapped for a scope rail, with standard .22-style rails and a Picatinny rail included.

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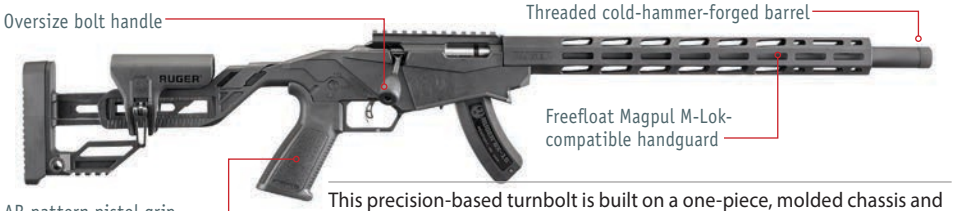
For those who want their carbine and handgun to share the same magazines and ammo, Ruger's latest PC carbine has the answer. In addition to boasting a takedown design, it ships with interchangeable magazine well inserts for use with select Ruger and Glock magazines.

Ruger PC Carbine

Caliber	9 mm
Magazine Capacity	17 rounds
Barrel Length	16.12 inches
Overall Length	34.37 inches
Weight	6 pounds, 13 ounces
MSRP	$649

(336) 949-5200
ruger.com



This precision-based turnbolt is built on a one-piece, molded chassis and paired with a fully adjustable buttstock, a cold-hammer-forged target barrel for uncompromising accuracy and 30-MOA Picatinny scope base suggests this ain't your run-of-the-mill rimfire.

Ruger Precision Rimfire

Caliber	.22 LR
Magazine Capacity	15 rounds
Barrel Length	18 inches
Overall Length	35.13 to 38.63 inches
Weight	6 pounds, 13 ounces
MSRP	$529

(336) 949-5200
ruger.com

Built for competition or precision performance in a shorter package, the Urban Sniper brings Sabatti quality to the attention of American shooters. Available in both .308 Win. and 6.5 Creedmoor, the rifle incorporates an adjustable composite stock and optics-mounting options.

Sabatti Urban Sniper

Caliber	6.5 Creedmoor
Magazine Capacity	7 rounds
Barrel Length	20 inches
Overall Length	41.5 inches
Weight	9 pounds, 6 ounces
MSRP	$1,200

(800) 450-1852
lfg-usa.com

Savage Model 10 GRS

Caliber ..... 6 mm Creedmoor
Magazine Capacity ..... 4 rounds
Barrel Length ..... 26 inches
Overall Length ..... 46 inches
Weight ..... 9 pounds, 8 ounces
MSRP $1,449

(800) 370-0708
savagearms.com

Built for long-distance precision, this rifle boasts several accuracy-enhancing features including a fully adjustable GRS stock, a button-rifled fluted heavy barrel and the popular user-adjustable Savage AccuTrigger. Other chamberings include 6.5 Creedmoor and .308 Win.

Savage Model 110 Tactical With AccuFit

Caliber ..... .308 Win.
Magazine Capacity ..... 10 rounds
Barrel Length ..... 20 or 24 inches
Overall Length ..... 43.25 to 46.5 inches
Weight ..... 8 pounds, 10 ounces
MSRP $784

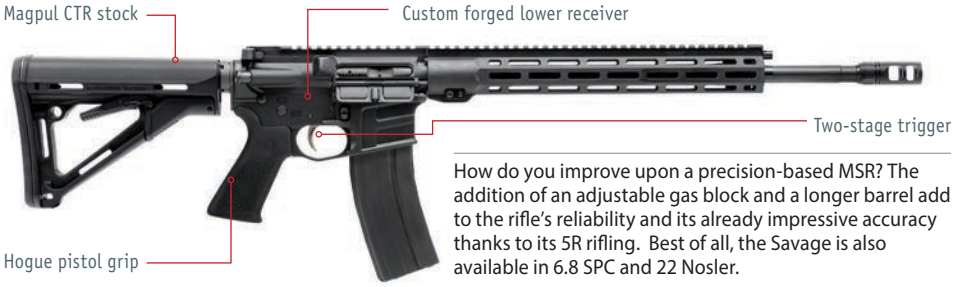
(800) 370-0708
savagearms.com

Precision and adaptability come together in the Savage Model 110 Tactical With AccuFit. The stock allows shooters to quickly adjust comb height and length-of-pull by securing the action three-dimensionally along its entire length, without sacrificing comfort or accuracy. Other chamberings include 6 mm Creedmoor and 6.5 Creedmoor.

Savage MSR 15 Recon Long Range Precision

Caliber ..... 224 Valkyrie
Magazine Capacity ..... 25 rounds
Barrel Length ..... 18 inches
Overall Length ..... 35.25 to 38.5 inches
Weight ..... 7 pounds, 8 ounces
MSRP $1,249

(800) 370-0708
savagearms.com



How do you improve upon a precision-based MSR? The addition of an adjustable gas block and a longer barrel add to the rifle's reliability and its already impressive accuracy thanks to its 5R rifling. Best of all, the Savage is also available in 6.8 SPC and 22 Nosler.

Savage MSR 15 Valkyrie

Caliber ..... 224 Valkyrie
Magazine Capacity ..... 25 rounds
Barrel Length ..... 18 inches
Overall Length ..... 35.5 to 39 inches
Weight ..... 7 pounds, 14 ounces
MSRP $1,499

(800) 370-0708
savagearms.com

Designed for maximum performance from an MSR platform with the new 224 Valkyrie cartridge, this rifle is capable of delivering supersonic velocities at distances of 1,300 yards with extremely flat trajectories and, of course, the match-grade accuracy you have come to expect from the Savage brand.

SIG Sauer M400 SDI VTAC

Caliber ..... 5.56 NATO
Magazine Capacity ..... 30 rounds
Barrel Length ..... 16 inches
Overall Length ..... 36.5 inches
Weight ..... 6 pounds
MSRP $1,768

(603) 610-3000
sigsauer.com

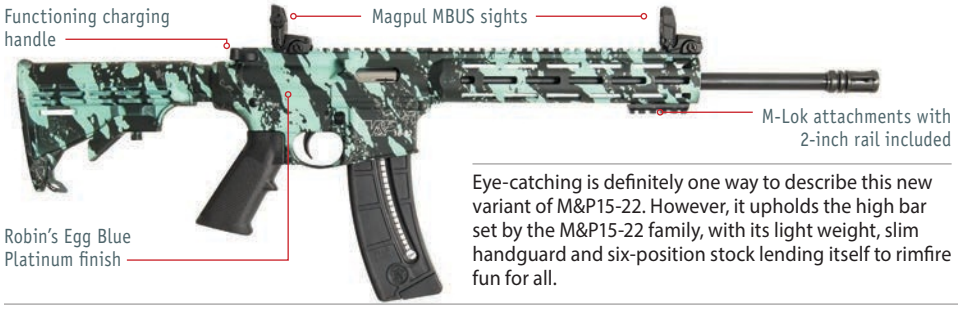
Adding to SIG's line of VTAC (Viking Tactics) firearms is the direct-gas-impingement M400 SDI VTAC. With a tan cerakote finish, numerous upgraded parts and M-Lok-compatible fore-end, this rifle is ready for any task.

SIG Sauer MCX Rattler SBR

Caliber ..... .300 BLK
Magazine Capacity ..... 30 rounds
Barrel Length ..... 5.5 inches
Overall Length ..... 23.5 inches
Weight ..... 5 pounds, 11 ounces
MSRP $2,727

(603) 610-3000
sigsauer.com

It's hard to imagine a more-compact personal defense rifle than the Rattler. With a 5.5-inch, .300 BLK barrel and a folding stock (yes, this is an SBR, so get that NFA paperwork ready), the Rattler is both compact and controllable for defense of home and hearth.



Eye-catching is definitely one way to describe this new variant of M&P15-22. However, it upholds the high bar set by the M&P15-22 family, with its light weight, slim handguard and six-position stock lending itself to rimfire fun for all.

Smith & Wesson M&P15-22 Blue Platinum

Caliber	.22 LR
Magazine Capacity	25 rounds
Barrel Length	16.5 inches
Overall Length	30.7 to 33.75 inches
Weight	5 pounds
MSRP	$499

(800) 331-0582
smith-wesson.com

Long-known and cherished for accuracy and precision, the Loaded M1A series now offers a 6.5 Creedmoor variant for those who love the rifle and the cartridge. Fully adjustable to fit the shooter, the Loaded M1A is right at home on the long-distance range.

Springfield Armory Loaded M1A 6.5 Creedmoor

Caliber	6.5 Creedmoor
Magazine Capacity	10 rounds
Barrel Length	22 inches
Overall Length	45 to 46.25 inches
Weight	11 pounds, 6 ounces
MSRP	$2,045

(800) 680-6866
springfield-armory.com

Freefloat handguard, upgraded trigger and top-tier furniture, in an AR-15-style rifle weighing slightly more than 6 pounds? Upgrading the new Saint Edge will be tricky, given the impressive list of standard features.

Springfield Armory Saint Edge

Caliber	.223 Rem.
Magazine Capacity	30 rounds
Barrel Length	16 inches
Overall Length	32.5 to 35.75 inches
Weight	6 pounds, 3 ounces
MSRP	$1,299

(800) 680-6866
springfield-armory.com

Available in eight chamberings—including four Weatherby Magnum offerings—the latest Vanguard carries a sub-MOA guarantee. Its innovative camo finish promises to break up its outline from 2 to 2,000 yards.

Weatherby Vanguard First Lite

Caliber	.308 Win.
Magazine Capacity	5 rounds
Barrel Length	26 inches
Overall Length	46 inches
Weight	7 pounds, 8 ounces
MSRP	$1,090

(800) 227-2016
weatherby.com

Combining the company's lightweight billet receivers with its match-grade tapered barrel results in a svelte, precision-based AR carbine that is fast-handling no matter the task. Other chamberings include 5.56 NATO, 6.8 SPC., .300 BLK., 6.5 Creedmoor, .308 Win. and .358 Win.

Wilson Combat Ultralight Ranger

Caliber	.243 Win.
Magazine Capacity	10 rounds
Barrel Length	16 inches
Overall Length	37 inches
Weight	7 pounds, 6 ounces
MSRP	$3,270

(800) 955-4856
wilsoncombat.com

Capable of exceeding the ballistics of rounds like the .450 Bushmaster, the .458 SOCOM and the .50 Beowulf, Wilson Combat's newest rifle, aptly named the Tactical Hunter, can handle maximum pressures of 46,000 psi while generating in excess of 3,000 ft.-lbs. of energy—all from a hybrid-length receiver and custom-length buffer.

Wilson Combat Tactical Hunter

Caliber	.458 HAM'R
Magazine Capacity	7 rounds
Barrel Length	18 inches
Overall Length	34.25 to 37.5 inches
Weight	7 pounds, 11 ounces
MSRP	$2,905

(800) 955-4856
wilsoncombat.com

Charles Daly Honcho Pump

Gauge ..... 12; 3-inch chamber
Magazine Capacity ..... 5 rounds
Barrel Length ..... 14 inches
Overall Length ..... 27 inches
Weight ..... 4 pounds, 11 ounces
MSRP $309

(937) 835-5000
charlesdaly.com

Technically a firearm, the Honcho features a shortened barrel with a non-shoulderable-grip setup that enables consumers to have a compact shotshell-firing platform for personal defense.

EAA MKA 1923

Gauge ..... 12; 3-inch chamber
Magazine Capacity ..... 5 rounds
Barrel Length ..... 18.7 inches
Overall Length ..... 29.5 inches
Weight ..... 9 pounds, 11 ounces
MSRP $849

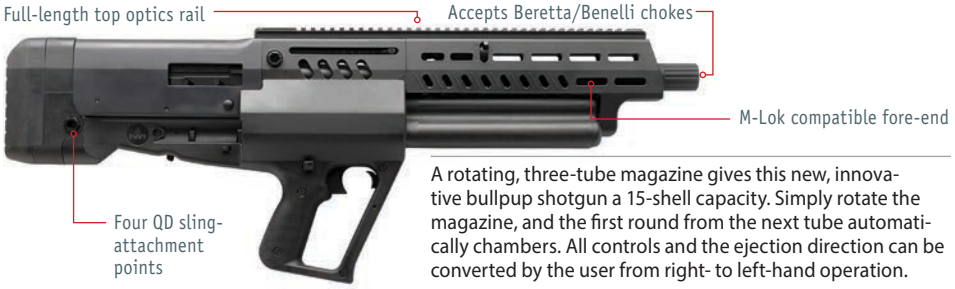
(321) 639-4842
eaacorp.com

Far from your typical long gun, EAA's latest offering blends the versatility of a scattergun with the convenience and maneuverability of a bullpup, making it an ideal candidate for home defense.

IWI US Tavor TS12

Gauge ..... 12; 3-inch chamber
Magazine Capacity ..... 15 rounds
Barrel Length ..... 18.5 inches
Overall Length ..... 28.34 inches
Weight ..... 8 pounds
MSRP $1,399

(717) 695-2081
iwi.us



A rotating, three-tube magazine gives this new, innovative bullpup shotgun a 15-shell capacity. Simply rotate the magazine, and the first round from the next tube automatically chambers. All controls and the ejection direction can be converted by the user from right- to left-hand operation.

Mossberg 590M

Gauge ..... 12; 2¾-inch chamber
Magazine Capacity ..... 10 rounds
Barrel Length ..... 18.5 inches
Overall Length ..... 39.5 inches
Weight ..... 7 pounds, 12 ounces
MSRP $801

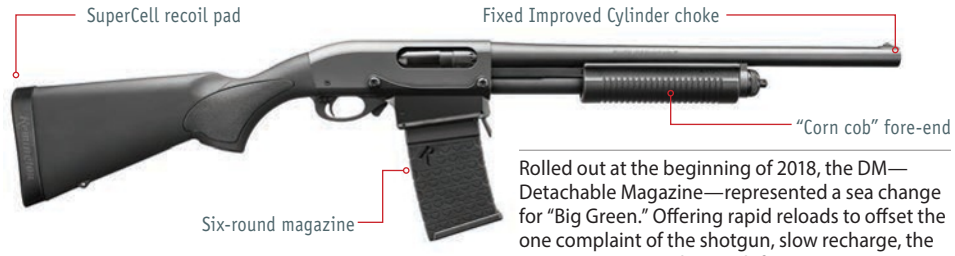
(800) 363-3555
mossberg.com

Mossberg blended its tried-and-true 590 action with the first-ever double-stack detachable magazine designed for shotguns, giving consumers faster reload time and enhanced capacity of up to 20 rounds.

Remington 870 DM

Gauge ..... 12; 3-inch chamber
Magazine Capacity ..... 6 rounds
Barrel Length ..... 18.5 inches
Overall Length ..... 38.5 inches
Weight ..... 7 pounds, 8 ounces
MSRP $529

(800) 243-9700
remington.com

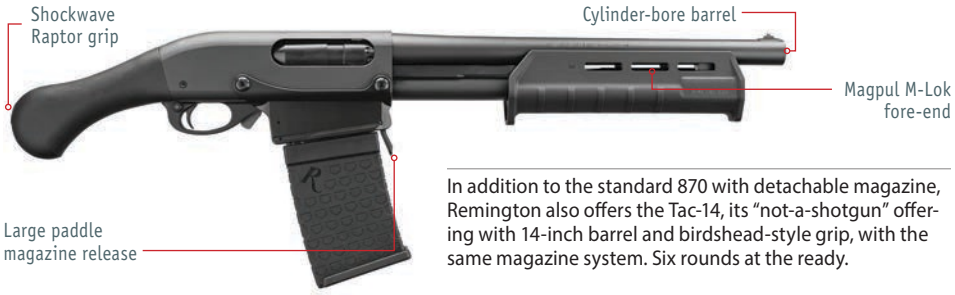


Rolled out at the beginning of 2018, the DM—Detachable Magazine—represented a sea change for "Big Green." Offering rapid reloads to offset the one complaint of the shotgun, slow recharge, the 870 DM is a potent home-defense option.

Remington 870 DM Tac-14

Gauge ..... 12; 3-inch chamber
Magazine Capacity ..... 6 rounds
Barrel Length ..... 14 inches
Overall Length ..... 26.3 inches
Weight ..... 6 pounds
MSRP $559

(800) 243-9700
remington.com



In addition to the standard 870 with detachable magazine, Remington also offers the Tac-14, its "not-a-shotgun" offering with 14-inch barrel and birdshead-style grip, with the same magazine system. Six rounds at the ready.

MODEL 870 DM

THE FASTEST-LOADING PUMP SHOTGUN EVER BUILT.

ULTIMATE RELIABILITY MEETS INSTANT RELOADABILITY

NEW MODEL 870 DM MAGPUL

LIFETIME FIREARM WARRANTY Remington.

QUICK-LOADING MAGAZINE

FEATURED DETACHABLE MAGAZINE SYSTEM AND FIRE CONTROLS, AVAILABLE WITH 3- & 6-ROUND MAGS.

Introducing the only magazine-fed shotgun built on the pedigree of the world's strongest, smoothest and most reliable pump shotgun. The all-new Model 870 DM is the first pump shotgun to incorporate the unmatched reload speed and versatility of a detachable magazine. It's superior American innovation, now produced with aerospace precision and backed by our Lifetime Warranty.

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*SOME LIMITATIONS MAY APPLY. GO TO WWW.REMINGTON.COM/LIFETIMEWARRANTY FOR THE WARRANTY.

Remington 870 Express Magpul

Gauge ..... 12; 3-inch chamber
Magazine Capacity ..... 6 rounds
Barrel Length ..... 18.5 inches
Overall Length ..... 38.5 inches
Weight ..... 7 pounds, 8 ounces
MSRP $565

(800) 243-9700
remington.com

Remington's 870 Express gets a Magpul upgrade as well, recognizing both the utility and popularity of Magpul's line of shotgun enhancements. The SGA stock is adjustable for length-of-pull and cheek weld, while the fore-end has M-Lok attachment points for accessories.

SRM Arms SRM 1228

Gauge ..... 12; 2-inch chamber
Magazine Capacity ..... 28 rounds
Barrel Length ..... 18.5 inches
Overall Length ..... 32.5 inches
Weight ..... 7 pounds, 4 ounces
MSRP $2,100

(304) 274-2886
srmarms.com

Designed with a shortened bolt and ejection port, the all-new 1228 is purpose-built to reliably shoot only Aguila Minishells, providing reduced recoil and enhanced magazine capacity.

Stoeger M3K Freedom 3-Gun

Gauge ..... 12; 3-inch chamber
Magazine Capacity ..... 10 rounds
Barrel Length ..... 24 inches
Overall Length ..... 48 inches
Weight ..... 7 pounds, 5 ounces
MSRP $699

(301) 283-6981
stoegerindustries.com

Part of Stoeger's new Freedom series, the M3K 3-Gun shotgun offers an extended magazine, upgraded sights and visually distinct controls. It may just be the least-expensive way to get a tricked-out 3-gun shotgun.

Just Right Carbines

NOW AVAILABLE - 9mm PISTOLS

JRC PISTOL FEATURES:

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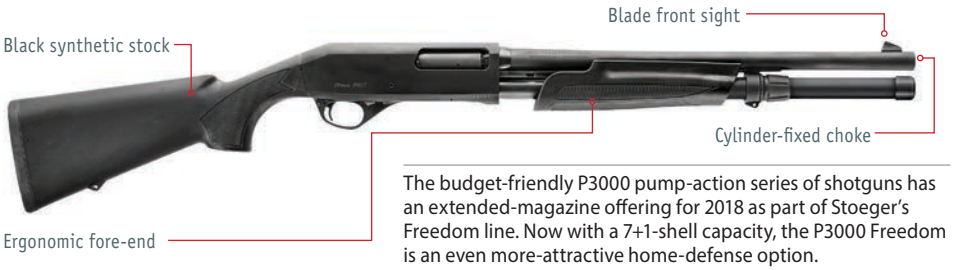

The budget-friendly P3000 pump-action series of shotguns has an extended-magazine offering for 2018 as part of Stoeger's Freedom line. Now with a 7+1-shell capacity, the P3000 Freedom is an even more-attractive home-defense option.

Stoeger P3000 Freedom

Gauge	12; 3-inch chamber
Magazine Capacity	7 rounds
Barrel Length	18.5 inches
Overall Length	40.5 inches
Weight	6 pounds, 5 ounces
MSRP	$339

(301) 283-6981
stoegerindustries.com

Built to replicate the look and feel of the popular AR-15, the KRX is now available with a Flat-Dark-Earth finish while offering consumers an easily reloaded, semi-automatic shotgun for home-defense and range use.

Tristar Arms KRX FDE

Gauge	12; 3-inch chamber
Magazine Capacity	5 rounds
Barrel Length	20 inches
Overall Length	38 inches
Weight	7 pounds, 6 ounces
MSRP	$624

(816) 421-1400
tristararms.com

The trusted SXP shotgun gets a makeover for 2018, featuring True Timber's Urban Viper camo. Its stock, receiver, pump, magazine-tube cap and barrel are all dipped in this pattern for the perfect look for home defense.

Winchester SXP Viper Urban Defender

Gauge	12; 3-inch chamber
Magazine Capacity	5 rounds
Barrel Length	18 inches
Overall Length	38.5 inches
Weight	6 pounds, 4 ounces
MSRP	$399

(800) 945-5237
winchesterguns.com

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Get Better on a Budget

You've likely read countless articles admonishing you to get professional firearm training, but the costs of such an endeavor in terms of cash and time can be daunting. Here's how to obtain some of the benefits of such an education without maxing out your credit card or taking leave from work.

To become competent with your defensive handgun, you must practice. But, practice consumes money and time. Training courses are a way to maximize your time and money because they're controlled and conducted under the watchful eye of a capable instructor. This is why Gunsite Academy has been in business more than 40 years. However, few of us have a week or $1,500-plus lying around to take advantage of what such a school offers.

There is an affordable option, however, one that can fill the gap until vacation and greenbacks become available. You can drastically improve your defensive-handgun skills by developing a budget practice plan, and most importantly, by sticking to it.

Here's a practical approach that will consume about the same amount of time as a five-day course, but spread out over a year. From a financial standpoint, the expenditure is substantially less, too. You won't learn as much or become as proficient, but considering that most people who take a five-day course rarely follow it up with frequent sustainment training, this system has merit because it keeps your finger on the trigger.

Evaluation

First, you must make an honest evaluation of your skill level. You're not trying to audition for a SWAT team, so the examination is rather simple and focuses on the basic/fundamental aspects of defensive-handgun application. If you've never fired a handgun, this system is not for you. If you've received basic firearm training, understand how to operate your handgun and are fluent with the tenets of firearms safety, then you can use this system to improve your skills.

You're going to need a shot timer and you can pick one up for about a hundred bucks (free app versions are not ideal for this type of training). You'll also need about 50 rounds of ammunition. Targets are simple—just take a sheet of notebook paper and color in a 5-inch circle. You can use an old CD as a template or make and print one with your computer.

Story and Photos by Richard Mann

The drill evaluates your ability to engage a target from the holster multiple times and to conduct a reload. Run the drill five times to establish an average. Here's how it works. Place a threat target with a 5-inch circle positioned center mass at 5 yards. On signal, draw from concealment and engage the target/circle with five shots, conduct a reload and engage the same target/circle with five more shots.

The fact of the matter is, when it comes time to fight, getting your handgun out and getting hits fast is what it all boils down to. Sure, there's a lot more to mastering the defensive handgun. But, if you cannot get it into action and get hits on target fast, not much of the other stuff really matters.

The most-important step is next—where you determine your strengths and weaknesses. Look at the target. If you hit the circle 10 out of 10 times, you don't need to work on accuracy. In fact, if you can put eight out of 10 shots into the 5-inch circle, you clearly comprehend sight alignment and trigger control.

Now look at your times. If your first shot was on target within 2 seconds, your draw speed is decent. If it took longer than that to get your first hit, presenting your handgun from concealment is something you need to work on.

If your split times (the times between your shots) average about six-tenths of a second or less, you can be proud of that—especially if your hit percentage on the 5-inch circle was 80 percent or better. These split times measure your ability to deliver accurate sustained fire. Higher split times mean you need to practice sustained fire.

Finally, look at the time between your fifth and sixth shot. This is how long it took you to reload your handgun. You should be able to reload a semi-automatic pistol in less than 3 seconds. If you cannot, then you've identified another area where you need to practice.

It's also not a bad idea to score each run through the drill. To do this, multiply the number of hits by 10 and subtract the total time. A par score would be 90, and perfect would be 100. Since you can't complete the drill in zero seconds, perfection is impossible.

Now, you want to address each weakness through a series of live- and dry-practice drills. In a five-day class, these would consume about 40 hours of your time. We want to spend that same amount of time practicing, but we want to spread it out over a year. We'll do this with one 30-minute live-fire training session each month, and four, 10-minute dry-fire training sessions each week.

DATE:	4/5/18	TRAINING MONTH (Circle one):				1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12		
DEFENSIVE HANDGUN EVALUATION DRILL								
TRAINING LOG	1st RUN	2nd RUN	3rd RUN	4th RUN	5th RUN			
	TIMES	TIMES	TIMES	TIMES	TIMES	AVERAGES	PAR	
SHOT	seconds	seconds	seconds	seconds	seconds	seconds	seconds	
DRAW SPEED - 1	3.12	3.10	2.99	2.89	3.01	3.02	2	
FIRST SPLIT - 2	0.87	0.86	0.80	0.80	0.77	0.82	0.625	
SECOND SPLIT - 3	0.92	0.87	0.86	0.82	0.71	0.84	0.625	
THIRD SPLIT - 4	0.68	0.63	0.69	0.72	0.80	0.70	0.625	
FOURTH SPLIT - 5	0.61	0.67	0.67	0.72	0.78	0.69	0.625	
RELOAD TIME - 6	3.40	3.60	3.80	2.98	2.96	3.35	3	
FIFTH SPLIT - 7	0.71	0.76	0.67	0.67	0.68	0.70	0.625	
SIXTH SPLIT - 8	0.76	0.71	0.69	0.80	0.68	0.73	0.625	
SEVENTH SPLIT - 9	0.72	0.68	0.67	0.67	0.68	0.68	0.625	
EIGHT SPLIT - 10	0.69	0.71	0.62	0.66	0.61	0.66	0.625	
TOTALS	12.48	12.59	12.46	11.73	11.68	12.19	10	
HITS	7	6	7	9	5	8	10	
(HITSx10)-TIME = SCORE	57.52	47.41	57.54	78.27	38.32	67.81	90.00	
NOTES								
HANDGUN: SIG P320								
AMMO: Hornady 115 gr. American Gunner								
HOLSTER: Galco Royal Guard								
COVER GARMENT: Light Jacket								
RANGE: Outside - 52°								
AVERAGE SPLIT TIME: 0.727								
Most misses were low left.								
Shirt too lose, sometimes grabbed it when establishing a grip in holster.								

Look at the example score sheet. It shows an average draw time of 3.02 seconds. That's clearly over par and something needing work. The average reload time is a bit slow, too. Some practice here is definitely in order. The average number of hits was eight. That's not too bad, particularly considering it was noted that most misses were low left—which typically means the shooter was slapping the trigger, tightening the grip or breaking the wrist. This gives you something to focus on during training. As for the split time, an average of .727 is only a tenth of a second higher than par. These times will most likely improve as you progress through the program.

Right: A score sheet like, used to record the results of your initial and subsequent evaluation drills, will be a great aid in identifying the areas where you need improvement. (A blank copy can be downloaded at ShootingIllustrated.com)

Below: Keep good records of each training session. This is how to remember what you have done and how well you did it.

Dry-Fire Training

During any dry-fire training, you need to seclude yourself in a location where you can safely point your unloaded handgun and press the trigger, and where there's no live ammunition present. You

only need 10 minutes of seclusion, four days a week, so turn your cell phone off, lock the door and concentrate.

If accuracy is where you're struggling, forgo the draw and concentrate on a slow trigger press while maintaining a good sight picture. Practicing for multiple shots out of recoil—improving split times—is a bit harder to do during dry-fire training, so that's generally best left for live fire. However, as trigger skills improve, typically so do split times. Dry firing will help.

To address a slow draw speed, you'll want to practice your draw, finishing with a single trigger press, while maintaining a good sight picture on the target. Remember to do this wearing a cover garment. This will condition you to sweep the shirt, vest or jacket out of the way when drawing your pistol. Use the par-time feature on the shot timer. Set it for about 2.0 or 2.5 seconds—depending on your evaluation—and attempt to complete the draw and trigger press before the buzzer sounds. Reduce what constitutes the par time as you improve.

If reloading is where you're struggling, you'll need some dummy rounds for your magazines or speed loaders. Point the unloaded handgun at the target, press the trigger, conduct a reload and then make another deliberate trigger press on target. You can use the par-time feature again to set a goal, but your focus should be on form—as your form improves, your speed will, as well.

Let's assume you're not very skilled at any of these aspects of defensive-handgun shooting. If that's the case, start with accuracy and worry about drawing your handgun and conducting reloads once your live-fire sessions result in improvement in your ability to get hits. You've got 12 months to work through this, so take your time; don't try to fix all the skills at which you stink at once.

Top to Bottom: Instinctively activated lasers, like this one from Crimson Trace, can enhance your dry-fire training.

To conduct dry-fire practice that will improve your skill at reloading you must have some dummy rounds handy.

Laser devices that insert into the chamber of your handgun can help with dry-fire training, whether you are using a laser target or just a spot on the wall.

Trigger manipulation, in conjunction with sight alignment, is the key to accurate shooting. Both can be practiced during dry-fire sessions.

Live Fire

To conduct live-fire practice, you'll need 100 rounds of ammo per month. That totals 1,200 rounds or about $360 a year. After a month of four-nights-a-week dry-fire training, head to the range. While there, practice the same skills you've been practicing during dry-fire training. Use no more than 70 rounds for this. Once that's complete, conduct the evaluation drill three times to establish an average. Then, compare the results—specifically the results associated with the particular facet of defensive-handgun application you've been working on—with your initial evaluation.

Keep good records of your progress. You'll want to jot down times, make notes, etc. during each live-fire session, so you'll know what to work on during the following month's dry-fire practice sessions. At year's end, you'll have a reasonably comprehensive look at your progress in your ability to draw your handgun and get a hit, how well you can get sustained hits and how well you can conduct a reload.

Your ultimate goal should be to complete the drill managing 10 hits in less than 10 seconds. If you can do that, it doesn't mean you're John Wick, but it does mean you can manage a defensive handgun better than the overwhelming majority of Americans, including a great many who get

Top to Bottom: You don't need high-tech or expensive steel targets to train with a defensive handgun. A simple 5-inch circle painted or colored on a target is just fine.

Don't overlook the importance of practicing like you carry. If you cannot efficiently draw your pistol, you cannot rely on it in a fight.

Establishing and maintaining the proper sight picture through the trigger press is the underlying secret to hitting your target.

Learn to reload your handgun swiftly. It is how you stay in the fight after you have shot your pistol dry or have a stoppage.

paid to carry a firearm. In other words, it means you're on the better side of average.

Practice Tools

At the end of the year, you should have improved a great deal. All told, you'll have spent only about $500 and 40 hours of your time. Granted, you'll not have learned all the stuff you would've learned at a course like Gunsite Academy's 250 Pistol. You'll not have learned how to pie a corner, make tactical turns, deal with multiple threats, clear stoppages…the list goes on. What you will have learned is how to draw your handgun and deliver accurate, repetitive fire to center mass on a threat target.

If the world around you deteriorates to the point you need to resort to gunfire, those are invaluable skills to have. If your budget is a little larger, here are some cool tools to help with the process.

Instinctively Activated Laser Sights

Not only can an instinctively activated laser sight be a tremendous advantage during a self-defense encounter, it can also be a great training aid. When you're conducting dry-fire accuracy exercises, watch the laser on the target for movement during your trigger press. The laser also helps with your draw stroke by showing where you initially point your handgun as you present it to the target. Crimson Trace Lasergrips and Laserguards sell for between $199 and $369; crimsontrace.com

MantisX

A relatively new training device is the MantisX. This device mounts to your handgun's accessory rail and senses the movement of your handgun immediately prior to trigger break/hammer fall. By doing so, it can graph this movement as it relates to your point-of-aim. The cool part is it transmits that data to your smartphone, making it easy to comprehend and store. The app even has a feature to help diagnose shooter error. The MantisX can be used for dry or live fire. It retails for $149.99; mantisx.com

LaserLyte Laser Target

LaserLyte manufacturers a variety of laser-sensitive targets that will record hits from a special inert laser pistol or laser inserts that fit inside the barrel of your handgun. Though you might think it more of a gallery game, I conducted a test with my wife and son to see how beneficial it might be. I had them establish their accuracy skill level by firing three, five-shot groups at 7 yards. For the next five days, they conducted a minimum of 25 trigger presses per night using the Laser Target. On the sixth day, they conducted the same live-fire test. Their accuracy improved by an average of 37 percent. Regardless of how you feel about laser-training devices, they can make you more accurate. MSRP: $109.95 to $349.95; laserlyte.com

With the MantisX training device and smartphone APP you can keep track of how well you pull the trigger from training session to training session.

Not a Substitute

Training and practice are not the same thing. When training, you're learning something new. When practicing, you're increasing your ability to perform the things you've learned. Practice is not a substitute for training, but it's necessary to maintain and improve skills.

What a bargain-practice program like this can do is help you develop and maintain basic skills until you can take a suitable course. It should leave you ample time to help the kids with their homework while not breaking the bank. It might even help you save enough money to get to Gunsite sooner than you think. Hell, it might even save your life.

Laser-training devices provide verifiable feedback to dry-fire practice.

Professional Training on a Budget

Former SOF operator and renowned firearms instructor John "Shrek" McPhee recently launched GunfighterU, an online training platform that provides students with vital training modules that can be accessed anywhere. For $14.99 per month or $149.99 per year, students have access to an enormous library of video-based training—including McPhee's corrections to in-person student errors—all of which can help make you a better shooter without having to travel to a class or spend hundreds of dollars on in-person instruction. Other benefits include access to a private community of students and first dibs on McPhee's in-person classes around the country. GunfighterU also offers private online training where students video themselves shooting and send the clips to McPhee, who then provides insight and corrections based on the video. Online training packages start at $39. Visit gunfighteru.com to sign up.

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NEW PRODUCT 20 GA 22" BBL

20 GA 26" BBL

12 GA 18.5" BBL

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Concealed Carry 101

New to concealed carry? Here are some tips from a professional to help get you started in the right direction.

Those new to concealed carry can find themselves overwhelmed. The industry has exploded over the past few decades, and rightfully so, as folks take ownership of their own safety. It is a personal responsibility, but it is also a learned skill. The first challenge for those new to concealed carry is understanding a three-tiered approach toward carrying concealed. Breaking the three tiers down into the base, lower- and upper-body garments gives structure to a rather nebulous subject.

When I first started carrying concealed, I didn't know what I was doing. I had received countless hours of firearm- and tactics-related training, but nothing in the sense of how to carry concealed. I was not only on my own, but I was thrown into the deep end of a shark-infested pool wearing a meat suit to perform my duties. I wasn't afforded the opportunity to make mistakes—I had to get it right the first time and every time thereafter. It forced me to think carefully about not only what I was carrying, but also how I dressed.

I am excited to see so many people take a more-vested interest in their personal safety. I honestly don't question their reasons. My job is to prepare them for what will be the worst day of their lives in the best way possible. I have taken an active interest in understanding their "why," as it helps me do my job of better educating them. I also have to understand the various barriers to entry that may keep them from learning.

The two most common are fear of the unknown and fear of not knowing. While these two items may seem similar, they are vastly different. Fear of the unknown is simple—it is not knowing what to expect. Not knowing what to expect puts people in a defensive posture at times, standoffish and not open to change. The best piece of advice I can share is you are not alone. Everyone has been there and what I love about this community is how eager folks are to help. The fear of not knowing is more challenging. This is being afraid to look the fool, to not know what you are doing. Again, you are human and this is normal. My best piece of advice is to keep your eye on the prize. If you are doing this for a reason, stay focused on that reason. Everyone has to start somewhere; remember that.

I spend a lot of time answering questions. A common question I get is what firearm is best for the person in question to carry. We are blessed with many options, but that, too, is a curse. What I do is give you criteria, not what I carry. I give you the "why" so you can best source the firearm that fits your needs. Assuming reliability standards are met, the

Photos by Jesse Snyder

By Jeff Gonzales

Ruger Security-9

Glock G19

Springfield Armory XD Mod.2 Sub-Compact

Smith & Wesson M&P9 M2.0 Compact

SIG Sauer P365

three most-important aspects are capacity, compactness and logistics. It is ideal if you can avoid a reload in a gunfight, so having enough ammunition is what I'm talking about. I don't much care what caliber you select—the caliber wars are over. What matters to me is how many rounds I can carry. For this reason, the 9 mm is king. You get optimal terminal performance combined with capacity, specifically a minimum of 10 rounds.

When you think concealment, you naturally think small or compact. There is a point of diminishing returns where too small is a poor choice. You have to find a good compromise to fit your needs. The micro-compact pistols are great, but they are not easy to shoot well. Two things to consider are reliability and accuracy. The smaller guns have smaller parts, that shouldn't come as a surprise, but it can be challenging to foster robust operation as parts shrink. Accordingly, smaller parts can have shorter shelf lives and direct effects on the accuracy component. The micro-compact pistols can be difficult to shoot, not always fitting into our hands well or having more-pronounced recoil. In order to combat these issues, you will need to practice, which means more wear and tear on those smaller parts. While I love these micro-compacts and my belief is a small gun is better than no gun, I view these more as "gateway guns."

As the newcomer practices, they become more aware, and their equipment choices evolve along the way. The last element to consider is logistics. There is an old saying, "amateurs argue tactics while professionals argue logistics." The supporting-equipment industry for concealed carry is like any other industry and it is driven by profit. Manufacturers are not going to make custom items for less-popular firearms without significant investment, instead focusing their efforts on top sellers. They had to devote resources toward product development, materials, tooling, marketing and a host of other costs to ensure a return on their investment. The more-popular models will afford more available options and increase the chances of finding something fitting your needs.

Once you have settled on a primary-carry pistol, your next task is finding a safe holster. While some micro-compact pistols can fit in a pocket, I strongly suggest you always use a holster. The holster will accomplish several things. Starting with the administrative stuff, it will shield the firearm from unwanted foreign objects and debris—stuff like lint, loose items, body oils and perspiration to name a few. While it doesn't seem like much, they can foul up the operation of your firearm, or worse, apply pressure to your unprotected trigger leading to a negligent discharge.

A holster will be many things, but these are the features it must have in order to be considered a good one. It must first retain the firearm. When properly inserted, the firearm should be secure, to the point where if you were to carefully turn it upside down (over something soft like a pillow) the firearm stays secure in the holster. Next, it must protect the trigger from unauthorized access. This can come in the form of many things, some of which were mentioned earlier. Loose clothing, the holster itself and other items (even your own fingers) should not be allowed access to the trigger while the gun is holstered. It must fit securely to the body. You obviously don't want to lose the firearm/holster, but you also don't want to draw and find your holster came along for the ride. Believe me, it happens more than you think. Lastly, you want to obtain a firing grip while

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still holstered. If parts of the holster or positioning make it difficult to properly grasp with a firm, firing grip, find something else. Under high stress if you start off with a poor grip it is not going to improve itself on the way to the target. Once you've selected a good holster, next is a good belt. You may even find you need multiple holsters for the same gun to cover different situations.

Remember to balance comfort with carry. For many new to concealed carry, it is awkward—and in some cases, uncomfortable. If you are not comfortable you will constantly be adjusting, tweaking or fidgeting. Either case, you are drawing attention to yourself, and the first rule of concealed carry is avoid doing just that. There are advantages and disadvantages to the various methods of carry; whether outside or inside the waistband. Inside will greatly reduce your profile, but some find it uncomfortable. Outside seems more comfortable to many, but not as concealed. Whatever your choice, you will need a rigid or sturdy belt to hold the weight of your gear. Like everything else we have discussed, there are features to look for and belts are no different. The most-important feature to consider is stiffness. Stiffer construction will mean avoiding belt sag. The outboard drooping will force the inside surface of the holster to contact your hip region. At first, it seems minor, but the longer you carry, the more pressure it applies to that point. It will get more uncomfortable and intensify pretty fast.

You have limited options for belt material, usually leather or nylon. While many love a good-looking leather belt, you have to be OK with it getting scuffed up—because it will. Nylon is versatile, but to get the stiffness there needs to be more than a single layer. Here's where stitching comes into play, not only joining two (or more) pieces, but adding rigidity. Three- and five-row stitching are the most common, but other options include internal stiffeners. The buckle is the final piece to this puzzle. Your

While no one holster can cover all situations, look for sturdy construction from a recognized manufacturer. Whether Kydex or leather, inside-the-waistband or appendix-carry style, having gear that fully covers your trigger and rides comfortably on your belt will go a long way toward ensuring your pistol is always with you.

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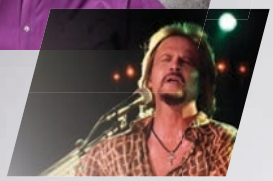

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buckle should be low key, secure and adjustable if possible. If you change holster positions or live in a seasonal climate, having an adjustable belt will make life easier. Buckles come in all different sizes and shapes, keep it low key and follow your personal preference as long as it secures the belt.

While there are many subtleties in selecting your equipment, this is a great place to start. You will notice we introduced the top and bottom layers, but didn't go into detail. It may seem overwhelming, but don't be discouraged. Take each of the base layers one at time. Research and even try out your firearm. Select a good holster for comfort and conceal it well. Invest in a solid belt to keep it all secure. I will give you one final piece of advice. Don't be married to your gear. Technology, designs and material are in a constant of flux. New products are being introduced frequently. Now, you have a method to measure how well they will work for you. Over the years, I have gone through countless holsters. My experience has led me to these simple considerations; which should help guide you on your new journey. Good luck.

About the author:

Jeff Gonzales serves as president of Trident Concepts and director of training for The Range at Austin. He served as a decorated and respected U.S. Navy SEAL, having participated in numerous combat operations throughout the world. His duties involved a wide variety of operational and instructional assignments on both coasts. Through Trident Concepts, Gonzales pioneered new advances in firearms and tactics instruction. His unique understanding of adult learning, detailed curriculum development and rigorous adherence to performance standards continue to set him apart from a crowded field.

Recently, Gonzales has increased his focus on concealed carry. Leveraging his experience operating in non-permissive environments all over the world, he has unique knowledge to share with members of law enforcement, the military and responsible armed citizens.

Having a stout, reinforced belt can make a world of difference when carrying a concealed handgun. Whether double-stitched leather or internally reinforced nylon, the belt should be sturdy enough to fully distribute your holstered pistol's weight evenly, without twisting or bending.

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The SVT-40

Russia's answer to the M1 Garand clearly influenced Soviet battle rifle development well into the latter part of the 20th century.

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1. Red Army optimism led to the rear sight having gradations out to 1,500 meters.

2. The SVT-40's 10-round magazine was rechargeable via stripper clips.

3. Stout operation and a full-power round gave the rifle a battlefield edge.

On June 9, 1944 a U.S. Navy LCVP picked up a group of 9th Air Force Troop Carrier Command pilots off Utah Beach in Normandy. At some point after midnight on June 6th, these men had steered Waco and Horsa gliders into landing zones in the hedgerows of the Cotentin Peninsula. After landing, they made their way down to the beach so they could be returned to their squadrons in England to fly future missions. Since they might encounter trouble between the landing zone and the beach, they carried individual weapons and ammunition. Some even took the extra precaution of camouflaging their helmets with strips of canvas scrim. When they climbed aboard, almost all of them lit a cigarette and one of them had to lean his souvenir firearms against the interior of the LCVP while he did so. Shortly thereafter, that landing craft pulled alongside a larger vessel, and those mementos were clearly visible when a photographer captured the moment on film. It is a familiar, well-known image from the D-Day invasion and it clearly reveals that one of the souvenirs is unquestionably an SVT-40. So, how did a Soviet rifle find its way to Normandy in time for June 6, 1944? The answer is quite simple actually: the German military standardized and issued thousands of captured examples of the SVT-40 under the designation SIGw.259(r) during the last three years of World War II.

That the Third Reich made extensive use of captured weapons throughout the Second World War is not exactly a revelation. Foreign-made rifles, pistols, machine guns and submachine guns armed German forces almost from the start and that has been well-known for decades. That the Wehrmacht took full advantage of the SVT-40 as soon as its fighting units began to capture examples of it on the battlefield during the latter half of 1941 especially makes sense. Although of Soviet origin, the SVT-40 offered something that Germany just did not have yet in 1941: a standardized, semi-automatic service rifle. Both Mauser and Walther were, by then, producing gas-operated self-loaders, but

US NAVY PHOTO

Highlighted by the arrow, the Russian SVT-40 found its way into American hands at some point in advance of D-Day operations.

Protected by a fixed steel collar and adjustable via a special tool, the front sight sat behind the flash suppressor.

they were heavy, complicated and unpopular with the troops. Then came Operation Barbarossa's inevitable haul of captured Russian guns, and there were SVT-40s in large numbers among the truckloads and truckloads sent back toward Berlin. As soon as the Germans got their hands on the SVT-40, they realized that its design provided numerous clear advantages to both the Mauser and Walther semi-autos in limited use at that time in the Wehrmacht under the designation G.41, so they began issuing it to the troops.

Like many other countries, the Soviet Union began the development of a semi-automatic service rifle long before the Second World War. Trials were held in 1928 and again in 1930 that produced a run-off between two prominent Russian designers: Sergei Gavrilovich Simonov and Fedor Vasilievich Tokarev. Although the Red Army ultimately adopted Simonov's submission as the AVS-36 selective-fire rifle, in service a number of critical problems with the design quickly emerged. Because of this, production of the AVS-36 was terminated in 1938, and another semi-auto rifle trial was held to evaluate potential replacements. This time around, Fedor Tokarev submitted an improved rifle that was selected and adopted in a selective-fire version as the AVT-38 and in a semi-auto version as the SVT-38 ("AVT" standing for *Avtomaticheskaya Vintovka Tokareva* or "Tokarev automatic rifle" and "SVT" standing for *Samozaryadnaya Vintovka Tokareva or* "Tokarev self-loading rifle"). While the AVT/SVT-38 improved on the AVS-36, it still was not perfect. It was a little too heavy, its magazine release was prone to unintentional manipulation, and its cleaning rod mounted awkwardly on the right side of the stock rather than the more-traditional position directly beneath the barrel. A quick redesign that addressed those particular shortcomings produced the slightly modified although mechanically identical rifle that we know today as the SVT-40. It went into production at the Tula Arms Plant on July 1, 1940. Soon thereafter, Izhevsk Mechanical Plant began making it as well.

At a time when Springfield was still making "gas trap" M1 Garands and the Germans were still refusing to drill a gas port in the barrels of their semi-auto service rifles, the Soviets had a hammer-fired, semi-automatic rifle that used a short-stroke, gas-piston-operating system and fed from a 10-round, detachable-box magazine. With the SVT-40, the USSR had a rifle that gave its troops rugged reliability and, by virtue of the muscular 7.62x54 mm R cartridge, packed a formidable punch. In it, the Russians had a winner—and the Germans had it, too. Wehrmacht troops were notably fond of the SVT-40 in the years before the G.43 rifle was available to them. It was still around and fighting for the Third Reich during the summer of 1944 when allied forces kicked-in the door to Hitler's Fortress Europe. That is how an American glider pilot came into possession of one on D-Day. Because of the photograph, we know he brought it aboard the landing craft that extracted him from Utah Beach. From there, he would have taken it back to England and, if he survived it all, maybe even back home after VE Day. We may never know what eventually happened to that SVT-40, but maybe it is sitting in an attic somewhere or maybe it is that rifle that you've been watching on Gunbroker recently.

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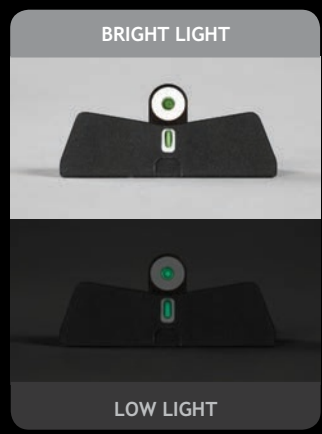

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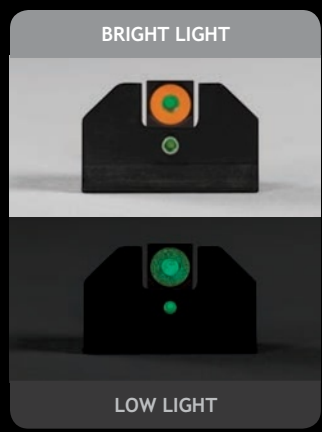

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Savage 110 Scout

Savage reintroduces a new take on a versatile classic.

Jeff Cooper conceptualized the scout rifle and established specific guidelines regarding its length, weight, chambering and sights. He intended it to be the ideal rifle for someone operating remotely and alone in a scouting or hunting capacity. The modern translation of Cooper's conceptualized carbine now describes any rifle with a forward-mounted scope as a "scout." This is partly because Cooper also defined a scout rifle as a general-purpose rifle, which is a vague description for a specifically described tool.

Since 1999, Savage has offered several rifles with the "Scout" name. Most recent is its new-for-2018 110 Scout. Like all new-millennium interpretations of Cooper's concept, the 110 Scout embodies the spirit of his vision, but would be best described as a general-purpose rifle of the modern era.

Savage started with its proven 110 action, which comes standard with a three-position, tang safety. The manufacturer attached a heavy-contour barrel measuring .70-inch just forward of the front sight. Its muzzle is threaded, but comes with a large and aggressive brake that's nearly 1 inch in diameter. The front sight—just behind the brake—is a banded affair, with a sloped-center-post and protective steel wings that are three-quarters of an inch high.

A 16-slot, 6.63-inch Picatinny rail is attached to the forward receiver, via two screws in the common scope-base holes, and to the barrel by one screw. This rail allows for the mounting of a scout scope or red-dot sight. Out of the box, the rail was loose; Loctite was added and it was tightened before testing. (You might want to check this before mounting a scope if you buy one of these rifles.)

A Williams receiver sight is mounted to the rear of the action via the two rear scope-base- mounting holes. This excellent sight is fully adjustable for windage and elevation, and the peep disk, with a .09-inch hole, can be screwed out, leaving you with a much larger ghost-ring aperture, with a diameter of .19-inch. The sight is also set high, and this makes transition between the open sights and forward-mounted optic easier, without a great disparity in cheek weld on the stock.

The stock is really the big news with the Savage 110 Scout. It's the new AccuStock, which is a modular, synthetic affair that accepts various inserts to make it easily adaptable to the shooter and sight system. You can replace the stock's comb with inserts in a variety of heights that will allow you to establish a good cheek weld while lining up your eyes perfectly with the open sights, scout scope, red-dot or even a traditional riflescope. (You can mount a standard magnified optic if you remove the rail and rear sight.) Similarly, inserts can be installed to extend the length-of-pull from 12.75 to 13.75 inches.

All of this is more important than it might initially appear. Establishing a correct cheek weld is paramount to fast and accurate off-hand shooting. Engagement speed will suffer if you have to wiggle your head around behind the sight, and accuracy is degraded when a solid cheek weld is not established. Similarly, trying to work with a rifle with a length-of-pull that's too long is like an average-size fellow trying to walk on crutches sized for Kevin Durant. But, there's more to the AccuStock. It also features an integral, rigid-rail system embedded in the

On Target

Modular stock for custom fit

Off Target

Loose optics rail

stock and fore-end. Rather than unidirectionally engaging the action at one or two points, the AccuStock engages the action in three dimensions, along its entire length. Undoubtedly this, in conjunction with the heavy barrel, helps the Savage 110 Scout shoot quite well.

By virtue of a polymer base plate, Savage has adapted the 110 Action to feed from Magpul AICS detachable magazines. The rifle ships with a 10-round magazine, but will work with the shorter five-round version, too. The magazine release is located between the magazine and the trigger guard. It might appear long—long enough to permit inadvertent activation—but I did not have that problem. And, the lever could easily be shortened if desired. A single cartridge can still be inserted through the ejection port and chambered, but the magazine must be removed to be loaded.

From the bench, the 110 Scout delivered precision on par with what you would expect from Savage rifles, and velocities were the norm for what is ordinary from a 16-inch barrel. Where the rifle really shined was away from the bench. With the ability to adjust the stock to suit the shooter and sight system, it provides a nice ergonomic interface. Snapshooting—which is considered a forte of the scout rifle—was fast and accurate with the open sights as well as the 4X Weaver scout scope.

I fired 260 rounds through the rifle and experienced no stoppages. However, the bolt did bind a couple times under hard work when chambering cartridges. The AccuTrigger was very crisp, but out of the box broke at 3.75 pounds. Fortunately, it is adjustable. I ran the rifle through my field course, snap-shooting torso-size steel targets and precision shooting 6-inch steel targets, from 60 to 160 yards, using field-shooting positions. The 110 Scout performed better than average when compared to other scout-like rifles I've tested, including all commercial and several custom variants.

As far as scout rifle purists or Jeff Cooper—if he were still with us—are concerned, the Savage 110 Scout is not a true scout rifle. One of the hallmarks of his concept was a rifle weighing 7.5 pounds (at the most) and ideally closer to 6.5, with the optical sight and sling in place. The 110 Scout weighs 7.5 pounds out of the box. Topped with the compact and light Weaver 4X scout scope, and fitted with a Galco RifleMann sling, the 110 Scout weighs more than 8.5 pounds. The rifle, however, should have tremendous appeal to those looking for a one-rifle answer to the general-purpose-rifle question.

—Richard Mann

Specifications

Manufacturer: Savage Arms; (800) 370-0708, savagearms.com
Action Type: Bolt-action rifle
Caliber: .308 Win.
Capacity: 10 rounds
Barrel Length: 16.5 inches
Rifling: 5R; 1:10-inch RH twist
Stock: AccuStock, tan with black inserts
Sights: Wing-protected front, peep rear; Picatinny rail for mounting optics
Trigger Pull Weight: 3 pounds, 12 ounces
Length: 37.5 to 38.5 inches
Weight: 7 pounds, 5.5 ounces
Accessories: One length-of-pull and four comb inserts, lock, manual
MSRP: $819

Shooting Results

Load	Velocity	Group size Smallest	Largest	Average
Barnes Vortex 130-grain TTSX	2,984	.88	1.26	1.05
DoubleTap 165-grain Swift Scirocco II	2,630	1.33	1.86	1.56
Atomic 175-grain Sierra HPBT	2,596	1.19	1.98	1.55

Velocity measured in fps at the muzzle for 10 consecutive shots with a Caldwell G2 chronograph. Temperature: 43 degrees Fahrenheit. Accuracy measured in inches for five consecutive five-shot groups, from a sandbag rest, at 100 yards.

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1. The AccuTrigger provides a crisp let-off and is user-adjustable.

2. Protective wings safeguard the front sight from damage that may occur with hard use.

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3. A Williams peep-style rear aperture is adjustable for windage and elevation.

4. The rifle ships with a forward-mounted Picatinny rail that is compatible with intermediate-eye-relief optics.

5. Multiple inserts are included for customizing the stock's comb height to meet the shooter's needs.

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6. Savage's new AccuStock allows for easy length-of-pull adjustments.

Leupold
Mark 5HD 5-25x56 mm Riflescope

When you care enough to send the very best (ammo), your riflescope should be up to the task. Leupold's new Mark 5HD certainly is.

Leupold is so busy bringing new products to the optics world that it is hard to keep track of them all. Unlike many of its competitors, Leupold's target audience is not limited to a narrow swath of rifle shooters. Instead, the company continually introduces entire new optic families that are well-suited for hunting, competition, home defense, long-range-precision shooting and professional tactical uses. The latter two categories are well served by the new Mark 5HD line, currently consisting of 5-25x56 mm and 3.6-18x44 mm riflescopes. I recently tested the 5-25X model and found it to be a great addition to the Leupold brand.

The first thing I noticed when removing the Mark 5HD from its box is that it feels about half as heavy as other 5-25X-power scopes I have hefted over the years. Leupold claims it is 20-percent lighter than competing models, but it honestly felt much lighter to me. The scope's good ergonomics do not end there. A knurled (and removable) throw knob is positioned to provide fast movement through the full range of power. The M5C3 knob array provides positive clicks every one-tenth mil, allowing very precise elevation and windage corrections for shooters who prefer to dial them in. The elevation turret's three revolutions of travel give access to 120 MOA of total adjustment range. Its Zerolock turret system uses a spring-loaded button at the "0" position to prevent the knob from turning counterclockwise (up), while still allowing a few clicks below zero before hitting a mechanical stop. To dial in additional elevation, the button must be pressed while rotating the knob. Once the turret is moved above "0," it rotates freely without the button being pushed and locks automatically when the knob is returned to zero. The chances of being off zero unintentionally or having difficulty returning to zero in the dark are greatly reduced with this design.

I headed to the range with the first of three rifles on which the 5-25X would be tested. Bore-sighting by eye through the 5.56 NATO AR's barrel made the zeroing process quick. My next task was to check out the repeatability and accuracy of the windage and elevation knobs. Adjustments

Specifications

Manufacturer: Leupold; (800) 538-7653, leupold.com
Magnification: 5-25X
Objective Lens Diameter: 56 mm
Reticle: First-focal-plane, TMR
Adjustability: 34.9 mils elevation; 17.5 mils windage in .1-mil clicks
Field of View: 20.5 feet at 100 yards (5X); 4.2 feet at 100 yards (25X)
Eye Relief: 3.58 to 3.82 inches
Length: 15.67 inches
Weight: 30 ounces
Accessories: Thread-on sunshade, rubber flip caps, manual
MSRP: $2,599.99

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1. Magnification changes can be made rapidly thanks to a removable throw lever.

2. Fine-tuning is accomplished with a European-style, non-locking eyepiece.

3. Elevation adjustments are performed quickly thanks to the exposed turret.

4. In bright sunlight, the included screw-in sunshade reduces glare significantly.

in all directions corresponded with point-of-impact changes on target at 100 yards and return-to-zero was also perfect. My sample scope was equipped with a non-illuminated TMR reticle. I am no fan of open-center reticles, as they tend to leave it to me to figure out where dead-center is from one shot to the next. That works fine until my eye starts to get fuzzy from lack of oxygen, gasses in the face, mirage or sweat. But the TMR reticle's open center is small enough—around .05 mil as near as I could tell—that I had no problem at any distance holding on tiny, intended points-of-impact at the higher magnifications.

Zooming through the powers was quick and easy with the throw knob. I found that magnifications between 10X and 16X allowed for extremely precise shooting at 100 yards and at longer ranges, 18X to 20X was just about right for me. I used the scope on 5.56 NATO, 7.62x39 mm and .308 Win. rifles at distances from 25 to 800 yards, firing a total of 450 rounds between them. The image clarity of my test scope was excellent. I did not detect any fuzzy spots at any power, even at the field-of-view edges. I also had on-hand an older Leupold 20-60X spotting scope. Comparing the image clarity of each scope at 20X was almost an apple-to-orange affair. The Mark 5HD was crystal clear and showed me how really crummy my old spotter is by comparison.

These sighting systems are intended for serious use and are priced accordingly. Unfortunately, that means they are not in the entry-level realm. Given the Mark 5 family's enhanced features, lightweight, compact designs and excellent quality; tactical and long-range-precision shooters in particular have another excellent pair of options from Leupold to choose from.

—Steve Adelmann

On Target
Incredibly clear glass

Off Target
Reticle has (tiny) open center

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 Continued from page 48

mismatches in rifles, removing stuck cases, finding twist rates, and even slugging barrels. In the back of the manual you will find recommended firearm-cleaning procedures, a comprehensive powder burn-rate chart, a useful glossary and yes, there is even information on loading front-loading rifles as well as black-powder cartridges.

As with most loading manuals, with each cartridge there's a short introduction detailing things like its history, development and optimum uses. Being somewhat of a cartridge geek, I really appreciated the cartridge schematics with accurate dimensional measurements. And then, of course, with each cartridge (by the way there are 59 handgun and 138 rifle cartridges covered) you'll find minimum and maximum load data with Ramshot and Accurate powders, that includes a specified cartridge overall length.

Hidden within the pages are little gems—load data for some of the niche and cult-like cartridges over which some shooters obsess. Cartridges like the .30 Mauser, .22 TCM, 9x18 Markarov, .20 Vartag .460 Rowland, .20 Tactical, 6x45 mm, 6.5 Grendel, .308 Norma Mag., .338 Lapua Mag., 5.45x39 mm, .458 SOCOM and the .550 Mag. Of course, all the usual suspects, like the , .38 Spl., 9 mm, .327 Fed. Mag. as well as 6.5 Creedmoor, .308 Win. and .223 Rem./5.56 NATO. All of the

Hodgdon's 2018 Reloading Manual

Every year, Hodgdon Powders publishes a magazine-style load manual, with data for Hodgdon, IMR and Winchester Powders. One thing that sets the Hodgdon manual apart is that it also contains timely articles. The 2018 version covers loads for the Army's new service pistol, handloading for concealed carry, loading for the 6 mm Creedmoor and the 22 and 33 Nosler. In addition, you'll find data for 102 rifle and 46 pistol cartridges.

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mainstays are extensively covered. (For example, the manual lists more than 300 loads for the .308 Win.)

The data provided is with Ramshot and Accurate powders and what you might be wondering is if these powders are any good. Well, when I'm working with just about any cartridge for an AR-15, Accurate 2200 is one of the first powders I often try; I've found it delivers great performance in the .223 Rem., .25-45 Sharps and .30 Rem. AR. I also load a lot of ammo for the .327 Fed. Mag. and my go-to load with 100-grain bullets is 7.7 grains of Ramshot True Blue. Finally, Ramshot TAC is my favorite all-round powder for the .308 Win. Additionally, all of these powders burn clean and meter exceptionally well.

If you're serious about handloading, pick up a copy. If you need to know something about reloading that's not in there, just call (406) 234-0422. In no time you'll be talking to a smart guy, and if his name is Rob Bahr, he literally wrote the book.

A few years after my visit to Western Powders it offered me a job—a good job. But, after a long stint of self-employment, the last thing I wanted was someone telling me what to do. I couldn't leave West Virginia hills for the wide openness of Eastern Montana. At least I got a copy of Western Powders new load manual; the staff probably sent it so I would stop calling so much.

Western Powder's Handloading Guide is a big, 488-page, full-color reference for handloaders.

 Continued from page 42

that conventional strong-side carry requires. (Especially for those of us who are short-waisted and long-armed, because loading up a conventional strong-side IWB draw tends to involve a very identifiable shoulder motion.)

Another thing I noticed from watching force-on-force evolutions and attending classes like Craig Douglas' Extreme Close Quarters Concepts (ECQC) was how much easier it was to foil an attempted gun grab with AIWB, or to retain the gun in its holster should someone notice it in a grapple and try to snatch it. Simply bending double at the waist can trap the gun pretty effectively, or at least buy time to solve the retention problem with your hands.

It doesn't hurt that, after ECQC, I tend to think a lot more about retention issues. Grocery store lines make me itch now. Because I now know that while "concealed means concealed," if I'm within arm's length of someone, a holstered gun isn't my gun or their gun, it's our gun.

I've turned a full 180 on some of the issues with holstering, too. Conventional wisdom is that putting the gun away in an AIWB holster is more dangerous than juggling nuclear hand grenades, while putting a gun away in a conventional strong-side holster is somehow safe as houses.

Yet, there are training academies that disallow IWB carry, period, because of incidents that occurred while holstering, and even a conventional outside-the-waistband holster is no proof against mishandling.

Care should always be taken when holstering a loaded firearm, and an AIWB holster offers the advantage of being able to visually observe that the gun is going into the holster cleanly and that there are no obstructions in the holster's mouth just waiting to snag the trigger and cause trouble.

Further helping to ease my fears, John Johnston, host of Ballistic Radio and half of the training team at

Citizen's Defense Research, did a video using a Simunition Glock and a cutaway holster demonstrating that holstering an AIWB firearm was a lot safer than I'd previously assumed.

So, that gives us the advantages of being able to more effectively launch a surreptitious draw, easier weapon retention and having the gun up front and in one's general field-of-view, which can aid in both retention and safe holstering in a training environment.

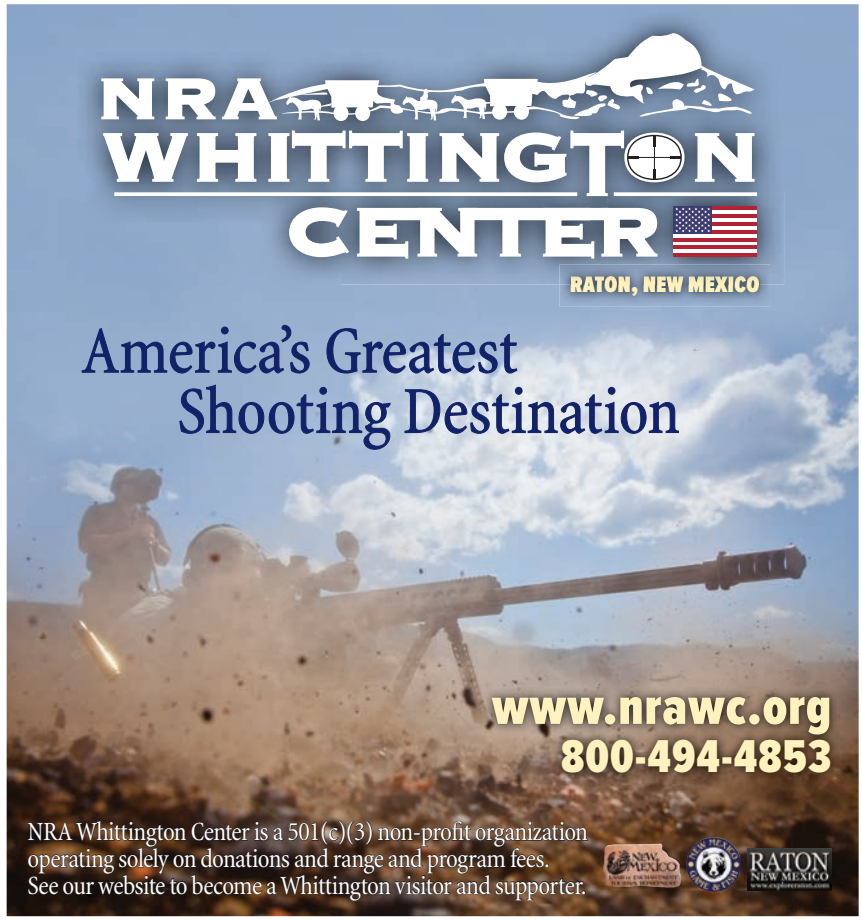
That leaves the thing that first attracted my attention: Speed of the draw. This is simple mechanics, since the hands don't have to travel as far to get to the gun, and the gun doesn't have to travel as far to be brought into the firing position.

The speed advantage is enough that in an action shooting sport like USPSA, simply moving your holster forward of your hip is disallowed in Production Division. This means that if you want to run your carry gear in a USPSA match, you'll be shooting in Limited Division.

While the speed advantage isn't as great if two hands aren't available, a strong-hand-only draw from AIWB is not as impossible as I was once led to believe. If the other hand is occupied, the shooter simply grabs the hem of the closed-front cover garment, lifts it high on the chest to clear the holstered pistol, and then traps the cover garment with their upper arm and before completing the strong-hand-only draw.

So, what are the downsides? Performing a safe reholster while seated is a lot more involved than when using a strong-side holster, obviously. Most notably, AIWB carry in comfort takes a lot more experimenting with holsters, belts, ride height, etc., before a comfortable solution can be found. I'm still in search of the perfect belt myself.

Still, though, the upsides of the method are enough that I'm at least going to be exploring it. The rig will get an extended evaluation this time, and we'll see if it sticks.



NRA Files Suit Challenging Florida Gun Control Law

LATEST LEGISLATIVE NEWS FROM INSIDE THE NRA INSTITUTE FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Within an hour of its enactment, the National Rifle Association announced that it had filed a lawsuit challenging the State of Florida's newly enacted ban on the purchase of firearms by young adults between the ages of 18 and 21.

Florida's ban is an affront to the Second Amendment, as it totally eviscerates the right of law-abiding adults between the ages of 18 and 21 to keep and bear arms. The ban is particularly offensive with respect to young women, as women between the ages of 18 and 21 are much less likely to engage in violent crime than older members of the general population who are unaffected by the ban. Despite this fact, the State of Florida has enacted a sweeping law banning all young adults between the ages of 18 and 21 from purchasing any firearm from any source. Chris Cox, the executive director of the NRA's Institute for Legislative Action, stated, "Swift action is needed to prevent young adults in Florida from being treated as second-class citizens when it comes to the right to keep and bear arms."

"We are confident that the courts will vindicate our view that Florida's ban is a blatant violation of the Second Amendment." The case is *National Rifle Association of America, Inc. v. Bondi*, and it has been filed in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Florida.

Photo by iStock/Denis Tangney Jr.

The National Rifle Association took recent action to file a lawsuit challenging a ban on firearm purchases by young adults between 18 to 21 years of age in Florida. Florida Gov. Rick Scott signed the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Public Safety Act March 9, 2018.

IN MEMORY NRA-ILA CONTRIBUTIONS

February 1, 2018–February 28, 2018

Reuben Ledra, Schenectady, NY (from: Judith Ledra); **C. B. Robertson III**, Richmond, VA (from: H. L. Clay); **Michael F. Dowdell**, San Antonio, TX (from: Lawrence P. Martin

ILA CONTRIBUTIONS

(The following have contributed $1,000.00 or more to the NRA Institute for Legislative Action: February 1, 2018–February 28, 2018)

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Limited Data, the NRA Annual Meeting and Ignoring Intent: The Latest Study

Have you heard the latest breaking news?

"A study pokes holes in the idea that experienced firearm users are less likely to injure themselves."

"To see gun injury drop, hold an NRA Meeting."

"Gun injuries fall during NRA conventions."

A Harvard doctor and a Columbia grad student published a letter in the *New England Journal of Medicine* in March that found gun injuries drop 20 percent during the NRA's Annual Meetings & Exhibits.

If guns were perfectly safe in the hands of trained NRA members, Anupam Jena and Andrew Olenski reasoned, they should have found no differences between gun injury rates on convention days versus other days. Yet injury rates were, on average, 20 percent lower on meeting days. "We believe this is due to brief reductions in gun use during the dates of these meetings," Jena says.

In other words, the researchers are using NRA's focus on safety and training as part of a natural experiment. They believe that Annual Meetings attendees—all of them NRA members committed to safety, training and responsible firearm ownership—abstaining from using firearms reduces the number of firearms-related injuries.

Start with their premise: that firearm injuries would decline during a period of firearm abstinence—the Annual Meetings. The researchers obviously have not attended or read much about the event; if they had, they would know there is no prohibition on carrying firearms at the Annual Meetings. NRA actively schedules the event in cities and venues that respect the right to bear arms.

So, we've established that the people at Annual Meetings might be armed. What about the magnitude of the crowd size? About 80,000 people attend in a given year. There are about 100 million or so gun owners in the country, so the researchers are claiming that less than one-tenth of 1 percent of firearm owners are responsible for a 20 percent drop in the firearm-related injury rate nationwide. Whatever nonsense they conducted with the data and their methods, this finding flies in the face of common sense and logic. It would be laughable if not so completely absurd.

The authors suggest that there is a trickle-down effect of sorts. They believe that going to a shooting range, hunting, plinking or carrying a firearm for self-defense doesn't occur during the Annual Meetings. Again, this is absurd.

But even beyond common sense, the methodology used by these researchers is very unusual. Instead of publicly available injury data from reliable government sources, they use a proprietary database of emergency department visits and hospitalizations among private insured patients. Guess what? This means not everyone in the country. Not even close.

Oh, and one last point. Which "injuries" counted for these researchers? You'd think that true firearm-related accidents, but you'd be wrong. In addition to accidents, they included legal intervention and terrorism. If legal intervention sounds like self-defense to you, it does to us, too, as that phrase is commonly used in this way. It is hard to tell because the authors are not forthcoming about why they included these injury codes in the analysis, so we can only guess. And why injuries from terrorism were included, again, is anyone's guess.

Photo Courtesy of Travis Tritt

The entertainment at NRA Annual Meetings & Exhibits is always a highlight, and this year's Saturday evening celebration promises to be a memorable night, as NRA honors a great American patriot, Charlie Daniels. Country Superstar and Grammy award-winner Travis Tritt will co-headline the event. With millions in album sales and 19 Top 10 hits, he'll bring fans to their feet with favorites including "Modern Day Bonnie and Clyde," "Here's a Quarter" and "It's a Great Day to Be Alive." NRA Country's Vanessa Shahidi asked Tritt a few questions ahead of his May 5 performance.

VS: Who taught you about the great outdoors growing up?

TT: My dad and all my uncles loved to hunt. They took me hunting when I was a kid and instilled in me a love for the outdoors. They also taught me about gun safety and respect for the land. Great life lessons that I've passed on to my kids.

VS: What was your most memorable hunt?

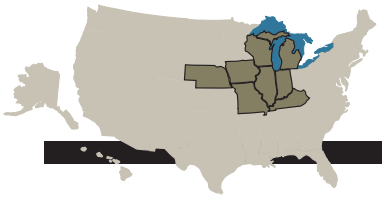
TT: My wife, Theresa, and I went to South Africa in 2006 to hunt plains game. She was born in Nairobi, Kenya, and her father and uncle hunted all over Africa when she was young. We took them with us on our South Africa trip. It was one of the most amazing and memorable hunting trips that I've ever experienced.

VS: You've recorded lots of huge hits but your new music is great, too. Tell us about your current album.

TT: I play 130+ shows each year with my talented band, but I also do a few solo acoustic dates. My latest album and DVD is "A Man and His Guitar," a live solo acoustic show recorded at the historic Franklin Theater near Nashville, Tenn. Even after 30 years, I still love to perform and I am looking forward to playing for the fans in Dallas.

Tickets are on sale now for this special event: An Evening Honoring Charlie Daniels with Very Special Guest Travis Tritt. Visit **nraam.org** for more information and to purchase tickets, starting at $25. They are going fast so get yours now!

NRA Country is a lifestyle and a bond between the country music community and hard-working Americans everywhere. It's powered by pride, freedom, love of country, respect for the military and the responsibilities of protecting the great American life. For more information visit ***nracountry.com****, follow on Twitter @NRACountry, and NRA_Country on Instagram.*



2018 NRA ANNUAL MEETINGS • MAY 4-6 • DALLAS, TX

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(Tactical Shooting)
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PISTOL

Chandler, IN	MAY 6
Waterman, IL	MAY 12
Weeping Water, NE	MAY 19
Barnhart, MO	MAY 25-26

SMALLBORE RIFLE

Louisville, KY	MAY 19-20

HIGH POWER RIFLE

Kangley, IL	MAY 5
Cadillac, MI	MAY 5
Freedom, IN	MAY 5
Lodi, WI	MAY 5-6
Paducah, KY	MAY 19
Alliance, NE	MAY 27

SILHOUETTE

Ithaca, MI	MAY 5-6
Bennet, NE	MAY 12
Wright City, MO	MAY 20
Danville, IN	MAY 26
Ashland, KY	MAY 26

The Gun of the Year embodies Kimber's commitment to crafting firearms of unequaled quality. Chambered in .45 ACP, the Kimber NRA Custom II "Defending Freedom" is a full-size 1911 with a 5-inch barrel. A specially engraved slide features the NRA logo and the words "Defending Freedom." The slide also wears a self-lubricating Desert Tan KimPro® II finish that offers outstanding additional resistance to chemicals, moisture, salt and UV light. This is complemented by a matte black frame, which is paired to the slide early in production to help ensure optimal fitting. The "Defending Freedom," proudly made in America, is available only at Friends of NRA events.

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The NRA's Refuse To Be A Victim® program provides information on crime prevention and personal safety. To learn more about the program, visit **refuse.nra.org**. The most up-to-date schedule is available on the internet by visiting **nrainstructors.org**, by sending an email to refuse@nrahq.org or by calling (800) 861-1166.

MAY 13—APPLETON, WI
(Seminar)
Gail Feher (920) 202-3080

MAY 15—JACKSONVILLE, IL
(Seminar)
Loren Hamilton (217) 786-2432

MAY 22—ST. LOUIS, MO
(Instructor Development Workshop)
Kevin Cummins (636) 207-1900

GUN SHOWS

Dates and locations of gun shows are subject to change, so please contact the show before traveling. Discounted NRA membership are sold through NRA recruiters.

*Some shows may offer free admission to people who sign up for new memberships or renewals. To become an NRA Recruiter call (800) 672-0004.

MAY 4-5 — RICE LAKE, WI
Barron County Fairgrounds—Commercial Building, Bearing Arms Gun Shows (715) 308-8772

MAY 4-6 — CHIPPEWA FALLS, WI
Northern Wisconsin State Fairgrounds—Building C, Indianhead Firearms (715) 828-2867

MAY 4-6 — COUNCIL BLUFFS, IA
Mall of Bluffs, Pioneer Gun Shows (712) 388-8520

MAY 5-6 — BELLEVILLE, IL
Belle-Clair Expo Center, ECA Hunting & Trade Shows (618) 495-2572

MAY 5-6 — BIRCH RUN, MI
Birch Run Expo Center, Sport Shows Promotions (517) 676-4160

MAY 5-6 — MUNCIE, IN
Delaware County Fairgrounds, Central Indiana Gun Shows (765) 993-8942

MAY 11-12 — MONROE, WI
Slice Ice Arena, Green County Conservation League (608) 897-4481

MAY 11-13 **NIXA, MO**
CY Sports Center, Militia Armaments Gun Club (636) 295-0624

MAY 12-13 **EVANSVILLE, IN**
Holiday Inn—Evansville Airport, Central Indiana Gun Shows (765) 855-3836

MAY 13 **ST. CHARLES, IL**
Kane County Fairgrounds, Kane County Sportsman's Show (815) 758-2773

MAY 18-19 **EVANSVILLE, IN**
Evansville National Guard Armory, Irish HitMan Productions (812) 483-3064

MAY 18-20 **UNION GROVE, WI**
Racine County Fairgrounds, Bob & Rocco's Gun Shows (608) 752-6677

MAY 18-20 **HANNIBAL, MO**
Admiral Coontz Armory, Militia Armaments Gun Club (636) 295-0624

MAY 19-20 **PEOTONE, IL**
Will County Fairgrounds, The Cloe Group LLC (815) 263-2810

MAY 19-20 **NEW BERLIN, IL**
Sangamon County Fairgrounds, Central Illinois Gun Collectors (217) 416-0618

MAY 19-20 **SPRINGFIELD, MO**
Ozark Empire Fairgrounds, R.K. Shows Inc. (563) 927-8176

MAY 19-20 **CHEBOYGAN, MI**
Cheboygan Ice Arena, Sport Shows Promotions (517) 676-4160

MAY 19-20 **FORT WAYNE, IN**
Allen County War Memorial Coliseum, CPI Shows (260) 483-6144

MAY 19-20 **GREENFIELD, IN**
Hancock County Fairgrounds, Central Indiana Gun Shows (765) 855-3836

MAY 20 **WOODSTOCK, IL**
McHenry County Fairgrounds, D&J Guns (815) 385-1982

MAY 25-26 **LAKE OZARK, MO**
Lodge of Four Seasons, R.K. Shows Inc. (563) 927-8176

MAY 25-27 **EAGLE RIVER, WI**
Eagle River Ice Arena, Bob & Rocco's Gun Shows (608) 752-6677

MAY 25-27 **MOUNT PLEASANT, IA**
Midwest Old Threshers, Marv Kraus Promotions (563) 608-4401

MAY 26-27 **HARRISON, MI**
Clare County Fairgrounds, Sport Shows Promotions (517) 676-4160

MAY 26-27 **MADISON, IN**
Indiana National Guard, Straight Shooters Enterprises (812) 498-3833

MAY 26-27 **TERRE HAUTE, IN**
Wabash Valley Fairgrounds, Central Indiana Gun Shows (765) 855-3836

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Joining NRA-affiliated state associations supports NRA's mission in your state. See **stateassociations.nra.org/** for more information.

Illinois State Rifle Ass'n. Inc.
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Indiana State Rifle & Pistol Ass'n. Inc.
isrpa.org

Iowa State Rifle & Pistol Ass'n.
iasrpa.org

League of Kentucky Sportsmen Inc.
kentuckysportsmen.com

Michigan Rifle & Pistol Ass'n.
michrpa.org

Missouri Sport Shooting Ass'n.
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Wisconsin Firearm Owners, Ranges, Clubs & Educators
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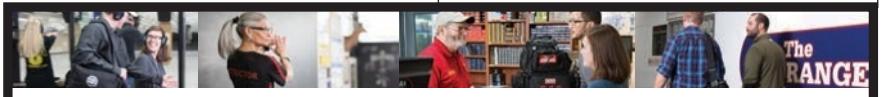

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EDDIE EAGLE GUNSAFE PROGRAM	(800) 231-0752
REFUSE TO BE A VICTIM	(800) 861-1166
RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS	(703) 267-1511
NRA AFFILIATED CLUBS	(800) NRA-CLUB
RANGE SERVICES	(877) 672-7264
COMPETITIVE SHOOTING	(877) 672-6282
LAW ENFORCEMENT	(703) 267-1640
FRIENDS OF NRA	(703) 267-1342
NRA MUSEUMS/ GUN COLLECTOR PROGRAMS	(703) 267-1600
SHOWS & EXHIBITS	(866) 343-1805
MEDIA RELATIONS	(703) 267-1595

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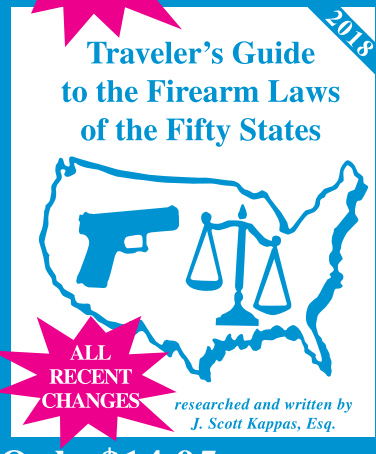
– a **state-by-state** guide to the gun laws most useful to the traveler –

- concealed carry reciprocity
- vehicle carry (loaded or unloaded?)
- carry in state and national parks
- carry in restaurants
- prohibited areas - gun-free zones
- open carry on your person
- self defense rules for travelers
- how to handle a traffic stop
- RV and motorcycle carry
- includes Canada and Mexico
- written by an attorney
- in our 22nd year

2018

Stay on the Road and Out of Jail!



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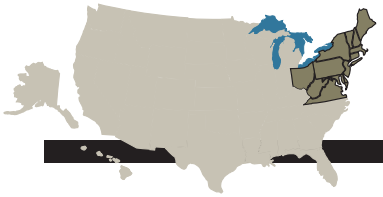

2018 NRA ANNUAL MEETINGS • MAY 4-6 • DALLAS, TX

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

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Friends of NRA events celebrate American values with fun, fellowship and fundraising for The NRA Foundation. You'll have the opportunity to participate in games, raffles, live and silent auctions and more. Your attendance contributes to grants that promote firearm education, safety and marksmanship. To learn more about events in your area, visit **friendsofnra.org**, contact your local field representative or send an email to friends@nrahq.org.

East Regional Director—Bryan Hoover
bhoover@nrahq.org

ME, VT, NH—Brian Smith
bsmith@nrahq.org

NJ, MA, RI, CT & Southern NY—Craig Decker
cdecker@nrahq.org

New York—Bruce McGowan
bmcgowan@nrahq.org

Northern OH—Marc Peugeot
mpeugeot@nrahq.org

Southern OH—David Graham
dgraham@nrahq.org

Eastern PA, DE—Kory Enck
kenck@nrahq.org

Western PA—Tom Baldrige
tbaldrige@nrahq.org

Eastern VA, Eastern MD, Washington, DC—David Wells
dwells@nrahq.org

Western VA, Western MD, WV—Jim Kilgore
jkilgore@nrahq.org

TRAINING

Crime Prevention

The NRA's Refuse To Be A Victim® program provides information on crime prevention and personal safety. To learn more about the program, visit **refuse.nra.org**. The most up-to-date schedule is available on the internet by visiting **nrainstructors.org**, by sending an email to refuse@nrahq.org or by calling (800) 861-1166.

MAY 5—BOYERS, PA
(Seminar)
Raymond Henderson (724) 525-0496

MAY 6—ASHAWAY, RI
(Seminar)
Lyd Neugent (401) 377-8184

MAY 19—ROCKVILLE, MD
(Seminar)
Ronald David (301) 828-5879

MAY 19—BRISTOL, CT
(Seminar)
Michael Ptaszynski (860) 582-4388

MAY 19—NEW KENSINGTON, PA
(Seminar)
Klint Macro (724) 212-7006

MAY 20—CANTON, PA
(Seminar)
Clinton Walters (570) 529-1191

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Public and private officers interested in becoming firearm instructors should attend one of NRA's Law Enforcement Firearms Instructor Development Schools, designed to enhance the instructors' firearm knowledge and handling skills, as well as prepare them to develop effective training programs, instruct in a professional manner, and conduct practical training exercises. Restricted to law enforcement officers only..

MAY 14-18—OLD FIELD, WV
(Tactical Shooting)

MAY 14-18—SANDSTON, VA
(Patrol Rifle)

MAY 14-18—COATSVILLE, PA
(Handgun/Shotgun)

MAY 21-15—LEWISBURG, PA
(Patrol Rifle)
Contact Timothy Cole at (703) 267-1626 or tcole@nrahq.org.

TUITION-FREE ARMORER CLASSES**
(Register at: le.nra.org)

MAY 2—FAIRFAX, VA
(Walther PPQ M2 Armorer)

Police Competition

NRA Police Pistol Combat competition is intended to be used as an extension of an officer's training. See PPC Rulebook (Rule 2.4) for eligibility requirements.

MAY 12—LEBANON, PA (Approved)
Contact Tiffany King at (703) 267-1621 or tking@nrahq.org.

STATE ASSOCIATIONS

Joining NRA-affiliated state associations supports NRA's mission in your state. See **stateassociations.nra.org/** for more information.

Connecticut State Rifle & Revolver Ass'n.
csrra.com

Delaware State Sportsmen's Ass'n.
dssa.us

Maine Rifle & Pistol Ass'n. Inc.
mainerpa.org

Maryland State Rifle & Pistol Ass'n.
msrpa.org

Goal (Massachusetts)
goal.org

Gun Owners Of New Hampshire Inc.
gonh.org

Ass'n Of New Jersey Rifle & Pistol Clubs Inc.
anjrpc.org

New York State Rifle & Pistol Ass'n. Inc.
nysrpa.org

Ohio Rifle & Pistol Ass'n.
orpa.net

Pennsylvania Rifle & Pistol Ass'n.
pennarifleandpistol.org

Rhode Island 2nd Amendment Coalition
ri2nd.org

Vermont Federation Of Sportsmen's Clubs Inc.
vtfsc.org

Virginia Shooting Sports Ass'n.
myvssa.org

West Virginia State Rifle & Pistol Ass'n.
wvasrpa.org

GUN SHOWS

Dates and locations of gun shows are subject to change, so please contact the show before traveling. Discounted NRA membership are sold through NRA recruiters.

*Some shows may offer free admission to people who sign up for new memberships or renewals. To become an NRA Recruiter call (800) 672-0004.

MAY 4-6 EDGEWOOD, MD
Edgewood American Legion, American Legion Post 17 (410) 937-3421

MAY 5-6 DOSWELL, VA
Meadow Event Park, Southeastern Guns & Knives (757) 483-5385

MAY 5-6 **NORFOLK, VA**
Norfolk Scope, Showmasters Gun Shows (540) 951-1344

MAY 5-6 **BIDDEFORD, ME**
Biddeford Ice Arena, New England Events (603) 230-9014

MAY 5-6 **MIDDLETOWN, NY**
Orange County Fairgrounds, New Mart Promotions (914) 248-1000

MAY 5-6 **BLOOMSBURG, PA**
Bloomsburg Fairgrounds, Eagle Arms Productions (610) 393-3047

MAY 5-6 **LIMA, OH**
Allen County Fairgrounds, Tri-State Gun Collectors (419) 647-0067

MAY 11-12 **PERRYSBURG, OH**
Graystone Knights of Columbus Hall, Michigan Military History (248) 543-3087

MAY 12-13 **ALLENTOWN, PA**
Allentown Fairgrounds, Forks of the Delaware Historical Arms Society (610) 438-9006

MAY 19-20 **RICHMOND, VA**
Old Kmart on Midlothian, Showmasters Gun Shows (540) 951-1344

MAY 19-20 **DOVER, NH**
Dover Ice Arena, New England Events LLC (603) 230-9014

MAY 19-20 **SHARONVILLE, OH**
Sharonville Convention Center, Bill Goodman's Gun & Knife Shows (502) 538-3900

MAY 19-20 **OXFORD, ME**
Oxford Fairgrounds, Norway-Paris Fish & Game (207) 890-4573

MAY 19-20 **OAKS, PA**
Greater Philadelphia Expo Center, Eagle Arms Productions (610) 393-3047

MAY 26-27 **GETTYSBURG, PA**
AllStar Events Complex, Eagle Arms Productions (610) 393-3047

MAY 26-27 **SARATOGA SPRINGS, NY**
Saratoga Springs City Center, NEACA Inc. (518) 664-9743

AREA SHOOTS

For more information, send an email to Shelly Kramer at mkramer@nrahq.org or call (703) 267-1459. For a complete listing, see **shootingsportsusa.com**.

PISTOL

Carteret, NJ	MAY 5-6
Eleanor, WV	MAY 6
Lancaster, OH	MAY 12
New York, NY	MAY 13
Manassas, VA	MAY 20
Jericho, VT	MAY 26-27

SMALLBORE RIFLE

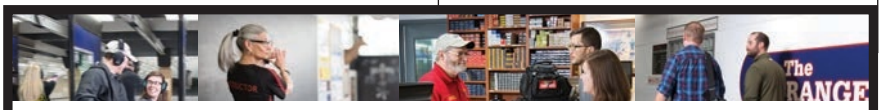
Millville, NJ	MAY 27

HIGH POWER RIFLE

Charlottesville, VA	MAY 5
East Aurora, NY	MAY 12
Scarborough, ME	MAY 20
New Tripoli, PA	MAY 20
Greenville, PA	MAY 26
Highland Lakes, NJ	MAY 26

SILHOUETTE

Manassas, VA	MAY 6
New Freedom, PA	MAY 6
Montpelier, VA	MAY 12
Ridgway, PA	MAY 19
Montoursville, PA	MAY 26



MEMBER INFORMATION & BENEFITS

MEMBERSHIP ACCOUNT INFORMATION: (877) 672-2000
NRA Headquarters: (703) 267-1000 • INTERNET ADDRESS: nra.org

MEMBER SERVICE	(800) 672-3888
NRASTORE.COM	(888) 607-6007
5-STAR MEMBER BENEFITS	
NRA Endorsed Insurance Programs	(877) 672-3006
LifeLock	(800) 978-1725
NRA Wine Club	(800) 331-5578
NRA Hearing Benefits	(866) 619-5889
North American Moving Services	(800) 699-0590
NRA Endorsed Check Program	(888) 331-6767
INSTITUTE FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION	
Grassroots/Legislative Hotline	(800) 392-8683
OFFICE OF ADVANCEMENT/ GIFT PLANNING	(877) NRA-GIVE
THE NRA FOUNDATION	(800) 423-6894
NRA INSTRUCTOR/ COACH FIREARM TRAINING	(703) 267-1500
EDDIE EAGLE GUNSAFE PROGRAM	(800) 231-0752
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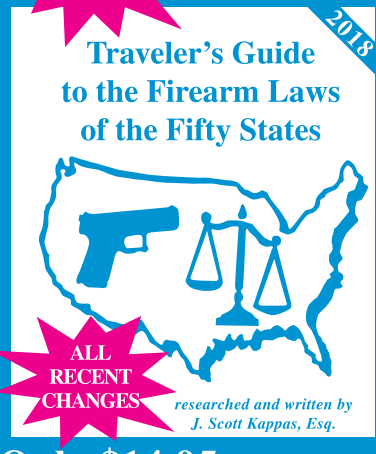

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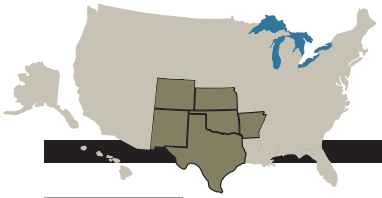

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Midwest Regional Director—Tom Ulik
tulik@nrahq.org

AR—Erica Willard
ewillard@nrahq.org

CO—Brad Dreier
bdreier@nrahq.org

KS—Tom Ulik
tulik@nrahq.org

NM—Michael Guilliams
mguilliams@nrahq.org

OK—Darren DeLong
ddelong@nrahq.org

Northern TX—Kevin Post
kpost@nrahq.org

Southern TX—Tyler Ward
tward@nrahq.org

Eastern TX—Liz Foley
efoley@nrahq.org

Western TX—Jack Cannon
jcannon@nrahq.org

TRAINING

Crime Prevention

The NRA's Refuse To Be A Victim® program provides information on crime prevention and personal safety. To learn more about the program, visit **refuse.nra.org**. The most up-to-date schedule is available on the internet by visiting **nrainstructors.org**, by sending an email to refuse@nrahq.org or by calling (800) 861-1166.

MAY 9—MONTROSE, CO
(Seminar)
Larry McWhirter (970) 249-2771

MAY 15—MONTROSE, CO
(Seminar)
Larry McWhirter (970) 249-2771

MAY 17—AUGUSTA, KS
(Seminar)
Gregory Rupp (316) 651-7877

MAY 19—ALVA, OK
(Seminar)
Patrick Hawley (580) 327-0344

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Public and private officers interested in becoming firearm instructors should attend one of NRA's Law Enforcement Firearms Instructor Development Schools, designed to enhance the instructors' firearm knowledge and handling skills, as well as prepare them to develop effective training programs, instruct in a professional manner, and conduct practical training exercises. Restricted to law enforcement officers only.

MAY 7-11—GARDEN PLAIN, KS
(Handgun)

MAY 14-18—GUNNISON, CO
(Tactical Shooting)

MAY 14-18—LITTLETON, CO
(Handgun)

MAY 21-25—SAN ANTONIO, TX
(Select-Fire)
Contact Mary Shine at (703) 267-1628 or mshine@nrahq.org.

Police Competition

NRA Police Pistol Combat competition is intended to be used as an extension of an officer's training. See PPC Rulebook (Rule 2.4) for eligibility requirements.

MAY 12—ALBUQUERQUE, NM
(Registered)
Contact Tiffany King at (703) 267-1621 or tking@nrahq.org.

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PISTOL

Whitewater, KS	MAY 5
Arcadia, OK	MAY 19
Midland, TX	MAY 19-20
Byers, CO	MAY 20

SMALLBORE RIFLE

Pine Bluff, AR	MAY 5
China Spring, TX	MAY 5
Houston, TX	MAY 5
Whitewater, KS	MAY 12
Atascosa, TX	MAY 12

HIGH POWER RIFLE

Wichita Falls, TX	MAY 5
Mansfield, TX	MAY 13
North Little Rock, AR	MAY 19
Galena, KS	MAY 20
Ramah, CO	MAY 20
Arcadia, OK	MAY 26

SILHOUETTE

Haltom City, TX	MAY 12
Arcadia, OK	MAY 13
Garden City, KS	MAY 13
Bronte, TX	MAY 20
Erie, CO	MAY 20
Bauxite, AR	MAY 27
Raton, NM	MAY 27

The Gun of the Year embodies Kimber's commitment to crafting firearms of unequaled quality. Chambered in .45 ACP, the Kimber NRA Custom II "Defending Freedom" is a full-size 1911 with a 5-inch barrel. A specially engraved slide features the NRA logo and the words "Defending Freedom." The slide also wears a self-lubricating Desert Tan KimPro® II finish that offers outstanding additional resistance to chemicals, moisture, salt and UV light. This is complemented by a matte black frame, which is paired to the slide early in production to help ensure optimal fitting. The "Defending Freedom," proudly made in America, is available only at Friends of NRA events.

GUN SHOWS

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*Some shows may offer free admission to people who sign up for new memberships or renewals. To become an NRA Recruiter call (800) 672-0004.

MAY 5-6 **SAN ANTONIO, TX**
San Antonio Events Center, Saxet Trade Shows (361) 289-2256*

MAY 5-6 **CLEBURNE, TX**
Johnson County Sheriff's Posse Building, Whipp Farm Productions (817) 929-1816

MAY 5-6 **LOVELAND, CO**
Outlets at Loveland, PE Gun Shows (970) 779-0360

MAY 12-13 **CROSBY, TX**
American Legion, Real Texas Gun Shows (713) 724-8881

MAY 12-13 **KERRVILLE, TX**
Hill Country Veterans Center, Hill Country Veterans (830) 315-3101

MAY 19-20 **SAN ANTONIO, TX**
Austin Highway Event Center, Austin Highway Gun Shows (210) 878-4053

MAY 19-20 **MESQUITE, TX**
Big Town Event Center—Exhibition Hall, Premier Gun Shows (817) 732-1194

MAY 19-20 **ABILENE, TX**
Abilene Civic Center, Texas Gun & Knife Ass'n. (830) 285-0575

MAY 19-20 **AMARILLO, TX**
Amarillo Civic Center, Pioneer Gun Collectors (806) 567-8700

MAY 19-20 **BELTON, TX**
Bell County Expo Center, Lone Star Gun Shows (214) 635-2009

MAY 19-20 **GLEN ROSE, TX**
Somervell County Expo, Whipp Farm Productions (817) 929-1816

MAY 19-20 **HOUSTON, TX**
George R. Brown Convention Center, High Caliber Gun & Knife Show (281) 489-1741

MAY 19-20 **OKLAHOMA CITY, OK**
Oklahoma State Fair Park—Expo Hall #2, OKC Gun Show Inc. (800) 333-4867

MAY 19-20 **TULSA, OK**
Tulsa Fairgrounds—Exchange Center, R.K. Shows Inc. (563) 927-8176

MAY 26-27 **KINGSLAND, TX**
Kingsland Community Center, Wild Weasel Productions (830) 992-5291

MAY 26-27 **PASADENA, TX**
Pasadena Convention Center, Premier Gun Shows (817) 732-1194

MAY 26-27 **LOVELAND, CO**
Outlets at Loveland, P.E. Gun Shows (970) 779-0360

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Arkansas Rifle & Pistol Ass'n.
arpa-online.org

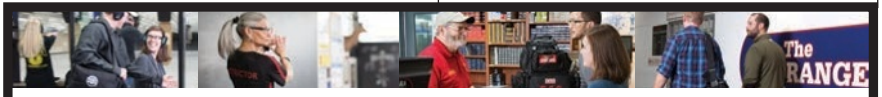
Colorado State Shooting Ass'n.
cssa.org

Kansas State Rifle Ass'n.
ksraweb.org

New Mexico Shooting Sports Ass'n. Inc.
nmssa.org

Oklahoma Rifle Ass'n. Inc.
oklarifle.com

Texas State Rifle Ass'n.
tsra.com



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MEMBER SERVICE	(800) 672-3888
NRASTORE.COM	(888) 607-6007
5-STAR MEMBER BENEFITS	
NRA Endorsed Insurance Programs	(877) 672-3006
LifeLock	(800) 978-1725
NRA Wine Club	(800) 331-5578
NRA Hearing Benefits	(866) 619-5889
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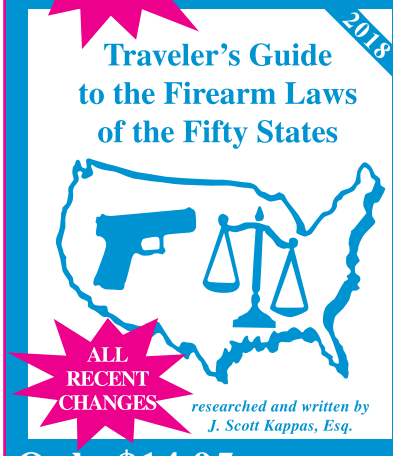

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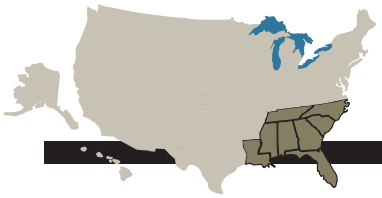

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South Regional Director—Al Hammond
ahammond@nrahq.org

AL, MS—Gene Newman
gnewman@nrahq.org

Northern FL—Bret Eldridge
peldridge@nrahq.org

Southern FL—Tom Knight
tknight@nrahq.org

GA—Neely Raper
nraper@nrahq.org

LA—Chad Bowen
cbowen@nrahq.org

Eastern NC—Garland "Tra" Storey
gstorey@nrahq.org

Western NC—Doug Merrill
rmerrill@nrahq.org

TN—Mike Webb
mwebb@nrahq.org

SC—Freeman Coleman
fcoleman@nrahq.org

TRAINING

Crime Prevention

The NRA's Refuse To Be A Victim® program provides information on crime prevention and personal safety. To learn more about the program, visit **refuse.nra.org**. The most up-to-date schedule is available on the internet at **nrainstructors.org**.

MAY 5—STONE MOUNTAIN, GA
(Instructor Development Workshop)
Matthew Schwab (678) 260-8318

MAY 18—NEW PORT RICHEY, FL
(Seminar)
Nicholas Di Guiseppi (727) 804-9516

MAY 19—BLUE RIDGE, GA
(Seminar)
Dawn Dolpp (434) 770-1972

MAY 19—BLUE RIDGE, GA
(Instructor Development Workshop)
Dawn Dolpp (434) 770-1972

MAY 19—LILBURN, GA
(Seminar)
Greg Schreffler (770) 367-3525

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Public and private officers interested in becoming firearm instructors should attend one of NRA's Law Enforcement Firearms Instructor Development Schools.

MAY 7-11—FLORENCE, AL
(Precision Rifle)

MAY 7-11—AVONDALE, LA
(Handgun/Shotgun)

MAY 7-11—FLORENCE (UNA), AL
(Tactical Shooting)

MAY 7-11—TUPELO, MS
(Handgun/Shotgun)

MAY 14-18—TUSCALOOSA, AL
(Handgun/Shotgun)

MAY 14-18—NEW SMYRNA BEACH, FL
(Patrol Rifle)

MAY 21-25—FLORENCE, AL
(Handgun/Shotgun)

MAY 21-25—SHREVEPORT, LA
(Patrol Rifle)

MAY 21-25—PEARL, MS
(Patrol Rifle)
Contact Rudis Amaya at (703) 267-1636 or ramaya@nrahq.org.

STATE ASSOCIATIONS

Joining NRA-affiliated state associations supports NRA's mission in your state. See **stateassociations.nra.org/** for more information.

Alabama Rifle & Pistol Ass'n.
jmoses1936@gmail.com

Florida Sport Shooting Ass'n.
fssaf.wildapricot.org

Georgia Sport Shooting Ass'n.
gssainc.org

Louisiana Shooting Ass'n.
louisianashooting.com

Mississippi Gun Owners Ass'n.
msgo.com

North Carolina Rifle & Pistol Ass'n.
ncrpa.org

Gun Owners of South Carolina
gosc.org

Tennessee Shooting Sports Ass'n. Inc.
tennesseeshootingsportsassociation.org

AREA SHOOTS

For more information, send an email to Shelly Kramer at mkramer@nrahq.org or call (703) 267-1459. For a complete listing, see **shootingsportsusa.com**.

PISTOL

Dawsonville, GA	MAY 6
Orlando, FL	MAY 6
Holmwood, LA	MAY 12
South Congaree, SC	MAY 19
Pinson, AL	MAY 19
Cookeville, TN	MAY 20
Creedmoor, NC	MAY 26

SMALLBORE RIFLE

Gaston, SC	MAY 5

The Gun of the Year embodies Kimber's commitment to crafting firearms of unequaled quality. Chambered in .45 ACP, the Kimber NRA Custom II "Defending Freedom" is a full-size 1911 with a 5-inch barrel. A specially engraved slide features the NRA logo and the words "Defending Freedom." The slide also wears a self-lubricating Desert Tan KimPro® II finish that offers outstanding additional resistance to chemicals, moisture, salt and UV light. This is complemented by a matte black frame, which is paired to the slide early in production to help ensure optimal fitting. The "Defending Freedom," proudly made in America, is available only at Friends of NRA events.

Orlando, FL	MAY 5
Cusseta, GA	MAY 6
Brunswick, TN	MAY 19

HIGH POWER RIFLE

Oak Ridge, TN	MAY 5
Sunrise, FL	MAY 5
Belton, SC	MAY 6
Columbus, NC	MAY 19
Donaldsonville, LA	MAY 19
Augusta, GA	MAY 26
Hoover, AL	MAY 27

SILHOUETTE

Rutherfordton, NC	MAY 5
Hoover, AL	MAY 5
Batesburg, SC	MAY 12
Brunswick, GA	MAY 19
Pearlington, MS	MAY 19
Quitman, LA	MAY 19
Jackson, TN	MAY 20
Orlando, FL	MAY 26

GUN SHOWS

Dates and locations of gun shows are subject to change, so please contact the show before traveling. Discounted NRA membership are sold through NRA recruiters.

*Some shows may offer free admission to people who sign up for new memberships or renewals. To become an NRA Recruiter call (800) 672-0004.

MAY 5-6 FORT LAUDERDALE, FL
War Memorial Auditorium, Florida Gun Shows (407) 410-6870

MAY 5-6 DELAND, FL*
Volusia County Fairgrounds, Sport Show Specialists (321) 777-7455

MAY 5-6 JACKSONVILLE, FL
The Morocco Shrine, Cliffhangers Gun Shows (386) 325-6114

MAY 5-6 ATLANTA, GA
Atlanta Expo Center, R.K. Shows Inc. (563) 927-8176

MAY 5-6 JACKSON, MS
Mississippi Trade Mart—State Fairgrounds, New South Gun Shows (601) 922-8138

MAY 12-13 VERO BEACH, FL
Indian River County Fairgrounds, Patriot Productions (866) 611-0442

MAY 12-13 SARASOTA, FL
Robarts Sports Arena, 2 Guys Shows (727) 776-3442

MAY 12-13 FLETCHER, NC
Western North Carolina Agricultural Center, Mike Kent Shows (770) 630-7296

MAY 19-20 BIRMINGHAM, AL
Birmingham-Jefferson Convention Complex, Great Southern Gun & Knife Shows (865) 671-4757

MAY 19-20 ORLANDO, FL
Central Florida Fairgrounds, Florida Gun Shows (407) 410-6870

MAY 19-20 OKEECHOBEE, FL
KOA Convention Center, Great American Promotions (865) 453-0074

MAY 19-20 GONZALES, LA
Lamar-Dixon Expo Hall, Classic Arms Productions (985) 624-8577

MAY 26-27 HUNTSVILLE, AL
Von Braun Civic Center, Collectors & Shooters Co. (334) 322-8818

MAY 26-27 MIAMI, FL
Miami-Dade Fairgrounds, Florida Gun Shows (407) 410-6870

MAY 26-27 WEST PALM BEACH, FL*
South Florida Fairgrounds, Sport Show Specialists (321) 777-7455

MAY 26-27 WINSTON-SALEM, NC
Winston-Salem Fairgrounds, C&E Gun Shows (540) 953-0016

MAY 26-27 EAST RIDGE, TN
Camp Jordan Arena, R.K. Shows Inc. (563) 927-8176

MEMBER INFORMATION & BENEFITS

MEMBERSHIP ACCOUNT INFORMATION: (877) 672-2000
NRA Headquarters: (703) 267-1000 • INTERNET ADDRESS: nra.org

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NRA Endorsed Insurance Programs	(877) 672-3006
LifeLock	(800) 978-1725
NRA Wine Club	(800) 331-5578
NRA Hearing Benefits	(866) 619-5889
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INSTITUTE FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION	
Grassroots/Legislative Hotline	(800) 392-8683
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THE NRA FOUNDATION	(800) 423-6894
NRA INSTRUCTOR/ COACH FIREARM TRAINING	(703) 267-1500
EDDIE EAGLE GUNSAFE PROGRAM	(800) 231-0752
REFUSE TO BE A VICTIM	(800) 861-1166
RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS	(703) 267-1511
NRA AFFILIATED CLUBS	(800) NRA-CLUB
RANGE SERVICES	(877) 672-7264
COMPETITIVE SHOOTING	(877) 672-6282
LAW ENFORCEMENT	(703) 267-1640
FRIENDS OF NRA	(703) 267-1342
NRA MUSEUMS/ GUN COLLECTOR PROGRAMS	(703) 267-1600
SHOWS & EXHIBITS	(866) 343-1805
MEDIA RELATIONS	(703) 267-1595

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- carry in restaurants
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- open carry on your person
- self defense rules for travelers
- how to handle a traffic stop
- RV and motorcycle carry
- includes Canada and Mexico
- written by an attorney
- in our 22nd year

2018

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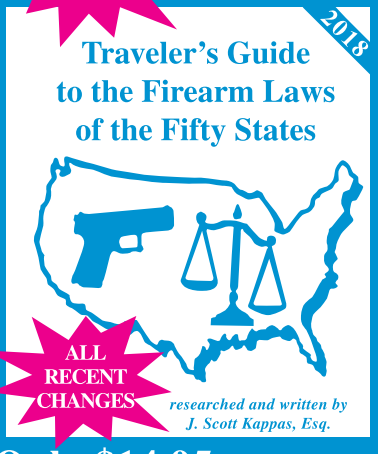

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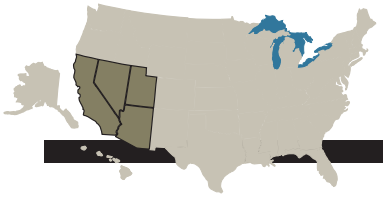

2018 NRA ANNUAL MEETINGS • MAY 4-6 • DALLAS, TX

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

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Southwest Regional Director—Jason Quick
jquick@nrahq.org

AZ—Winston Pendleton
wpendleton@nrahq.org

Mid CA—Sheila Boer
sboer@nrahq.org

Central CA—Paul Rodarmel
prodarmel@nrahq.org

Northern CA—Dan Wilhelm
dwilhelm@nrahq.org

Southern CA—Mike Davis
mdavis@nrahq.org

Eastern CA—Cole Beverly
cbeverly@nrahq.org

NV—Steve Wilson
swilson@nrahq.org

UT—Jim Reardon
jreardon@nrahq.org

TRAINING

Crime Prevention

The NRA's Refuse To Be A Victim® program provides information on crime prevention and personal safety. To learn more about the program, visit **refuse.nra.org**. The most up-to-date schedule is available on the internet by visiting **nrainstructors.org**, by sending an email to refuse@nrahq.org or by calling (800) 861-1166.

MAY 10—MESA, AZ
(Seminar)
Gerard Violette (480) 244-6315

MAY 11—TUCSON, AZ
(Instructor Development Workshop)
Gerard Violette (480) 244-6315

MAY 12—PARADISE, CA
(Seminar)
Ricky Gabler (530) 518-9881

MAY 18—MOHAVE VALLEY, AZ
(Instructor Development Workshop)
Gerard Violette (480) 244-6315

MAY 23—VICTORVILLE, CA
(Seminar)
Timothy Smith (909) 374-8878

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Public and private officers interested in becoming firearm instructors should attend one of NRA's Law Enforcement Firearms Instructor Development Schools, designed to enhance the instructors' firearm knowledge and handling skills, as well as prepare them to develop effective training programs, instruct in a professional manner, and conduct practical training exercises. Restricted to law enforcement officers only.

MAY 21-25—REDDING, CA
(Tactical Shooting)
Contact Mary Shine at (703) 267-1628 or mshine@nrahq.org.

STATE ASSOCIATIONS

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Arizona State Rifle & Pistol Ass'n.
asrpa.com

California Rifle & Pistol Ass'n.
crpa.org

Nevada Firearms Coalition
nvfac.org

Utah State Rifle & Pistol Ass'n.
usrpa.org

AREA SHOOTS

For more information, send an email to Shelly Kramer at mkramer@nrahq.org or call (703) 267-1459. For a complete listing, see **shootingsportsusa.com**.

SMALLBORE RIFLE

South El Monte, CA	MAY 19-20
Lincoln, CA	MAY 19-20

HIGH POWER RIFLE

Seeley, CA	MAY 6
Lakeport, CA	MAY 6

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Boulder City, NV	MAY 13
Dulzura, CA	MAY 19
Wendover, UT	MAY 26

SILHOUETTE

Tucson, AZ	MAY 6
Avenal, CA	MAY 13
Bishop, CA	MAY 19
Mesa, AZ	MAY 19
Cupertino, CA	MAY 24
Phoenix, AZ	MAY 26

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MAY 5-6 **TUCSON, AZ**
Tucson Expo, AZ Gun Radio
(650) 520-6002

MAY 5-6 **ONTARIO, CA**
Ontario Convention Center,
Crossroads of the West Gun Shows
(801) 544-9125

MAY 5-6 **ELKO, NV**
Elko Red Lion Casino/Hotel,
American Dream Gun Show
(775) 835-9677

MAY 12-13 **PASO ROBLES, CA**
Paso Robles Event Center, Central
Coast Gun Shows (805) 481-6726

MAY 19-20 **DEL MAR, CA**
Del Mar Fairgrounds, Crossroads of
the West Gun Shows (801) 544-9125

MAY 19-20 **RENO, NV**
Reno-Sparks Convention Center,
Crossroads of the West Shows
(801) 544-9125

MEMBER INFORMATION & BENEFITS

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- in our 22nd year

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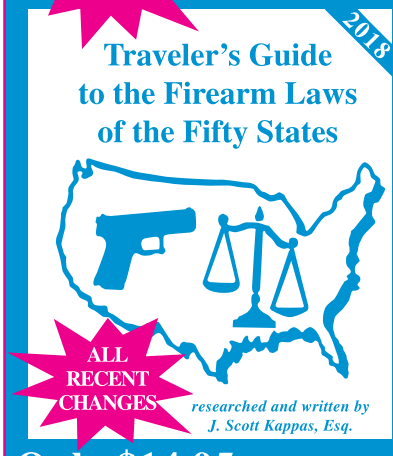

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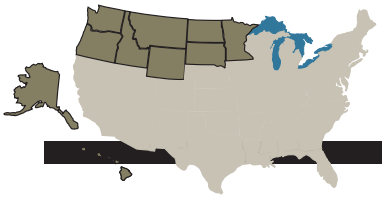

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West Regional Director—Brad Kruger
bkruger@nrahq.org

Northern AK—Josh Toennessen
jtoennessen@nrahq.org

Southern AK—Greg Stephens
gstephens@nrahq.org

ID—Steve Vreeland
svreeland@nrahq.org

MN—Eric Linder
elinder@nrahq.org

MT—Joe Crismore
jcrismore@nrahq.org

ND, SD—Doug DeLaRoi
ddelaroi@nrahq.org

OR, HI—Mike Carey
mcarey@nrahq.org

WA—Michael Herrera
mherrera@nrahq.org

WY—Logan Duff
lduff@nrahq.org

AREA SHOOTS

For more information, send an email to Shelly Kramer at mkramer@nrahq.org or call (703) 267-1459. For a complete listing, see **shootingsportsusa.com**.

PISTOL

Lake Elmo, MN	MAY 6
Bismarck, ND	MAY 19
Honolulu, HI	MAY 20
Springfield, OR	MAY 20-21
Palmer, AK	MAY 26

SMALLBORE RIFLE

East Wenatchee, WA	MAY 12-13

HIGH POWER RIFLE

Billings, MT	MAY 5-6
Bothell, WA	MAY 6
Puyallup, WA	MAY 6
Rexburg, ID	MAY 12
Sherwood, OR	MAY 19
Red Wing, MN	MAY 26-27

SILHOUETTE

Sherwood, OR	MAY 5
Missoula, MT	MAY 5
Timber Lake, SD	MAY 6
Custer, WA	MAY 12
Blackfoot, ID	MAY 19
Lander, WY	MAY 20

STATE ASSOCIATIONS

Joining NRA-affiliated state associations supports NRA's mission in your state. See **stateassociations.nra.org/** for more information.

Alaska Outdoor Council Inc.
alaskaoutdoorcouncil.org

Hawaii Rifle Ass'n.
hawaiirifleassociation.org

Idaho State Rifle & Pistol Ass'n.
idahosrpa.org

Minnesota Rifle & Revolver Ass'n. Inc.
mrra.org

Montana Rifle & Pistol Ass'n.
mtrpa.org

North Dakota Shooting Sports Ass'n.
ndssa.org

Oregon State Shooting Ass'n.
ossa.org

South Dakota Shooting Sports Ass'n.
sdshootingsports.org

Washington State Rifle & Pistol Ass'n. Inc.
wsrpa.org

Wyoming State Shooting Ass'n. Inc.
wyossa.com

GUN SHOWS

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MAY 5-6 **ALBANY, OR**
Linn County Expo Center, Wes Knodel Gun Shows (503) 363-9564

MAY 5-6 **HILLSBORO, OR**
Washington County Fair Complex, Collectors West (800) 659-3440

MAY 5-6 **MONROE, WA**
Evergreen State Fairgrounds, Washington Arms Collectors (425) 255-8410

MAY 5-6 **CHAMPLIN, MN**
Champlin Ice Arena, Crocodile Productions (763) 754-7140

MAY 5-6 **MORA, MN**
Mora Ice Arena, A.C. Expos (218) 290-0274

MAY 11-13 **CASPER, WY**
Central Wyoming Fairgrounds, Up In Arms Gun Shows (208) 420-2295

MAY 18-20 **BUTTE, MT**
Star Lanes, Up In Arms Gun Shows (208) 420-2295

MAY 19-20 **PORTLAND, OR**
Portland Metropolitan Exposition Center, Wes Knodel Gun Shows (503) 363-9564

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MAY 19-20 **CENTRALIA, WA**
SouthWest Washington Fairgrounds, Wes Knodel Gun Shows (503) 363-9564

MAY 19-20 **PUYALLUP, WA**
Western Washington Fairgrounds, Washington Arms Collectors (425) 255-8410

MAY. 19-20 **MOOSE LAKE, MN**
Riverside Arena—Arrowhead Lane, A.C. Expos (218) 290-0274

MAY 27 **PORTLAND, OR**
Jackson Armory, Oregon Arms Collectors (503) 698-5986

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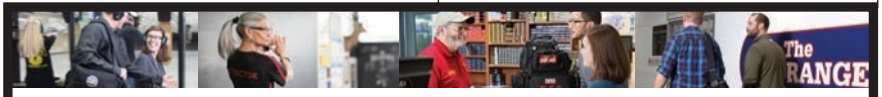
MAY 7-11—EMMETT, ID
(Tactical Shooting)

MAY 21-25—ISSAQUAH, WA
(Handgun)
Contact Mary Shine at (703) 267-1628 or mshine@nrahq.org.

Police Competition

NRA Police Pistol Combat competition is intended to be used as an extension of an officer's training. See PPC Rulebook (Rule 2.4) for eligibility requirements.

MAY 19—MARYSVILLE, WA (Approved)
Contact Tiffany King at (703) 267-1621 or tking@nrahq.org.



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The "NRA Regional Report," a service for NRA members, appears in every issue of *American Rifleman, American Hunter, Shooting Illustrated* and *America's 1st Freedom*. The Regional Report is an up-to-date listing of NRA conducted and/or sponsored events scheduled in your region for the current month. Call to verify event dates and locations before traveling.

Traveler's Guide to the Firearm Laws of the Fifty States

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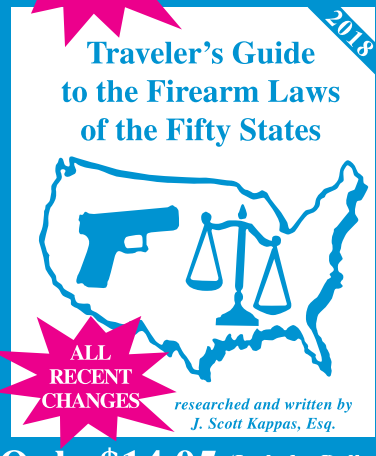

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Photo Courtesy of the Cheek family

IN MEMORIAM

Warren L. Cheek

HE WAS DEDICATED TO THE SECOND AMENDMENT AND WROTE GUIDES ON GUN SAFETY.

Warren L. Cheek, a longtime NRA employee who served 17 years as the Association's Secretary before being elected to the Executive Council, passed away Feb. 20. He was 86.

During the 19 years he worked for the NRA before he was elected Secretary, Cheek was assigned to two divisions. As part of the Education & Training Division, he wrote or contributed to the NRA's basic instructor training manuals on rifle and pistol marksmanship, firearm safety and law enforcement. He lived by the words he wrote in those manuals, often teaching instructors across the country in such areas as strategies for law enforcement officers, along with rifle, pistol and hunter safety. He also worked in the Competitions Divsion.

Cheek was dedicated to the Second Amendment and was involved in many arenas that allowed him to promote safe gun handling and marksmanship. His work with hunters contributed to his induction into the North American Association of Hunter Safety Coordinators Hall of Fame.

He was also involved with the Boy Scouts of America, where he frequently was a member of the Inspection Team at the Philmont Scout Ranch in Cimarron, N.M., and he once chaired the Home Safety Division of the National Safety Council.

Cheek was first elected Secretary of the NRA in 1977 and was re-elected every year thereafter until he retired in 1994. In retirement, Cheek was elected to the Executive Council for life, and he continued to serve as match director of the National Pistol Championships at Camp Perry, Ohio.

Cheek was a U.S. Navy veteran, serving his country during the Korean War.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Genesta Brown Cheek, and a son, Leland Cheek. He is survived by two sons, Brian Cheek and Bradley Cheek; one daughter, Cynthia Sizemore; nine grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

YHEC National Championship Coming to Mansfield, Pa., in July

The NRA's Youth Hunter Education Challenge (YHEC) program is gearing up for the 2018 National Championship, slated for July 22-27 in Mansfield, Pa.

The National Championship offers an opportunity for top-ranked individuals to come together for the most advanced of all YHEC courses. Prospective attendees must have completed a hunter safety course and must have participated in a state-level YHEC event.

The YHEC program is designed to pass the hunting heritage along to the next generation, and to ensure the future of hunting in America. Many of its offerings are made possible through grants from the NRA Foundation.

At local- and state-level events, youngsters learn such things as orienteering, wildlife identification and hunter responsibility. They also get acquainted with various guns and archery equipment.

Local events are open to those with no experience and offer a basic introduction to the sport. As a teenager moves up to the state-level events, prerequisites need to be met.

For more information about YHEC programs, call (800) 492-2868, option 3, or email yhec@nrahq.org.

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How To: Reduce Deep Belly Fat

Researchers have announced a radical technique that not only fights potentially deadly belly fat, but can also lead to slimmer waists, and perhaps improved health.

The only catch? The establishment wants to spend 5 years – and $65 million – testing this technology.

But one doctor thinks that the technology is so effective, it is immoral to make people wait.

So he's offering a version of the technique…now.

"The science has already been tested, and it's effective," says Dr. Rand McClain, Chief Medical Officer at Live Cell Research. "I can't make people wait 5 years for something that could be helping them today."

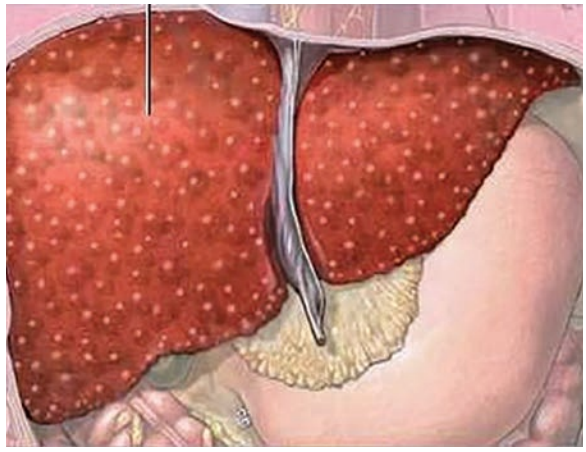
McClain is referring to a field of health research that is said to activate a "master switch" inside your body's cells.

This switch controls when your cells store fat, and when they convert the fat into energy.

Control the **"master switch,"** the theory goes, and you also control fat.

To researchers, this is far more than just an appearance issue. It could be even more important to Americans who mistakenly believe that small amounts of exercise can radically change their bodies.

According to Dr. Todd Miller, professor in the Department of Exercise Science at George Washington University, "People



don't understand that it is very difficult to exercise enough to lose weight. If that is why you are doing it, you are going to fail."

So a way to battle belly fat could be the breakthrough the health community has been waiting for. McClain feels the technique works best for people over 30, particularly those who may be experiencing excessive fatigue, weaker bodies, and even foggy thinking.

Best of all, McClain announced that he is making his method available – and affordable – to virtually all Americans.

With demand already high for his stunning technique, McClain created an online presentation detailing how the health breakthrough works.

You can watch the presentation here at **www.NoFat59.com**

In this video, Rand is telling it like it is...we need more doctors like this!

People should be advised to watch the entire video report before committing to such an unconventional method.

Watch the video at **www.NoFat59.com**

 Continued from page 128

DOD PHOTO

From general utilitarian purposes to searching for ordnance on the battlefield, today the Ka-Bar remains coveted gear for U.S. Marines.

Marine who did not have a rifle and therefore, a bayonet. That is actually quite a few Marines—about 20 to 25 percent of an infantry unit. Obviously, the knife was also intended for use as a last-ditch or quiet weapon. If the truth were known, they cut far more cases of C rations than they did throats, whittled more tent pins than enemy viscera. The typical Ka-Bar took a severe beating during its time afield. So much so that one young Marine in my outfit had a problem with his one night in Vietnam. He was on an ambush patrol and trying to stay quiet. A Viet Cong came along the trail and they snatched him up. When other Cong approached, the prisoner started making a ruckus and…well, one worn old knife just wasn't capable of getting it done.

This is not to say the Ka-Bar didn't shed blood. My wife's father drove an amphibious tractor ashore on Okinawa—on the day she was born. He made it home OK and brought the Ka-Bar he carried all through the Pacific. She grew up on a small farm where the Ka-Bar was a sort of communal cutting tool. Nan recalls the old warrior blade presiding at the demise of many a Rhode Island Red that she and her brother dressed and sold for movie money on Saturday. Not at all a bad end for one hunk of fightin' iron.

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Ka-Bar

Among U.S. Marines' combat gear, the Ka-Bar is especially prized.

Warriors have little use for weapons that do not perform. Once in a while, someone in the supply chain comes up with a weapon or even a tool that just doesn't do what it needs to. Troops will trade them, find excuses for not carrying them or even conveniently "lose" them. On the other hand, when an item develops a good reputation, the men who use it will go to any length to keep it. My Marines, for example, loved those old Thompson submachine guns. They may have been heavy, awkward and hard to acquire, but they somehow managed to find them in Vietnam. There was a lot of Marine Corps history wrapped up in that gun—all the way back to guarding the U.S. Mail in the 1920s. Using firearms in actual fighting tends to develop abiding affection for them, as did the 1942 Marines who had to give up their '03 Springfields for "...these damned new self-loader Garands."

The forgoing merely establishes that those who do the hard work of the infantrymen come up with a persistent and affectionate respect for the tools they use for the job. No, this will not be another keening and wailing session over yet another firearm that the old guy just can't give up. We're talking about a blade—one that the Marine Corps has seen fit to issue for three-quarters of a century. The year 2018 marks the 75th anniversary of the Ka-Bar knife. I checked with an impeccable source and happily discovered that this simple and reliable piece of gear is still issued to Marines.

The Ka-Bar story began in the immediate pre-World War II era when the armies of the free world were arming for war. The obvious need for a close-quarters-fighting knife came out of the trench warfare of the Great War. American doughboys were equipped with wicked stabbing devices that incorporated brass knuckles and were nearly useless for any ordinary cutting function. Several knives were considered for World War II Marines, including a sexy variant of the Fairbairn-Sykes fighting stiletto with a USMC-marked blade. Eventually, cooler and wiser heads prevailed and the knife now known as the Ka-Bar became our issue knife—fighting and utility.

Made at the start by Camillus Cutlery, the first of the breed were enthusiastically welcomed by troops. The knife came in a heavy-leather sheath that held up quite well. A slight variation of the traditional Bowie shape, the Ka-Bar had a 7.5-inch blade with what is called a clip point. The blade is sharpened on the lower edge, except for a crescent section at the top edge of the tip. This is a well-designed blade for general cutting and scraping to both stabbing and slashing in a fight. For a handle, the specifications called for a compressed stack of leather washers on a metal tang, topped with a heavy steel pommel.

Over the years since World War II, the Ka-Bar has been made by several different makers and there have been some differences. I have seen a few of the early ones that were polished and blued, but most have a functional dull finish. Also, the first of the breed had a large "USMC" stamped on their ricasso. Supposedly, production of this variant was stopped when it was found to crack at the point of the marking. And I can also recall an unusual specimen with a much tighter radius to the curve of the tip. Although the knife is issued to line units, it is also available for sale to civilians. Commercial Ka-Bars are available with a seemingly endless variety of commemorative markings.

There is endless folklore surrounding the Ka-Bar. The knife could be sharpened to a so-called "razor" edge. Originally, the knife was intended to be a utility tool for any

Continued on page 127

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THE POINT

IS THE POINT

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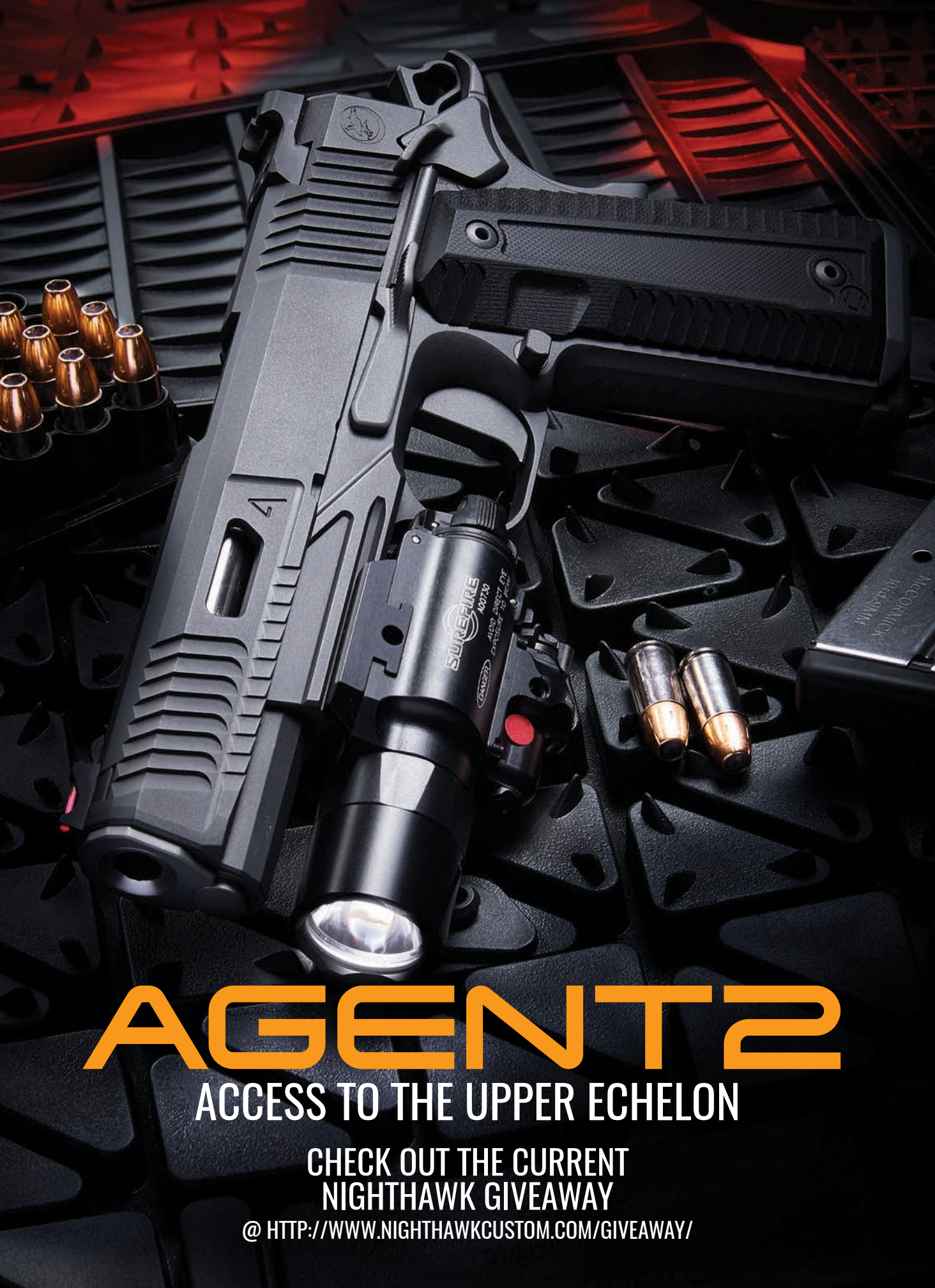

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