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# SHOOTING

## Illustrated

NOVEMBER  
2020

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**EXCLUSIVE  
OVAL OFFICE  
INTERVIEW**  
Pg. 45

**On Nov. 3  
Stand with President Trump**



Official Journal of the National Rifle Association  
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**NRA**™ 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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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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## Review: Nighthawk Custom Fire Hawk

Associate Editor Bob Boyd recently got a firsthand, exclusive look at the new Fire Hawk 1911 in 9 mm from Nighthawk Custom. Featuring a stainless steel slide and a barrel length of 5 inches, the Fire Hawk lives up to Nighthawk's legendary reputation for producing finely crafted firearms and features a uniquely designed compensator that is blended almost seamlessly to the slide.



## I Carry: Smith & Wesson M&P9 M2.0 Compact Pistol in a N8 Tactical KO-1 Holster

Managing Editor Jay Grazio recently reviewed the Smith & Wesson M&P9 M2.0 with a N8 Tactical KO-1 holster in the latest edition of I Carry. An affordable, compact pistol with decent capacity and excellent shootability, the M&P9 2.0 also performed well in our 2,000-round test with only a single failure-to-fire with defensive and practice ammunition.



## Review: Girsan MC1911 SC Ultimate Pistol

Girsan's MC1911 SC Ultimate Pistol is loaded with unique features, and Kelly Grayson recently took an in-depth look at this 9 mm pistol. Made with a forged aluminum frame and featuring checkered G10 grips with a capacity window, the MC1911 SC Ultimate is a unique take on a classic design. The Girsan is available with an optional red-dot sight at a very reasonable price.

## News

Study Indicates First-Time Gun Ownership on the Rise



2020 Gun Sales Have Likely Surpassed All of 2019

## Guns



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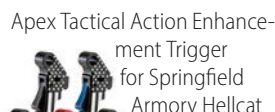


Glock G43X & G48 MOS Pistols

## Gear



CMMG Mk57 .22 LR Conversion Kit



Apex Tactical Action Enhancement Trigger for Springfield Armory Hellcat



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# Don't be Glib About the Squib

I read the "Tech Wisdom" article about the squib round in the September issue and I think it was quite timely. As an RSO when the range is open to the public, I have seen some strange things with factory-loaded ammo. All of the problems were with factory-sealed boxes of ammo. Prior to entering the range every firearm is checked for

obstructions and to make sure ammo matches the caliber of the firearm. Each box is opened and inspected. We have found .308 Win. rounds in .243 Win. boxes, one round headstamped .30-'06 Sprg. in a .270 Win. Box, but necked down to .270 Win.

One that was really rare was a round that did not sound right when fired. The case was removed from the rifle and found the bullet was still in the case. One of our members is a gunsmith, and he removed the primer without damaging the case. We found no flash hole in the brass, therefore only the primer was ignited. We have had two rifles destroyed by squib rounds that the shooter never noticed. Some rounds have had the neck split, causing less-than-ideal velocity for the bullet to leave the barrel. This leaves it stuck in the barrel and the next round presents a serious problem. If something doesn't feel right or sound right, STOP. Fortunately, no was hurt in these incidents. Everyone should inspect every round from factory-loaded ammo.

**Mike Vashaw**  
via e-mail

While there was great info in "Becoming Lead-Free" by George Harris in his September column, I believe Mr. Harris missed a couple of things. First, I don't think he used the term "squib load" anywhere in his excellent description of the malfunction. This should be in every shooter's vocabulary. Secondly, what a great opportunity to recommend that readers seek out formal training from NRA Instructors where we cover squibs and so much more (nrainstructors.org).

Lastly, I recommend carrying a cleaning rod in your range bag to check for obstructions, like a bullet from a squib or mud and debris from a dropped rifle. That said, I love *Shooting Illustrated*!

**Michael Cox**  
via e-mail

## Correspondence is welcomed and encouraged

**Write to:** Shooting Illustrated | NRA | 11250 Waples Mill Road  
Fairfax, VA 22030-9400  
**e-mail:** shootingillustrated@nrahq.org

## Diversified Approach

I have a ton of respect for Sheriff Jim Wilson and I agree with his September "Straight Talk" column. One thing I rarely see discussed is the physical environment you are in. A smaller apartment or home with several hallways and corners seem to suggest a more maneuverable firearm, like a handgun, may be better than a longer-barreled gun. A rural environment, even many suburban environments, certainly show why a rifle is an important consideration.

I prefer the multi-gun approach Sheriff Wilson discussed (which is also a great excuse to buy more guns). As part of my "friends and family plan," I prefer keeping my shotgun in my safe room and using my pistol for inside, mobile use. It's just easier to move around, stay quiet and quicker to aim. If the disturbance is outside, the shotgun or a rifle seem like a better choice.

**CB**  
via ShootingIllustrated.com

## Shortage Solutions

Tamara Keel made some excellent points in her September column on oddball calibers being a great thing to have on hand during an ammo shortage. For about \$200, a .40 S&W Glock can be converted to .357 SIG, for example. Many retailers are completely out of stock on a lot of calibers, but they still have a fair amount of Speer Gold Dots and others in .357 SIG. For \$200 plus the cost of the ammo, someone with a .40 S&W Glock could have an excellent alternative, or might even like the SIG round better.

**TRA**  
via ShootingIllustrated.com

## Double D'oh!

I feel it important that a fact correction be made to the September "Skills Check" column by Ed Head on the "Double Dozier" drill. According to my recollection and subsequent vetting, BG Dozier was rescued by Italian NOCS police on Jan. 28, 1982 without a shot being fired, and all of the terrorists were captured, not killed.

**Jim Hartford**  
via e-mail





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Studies indicate that firearms are used more than 2 million times a year for personal protection, and that the presence of a firearm, without a shot being fired, prevents crime in many instances. Shooting usually can be justified only where crime constitutes an immediate, imminent threat to life, limb, or, in some cases, property. Anyone is free to quote or reproduce these accounts.

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**A**fter spotting a lone man washing his vehicle at a St. Louis-area car wash, two armed men reportedly attempted to carjack and rob him at gunpoint. As one man entered the victim's car and stole a cell phone, his 18-year-old accomplice and the car's owner started to fight. At that point, the citizen drew his own firearm and managed to shoot the attacker with what would prove to be a mortal blow. Following a subsequent exchange of gunfire, the remaining man fled to a getaway car and then was driven to a hospital for treatment of a bullet wound. Police later tracked down the alleged armed robber and a woman who was suspected of serving as his driver, and found them in possession of the victim's phone and multiple firearms. Both suspects were taken into custody under a new Missouri anti-carjacking law charging them with second-degree murder, assault, robbery and several additional counts. ([callnewspapers.com](http://callnewspapers.com), Mehlville, Mo., 9/2/20)

**O**ne day at 4:45 a.m., a 74-year-old Mayfield, Ky., resident was forced to protect himself and his home when a man kicked in his door for the second time the very same night. The interloper, who was armed with a shotgun, fled the scene when confronted during the first encounter. In response to the repeat robbery attempt, the senior citizen grabbed his own shotgun and fired when the intruder entered the home, sending him fleeing on foot. Minutes later the police found the suspect near the roadway with a severe wound to his arm. Sheriff's deputies recovered the suspect's gun and arrested him for first-degree burglary and other related crimes. Graves County Sheriff Jon Hayden later said the homeowner was not facing criminal charges. ([paducahsun.com](http://paducahsun.com), Mayfield, Ky., 7/30/20)

**A**n intoxicated 45-year-old motorist crashed through a fence before ditching his pickup in a grove of trees in a Lakeland, Fla., neighborhood. He then tried to board a school bus right after a child had been picked up, but the driver quickly locked the door and drove off, keeping all the children on the bus safe. The suspect then jumped onto two different cars, breaking the windshield of the second one. One driver noticed blood on the suspect and called the police, while the other said the man was "growling" before jumping off his car and running away. The agitated man reportedly went on to break through the front door of a nearby home, where a family of five was relaxing. Upon entering their living room, he appeared to be "wild and out of control" according to a family member. When the suspect threatened them with a large piece of broken glass, the homeowner retrieved his firearm, then fired as the intruder threw the glass at him. Upon

arrival, deputies attempted first aid and then transported the crazed man to a local hospital where he was pronounced dead. During an investigation it was confirmed the culprit had been in the area to find drugs. No charges are being brought against the homeowner. ([theledger.com](http://theledger.com), Lakeland, Fla., 8/28/20)

**W**hile camping near Nederland, Colo., a man was forced to kill a 260-lb. black bear. A couple of days prior to the incident, a bear had broken into the man's truck, presumably looking for food. The morning of the attack, the man was alerted by his barking dog. Emerging from his camper, he saw a bear in hot pursuit of his animal, so he called his pet to come to him. This action apparently caused the aggressive bear to charge both the man and the dog. The man shot and killed the bear from a distance of approximately 10 to 15 yds., after which Colorado Parks and Wildlife authorities said no charges were being filed, as the shooting was justified in defense of human life. ([dailycamera.com](http://dailycamera.com), Colorado Springs, Colo., 7/8/20)

**I**n Dalton, Ga., a truck driver was approached by four men wanting to buy or sell tires in the back parking lot of a Pilot Travel Center. However, three of the men reportedly attempted to restrain the driver, while the fourth tried to grab money from inside the truck. During the struggle, the driver was able to draw his own concealed firearm and subsequently fired at the assailants. Three of the accomplices fled on foot while their partner drove off in a minivan. The Georgia Department of Public Safety Motor Carrier Compliance Division soon spotted and stopped the minivan and arrested the driver without incident. The other three suspects remained at large. ([dailycitizen.news](http://dailycitizen.news), Dalton, Ga., 7/28/20) 



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By Wayne LaPierre  
Executive Vice President

## YOU Have The Power To Save Freedom On Election Day!

**A**s NRA members, you and I have a battle-hardened understanding of what it takes to defend freedom—forged over our many years fighting in the political trenches.

While too many others sat on the sidelines and failed to act in the face of the most brutal attacks on our freedom imaginable—we’ve always stood strong and fought back. Together, in battle after battle, election after election, NRA members have earned enormous victories for our gun rights that *no one* thought possible.

And now, the full weight of more than two centuries of Second Amendment freedom rests squarely on our shoulders once again—in this single national election just two short weeks away.

The battle lines have been drawn and they couldn’t be clearer.

It’s our values ... versus Biden and Harris’s values.

Our commitment to freedom ... versus their outright betrayal of our U.S. Constitution.

**CHOOSE TO NOT ONLY  
GO OUT AND VOTE FOR  
DONALD TRUMP AND  
EVERY PRO-GUN CANDIDATE  
ON THE BALLOT—BUT TO  
ALSO RALLY YOUR FRIENDS,  
FAMILY AND NEIGHBORS TO  
DO THE SAME.**

Our devotion to our sacred Right to Keep and Bear Arms ... versus their mission to destroy the Second Amendment and reduce America to just one more disarmed nation among equals.

Our belief in rule of law ... versus their scheme to give criminals a free pass, encourage mob violence and murder, and to allow rioters and arsonists to burn our neighborhoods to the ground.

Our vision of American exceptionalism ... versus their vision, where our flag is just another piece of colorful cloth, devoid of all meaning and no different from the rest.

You and I don’t have to guess what will happen if Joe Biden and Kamala Harris win.

Biden and Harris are running for the White House on the very public promise to flat-out destroy the Second Amendment. Not to regulate your gun rights. Not to chip away at your freedom around the edges.

They are vowing to register, ban and confiscate your firearms. While at the same time making it easier for violent criminals to run wild and have their way with innocent, law-abiding citizens.

These are the stakes and they couldn’t be higher.

I know many folks are beaten down by the seemingly endless stream of struggles this year has presented. And the vultures in the media are working overtime to convince Americans that our best days are behind us, and that our children and grandchildren will never know the freedom and opportunity that you and I enjoy today.

But I say they’re wrong. And I say that with full confidence because of NRA members like YOU.

As a member of the National Rifle Association, your voice resonates far beyond the walls of your own home. It resonates far and wide, carrying the weight of millions of NRA members and tens of millions more Americans who support our cause and who look to us for leadership.

You are a force to be reckoned with, and when you stand and fight, freedom WINS.

So, from where you sit right now—I’m asking you to choose to stand and fight.

Choose to not only go out and vote for Donald Trump and every pro-gun candidate on the ballot—but to also rally your friends, family and neighbors to do the same.

Choose to stand and fight like those who came before us and risked everything to establish the greatest nation on earth.

There’s no middle ground in this election.

Let history remember that when Joe Biden, Kamala Harris and their billionaire backers tried their level best to destroy this country, you were there and you fought back.

You made the difference. You stood up for America and our Constitution.

And when the dust cleared on Election Day, you did everything in your power to defend our Second Amendment rights, our American values and our freedom!

*Wayne LaPierre*



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# Always True: I'm The NRA, And I Vote

**A**s NRA members and patriots who love our country and all the good it has done for Americans and for the rest of the world, we all know a fundamental decision will be made when we go to the polls in a few short days. However, as I have stated here in recent issues, and as you've read in Wayne LaPierre's "Standing Guard" columns, the decision facing us in this election is of a different magnitude than ever before in our history. Voters will act to either save America, the America we love and cherish—or will vote to throw her to the wolves.

That's a strong statement, I know, a message that makes the enemies of freedom howl with rage. But this is no time to mince words. This is no time to appease the violent lawlessness we have witnessed on our city streets and in the public squares for months. This is no time to yield to the leftist politicians responsible for enabling the criminals. We have a country to save on Nov. 3.

And on Nov. 3, we can prevail.

We know from past experience the power embodied in the iconic bumper sticker: "I'm the NRA, and I vote!" But it's not just the millions of NRA members casting their ballots that tips the scales. What has made our influence so great is the extended-family voting block created by NRA's steadfast allegiance to the U.S. Constitution, which in turn triggers a grassroots surge that has become as predictable as it is phenomenal. That block, comprising family, friends, co-workers, neighbors, acquaintances from church, clubs, schools and elsewhere, multiplies our voting clout into the tens of millions. And with an estimated five million new gun owners joining our ranks during this turbulent year, the numbers could spike even higher.

It is not an easy task, though. Getting out the vote requires a tremendous investment in energy and resources from everyone in our organization. Campaigning is difficult work that requires both persistence and bold strategy to arm the public with the information they need. But in the end, face-to-face persuasion is always the best closer.

Between now and Election Day all of us will inevitably find ourselves in such discussions with folks who can be added to the grassroots surge of 2020. Key questions to ask are: What will our country (and the entire world) be like if President Donald Trump wins a second term? Or, if Joe Biden and Kamala Harris were to somehow get elected?

With Trump, gun owners know what they are getting because we've seen him deliver on promises made to preserve and restore our freedoms. The president has done so by rejecting so-called "universal background checks" and reversing an Obama-administration clampdown on senior citizens' firearm rights; by withdrawing from a UN-brokered treaty that could have almost entirely limited U.S. civilian access to small arms; by opening millions of acres of public lands to hunters and shooters; and importantly, by rebuilding the U.S. Supreme Court and other federal courts with justices and judges pledged to constitutional principles and common sense.

The Biden-Harris ticket has served notice of very different intentions. Contrary to recent Supreme Court precedent, they promise to ban guns and magazines in common use. They promise "universal-background-check" schemes that could make it nearly impossible to pass down family heirlooms to one's children or to loan a hunting rifle to a friend. They vow to bypass Congress with executive actions that threaten to blot out cherished Second Amendment rights en masse.

As recent events have clearly shown, Biden-Harris and Democratic majorities in Congress will cheer on the socialist web of media, elitists and dangerous anarchists who hate America and whose actions echo the sentiment in New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo's infamous and idiotic 2018 statement that "... we can't make American great again because it never was." Their platform promises to make our hometowns and public spaces ever more dangerous, while making it more difficult—if not downright illegal—for the law-abiding to take control of their own safety and self-preservation through ownership of common and trustworthy defensive firearms. The opposition's way promises only to embolden America's enemies, both foreign and domestic, a formula for unceasing strife and chaos.

Once again, we in the NRA family have our work cut out for us. And this time, preserving our constitutional rights to "keep and bear," translates to preserving the America we know and love. Keep the faith over these critical final days because as I always say, "we have a country to save." Let's show up on Nov. 3 and make our voices heard!

*Carolyn D. Meadows*





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By Jason Ouimet  
Executive Director,  
NRA-ILA

## YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE NOT ENOUGH.

If you want to **DEFEND** your right to own and carry a firearm ...

If your **FREEDOM** to hunt and shoot is important to you ...

Then you need to **SUPPORT** the NRA Institute for Legislative Action.

We are the only arm of NRA specifically charged with defending your Second Amendment freedoms on Capitol Hill, and in state legislatures and courtrooms across America.

Visit [nraila.org](http://nraila.org) to support NRA-ILA today!

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**NRA-ILA website: [nraila.org](http://nraila.org)**  
**For related articles, go to [nrapublications.org](http://nrapublications.org).**

# Your Vote Matters

**T**his is it. Over the last several months, I hope I have made it as clear as possible how critical this year's elections are to the preservation of the Second Amendment; and now it is time: Get Out And Vote!

There is no question in my mind, and I hope in yours, that there is a stark contrast between President Donald Trump and Joe Biden when it comes to our right to keep and bear arms. It's day v. night, hot v. cold, and right v. wrong—and Trump is clearly right when it comes to our firearms.

Of course, that means Biden is just plain wrong.

He's wrong when he says he wants to ban the most popular firearms in America—the semi-automatic rifles, pistols and shotguns so many of us rely on to protect our loved ones, our homes and our communities.

He's wrong when he says he doesn't want to just ban new semi-automatic firearms, but also wants to see existing ones turned over to the government via so-called "buybacks." Once again, you can't "buyback" something you never owned in the first place. That's confiscation!

He's wrong when he says he wants to ban standard-capacity magazines and set arbitrarily-determined limits on how much ammunition we should be allowed to use for protecting our loved ones.

He's wrong when he says he wants to mandate nonexistent "smart guns" with "James Bond-style" technology that only operate with "DNA and fingerprint" recognition—technology that doesn't exist and few would rely upon for life-saving devices.

He's wrong when he says he wants to repeal the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act—a vital legal protection for gun manufacturers and retailers that prevents them from being driven into bankruptcy through frivolous lawsuits that seek to blame them for the actions of violent criminals.

He's wrong when he says he wants to set arbitrary limits on how often we can exercise our rights protected under the Second Amendment by limiting gun purchases to one a month.

He's wrong when he says he wants to criminalize the private transfer of firearms.

He's wrong when he says he wants to use our tax dollars to encourage states to implement gun-licensing schemes.

He's wrong when he says he wants the federal government to dictate how gun owners will store their firearms.

And that's just some of what Biden has planned for us should he be elected president.

The bottom line is, Joe Biden is just plain wrong when he tries to blame more than 100 million law-abiding gun owners for the act of violent criminals.

President Trump, however, has shown time and again that he will stand with law-abiding gun owners.

When the Nancy Pelosi-led House passed two draconian anti-gun bills that sought to impose unconstitutional restrictions on the lawful purchase of firearms—H.R. 8 and H.R. 1112—Donald Trump made clear he intended to veto both, should they land on his desk.

Our federal judiciary has been remade under President Trump, who has set a record pace in his first term for appointing judges—including Supreme Court Justices Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh—who respect the Second Amendment, and interpret it as originally intended.

During the early stages of the pandemic, when some states and localities abused their authority to shut down firearms retailers, the Trump administration issued federal guidelines that designated gun stores, ranges, and firearms and ammunition manufacturers as "critical components of the nation's workforce," recommending states allow them to continue to operate.

When speaking at his election rallies, one subject Trump rarely fails to mention is his support for the Second Amendment.

Need more evidence of his support? Just read the interview in this very publication. That's right, Donald Trump took time out of his incredibly busy schedule to sit down with NRA to talk about his support of the Second Amendment.

To be honest, I'm not sure I would have thought it possible that a sitting president would have done such a thing. But that's just how much Donald Trump thinks of NRA members and our right to keep and bear arms.

That's why we must support him on Election Day.

But it's not that simple.

Your vote will be critical, but you need to work to ensure like-minded folks get to the polls to multiply and amplify your vote. We may very well not know the outcome of the election on the evening of Election Day, but mark my words—every vote will matter. I'm counting on your vote, and the votes of your family and friends.

Freedom is on the ballot.



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By Todd Grable  
Executive Director of  
Membership



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

## NRA's Partner Companies Can Put Money Back in Your Pocket

**F**or decades, NRA members have stood tall together to defend our gun rights in Congress, in the state legislatures, in the courts and at the ballot box. And we've achieved a track record of success that's unmatched by any organization in the history of this nation.

But every time we win another victory, gun-banners try to move the playing field. And these past few years, we've seen freedom-hating politicians expand their anti-gun crusade to a new battlefield – by manipulating and even threatening businesses that partner with NRA.

Anti-gun elected officials have tried to force banks and insurance companies to cut ties with NRA, the American firearms industry, and even mom-and-pop gun shops. We've seen major retailers like Dick's Sporting Goods knuckle under to anti-gun pressure and even join forces with those trying to destroy freedom.

But for every company that surrenders to the gun-banners, there's another company that's willing to stand tall and proud in partnership with American gun owners and the NRA.

Visit **Benefits.NRA.org** today, and you'll see that our patriotic corporate partners are ready to offer you some truly extraordinary benefits – in recognition of your service to the Second Amendment, and as a way to make your NRA

membership even more valuable and rewarding.

Whether you're shopping for better insurance rates, looking for travel discounts, trying to save money on your cell phone service, or to protect your family's privacy and online security, our NRA partners are ready and willing to reward your commitment to freedom's fight.

By doing business with these partners, you could literally put hundreds of dollars back in your family's pocket each and every year. Just as importantly, you'll know that your hard-earned dollars are not going into the pockets of anti-gun corporations that are actively seeking to undermine and destroy your Second Amendment rights.

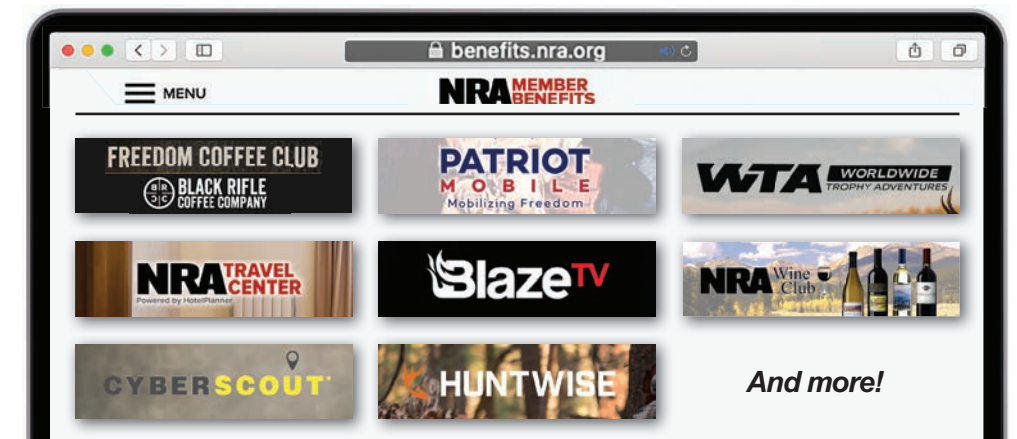
So please don't wait to start taking advantage of the benefits and savings that are available to you right now as an NRA member. Visit us today at **Benefits.NRA.org** to learn more about the patriotic American companies that have joined freedom's fight and are ready to reward you for your service to freedom.

With extremists across the nation trying to tear down not only our liberties but our country itself, there's never been a more important time for American patriots and gun owners to stand together under one banner and fight as a team. That's why NRA is working hard to bring together our members with companies that share our dedication to preserving America's Constitutional rights.

I urge you to visit **Benefits.NRA.org** today, not only for great savings, but for the satisfaction of knowing that you're doing business with those who share your commitment to freedom!

*Todd Grable*

**BY DOING BUSINESS WITH THESE PARTNERS,  
YOU COULD LITERALLY PUT HUNDREDS OF DOLLARS  
BACK IN YOUR FAMILY'S POCKET EACH AND EVERY  
YEAR. JUST AS IMPORTANTLY, YOU'LL KNOW THAT  
YOUR HARD-EARNED DOLLARS ARE NOT GOING  
INTO THE POCKETS OF ANTI-GUN CORPORATIONS.**



Visit **Benefits.NRA.org** today, to see how your NRA membership can put hundreds of dollars back in your family's pocket each and every year AND help support companies that stand for freedom!



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# On the Installment Plan

**If price is the only reason you never seriously considered taking home that special model with all the right refinements, now's the perfect time to consider a different approach—financing.**



Those finely tuned and fully loaded firearms and accessories that attract our attention at the gun store usually command a premium, and with good reason. Construction starts with top-quality materials and countless hours have gone into ensuring they look good and perform even better.

They are the kind of long-term investment that provides years of reliable service and becomes a family heirloom. Thankfully, a growing number of manufacturers are providing a familiar, consumer-friendly method of taking them home: financing, and not through credit card companies with somewhat dubious reputations for support.

Mark Stone, CEO and owner of Nighthawk Custom, began offering financing in 2018 through Cornerstone Bank. There's no denying the company creates some of the most breathtaking high-performance firearms available today, but the reasons he

decided to offer the payment alternative are down to earth.

"People want quality in a firearm just like they do in a vehicle, boat, watch or house," he said. "Oftentimes, they have some expendable monthly funds, but are reluctant to spend a lump sum. You never know, the hot water heater could go out and I just spent my money on a gun. This option also provides a way for a younger person to buy something that will hold its value and it works well for retirees as well. This demographic typically does not want to bother their nest egg and they can spread it out and avoid digging into savings."

"The main objective was to enable anyone who is looking for a firearm to be able to get it now," he admitted. It's grown to become a popular alternative for enthusiasts, but retailers have also reaped rewards. "Our account managers love it and it helps our dealers to broaden out their market," he said.

Silencer Central's service numbs the pain of paying 100-percent of the price of a suppressor up front and waiting months before taking possession. Company CEO Brandon L. Maddox readily admits his company, established in 2005, is in a unique position to do so, though.

"[W]e are licensed in all 42 states where silencers are legal and function as the customer's dealer, wholesaler and manufacturer," he explained. "Customers have a turnkey experience with one point of contact."

It's worth a visit the company website for complete details on its eZ Pay program, but even a condensed version is eye opening. Select your suppressor, make a down payment and regular installments while waiting for BATFE to approve your tax stamp. There is no interest accrued and Silencer Central legally stores your suppressor in its climate-controlled vault while you wait.

Credova Financial handles a similar program for Daniel Defense, which began offering the service in 2011. Today, the service is well known throughout the industry.

A statement Daniel Defense provided explained there are no hidden fees, no impact on credit score when applying and multiple financial providers available that can approve consumers for up to \$5,000. This program has become quite popular for its customers.

Now, more than ever, might be the right time to bring home that special firearm or accessory—thanks, in part, to the financing options now made available.

## Quick Shots

Henry Repeating Arms is voluntarily recalling all H015-series Single Shot Rifles and Shotguns manufactured prior to July 1, 2020. Owners should stop using them immediately and call (866) 200-2354, e-mail Henry Rifles at [recall@henryusa.com](mailto:recall@henryusa.com) or visit the website at [henryusa.com/recall](http://henryusa.com/recall) to learn how to return the guns for a free upgrade.

A specialized group from the U.S. DoD has purchased an undisclosed amount of .300 BLK. 190-grain Sub-X TAP ammunition from Hornady for use in its close-quarter operations.

Marine Corps Systems Command announced in late July it was entering into negotiations with Knight's Armament for the purchase of 25,853 5.56 NATO suppressors for use on its M4A1 Close Quarter Battle Weapon, M27 Infantry Automatic Rifle (IAR) and M4 Carbine.

India is purchasing 72,000 SIG Sauer 716i rifles to arm troops on its borders with China and Pakistan. This is in addition to a similar order placed in 2019 worth US\$72 million.





# Step Outside

Set your sights on your next adventure.  
Then look to PenFed to help you get there.

You may already know where you're headed for your next adventure. What you'll bring, how you'll get there, and who will share in the adventure all depend on your goals. You may have a specific target in mind, or you may want to introduce friends or family members to a new experience. Once you decide what a successful adventure means to you, you will be the driver of that success.

## Get the right gear...

Depending on the nature of your trip, gear such as walkie-talkies, a GPS, and camping or backpacking supplies may be in order. Your clothing, footwear, and outerwear should be appropriate for the weather, environment, and purpose of your trip. Bring flares and visibility gear if you are going to be in remote terrain or just need to make sure that you can be seen by others.

If you're in the market for new gear, price it at various dealers, then regularly set some money aside. If you've already budgeted that money for other expenses or investments, a PenFed Power Cash Rewards Visa Signature® card ([PenFed.org/flag](https://www.penfed.org/flag)) can help you finance your adventure.

## ...and the right vehicle to haul it in.

If you're already thinking of getting a new vehicle, now might be the time to buy. The success of your trip may hinge upon having a safe, reliable set of wheels that can handle the terrain. Look into something that can get you to all of your destinations and haul all of your gear. The right truck or SUV can also serve as an everyday family vehicle if you need to replace one that is on its last wheels. PenFed has great automobile loan rates ([PenFed.org/Auto](https://www.penfed.org/Auto)) to help you bring home the vehicle that is right for your lifestyle.

## Make sure everyone is safe and prepared.

Safety and responsibility are key to ensuring that everyone has a great time. Any newbies participating in an activity involving safety concerns should first take a basic skills course or lessons that incorporate safe practices. The same goes for motorized equipment—everyone should know how to safely use it and should meet any age restrictions.

## Protect and grow your savings.

Personal and financial security go hand-in-hand. Create a savings strategy now to ensure that you have the funds to provide for a secure future. Make sure that you can protect yourself from the unexpected and cover all of your planned excursions. Find "hidden" savings by canceling unused subscriptions, streamlining your snack and beverage spending, using money-saving discount apps, and returning unused purchases on time. With the right strategy, you can even turn a hobby into a side gig.

Safeguard—and grow—your savings with a PenFed Premium Online Savings Account ([PenFed.org/Accounts/Premium-Online-Savings](https://www.penfed.org/Accounts/Premium-Online-Savings)), knowing that your funds are federally insured. You can build your savings and then reinvest your funds or put them toward your next planned purchase or adventure.

See [PenFed.org](https://www.penfed.org) for a breadth of options to help you meet all of your financial needs. Pentagon Federal Credit Union has membership options for everyone and has been supporting the military, veterans, and their families for more than 85 years.

**Learn how PenFed can help you finance your next trip or adventure at [PenFed.org](https://www.penfed.org).**



## Shooting Illustrated Welcomes Eric Conn as New Managing Editor, Digital

*Shooting Illustrated* is excited to announce that Eric Conn has joined its staff as the Managing Editor, Digital. Conn will oversee ShootingIllustrated.com, in addition to the magazine's various social media outlets. All of us here at the NRA and *Shooting Illustrated* welcome the newest gatekeeper for the internet's definitive source for reviews of guns, gear, ammunition and more.

Conn has worked in the firearm industry for a decade and has served as editor in chief and managing editor, among other roles, for various firearms and outdoor publications. He has also worked extensively with the digital side of the firearms world, hosting web videos and even a television show. He has trained with handguns, shotguns, carbines, scout rifles and long-range rifles, including at Gunsite Academy, The Site in Illinois and Academi in Moyock, NC.

He has been a freelance gunwriter for a number of years, traveling the world to places like the Czech Republic and Canada to cover all things gun related. An avid hunter, shooter and outdoor enthusiast, he lives the firearm lifestyle year-round. When he's not training at the range, reloading or tackling a long-range competition course, Conn enjoys spending his time with his wife and three sons.



ERIC CONN

### Quick Shots

*Compagnie de Développement de l'Eau*, a Luxemburg-based financial firm, has taken over the majority stockholder position in Heckler & Koch. It was a shareholder for a number of years, but has assumed the ownership role after securing approval from European financial authorities.

U.S. Customs and Border Patrol has awarded Speer Ammunition a contract valued at \$112 million for 9 mm service ammunition, the largest award in the company's history.

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- Under-barrel Accessory Rail
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- EAA Alien Saucer Grip NOT included





## Shooting Off

*"A bystander in the drive-thru noticed the assault and immediately exited his vehicle and trained his pistol toward the male suspect and ordered him to stop. The suspect immediately complied and was eventually taken into custody by responding officers."*

—Press release from the Jefferson City (TN) Police Department after a legally armed Good Samaritan stopped a man strangling a woman near a fast-food restaurant in early July.

## Lifestyle | Freeze!

It's a chilling word no home invader wants to hear. The command usually comes from a law-abiding citizen confidently training their self-defense gun on the uninvited "guest," typically while waiting for the authorities to arrive and put the criminal on ice.

If only there was a way to exercise that kind of control over the equally criminal habit of an adult beverage assuming room temperature while you search for that special movie. While physicists continue their search for a thermodynamic solution, there's ice—you know, that boring, translucent solid that comes from atop the fridge with all the appeal

of an IRS auditor in penny loafers wearing coke-bottle-thick glasses.

Finally, there's a way to enforce that chill with authority and style. The Freeze! Ice Tray from Genuine Fred magically transforms liquid water into frozen replicas of a semi-automatic pistol (freezer required). It produces six high-capacity cubes, so to speak, with every pass and comes packed in a recyclable gift box. No need to get your gun manufacturer's license either, even in certain states. To order, visit [genuinefred.com](http://genuinefred.com). MSRP is \$10.



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# Bad to the Bone

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The very best hunting knives possess a perfect balance of form and function. They're carefully constructed from fine materials, but also have that little something extra to connect the owner with nature.

If you're on the hunt for a knife that combines impeccable craftsmanship with a sense of wonder, the **\$79 Huntsman Blade** is the trophy you're looking for.

The blade is full tang, meaning it doesn't stop at the handle but extends to the length of the grip for the ultimate in strength. The blade is made from 420 surgical steel, famed for its sharpness and its resistance to corrosion.

The handle is made from genuine natural bone, and features decorative wood spacers and a hand-carved motif of two overlapping feathers—a reminder for you to respect and connect with the natural world.

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

**But we don't stop there.** While supplies last, we'll include a pair of \$99 8x21 power compact binoculars *and* a genuine leather sheath **FREE** when you purchase the **Huntsman Blade**.

**Your satisfaction is 100% guaranteed.** Feel the knife in your hands, wear it on your hip, inspect the impeccable craftsmanship. If you don't feel like we cut you a fair deal, send it back within 30 days for a complete refund of the item price.

**Limited Reserves.** A deal like this won't last long. We have only 1120 **Huntsman Blades** for this ad only. Don't let this beauty slip through your fingers. Call today!

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— J., La Crescent, MN



*"The feel of this knife is unbelievable...this is an incredibly fine instrument."*

— H., Arvada, CO







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# MODEL 2020

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# Supplementary Self-Defense

Training to shoot from less-common positions, such as while seated, can help you gain a defensive edge.



Shooting from a seated position can be performed on a hot range with the proper safety protocols, or it can be practiced at home with a for-doubly-sure unloaded gun without any ammo present in the room using dry-practice techniques.

PHOTO: ED HEAD

**W**hen might you have to shoot defensively while seated? Driving comes to mind, especially now that encountering civil unrest is a possibility, although your car is probably a better defensive tool than a handgun and can also help you get away from a bad situation. How about seated at your desk, or at a table in (or outside of) your favorite restaurant? Then there's riding the bus or subway or enjoying your lunch on a park bench when a mugger shows up. Using your imagination, I'm sure you can think of a number of instances where you might have to defend yourself while seated. And while the possibility of this happening is remote, wouldn't it be better to practice your response beforehand?

Adding elements like shooting while seated complicate your training because you find

yourself in an awkward position. Can you access your pistol or reload? If you normally employ pocket carry, for example, shooting from a seated position is going to present a problem. Then there's the safety concern; can you present your pistol without pointing the gun at things you don't want to shoot, like parts of your body? Can you holster safely, or would it be better to stand up first?

While some ranges may prohibit you from shooting while seated, there's no reason you can't dry practice these skills at home. First, remove all ammunition from your dry-practice area and make sure you're pointing at a target/backstop that will stop a bullet. Next, check your unloaded pistol, then check it again to make certain it is unloaded.

Considering that shooting defensively from a seated position is likely to be a close-range proposition, I recommend you set this drill up on the 3- or 5-yard line, no farther. You'll need an Option or silhouette target, your carry pistol and holster and, of course, a chair. A metal folding model works just fine.

## Here's the Drill:

- Chair facing the target, from a seated position present the pistol and fire two rounds to the upper-chest area of the target. Perform five times, reloading as necessary. Total: 10 rounds.
- Chair facing 90 degrees right of the target, from a seated position present the pistol and fire two rounds to the upper-chest area of the target. Perform five times, reloading as necessary. Total: 10 rounds.
- Chair facing 90 degrees left of the target, from a seated position present the pistol and fire two rounds to the upper-chest area of the target. Perform five times, reloading as necessary. Total: 10 rounds.

Start slowly and be extremely careful about covering (sweeping, pointing at) any part of your body with the muzzle, paying special attention to your legs and feet. Do not touch the trigger until your sights are lined up on the target, then make sure you are not touching the trigger as you slowly, carefully reholster. Take your time, be safe, and let me know how it goes. 🌀

# First-Rate Savings for the First-Time Shooter

The following essential accessories will get new shooters to the range without breaking the bank.

Multiple shapes and multiple colors on the **Champion VisiColor Training Targets** provide a variety of aiming points to test your skills. Perfect for reaction-time drills, a splash of color resulting from bullet impact indicates the location of a good hit, making these paper targets both fun and incredibly useful as training tools. Circular sight-in zones in the top corners provide a location to ensure your sights are properly zeroed, adding to the targets' versatility.

MSRP: \$21.95 (pack of 12; four of each); [championtarget.com](http://championtarget.com)

Offering low-profile earcups for an uncompromising cheek weld when shooting long guns, **Walker's Razor Compact Electronic Earmuffs** are designed to fit the head of any shooter, including women and youth participants. The hi-gain, omni-directional microphone temporarily shuts down while offering 23 dB of protection from harmful noise levels. Powered by two AAA batteries (included), other features are a folding design, a perforated comfort headband, an external battery door and a recessed volume-control knob.

MSRP: \$59.99; [walkersgameear.com](http://walkersgameear.com)

Available in three different lens colors, **Wiley X Saber Advanced Glasses** feature a stylish, low-profile wraparound design that protects from light, wind and debris. Their lightweight, shatterproof, scratch-resistant polycarbonate lenses exceed ANSI Z87.1-2003+ high-impact safety standards, without distorting colors. Selenite lenses provide protection from UV rays. Rubber grips and an adjustable nose piece offer a no-slip fit and welcome comfort.

MSRP: \$40; [wileyx.com](http://wileyx.com)

No matter what your first firearm is, the **Real Avid Gun Boss Pro Universal Cleaning Kit** includes all of the components shooters need to maintain firearms in the field, including 50 cleaning patches, three brass-rod sections and bronze brushes/mops and jags capable of fitting .22- to .45-caliber handguns and rifles as well as 20- and 12-gauge shotguns. Best of all, everything snaps securely into the labeled compartments of its extremely durable case, so everything remains easily accessible yet secure.

MSRP: \$29.99; [realavid.com](http://realavid.com)

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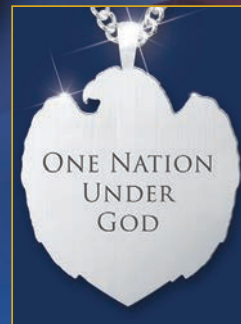
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# The Heads-up on Headspace

During a recent discussion at the gun store, the subject of headspace as it pertains to the many varieties of ammunition available for semi-automatic pistols was the primary topic. With all the variables in bullet weight and velocity in the available calibers, we could not imagine how headspace could be held to any kind of standard in a pistol. Enlighten us as to why headspace is important in a handgun and how to ensure the headspace on the ammunition we buy is correct for the gun we have.

*R.R. Johnson  
Meridian, MS*



**Headspace has nothing to do with bullet weight or the velocity of a particular cartridge.** It pertains more to the chamber of the barrel and its relationship to the bolt or breechface when the action is closed. The manner in which the cartridge sits in the chamber may have an impact on the function of headspace if it is undersize or oversize.

In a semi-automatic pistol, with few exceptions, the chambered cartridge case is restricted in its forward movement into the chamber by the case mouth contacting the cartridge seat at the forward edge of the chamber. The measured distance between the cartridge seat and the breechface with the action closed is the headspace for the pistol. For every caliber commonly available, there are gauges that are used, principally by gunsmiths, to determine whether the headspace of a firearm is within specified tolerances or not. If the action closes on a GO gauge, but not on a NO-GO gauge, the gun is considered within the tolerances specified. Should the action close on a NO-GO gauge, that would be an indicator there may be excessive headspace and the gun needs the attention of a gunsmith for further analysis.

It is important to recognize there are tolerances associated with measurements of headspace involving ammunition, and necessarily so. When one considers all of the brands and types of ammunition manufactured for a specific caliber with the subtle differences in their cartridge cases alone, it might be understood why tolerances exist. Consider the buildup of dirt and firing residue over an extended firing session, and one could imagine how that could stop a gun with a minimum headspace dimension from working.

Guns that have excessive headspace have the potential to leave enough space between the chambered cartridge and the breechface that the firing pin may fail to reach or indent the primer sufficiently to fire the cartridge. This also presents a danger in that the cartridge could possibly fire without the full support of the chamber. In high-pressure cartridges such as the 9 mm, .40 S&W or .357 SIG, for example, the lack of support could cause a rupture in the body of the cartridge case or possibly a complete head separation. Either of these events could release uncontrolled, high-pressure gasses into the interior of the pistol that are likely to cause parts breakage or mechanical failure.

Fortunately, in this country, the Sporting Arms and Manufacturers' Institute (SAAMI), sets the standard for ammunition and chamber dimensions of all popular calibers for all manufacturers to follow. This ensures the compatibility and safety of using ammunition in firearms of the same caliber designation. European manufacturers use *Commission Internationale Permanente* standards, commonly known as CIP, which are similar, but not identical to SAAMI standards. In either case, manufacturers that follow either standard ensure ammunition-and-firearm compatibility, as well as safety for a given cartridge.

Both SAAMI and CIP specifications take into consideration the plus and minus tolerances regarding headspace in order to ensure the safety and reliability of factory ammunition when fired in firearms chambered for the same caliber.

The key to ensuring the ammunition you or your friends purchase is safe and compatible with the firearm it is intended to be used in is to compare the cartridge and caliber engraved on the barrel or elsewhere on the gun with the cartridge and caliber designation listed on the end flap of the ammunition box and the headstamp on the cartridge itself. By doing that, there should be little doubt as to making the safe choice of ammunition for your pistol.

## Correspondence is welcomed and encouraged

**Write to:** Shooting Illustrated | NRA | 11250 Waples Mill Road, Fairfax, VA 22030-9400  
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# Going the Distance

With modern rifles, ammunition and optics, hitting targets far beyond 100 or even 500 yards is achievable for the majority of shooters.



While top-shelf gear can help even mediocre shooters make hits at distance, a mastery of the basics will help achieve goals consistently.

**E**xtrême-long-range shooters who possess the right equipment and skills have made hitting targets at silly distances a routine affair. But, just 15 years ago, claiming military snipers should be able to repeatedly hit small things a “mere” mile away, with carry-friendly rifles, was a sure way to get yourself laughed out of a serious conversation. I know this because I was right in the middle of both making that case and helping to develop systems and methods to make it a reality in those days. Moving forward to present day, we can see that advances in both technology and technique have extended accurate rifle distances far beyond where my fellow snipers and I ever imagined they would be in a miniscule span of time.

On its surface, that bit of information is not real helpful to rifle shooters who spend most of their time at 100 yards (or closer) due to range, gun and ammunition limitations. Still, you can stretch your own system’s effective range without spending thousands of dollars transforming it into a top-of-the-line, PRS-competition rig. The key is to employ a modified version of the self-evaluation

process our military-sniping community uses to push its own limits. Specifically, you need to identify things that may be hamstringing your reach and then address each in turn. We are not talking about converting a .300 BLK hog gun/home defense-oriented firearm into a 600-yard-competition rifle. Rather, the goal is to simply push a bit past what are considered to be conventional ranges for everyday working rifles.

Two assumptions are made here. First, your marksmanship skills must be up to the task of shooting farther than normal. Second, your rifle should already be capable of acceptable (for your needs) accuracy at conventional distances. If your 50-yard groups look like No. 4 buckshot patterns due to either rifle quality or personal technique, those issues have to be addressed before you can push farther downrange. Once such problems are remedied, you can begin the process of achieving consistently respectable accuracy at longer ranges. As has been the case with military sniping, the aiming system is the right place to start this process.

Upgrading to an optic that provides an ability to compensate for range—either through holdover points in the reticle or through dialing up an elevation knob—is ideal. But, that is seldom the most practical and never the cheapest option. If you can incorporate a good low-power, variable optic (LPVO), go for it. If not, work on adapting what you have.

Back when my Army-issued CAR-15 wore a simple Aimpoint 5000 red dot, magnifiers did not yet exist. However, that did not preclude us from having to shoot things well beyond 100 meters away. Everyone in my element knew where to hold their red dots in order to hit center chest out to at least 300 meters, and most of us pushed it to 400 for a little extra insurance. We did so while shooting Lake City M855 “green tip” ammunition, which is not exactly a match-grade load. It takes time and effort to do that with regularity, but it is a good skill to possess. Learn the limits of your sighting system by trying different holdovers at various distances. If your reticle provides additional markings below center, figure out which distances they correspond to for your rifle and load and then memorize them.

Continued on page 86



## S P E C S

- | CALIBER: 9mm
- | HEIGHT: 5.06"
- | LENGTH: 6.01"
- | WIDTH: 1.0"
- | WEIGHT: 15.5oz
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# Force Multiplier

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**I**n England, where they have quaint things like hereditary nobility, it's said that it's important for an aristocratic couple to have at least two children: "An heir and a spare." A friend of mine has paraphrased that into a maxim for his concealed-carry pistols, in that he keeps "a pair and a spare."

I'd long been familiar with the principle of having a more or less identical copy of your main CCW handgun, one that uses the same holsters, magazines and ammunition. The theory being that should your pistol be rendered unusable for any reason, from mechanical breakage to (God forbid) languishing in an evidence locker after a righteous self-defense incident, you'd have a pistol to fill your holster until your regular carry piece was back in action. It was his reasoning for that extra "spare" that was novel to me. Living in a state with laws that were among the least onerous in the land, it was more or less a designated loaner, set aside in advance against any number of possible unfortunate eventualities.

A friend of his, who was legally allowed to carry in his state, was flying in from out of town for a short visit and didn't want to check a bag. He could pick them up at the airport with the holstered spare pistol for them to use for the duration of the visit, without having to use his own designated emergency spare for that purpose.

An unexpected longer visit? Well, he wound up with a pal quarantining in his guest bedroom for a couple weeks in the early days of "The 'Rona," and the extra blaster turned out to come in handy for an extended loan there, too.

Other uses for the supernumerary pistol abound once you start thinking about the possibilities. Want to invite a non-shooting friend to try some of the various action-pistol games? The logistics become a lot easier if you don't have to share a pistol, and this way you're not putting miles on your own emergency backup gun.

Myself, I remember the first time I pondered the idea of the emergency handgun. I mean, like a lot of shooters, I have pistols I could have pressed into the job if necessary, but I'd never thought of having a gun in the official pinch-hitter role.

Then, a few years back, you'd occasionally encounter wholesalers blowing out stocks of Smith & Wesson SD9VE's for less than \$300—sometimes significantly less than \$300. "Self," I thought, "that is not a lot of money for a new-in-the-box pistol from a name-brand manufacturer."

The idea occurred to me a pistol like that would be ideal for the metaphorical "in case of emergency, break glass" job.

There's always the chance (and it's happened to me more than once) of a friend having an event occur in their life that caused them to suddenly get religion about the Second Amendment. Whether a stalkerrific ex-significant-other or an outbreak of civil unrest uncomfortably close to home, I've had friends suddenly realize that a gun would be a very good thing to have, but be in a place in their lives where they didn't have the funds to acquire one on their own.

Having a decent pistol sitting in a box in the back of the safe with which you could give them a quick range orientation, cleaning and maintenance tips and then say "Here, just use this one until you can afford one of your own" can be a lifesaver—literally—for a friend in need. This, by the way, is why laws like Washington state's infamous I-594 that ban even temporary transfers between two law-abiding citizens are anathema to the right to keep and bear arms.

Needless to say, my friend's practice of "a pair and a spare" is one that I've enthusiastically adopted myself. You never know when you may find it necessary to help a friend help themselves. 🌀



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# Shotgun Hacks You Can Use

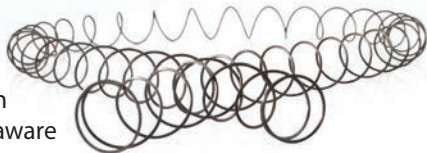
**While some “life hacks” are questionable, here are four shotgun hacks that really do come in handy.**

**O**ver the years I’ve picked up various tips from shotgun masters, and I’ve also discovered a few of my own. Try these four simple hacks to increase your effectiveness with the shotgun.

## Extended Spring Tension Maintenance

Probably the weakest part of a shotgun is its magazine-tube spring, especially if it’s an extended magazine. People who depend on their shotgun for home defense should be aware that this thin, malleable spring must be maintained periodically, especially if you keep the magazine fully loaded for extended periods. If the spring is compressed for years on end, it can lose its tension and fail to load the last round or two onto the loading gate due to its lack of power. They also wear out with copious use. To prevent magazine-spring failure, measure a brand-new spring from your new shotgun, or, if yours is no longer new, an identical model with the same-size extended tube and spring.

Periodically—depending on how often you shoot your shotgun—pull the spring out of the gun and measure it to compare it to the new spring’s length. (Jerry Miculek checks his spring before every match; most home defenders who do not shoot much can get away with an annual checkup.) If it’s a little short, carefully stretch the spring out as evenly as possible. Return the spring to the gun, then fully load the tube. Remove the spring and measure it again. If it has already returned to its shortened state, it may mean the spring is weakened beyond repair and you need a new one. If it’s the same as it was new or after stretching it, you’re good to go. Guns are machines that need periodic maintenance. You wouldn’t run your car’s tires until they wear through and pop, would you? No, you check them regularly and buy new tires before they fail. Do the same with your home-defense guns.



## Letting One Ride

For many defensive shotgunners, the number of rounds a shotgun holds is a big deal, because when you’re only talking about five to seven rounds in a magazine of most guns, one more or one fewer actually is a big deal. In fact, I bet some folks make the decision not to buy a shotgun due to its low capacity. But,

what if I told you there is a way to make many shotguns hold one more round without adding anything or altering the shotgun in any way? Now, you’re probably thinking I’m some kind of snake oil salesman, but this magic is real. I call it “letting one ride.”

On many semi-automatic shotguns—Remingtons, Mossbergs and others—you can manipulate the gun into holding one more shell by loading the magazine fully, then opening the bolt just enough to manually place a shell into the receiver. Using your finger, push it under the bolt so that the shell rides on the carrier/lifting gate. Now, insert a shell into the chamber and let the bolt ride over the shell on the carrier so that the bolt comes fully into battery. At this point, common sense suggests that you have just set up a double-feed scenario and the gun would surely malfunction—but it won’t. The shell on the gate tricks the gun into thinking it has already released a shell from the magazine (actually the shell just blocks the release lever).

Then, when the gun fires the chambered round, it will eject it and chamber the riding shell just like normal. To see if your shotgun can do this, try it—obviously using dummy rounds at first. It takes some practice to learn how to set it up, but it can be done. Clearly you wouldn’t use this trick while shooting the gun, but rather before staging it securely in your house for use in an emergency.

## Safe Trigger-Finger Location

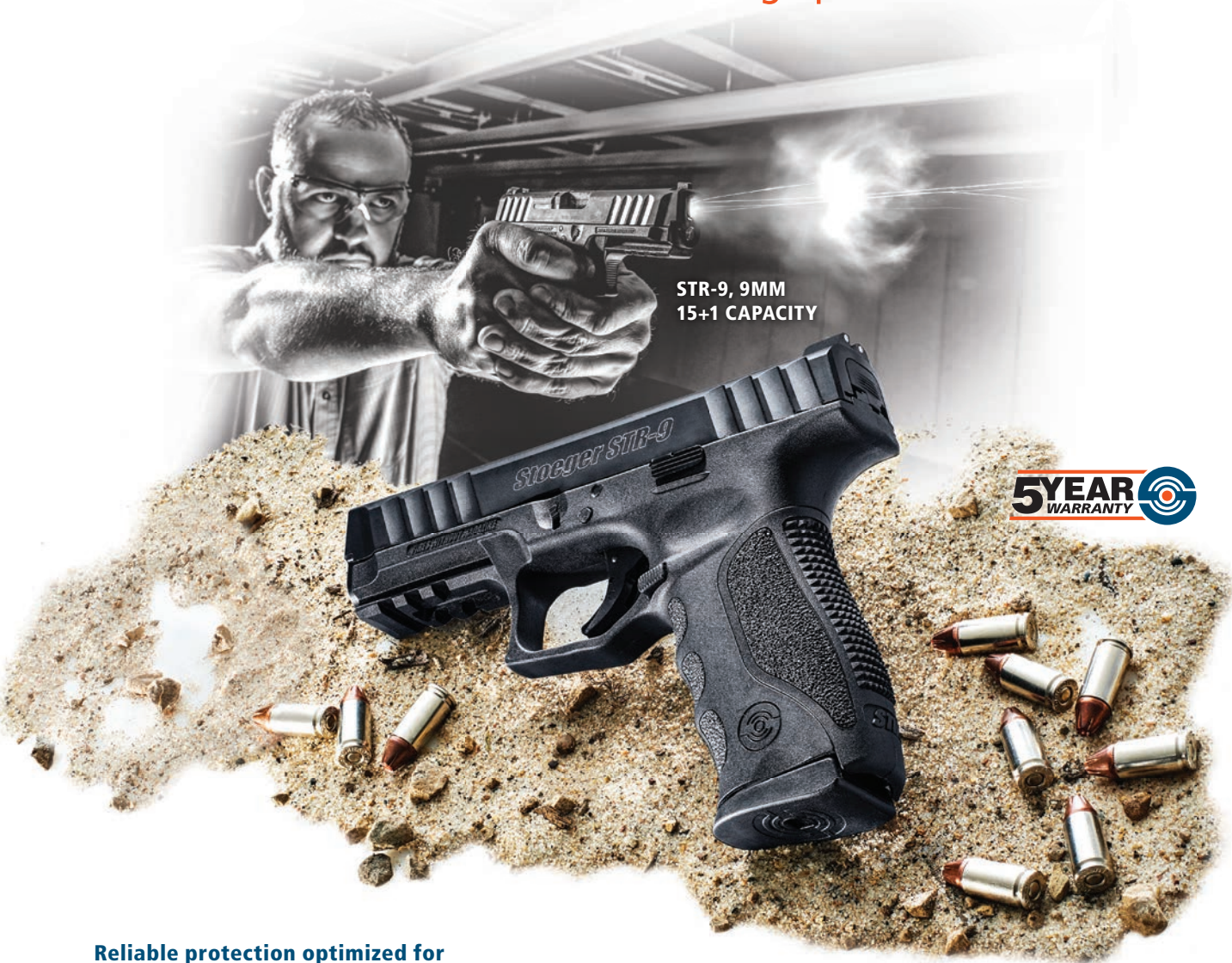


NRA’s Number One gun safety rule says: “Keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot.” And, American gun culture has done a great job of letting folks know if they transgress. These days, it seems if you put your finger anywhere except alongside the receiver, there’s a good chance you’ll be chastised by some self-righteous person. The “finger alongside the receiver” technique was borne from newer handguns, many of which



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do not have manual safeties. As such, the receiver is a great place to put the finger because it keeps the finger in contact with the gun so it has a reference and can easily find the trigger, and it tells everyone else at the range that the shooter knows what they are doing. However, the NRA rule just says to "keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot," and not "keep your finger on the receiver until ready to shoot." For plenty of guns, such as Remington shotguns, for example, that have trigger guard-mounted crossbolt safeties, the place to keep your trigger finger when your sights are not on target is on its safety so you can access the trigger and fire the gun in two moves, not three. Besides, in a defensive situation, you don't always want to tell the bad guy you are not ready to shoot the gun. With your finger on the trigger guard ready to press the safety off, it's often tough for onlookers to tell.

### Shotgun Fit Test

To see if your shotgun fits you correctly, bend your gun hand 90 degrees at the elbow. Place the for-sure-unloaded gun's buttstock in the crook of your elbow, then place your finger on the trigger. If you can reach the trigger comfortably, the length-of-pull of the shotgun is likely good for you. If you can't reach it, it's too long. If you have to bend your wrist to touch the trigger, it's too short.

To check drop-at-comb and cast fit, hold the unloaded shotgun in a high-ready position as if you were about to mount it. Focus on a target



10 yards ahead of you, like a clock on the wall, a bush or anything that's safe to point at, and hold that image in your mind. Now, shut your eyes and mount the gun. As soon as you mount it, open your eyes. Your eyes should be looking straight down the gun's rib (or barrel if it doesn't have a rib) and not down onto the rib. If it is down on the rib, you likely need more drop-at-comb. If you find yourself looking at the back of the receiver, you need less drop-at-comb. If you are looking at either side of the gun and not directly down the rib, you need either cast on or cast off. Try this drill a few times to discover a trend before adjusting the gun. A properly fitting shotgun will generally be easier to shoot and help ensure accuracy.

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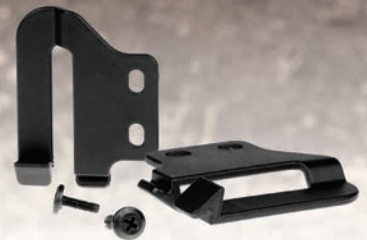
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# Buying in Bulk, Part 1

While the conventional wisdom is always “buy it cheap and stack it deep” when it comes to ammo, recent events show that’s not always possible.



Buying ammo by the individual box will be the least efficient and most expensive method; your goal should be to avoid this scenario as much as possible.

PHOTO: RICHARD MANN

About the time the coronavirus pandemic began, we ran out of toilet paper. We never run out of toilet paper—my wife buys in bulk. However, the national toilet paper shortage of 2020 hit at the exact time my wife needed to do her quarterly toilet paper run. We managed to wipe through the near disaster, but now America is experiencing another shortage—an ammunition shortage.

This is somewhat shocking; I assumed everyone learned this lesson after the presidential election of 2008. Remember those ammunition shortages that never really stabilized until 2016? After President Trump’s election we went into what some in the firearm industry called the “Trump Slump,” where everyone seemed to move into a safe zone, thinking ammunition would always be inexpensive and accessible. Instead of buying more ammunition while it was cheap, it appears we just shot all the ammo we had.

Well, here we are again. Manufacturers are making ammunition as fast as they can, and some retailers are raising prices astronomically. This is happening mostly because

humans, lazy like we are, fail to properly prepare for bad times. It also brings up the question of how much ammunition do you really need to have on hand at any given time.

A logical look at this is in order, and while you might think the ammunition shortage is similar to the toilet paper shortage, it’s not. You see, the use of toilet paper is directly controlled by the number of times you go to the bathroom each day. Short of widespread dysentery, that number is pretty much a constant. Moreover, toilet paper is not used in a recreational or training manner, and never will be unless, well, toilet-papering houses becomes the new standard for rioting.

With ammunition, it’s different. As demand increases, so does use. In uncertain times, folks begin shooting and training more so they will be better prepared. The more intense the shortage, the more intense the use. Given the current situation, which happens to be preceding a very important presidential election, the current ammunition situation has the potential to last for quite a bit of time. Are you ready for that? If you don’t have the ammo you need now, it might be the better part of a decade before you can acquire it without selling your soul or first born.

So, how much and what types of ammunition do you need? Obviously, it depends on your situation. According to my sources in the ammunition-manufacturing industry, sales always follow highs and lows. Savvy shooters buy ammunition when the demand is low because it costs less and more is available. I recently saw on social media where a guy went to the gun shop to purchase 9 mm ammo and the only thing on the shelf was a dozen boxes of .327 Fed. Mag. ammo.

Ideally, you should strive to always have about a 10-year supply of ammunition on hand. How much is that? Well, it depends on how much you shoot. Regardless, part of your cache should always be what I call “war chest ammo.” This is ammunition you might need if you really need ammunition—top-shelf, defensive loads for your primary handgun, rifle and shotgun. At a minimum we’re talking 200 rounds of rifle and shotgun, and about 500 rounds of pistol ammunition.

Now, I’m sure some believe that during a total societal collapse you’ll need even more ammo. That may be true but, in that situation, you’re going to need a lot of other survival stuff, too. Most of us are limited in the funds



we have to prepare for inclement weather, pandemics and civil unrest, and while you might be able to trade ammunition for important stuff, self-sufficient, forward-thinking folks will spend some of their money on an array of “stay-alive” gear, like ammunition, medicine, canned goods, fuel and yes, toilet paper.

You should also think about having backup guns in different chamberings than your primary guns. If the guy who could only find .327 Fed. Mag. ammunition had a revolver in that caliber, he could have walked out of the store with 600 rounds of usable ammo. The point is, while 9 mm, .223 Rem. and .308 Win. might be the most prevalent and best apocalyptic chamberings, it's not a bad idea to have alternatives and ammunition in your war chest to support them. Also, don't think you'll just become a reloader if the world goes sideways; the companies that manufacture bullets, brass, powder and primers will support the ammunition manufacturers—in bulk—first. This means reloading components will hard to find as well.

The other thing to consider is shelf life. If stored properly, ammunition should remain functional and reliable for the

“As demand increases, so does use. In uncertain times folks begin shooting and training more so they will be better prepared. The more intense the shortage, the more intense the use.”

better part of a lifetime. However, if you buy a 10-year supply of ammunition at one time you'll probably want to replace all that ammunition at the same time. It makes much more sense to buy and use as you go, while always keeping a 10-year supply on hand. This means you can take advantage of those peaks and valleys in sales. Just like a stockbroker buying low and selling high, buy ammo when prices are down and shoot as needed when prices are high.

As a society, we've become soft and unprepared for hard times. My grandparents canned vegetables every year; always more than they needed. It was hard work, but they did this because they'd lived through hard times and knew that hard times can happen without warning. If you've been to a gun shop in the last couple months desperate to buy ammo, you should rethink your preparedness plan to avoid the next shortage.

Consider this: In times of unrest and uncertainty, you will not eat more, and you will not need more toilet paper. But, you very likely could need more ammunition. Do you have enough?

# ADVENTURE

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# Looking Back

**In the defensive-equipment realm, we really have come a long way, baby.**



**Time has changed not just the gear we carry, but also the very tactics we use to defend ourselves. This is why it is crucial to stay in the training game and always be learning something new.**

**M**ost of what we know about defensive-pistol shooting has changed during my lifetime. My first exposure to defensive training came as a young policeman for a city department in North Texas. We were required to purchase (on our own) and carry a Smith & Wesson or Colt revolver, with at least a 4-inch barrel, that would chamber the .38 Spl. cartridge. We could carry a .357 Mag. revolver, but it had to be loaded with department-issue .38 Spl. +P ammunition.

Our training and qualification course was the PPC, which in those days was short for Police Pistol Course. It called for the shooter to fire from the 7-, 15-, 25- and 50-yard lines, and incorporated standing, kneeling and shooting from behind barricades. For this training and qualification, like most other departments, we were issued .38 Spl. target loads that pushed a 148-grain bullet from 700 to 800 fps.

Looking back, I see a number of weak points to this type of training, one of which was the reload. Being taught by competitive shooters, we were encouraged to quickly snap the gun open and dump the empties by pressing the ejector rod with our thumb. Then, the butt of the revolver was pressed into the body at about the waistline and the

shooter bent over the gun to make a reload as fast as possible.

Obviously, a much more positive method of unloading is to smack the ejector rod with the palm of the shooting hand in order to dump the empties. One can see reloading the gun at the waist level and then bending over to reload just about destroys the shooter's peripheral vision. In an actual gunfight, reloading by holding the gun about level with the shirt pockets allows the shooter to better keep up with what is going on around them.

Another failing of this old training method was the use of light target loads that were much different than what was carried on duty. Our practice did nothing to prepare us for increased recoil and different points-of-impact at any distance. The first time that I fired a magnum round at nighttime with all that flash and noise, I thought my gun had blown up.

For all that, the PPC training also paid some dividends. It taught us the importance of marksmanship. If you had any hope of winning one of those matches, you had better just be cutting one big hole out of the "X" and 10-ring on that big B27 target. We learned to manage the sights and, more importantly, the double-action trigger of those revolvers. Some would argue, maybe rightfully so, that this sort of precise pistol shooting is not required to win an actual gunfight. But, they overlook the confidence that this ability gives the defensive shooter.

Another advantage of this early training was learning what could be done with a duty revolver at 50 yards. With a bit of practice, one can easily keep shots within the vital zone of the target at this range.

Once enrolled in a certified police academy, we were taught pistol work by an FBI instructor. In those days, the FBI still taught point-shooting from a deep crouch for close-range work. This training instilled in me an ongoing interest in point-shooting. Having messed with that concept for years, I have determined the obvious—it takes a lot of ammo and practice, and some people's hand-eye coordination skills are better than others. Not to worry, a better way was just around the corner.

Today's crop of defensive-pistol shooters may not fully understand the influence that Col. Jeff Cooper had on fighting with a handgun. He not only helped usher in the era



of the semi-automatic pistol as a defensive tool, but he also focused his training on pistol fighting as opposed to target shooting. This was mainly because he was continually looking for a better way instead of doing it "Like we've always done it."

Cooper and his compadres were among the first to realize that the shooter's stance could affect their ability to better manage recoil. While he is best known for utilizing the Weaver Stance, Cooper's work also encouraged advocates of the Isosceles Stance to change it from the early, 90-degree-erect form to a more balanced, forward-leaning style of fighting stance.

|| If you had any hope of winning one of those matches, you had better just be cutting one big hole out of the "X" and 10-ring on that big B27 target. ||

Through this era of the Modern Technique of the Pistol, we have learned better ways to reload the pistol, better ways to draw the pistol and better ways to deliver fight-stopping hits to the vital zone.

However, one of Cooper's greatest contributions was in showing us that there was a market and need for developing training schools for the armed citizen. Gunfighting skills were no longer just the need of cops and soldiers; they were also of value and importance to everyday Americans.

I suppose in the years to come we will see more improvements and innovations in the area of defensive training. It isn't important to just find ways to do things differently. What will be important are those skills developed that help us do things quicker and more accurately. What will be of value are those things that help us fight better and fight more successfully. I can't wait to see what those innovations will be. 🌀



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# NRA-PVF

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My Fellow NRA Member,

America's fiercest grassroots army carries an incredible burden this November. As vital members of that army, what we choose to do—or fail to do—will carry lasting consequences. America will either continue down a path of constitutionally protected freedom or descend down a path of lost rights, lost guns and lost liberty.

Joe Biden and Kamala Harris pose the gravest threat to our Second Amendment freedom we've ever encountered.

While we strive to protect ourselves, Biden and Harris are campaigning on shuttering firearm manufacturers, prohibiting the sale of countless semi-automatic firearms, mandating punitive taxation of firearms, and even confiscating the most commonly owned firearms in America. At a time when our right to self-defense is more important than ever, we are faced with a question. When seconds count, will the police be minutes away, hours away, or never respond at all in Joe Biden's America?

Fortunately, this nightmare scenario can be stopped. Because five million NRA members, and the millions more who follow our lead, once again can make the deciding difference in November's election.

NRA-PVF has worked to equip you with the most comprehensive Second Amendment voting guide for November. From presidential to statewide elections, we've identified every candidate who will best protect your right to keep and bear arms. This important resource informs and empowers your vote.

Together, we can defeat the anti-gun movement, re-elect President Trump, retain a pro-Second Amendment majority in the United States Senate, and fire Nancy Pelosi as Speaker of the House. Fighting and voting together, we will win.

In order to save freedom and save our country, please vote on or before November 3rd, and make sure every gun owner and freedom-loving American you know does the same!

In Freedom,

Wayne R. LaPierre  
NRA Executive Vice President

Jason Ouimet  
NRA-ILA Executive Director



# President Trump Praises NRA Members in Exclusive Interview

## A Critical Vote for Freedom

By Frank Miniter,  
Editor in Chief, *America's 1st Freedom*

**"I have the endorsement of the NRA, which I'm very proud of. These are very, very good people, and they're protecting the Second Amendment."**

— President Donald J. Trump

A white door opened across the Oval Office and President Donald J. Trump stopped in the doorway, backlit by windows on a bright summer day. Energetically, he tapped his fists on his thighs as he surveyed the people waiting for him in the white room with the golden drapes and the pantheon of paintings of American history's iconic leaders like Abraham Lincoln and Benjamin Franklin.



Official White House Photo by Tia Dufour

The leader of the free world walked confidently into the Oval Office, settled in behind his desk, and waved off the various photographers who had come to document yet another moment in the history of this historical president.

As the room grew quiet, President Trump planted his elbows firmly on a desk blotter depicting the Declaration of Independence, leaned forward, and focused his attention on me—intently and expertly shifting gears for his latest in a long line of scheduled appointments.

Seated to my left was White House Press Secretary Kayleigh McEnany, who just before the president entered the Oval Office, explained that he agreed to this interview because he wanted to speak directly to NRA members in a year where the pandemic canceled the NRA Annual Meetings and Exhibits, and with it, his speech to the members of the NRA. "He likes to speak directly to audiences. He does all he can to get his message out without the spin," she said.

The president then broke the momentary silence in the room, and

stated firmly: "I will never waver. I will never disappoint. I have and I will continue to protect the Second Amendment."

I was struck by the powerful conviction with which he delivered the statement—strong, clear and concise straight-talk from a man who unabashedly and confidently means what he says and says what he means. Promises made—promises kept.

"Thank you, Mr. President," I said with my eyes still locked with his.

He then nodded, leaned back into his chair, smiled warmly and complimented the White House press secretary for arranging an interview with the National Rifle Association.

In this polite moment, a Secret Service agent stopped in a doorway, and with a series of gestures, asked the president if he wanted him to stay or go.

President Trump smiled and said, "You can go relax. It's okay. If he does anything, I can handle him."

As the Secret Service agent grinned and closed the door, I said, "Mr. President, I think you could take me."

President Trump nodded and with a brief smile said, "Let's get started."



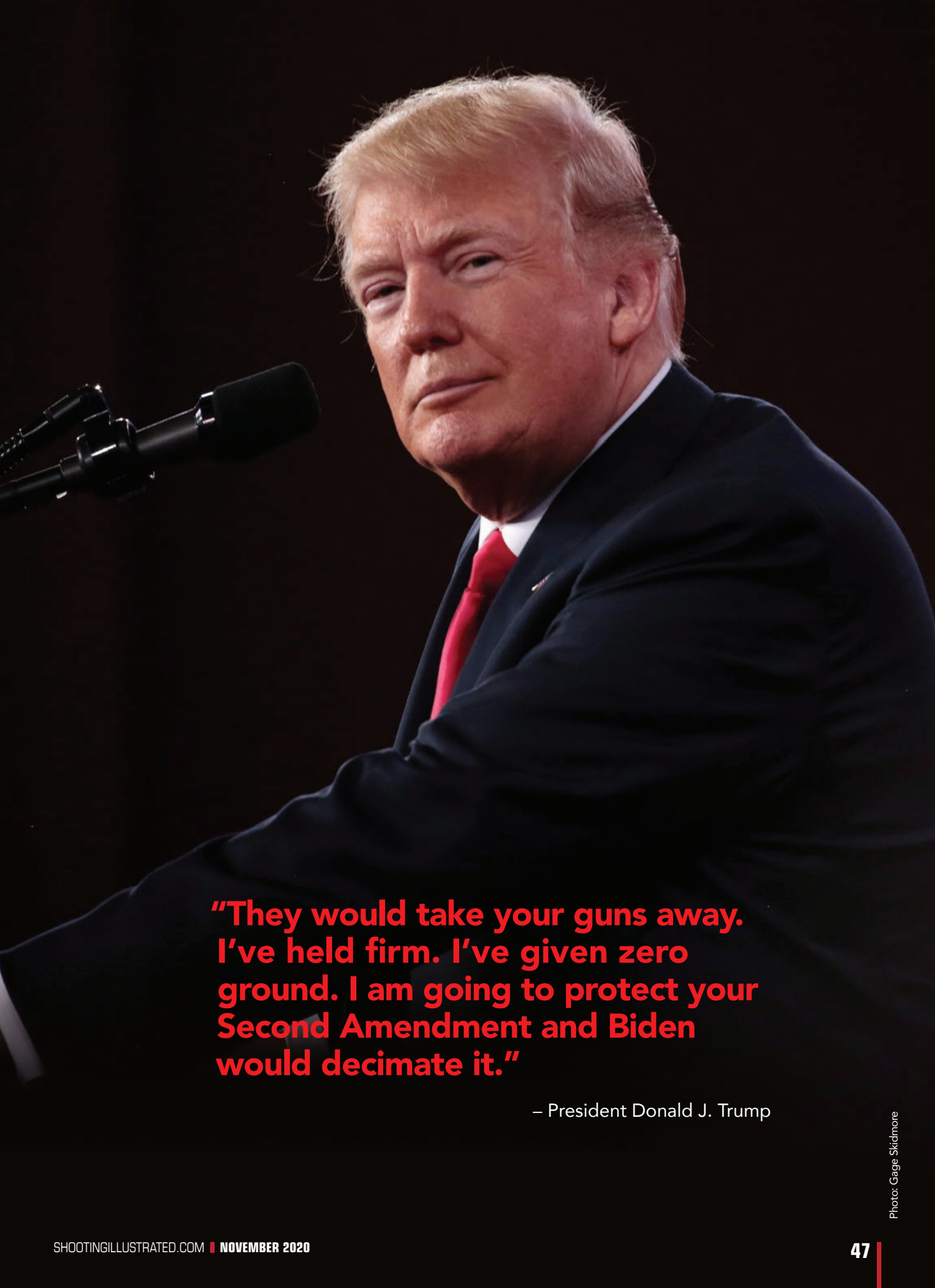
I began by asking, "Mr. President, this, as you have noted so well, is a time when we need a law-and-order president. You are getting



Official White House Photo by Tia Dufour

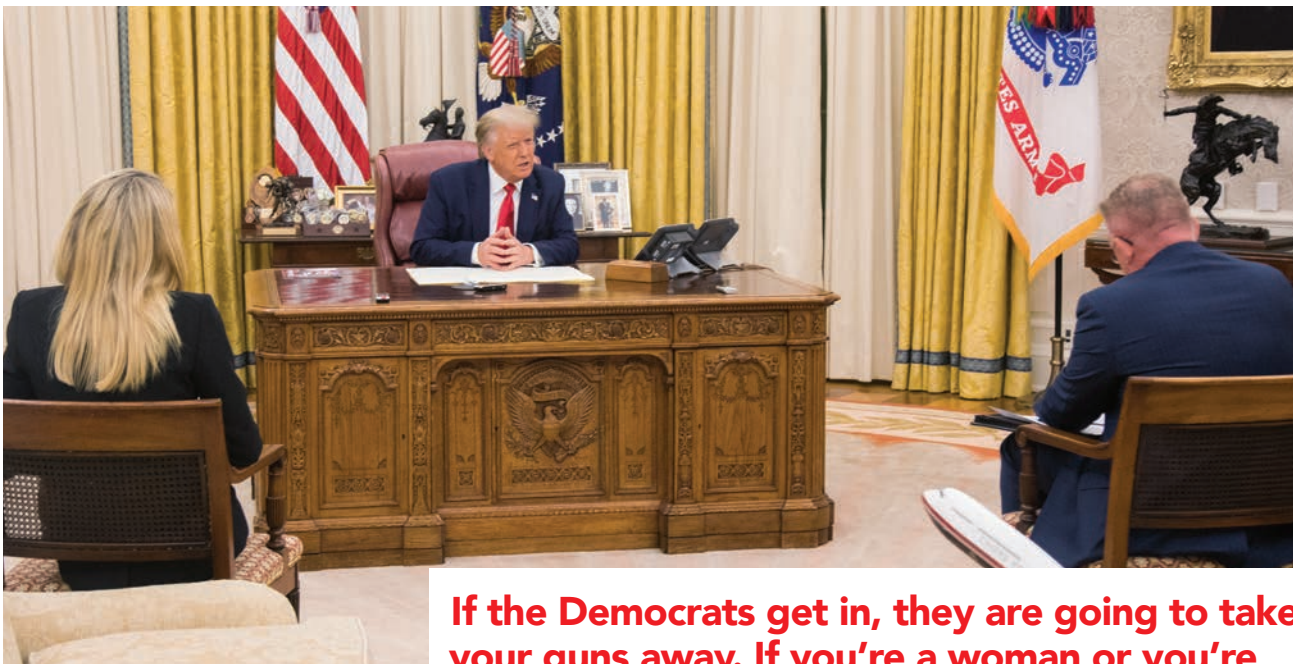
Just before the interview in the Oval Office, President Donald J. Trump was handed a copy of the August issue of *America's 1st Freedom*, which had his son, Eric, on the cover. "A handsome guy," said the president.





**"They would take your guns away. I've held firm. I've given zero ground. I am going to protect your Second Amendment and Biden would decimate it."**

– President Donald J. Trump



endorsements from police organizations for this and many other reasons. How will you continue to foster American freedom and safety in this trying time?"

President Trump nodded and said, "The Democrats don't respect our law enforcement, but I do." He then talked about Chicago and Portland—cities whose mere names have become loaded with images of chaos, anarchy and murder—and said, "We need law and order to keep our businesses safe; we need law and order to save lives; we need law and order so that freedom can prosper in this great nation. We can't let the anarchists win. The American way of life, the freedoms we enjoy, are what my administration is fighting for. The other side is for the mob. They are investigating the police in Portland for protecting a court house, not the anarchists who tried to burn it down. Is that what the American people want? I don't think so."

When asked about the many judges his administration has nominated to the federal bench, and that, thanks to the steady guidance of U.S. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, have been confirmed, President Trump said, "We could have over 300 judges appointed to the federal bench by the end of my first term—this includes two Supreme Court justices. I was given a large batch to fill—as many as a hundred openings—by President Obama because he wasn't focused on

**If the Democrats get in, they are going to take your guns away. If you're a woman or you're anybody, and a criminal breaks into your home they will still have a gun—an illegal gun—but you won't and they'll know it."**

—President Donald J. Trump

nominating judges. A lot of people think this has been one of our greatest accomplishments. The Democrats want to put activists on the bench. We just want judges who will rule according to the law—the Constitution."

President Trump put up his hands as he said this. He clearly found it exasperating that nominating judges who will simply uphold what a law actually says, not what some might like it to say, is treated as controversial by the mainstream media and by many Democrats in Congress. "And we have a lot more to do," said the president.

This is clearly true, as the U.S. Supreme Court recently rejected many Second Amendment cases in which plaintiffs challenged laws that clearly infringe upon this constitutional right. Also, many lower courts, though bolstered by President Trump's nominees, are still overrun with activist judges who continue to rule against our constitutionally protected freedom.

I then said, "Joe Biden's campaign website includes 11 pages of bullet-pointed bans and restrictions on our Second Amendment rights. How will you show people the stark contrast between your agenda for protecting

freedom and Biden's goals for destroying it?"

President Trump sat back as he considered this before saying, "I am talking about this a lot. I respect American freedom. Biden wants to take it away. We won't have a Second Amendment if he is elected."

The president then continued, "I could have made many deals that would have been bad for the Second Amendment and for freedom and safety, but I've given zero ground, as you probably know. They would terminate your Second Amendment. They would take your guns away. I've held firm. I've given zero ground. I am going to protect your Second Amendment and Biden would decimate it."

The conversation then turned to Chicago and Baltimore and the fact that the elected officials who run these cities are blaming our Second Amendment rights, as well as our brave men and women in blue, for the problems their policies created. I asked, "What can you do to bring the light of freedom, and all the peace and prosperity it brings with it, to these communities?"

"These Democrats are investigating law enforcement rather than the



people who throw Molotov cocktails," said the president. "It's just lucky that we are here right now or this would be happening in every city. These are the same people who want your guns. So now these places are seeing a tremendous surge in gun sales as good people try to protect themselves from the bad people the Democrats are protecting."

This basic truth is so plainly obvious, yet so unreported in the mainstream media, that President Trump shook his head in bewilderment.

As he did, I thought of the media members who were just a few doors away in the Press Room and the narratives they spin about this issue in particular. Is it any wonder this president uses Twitter and rallies at every opportunity to sidestep the dishonest press, and communicate these basic truths to the American people?

I experienced this firsthand when I met various journalists in the Press Room that day, and they'd invariably ask me: "Who are you with?" After I answered, they'd say something like, "Oh, you're with the NRA," and make an expression as if they'd just swallowed a mouthful of bad milk.

We then switched to a topic that, for purely partisan political reasons, the mainstream media continues to try and paint as "controversial."

"Mr. President, each state's driver's license is honored across this great nation, yet a permit to carry a concealed gun—which, in contrast, is a right specifically protected in the U.S. Bill of Rights—is often not respected by other states. Will you support a national reciprocity act so that law-abiding gun owners can more easily travel with their freedom?"

"You are talking about concealed-carry, right?" asked President Trump. "About people who cross state lines?" he asked.

"Yes, Mr. President," I replied. "Right now, simply taking a wrong turn from Pennsylvania into New Jersey can result in years in prison for an otherwise law-abiding American citizen."

President Trump nodded and said, "I will support such legislation. If it comes across my desk I will sign it."

The president, of course, had a concealed-carry permit while he lived



Photo: Peter Fountain

in New York City. He has said many times that he found it necessary to be ready to protect himself. He has also said many times that he believes all lawful citizens are guaranteed this same, basic human right.

Our discussion of people traveling with their freedom then led us to the topic of the millions of new gun owners in America, many of whom are women.

"If the Democrats get in, they are going to take your guns away," said the president. "If you're a woman or you're anybody, and a criminal breaks into your home, they will still have a gun—an illegal gun—but you won't and they'll know it."

As our time began to wind down, this strong defender of the Second

Amendment and proud father stated, "I have shot guns many times, but my boys are great shots. World-class shots."

He said this as he picked up a copy of the August issue of *America's 1st Freedom*, which features his son Eric on the cover. He said, "Only in America could I have kids like this."

Filled with pride and conviction, he said, "We need the Second Amendment. This important American freedom won't end on my watch."

He then stood up and delivered one final message: "I have great respect for Wayne. Say hello to him for me. And you tell all the members of your great organization I am totally for the Second Amendment. We're with the Second Amendment all the way." 🌀







# Big-Bore Breakthrough

LWRCI's SMG 45 brings modern materials and modularity to America's beloved .45 ACP.

Looking back a couple decades, I do not recall anyone predicting that submachine gun-size, semi-automatic pistols would be anywhere near as popular as they are today. Thanks to a newfound appreciation for compact, user-configurable firearms and the pistol brace's ability to stabilize handguns with forward-mounted magazines, these very maneuverable handguns have evolved in both demand and design. Whether fed by rifle cartridges or pistol calibers, serious tools like LWRCI's SMG 45 are here to stay.

The SMG 45 is, obviously, chambered in .45 ACP and employs a short-recoil/delayed-blowback-operating system, which allows the barrel to travel rearward approximately  $\frac{1}{3}$ -inch while the bolt stays momentarily locked up. Once chamber pressure drops to a safe opening level, the barrel stops and the bolt continues its cycle of operation. Because the barrel is not fixed, sound suppressors with Nielsen-type recoil boosters should be used with the SMG 45. It ships from the factory with a thread protector in place for unsuppressed use.

By Steve Adelmann  
Photos by Peter Fountain

The heavy bolt and stiff buffer spring helped me keep the pistol on target and made follow-through a simple process.

The pistol features a user-configurable, panel-covered, accessory-mounting system in front of the magazine well. Comfortable, bolt-on panels are positioned at the 3-, 6- and 9-o'clock positions and include a forward-mounted handstop that does a great job of keeping the support hand out of trouble. Various lengths of bolt-on Picatinny rail sections and other accessories are available from LWRCI as add-ons. A continuous Picatinny rail runs from the aft end of the receiver to just behind the muzzle and the pistol comes with Magpul's MBUS Pro sights as standard equipment.

The SMG 45's non-reciprocating charging handle folds flat and is easily swappable from left to right side. It takes approximately 2 seconds to remove and another 2 to reinstall, so long as you follow the instructions. Other ambidextrous features include the safety selector, left- and right-side (AR-style) bolt release levers and a paddle-style magazine release at the rear of the mag well. A right-side folding SB Tactical brace features a latch that releases easily once the large, left-side button is pressed.

Since this pistol's recoil spring and guide are inside the receiver, it may be fired while the brace is folded.

Disassembling the SMG 45 is simple, but following instructions is important here. If you try to "shotgun" the receiver from the trigger group like an AR, you will damage it. Instead, after ensuring the firearm is unloaded and removing the cocking handle, the two captive takedown pins may be driven from left to right. Once accomplished, the trigger group—along with LWRCI's Ultra Combat Grip—simply pulls straight off. That frees up the brace assembly to slide down a dovetail for removal. The SMG's bolt, recoil spring and guide are then removable from the rear of the receiver.

While disassembled, you will notice that many internal components wear a nickel-boron coating to reduce metal-on-metal friction and ease cleanup. The trigger is 100-percent AR in design, allowing for easy, drop-in replacement, which may be unnecessary because the SMG ships with an ALG Defense ACT. Even though this trigger meets military specifications for weight,



## SHOOTING RESULTS

Load	Velocity	Group Size		
		Smallest	Largest	Average
Hornady Critical Defense 220-grain FTX	1,042	2.2	5.6	3.7
Federal Premium Hydra-Shok 230-grain JHP	1,044	2.0	3.1	2.5
Winchester 230-grain FMJ	964	3.5	5.2	4.4

Velocity measured in fps at the muzzle for 10 consecutive shots with a MagnetoSpeed V3 chronograph. Temperature: 85 degrees Fahrenheit. Accuracy measured in inches for five consecutive, five-shot groups at 50 yards from a bag rest.

## SPECIFICATIONS

**Manufacturer:** LWRC International; (410) 901-1348, lwrci.com

**Action Type:** Short-recoil-operated, delayed blowback

**Caliber:** .45 ACP

**Capacity:** 25+1 rounds

**Receiver:** Aluminum and steel

**Barrel Length:** 8.5 inches

**Sights:** Magpul MBUS Pro front and rear

**Trigger Pull Weight:** 5 pounds, 8 ounces

**Length:** 15.25 inches (folded); 26 inches (extended)

**Width:** 2.14 inches

**Height:** 7.75 inches

**Weight:** 94 ounces

**Accessories:** Two 25-round magazines, SB Tactical arm brace, gun lock, disassembly and sight-adjustment tools, manual

**MSRP:** \$2,995



drop-safeness and hammer energy, it still manages to be smooth and consistent in pull. Sticking with the interchangeability theme, LWRCI ships the SMG with a pair of 25-round magazines that are cross-compatible with H&K's UMP 45 mags. Diminished-capacity magazines are available for locations where capacity is regulated, although LWRCI does not offer a version legal in California or other states with pistol-related restrictions.

My first attempt to test the SMG 45 did not go well. While preparing for the range, I noticed that the manual mentioned a pair of 230-grain FMJ loads that LWRCI uses for testing. However, I did not realize that the pistol is designed for this bullet weight. As a result, Black Hills Ammunition's 135-grain Honey Badger expanding load failed to fully cycle the bolt every time. Winchester's 185-grain FMJ load failed to cycle exactly 50 percent of the time. Only a full-power Federal 230-grain Hydra-Shok load worked without any trouble.



Unlike on a carbine, adding a suppressor does not make the pistol too unwieldy • Two 25-round magazines keep the SMG 45 fed, and H&K UMP magazines can be used • Adding to the compactness of the unit is the folding SB Tactical brace.



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Flared to facilitate quick reloads, the magazine well highlights one significant departure from the AR-15 platform in the downward-protruding magazine-release lever • Non-reciprocating and capable of being easily swapped from left to right (the author might argue a little too easily), the location of the charging handle presents another distinguishing feature from the AR platform • Magpul's metal MBUS Pro sights adorn the top rail and can be swapped out for myriad options if so desired • Even with the SB Tactical arm brace in the extended position, the SMG 45 still presents a compact, maneuverable option for home defense.



I contacted LWRCI and found out that my test gun was an early-production model that had been passed around a bit. So, I resolved to try again, this time with a new-production gun. The replacement came with the stipulation from LWRCI that it still needs to be run with heavy loads. So, with Winchester 230-grain and Hornady 220-grain loads at the ready and a new gun in-hand, I headed back out for round two. Things went much better this time, with all rounds functioning perfectly. I also ran some of the lighter 185-grain FMJ ammo through the replacement pistol and it worked 100 percent of the time.

I know from my regular work that pistols in this size class tend to shoot well, so accuracy testing was done from 50 yards with a bag-supported rest. The SMG shot respectably well and is certainly a capable defensive arm at this distance. The heavy bolt and stiff buffer spring helped keep the pistol on target and made follow-through a simple process. After accuracy-testing all three of the heavy loads, I moved up and worked through a series of drills on targets spaced between 10 and 25 yards. The only problem encountered in this testing was that I accidentally removed the charging handle while trying to retract it quickly—twice. Either the SMG 45's charging handle is a hair too easy to remove, or I am perpetually uncoordinated, or both.

All close-in work was done with backup sights, reminding me that my 51-year-old eyes cannot tolerate the MBUS Pro's thin front-sight post on short-sight-radius firearms. Fortunately, there are numerous aftermarket posts available from companies like Blitzkrieg Components that remedy this problem, or the sights can be easily changed for something more suitable for the individual shooter.

I alternated between unsuppressed firing and shooting with a SilencerCo Osprey 45 attached. Function was flawless either way, and the suppressed setup combined with the .45 ACP's subsonic velocities makes for a quiet and pleasant-shooting package. The LWRCI's bolt locks back on empty magazines and can be manually locked back the same way one would do with an AR platform. I noticed



that the left-side bolt release has to be pressed in hard and all the way to the receiver wall in order to release the bolt. Conversely, the right-side bolt stop hangs out quite far from the receiver when the bolt is locked back, requiring only a slight push to let the bolt fly into battery.

Aside from a high retail price tag, I cannot find much to complain about on the SMG 45. It's a bit on the heavy side for so small a package, but that is common with sub-gun-size .45 ACPs. Even so, the SMG 45 is quite manageable, handles well and would be a convenient pistol for backpacking, vehicle use or as a formidable bedside pistol with a red-dot optic, sling and powerful weapon-light attached.🔗



Molded covers over the M-Lok slots and a beneficial handstop at the 6-o'clock position near the muzzle make carrying and shooting the SMG 45 more comfortable and safer • LWRCI's grip features texturing to hold it in the hand, yet is not abrasive • Controls are ambidextrous across the platform.



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# 2020 Holiday Gift Guide

Looking for the perfect gift for the firearm enthusiast in your life? We've got you covered. Whether your budget is slightly more than a couple of bucks or you're looking to spend your entire stimulus check, there's something in this guide that will make any gun guy or gal happy this holiday season.

*A Shooting Illustrated Staff Report*

## 1 | Hogue, Inc.

### Wrapper Adhesive Firearm Grips

Hogue's new Wrapper adhesive grips are designed to solve the problem posed by slippery polymer-frame pistols. Precision-cut appliques of adhesive-backed, rubbery material are applied to the pistol and set with heat. The super-thin grips enhance purchase without changing your normal hold, yet can be removed with no adhesive residue.

\$14.95; [hogueinc.com](http://hogueinc.com)

## 2 | Sportdog

### Locator Beacon

Quickly attaching to your dog's .75- or 1-inch collar strap with a carabiner, the Locator Beacon helps you keep tabs on your pet in the darkest night. Chose solid or blinking light modes and the silent, waterproof beacon will continually reveal you dog's location. It's available in several colors.

\$14.95; [sportdog.com](http://sportdog.com)

## 3 | Wheeler

### Delta Series Carbon Multiscraper

This tiny tool fits inside an AR's pistol grip and is designed to scrape carbon off of the vital parts of a bolt-carrier group. Perfect for field work or in the shop, it's unobtrusive and easy to use, making it a great tool to have handy.

\$21.99; [wheeler-tools.com](http://wheeler-tools.com)





# Gifts Under \$22



## 4 | Bear & Son

### Aluminum Slip Joint Model 109

An ideal utility knife for everyday use, the Slip Joint sports an aluminum handle and a high-carbon, stainless steel, 1.5-inch drop-point blade. Weighing only 1 ounce, it is a true pocket knife that will last a lifetime.

\$19.99; [bearandsoncutlery.com](http://bearandsoncutlery.com)

## 5 | Deflector Brake

### Deflector Brake

Spare both the finish on the upper receiver of your AR-15 and your brass at the same time with the Deflector Brake. One package offers coverage for an estimated 6,000 rounds.

\$17.99/pack of four; [deflectorbrake.com](http://deflectorbrake.com)

## 6 | Nine Line Apparel

### USA Neck Gaiter

Whether you opt to use it as a face covering to reduce the spread of germs, as a head band, a neck cover or any other use, this versatile garment allows you to proudly put your patriotism on full display.

\$19.99; [ninelineapparel.com](http://ninelineapparel.com)



## 7 | Tri-Flow Lubricants

### Tri-Flow Drip Bottle

Sized to fit conveniently in your gun case, bug-out bag or tackle box, Tri-Flow's 2-ounce Drip Bottle is there when you need it. The light, penetrating lubricant has a working temperature range of -60 to 475 degrees Fahrenheit and is enhanced with PTFE. A convenient straw delivers pinpoint application for lubricating and cleaning, and for displacing water.

\$7.95; [triflowlubricants.com](http://triflowlubricants.com)

## 8 | MTM Case Gard

### Side-Slide Pistol Ammo Box

Available for multiple calibers, MTM's latest, inexpensive, 50-round ammo box features a side-sliding lid, allowing shooters to select or quickly tip out precisely the right number of cartridges. The lid releases with one touch and is completely removable.

\$2.56; [mtmcase-gard.com](http://mtmcase-gard.com)

## 9 | ArachniGrip

### RDOS Slide Spider

For those who need a little help in racking their pistol's slide, ArachniGrip's Slide Spider offers a textured section that aids in purchase, and is now available for select pistols with red-dot sights mounted.

\$19.99; [arachnigrip.com](http://arachnigrip.com)

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\$35.95; [hoppes.com](http://hoppes.com)

### 2 | Tasmanian Tiger

#### TT Modular Hip Bag

With three pockets—one with a hook-and-loop section to which a number of accessories can attach—the TT Modular Hip bag can hold all the gear you need while enjoying an active, outdoor lifestyle.

\$39.95; [tasmaniantigerusa.com](http://tasmaniantigerusa.com)

### 3 | TekMat

#### AR-15 Ultra Premium Gun Cleaning Mat

The perfect surface for cleaning your guns, this padded mat is a quarter-inch thick to cushion small drops and has an oil-resistant surface for durability through thousands of cleanings. Best of all, it conveniently lists all of the parts of an AR-15, so you can keep track of your work.

\$29.99; [tekmat.com](http://tekmat.com)

# Gifts

\$22 to  
\$39.99

### 4 | Lansky

#### D-Sharp

Lansky's new D-Sharp pocket sharpener incorporates four sharpening angles (17, 20, 25 and 30 degrees) in 600-grit diamond pull-throughs. Moreover, there is an 800-grit ceramic mini-bench stone that will accommodate fine polishing and serrated edges. The metal-cased D-Sharp is compatible with all Lansky Controlled Angle Systems.

\$25.99; [lansky.com](http://lansky.com)

### 5 | Magpul

#### DAKA Takeout Bag

Looking for a weather-resistant, nearly indestructible case for tools, cleaning components or a first aid kit? Magpul's new DAKA Takeout bag features reinforced polymer fabric, YKK aqua-guard zipper and a buckle that doubles as a carrying handle.

\$29.95; [magpul.com](http://magpul.com)

### 6 | Ulfhednar

#### UH105 Rear Bag "Squeazy"

For the long-range enthusiast out there who has almost everything, a rear bag that can be molded into a multitude of shapes sure beats a sock filled with beans. Four inches long and 3 inches in diameter, the "Squeazy" will be a hit with the precision shooter on your list.

\$30; [ulfhednar.no](http://ulfhednar.no)





## 7 | Armaspec

### Rhino R-23 Tactical Magwell Grip and Funnel

A multi-purpose accessory for the MSR owner, the Rhino R-23 easily attaches to your AR-pattern rifle to offer enhanced controllability and faster magazine changes. Available colors include Black, OD Green, Grey and FDE. \$22; [armaspec.com](http://armaspec.com)

## 8 | Premier Body Armor

### Bulletproof Koozie

The Premier Body Armor Bulletproof Koozie protects what's really important: your frosty, canned beverage. Made from the same material as Level II soft body armor, this koozie will keep your drink cold and safe from ballistic trauma (we don't recommend testing that at home, but it will).

\$29.99; [premierbodyarmor.com](http://premierbodyarmor.com)

## 9 | Fisher Space Pen

### 338 Cartridge Space Pen

Made with an actual .338 Lapua Mag. case as its body, this ballpoint pen will show off a love for firearms combined with the ability to write upside down for which Fisher Space Pens are famous.

\$36.50; [spacepen.com](http://spacepen.com)



# ATTENTION!

## Safety Warning and Recall Notice for Henry Single Shot Rifles and Shotguns



Henry Repeating Arms Company has recently discovered a potential safety issue wherein, under certain conditions, it is possible that some of these models may discharge without the trigger being pulled if the hammer is partially cocked and released.

All H015 model owners should visit

[www.HenryUSA.com/recall](http://www.HenryUSA.com/recall)

email [recall@henryusa.com](mailto:recall@henryusa.com), or

call 866-200-2354 (M-F, 9AM ET- 5PM ET) to obtain additional information.



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### 2 | Posi-Lum FireTail

A virtually indestructible means of actuating your weaponlight's tailcap switch, the all-aluminum FireTail contains only three moving parts and adds the ergonomic benefits of a switchpad, without having to worry about melted or tangled wires. \$64.99; fire-tail.com

### 3 | ASP Safety Set

This kit of useful, less-lethal self-defense tools consists of Defender OC Pepper Spray, an intense whistle to call for help and an ultra-bright, Sapphire USB-rechargeable flashlight. All items are on a convenient break-away lanyard and are available in multiple colors. \$60; asp-usa.com

# Gifts

## \$40 to \$69<sup>99</sup>

### 4 | Pelican

#### 1170 Protector Case

Whether transporting your compact handgun or other valuable items, Pelican's water-, crush- and dust-resistant case keeps your gear safe from the elements while Pick-N-Pluck foam cradles against bumps and dings. \$49.95; pelican.com

### 5 | Blackhawk

#### P.A.T.R.O.L. Barricade Gloves

A combination of comfort and protection, these neoprene gloves are constructed of flexible, form-fitting neoprene for enhanced flexibility and dexterity. The palms are reinforced with SpectraGuard to provide moderate defense from shallow cuts and broken glass. \$45.95; blackhawk.com

### 6 | National Rifle Association Membership

Give your friends and family the gift of freedom. Membership comes with copious benefits, including a membership card, a choice of monthly magazine (we suggest *Shooting Illustrated*, of course) and the knowledge you're helping to protect our Second Amendment rights. \$45; membership.nra.org

### 7 | GrovTec

#### Tri-Base Buffer Tube Sling Mount

Quick-disconnect mounts make adding slings to your carbine simple. GrovTec's two-piece, ingenious mount allows a three-position QD mount to fit on any carbine with a mil-spec buffer tube. \$47; grovtec.com





## 8 | Hornady

### Handbook of Cartridge Reloading 10th Edition

Packed with more than 1,000 pages of loading data, techniques and vital information on assorted projectiles, the latest edition of this must-have manual contains 200-plus calibers that feature myriad loads using Hornady bullets. It includes new powders and projectiles, too.

\$43.93; [hornady.com](http://hornady.com)

## 9 | Real Avid

### Gun Tool AMP

Carbon scrapers, bits and bit holders, a bit driver and a blade make the AMP a must-have EDC item. Models are available for the AR-15, 1911 and generic handguns, and each is small enough to fit in a range bag, tool kit or even a large pocket.

\$69.99; [realavid.com](http://realavid.com)



8

9

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### 1 | Elastic Precision

#### MP5 Rubber Band Machine Gun

Love the iconic Heckler & Koch MP5 but don't happen to have a spare \$50K for a real one?

Elastic Precision's all-wood variant fires rubber bands at a somewhat slower rate, but comes with 100 bands to beat the ammo shortage.

\$129.95; [elasticprecision.com](http://elasticprecision.com)

### 2 | Vaultek

#### LifePod Sandstone Special Edition

Vaultek has introduced a unique version of its popular, waterproof LifePod portable vault.

This one features a fabric lanyard, manual keys, crate foam, 4-foot steel cable and pluck foam for a custom fit. That is in addition to the built-in lock system, touch-activated keypad, dual side-compression latches and 9-volt battery power with USB backup.

\$139.99; [vaulteksafe.com](http://vaulteksafe.com)

### 3 | Howard Leight

#### Impact Sport Electronic Muff

Amplify what you need to hear while reducing loud sounds like gunfire to a hearing-safe level with these electronic earmuffs. The new Honor Collection sports finishes to honor America, our first responders and our military.

\$70; [howardleightshootingports.com](http://howardleightshootingports.com)

# Gifts

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\$139<sup>99</sup>



### 5 | XS Sights

#### XT12 DXS Offset Rifle Sights

For those who insist on having backup sights on all rifles, XS Sights' XT12 offset sights offer a 45-degree offset front and rear sights that use one Picatinny slot each and add only 5 ounces to your rifle.

\$137.99; [xssights.com](http://xssights.com)

### 6 | Lockdown

#### The Puck

It might look like a simple flattened cube, but The Puck is actually an advanced electronic security device that pairs with a smartphone to ensure you can always be aware of doors opening, temperature and humidity changes and even slight movement of the device.

\$109.99; [lockdown.com](http://lockdown.com)

### 4 | Warne Scope Mounts

#### Vapor MSR Mount

Warne's new Vapor line of scope mounts offers the company's legendary reliability and durability at a price most can afford.

Constructed of 6061 aluminum and available in a number of configurations, this mount is designed for AR-15-style eye-relief height.

\$94.99; [warnescopemounts.com](http://warnescopemounts.com)





## 7 | Wilson Combat

### Target Plate Scorable Silhouette

Made from 3/8-inch-thick AR500 armor-plate steel, this heavy-duty, rifle-rated target will withstand long-term impacts. Two circular scoring areas (a 7-inch body and 4-inch head zones) are laser cut to allow for easy tabulation, without the need for temporary paint rings. \$99.95; wilsoncombat.com

## 8 | Blue Force Gear

### Trauma NOW Medical Kit

Packed with basic first aid essentials and life-saving gear like a tourniquet, compression bandage and room to add more, the pack can attach to any range bag, backpack or bug-out bag to keep a solid first-aid kit handy. \$119.95; blueforcegear.com

## 9 | Choate Machine & Tool

### Night Manager

Looking to add a light or laser to your Mossberg 500 or Maverick 88? Choate Machine & Tool's Night Manager attaches to the end of the magazine tube and offers four positions to mount an included section of Picatinny rail. \$97.77; riflestock.com



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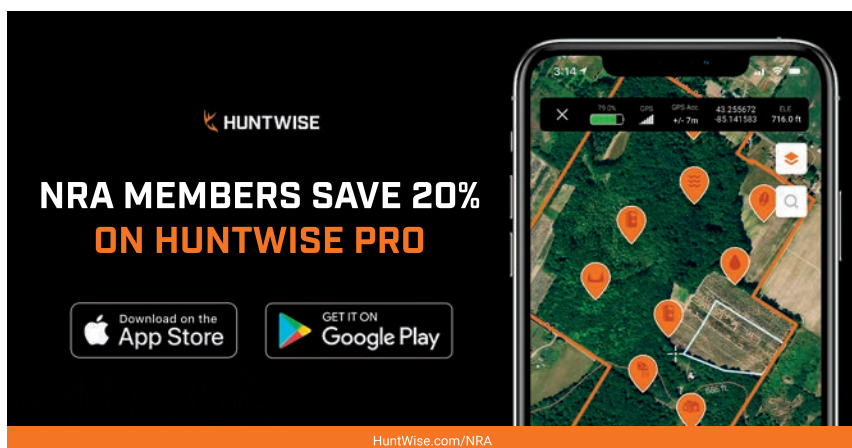
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### 2 | Leupold

#### Tracer FDE Sunglasses

Ballistic protection, multiple lenses that interchange quickly and easily and weather-resistant coating are all part of the Leupold Tracer protective eyewear system. The wraparound style offers safety on the range while polarized lenses guard against UV rays. \$234.99; [leupold.com](http://leupold.com)

### 3 | Skyline Toolworks

#### Woodman's Pal

A unique, multi-purpose tool for managing brush or clearing trails, the Woodman's Pal is invaluable for opening/maintaining paths and shooting lanes. The light, well-balanced, American-made tool should also have a place in your survival kit. It comes with a deluxe leather sheath, a reprint of the tool's original 1941 owner's manual and its own sharpening stone. \$175; [woodmanspal.com](http://woodmanspal.com)

# Gifts \$140 And Up

### 4 | SureFire

#### Stiletto Pro Flashlight

Offering up to 1,000 lumens, three power levels and two different activations options, the SureFire Stiletto Pro is small enough to fit in the palm of your hand, yet can light the way for up to 23.5 hours. \$229; [surefire.com](http://surefire.com)

### 5 | McMillan USA

#### Z-Series Stock

McMillan's universal inlet accommodates most Remington actions and barrel contours with no modification. An ergonomic grip and built-in thumb shelf foster optimal hand placement for added comfort and maximum trigger control, and this loaded stock includes a bipod rail, check piece and spacer system. \$700; [mcmillanusa.com](http://mcmillanusa.com)





## 6 | Nighthawk Custom

### Drop-In Trigger System (DTS)

Upgrade your 1911's trigger without costly gunsmith fees or leaving your home. The DTS boasts a monolithic design that simultaneously replaces your gun's existing hammer, hammer strut, sear, sear spring and disconnector, resulting in a crisp 3.5- to 3.75-pound pull. \$299.99; [nighthawkcustom.com](http://nighthawkcustom.com)

## 7 | Rival Arms

### Faction Series G19 Kit

With everything you need to upgrade your Gen4 Glock G19 apart from the serialized frame, the Faction Series kit includes a spiral-fluted, match-grade barrel, a slide cut for a Trijicon RMR or Docter optic along with lightening cuts and forward serrations, a flared mag well and a slide-finishing kit. All of the visible parts sport a distressed Cerakote finish. \$981.99; [rival-arms.com](http://rival-arms.com)

## 8 | Grey Man Tactical

### Vehicle Rifle Rack

Carrying gear inside your vehicle just got a lot simpler. Grey Man Tactical's Vehicle Rifle Rack is a heavy-duty, rigid-polymer panel that attaches to your car or truck seat and offers a nearly endless variety of ways to attach rifles, handguns, pouches and other gear to keep handy and safely stowed. \$250; [greymantactical.com](http://greymantactical.com)

## 9 | Garmin

### Tactix Delta Solar Edition with Ballistics

Possibly the smartest of smartwatches, the new Tactix Delta from Garmin offers 24-day battery life with solar assistance, GPS coordinates and topographical maps, night-vision compatibilities and even a ballistic calculator for the long-range enthusiast on your list. \$1,399.99; [garmin.com](http://garmin.com)





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# One To Rule





# Drill Them All

What's the best drill to prepare you to shoot defensively? That could be argued endlessly. Instead, let's embrace the top drills of the top trainers.

**T**here are hundreds of self-defense pistol drills from which to choose, and there seems to be a constant search for the new best thing. Too often, those looking for training drills look for fun activities as opposed to drills that will help them improve their ability to win a fight. A good defensive-handgun drill will allow you to isolate different areas you're not performing well; particularly things that are essential to defending yourself with a handgun.

Of course, the problem with the 15 million results you'll get with a web search for self-defense handgun training drills is picking the one that will help you the most as opposed to the one that is the most fun to shoot. As I've said before, financially, most of us are somewhere between a single box of ammo and a full-time bodyguard when it comes to personal protection. Whatever drills we select should give us the best return for our investment. Because, let's face it, the two things most of us are very short on are time and/or money.

I reached out to five noted instructors and simply asked them, "If you could only train on one defensive-handgun drill, what would it be?" Ideally, you'll have recourse to add all of these drills to your toolbox. If not, pick the one you think will help you best prepare to save your life.

Story and Illustrations by Richard Mann

## Pick a Spot

**Il Ling New** | Gunsite Academy

There are several reasons why Il Ling New is an outstanding firearm instructor, but the most prominent is she has an effective way of communicating information, regardless of the student. In other words, she can teach. Which, by the way, is the most critical skill an instructor can have. New has been an instructor at Gunsite Academy for many years. When I asked her for one drill, she said this is what she's been working with, and it's a carry-over from when she was doing a lot of clay shooting with her shotguns. She said, "It's all about eye/brain/front sight focus."

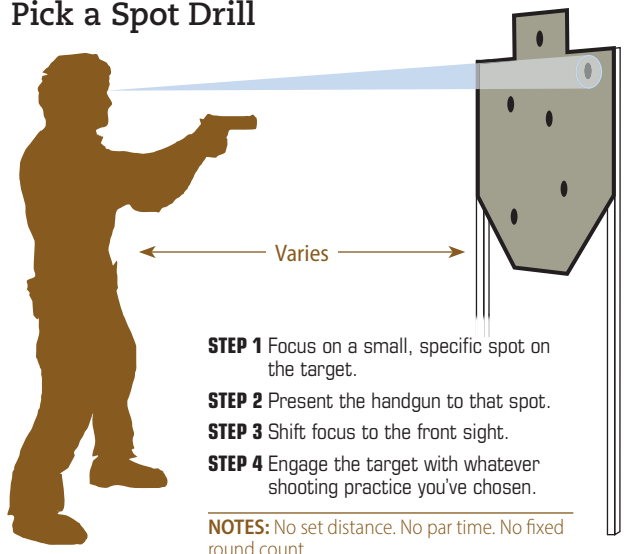


IL LING NEW

For live-fire, New suggests starting with your eyes closed or with a soft focus on the target. Next, quickly pick a small spot on the target—sometimes New will put small stickers on the target for this purpose—then, as you're presenting the gun to that small spot, quickly focus-in on a smaller aiming point on the small spot. When the sights arrive, switch focus to the front sight and engage with whatever firing practice you've chosen.

According to New, "The two most important elements in this exercise are forcing your brain and eyes to process an unexpected target area and choose its aiming point, and efficiently doing all of this as quickly as possible. The overall objective is to train the brain and eyes to see in a way that's more efficient and advantageous to defensive shooting."

## Pick a Spot Drill



## Wizard Drill with Total Accuracy

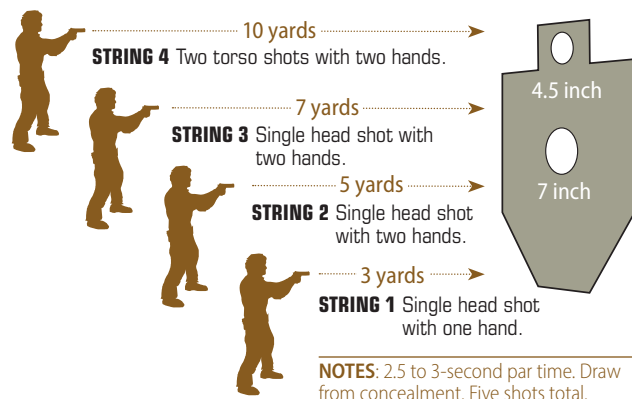
Ken Hackathorn | Aztec Training Services

Ken Hackathorn served as a U.S. Army Special Forces small-arms instructor, a Gunsite instructor and an NRA police firearms instructor. He's been training federal, state and local law enforcement agencies for more than 25 years. When I was still in uniform, Hackathorn was hired to provide designated-marksman training to my department. According to him, "People fight with handguns at ranges of 10 yards and less in the real world. You are not robbed, assaulted or mugged at 25 yards. The skill needed to make the handgun effective requires absolute accuracy. Shot placement is the only thing that works every time."

You would expect a drill from Ken Hackathorn to be tough, and this one is. Using an IDPA or USPSA target, draw a 4.5-inch circle in the head box and a 7-inch circle in the chest area. For the first string, attempt a head shot at 3 yards with one hand. For the second string, try another head shot from 5 yards with both hands, and repeat at 7 yards for the third string. For the final string, draw and attempt two hits in the chest. Par time for each string is between 2.5 and 3 seconds, depending on shooter skill. Overtime shots mean you failed.

If all three shots fired at the head zone are in the circle, you get five points per hit. On the 10-yard string, if both shots are in the circle, you get 10 points. However, if any rounds are out of circles, your score for the drill is the value of the lowest scored hit. For example, you drop one point on the chest-zone target—meaning you have a four-point hit—your score is four points. Miss a head shot, and your score is zero. Hackathorn says to shoot cold "because the score from a cold drill is the only one that counts."

## Wizard Drill with Total Accuracy



KEN HACKATHORN

## Cover Drill

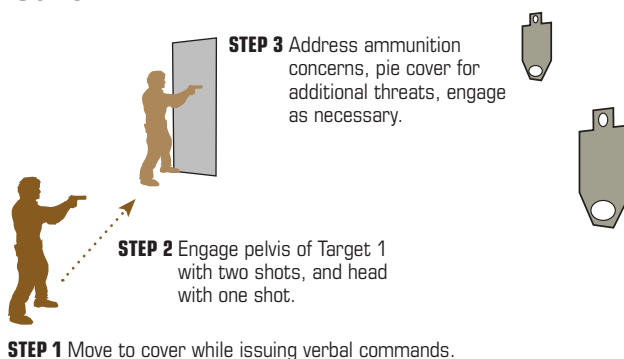
Tiger McKee | Shootrite Firearms Academy

Shootrite Firearms Academy was founded by Tiger McKee, who trained with Jeff Cooper and has served as an adjunct instructor under Clint Smith at Thunder Ranch. McKee has assisted various agencies with the design of their own



TIGER MCKEE

## Cover Drill



**NOTES:** Target distance varies. No time limit. Movement required. Verbal commands required.

customized training programs and worked as an adjunct instructor for the FBI. When I asked McKee about a single drill, he said, "I like to reinforce the fundamentals; move, communicate, use cover, shoot as needed and think. McKee did not have a specific name for this drill, so I'll call it the Cover Drill.

It starts by moving to cover while issuing verbal commands and drawing your pistol. The threat isn't complying, so you engage two zones on the target. McKee recommends the pelvis—to take away mobility—and a head shot for immediate incapacitation. With large and small target areas, this drill also tests marksmanship. After getting accurate hits the shooter scans from behind cover, conducts a tactical reload (if needed) and then "slices the pie" around cover to check for additional threats. Also, a target at a greater distance can be added to create an additional threat.

McKee imposes no time limit. He explains, "The shooter's job is to perform at a speed that guarantees no mistakes, which is true for training, practicing and fighting. Don't let external circumstances dictate your speed. Remember, the only thing you can control is what you do and the speed at which you do it. Speed—efficiency—comes with repetition."



## Forty-Five Drill

Richard Mann

Though I spent much of my professional life training citizens, cops and soldiers to shoot, I'm not in the same league as the trainers here, but, bear with me. Years ago, I realized I needed a simple, standardized drill for testing handguns. What I came up with also seemed quite practical for personal protection-training, and I dubbed it the Forty-Five Drill because it's made up of four elements of five.

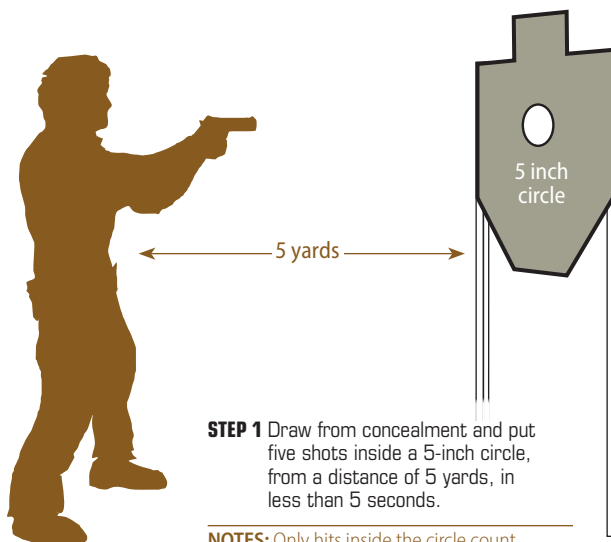
With the handgun concealed, on signal attempt to put five shots in a 5-inch circle, at 5 yards, in less than 5 seconds. Essentially, it simulates an adrenalin dump, something that commonly happens in real-world gunfights. Each hit is worth four points. Your score is the total points



SABASTIAN "BAT" MANN

minus the time. Fifteen is qualifying, 15.5 is Marksman, 16.5 Expert and 17.5 Master. If you can score 18 or more, you're probably not human. Scoring aside, the goal is to get accurate hits, quickly.

## Forty-Five Drill



**STEP 1** Draw from concealment and put five shots inside a 5-inch circle, from a distance of 5 yards, in less than 5 seconds.

**NOTES:** Only hits inside the circle count.

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## Comprehensive Handgun Proficiency

Bill Wilson | Wilson Combat

Few people have fired more handgun rounds than Bill Wilson. Not only is he one of the most talented 1911 pistolsmiths of all time, he had a long competitive career, as well. Though Wilson does not do a lot of formal training, he does some, including helping train the law enforcement officers near his Circle WC Ranch in Texas.

"This drill is designed to test as many basic defensive-shooting skills as possible with a quick-to-administer single string-of-fire and minimal ammunition," explained Wilson. It requires you to draw the handgun and deliver multiple shots, all while transitioning between targets. It also requires movement, target acquisition after movement and reloading.

Start the drill holstered and magazine loaded with eight to 13 rounds. At the signal, engage Target 1 with three shots and Target 2 with three shots. Then, move to Position 2 while engaging Target 3 with two shots while moving. Finally, from Position 2, engage Target 1 and Target 2 with two shots to the body and one shot to the head.

When your gun hits slide lock conduct an emergency reload. Wilson suggests using standard IDPA targets, scored raw time plus 1 second for every point down. Targets are scored +0 for A Zone, +1 for B Zone, +3 for C Zone. Misses add 3 seconds each. If you can complete the drill in less than 18 seconds (with penalties), Wilson says that rates as an Advanced shooter. Eighteen to 29 seconds would be considered Proficient, and more than 29 seconds, Novice.



BILL WILSON

## The Placement Test

SGM (ret.) John "Shrek" McPhee | S.O.B. Tactical

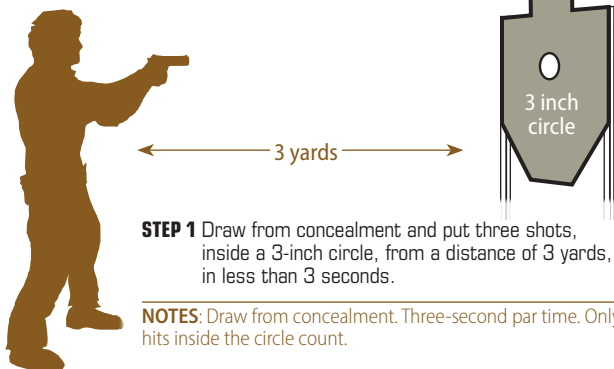
John McPhee served in U.S. Army Special Operations for more than 20 years. Better known by his call sign "Shrek," McPhee created the S.O.B. (Sheriff of Baghdad) brand to provide his knowledge to civilians, law-enforcement

officers and soldiers around the world. Through S.O.B. Tactical he offers hands-on training, but also very forward-thinking, online video coaching and home-defense plans, as well as dry- and live-fire instruction.



CHRIS LANG

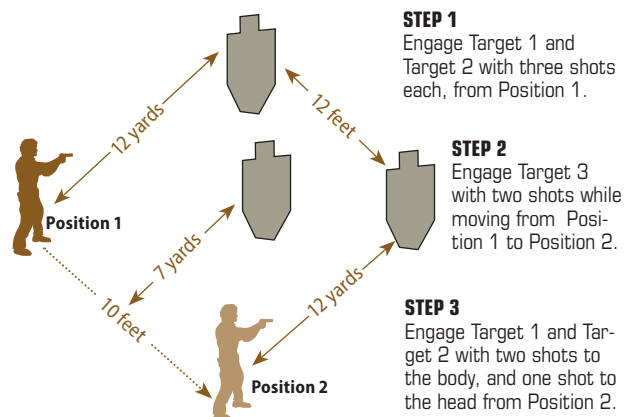
## The Placement Test



I don't know how much better one training drill can be than another, but I think I saved the most practical for last. When I called McPhee to ask him about his one drill, I prefaced my question with, "I know a lot of instructors think you cannot break defensive-handgun training down into one drill." His reply kind of shocked me and at the same time validated my own thinking. McPhee said, "That's one of the most common-sense questions I've had in a long time." McPhee calls his one drill the "Placement Test," and it's part of a more comprehensive evaluation he performs with all his students.

It's a very simple to conduct, but not so simple to pass, drill. From the holster, you attempt to put three shots into a 3-inch circle, at 3 yards, in 3 seconds. According to McPhee, if you can do this, you can shoot; meaning you have a solid grasp of the fundamentals. It's also a very real-world because, as McPhee's research into self-defense shootings has shown, in a generic way this drill closely replicates real-life self defense situations. The practicality of this drill—the common sense behind it—is that you should train the way you expect to fight.

## Comprehensive Handgun Proficiency



NOTES: Start with between eight to 14 rounds in gun. Movement required






Training at a reputable school with an NRA-certified instructor is the best way to acquire skills, but practice is how you retain those skills and maximize the value of that training.

## Training, Practice and Drills

Training in the manner you will fight, or at least the way you think will replicate how you may have to fight, is probably the single-best advice offered to anyone who carries a handgun for personal protection. This is especially true for those with limited resources. It goes back to the old adage, train to the test. Why would you train to do something you will very likely never have to do? As they also say, when under stress you will default to your training, not rise to the occasion.

Remember, training is what you do to learn something you do not know. Practice is something you do with the goal of improving your performance. Drills are tools we use for both. Regarding all three, for the defensive handgunner the question that should be asked is: Will the conduct of this or that drill help me be better prepared to use a handgun to save my life? That is, after all, the ultimate goal. 



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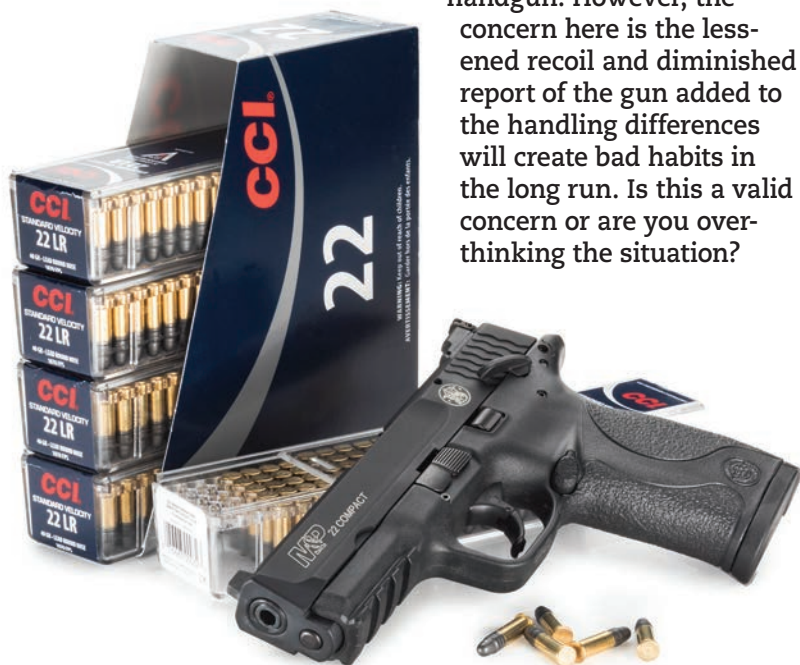
# Budget-Conscious Practice Alternatives

By George Harris

## The Problem

Due to the current state of affairs, you are out of work and have plenty of time to practice with your handguns to maintain and improve your handling and marksmanship skills. However, there are two problems with this scenario. The first is you can only dry fire so much until it becomes almost pointless because of the lack of feedback from a target. The second is your budget will not allow the purchase of the amount of centerfire ammunition needed to conduct meaningful practice sessions.

The alternative is to practice with a less-expensive .22 LR handgun. However, the concern here is the lessened recoil and diminished report of the gun added to the handling differences will create bad habits in the long run. Is this a valid concern or are you overthinking the situation?



## The Solution

Skill sustainment with .22 LR is a good alternative to maintain proficiency with gun handling and marksmanship in general. There are several things to keep in mind that should enhance the experience further than just shooting some targets.

Even though the noise and recoil will be different, the operation of either a semi-automatic handgun or a revolver should closely mimic that of your centerfire gun. As important as anything are the trigger and sights on the practice gun. They both should closely replicate that with which you have become accustomed on your centerfire pistol. This makes what you see and feel in shooting one or more shots no different regardless of caliber.

Many manufacturers make and offer .22 LR conversion kits for their centerfire pistols. They usually consist of a slide assembly and magazine

that can be installed on the fieldstripped centerfire frame in a matter of minutes to convert the pistol from one chambering to another. This maintains the same trigger pull and provides at least similar (if not identical) sights from one slide to the other.


There will be some weight differences, since the .22 LR slides and ammunition weigh less than the centerfire components. There may be some handling differences as well since many of the rimfire conversion kits will not lock the slide rearward after the last round is fired the way the centerfires do.

There may also be some other subtle differences, but these and other inconsistencies can be overcome by converting the pistol back to the centerfire mode and shooting a drill or two before leaving the range. This will leave the proper memory of how the gun sounds, feels during recoil and handles in its normal configuration.

Some manufacturers make complete pistols in .22 LR similar to their centerfire siblings that handle and operate for all intents and purposes the same. The Glock G44 and Smith & Wesson M&P22 are but two examples of .22 LR pistols that closely parallel their centerfire counterparts. Like the conversion kits mentioned earlier, these pistols are lighter and generate less recoil (and less noise) than the centerfire versions. If there is any concern about losing familiarity with the characteristics of the centerfire gun, running a drill or two as suggested above with the full-bore variants should keep operational perspective with the centerfire.

Most revolver manufacturers typically offer .22 LR-chambered revolvers in the same frame size as their centerfire models used for concealed carry or defensive purposes. As with the semi-automatic pistols, there are usually slight differences from their centerfire equivalents, but the handling and overall features are nearly identical.

Again, finalizing a practice session with the centerfire gun is a good way to stay familiar with its shooting and handling characteristics.

To maximize the training value of practicing with the .22 LR handgun, the product selected should be compatible with the holster and other gear used for the centerfire. This will allow maintaining and improving previously learned skills without breaking your budget. 



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# The M2 Carbine

Designed in the closing days of World War II, the M1 Garand's little brother had a full-automatic option.

**F**eb. 4, 1945, Manila. Technician 5th Grade Paul C. Nola had volunteered to go to the city to join the battle, and he did so for a very specific reason. Even as the war was drawing to a close, the Army was continuing to introduce new weapons, and CPL Nola was there to evaluate one in combat. It was a modification of the M1 Carbine designated T4 during design development, and it allowed for fire in both semi-automatic and full-automatic modes. On Oct. 26, 1944, it became the "U.S. Carbine, Caliber .30, M2." By January 1945, the M2 Carbine had been tested in combat in the European theater, but not in the Pacific. As fate would have it, Paul Nola would have a chance to use the new, selective-fire carbine on February 4 in Manila, because there was an urgent need to deliver medical supplies to Allied personnel

isolated at the Santo Tomas Internment Camp. The 1st Cavalry Division had pushed a column through to the camp the day before, but had not been able to secure its route of advance through the devastated city streets. When enemy forces counterattacked overnight, the 1st Cav troops were trapped at Santo Thomas. With the clock ticking, a call for volunteers went out first thing that morning and a group of men stepped forward to fight their way through to the camp. The mission was almost

guaranteed to make contact with Japanese forces, and that was exactly what Paul Nola was there looking for, so he volunteered and grabbed his M2.

During the infiltration toward the camp 2 hours later, a car suddenly roared down Rizal Street toward the relief force. Since this constituted its first contact with the enemy, everyone agreed to hold their fire and let Nola take on the vehicle. Using a 30-round magazine, he opened fire with his M2 Carbine from a range of 60 yards and quickly neutralized the car with eight short bursts. Soon thereafter, he used it again to take out a sniper firing from the roof of a nearby three-story building. Then, a small group of Japanese troops opened up on the relief force and Nola used his M2 to lay down effective suppressing fire while other troops moved into position to bring their weapons into the fight. During this engagement, Nola fired three 30-round magazines, one after the other. Although the T4 was smoking after dumping 90 rounds, it nevertheless functioned perfectly. By the time the volunteers reached Santo Tomas with the urgently needed medical supplies that afternoon, the new selective-fire M2 Carbine had turned in "an exemplary performance" and aroused "enthusiastic and favorable comments from all observers."

The M2 Carbine's origin dates back to October 1940 when the Army first issued a specification for a "self-loading type" rifle "capable of being fired either semiautomatically" or "automatically" to replace the M1911A1 .45-caliber pistol. By the time the Army adopted the gun a year later, it was the



A recess in the M2's stock was intended to store an oiler • Like its larger-caliber sibling, the M2 Carbine boasts a Garand-style rotating bolt • This variant of the M2 sports a removable flash hider • Originally fielded at the end of World War II, the M2 saw action in the Korean War and beyond, into the 1970s.



U.S. ARMY



semi-auto-only M1 Carbine that famously did so much fighting during the World War II. So in a way, the development of a selective-fire conversion of the M1 was a return to what the Army had wanted from the start. Getting there came down to a pair of engineers at the Inland Division of General Motors who designed a kit consisting of just nine components, some of which were entirely new, and some of which were simply modifications of existing M1 Carbine parts. Once installed, these parts modified the semi-auto-only M1 into the selective-fire M2. The process of creating this modification was carried out with industrial design in mind, such that mass production of the gun could be established with a minimum interruption to the already-existing workflow output. A critical aspect of that success was that the new design did not require modification of the M1's receiver, so existing semi-automatic carbines could be easily converted while the assembly line of new guns barely slowed down.

By April 1945, Inland had completed the changeover to M2 production, but the gun did not meaningfully write itself into the history of the conflict that ended later that year. While it fought battles in both the ETO and the PTO, the M2 Carbine story achieved greater substance during the Korean War when it emerged as one of the primary guns arming United Nations troops. It served throughout the war in Vietnam with U.S. and ARVN units, but that conflict marked the end of its era. The introduction of the AR-15/M16 pushed the M2 Carbine toward the threshold of obsolescence, but still this product of wartime innovative competence had a military-service life that extended into the 1970s. Although it never did manage to replace the pistol, it did manage to write itself into American military history, and Paul C. Nola wrote one of the earliest chapters of that unique history in the streets of Manila. 🇵🇭

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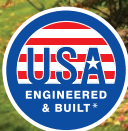


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# TISAS 1911 U.S. Army 45

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**T**he 1911 pistol is one of the most copied handguns in history. Manufacturers worldwide have produced guns for military and civilian use that leave the factory “ready to fight.” In addition, the 1911 design has, and continues to be, the preferred platform for both manufacturers and custom gunsmiths in their attempts to elevate a pistol into a work of art. Most of these guns, though considered by some as too beautiful to shoot, can still give good performance in a



## SPECIFICATIONS

<b>Manufacturer:</b> TISAS	<b>Sights:</b> Fixed GI-style, plain front, dovetailed rear
<b>Importer:</b> SDS Imports; (865) 604-6894, <a href="http://sdsimports.com">sdsimports.com</a>	<b>Trigger Pull Weight:</b> 5 pounds, 3 ounces
<b>Action Type:</b> Recoil-operated, semi-automatic	<b>Length:</b> 8.6 inches
<b>Caliber:</b> .45 ACP	<b>Width:</b> 1.37 inches
<b>Capacity:</b> 8+1 rounds	<b>Height:</b> 5.31 inches
<b>Grips:</b> Brown polymer	<b>Weight:</b> 38.4 ounces
<b>Frame:</b> Steel	<b>Accessories:</b> One 8-round magazine, manual
<b>Barrel Length:</b> 5 inches	<b>MSRP:</b> \$360

## SHOOTING RESULTS

Load	Velocity	Smallest	Group Size Largest	Average
Double Tap 160-grain Barnes CHP	1,164	2.4	3.9	3.3
Hornady 185-grain FTX	949	2.5	3.4	2.9
Federal Premium 230-grain JHP	844	2.5	4.5	3.7

Velocity measured at 8 feet from the muzzle for 10 consecutive shots with a Shooting Chrony chronograph. Temperature 57 degrees Fahrenheit. Accuracy measured in inches for five consecutive, five-shot groups fired at 25 yards from a sandbag rest.

## ON TARGET

Near-identical copy of M1911A1 at an entry-level price

## OFF TARGET

Sights difficult to see in low light

fight. While I’m an avid fan of beautified 1911s, the latest one to catch my eye was a brand-new, plain-Jane copy of the old M1911A1 made by the Turkish company TISAS. It was sitting in an Arizona gun store priced at \$360.

It’s been a long time since I handled an A1 model, but the gun looked right. I quickly noticed details such as an arched mainspring housing with an integral lanyard ring, a spurred hammer, a narrow-tanged/mil-spec grip safety, a small thumb safety, a short trigger, a barrel bushing with recoil spring plug, polymer grip panels and vestigial fixed sights.. All metal parts had the same dull matte-black finish, including the single magazine furnished with the gun. On the left side of the slide it read “MODEL 1911A1 U.S. ARMY.” On the frame just below that were the words “ZIG M1911 TISAS-Turkey.”

After handling the pistol for a while, I identified a couple of areas of concern and a couple that gained my instant approval. Like original A1s, the small sights were difficult to see in dim light or against a dark background, but were quite usable in normal ambient light or highlighted against a light-colored target. I can’t prove it absent an original gun for comparison, but it seemed the TISAS A1 had a slightly larger front-sight blade and rear notch. However, at my age, it is almost mandatory that I wear prescription glasses, particularly in low-light conditions. My memory was telling me that in the past, old-style skinny grip safeties had resulted in some minor bloodshed (mine) caused by slide bite. Modern 1911s I’ve handled all seem to feature a longer trigger. Unfortunately, I have a rather short index finger on my shooting hand, indicating to me that the shooting gods must surely have a sense of humor. I appreciated the short TISAS trigger even before hitting the range as it allowed me to place my finger properly on the trigger rather than being limited by my reach.

The TISAS has a small thumb safety on the left side of the gun only; no extended ambidextrous levers to worry about. I had no trouble disengaging it as a normal part of the drawstroke. In fact, the smaller lever allowed a lower thumb position when shooting, a condition that helps ensure that the grip safety is fully depressed. I’m also a fan of barrel bushings and recoil-spring plugs as opposed to recoil springs with guide rods. Disassembly and maintenance is simple, a



quality I admire in any gun upon which you might bet your life.

Range results are shown below. Of much greater importance is that there were absolutely no malfunctions whatsoever. Every round of all factory ammunition cycled and fired. In addition to the three factory loads tested for velocity and accuracy, I used some leftover ammo from previous projects to engage 8-inch falling plates at 50 yards. Shooting at the steel plates was offhand, and again, the gun performed with 100-percent reliability. I'm not claiming I hit a plate with every shot but, by the end of the session, all 10 plates were down.

Only the factory-furnished magazine was used throughout the shooting sessions. Obviously, you'll want more than one magazine, and I will be trying some magazines from other manufacturers, but this was a test about TISAS-furnished hardware. I didn't experience any problems seating the plain-base magazine, nor were there any issues with it dropping clear of the gun when the release

button was pushed. That said, while I have no problem starting the day with a steel-plate magazine that I carefully inserted in the gun in the stress-free environment of my home, extra magazines will feature bumper pads to ensure reloading under stress will be accomplished with one slap.

I did suffer some slide bite in the web of my shooting hand early in the first shooting session. A piece of duct tape over the affected area eliminated the distraction. If you were attending a long-term shooting session like a Gunsite Academy class (which I'm planning to do with the TISAS this summer) where you typically consume 500 to 1,000 rounds during the week, you could "tape up" at the beginning of each day's shooting or spend the money on a beavertail grip safety. I'll be getting some extra magazines and applying the tape for Gunsite. Come evenings, I'll remove the tape and carry the TISAS concealed when venturing off site for other social activities. The M1911 A1 has been winning fights for almost 110 years, and it don't need no stinking tape!



Though minimalist by today's standards, the TISAS A1's fixed sights sport a mil-spec design that is capable of decent accuracy. The bottom of the A1's mainspring housing features an integral lanyard loop. Another mil-spec feature, a short trigger is welcome for those with stubby fingers. Both the hammer spur and thumb-safety lever contain non-slip knurling. The combination of an arched mainspring housing and mil-spec grip-safety tang, though historically accurate, can result in slide bite.



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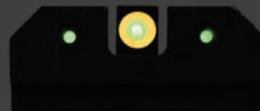
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# Springfield Armory Saint B5 Systems Rifle

Springfield Armory's latest Saint sports new furniture from B5 Systems.

**T**he wonderful thing about the AR-15 is its popularity has driven manufacturers to offer endless variations. Consumers now have a boundless variety of AR configurations from which to choose, because the companies that make them are partnering with other companies that manufacture aftermarket accessories. That's exactly what Springfield Armory did, teaming up with B5 Systems to offer four new B5 Systems-equipped Saint rifles and pistols.

The Springfield Armory Saint M-Lok AR-15 Rifle B5 Systems I received for testing comes equipped with a B5 Systems Bravo stock, M-Lok handguard, Type 23 pistol grip and polymer trigger guard. That equates to about \$120 worth of B5 Systems aftermarket accessories already installed. By comparison, the standard Saint M-Lok AR-15 rifle without B5 Systems gear retails for the same price.

Aside from the addition of the B5 System components, for the most part the rifle is representative of an entry-level AR-15. A mid-length gas system and Melonite-coated bolt is standard. It also has a forward assist, A2-style front sight, bayonet lug, forward sling swivel and an A2-style flash hider. The upper receiver has a 13-slot Picatinny rail and the rifle is equipped with Springfield Armory's well-made, low-profile, double-aperture, flip-up rear sight. As an aside, the factory sights were near-perfectly zeroed at 50 yards right out of the box.

I used a Meopta 1-6x24 mm scope in a Nightforce base for accuracy testing to get the most out of the rifle at 100 yards and beyond. Based on the testing of countless AR-15-style rifles from a host of manufacturers with prices ranging from as little as \$500 to six times that much, this level of precision is slightly better than average. With a better trigger, I suspect the average group size could have shrunk.



## SPECIFICATIONS

**Manufacturer:** Springfield Armory;  
(800) 680-6866,  
springfield-armory.com

**Action Type:** Direct-gas-impingement,  
semi-automatic

**Caliber:** 5.56 NATO

**Capacity:** 30 rounds

**Barrel Length:** 16 inches

**Rifling:** 6 grooves; 1:8-inch, RH twist

**Sights:** A2-style front; flip-up rear sight

**Trigger Pull Weight:** 5 pounds, 8 ounces

**Stock:** B5 Systems Bravo

**Length:** 33 inches (collapsed);  
36.25 inches (extended)

**Weight:** 6 pounds, 4 ounces

**Accessories:** One 30-round Magpul PMag  
Gen M3 magazine, soft case, manual

**MSRP:** \$943

## SHOOTING RESULTS

Load	Velocity	Smallest	Group Size Largest	Average
Hornady Gunner 55-grain HP	2,911	.87	1.29	1.16
Speer Gold Dot 62-grain Gold Dot SP	2,776	1.29	2.11	1.87
SIG Sauer 77-grain OTM Match	2,476	1.56	2.01	1.62

Velocity measured in fps 10 feet from the muzzle for 10 consecutive shots with a Caldwell G2 chronograph. Temperature: 82 degrees Fahrenheit. Accuracy measured in inches for five consecutive, five-shot groups at 100 yards from a benchrest.

## ON TARGET

Accurate, smooth and reliable

## OFF TARGET

Sharp trigger guard



A standard, A2-style front sight and a flip-up rear sight from Springfield Armory come standard. Slim and adorned with multitudinous M-Lok slots for mounting accessories, the B5 Systems handguard proved to be quite comfortable on the range. Offering six positions and a generous, comfortable buttpad, the B5 Systems



Why? The factory trigger is a nickel-boron coated, GI-style trigger. It released the sear after 5.5 pounds of pressure, which is not terribly bad for an entry-level AR-15. However, there was noticeable take-up, but it was surprisingly smooth and did not exhibit any of the glitchy creepiness present in some AR triggers. An aftermarket trigger is an easy fix, but considering hits on a 12-inch plate from standing at 200 yards were commonplace, the factory trigger certainly suffices. This is especially true if the rifle was to be employed in the self-defense/survival context for which it is best suited.

As for the B5 System accessories, the Bravo stock was comfortable and positioned the eye perfectly behind the flip-up sights and the scope's centerline, mounted 1.5 inches above

the flat of the Picatinny rail. The handguard was just as comfortable, mostly because of its thin profile; it measured only 1.76 inches wide. With 24 M-Lok slots, the ability to mount multiple accessories in many positions exists. The B5 Systems Type 23 pistol grip is heavily and appreciably stippled, which makes for a solid purchase on the gun. However, the stippling is rough enough that for a full day on the range—like you might experience during a carbine class—a glove would probably be advisable.

The only real negative feature of the Saint B5 Systems AR-15 rifle was the polymer trigger guard. The arch in the guard makes for plenty of room around the trigger, but where the guard joins the lower receiver, just forward of the grip, it has a sharp edge on both sides. These sharp points are perfectly positioned to chew into the first knuckle of the middle finger of the shooting hand. Of course, a different hand might find these sharp edges of no consequence at all.

With the fixed A2-style front sight, the Saint B5 Systems AR-15 Rifle is probably best paired with a co-witnessing, non-magnifying optic. In the sunlight, with the Meopta rifle-scope set to 6X, there was some distracting reflection off the front-sight frame. If you're looking for a rifle better suited to a magnified optic, the Saint Victor B5 Systems Rifle, which comes with a pinned, low-profile gas block and a folding front sight, would probably be a better option.

The most impressive thing about the Saint B5 Systems AR-15 Rifle was how well it digested any ammunition shoved in the magazine. In addition to the loads tested for precision, several 30-round magazines containing a hodgepodge of ammunition were pushed through the rifle without a stoppage. Also, for an indescribable reason, recoil—which with an AR-15 in 5.56 NATO is not much to start with anyway—seemed mild. The Springfield Armory Saint B5 Systems AR-15 is a reliable, good-shooting, solid rifle well outfitted for the price. 🌿



stock compliments the Saint's Spartan look • While the A2 birdcage is rudimentary, it can be swapped for other muzzle devices, if desired • The trigger is solid for a factory model, but the trigger guard is too sharp for those with larger hands.

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# Glimpse Of Toy Gun In Student's Home Prompts School Officials To Call The Police

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**T**here is little “normal” about how students are returning to school this year, as online “distance learning” has replaced in-person instruction in many American localities. Yet at least one thing hasn’t changed: Public school officials remain as determined as ever to harry and persecute any student who shows even the mildest interest in firearms, real or imagined.

An article in *The Washington Post* indicates the trouble arose on Aug. 27, the third day of distance learning at Grand Mountain School near Colorado Springs, Colo. Seventh grader Isaiah Elliott—whose parents say has been diagnosed with attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder—became distracted during an online art class and briefly handled a toy pistol, moving it from one end of the couch to the other. The gun “was obviously a toy,” according to the article, marked “Zombie Hunter” and equipped with a neon green slide and a protruding orange tip.

The art teacher, who acknowledged thinking the gun was fake, nevertheless relayed the incident to the school’s vice-principal. She also emailed Isaiah’s mother, Dani Elliott, who assured the teacher that the gun was a toy and that she would make sure Isaiah understood he could not have it out during class.



Isaiah Elliott’s Zombie Hunter toy gun is a 1911-style spring airsoft gun from Umarex USA.

Courtesy Umarex USA

Nevertheless, unbeknownst to Isaiah’s parents, the vice principal had already involved the police. Dani Elliott was at work when she received the shocking news that officers were en route to her house to investigate her son’s possible possession of a firearm during a school activity.

A police report of the incident obtained by local media indicated that an officer reviewed a tape of the online class and responded to the Elliotts’ residence, where he contacted Isaiah’s father, Curtis Elliott. Mr. Elliott confirmed the gun was a toy and allowed the officer to examine it for verification. Nevertheless, the police officer went on to admonish Isaiah that this was a serious matter and that he could face criminal charges if it happened again.

Dani Elliott told the *Post* the experience was traumatizing for the family and left



## HAVING THE POLICE THREATEN TO PRESS CHARGES AGAINST HIM ... IS INSANE.

Isaiah himself in tears, fearful he could be taken away to jail. According to the *Post* article, she believed "calling the police actually put Isaiah's life at risk." Isaiah's father agreed, telling Fox News: "He was just in tears. He was scared. We all were scared. I literally was scared for his life."

Isaiah's parents, who work for the military, were also upset that the class had been recorded without the knowledge or permission of the students' parents, a circumstance the school attributed to its personnel having to familiarize themselves with the new digital platform used for distance learning. "It is not our current practice to record classes at this time," the school stated. "Parents will be notified if that changes."

The Elliotts shared their concerns the day after the incident in a meeting with a district superintendent, as well as the school's principal and vice-principal. Nevertheless, the school went ahead with documenting the incident in Isaiah's official record and imposing a five-day suspension. "Safety will always be number one for our students and staff," the school insisted in a statement, denying that racism or discrimination had any part in its decision-making.

The Elliotts, however, remain unconvinced. "For them to go as extreme as suspending him for five days, sending the police out, having the police threaten to press charges against him because they want to compare the virtual environment to the actual in-school environment is insane," Isaiah's mother told Fox News. She added, "If her main concern was his safety, a two-minute phone call to me or my husband could easily have alleviated this whole situation to where I told them it was fake."

The *Post* report noted the Elliotts have removed Isaiah from Ground Mountain School and have him on the waiting list for a charter school they hope will be able to better respond to his needs as a child with ADHD.

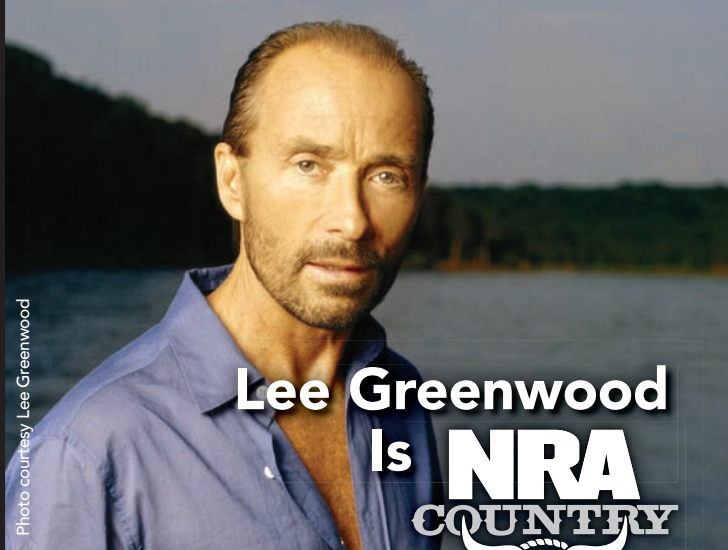
Isaiah, unfortunately, is not alone in being on the receiving end of a school's heavy-handed overreaction to a student's possession of a toy gun in the child's own residence. We recently reported on a similar incident from the Cumberland Valley School District in Pennsylvania.

The practice of SWATting—or deceiving police into responding to someone's home based on a false report of a life-threatening emergency—is a crime in many jurisdictions, and for good reason. Police operating on vague or incomplete reports of a weapon could easily misinterpret a situation, with potentially lethal consequences for those on the scene.

With the advent of mass online schooling, the prying eyes of local bureaucrats now have an unprecedented glimpse into the private abodes of students and their families. Hopefully it will not take someone getting hurt for these same officials to put aside their own biases and politics in interpreting and reacting to the various types of lawful possessions Americans keep in their homes. 🌀

## IN MEMORY NRA-ILA CONTRIBUTIONS August 1 - 31, 2020

**Jerry B. Abbott**, Troutville, VA (from: Marvin Willis); **Alison Avery**, Spokane, WA (from: Kathy Jo Avery); **Doug Lynn**, Reno, NV (from: Sean Duffy); **Ronald Lee Thompson**, Lyndon, KS (from: Marilyn Hansen); **Charles M. Aiken**, Putney, VT (from: Margaret Aiken); **Farren Williams** (from: Modesto Rifle Club)



**C**ountry star Lee Greenwood, often referred to as "America's Patriot," recently said, "I'm proud to be an American and I believe in God, family and our country. I also believe in the Second Amendment and I'm proud that the American flag still stands for freedom." In this day and age, it's refreshing to hear an entertainer and public figure who isn't afraid to make his beliefs known. Greenwood, a Life Member, has not only performed for NRA members at Annual Meetings but also for eight Presidents of the United States. He's a music icon who has traveled the country, from sea to shining sea, delighting audiences with multiple hits including his generational smash, "God Bless the USA." NRA Country's Vanessa Shahidi took a moment to ask Greenwood a few questions.

**VS: What makes the USA the greatest country on Earth?**

**LG:** We are unparalleled in our freedom. Our military is the best in the world and our lifestyle reflects our ease to travel. The USA is a remarkable place.

**VS: Who taught you how to about firearms?**

**LG:** I learned to shoot as a pre-teen with help from my grandfather. It was safety first, then learning to shoot with a rifle at gauge distance. I didn't start shooting with a shotgun until my wife and I began shooting together when we were at my theater in east Tennessee. We joined a gun club in the Great Smoky Mountains and all in all, we love the sport.

**VS: What is one of your more memorable experiences shooting?**

**LG:** I participated in the Charlton Heston shoot in Los Angeles. We both shot well and were on the winning teams. Louise Mandrell also had a celebrity shoot here in Nashville. Those were both a lot of fun.

**VS: What can fans expect from you in 2021?**

**LG:** I'm in the studio finishing a 20-song all-original CD for release next year. We're focused now on 2021 as we are preparing to launch the Super Hits tour that was originally planned for 2020.

Be sure to catch all the news and announcements about Greenwood online at [www.LeeGreenwood.com](http://www.LeeGreenwood.com).

*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. Visit [nracountry.com](http://nracountry.com) and follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.*

# NRA® Online Regional Report

To search for events in your area, go to

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

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



## LAW ENFORCEMENT

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

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



## GUN SHOWS

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

Dates and locations of gun shows are subject to change. Please contact the show before traveling. Discounted NRA memberships are sold through NRA recruiters. Some shows may offer free admission to people who sign up for new memberships or renewals. To become an NRA Recruiter contact NRA Recruiting Programs at [recruiter@nrahq.org](mailto:recruiter@nrahq.org).



## AREA SHOOTS

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

For more information, send an email to Shelly Kramer at [mkramer@nrahq.org](mailto:mkramer@nrahq.org) or call (703) 267-1459.



## FRIENDS OF NRA

[friendsofnra.org](http://friendsofnra.org)

Friends of NRA events celebrate American values with fun, fellowship and fundraising for The NRA Foundation. To learn more about events in your area, visit [friendsofnra.org](http://friendsofnra.org), contact your local field representative or send an email to [friends@nrahq.org](mailto:friends@nrahq.org).



## TRAINING

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

The NRA's Refuse to Be A Victim® program provides information on crime prevention and personal safety. To learn more about the program, visit [refuse.nra.org](http://refuse.nra.org). The most up-to-date seminar and instructor training schedule is available on the Internet by visiting [nrainstructors.org](http://nrainstructors.org), or online training is available at [nraonlinetraining.org](http://nraonlinetraining.org). Questions? Email to [refuse@nrahq.org](mailto:refuse@nrahq.org) or by calling (800) 861-1166.



## STATE ASSOCIATIONS

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

Joining NRA-affiliated state associations supports NRA's mission in your state. See [clubs.nra.org](http://clubs.nra.org) for more information.

## Member Information & Benefits

## NRA.ORG

**MEMBERSHIP ACCOUNT  
INFORMATION: (877) 672-2000  
NRA Headquarters: (703) 267-1000**

**MEMBER SERVICE** (800) 672-3888  
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### 5-STAR MEMBER BENEFITS

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### 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/  
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**EDDIE EAGLE GUNSAFE PROGRAM** (800) 231-0752

**REFUSE TO BE A VICTIM** (800) 861-1166

**RECREATIONAL SHOOTING** (800) 672-7435

**NRA AFFILIATED CLUBS** (800) 672-2582

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**LAW ENFORCEMENT** (703) 267-1640

**FRIENDS OF NRA** (703) 267-1342

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The "NRA Regional Report," a service for NRA members, 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.



**2021 NRA ANNUAL MEETINGS  
MAY 14 -16 • HOUSTON, TX**

For hotel accommodations at the  
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By Joseph P.  
DeBergalis, Jr.  
Executive Director,  
General Operations



GET INVOLVED TODAY!  
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[nrainstructors.org](http://nrainstructors.org)



Mitch O'Neal, a serving member of NRA's Education & Training Committee and an NRA Certified Instructor, said he has seen an exponential increase in requests for Basic Pistol training and Personal Protection.

## NRA Instructors: FREEDOM'S FRONTLINE

**A**mong NRA's many contributions to our nation, few are more appreciated than marksmanship training and firearms safety instruction. For students from Alaska to Puerto Rico, the instructor in the classroom and on the range is the face of the NRA. These men and women who make the investment in time and resources to become NRA-certified instructors not only carry on our finest traditions, they maintain the world's highest standards in firearms safety.

Through program changes, technical evolution in the classroom and the ongoing pandemic with its transformational impact on education, our instructors have continued to persevere. The current global pandemic has awakened awareness across the country that the individual is ultimately responsible for his or her own personal safety. Self-defense is key to preserving hearth and home. As such, record numbers of first-time firearms owners have come flocking to the NRA to seek out the best in current safety instruction. Not since World War II has the demand for our instructors been as great nor as needed as now.

The current demand for training materials has skyrocketed and our Certified Instructors are seeing class sign-ups reaching peaks that were previously unthinkable. NRA's 116,000 instructors are ready, willing and able to handle the surge as we welcome friends and neighbors into the ranks of those who have benefited from the wisdom of over a century and a half of firearms safety training.

My good friend, Mitch O'Neal, a serving member of NRA's Education & Training Committee and an NRA Certified Instructor in the Atlanta, Ga. area, recently told me that he has seen an exponential increase in requests for Basic Pistol training as well as Personal Protection in the Home instruction. Mitch said, "As we see numbers continue to trend higher as members desire to protect themselves, their neighbors and home. I am proud the NRA offers training for those who desire to carry confidently and in a safe & legal manner."

Whether you are interested in becoming an NRA instructor, or need initial training or perhaps a refresher course, you can visit [nrainstructors.org](http://nrainstructors.org). As you know, the NRA offers many courses that may allow you to meet the requirements to obtain a concealed carry permit. Be sure to check out additional resources for women at [NRAWomen.com](http://NRAWomen.com).

We salute our NRA instructors who make these resources available to friends, neighbors and their fellow citizens in search of safe gun ownership, the preservation of their Second Amendment rights, personal protection or just their passion for the shooting sports.

With my sincerest appreciation to those of you in the trenches and on the front lines of our Certified Instructors Programs, thank you for all you do. Keep up the great work and make sure you, your family and friends vote this November. And when you do so, make sure you Vote Freedom First!



Photos by NRA



## stateassociations.nra.org

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

### Alabama State Rifle & Pistol Association

2009 Rodgers Drive  
Huntsville, AL 35811

**Mr. James L. Moses, President**  
256-534-7968  
jmoses1936@gmail.com

**Mr. Ramon J. Samaniego, Jr., Secretary/Treasurer**  
256-534-2644

### Alaska Outdoor Council, Inc.

310 K Street, Suite 200  
Anchorage, AK 99501  
907-264-6645

**alaskaoutdoorcouncil.org**

**Bill Iverson, President**  
president@alaskaoutdoorcouncil.com

**Teresa Burnett**  
secretary@alaskaoutdoorcouncil.com

### Arizona State Rifle & Pistol Association

P.O. Box 301  
Cave Creek, AZ 85327  
480-463-4636

**asrpa.com**

**Mr. Noble C. Hathaway, President**  
623-687-4251  
asrparesident@gmail.com

**Mr. Tony Montanarella, Vice President**  
714-292-8341  
asrpavp@gmail.com

### Arkansas Rifle & Pistol Association

P.O. Box 2348  
Conway, AR 72033  
**arkansasrifle.com**

**Mr. Chuck Gaines, President**  
c.r.gaines@att.net

**Ms. Ann Fairless, Secretary/Treasurer**  
501-327-4702  
aekfairless@sbcglobal.net

### California Rifle & Pistol Association, Inc.

271 Imperial Highway  
Suite 620  
Fullerton, CA 92835  
**crpa.org**

**Mr. Rick Travis, Executive Director**  
714-992-2772  
rtravis@crpa.org

**Ms. Sarah Kwan, Program and Events Manager**  
714-992-2722  
skwan@crpa.org

### Colorado State Shooting Association

510 Wilcox Street, Suite C  
Castle Rock, CO 80104  
**cssa.org**

**Mr. Tony Fabian, President**  
303-663-9339  
president@cssa.org

**Mr. David Gill**  
303-378-8608  
dave@dgillphoto.com

### Connecticut State Rifle & Revolver Association

P.O. Box 754  
North Haven, CT 06473  
**thecsrra.org**  
csrra.info@gmail.com

**Mr. Thomas Pasko, President**  
860-601-7884  
president@thecsrra.org

**Mr. Brad Palmer, Vice President**  
860-480-4600  
csrra.vicepresident@gmail.com

### Delaware State Sportsmen's Association

P.O. Box 94  
Lincoln, DE 19960  
302-764-6899  
**dssa.us**

**Mr. Jeffrey W. Hague, President**  
302-381-5628  
jeff.hague@bville-rifle-pistol.org

**Mr. Roger Boyce, Vice President**  
302-743-6331  
Rogerb@systemsapproachltd.com

### Florida Sport Shooting Association, Inc.

4105 Saltwater Boulevard  
Tampa, FL 33615  
407-701-1030  
**fsfaf.wildapricot.org**

**Mr. Ted Carter, President**  
president@flssa.org

**Mrs. Sue Carter, Secretary**  
secretary@flssa.org

### Georgia Sport Shooting Association

880 Marietta Highway  
Roswell, GA 30075  
478-955-7068  
**gssainc.org**

**Mrs. Carol A. Rosenqvist, President**  
706-781-4392  
rosenqvist@windstream.net

**Mr. Bill Nesmith, Vice President**  
229-938-5560  
bill@campsumter.net

### Hawaii Rifle Association

P.O. Box 543  
Kailua, HI 96734  
808-306-7194

**hawaiiirifleassociation.org**

**Mr. Harvey Gerwig, President**  
808-306-7194  
hghawaii@gmail.com

**Mr. Bill Richter, Secretary**  
808-261-2754  
itsmeblr@gmail.com

### Idaho State Rifle & Pistol Association

P.O. Box 140293  
Boise, ID 83714-0293  
208-452-4183  
**idahosrpa.org**

**Mr. Neill Goodfellow, President**  
president@idahosrpa.org

**Mr. Dave Taylor, Secretary/Treasurer**  
secretary@idahosrpa.org

### Illinois State Rifle Association, Inc.

PO Box 637  
420 E. Locust St.  
Chatsworth, IL 60921  
815-635-3198  
**isra.org**

**Mr. Don A. Moran, President**  
815-370-2966  
donm@isra.org

**Mr. Richard Pearson, Exec. Dir.**  
815-635-3198  
executive@isra.org

### Indiana State Rifle & Pistol Association, Inc.

7527 St Rt S6W  
Rising Sun, IN 46240  
info@isrpa.org  
**isrpa.org**

**Mr. Jerry Wehner, Executive VP**  
812-534-3258  
vp@isrpa.org

**Mr. William B. Thomas, Secretary**  
812-948-8226  
billed2@hotmail.com

### Iowa Firearms Coalition

PO Box 310  
Moline, IA 51039  
515-423-0391  
**iowafc.org**

**Mr. Dave Funk, President**  
dave@iowafc.org

**Mr. Nathan Gibson, Vice President**  
ngibson@iowafc.org

### Kansas State Rifle Association

PO Box 219  
Bonner Springs, KS 66012-0219  
913-608-1910  
**kansasrifle.org**

**Mr. Bruce Williams, President**  
bwilliams@ksraweb.org

**Ms. Samantha Poetter, Secretary/Treasurer**  
spoetter@ksraweb.org

### League Of Kentucky Sportsmen, Inc.

1116 Hume Road  
Lexington, KY 40516  
859-858-0135  
**kentuckysportsmen.com**

**Mr. Edwin Nighbert, President**  
enighbert@gmail.com

**Ms. Kelli Cauley, NRA Liaison**  
kkcauley@gmail.com

### Louisiana Shooting Association

350 Quill Court  
Slidell, LA 70461  
985-781-4174  
**louisianashooting.com**

**Mr. Daniel E. Zelenka II, President**  
504-421-1323  
dzelenka@louisianashooting.com

**Mr. Jay D. Hunt, III, Treasurer**  
985-641-6154  
sales@louisianashooting.com

### Maine Pine Tree State Rifle & Pistol Association, Inc.

14 Pine Road  
Wiscasset, ME 04578  
207-882-4713  
**mainerpa.org**

**Mr. John Merrill, President**  
jfmerrill@tds.net

**Mr. Angus N. Norcross, Treasurer**  
207-882-4713  
gusnor@roadrunner.com

### Maryland State Rifle & Pistol Association

341 Whitfield Road  
Catonsville, MD 21228  
410-838-1734  
**msrpa.org**

**Mr. Jeff Andrews, President**  
jandrews@msrpa.org

**Mr. Michael Bruzdinski, Secretary**  
410-788-6787  
mbruzdinski@msrpa.org

### GOAL Massachusetts

PO Box 567, 361 West Main Street  
Northboro, MA 01532  
508-393-5333  
508-393-5222  
**goal.org**

**Mr. James Wallace, Exec. Dir.**  
jimwallace@goal.org

**Ms. Angela Fisher, Chief of Staff**  
angela@goal.org

### Michigan Rifle & Pistol Association

PO Box 71  
Marshall, MI 49068-0071  
269-781-1223  
**michrpa.org**

**Mr. Leo Cebula, President**  
lcebula@hotmail.com

**Mr. Charles F. Hayes, Secretary/Treasurer**  
269-781-6567  
secretary.michrpa@gmail.com

### Minnesota Rifle & Revolver Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 143  
Farmington, MN 55024  
320-968-6898  
**mrpa.org**

**Mr. George Minerich, President**  
320-968-6898  
mrpraresident@gmail.com

**Mr. Mark Rohmann, Membership Secretary**  
membership@mrpa.com

### Mississippi State Firearm Owners Association

PO Box 2486  
McComb, MS 39130  
601-341-8797  
**msfoa.tripod.com**

**Mr. Douglas Bowser, President**  
douglasmbowser@yahoo.com

**Mr. Jeff Pittman, Vice President**  
601-878-5341  
jeffpittman@juno.com



### **Missouri Sport Shooting Association**

6140 N. Wagon Trail Rd.  
Columbia, MO 65202-9658  
314-440-3811

**missourisportshooting.org**

Kevin Jamison, *President*  
816-455-4669  
kljamisonlaw@earthlink.net

Lee Koester, *Secretary/Treasurer*  
573-449-2849  
leekoester@hotmail.com

### **Montana Rifle & Pistol Association**

PO Box 48  
Ramsay, MT 59748  
406-579-8694 (weekends only)  
**mtrpa.org**

Matt Egloff, *President*  
kragjorgensen@bresnan.net

Ms. Zona Mowrer,  
*Secretary/Membership*  
silverbow3@gmail.com

### **Nebraska Marksmanship Association**

P.O. Box 390311  
Omaha, NE 68139  
402-933-4881  
**nemarksmanship.org**

Mr. Mike Nollett, *President*  
michaelnollett@outlook.com

Mr. Bill Keil, *Secretary*

### **Nevada Firearms Coalition**

5575 Simmons Street, Suite 1-176  
North Las Vegas, NV 89031  
702-353-5935  
**nvfac.org**

Don Turner, *President*  
602-799-6466  
don@nvfac.org

Megan Ferrante, *Secretary*  
702-933-3273  
megan@nvfac.org

### **Gun Owners Of New Hampshire, Inc.**

PO Box 847  
Concord, NH 03302-0487  
603-225-4664  
**gonh.org**

Mr. Mitch Kopacz, *President*  
president@gonh.org

Mr. Ralph Demicco, *Vice President*  
vicepresident@gonh.org

### **Association Of New Jersey Rifle & Pistol Clubs, Inc.**

5 Sicomac Road Suite 292  
North Haledon, NJ 07508  
973-764-4100  
**anjrpc.org**

Mr. Scott L. Bach, *Executive Director*  
973-697-9270  
defendfreedom@earthlink.net

Kathy Chatterton, *President*  
201-251-0933  
kschatterton@msn.com

### **New Mexico Shooting Sports Association, Inc.**

PO Box 93433  
Albuquerque, NM 87199  
505-286-8449  
**nmssa.org**

Mr. Zachary Fort, *President*  
president@nmssa.org

Mr. John Fugedy, *Treasurer*  
treasurer@nmssa.org

### **New York State Rifle & Pistol Association, Inc.**

713 Columbia Tpke  
East Greenbush, NY 12061  
518-272-2654  
info@nysrpa.org

**nysrpa.org**

Mr. Thomas H. King, *President*  
518-424-1349  
tking@nysrpa.org

### **North Carolina Rifle & Pistol Association**

PO Box 4116  
Pinehurst, NC 28374  
910-295-7220  
**nrcpa.org**

Mr. Fred Edgecomb, *President*  
frededgecomb@gmail.com

Mr. David Prest,  
*Membership Secretary*  
910-295-7220  
dprest@pinehurst.net

### **North Dakota Shooting Sports Association**

PO Box 228  
Bismarck, ND 58502-0028  
701-255-4601  
**ndssa.org**

Mr. Mitch Godbout, *President*  
mgodbout@hotmail.com

Mr. Tom Thompson, *Secretary*  
701-255-4601  
tthompson@gp.usbr.gov

### **Ohio Rifle & Pistol Association**

PO Box 1201  
Morehead, KY 40351-5201  
330-790-1066  
**orpa.net**

Mr. Jim Henderson, *President*  
president@orpa.net

Ms. Jennifer Syme, *Secretary*  
secretary@orpa.net

### **Oklahoma Rifle Association, Inc.**

P.O. Box 280  
Maud, OK 74854-0280  
405-374-8262  
**oklarifle.com**

Mr. Jerry Tomlinson, *President*  
jerry@oklarifle.com

Ms. Rita Barrett, *Secretary*  
rita@oklarifle.com

### **Oregon State Shooting Association, Inc.**

P.O. Box 231191  
Portland, OR 97281-1161  
541-409-3358  
**ossa.org**

Mr. Nelson Shew, *President*  
president@ossa.org

Mr. Matthew L. Stanley, *Secretary*  
treasurer@ossa.org

### **Pennsylvania Rifle & Pistol Association**

814-375-4509  
**pennarifleandpistol.org**  
Ms. Erin Gestl, *President*  
EGestl1969@gmail.com

Ms. Becky Dutra, *Secretary*  
814-236-0708  
prpasec@gmail.com

### **Gun Rights And Safety Association Of Puerto Rico**

P.O. Box 191919  
San Juan, PR 00919-1919  
787-691-1919  
**grsapr.org**

Mr. Rafael A. Torres, *President*  
rtorres@grsapr.org

### **Rhode Island 2nd Amendment Coalition**

928 Atwood Avenue  
Johnston, RI 02919  
**ri2nd.org**

Mr. Frank R. Saccoccio, *President*  
401-944-1600  
fjwhoopie@aol.com

Mr. Michael O'Neil, *Vice President*  
info@ri2nd.org

### **Gun Owners Of South Carolina**

PO Box 211  
Little Mountain, SC 29075  
803-345-5761  
**gosc.org**

Mr. Gerald Stoudemire, *President*  
803-945-7677  
lmgsc@sc.rr.com

Ms. Jackie Haltiwanger,  
*Secretary/Treasurer*  
goscsecretarytreasurer@gmail.com

### **South Dakota Shooting Sports Association**

P.O. Box 3  
Dell Rapids, SD 57022  
605-428-5488  
**sdshootingsports.org**

Mr. Dan Anderson,  
*Communications Director*  
dan@sdshootingsports.org

Mr. Tom Raines, *President*  
tom@sdshootingsports.org

### **Tennessee Shooting Sports Association, Inc.**

6653 Jocelyn Hollow Rd.  
Nashville, TN 37205-3951  
615-491-2633  
**tennesseeshooting  
sportsassociation.org**  
tnssa@earthlink.net

Dr. Ray Harvey, *President*  
615-352-3954  
ray.harvey@earthlink.net

Mr. Aidan Hoffman,  
*Vice President*  
615-400-2176  
aidan.hoffman@gmail.com

### **Texas State Rifle Association**

994 Hwy. 71 E  
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admin@tsra.com

Mr. Wayne Nunn, *President*  
president@tsra.com

### **Utah State Rifle & Pistol Association**

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Sandy, UT 84092-3405  
801-942-6529  
**usrpa.org**

Mr. Larry P. Scanlan, *President*  
LarryScanlan@msn.com

Devin Brown, *Secretary/Treasurer*  
masterchief203@yahoo.com

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PO Box 225  
Lyndonville, VT 05851  
802-535-7111  
**vtfsc.org**

Mr. Chris Bradley, *President*  
vtfsc.president@gmail.com

Mr. Evan Hughes, *Vice President*  
802-272-8544  
VTGUNS@aol.com

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P.O. Box 1258  
Orange, VA 22960  
540-672-5848  
**myvssa.org**

Mr. Lucien Charette,  
*Executive Director*  
540-672-5848  
vssamain@verizon.net

Ms. Andrea T. Smith,  
*Secretary/Treasurer*  
540-672-5848  
andrea.smith@myvssa.org

### **Washington State Rifle & Pistol Association, Inc.**

P.O. Box 64971  
University Place, WA 98464  
**wsrpa.org**

Mr. Brian Keelean, *President*  
616-666-6018  
president@wsrpa.org

Mr. Duane Hatch, *Vice President*  
253-853-7533  
vicepresident@wsrpa.org

Mr. Alan Carey, *Secretary*  
206-427-8257  
secretary@wsrpa.org

### **West Virginia State Rifle & Pistol Association**

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Mr. Chris Dunlap, *President*  
304-549-6393  
gunsandammo@yahoo.com

Mr. Jim Canon, *Secretary*  
304-566-7862  
wsrpa@gmail.com

### **Wisconsin Force**

PO Box 130  
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Mr. Mike Stewart, *President*  
607-799-3539  
president@wisconsinforce.org

Mr. James Melville, *Secretary*  
James@wisconsinforce.org

### **Wyoming State Shooting Association, Inc.**

Box 942  
Worland, WY 82401  
307-335-9323  
**wyossa.com**

Mr. Kenneth Lankford, *President*  
wssapres@wyoming.com

Mr. Nick Nickelson, *Secretary*  
wssa@wyoming.com

### Rescheduling Of The Annual Meeting Of Members

The National Rifle Association of America announces that the 2020 Annual Meeting of Members has been rescheduled. The meeting will be held Saturday, October 24, 2020, at 9:00 a.m. local time in the Kiva Ballroom of the Loews Ventana Canyon Hotel located at 7000 N. Resort Drive, Tucson, Arizona. Please join us and participate in the business of your Association and voting for the 76th Director. The Membership Verification Room, where balloting for the 76th Director will take place, will be located in the Ventana Room of the Loews Ventana Canyon Hotel, and will open on Friday, October 23, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. and close at 8:00 p.m. Balloting will continue on Saturday, October 24, 2020, at 8:00 a.m. and conclude upon the adjournment of the Annual Meeting of Members. The results of the 2020 mail ballot election for the NRA Board of Directors will be formally announced at the Annual Meeting of Members. Please visit [nraam.org/membersmeeting](http://nraam.org/membersmeeting) to pre-register for this event. For additional details, visit [nra.org](http://nra.org) and follow the NRA on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. Reserve your seat now! Seating will be limited due to public health restrictions. On-site registration will be on a first-come, first-served basis depending on capacity.



Photos by NRA

### Ham Radio Club, Gunsite Salute NRA Birthday

The Yavapai Amateur Radio Club (YARC) of Prescott, Ariz., will operate a special-event station Nov. 17, 2020, in celebration of the NRA's 149th birthday. The amateur radio station will operate from Gunsite Academy's 2,000-acre campus north of Prescott. The call sign will be K7GST, an FCC-licensed amateur radio station. It will conduct operations on the following amateur frequencies from 0900 to 1800 MST (1500 to 2400 UTC): 7.040, 7.250,

14.040, 14.250 and 21.335 MHz. Due to availability issues, the CW operation will only be from 1300 to 1800 MST. A unique NRA/Gunsite certificate (acknowledgement of communications) will be forwarded to those stations contacted during the event. All amateur stations, especially those operated by NRA members and Gunsite alumni, are urged to participate. More information can be found at YARC's website: [w7yrc.org/nrabirthday](http://w7yrc.org/nrabirthday).

### NRAWomen.com In A Time Of Unprecedented Need

Even before the unprecedented spike in women buying guns, which coincided with the launch of [NRAWomen.com](http://NRAWomen.com) in mid-April 2020, NRA recognized the need for a platform that would provide women with practical advice on guns, training and personal protection. Since then, in the face of turmoil brought on by the COVID-19 health crisis and rampant lawlessness in the nation's cities, women are embracing a survival strategy that empowers them to protect themselves and their families. According to the National Shooting Sports Foundation, women now comprise 25 percent of America's gun owners, nearly double the number since 2003, and they account for an estimated 40 percent of recent first-time gun buyers, a demographic whose total runs into the millions.

And so the need is now greater than ever, as many newcomers start with limited knowledge and mixed messages on the type of firearm they need and

how to go about learning to use it. That's where [NRAWomen.com](http://NRAWomen.com) comes in, offering a wealth of down-to-earth information geared especially toward beginning shooters. With new content posting daily, this website answers the call from all who seek guidance in these uncertain times.

"No one is doing more to invest in the content so many Americans now need, than your NRA," said NRA Publications Executive Director Doug Hamlin. "[NRAWomen.com](http://NRAWomen.com) offers welcoming and inspirational advice and is presented with a stylish look and easy navigation." Though primarily geared toward women, the site serves all new and learning gun owners and shooters. "Whether it's a man or woman in need of a firearm and training, I direct them to [NRAWomen.com](http://NRAWomen.com) and [NRAFamily.org](http://NRAFamily.org)," Hamlin said. "In a time when bad news seems to be coming at us faster than ever, help from the leader in gun rights and gun safety is just a few clicks away."

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Communications intended for any member of the NRA Board of Directors should be addressed to:

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






This brings us to the next area of improvement: ammunition. We are currently in another of the rolling series of ammo shortages that have become commonplace over the past decade. Given the nature of the world today, I would not bet on this improving anytime soon. Nonetheless, if your goal is to push your rifle past the distances at which you typically shoot, try to use bullet weights that are on the heavy side respective to your bore size and twist rate. For example, in 5.56 NATO rifles, we see that 69- to 77-grain projectiles fly best out of 1:7- and 1:8-inch-twist barrels. So long as your barrel stabilizes heavier bullets and the ammunition is of consistently good quality, lean on that for your longer-range needs.

The importance of using a solid rifle support increases exponentially with distance. If you can tolerate a full-time bipod on your rifle, that setup will serve you well. However, if you are like

me—mainly using bipods in static positions—then you have to come up with alternatives. A soft pack makes an excellent prone rest so long as it is high enough to provide clear lines of sight and bore while keeping your chest low to the ground. For hasty support, I will rest on a rifle's magazine all day long and not miss a beat. Wrapping the support arm into a sling is just as helpful while prone as it is in other positions. Flat-belly shooting with nothing but arms and elbows for support requires more practice, but it is a skill worth mastering if you want to connect at long range without a rifle rest.

That last "P" word—practice—is the final piece of this puzzle. Fortunately, the well-aimed, slow fire which works best at extended distances will help to limit consumption of precious ammunition supplies while you spend time honing your skills. Instead of trying to shave tenths

of seconds off of split times, concentrate on making every shot count. Go to school on missed shots so that your follow-ups will connect. Reactive targets help to signal hits when gathering aiming data, especially if you are shooting solo. Ranges that allow you to shoot paper at all distances will assist in fine tuning your holds and gauging proficiency.

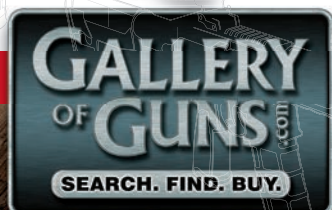
A friend or range buddy acting as a spotter will help speed the process, further reducing the amount of ammo needed to figure out where to aim at specific distances. Lastly, record data such as brand and weight of ammunition used, atmospheric, holdovers and wind holds at each distance and any other information that could be useful in the future. While other tools may help you gain additional distance, working on these core aspects of improving your long(er) range game will help set you well on your way to becoming a "long ranger." 

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demand for a bullseye target gun, Smith & Wesson created the 1950 Target model. It was a target-sighted version of the same basic revolver as the 1917. An even fancier (and heavier) version came along in 1955. That model is still in limited production, and the company has made the same basic revolver in a number of different barrel lengths and configurations. The guns have been well-received, largely because of yet another good idea.

In the mid-1970s, a small Mid-western company called Ranch Products began making some new variations of the half-moon clip. Its first was a two-round "third-moon" clip that police officers liked. These little pairs slipped easily into the dump pouches on their duty belts. But, the small firm hit the jackpot with the full-moon clip, which holds all six rounds needed for a speedy reload. Compared to the wide variety of speedloaders that were coming into common use at the time, the .45 ACP in full-moon clips was a superior performer. It was more compact, lighter and went into the gun faster. As the shooter needed to eject his empties, a stroke of the ejector rod forced a single object—the clip with spent cases—out of the gun as a unit.

Still, the single-biggest reason I like the Smith & Wesson .45 revolvers is because they are Smith & Wesson .45 revolvers. They have the same general trigger action as so many other wheelguns I have carried and used. The cartridge delivers all the power that I really need in a defensive firearm. Guns from the 1950s have that classic five-screw, tapered barrel, long-action style of the company's Golden Age. My favorite is a 1950 Target out of Sam Fowler's shop in Orange, CA. It has what I call a "hard way" action job—cycled and fired tens of thousands of times. Recently refurbished with a recut forcing cone after it began keyholing shots, it's like a new gun.

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# One Good Idea

Colt and Smith & Wesson's 1917 wasn't a byproduct of a designer's drawing board, but of necessity.



**M**any good ideas have come along in the field of armaments, but some of them stand out. A few endure for decades. Lately, I've been reflecting on a particularly attractive style of handgun that has been a good idea since World War I. I'm referring to the Model of 1917 revolver, as made in typical versions by Colt and Smith & Wesson and chambered for the .45 ACP cartridge. Many handgunners are familiar with this model, but let's review the details for those late to the party. In 1911, we developed and adopted the excellent Colt service semi-automatic pistol in a new caliber. It was the now-famous .45 ACP. Rimless—in order to run smoothly through a single-column, seven-round magazine—the .45 ACP actually did have a rim. It was no wider than the body of the cartridge, but had a circumferential groove for the pistol's extractor to pull the fired cartridge out of the chamber. This cartridge and its extractor groove positively impacted the quick development of the 1917 revolver.

There would have been no need for this type of revolver if there were enough 1911s to meet the demands of the American Expeditionary Force (AEF) in World War I. Sadly, the number of handguns needed could not be met by America's total manufacturing capability at the time. The Springfield Armory had to stop making 1911 pistols and convert the factory to produce M1903 Springfield rifles. There is also that persistently repeated story that the 1911 magazine was made from a special imported tubing, which became unavailable as the war progressed and America entered it in 1917. We might have been able to build more, but they would have been useless without magazines—allegedly built from a special tubing made in Germany.

So, the Ordnance guys came up with a good idea. Both Colt and Smith & Wesson had working production lines, capable of spitting out thousands of large-frame revolvers in big calibers. In short order, the two legendary competitors had made a few necessary tooling changes and pressed the GO buttons on their production lines. Over the next few months, each factory produced and delivered slightly more than 150,000 rugged, rough-finished, DA/SA, six-shot revolvers. They fired the same cartridge as the .45 semi-automatic pistol. The thing that made it work was a crescent of thin, but strong, sheet steel with three recesses, spaced to match three adjacent chambers in the revolver's cylinder. Two of these so-called half-moon clips held a total of six rounds. Tens of thousands of these sturdy revolvers were used in the various battles of The Great War. My late father carried one—a Smith & Wesson 1917. I fondly recall him finding a half-moon clip in an old desk at the armory where he worked and patiently explaining its history to his gun-struck son.

In the inter-war years, many of the 1917-model .45 revolvers found their way into civilian hands. The Border Patrol used some of them, as did many (low-paid) peace officers of the Depression era. Both makers actually built post-World War I, civilian-finished versions of the same 5.5-inch, large-frame wheelguns. For those who were fussy about loading the sharp-edged moon clips, Peters Cartridge created the .45 Auto Rim cartridge. This interesting round put a thick rim on the .45 ACP cartridge, so it could be used in a '17 revolver without the clip. In the late 1930s, Auto Rim ammunition was popular enough to be loaded by Winchester, Western, Peters, Remington and U.S. Cartridge. It was another good idea for a sometimes near-forgotten type of gun.

A few of the 1917s were used to good effect in World War II, but more were relegated to use with Guard and reserve troops. After the war, Colt chose to cease production of its large-frame New Service model revolvers, including the .45 ACPs. Smith & Wesson underwent a total overhaul of its product line and came out with a series of new models. It was a period of dynamic expansion for the old-line gunmaker. In an effort to fill the

Continued on page 87





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