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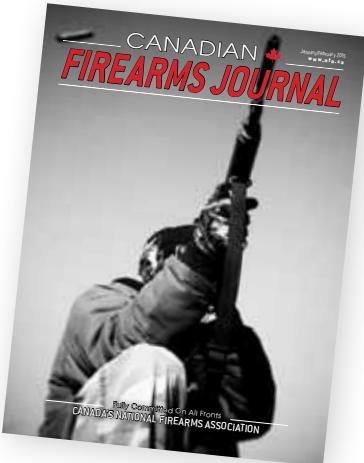


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MISSION STATEMENT

Canada's National Firearms Association exists to promote, support and protect all safe firearms activities, including the right of self defense, firearms education for all Canadians, freedom and justice for Canada's firearms community and to advocate for legislative change to ensure the right of all Canadians to own and use firearms is protected.

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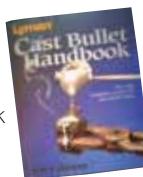
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On the Cover

At The Range

NFA member Mike Kreis enjoying some beautiful Canadian fall weather at the range, with his Norinco M-305B.



CORRECTION

We, the publishers of the National Firearms Association's *Canadian Firearms Journal*, apologize to our French-speaking members in regards to an inaccurate translation at the top of Sheldon Clare's *President's Message* in the November/December 2014 issue.

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The Official Magazine of



In defence of freedom

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FROM THE Editor's Desk

Chris McGarry

Looking Forward To 2015

The 2015 federal election is an important time for gun owners

This year, 2015, promises to be an important year for the gun rights movement in Canada. With a federal election coming up in October, it is crucial now, more than ever, for firearms owners to keep pressure on their members of Parliament, regardless of the political party they represent. Back in the fall, the Conservative government introduced, then promptly shelved, the *Common Sense Licensing Act* (C-42) in the wake of the shootings in Ottawa. Although the proposed legislation did include a few good (albeit minor) provisions, by and large it reinforced existing draconian firearms legislation and was not supported by the NFA.

Being an election year, the Conservative majority government, like each one that preceded it, has one goal in mind: to get re-elected. But in order for the CPC to gain the total support of Canada's firearms community, the party will have to prove between now and October that it is on our side. Introducing half-measures such as allowing a grace period for lapsed licences does nothing to show that the CPC seriously wants our support.

Incensed by the attitude the former Liberal government of Jean Chretien displayed towards law-abiding farmers, hunters and sports shooters two decades ago with the passage of the *Firearms Act*, many gun owners have placed all their eggs in one basket, so to speak, by pinning their hopes on the possibility that the CPC would repeal all of these bad laws that have been on the books since the 1970s. While the current party incantation of the Conservative brand has a number of MPs that are on our side, there are just as many who would like to strip us of our rights.

While voting is important, it is just as vital for firearms owners to make their voices heard by joining electoral district associations, attending riding meetings and even public demonstrations. Given the fact that the current government will not be in power forever, it is wise to reach out to MPs in other parties. Though it is too early to tell if the Liberals have mended their ways since they were last in power, it appears that some MPs are at least starting to get the message that we as a community will not tolerate any more infringements of our rights. During a convention in February 2014, Wayne Easter (Malpeque) is on record as saying, "Gun control cost us (the Liberals) in rural Canada 60 seats."

Gun owners unhappy with the current three mainstream political parties might also consider voting strategically. There are some fringe parties, such as the Greens, that favour stricter gun control, while the Libertarians, Christian Heritage Party and the Canada Action Party are strongly pro-gun. Withholding donations from political parties that claim to represent us, but in reality don't, also sends a strong message that we demand action, not merely lip service. Again, it is entirely up to the individual to make that decision.

With an election on the horizon, Canada's National Firearms Association will be working hard, lobbying the federal government to rescind more of our unnecessary, burdensome firearms legislation. In order to ensure that our rights will be protected in the years to come, it is imperative that each and every gun owner keep active politically.

Keep up the fight in 2015.



It is imperative that firearms owners stay active, politically, and make their voices heard. The 2015 federal election could be a turning point for gun owners.



President's Message

Sheldon Clare

Working Together To Make Goals A Reality

Your contribution to the NFA's goals can make a big difference

I sincerely wish to thank the members of Canada's National Firearms Association in British Columbia for their strong show of support in the recent election. Your confidence in me and in the NFA's direction in fighting for the return of our freedoms is highly motivating. It is certainly the case that our successes have been the work of many individuals, who are increasingly focused on changing this country's bad firearms laws and restoring our trampled rights.

There have been many changes in our board of directors. Charles Zach has stepped down to work on his career after stellar service in kick-starting the NFA's field officer program. His spot is now taken up by Darlene Mackenzie, who is stepping right into the job.

Robert Bracken is now the Maritimes and Newfoundland director. Robert replaces Sean Penney, who, after decades of excellent work as a key contributor and leader of our organization, is working on other projects in Newfoundland and taking a well-earned rest.

Phil Simard's long struggle against the injustices in Quebec has now been taken up by the very skilled Claude Colgan, who will build on the tremendous growth we are experiencing in Quebec. Also, we now have a new Saskatchewan director in Kurt Luchia, who is eager to grow support for the NFA in his region. Ericka Clarke was elected in a three-way race in Alberta, and is keen to carry the fight to our opponents. Blair Hagen, Bill Rantz and Stephen Buddo remain with me as stalwarts in protecting our rights and guiding our path forward.

The changes in the board reflect a younger demographic and a healthy

organization. The addition of two female firearms rights enthusiasts is a welcome change that will give voice to women who have been under-represented on our board of directors in the past.

Even more significant is that the interest in stepping up to serve on the board reflects the successes of the NFA over the past several years. To that end, I thank all of the candidates who put their names forward to serve in the recent election - your interest is a reflection of our success.

Though the NFA has grown significantly and we are increasing our influence in Canada, much work remains. And it will take a great effort from every member to increase that influence to the point where our goals become the goals of the government.

There are three easy tasks that every member can take that will make a huge difference. First, sign up another member. If you have friends who are as concerned as we are about our rights and freedoms, get at least one friend to join the NFA. The more members we have, the stronger our voice will be and the more that we will be heard by government.

You already know the second thing to do: Write a letter to, and make a point of meeting with, your member of Parliament. It doesn't matter which party that person represents, all of them need to hear our message.

We are not going away, and we want to see real change; not compromise, pandering and tinkering with failed laws like those brought in by the Kim Campbell Conservatives, the Chretien Liberals or lately in the forms of the classification and licensing messes of the Harper Conservatives.

Of course, we must also be vigilant against foolish attempts to rejuvenate failures of firearms control, such as returning registration as proposed by the NDP, and more firearms bans and re-classifications as proposed by the Trudeau Liberals. That leads me to the third easy task: Join a political party that most fits your views, and fight to have that party's policies change on the firearms file.

Make no mistake, none of the major parties currently represent NFA goals on firearms law reform, and are in many ways actively opposed to the changes that we seek, with two more so than one of them. However, with your diligence and activism by getting involved in politics, there could be significant changes to help us achieve our goals.

If even half of our current membership follows through on just one of those tasks, we will be well positioned to have a major effect on the results of the next federal election. Be one of those members. Now, more than ever, we need you to do a little bit to make a big difference.

It's not much to do, but it will have a huge effect. Nothing motivates me more than knowing that the membership is working hard to support the efforts of the directors and the executive of Canada's National Firearms Association. Through our growth and increased strength, I am committed to seeing real and significant improvements to our laws in these next few years - will you help the NFA to realize that vision?

Rapport du Président

Sheldon Clare

Travaillons ensemble pour que nos objectifs deviennent une réalité

Votre participation dans l'atteinte des objectifs de l'ACAF fera toute la différence

Je tiens à remercier les membres de l'ACAF de la Colombie Britannique pour leur appui vigoureux lors des dernières élections. Votre confiance en moi et dans la direction que l'ACAF prend pour obtenir le rétablissement de nos libertés me motive au plus haut point. Nos succès sont le résultat du travail de plusieurs individus qui ont ciblé leurs efforts pour changer nos mauvaises lois sur les armes à feu et essayer de rétablir nos droits bafoués depuis longtemps.

Plusieurs changements ont eu lieu au sein du comité de direction. M. Charles Zach a laissé sa place à Mme Darlene MaKenzie après s'être ardemment dévoué pour démarrer notre programme de formation des représentants territoriaux. Il pourra ainsi se concentrer sur sa carrière. M. Robert Bracken devient le nouveau directeur pour les maritimes. Il remplace M. Sean Penney, un de nos leader et important collaborateur qui a travaillé sans relâche pendant des décennies pour notre organisation. M. Penney se concentre sur d'autres projets à Terre-Neuve et jouit d'un repos bien mérité. La longue lutte acharnée de M. Phil Simard contre les injustices subies au Québec sera entreprise par M. Claude Colgan dont les compétences feront grandir davantage notre présence dans cette province ou nous sommes en plein essor depuis un certain temps. La Saskatchewan s'est dotée d'un nouveau directeur, M. Kurt Luchia qui souhaite vivement faire grandir l'ACAF dans sa province. En Alberta, Mme Éricka Clarke fut élue parmi trois candidats et elle a hâte de lutter contre nos adversaires. Messieurs Blair Hagen, Bill Rantz et Steve Buddo demeurent mes fidèles compagnons dans la lutte pour protéger nos droits et nous guider vers l'avenir.

Les nouveaux directeurs sont plus jeunes, ce qui est le reflet d'une saine organisation. La présence de deux femmes qui sont enthousiastes de défendre les droits en matière d'armes à feu apporte un vent nouveau dans la composition de notre comité de direction. Ceci donnera une voix aux femmes qui ont toujours été sous représentées dans le passé. Une preuve du succès de l'ACAF depuis les dernières années est le fait que plusieurs personnes ont présenté leurs candidatures dans l'espoir de siéger sur notre comité de direction. Je tiens à les remercier chaleureusement. Malgré que nous ayons beaucoup grandi et que notre influence a augmenté, il reste encore beaucoup à faire - chaque membre devra faire encore plus d'efforts pour augmenter notre influence pour que nos objectifs deviennent aussi ceux du Gouvernement.

Voici trois choses faciles que chaque membre peut faire qui auront un effet remarquable. Plusieurs de vos amis tiennent sûrement leurs droits et libertés à cœur, choisissez en au moins un pour qu'il devienne membre de l'ACAF. Plus nous sommes nombreux, plus notre voix sera forte et plus nous serons susceptibles d'être entendus par le Gouvernement. Vous savez déjà quelle est la deuxième chose à faire : Écrivez à votre député et insistez pour le rencontrer, peu importe quel parti il représente - ils doivent tous entendre notre message. Nous ne baisserons pas les bras et nous voulons de vrais changements. Fini la flatterie et le bricolage des mauvaises lois, comme celle des Conservateurs de Kim Campbell, des Libéraux de Jean Chrétien ou plus récemment les mélanges de classifications et des permis apportés par les Conservateurs de Stephen Harper. Nous devons aussi rester vigilants par rapport aux tentatives de ressuscitation du registre des armes longues proposé par le NPD et d'autres

prohibitions d'armes et changements de classifications proposés par les Libéraux de Trudeau. Ceci m'amène à la troisième tâche facile - devenez membre du parti politique qui vous convient le plus et luttez pour que ses politiques soient changées dans le dossier des armes à feu. Ne vous laissez pas leurrer, il n'y a aucun des trois principaux partis politiques qui appuient l'ACAF dans la réforme des lois sur les armes à feu. Ils sont plutôt activement opposés aux changements que nous désirons, donc deux sont pires que le troisième.

Si vous entreprenez votre action militante avec zèle et vous vous impliquez en politique, plusieurs changements peuvent en résulter, nous permettant d'atteindre nos objectifs.

Même si seulement la moitié de nos membres accomplissent une seule de ces tâches, notre position sera des plus favorable pour avoir un effet majeur lors des prochaines élections. Soyez un de ces membres, ceci est un moment crucial, nous avons besoin que vous fassiez juste un petit effort qui fera toute la différence. Il n'y a rien de plus motivant que de savoir que les membres travaillent fort pour appuyer la direction et les cadres de l'Association Canadienne pour les Armes à Feu. Grâce à notre croissance et à notre force grandissante je m'engage à obtenir des changements et améliorations réels de nos lois dans un avenir rapproché - aiderez vous l'ACAF à réaliser cette vision?





Vice-President's Message

Blair Hagen

Bill C-42 Not The Answer

The government's attempt to placate gun owners evident in new bill

With the election year 2015 almost upon us, the Conservative government has seen fit to introduce another firearms law reform bill in Parliament.

Bill C-42 proposes to address aspects of many of the offenses committed by the present C-68 *Firearms Act*, and the recent actions of the firearms control bureaucracy in attacking the rights and property of Canadians. Talk about such reforms has been going on for a couple of years now, in the wake of Bill C-19 and the ending of the long gun registry.

Rights and freedoms voters in Canada have learned a hard lesson from the C-68 *Firearms Act* and the Liberal government that imposed it. It is the entire *Firearms Act* that must be replaced, not just certain sections of it or the most public failures it contained, such as the failed deer rifle and duck gun registry. The mandatory licence for simple firearms ownership or possession is still law. The ability of provincial chief firearms officers to manufacture firearms disabilities and seize property is still law. The poorly understood and routinely misapplied firearms storage and transportation regulations are still law. The agenda of the firearms bureaucracy to continue to ban guns in support of domestic and international civil disarmament agendas still continues.

And on and on it goes.

However, Canadians have never let up on the pressure of their elected officials. Many Conservative MPs and ministers were surprised to find out that simply ending the long gun registry was not seen as the ultimate redress of the infamous Liberal Bill C-68 of 1995, but a half measure that, despite being necessary and having positive benefits

for all Canadians, did not fulfill the Conservative government's promise to reform Canada's failed firearms control laws.

What brought all of this to fruition is the unending, irresistible pressure on this government by Canadians demanding fundamental firearms law reforms. This has continued unabated for the almost 20 years the C-68 *Firearms Act* has been law, and the Conservative government of Stephen Harper feels that pressure every day.

The letters, phone calls and e-mails never stopped coming, and it has forced many Conservative MPs and ministers to educate themselves, take another look at the issue and come largely to the same conclusion as Canadians who are offended by or still suffer under the C-68 *Firearms Act*.

But careful and earnest attempts at getting the government to a place where it feels confident in introducing sweeping legislation, a new *Firearms Act* and a new direction, such as what occurred under the majority Liberal government that imposed C-68, have not yet been successful.

Their current response to the unrelenting pressure is Bill C-42. This bill is somewhat comprehensive in addressing many of the *Firearms Act* failures and outrages. Canada's National Firearms Association has advised the government to act on, but it has to be said that C-42 stops short of fundamentally addressing those problems, and in some cases actually makes things worse for those who own firearms or aspire to do so.

Under C-42 as it stands, the ability to challenge the Canadian Firearms Safety Course (CFSC) would end and individuals would have to take the entire course in order to apply for a firearms license. There are several things wrong with this. Forcing individuals who are already skilled and experienced in the use of firearms to take the entire CFSC is a waste of time and resources, and second, while CFSC may be reasonably available in most urban population centres in Canada, it is not so in rural Canada and especially northern Canada where suffering the entire cost of taking the course is an increased burden, and may require hours or days of travel to get to the place where it is available.

At the end of the day, the mandatory license for simple ownership of private property that CFSC supports remains unchanged. The majority of Canadians who are in possession of firearms have no firearms license, and it appears that this will remain so despite the government's intentions.

C-42 proposes an amnesty period of six months for allowing a firearms license to expire while in possession of firearms. This has been a huge problem for the government, as many Canadians who did comply with and received the mandatory firearms license inadvertently allowed it to expire, not understanding that this is a criminal offense that also results in the revocation of registrations and grandfathering for restricted and prohibited firearms. Thousands of Canadians have learned the hard way that the C-68 firearms license is not a firearms acquisition certificate, get criminally charged and have their property confiscated.

Granting amnesty for this criminal offense does not correct the egregious

offense to citizenship that the C-68 mandatory firearms license represents, and it is not clear if this even covers those holding registrations for restricted and prohibited firearms.

On the brighter, more rational side, the C-68 possession only license (POL) is ended and existing POLs are grandfathered as possession/acquisition licenses.

C-42 also addresses some of the complex, deliberately harassing and useless-for-public-safety red tape and paperwork associated with the authorizations to transport (ATT) for restricted firearms, without actually ending the requirements for those convoluted authorizations. Under C-42, ATTs are combined with the restricted firearms license.

The bill claims to provide oversight on Chief Firearms Officers and other bureaucrats in the interpretation of *Firearms Act* regulations and policy development, without curtailing the powers of CFOs and the firearms bureaucracy in any meaningful way. It gives the government the power to modify the firearms classification system by designating firearms as non-restricted or restricted, and apparently this is their solution to solve the recent unilateral re-classification of the Swiss Arms and CZ 858 rifles by firearms bureaucrats - a move designed by civil disarmament bureaucrats to force the confiscation of thousands of firearms from Canadian firearms license holders.

The bill provides opportunities for the Minister of Public Safety to look over the shoulder of the firearms bureaucrats, and influence their policies and decisions should it be within the interests of the government, but that's all.

In some ways, C-42 is an attempt to make everyone happy. The political police and firearms bureaucrats obviously had their say when the CPC govern-

ment announced their intention to pursue further firearms law reforms, and it shows in Bill C-42 as it stands today. Unfortunately, fundamental firearms law reforms can only dictate that some people cannot be happy. Those people are the supporters of the current *Firearms Act* and the civil disarmament agenda.

The need for firearms law reform cannot be predicated on cost savings and efficiency, although those would be a happenstance of the process. The need for firearms law reform is based on the end of the prosecution of people for simply possessing property and pursuing a Canadian right and cultural tradition. That is the principle. The government that replaces the C-68 *Firearms Act* with one that recognizes the rights and property of Canadians will have proven that it stands against the civil disarmament agenda.

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Preserving Our Firearms Heritage

Gary K. Kangas

A Vision For The Future Fulfilled

Cowboy Action Shooting continues to grow in popularity

Last year, 2014, was a notable year for Cowboy Action Shooting in Canada, with over 30 years of continuous competition.

Frank McFarquhar, better known as Indian Frank, had an inspiration in 1985. That inspiration was to organize a cowboy action shooting competition at the Peel Handgun Club in Brampton, Ont.

The event was billed as the Peel Western Shoot. Frank's quote from the original match notice: "This shoot should prove to be the most exciting and unique shoot of the many shoots in Ontario."

The original match notice called for western-style dress, western-style firearms, hits on targets and speed. The rules haven't changed much, except they have been expanded and are now based on age-related categories. The equipment needed for cowboy action shooting is two single-action revolvers, a pistol calibre lever-action rifle and a double-barrel shotgun, either hammered or hammerless with no ejector. The only exception is that a participant is permitted to use a Winchester 1897 pump or a clone thereof and the other alternate is an 1887 Winchester lever-action shotgun or a clone thereof.

The western dress criterion is cowboy-style attire similar to the western/pioneer era. The ladies dress quite often includes saloon girls and dance hall darlings. Cowboy action shooters use Old West aliases when competing. The aliases can be based on real relatives, historic characters, silver screen heroes or just pure fiction and is registered by the Single Action Shooting Society, the parent association of the sport.

The first competition was held on May 26, 1985, and attracted 23 cowboy action shooters, plus some support volunteers.

This vision and inspiration for the future has flourished. The initial cowboy shoot began regular competitions at the Peel Gun Club until 1993. After that, it was relocated to the Guelph Gun Club in Guelph, Ont. Guelph is known as the Royal City and the cowboy action shooters are known as the Royal City Rangers. Many local clubs choose names that reflect the locale or their geographic location and surroundings.

Frank's initial vision has grown from a singular event to clubs Canada-wide that host cowboy action shooting matches on a regular monthly basis. Thirty years ago, competitors would have to travel great distances in order to compete, a contrast to today where currently there are cowboy action events held within short driving distances of many jurisdictions. In many areas, competitors are now able to attend two or three matches a month with a minimum amount of travel.

Frank's home club, the Guelph Rod and Gun Club, features regular monthly cowboy action matches and cowboy action practices. Due to Frank's diligent efforts and stewardship, there is a dedicated cowboy range at the Guelph club. There is also a dedicated cadre of enthusiastic volunteers organizing matches, assembling props, running events and growing the club. The appeal of cowboy action shooting has become very popular with all ages and genders. Young and old enjoy the drama and action inspired by this pursuit.

The 2014 30th edition of Indian Frank's original inspiration was a roaring success, from the opening cannon salute to the closing ceremonies and awards. When viewing the images, one can see how cowboy action shooting has been refined

The competitors in the first Cowboy Action Shooting competition, in 1985.



Today, Cowboy Action Shooting is still going strong, and growing every year.

and matured, as well as how it has grown from a handful of participants in 1985 to an impressive number of competitors today. Some major matches attract between 500 and 600 attendees. It is safe, action packed and, above all, fun!

Five of the original participants from 1985 were on hand for the 30th annual event. Indian Frank, Rawhide, Doc Bailey, Snake Montana and Major. It is also interesting to note that the second place winner in 1985, Rawhide, was Top Gun in 2014 and Indian Frank, Top Gun in 1985, finished second in his category in 2014.



The competition can get fierce, with some events hosting up to 600 shooters.

Results for the 30th annual competition were:

- Top Gun - Rawhide
- 49er - Slow Don
- Cowboy - Chance Arizona
- Silver Senior - Legendary Lawman
- Junior Ladies - Smoke n Ash
- Gunfighter - Mickey O'Rye
- Duelist - Lock n Load
- Lady - Sunny Jo
- Frontiersman - Crow

Frank McFarquhar is a great contributor to Cowboy Action Shooting and preserving Canada's firearms heritage.

The appeal of cowboy action shooting has become very popular with all ages and genders. Young and old enjoy the drama and action inspired by this pursuit.



Legal Corner

Guy Lavergne, Attorney At Law

What Is A Firearm?

We all know what a firearm is. Or do we?

As hard as it may seem to believe, I was a kid once. I grew up in Montreal, Que. When I was a teenager, a friend of mine taught me how to build a tennis ball cannon out of tin cans held together by duct tape.

The one I built was made of six small Campbell soup cans welded together. Two cans for the combustion chamber and four cans for the barrel. With a light dose of lighter fuel as a propellant, it could easily launch a tennis ball the length of a football field at a pretty good clip.

I never ran it through a chronograph, but I suspect that the speed at the muzzle was upwards of 300 feet per second. In those days, such a tennis ball cannon was a toy, and as long as we didn't hurt ourselves or others, no one, including the police, gave it a second thought.

Others used hair spray as propellant and launched potatoes as projectiles; hence the name spud cannon. None of my friends ever thought that such a toy would one day be considered a firearm. Back then, we all knew what a firearm was, and nobody would have thought that a spud cannon, or tennis ball cannon for that matter, would one day be viewed as a firearm.

That was then; this is now. On Nov. 5, 2014, the Supreme Court of Canada rendered a landmark decision in *R. v. Dunn* (case #35599). The Dunn case was about a man who carried a concealed pellet pistol, the kind that is propelled by CO₂ and launches spherical BBs at about 260 feet per second; the kind that requires neither licensing, nor registration.

Dunn did not use the gun as a weapon and may not have intended to. He carried it on him and showed it to an acquaintance, in a public place. Someone saw him and reported the incident to the police.

Dunn was charged with five counts under the *Criminal Code*. He was initially acquitted on all five counts, but the Crown appealed the acquittals. Ultimately, the Ontario Court of Appeal (OCA) overturned some of the acquittals and ordered a new trial on three of those five counts - careless handling of a firearm, carrying a weapon for a purpose dangerous to the public peace and carrying a concealed weapon. The Supreme Court of Canada (SCC) concurred, for the reasons stated by the OCA.

The central issue in the Dunn case was whether an air gun is considered a "firearm" under the *Criminal Code*. Since, under the *Criminal Code*, all firearms are deemed to be "weapons," one can be charged with carrying a concealed weapon if he carries a concealed firearm, even though one does not intend to use that firearm as a weapon.

The issue stems from the fact that the definition of "weapon" is deemed to include any firearm, irrespective of its intended or actual use, whereas that of "firearm" refers to a "barrelled weapon." I know it sounds complicated, but it is a patent case of lousy statutory drafting.

In the end, the OCA (and hence the SCC) decided that the word "weapon" in the definition of "firearm" has a generic (as opposed to statutory) meaning. In other words, what mattered is the potential or theoretical use of the firearm as a weapon, as opposed to its actual or intended use. Or, to put it differently, in the statutory definition of firearm, the word "weapon" really means "object."

Hence, if a barrelled object is capable of inflicting serious bodily injury, it is deemed to be a "firearm," pursuant to the *Criminal Code*, irrespective of its actual or intended use. The OCA determined that the threshold muzzle velocity for that purpose is 214 feet per second (or 246 feet per second using the V50 standard.) What is strange is that said threshold velocity was arrived at further to a test involving BB pellets shot at a (dead) pig's eye.



Based on a recent decision by the court, will all paintball fields in Canada become "ranges?" Will paintball guns less than 26 inches in length need to be transported in a locked case?



Despite not requiring licensing or registration, airsoft guns have recently come under fire through the *Criminal Code*.

However, the Court's ruling appears to apply that velocity threshold to any barreled object firing any kind of projectile, and not only to pellet guns. It would therefore capture such items as the air guns used for the sport of paintball, as well as to spud cannons made out of tin cans.

Although these items are exempt from the licensing and registration provisions of the *Firearms Act*, because their muzzle velocity is below 500 feet per second, the other provisions of the *Criminal Code* and *Firearms Act*, including those pertaining to storage, handling and transportation, are nevertheless applicable.

Other issues may also arise. Theoretically, all paintball fields throughout

Canada are now ranges. I am pretty sure that none of them have been certified by a CFO to this day. Will they all have to close down pending certification? If a paintball gun is less than 26 inches long, will it need to be transported in a locked case, in the trunk of a car, as is the case for any restricted firearm? I heard through the grapevine that the Quebec CFO is already taking action in this respect.

Will a kid carrying a spud cannon in a hockey bag be charged with carrying a concealed weapon? And since, under our laws, the receiver alone (minus the barrel) is deemed to be the "firearm," will leaving an empty tin can close to a sack of potatoes amount to "negligent storage of a firearm," because the ammunition (the potatoes) is readily available to the firearm (the empty tin can.) It sounds funny, but it is not. It just goes to show what bad legislation, drafted by people with an agenda but no actual knowledge of what they are addressing, may lead to. And of course, all of this is done in the name of public safety!

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The Fall 2014 nominations for Provincial Directors of Canada's National Firearms Association closed on December 1, 2014.

Robert Bracken – Director, Maritimes/Newfoundland & Labrador – 2-year term

Claude Colgan – Director, Quebec – 2-year term

Darlene Mackenzie – Director, Ontario – 2-year term

Kurt Luchia – Director, Saskatchewan – 2-year term

Ericka Clarke – Director, Alberta/NWT & International – 2-year term

Sheldon Clare – Director, British Columbia – 2-year term

Congratulations to all!

We would like to thank all of our members who have participated in our Fall 2014 elections.

La nomination d'automne 2014 pour les postes de directeurs provinciaux de L'association Canadienne pour les Armes à Feu a pris fin le 1er Décembre 2014.

Robert Bracken – Directeur, Maritimes/Terre-Neuve & Labrador – terme de 2 ans

Claude Colgan – Directeur, Québec – terme de 2 ans

Darlene Mackenzie – Directrice, Ontario – terme de 2 ans

Kurt Luchia – Directeur, Saskatchewan – terme de 2 ans

Ericka Clarke – Directrice, Alberta/TNW et à l'international – terme de 2 ans

Sheldon Clare – Directeur, Colombie Britannique – terme de 2 ans

Félicitation à toutes et à tous!

Nous tenons à remercier tous nos membres qui ont participé à nos élections de l'automne 2014.

Team NFA

Megan Heinicke

Shooting On The World Stage

Wind and other competitors top list of distractions

This summer, I had the opportunity to watch a precision shooting competition and found myself fascinated by the environment - mainly because it was so different than the competitive shooting environment that I am used to.

Biathlon is, without a doubt, a unique sport to begin with: maximum effort cross-country skiing, combined with shooting outdoors under significant time pressure, with anywhere between 5,000 and 25,000 spectators in the stadium. It's pretty intense. Not to mention the other 60 or more athletes competing alongside you.

The outdoor aspect of the sport is nothing new to a lot of people, but it truly adds a lot for us to be acutely aware of and be able to react to instantly. Naturally, the biggest factor is wind. Every biathlon range is set up with two rows of small, red wind flags and athletes adjust anywhere from one to five clicks left-right or up-down before each prone shooting if there is even the slightest change in wind direction compared to our zeroing. The wind is the first thing I notice and make a decision about when skiing in the shooting range. Every range is different and it is always worth paying attention to which direction the wind tends to blow or if there are particular lanes at the beginning or end of the range that seem to be protected from the wind.

Temperature also plays a critical role. Every season, we have our barrels tested with various lot numbers of ammunition to make sure that our selected ammunition can shoot a perfect group when both the barrel and ammunition have been frozen to -20 degrees Celsius. Our clothing also plays a role and it seems like every athlete has his or her own personal preference for the perfect glove to shoot in when the temperature drops. The last thing anyone wants to do is come into the shooting range only to realize that they have numb or frozen fingers.

There is a long list of other small details that need to be taken into consideration. Whether the firing line is perfectly flat (sometimes this is easier said than done if it snows 30 centimetres the morning of a race), whether the shooting mats are at all slippery or frosty (this has a big effect on foot placement for standing shooting) or whether we are shooting in the sunshine, daylight or dark (we often have night races with lit targets).

As fascinating as the technical details are, it is the fast-moving, competitive nature of biathlon that makes the shooting so exciting. Any biathlete can tell you that coming into the range hot on the heels of a competitor, or alongside five other



Biathlon is a competitive sport with very real distractions and obstacles to overcome.

athletes, is a completely different feeling than shooting alone. There is always that little part of you noticing who took the first shot faster or listening for that telltale clang of a missed shot from the next lane over. As tempting as it is to be aware of the other athletes, 100 per cent internal focus is critical for most of us. Certainly blocking out the other action on the range is something that I have gotten better at with time.

During my first few World Cup experiences as a junior, the spectators were definitely the factor that made the biggest impression on me. I was used to coming into a nice, quiet stadium and being able to focus on my own job almost effortlessly. It was quite an experience to find myself struggling to block out the screaming fans. For me, it isn't the noise level itself during a competition that is distracting; it is all of the information in it. Sometimes the commenter can be quite tricky to tune out. There is nothing like trying to shoot the last shot of your race while listening to an animated description of the shooter beside you or how your competitors are sprinting toward the finish line.

One of the most exciting, as well as one of the most distracting, things that happens during biathlon races is that the crowd cheers "YEAH!" for every hit target and "OOH!" for every missed target whenever a favourite athlete is on the shooting range. It is really quite an awesome effect, but it can certainly present a challenge for every other athlete in the range.

All these factors are not necessarily bad. The competitive aspects of the shooting range can be a lot of fun and play a big role in race tactics. The choice to shoot right beside another athlete and hope that your presence puts pressure on them, compared to the choice to shoot several lanes away and stay in your own bubble, can be a critical one. There is the personal choice to shoot quickly and aggressively or to take four extra seconds and be sure you will hit. It is one of the necessary judgment calls that makes or breaks even the best athletes over and over again. There is always something to pay attention to, to focus on, to improve on and the long list of factors keeps the sport exciting and ever-changing for the athletes and fans alike. It's all part of the game and unique as it is, for us biathletes it is just another day on the range.

Point Blank

Chris McGarry

Getting Younger Generation Involved Crucial To Preserving Firearms Rights

Pass your traditions and knowledge onto your children

It is common knowledge that those who are resolute enough in their efforts to preserve a long-standing custom will work tirelessly to ensure that younger generations carry on those traditions. This is a situation faced by firearms owners in Canada today. Although the National Firearms Association has made some considerable strides in recent years and our membership is growing, the only way for this country's law-abiding firearms community to ensure that our hard-fought freedoms are protected in the future is by engaging our children now.

On several occasions, I have gone to ranges where gun owners (sometimes both fathers and mothers) were there teaching their children the proper way to handle firearms and accurately shoot. These enriching experiences not only teach young people responsibility, but also hopefully strengthen an interest in the shooting sports. In addition to this, gunnies must teach their children the origin of their rights and why it will be so crucial for them to one day pick up the torch and fight for our ancient English Common Law rights in the halls of power in Canada.

It is truly unfortunate that compared to my father's generation (or mine, for that matter) children growing up in this often unstable, high-tech age are often bombarded with the message that guns are evil objects whose only purpose is to cause destruction. Add to that the fact that many children today (save for those who are homeschooled or enrolled in private schools) attend public schools that are often administered by leftist-progressive bureaucrats who simply will not allow any education or instruction in the safe handling of firearms.

Whereas up until only a few decades ago, many schools across Canada had firing ranges in their basements where

young people could learn marksmanship skills, the mere mention of such a thing in our modern, politically-correct age brings about hysterical reactions. Recently, Generation Action, a new lobby group based in Montreal that wants Canada to enact even stricter gun laws than we already have, plans to visit schools and youth centres in the community. Meanwhile, gun rights organizations such as the NFA are not permitted the same privilege. It is truly unfortunate to see young, impressionable minds being indoctrinated to believe lies. Firearms enthusiasts who have children and wish for them to be able to legally practice their sport in the future must work hard to counter this campaign misinformation spouted by the antis, as well as much of the mainstream media.

The most important way we can engage our children is by teaching them how the political process works. In order to win any fight, you must know who your opponents are and the objectives they have. Instead of merely voting every four years, encourage young people to fight for their rights by writing to their elected representatives and joining electoral district associations so they might make their voices heard. The current mess of draconian gun laws on the books in Canada are largely the result of apathy on the part of previous generations. It is our job to make certain, if we are truly serious about preserving our rights, that the children and youth of today have a considerably more energetic, strong-willed mindset once they grow up.



Teaching children about firearms and their rights to continue this tradition will go a long way to ensuring the viability of this sport and our heritage.



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Terrorists And The Homeless



Recruitment happening amongst Canada's most vulnerable

By Gary Mauser

In late October, before storming the Centre Block on Parliament Hill where he was shot and killed by security, Michael Zehaf-Bibeau murdered Cpl. Nathan Cirillo, who was guarding the National War Memorial. Opposition Leader Mulcair calls Zehaf-Bibeau a petty criminal with mental health issues and says he is not a terrorist, pointing to his history of drug addiction and property crimes. But Prime Minister Harper and the RCMP say, of course, he is a terrorist. Zehaf-Bibeau deliberately picked national icons to attack, and before the attack he made a video claiming to be an Islamic terrorist. He even scouted out the Centre Block ahead of his rampage. These are not the acts of a suicidal, petty criminal.

Harper may be politicizing the threat, but Mulcair is being deliberately obtuse. Terrorists are often mentally unbalanced, petty criminals. Suicide bombers in the Middle East aren't sane adults. Islamists have long preyed upon the weak and vulnerable to recruit their victims. In order to understand the seriousness of suicidal, lone-wolf terrorists, we need to probe more deeply than what's readily available on TV or popular websites. In this article I will assess the available statistics concerning the criminal misuse of firearms, homegrown Islamists, homelessness and mental illness and the perennial problem of violent berserkers who attempt "suicide by cop."

The Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) believe they have discovered a way to strike at the west, by preying on our mentally disturbed underclass. (ISIS is also called Daesh, Arabic for "to crush." It's a name ISIS hates and has vowed to cut out the tongues from anyone who calls them that). Earlier in 2014, Daesh distributed a propaganda video over the Internet calling on the group's followers to target people in a number of countries, including Canada. It specifically recommended running military personnel over with cars. This

effort has borne some fruit. A few days prior to the Ottawa attack, another self-radicalized Islamic fanatic (Martin Couture-Rouleau) used his car to run over two Canadian servicemen, killing one of his victims and seriously injuring the other. Some think Zehaf-Bibeau was motivated by this earlier terror attack.

Lone wolves and gun laws

Gun laws have not hindered terrorists. Clearly, they are irrelevant for killers who prefer cars, knives or IEDs, and they aren't effective in keeping guns out of criminal hands. The Ottawa killer was not legally qualified to own a firearm. Nevertheless, he managed to acquire a lever-action Winchester .30-30 rifle to use in his assault. This should come as no surprise, simply because few killers have the legal right to possess the firearm they use. (Just seven per cent of the guns used in firearm homicides are legal.) The media played down the lethality of a lever-action rifle, claiming it is just a "sporting rifle" or "a hunting rifle," but the cartridge has approximately the same knock-down power as the 7.62 x 39 used in the AK-47 that so excites the media.

Lone-wolf terrorists are hard to stop. Even identifying them is akin to finding a needle in a huge haystack. There are over a million Muslims in Canada. Very few Imams openly support Daesh. Instead, almost all are eager to alert the RCMP to potential terrorists among their flock. But "few" is not "none." There are perhaps as many as a few hundred suspected radical Islamists on the RCMP watch list. To make identification more challenging, many, if not all, of these suspects are do-it-yourself converts who have no real connections in the Muslim community; the radical Imams they know are on the Internet.

What clues are important in spotting terrorists before they become violent? It is not a crime to oppose the government's foreign policy, nor is it illegal to

hate the Prime Minister. If that were the case, most of the CBC would be arrested. Exceptionally few sufferers from Harper Derangement Syndrome go on to become self-radicalized Islamists. Angry opposition to government policy only crosses the criminal threshold when a violent act is planned or committed. Many people angrily say, "I'd like to kill that SOB," without any intention of actually doing so. Reliably predicting who will commit violent crimes anywhere is virtually impossible.

Daesh and the homeless

Canada's homeless population provides a convenient pool for ISIS/Daesh to recruit suicidal berserkers. Statistics Canada estimates there are 150,000 homeless in Canada. Between 10 per cent and 15 per cent of the homeless are called chronic, which means that they have been on the streets for possibly years and are locked into a state of homelessness as a result of multiple needs across health, drug addiction or alcoholism and frequent contact with the criminal justice system. Daesh is targeting this pool of between 15,000 and 45,000 chronic homeless. Being homeless does not deprive people of access to the Internet. Apparently, an Internet connection is readily available to all transients at Canadian homeless shelters.

Islamic extremism and self-radicalization has transformed the danger of mentally unstable individuals prepared to commit suicide by cop. Apparently there is a growing, if small, number of mentally ill people who would consider attacking a police officer in order to kill themselves. Unfortunately, there is a sizable pool of depressed homeless people, many addicted to drugs, in all major cities of North America. A few every year commit suicide by attacking a cop. The threat of Daesh recruiting the homeless may finally motivate governments at all levels - federal, provincial

and municipal - to take a more serious approach to the homeless problem.

How many individuals commit suicide by cop in Canada each year? Unfortunately, no comprehensive statistics are available. Canadian police do not share their information on police shootings with Statistics Canada. However, it may be possible to estimate this number by piecing together the statistical reports that are available.

So far, the numbers are small. Mental illness causes huge problems for police, but few shootings. A few police depart-

ments do release some statistics, such as the Vancouver Police Department in BC. VPD reports that at least 21 per cent of all incidents handled by VPD officers involve some mental health component. However, the reality could be closer to 30 per cent. VPD reports almost 3,000 mental-health apprehensions in 2013. The police predict these types of apprehensions to increase in 2014. Unfortunately, the number of police shootings is not regularly reported. However, an earlier study found that there were approximately two police shootings per year in BC, with about half (47 per cent) classified as suicide by cop (Parent 1996). Since BC has 10 per cent of the Canadian population, that suggests there are roughly 20 suicide-by-cop shootings per year nationwide.

American institutions are much more open. Both the FBI and the Bureau of Justice Statistics report police shootings. According to the FBI, there has been an average of 401 justifiable police shootings each year between 2008 and 2012. Eleven per cent of officer-involved shootings were suicide-by-cop incidents, or approximately 44 per year. This is the normal number of suicide-by-cop incidents. This may increase with ISIS provocation.

Conclusions

It is still unclear whether new legislation concerning domestic terrorism is needed. The government's current proposed Bill C-44, the *Protection of Canada from Terrorists Act*, may be sufficient. It is important to carefully balance the civil rights and liberties of the accused with protecting public safety when considering any bill increasing police powers. Acting in haste can easily create bad laws. According to Mr. Therrien, the privacy commissioner, "We have robust tools currently." Perhaps the legislation already in place is adequate. Or perhaps we need to strengthen individual civil rights rather than increase police powers.

The recent terrorist attack is a wake up call to finally do something with the chronically homeless. The police are not the best way to deal with the mentally ill. Placing the chronically homeless in long-term hospitals is better than imprisoning them, leaving them on the streets or waiting until they commit suicide by cop. Now that our enemies are attempting to recruit terrorists among the homeless, it is time to reconsider the laws on committing the mentally ill. We created this problem in the 1970s and '80s when governments across North America decided



Michael Zehaf-Bibeau, identified as the shooter in Ottawa that killed Cpl. Nathan Cirillo in October 2014.



Flowers and cards flooded the National War Memorial following the horrific events of late October 2014.

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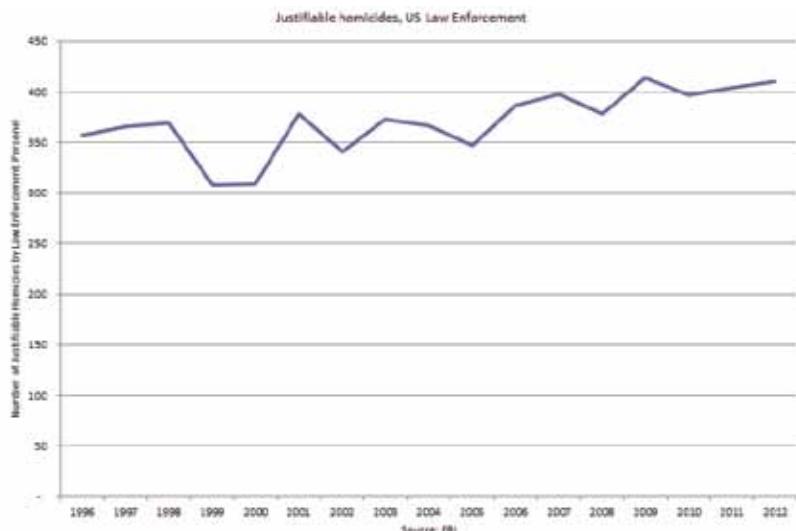
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The number of justifiable homicides by US police officers has been increasing over the years.

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to empty the mental institutions and then failed to provide the community clinics that were promised. It is no surprise many people ended up on the streets.

I will conclude by pointing out the obvious: the problem is Islamists, not Islam. Almost all Muslim immigrants came to Canada (like other immigrants) in order to create a better life. Canadian Imams should be commended for their patriotism and for co-operating with the police in helping to identify potential terrorists. Of course, the police need to continue liaising with the Muslim community, as they should with every other Canadian community. Good community relations are important if the police intend to be more than a military occupation force.



HANDGUNS FOR PERSONAL PROTECTION IN CANADA'S WILDERNESS

Solution to surviving wild animal attacks could be as easy as carrying a handgun

By Lowell Strauss

"Missing hunter found dead after grizzly bear attack," "Hunter killed in bear attack" - shocking headlines representing two fatalities at the start of the 2014 fall hunting season in Canada. Both stories involved firearms - in one, a solo hunter with a rifle; the second, a hunter accompanied by a guide. Despite being armed, these individuals did not survive a hostile encounter with a bear. The reports give few details. Did they have bear spray? If so, did they use it or was it too windy? Did they get caught off guard, without time to react? Some of these details will be teased apart in the investigations that follow, but one thing is certain: two people are dead as a result of not being able to defend themselves during a bear attack.

Anyone who has spent time in the wilderness has stories of close encounters with dangerous wildlife. Most of the time these encounters end without incident, recorded as a blip on social media. But on those rare occasions when an aggressive wild animal doesn't back down, things can go terribly wrong and fast. Those with the means and wits to protect themselves, along with a measure of good fortune, may survive such an attack. Sadly, as in these tragic stories, some encounters end in death for the wilderness travellers.

Wilderness areas are enjoyed for hunting, angling and many other recreational activities. However, hunters are

at a much higher risk than other wilderness travellers by the nature of what we do in the woods. Moving silently with the wind in our face, in an attempt not to alert animals of our presence by smell; hunters roam in low light, a time when predator and prey are most active, and human eyes, ears, and noses are no match for an animal whose survival is determined by its ability to detect prey. Calling animals, such as elk or moose, discloses a hunter's position to nearby carnivores. After the kill, the smell of blood is a powerful attractant to a hungry carnivore. Hunters are pre-disposed to wildlife encounters because of this desire to sneak up to our prey. Sometimes the tables are turned. The hunter becomes the hunted or an intruder between a momma and her young. At these times, hunters need a means by which we can protect ourselves.

Bear spray

The first line of defence for protecting yourself during an attack is bear spray, which is considered non-lethal. Bear spray is a pressurized canister of capsicum, extracted from chilli peppers. Used by puffing short bursts of spray into a cloud, it effectively creates a wall of aerosolized capsicum between you and the attacker. The spray irritates the eyes and nose and will cause breathing difficulty - enough to cause an animal's retreat. Bear spray is legal to use

in Canada, including in national parks. Even in wilderness areas where firearms are allowed, killing an animal (bear, wolf, cougar, etc.) in self defence, especially when the animal is a protected species, will require a sound explanation to the authorities.

Bear spray does have its limitations; it is affected by wind - if the wind is blowing in your face, the spray will contaminate the user rather than the attacking animal. In a cross-wind, the spray will drift and leave only a partial defence barrier. It is recommended that prior to deploying the spray, one should move upwind if possible. Easier said than done, especially during an attack. During high stress situations, determining wind direction will be the last thing on your mind. Unfortunately, if you do get capsicum in your face, you will be blinded and gasping for breath during an attack and even less likely to react appropriately.

A canister of bear spray lasts approximately six to 10 seconds, depending on can size and brand. Even with short blasts of about two seconds, a can of spray will run dry very quickly. If the attack continues and you are out of spray, you will need to use another method to protect yourself. Wolves are very sensitive to bear spray; however, because they hunt in packs, the spray may be used up before the threat retreats. In this case, alternate means of



Getting between a mother and her cub can lead to a life-threatening situation for anyone out in the woods.

protection will be necessary. In addition, bear spray is a pressurized canister that has an expiry date. Forget to check and it may not work when needed.

While bear spray is very effective most of the time, it is not 100 per cent effective. Alternate means of protection will be needed in these circumstances.

Firearms use – the research

Before bear spray, firearms were the tools used to stop wild animal attacks. It is hard to beat a shotgun loaded a bear cracker shotshell as an early deterrent, followed by buckshot or slugs to stop an animal attack.

The findings of a recent study on human-bear conflicts in Alaska showed that in the cases where firearms were used to stop a bear attack, the majority of such incidents were successful. Interestingly, human injury rates were similar whether a firearm was used or not. Thus, having a firearm does not mean you will be uninjured in an encounter with aggressive wildlife – in this case, bears. In fact, a firearm may provide a false sense of security, and in some cases lower situational awareness while increasing vulnerability.

In the study, nine reasons were listed

for firearms failing to stop an aggressive bear. In almost half the cases, the failure was either due to lack of time to respond to the bear (surprised by the bear) or not using the firearm at all. This may be reason enough to need a handgun in the wilderness.

Handguns for wilderness self defence

Handguns may have a role as personal protection weapons in the wilderness. It has been said, "a handgun is for shooting your way to your rifle." Although handguns are rather anemic when compared to the power of their bigger brothers (shotguns and rifles), there are several benefits to a using sidearm.

A handgun is convenient to carry, easy to access and can be with you at all times in the woods. A defensive tool is useless if it cannot be deployed quickly, and unlike long guns that are slung over a shoulder or stored in a scabbard for transport, a handgun can be neatly carried in a holster on your person.

A handgun can be easily drawn and deployed quickly. Time to react is a critical factor in the use of a weapon for protection.

At self-defence distances, handguns are not affected by the wind – an im-

portant factor if using bear spray. In a worst-case scenario where an animal has either driven you up a tree to escape or has knocked you to the ground, a handgun and lethal force may be the only option available. Using bear spray in these situations may do more harm than good.

Reloading is an option for a handgun. A bear spray canister empties quickly (less than 10 seconds.) A revolver typically has six shots before it needs reloading and a pistol with three, 10-shot magazines would give 30 chances to stop an attack.

Dangerous animals

When we think about protecting ourselves from wild animals, we often think of bears first and for good reason. Every year, bears make up the majority of stories about aggressive wildlife behaviour toward humans. But there are other wild animals that can leave us in a world of hurt if they attack us. Attacks can come from mothers protecting their young, a predator defending a kill, an animal that feels threatened and attacks out of fear or, perhaps the most dangerous, a predator that views us as a potential meal. Everything from a muskrat to a moose,



Although not traditionally thought of as a dangerous animal, coyotes have been known to kill humans.

a coyote to a grizzly bear, are potential threats.

In 2009, Taylor Mitchell, a folk singer from Toronto, was attacked and killed by coyotes in Nova Scotia. Coyotes are not typically thought of as a threat to humans. However, coyotes, especially ones habituated to human activity, may try anything to find their next meal if they are starving.

Current Canadian law

Canadians can use firearms (where legal) to protect themselves in the wilderness, typically using non-restricted long guns. However, some Canadian residents with a licence to possess restricted firearms may apply for an Authorization To Carry (ATC) permit for wilderness protection. This includes "licenced professional trappers and individuals who need protection from wild animals while working at their lawful occupation, most often in a remote wilderness location."

Currently, ATCs are issued by the provincial Chief Firearms Officer (CFO). Each application is considered on a case-by-case basis. The applicant must satisfy to their CFO that they need to carry a restricted firearm in connection with their work.

Can the average wilderness user get an ATC?

Presently, an ATC is only considered for people working in the wilderness. It is unlikely that the average wilderness user would be successful in an application to carry a restricted firearm without a change to the *Firearms Act*.

Surveyors and timber cruisers do have a good case to apply for an ATC. A shotgun slung across your back is the standard method of protection, but it also gets in the way of work. Having an easy-to-access handgun holstered on your hip makes good sense. Other professionals may include hunting, fishing or canoeing guides, biologists and environmental consultants – the list goes on. These professionals are also likely to encounter animals in the backcountry, and presumably a case could be made that they require an ATC to protect themselves, their clients and/or their co-workers. Each application is open to interpretation by the CFO. For example, a "professional trapper," someone who may apply for an ATC, is not defined in the *Firearms Act*. Could the part-time trapper apply for an ATC? All trappers sell the furs they harvest, thereby



Granting ATCs to average hunters and outdoors people will take radical change in the current *Firearms Act*.

generating income that is reported to the Canada Revenue Agency. This is a professional activity and therefore may warrant consideration for an ATC. There may be many more people who are eligible than who are applying.

Other reasons to carry a handgun

It is interesting that professional trappers are specified as one of two groups of people that can apply to carry a sidearm. I suspect the intent is for self-defence against dangerous wildlife, however, a .22LR handgun would be a convenient method for dispatching trapped animals or perhaps taking a grouse or rabbit (when permissible) for the stew pot. In a survival situation, a firearm that is light and convenient to carry in a holster will always be with you should the need arise.

Training and final considerations

The tool or weapon you use to protect yourself is only as good as your proficiency with it. In the study from Alaska, in nine per cent of cases the shooter missed the bear, in eight per cent of the cases the shooter couldn't disengage the safety in time to use the gun and in eight per cent of the cases the gun was emptied and couldn't be re-loaded. All circumstance that may have been avoided with proper training.

Handguns may not pack the energy required to stop a large carnivore like a

bear, especially when it is attacking you. Shot placement is critical. The knowledge of the firearm, how to work the safety, how to quickly reload and how to draw it from a holster are all knowledge and skills that need to be practiced and committed to muscle memory.

The ability to carry a handgun for wilderness self defence gives us another defence option. It is an excellent back up to bear spray. Handguns are close-range weapons and must be treated as such. When hunters, especially those using a rifle for hunting, are killed by a wild animal, I can't help but wonder what went wrong. Why didn't they use their rifle as a last resort to protect themselves? Had they been carrying a handgun, would they still be alive?

It would be constructive to open a dialogue with CFOs about hunters and field workers carrying handguns for protection in the wilderness. Maybe we can start that conversation by having average hunters and trappers apply for ATCs across Canada. An ATC permit would provide hunters with another option to stay alive in the Canadian wilderness.

Prepare and train with what you will use in the field. Currently, average Canadians will need to rely on bear-spray and/or long guns to protect themselves in the wilderness should the need arise. If someday good logic prevails and average Canadians can successfully apply for an ATC for wilderness self defence, perhaps then lives will be saved with handguns.

The Just Right Carbine

Great for
the young,
advancing
shooter

By Bob Campbell



Relatively compact and with a black finish, the JR carbine has a modern appearance.

The pistol-calibre carbine enjoys a long and storied history. The Winchester lever-action is what truly got the ball rolling. Owing to the fact that the .32-20 WCF, .38-40 WCF and .44-40 WCF were rifle cartridges, the Colt Single-Action Army Rifle was successfully chambered for these cartridges. While the lever-action rifle chambered for magnum revolver cartridges remains popular, the pistol-calibre, self-loading carbine is also a well-liked option.

There are three types of self-loading, pistol-calibre carbines. The first are civilian versions of military sub-machine guns, which include the UZI and the Thompson. As a rule, the converted SMG (sub-machine gun) types are not particularly useful for the majority of firearms enthusiasts. Because these types of firearms have to remain controllable in fully automatic fire, they are heavy on the cartridge. With the longer barrel authorized for civilian use, they sometimes are not particularly well balanced. The second type is a conversion of the AR-15 rifle to pistol-calibre cartridges, which are fairly decent.

Third, and in my opinion the most useful, are the purpose-designed, pistol-calibre carbines.

SPECIFICATIONS

Calibre: .45 ACP
Action type: Blowback-operated, semi-automatic carbine
Receiver: Anodized aluminum
Finish: Black oxide
Barrel: 16-inch 4140 Steel
Rifling: Six-groove, 1:16-inch right-hand twist
Sights: None
Trigger: Single-stage, seven pounds, one ounce pull
Handguard: Aluminum quad-rail
Stock: AR-type collapsible
Magazine: Glock detachable box
Overall length: buttstock extended to 34-and-a-half inches; collapsed at 31-and-a-quarter inches
Weight: Seven pounds
Manufacturer: Just Right Carbines, P.O. Box 430, Canandaigua, NY 14424; (585) 396-1551

These range from the High Point with its single-column magazine, to the carbine tested from Just Right. In some respects, the Just Right Carbine - referred to as JR for the remainder of the article - has the appearance of the AR-15, but it is a purpose-designed pistol-calibre carbine.

For those wishing to own a relatively light, handy and fun carbine, the JR is a good choice. It is available in 9mm, .40 and .45 calibres. I personally chose the .45 ACP because I have ammunition and plenty of brass for handloading. It is interesting that the JR may be changed from one calibre to another relatively



In this illustration, the bolt has been manually locked to the rear, an option for a carbine that does not lock open on the last shot.

easily. The JR isn't gas operated. It isn't recoil-operated in the sense that the barrel recoils on firing. Rather, the JR is simply a blowback type. The bolt is held forward by spring pressure until the bullet exits the barrel. Pressure abates and the bolt flies to the rear. A heavy buffer takes the shock out of firing. The spent cartridge case is ejected and as the bolt flies forward, another cartridge is stripped from the magazine and into the chamber. This is simplicity of operation. The JR isn't an AR, but it will accept AR-15-type stocks and forends, an important consideration. There is also a Mil Spec rail for mounting weapons lights and lasers. In Canada, legal barrel length is 19 inches.

While the carbine was serviceable as issued, it is easy to accessorize. It isn't supplied with any type of sight. The test gun was fitted with a Tasco Red Dot for evaluation purposes. The JR carbine uses standard Glock .45-calibre magazines. These are the same as those used in the Glock Model 21 handgun. The JR features a magazine release on the left side of the receiver, rather than the right-hand release of the Colt AR-15. This is fine in practice and easy enough to get used to. I choose not to compare the JR carbine to a full-power service rifle, but rather choose to let it stand on its own merits as a service-grade, pistol-calibre carbine.

To make the JR carbine ready to fire, insert a loaded magazine and then rack the bolt to load a cartridge. The safety is moved to the fire position. My example's trigger broke at a relatively clean seven pounds. The bolt carries the extractor; however, the ejector is part of the dust cover. This dust cover may be changed to the right or left side in order to facilitate a change for left-handed shooters. The bolt handle may also be switched for left-hand operation. The bolt doesn't have a hold-open device on the last shot, but may be manually locked in place by placing the handle into a slot in the receiver. At this point I have test fired the JR carbine to a good extent. To be frank, the first experience didn't go particularly well. The rifle was returned to the factory because of function problems. These things occur from time to time.

To their credit, the rifle was fixed, modified to a reliable standard and sent back to me. When it returned, it functioned as it should. Although bad for initial testing, but good for customer service, this isn't an uncommon experience. I have fired the JR carbine with a variety of loads, including handloads,

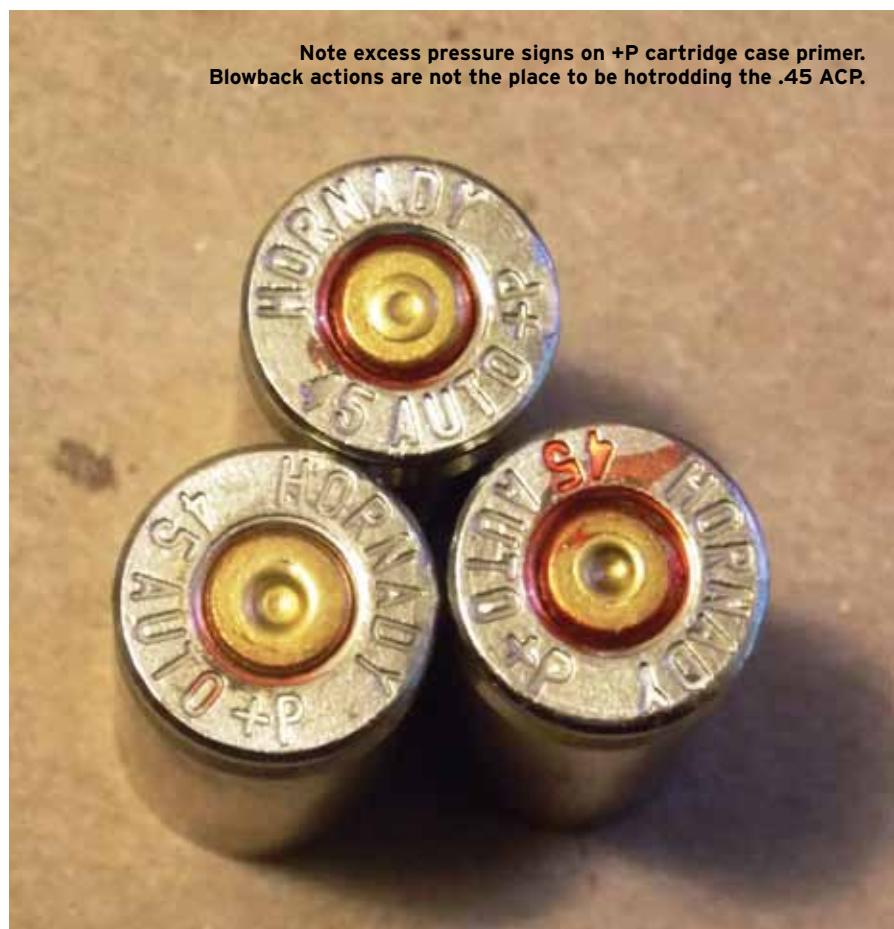
factory ball ammunition, hollow points and a single +P load. A word of caution: although the rifle performed well with the Hornady +P 220-grain Flex Lock, there were excess pressure signs with some loads. It is a rule of thumb that we do not use +P loads in blowback-operated firearms. There was no danger. It simply appears that such loads would batter the rifle. This load breaks about 1,050 feet per second from a five-inch barrel Colt Government Model.

The carbine exhibited well over 1,150 feet per second. This is a useful amount of increase. The majority of the loads fired were 230-grain full metal jackets, the traditional .45 ACP hardball loading. With the High Precision Downrange (HPD) ammunition version, accuracy was good and the powder burn was complete. A full powder burn is the norm in a carbine barrel. I also fired a number of standard pressure 230-grain JHP loads, all with good to excellent results.

The JR carbine feeds good-quality handloads, as well. I had on hand a quantity using the Oregon Trail 225-grain Flat Point bullet. Loaded over Winchester 231 powder, these loads exhibited a velocity of over 1,000 feet per second from the JR carbine.

As far as accuracy is concerned, the JR carbine is more accurate than the majority of handguns. And that accuracy is much easier for an occasional shooter to demonstrate with the carbine than with a handgun. An average of five-shot groups at 25 yards, from a solid bench rest position, gave good carbine-style groups. It wasn't unusual for a quality loading to break 1.5 inches for five shots. A few went into even smaller groups, including the HPR 230-grain FMJ (full metal jacket). The largest group was with the handload, at 1.9 inches for an average of two five-shot groups.

I also fired a quantity of the Winchester 230-grain PDX. Winchester's new M1911 load, designed for the 1911 .45-calibre handgun, of course did an excellent job in the JR carbine. Accuracy was consistent from load to load. The JR carbine is a friendly rifle to fire. The adjustable stock looks to lend itself well to all shooters. I think the rifle is a great choice for moving young shooters from the .22 to a centrefire without the muzzle blast, kick and expense of a centrefire rifle. All in all, this is an enjoyable rifle that seems well made.



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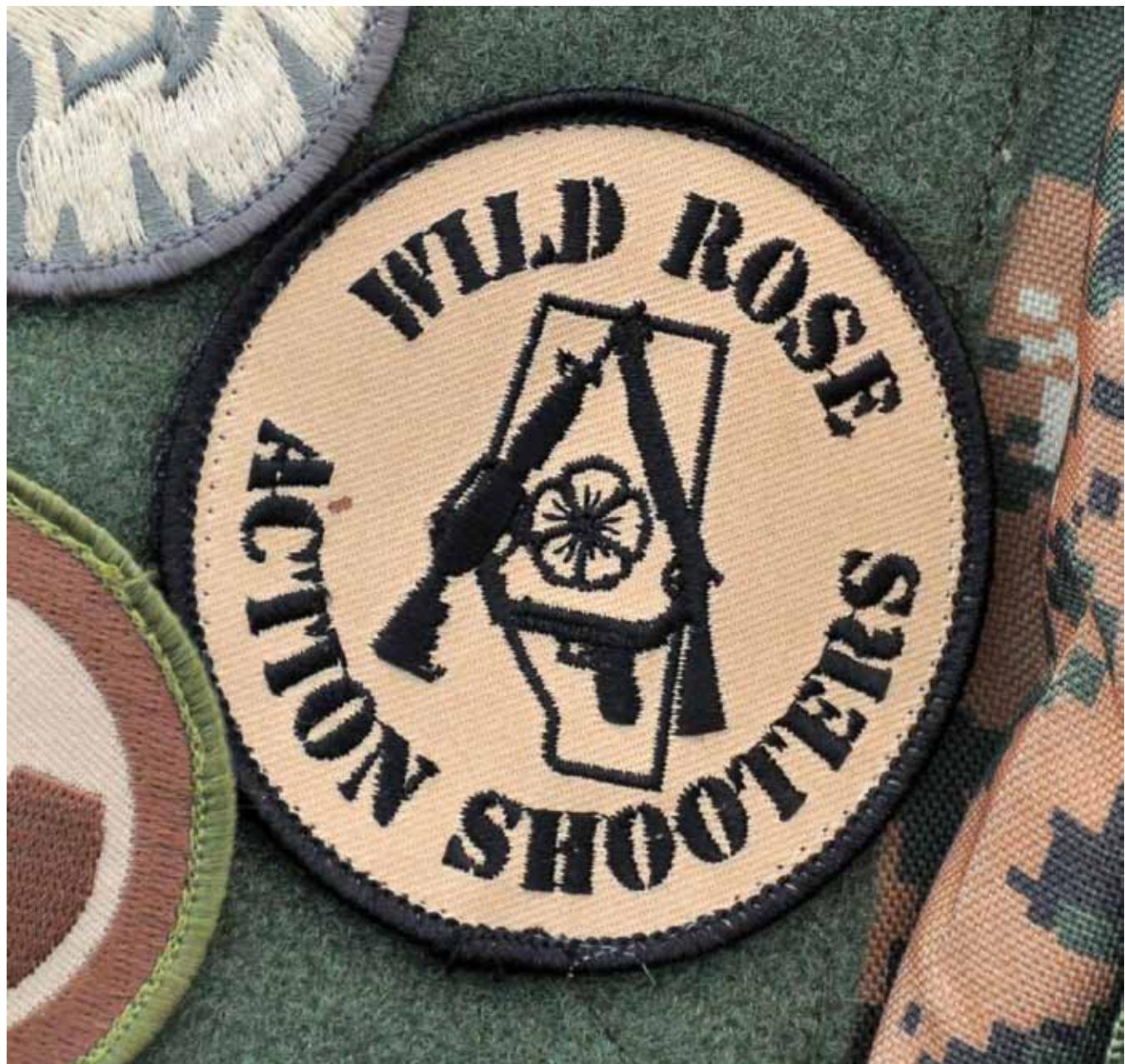


Shooting For Valour

Raising money for a worthy cause

By Al Voth

In addition to being fun, shooting is also beneficial. But when shooting is fun and the benefits go to charity, it's spectacular. And that's what's been happening for the past two years outside of Edmonton, where a charity-focused 3-Gun competition is quickly becoming a major feature on the western Canadian shooting circuit.





Shooters are all smiles after a fun day of competition in support of a worthy cause.

Opened in October 2012, Valour Place is a temporary home-away-from-home for all Canadian Forces members, families of the fallen, veterans and RCMP, along with their families, who require medical treatment in Edmonton but live outside the city/area.

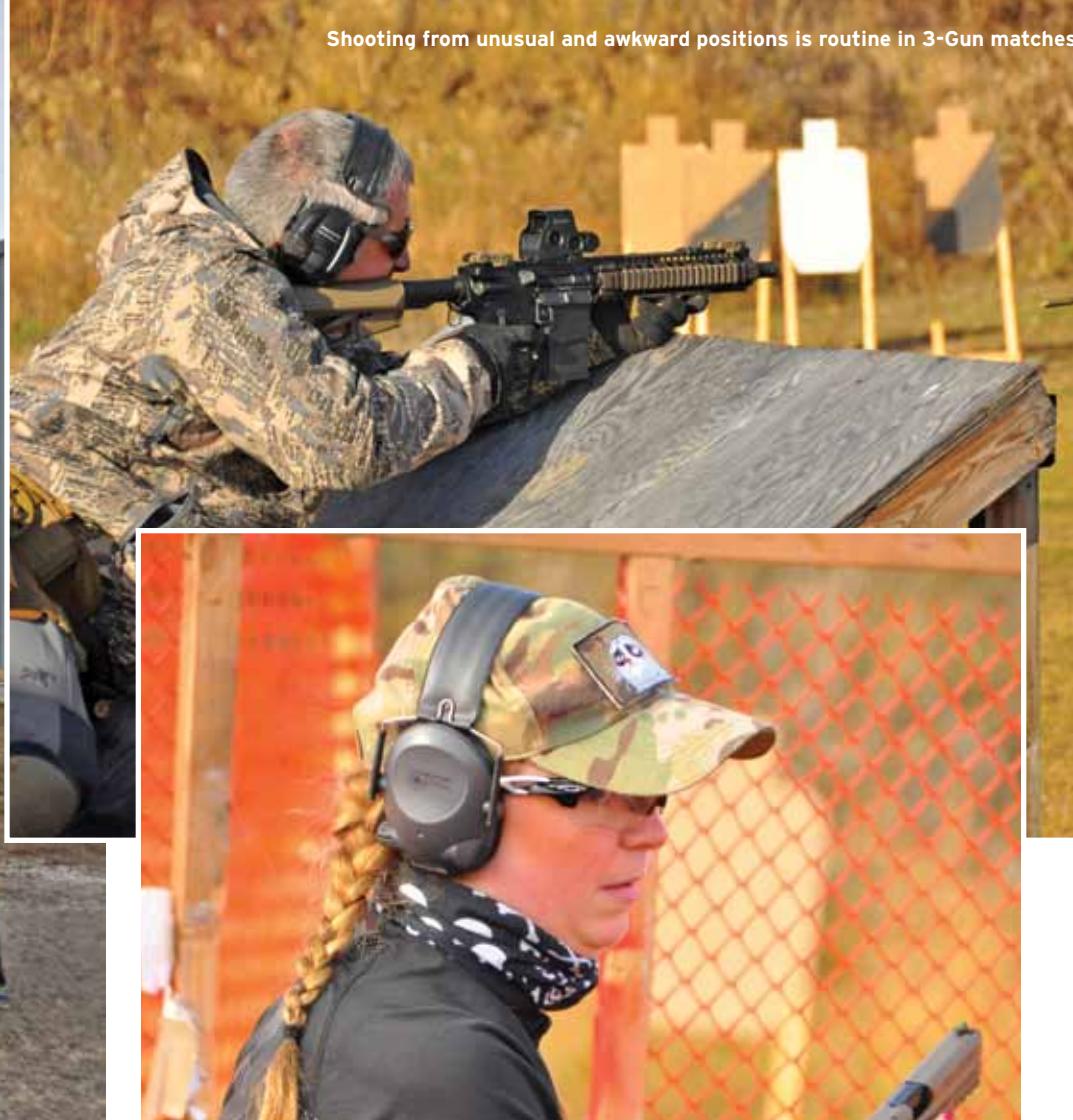
There, the Wild Rose Action Shooters (WRAS), a Spruce Grove-based club, has been holding an annual charity match on the first weekend of November. WRAS is, as the name suggests, an action shooting club and they've been redefining the word "action" by putting on a shooting match designed as a fundraiser for a military family support house called Valour Place.

Opened in October 2012, Valour Place is a temporary home-away-from-home for all Canadian Forces members, families of the fallen, veterans and RCMP, along with their families, who require medical treatment in Edmonton but live outside the city/area. By utilizing Valour Place as a place to stay, they have the means to face the challenges of medical treatment and rehabilitation in a warm, welcoming and supportive environment, at no cost.

"It's like a Ronald McDonald House for military families," says Martin St. Onge, the house manager.

He went on to say, "Valour Place is the first of its kind in Canada and because the services it provides are free, the facility must be sustained through long-term leases, donations, endowment income and special events like the WRAS 3-Gun match. We have 12 rooms or suites at Valour Place and in the past year we've doubled our occupancy rate, with most of the guests originating from the Canadian Forces bases in Yellowknife, Cold Lake and Wainwright."

I was able to play reporter and cover last year's match as well, and I recall being impressed when the club handed Valour Place a cheque for \$2,000. This year, they blew that away and doubled the cheque to \$4,000. The money came not only from competitor's entry fees, but also from a surplus the club has



Valour Place is the first of its kind in Canada and because the services it provides are free, the facility must be sustained through long-term leases, donations, endowment income and special events like the WRAS 3-Gun match.

Shooting from unusual and awkward positions is routine in 3-Gun matches.

**Move and shoot. Shoot and move.
Then shoot some more.**

collected over the course of the year and from individual's cash donations. Canadian companies committed to the shooting sports showed their support too, by donating enough merchandise to ensure every competitor went home with a prize, all of which were distributed at random. Significant prizes this year included a complete AR upper from North Eastern Arms, three cases of exploding binary targets from Gryphon Energetics and an armful of shooting gear by Troy, 5.11 and JP courtesy of Mil-Arm, an Edmonton gun shop.

So, which shooter won the match? It doesn't matter, because Valour Place was the real winner, and that was the goal. I asked Sam Brownfield, one of the organizers, for tips on how other clubs can run similar charity-focused competitions.

"It's essential to pick a charity that fits the make up of the club members and their interests," he said. "Beyond that, a club needs to approach the charity ahead of time and confirm they are totally on board with what's being proposed. Then you need a good match structure, with someone assigned to every task, including food. Feed your shooters and they'll come back."

"What about getting the word out?" I asked.

"Our club already has an active network in social media and a web presence, so it's not too hard for us," said Sam. "But if you have to build that from scratch, it will take a few years to establish your match on shooter's calendars."

"Do you operate this match differently than your monthly matches?"

"We try and make this match a little more fun to shoot and don't get wrapped up in being overly-competitive. The range officers are all told to coach, correct and support the shooter through the course of fire, not just look for infractions. A safety infraction will still send you home. We don't compromise on that. But failing to see and engage a target, or doing something in the wrong order, will garner a correction, not a massive point penalty."

From what I saw, this formula works. With prizes distributed at random and helpful range officers, the pressure was off and shooters competed solely for bragging rights, making Valour Place the focus of the competition. And because this was a charity match, getting sponsor support also appeared to

be easier. All together, it seems like a winning combination and other clubs would do well to look at what's happening here. There are lots of worthy organizations across Canada deserving of shooter support and if your club isn't holding at least one charity-focused shooting match each year, maybe it's time to take action and change that. I'm reminded of a 5.11 t-shirt design I saw recently that featured a 1911 pistol made of words. The design was called 45 Words or Less and words like honour, focus, integrity and purpose make up the pistol. Those are words that we as gun owners need to live by. But like everyone, we shooters need to ensure our words are backed up by actions. The WRAS club has certainly traded words for action and can legitimately say, in more ways than one, that "action" is their middle name.

CONTACTS:

Wild Rose Action Shooters
www.wrasalberta.com

Valour Place
www.valourplace.ca



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Mossberg's 4x4 In



The varmints never hear it coming

By Norman Gray

MOSSBERG 4X4: 22-250 REMINGTON

TYPE: Bolt action

CALIBRE: .22-250 Remington (tested) six long-action calibres from .25-06 Rem. to .338 Win. Mag.; four short-action calibres from .22-250 Rem. to .308 Win.; and three short magnum calibres: .270 WSM, 7mm WSM and .300 WSM.

CAPACITY: Five-round magazine

BARREL: 24-inch fluted

TWIST: 1:14

OVERALL LENGTH: 46 inches

WEIGHT: Seven-and-a-half pounds

FINISH: MarneCote

SIGHTS: None provided, accepts Weaver-style base and rings

SCOPE: None

trigger: LBA Lightning Bolt Action Adjustable Trigger

trigger pull: Three pounds

safety: Manual

stock: Laminate classic style

length of pull: 13.25

price: \$693

MANUFACTURER: O.F. Mossberg & Sons, Inc. 7 Grasso Ave. North Haven, CT 06473; telephone: (203) 230-5300 (8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. EST); fax: (203) 230-5420; for service inquiries: 800-363-3555

Many summers ago as a young boy, social networking meant getting in the family car, driving across the country and ending up at the family picnic that was held each year. But what made it all worthwhile was watching my two uncles debate, for what seemed like hours, on the speed of the bullets fired from their .22-250 Remington and .220 Swift rifles.

Knowing what I know now, I'm thinking it would have ended everybody's misery sooner if they had just ran the guns through a ballistic chronograph. But then again, I wouldn't have these fond childhood memories to speak of and it was those events and others like them that incited my lifelong love of firearms.

Today, those arguments are a moot point since we can just fire 10 rounds through a chronograph and lay to rest those nagging questions about cartridge velocities once and for all. In this writer's humble opinion, the numerous sportsmen who use the .22-250 Remington in the field every day have already resolved it. You have only to go to your local gun shop or sporting goods store and examine the shelves to see what calibre dominates the varmint arena.

Sure, there are new varmint calibres flooding the market every year, but the .22-250 Remington still holds its own. That's simply because of the many choices of manufactured ammunition and its re-loading flexibility with the many types of bullets and powders on the market.

The .22-250 Remington has an interesting past that dates back to 1915, and

22-250 Remington



To release the bolt, drop the magazine, and clear the rifle of any live ammunition, while retracting the bolt press, the bolt release lever and remove the bolt. To replace it, just reverse the operation. Also, on the rear of the bolt is a cocking indicator. When the round, flat end of the striker is flush with the end of the bolt, it's cocked. When it is recessed, it's un-cocked.

its parent cartridge is the .250-3000 Savage. Unfortunately, there is some question regarding the date of origin of the first .22-250 cartridge. Harvey Donaldson, Grosvenor Wotkyns, J.E. Gebby, J.B. Smith and John Sweany all worked on versions of the .22-250. J.B. Gebby and J.B. Smith are commonly credited with the present configuration in 1937.

What made it confusing were the different versions of the .22-250 that existed then. Gebby's version was the .22 Varminter and he held a copyright on that name. The Wotkyns cartridge was the forerunner to the .220 Swift and Winchester used the 6mm Lee Navy case, rather than the .250 Savage, for their version. So we may never know who is wholly responsible for the .22-250 Remington cartridge, but it's made it this far and has a huge following.

Firearms manufacturers know that the .22-250 Remington cartridge sells rifles. In fact, it's so popular that all

American, British and European firearms manufacturers have at least one model chambered in the .22-250 Remington in their inventory. Of course, the cartridge is nothing without a delivery system to send it on its way and Mossberg's 4x4 does this job quite well.

I have always been a fan of beautiful wood and gunmetal, so it was only natural that the laminate stock and Marine Coat configuration of the Mossberg 4x4 caught my eye. Polymer and stainless have their place, especially in rough and wet environments, but these two esthetic features, combined with the Hawke Optics matte black Sidewinder 30 SF 8-32x56 SR Pro, makes for a work of art you can hunt with. But not to worry, if you're a fan of the conventional walnut or black synthetic stocks and matte blue finish, Mossberg hasn't forgotten about you.

My sample 4x4 starts with a 24-inch brushed nickel fluted barrel, which free

floats in the laminate stock. This barrel has a 1:14-inch twist rate for stabilizing bullets from 50 grains and up and Mossberg also offers you the choice of a 1:10 and 1:9.5 twist. The purpose of the fluting is to lighten the barrel's weight slightly and to aid in cooling during extended firing sessions.

The crown is recessed to give your rifle the most protection possible in the field, so if dropped on the muzzle it will help protect your accuracy. The stock's forend has five vent holes strategically placed on both sides to aid in barrel cooling, as well as checkering for a positive grip with or without gloves. The stock is ergonomically cut to feel good in your hands and the rear of the stock has a cheek rest built in to raise your head for use with optics. It is completed with a well-fitted recoil pad and two black sling studs.

The 4x4's action is right-handed and controls are simple and easy to



The Mossberg's magazine holds five round, with one in the chamber.

reach with the shooting hand. We start with Mossberg's LBA (Lighting Bolt Action) trigger system, which enables the shooter to adjust the trigger pull from two to seven pounds. This is a great feature for long-distance shooting and allows you to focus on the target, not the trigger pull. The trigger is factory set to two pounds and is crisp and short and greatly enhances the shooter's experience in the field or on the range.

The trigger guard is generous enough for a gloved hand to operate the trigger. At the rear of the bolt, on the right side, is the safety lever. A small red dot is exposed when the lever is forward, indicating FIRE, and to the rear it is covered to indicate SAFE. The left side is where the bolt release lever is located and is protected from accidental release by a shield that extends off the rear of the bolt.

To release the bolt, drop the magazine and clear the rifle of any live ammunition, while retracting the bolt press, the bolt release lever and remove the bolt. To replace it, just reverse the operation. Also, on the rear of the bolt is a cocking indicator. When the round, flat end of the striker is flush with the end of the bolt, it's cocked. When it is recessed, it's un-cocked.

The top of the receiver is drilled and tapped to accept Weaver-style mounts

and rings and does not come with any factory sights. At the bottom of the rifle, in front of the detachable five-round magazine, is the magazine release lever. Simply pull forward and the magazine will drop free. With one round in the chamber, the total capacity is 5+1 rounds where allowed by law.

With a varmint rifle capable of shooting a 55-grain bullet almost 4,000 feet per second out to ranges of 200 yards and beyond, great optics are mandatory. I learned early about the value of a high-quality scope, and when varmint shooting this is where great glass proves its worth. I worked with Hawke Optics to find the perfect long-distance scope that would allow me to wring out the full potential of the .22-250 cartridge.

I chose their new Sidewinder 30 SF 8-32x56 SR Pro for many reasons, but my top five were magnification, illuminated reticle, four-inch side wheel for parallax adjustment, adjustable sniper-style turrets and the Ballistic Recital Calculator software.

There are so many great features built into Hawke's Sidewinder 30 SF 8-32x56 SR Pro I could do an article on it. Mounting it on the Mossberg 4x4 for varmint hunting, magnification was my first concern to address. 8x to 32x magnification gives you all the power you

will ever need at whatever range you feel comfortable engaging your target.

And with the clear, 30-millimetre body and high-quality optical system with fully multi-coated glass, you get a sharp, bright, high-resolution viewing in all light conditions. The lens configurations offer optimum performance in low-light conditions and gives excellent range-finding properties. The illuminated reticle offers five red and five green settings that provide you with dawn or dusk illumination, to help place that bullet on target without searching for your crosshairs.

The Sidewinder features a large, side-focusing wheel designed to parallax from 10 yards to infinity and is very easy to adjust in the field. The easy-to-read large turrets allow for fast windage and elevation adjustments on the range or in the field. After you zero the scope to your favourite load, you can set the turrets to zero simply by loosening the hex screw and pulling up on the turrets, turning to zero and pushing down and re-tighten the hex screw with the provided Allen wrench.

An added feature Hawke provides free to their customers is the BRC or Ballistic Reticle Calculator. Simply download it to your laptop, tablet or smartphone, enter your variables and apply them to your targets in the field. The BRC accommodates 18 different Hawke reticles, the Sidewinder 30 SF 8-32x56 SR Pro reticles being one of them. The scope retails for \$549.99 and you can purchase optional accessories, such as flip-up covers and honeycomb sunshades from their website.

Shooting the Mossberg 4x4 was very pleasant, as the .22-250 Remington is not a hard recoiling cartridge. The rifle's combined weight, with the Hawke Sidewinder 30 SF 8-32x56 SR Pro and five rounds of ammunition, comes in at 10-and-a-half pounds. Since most varmint hunting is done from a stationary position, the weight absorbs the recoil for better long-distance shots. While shooting at the range, I often found someone was watching me shoot my groups. The first thing they usually said was how beautiful a set up it was and jumped at the chance to shoot it when I offered. I never experienced a single ammunition-related stoppage or rifle malfunction during the testing and I fired over 100 rounds through the Mossberg 4x4 without cleaning it. Hawke's optics also performed as expected and made hitting steel varmint targets out to 200 yards a breeze.

[This is a rifle that you can be proud to own, and with proper care it will serve your shooting and hunting needs for many years. And you need not worry about the humble .22-250 Remington going the way of the dodo bird. The old expression, "You get what you pay for" has never rung truer and the Mossberg 4x4 is a well-built rifle in whatever calibre or configuration you choose.]

ACCURACY RESULTS | FACTORY LOADS | 22-250 REMINGTON

Manufacturer	Weight/ bullet type	Velocity	SD	Group at 100 yards
American Eagle	50-grain JHP	3,756	18	1.25 inches
Barnes VOR-TX	50-grain FB	3,845	20	1.10 inches
DoubleTap	55-grain Nosler BT	3,874	32	2.11 inches
Hornady	55-grain V-MAX	3,143	32	1.13 inches

Notes: Accuracy results are from three three-shot groups at 100 yards from a Caldwell Matrix rest. Velocities figures are from 10 shots fired through a CED M2 chronograph placed 15 feet from the muzzle. Abbreviations: JHP - jacketed hollow point; BT - ballistic tip; FB - flat base

Overall, I was very pleased with the fit and finish. Mossberg spiral cut the bolt, also known as bolt flutes. This feature offers a very nice esthetic touch to the rifle. As time rolled on, the bolt became more fluid and smoothed out nicely, something I can imagine will get better with age and use. As I said earlier, I appreciate a great trigger pull, and at two pounds it makes each shot better than the last.

This is a rifle that you can be proud to own, and with proper care it will serve your shooting and hunting needs for many years. And you need not worry about the humble .22-250 Remington going the way of the dodo bird. The old expression, "You get what you pay for" has never ringed truer and the Mossberg 4x4 is a well-built rifle in whatever calibre or configuration you choose. Pairing it with any of Hawke's great scopes will make your range or field experience what it should be - a memorable one.

RCBS 22-250 Remington X Dies: More time shooting, less time re-loading

This information is for all you reloaders who spend more time trimming brass than shooting or hunting. If you

shoot a lot of rifle cartridges and hate trimming them because it slows down the re-loading process, this may be of interest to you. The following information is taken from the RCBS website and helps describe how the X Dies work: "Trim a bottleneck case once - and never trim again with the X Die Full Length Die Set, which includes an X Die sizer and Standard Seater Die."

The sizer features a specially designed mandrel with an expander ball and de-capping pin attached. The patented design eliminates the need for repeated trimming after an initial trim of .020-inches off the maximum length to standardize the case.

The X Die doesn't shorten the

length of the case; the mandrel reduces the growth caused by the case mouth contacting the mandrel during sizing. Because of an extremely close tolerance between the mandrel and die neck wall, the neck wall of the case does not thicken as the case length is pushed back. Cases repeatedly sized in the X Die will initially grow a few thousandths of an inch, and then stabilize below the maximum case length with no discernable loss of accuracy or case life. Note: re-loaders who already own a regular set of dies for the chosen calibre need only order the X Die Full Length Sizer. I hope this information helped make your range or hunting time more enjoyable.

SOURCES:

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Barnes Bullets	www.barnesbullets.com
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Rossi 454 Casull

By Bob Shell



One old idea that is still very practical in the present day is the concept of a handgun and rifle chambered for the same round. There are many reasons to utilize this system, one of which is convenience. Rossi, which produces various types of guns, has rifles based on the Winchester Model 92. I recently did a test and evaluation on their .45 Colt and found it to be a great little rifle at a fair price. In fact, I purchased it after completing the assignments with it.

My experiences with their products have always been positive. I have reviewed a number of products, such as the Circuit Judge and some single-shot rifles. Since the prices are moderate, most people can afford them, so getting information out is good for the budget-conscious shooter. Their firearms carry warranties so you can go to their site for information: www.rossiusa.com.

Rossi has been around since 1889 and was founded by Amadeo Rossi.

Over the past 125 years, Rossi has established itself as a top gun-making company. In 1997, Rossi started BrazTec International as the importer of their guns, which are manufactured in Brazil. Also, under an agreement with Taurus, they make some .38 and .357 revolvers. To this day, the company continues to be run by the same family. Their line of firearms is always expanding, the quality is good and the prices are reasonable. They are within the reach of almost anyone. They have a typical one-year warranty on the working parts and a lifetime repair service.

The rifle has a stainless finish, which is fairly attractive, though I prefer blue for such a gun. The fit on the rifle is fair, though far from outstanding. The finish on the stock leaves something to be desired. It is a light colour, but near the buttplate the colour is much lighter and makes the stock look odd.

The forend looks a little better, as well as darker. To be fair, if you do a lot

of finishing work on a firearm to make it look attractive, that will increase the price considerably. While it certainly will look better, the price may be out of range of the average buyer, which defeats the purpose. The price is reasonable and it shoots well, which are much more important features to the average Joe.

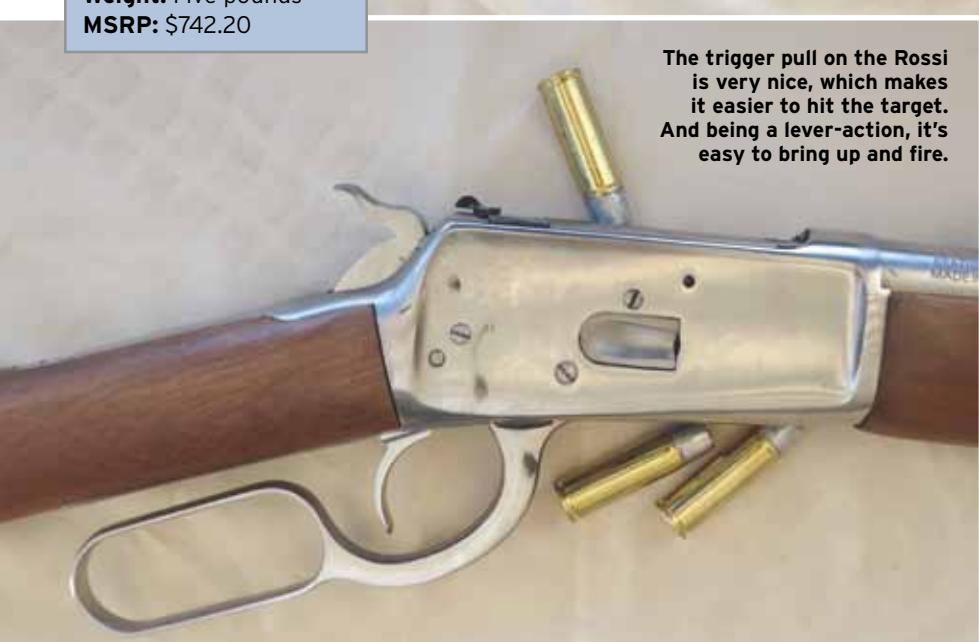
It has a safety that, when fired, the hammer falls but doesn't hit the firing pin. Like many newer guns, the safety isn't really necessary, but there are liability issues that compel gun manufacturers to add these features. Proper gun handling is the best safety available. The trigger pull is very nice, which will aid in target work. It has a thick recoil pad, as the .454 with heavy bullet loads will kick some.

The rifle has a locking system like the Winchester Model 92, but the lugs are large to ensure that they will hold given the pressures of the .454 Casull round. This gun is a neat, compact package. Like most lever-action firearms, is easy



Model: R92-68011
Status: Available
Construction: Wood
Calibre: .454 Casull
Capacity: 10+1 shot
Barrel length: 20 inches
Action: Lever action
Finish: Stainless steel
UPC: 6-62205-98281-1
Weight: Five pounds
MSRP: \$742.20

The trigger pull on the Rossi is very nice, which makes it easier to hit the target. And being a lever-action, it's easy to bring up and fire.



to carry and quick to bring up for a shot. The .454 is powerful enough to handle any animal you are likely to encounter. The 92 action is relatively strong and is beefed up to handle the pressures that the .454 generates. One nice feature is you can use .45 Colt and .45 Schofield ammunition for light target practice, which makes it more flexible. Ammunition is available but pricey in the .454 chambering, which makes shooting the shorter rounds more desirable.

Factory ammunition will cost approximately \$2 a round, which may discourage those needing practice. Handloading reduces the cost by a considerable amount. Several companies manufacture the cases, including Starline, Winchester and Federal. The .454 case uses

a small rifle primer in deference to the high operating pressures. When you use full-power ammunition, it is very important to use bullets that are designed for this and similar rounds.

If the jacket is too thin, the bullet may separate prematurely in the barrel. Additionally, the possibility exists that part of the bullet will remain in the barrel. This has the potential to damage the barrel if you fire a round behind it. There would be no accuracy or bullet performance to speak of with the thin-jacketed bullets. Soft lead bullets would excessively lead the barrel, which would have a negative effect on accuracy. I am mentioning these caveats for someone who has one and may not realize what can happen if you use the incorrect bul-

lets. The .454 is a great round, but the shooter should realize the problems with using sub-par bullets. Since there is a good choice of good bullets, finding some should be no problem.

Of course, with reduced loads standard bullets are fine. Some companies mark their boxes with information in regards to what velocities should be utilized with particular slugs. Very possibly the best hunting bullets are the heavy cast that weigh from about 325 to 400 grains. These bullets have a large meplat, which transmits more shock to a large animal. With their weight and hardness penetration, they are more than adequate for the task at hand. Double Tap and others offer them in factory loads or you can roll your own.

I shot some of the Double Tap LBT bullets and power wise they can handle anything. Due to the ogive, I had some problems with them feeding in the rifle and had a difficult time chambering them in the FA revolver. In fact, most of the 400-grain slugs wouldn't chamber. That is due to the ogive, which has very little curvature. The long bullet has to be seated out to accommodate the powder charge they use. The seating has to be adjusted by putting them in deeper in order to fully chamber and feed.

I advise caution, as that can affect pressure. Any time you adjust factory ammunition, expect some change in



Having a rifle and revolver chambered in the same round would be an excellent choice.

performance. The best solution is to use a different bullet, as there is a decent choice of good bullets. This is one of the reasons, if you go on a hunting trip, to be sure to chamber every round. It is easier to fix them at the shop than in the field. I had a few Buffalo Bore left over from a previous workout and they shot very well in the Rossi - they have a different shape. Such bullets are adequate for any type of game in North America.

Another advantage to having multiple guns with the same chambering is that inventory control is much easier. For someone such as myself, who has a variety of calibres, it doesn't make much difference. But to a typical hunter who doesn't have a lot of different calibres, it can be quite beneficial. With all of the chamberings available, keeping track of your ammunition can be quite a chore.

For those with a desire to have just one calibre for everything, the .454 Casull round is a good choice. A Rossi with the correct ammunition will suffice for everything from a rabbit to a large bear. Even shot loads would be an option, but it would be a single-shot rifle. They are effective on small game out to 10 to 12 yards. Speer makes shot capsules for the .45 calibre.

Another option, if you want full-power loads while reducing the recoil somewhat, is to use Barnes bullets. They come in lightweights and, due to the copper

Load	Bullet	Velocity	Comment
21 grains of Green Dot	185-grain Barnes	2,015	Mild
33 grains of 2400	225-grain Hornady FT	1,669	Nice
Buffalo Bore	325-grain LBT (Rossi)	1,882	Very consistent
Double Tap (FA)	325-grain HP EQ	1,304	Consistent
Double Tap (Rossi)	325-grain HP EQ	1,414	Inconsistent
Buffalo Bore (Rossi)	360-grain LBT	1,746	Real nice
Buffalo Bore (FA)	360-grain LBT	1,450	Consistent
Double Tap (FA)	400-grain FP	1,423	Consistent
Double Tap (Rossi)	400-grain FP	1,556	Very consistent

construction, can be driven at high velocities. The downsides of using Barnes bullets are that they are expensive and most need a cannelure installed. You would never get away with loading them without the cannelure. Without a cannelure, the bullet would come out of the case or be pushed in, depending on the gun. In a lever-action rifle such as the Rossi, the bullet would be pushed into the case, thus causing jams, among other problems. Due to the construction, it is difficult to install a cannelure. I install cannelures on a lot of factory bullets, as that improves their utility. For reduced loads, you can use Ranier or Berry bullets by installing a cannelure, which is easy to do with those. Do not use them for full-power loads as accuracy is nonexistent and you run the risk of leaving a lot of copper residue in your bore.

Upon canneluring some Barnes, I had another concern. Since they are hard copper, I was worried about the bullet hitting the primer in front of it. However, the hollow point is so large that the primer doesn't contact it in any way. Accurate, high-velocity loads are viable with this bullet, due to its tough construction. The 185-grain Barnes shoots well and the recoil is mild, which makes it a nice deer load. The Barnes bullets don't lose any weight when used on an animal, which increases their penetration. With some bullets the jacket comes off the core, which will reduce penetration. This may or may not be a good thing, depending on the situation.

The .454 is flexible and easy to reload, with a good selection of powders. You can load the full-length case down to good .45 Colt levels and still have a good deer load. Such a load would be more pleasant for a youth or female to shoot. You can use .45 Colt cases, but they might not feed from the magazine tube to the chamber.

For those who might be interested, Rossi also makes a .45 Colt rifle and it is a real gem. It is slightly lighter than the .454, which is a feature some would appreciate. You can use mod-

ern .45 Colt ammunition, which would make it ok for some deer hunting. A nice deer load in either gun is the Hornady 225-grain Flex Tip.

It opens up at modest velocities, so even a decent load in a .45 Colt case will work out for deer. The .45 Colt ammunition might not feed due to it being shorter so, like the .45 Schofield round, it may have to be a single-shot. That light ammunition would be good to teach a youngster to shoot, as a single-shot would be perfect for that project. For the handloader, a shorter case with a pinch of powder and a lead bullet would be a great, inexpensive training load. Here are a few loads in both the revolver and rifle to give you an idea as to what to expect. I use mostly handloads, but used these for the non-handloader.

Another good thing about the .454 is the option of having a revolver chambered for the same round as the rifle. There are a few revolvers made for the .454, including the Freedom Arms, Ruger and the Taurus Raging Bull. The Freedom Arms is costly, but the others are a bit more affordable. There is a two-inch barrel model available, but it shouldn't be shot except in an emergency as the recoil may injure the user.

If you live in isolated regions of Canada and Alaska, having a potent combination will be handy. People who fish for salmon can appreciate this in the event that they run into an aggressive bear. The handgun generally produces about 200 feet per second - less velocity than the rifle, but still very potent.

Groups at 100 yards with the rifle and open sights will average in the three-inch area, depending on how well you can shoot. It would be possible to mount a scope with a side base, but that would make it harder to carry. The flat receiver makes the Rossi easy to carry or you can get a sling.

Based on my experiences with the .45 Colt and .454 Casull rifles, I can recommend them for someone looking for a light and compact rifle. They should give years of good service.

Politics & Guns

Bruce Gold

Fewer Guns: The British Disaster

Fewer guns does not equal less crime

This article is the last of a three-part series, starting with a look at causation and how guns relate to crime ("More Guns Equals What?" *Canadian Firearms Journal*, September/October 2014.) The second article looked at the American experience from 1994 to 2010 when civilian gun numbers increased by over 90 million ("More Guns. Then What Happened?" *Canadian Firearms Journal* November/December 2014.) This article looks at the British experience, as their government conducted a sustained war on guns and the right to self-defence.

Political struggle

Historically, ownership and training in arms had been a public duty dating back to Saxon times. This duty sprang from the needs of national defence, crime control and individual self-defence. From the 1650s onward, the Stuart kings, in their long struggle with Parliament, began raising loyalist militias and disarming political opponents. This Stuart strategy challenged established tradition by making the right to arms dependent on the politics of faction. At the end of the civil wars that followed, the *English Bill of Rights* was forced on King William III. One of many grievances against the last of the Stuarts was his "causing several good subjects being Protestants to be disarmed at the same time when Papists were both armed and employed contrary to law." The *Bill* established that "the subjects which are Protestants may have arms for their defence suitable to their conditions and as allowed by law." This pattern of rights constrained by law was to echo down the centuries to our present debates.

Gun bans and tactics

British gun control in the modern era is a continuation of a political struggle between rights-empowering citizens and elites who wanted rights re-defined as privileges the state could dispense, or not, at will.

Pistols Act 1903: an easily evaded act regulating the commercial sale of pistols. The act diminished the right to arms by asserting a government authority to set whatever conditions on ownership it saw fit.

1920 Firearms Act: It was deemed necessary to enable government control of international arms trading, in accordance with the 1919 Paris Arms Convention. Purchase or possession of firearms or ammunition (excluding shotguns) required a Firearm Certificate. The Home Secretary and local Chief Constable were empowered to decide whether a person had a "good reason" to own a firearm. A right under the law had become a privilege subject to bureaucratic permission. Bureaucrats now had the right to determine what a "good reason" was. Making this a matter of subjective opinion relieved the government of any need to prove that the restrictions were necessary or effective.

1937 Firearms Act: This act tightened controls and gave Chief Constables the right to add any conditions they chose to a license. The Home Secretary also decided that self defence was no longer a "good reason" for owning a firearm. The ability, if not the right, of self defence was now being determined by bureaucratic decree.

Firearms (Amendment) Act 1997: Enacted after the Dunblane mass shooting, it banned most pistols. Following a change of government, the *Firearms (Amendment) (No. 2)* Act banned all cartridge pistols.

With these and other acts, the government reduced an ancient right to a jealously restricted privilege. Any restriction, including total bans, was now possible without any need to show cause.

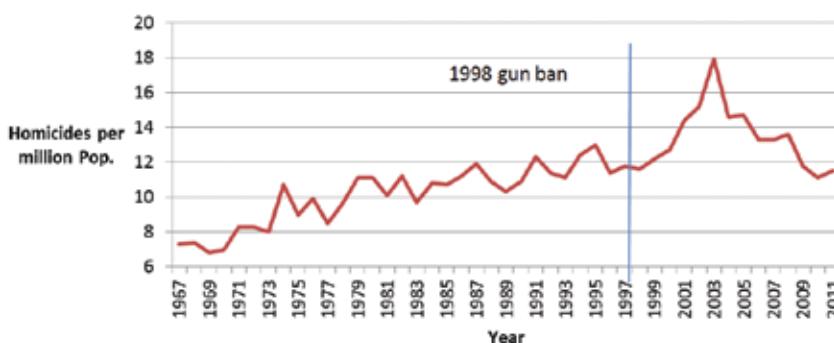
Self defence

The right to arms goes hand-in-hand with the right of self defence. This is particularly true of firearms, since their effective use does not depend upon a person's size, strength or training. As numerous mass shootings have demonstrated, without arms a person is extremely vulnerable to those who are armed. Accordingly, the British elites' campaign against firearms included a campaign against the right to self defence, the strongest justification for a right to arms. By the 1930s, the



The British idea that less guns will equal less crime has failed miserably.

Homicide Rate England and Wales



This chart shows an increase in homicides after the 1998 gun ban, which was only tapered by an increase in police presence.

Conclusions

Our examination of the British experience comes to the same conclusions as our examinations in the US. The presence of firearms among the general population and the existence of a vigorous right to self defence significantly reduces crime rates. Curtailing them both increases crime. The causation is not hard to identify. Arms and rights-empowered citizens intimidate the criminal.

A government policy of attacking inanimate objects and repressing the law-abiding has no beneficial impact on crime rates. The true sources of high crime rates are dysfunctional underclass cultures and the economic imperatives of the drug trade, which are scarcely touched by anti-gun policies. The weight of anti-firearm laws falls on those who were never part of the problem in the first place. Such laws cannot possibly succeed in the stated purpose of crime reduction; political objectives are another matter. It remains to be seen if Canada will learn from the experiences of others and amend its laws.

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government adopted the policy that a need for self defence did not justify the possession of a firearm. In 1953, the *Prevention of Crime Act* banned the carrying of any "offensive weapon." Under this law, any item which could be used for self defence was to be treated as an illegal offensive weapon.

Outcomes

This elite attack on the right to arms and self defence had the exact opposite effect of the US expansion of both. Instead of a reduction in crime, which was the American experience, crime increased. As we can see in the chart, a decrease in guns, combined with a diminishment of the right to self defence, lead to a sharp increase in crime.

The homicide rates finally began to decrease around 2005, due to an increase in police officers. (Up 18,000 between 2001 and 2010.) The 1998 handgun ban had removed 160,000 handguns from law-abiding owners at a cost of millions. In no time at all, many illegal handguns flooded into the country from eastern Europe and China. As one might expect, crime, heavily influenced by gangs, increased.

The British authorities addressed these facts with a new claim, that despite early failures their policies had finally worked. They presented it as a positive gain that more than balanced the curtailing of rights, a tidal wave of new laws and a massive increase in police operations.

Crime rates

The often-cited low homicide rates in the UK and their unfavourable comparison to the US ignores several issues. To begin with, crime rates in the US and the UK are reported differently. In the US, homicide rates are based on initial police reports, maximizing the numbers. In the UK, the crime rate is based on a final determination of homicide by a court, minimizing the numbers.

About 15 per cent of homicides are re-classified out of existence. In Scotland, only a single homicide offence is recorded per incident, no matter how many people are murdered. Another difficulty with comparisons is the politically inconvenient fact that the high US rates are distorted upward by out-of-control crime in a few big cities. These high rates, driven by a crime-prone underclass, gangs and the drug trade, give a distorted view of how prevalent crime is across most of the country.

Politicized police

Another problem with crime data in the UK is the rampant politicization of the police. The *London Daily Telegraph* reported in 1996, "Crime Figures A Sham, Say Police." They found that political pressure from a government determined to justify its policies had driven the police to underreport crime. For example, if a burglar robbed 20 apartments in a complex, the incidents would be reported as one robbery. This underreporting was confirmed by a 2000 Inspectorate of Constabulary Report that led to a number of remedial actions by the British government. In 2014, another report by the Inspectorate of Constabulary found that the police were still failing to report 800,000 crimes per year, seriously distorting crime data. In some regions, up to a third of all detected crimes had been removed from official reports, with violent and sex crimes being the most vulnerable to removal.

NFA Book Shelf

Bill Rantz

Lyman Cast Bullet Handbook

4th Edition

Lyman Cast Bullet Handbook

4th Edition

Thomas J. Griffin, Editor

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Soft cover 8.5 by 11 inches, 320 pages

Black and white photographs

IBM 9817004

Over several centuries, shooters have cast and fired lead bullets for a variety of reasons. Casting bullets using scrap lead and handheld moulds has always been the most economical way of producing projectiles. Firearms enthusiasts realized that casting bullets enabled them to shoot a variety of bullet

designs and weights that simply were not available at retail outlets. The satisfaction of having cast your own bullets for either target shooting or hunting wild game adds immensely to the sport.

Lyman has long been associated with a high-quality line of products designed to enable individuals to cast bullets. The company also realized that their moulds and related products needed to be used both properly and safely if the customer was to thoroughly enjoy the experience of casting bullets. The publication of The Cast Bullet Handbook (1st Edition in 1958, 2nd Edition 1973 and 3rd Edition 1980) provided customers with the most current information available.

Lyman Cast Bullet Handbook 4th Edition is the first update of this sought-after manual in 30 years. Lyman refers to this edition as "the only complete source for cast bullet data from the authority on bullet casting."

Mike Venturino, a highly respected authority on both bullet casting and shooting, was chosen to write 15 informative chapters that cover both the casting and loading process in exacting detail. Venturino shares his vast knowledge in a down-to-Earth style readers will appreciate. Carefully reading and understanding these pages will save the novice bullet caster and handloader a great deal of time and frustration.

NOTE: The second chapter, Health & Safety Concerns is particularly important and should be followed to the letter.

Equally important is the Introduction to Data section, which advises the reader how to safely and effectively utilize the vast amount of data provided on hundreds of current and obsolete cartridges.

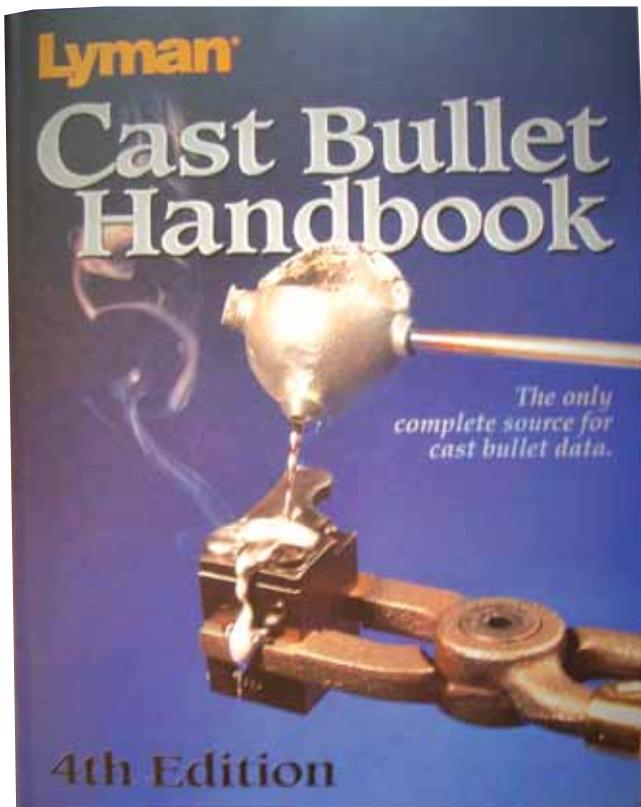
Lyman Cast Bullet Handbook 4th Edition provides a variety of information on both rifle and handgun cartridges, including dimensions, bullet moulds available from Lyman and other companies, plus recommended starting and maximum loads for numerous powders that specify both velocity and pressure.

Reference sections provide technical information, including top punch crossover charts, alloy formulas, shell holders and powder burn rates. A reloading records log is included to preserve your own loading data.

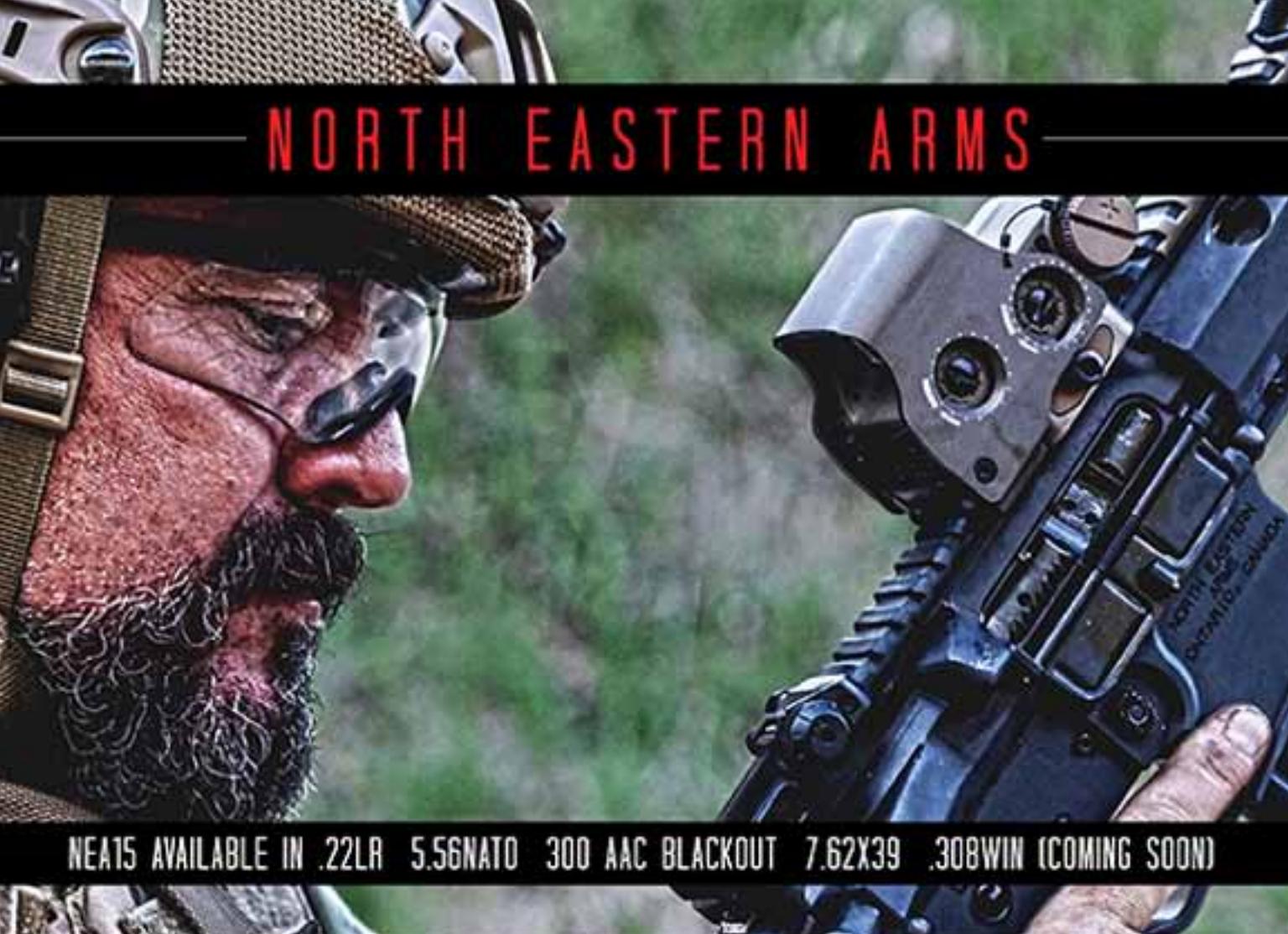
Lyman Cast Bullet Handbook 4th Edition is not a book to be read once and stashed away in your library. It is to be used as a reference book to guide you safely through the casting and reloading of quality ammunition. A well-utilized volume will soon be highlighted extensively and specific pages will be bookmarked for easy access.

The list price of *Lyman Cast Bullet Handbook 4th Edition* is currently \$27.50 US, which is a very fair price for such an informative reference book. Whether you are a novice bullet caster or have been casting your own for decades, you will benefit from the general information and specific data it provides.

Copies may be ordered online with additional shipping charges usually applied. *Lyman Cast Bullet Handbook 4th Edition* can also be purchased from any firearms dealer that sells Lyman products. The NFA encourages all who enjoy the shooting sports to support local firearms retailers whenever possible.



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