

CANADIAN



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FIREARMS JOURNAL



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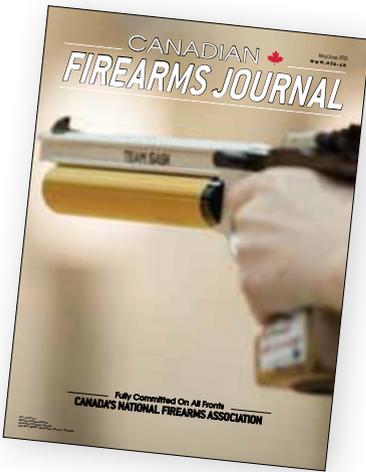
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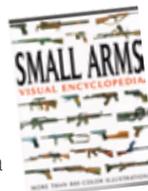
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MISSION STATEMENT

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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On the Cover

2015 Canada Winter Games

Team Saskatchewan

The cover photo depicts Team Saskatchewan competing in target shooting at the 2015 Canada Winter Games. Unfortunately, target shooting will not be part of the 2019 Games, and this is a concern for all Canadian firearms owners. High performance athletes in the sport of target shooting are in the public eye along with hockey, cross country skiing, judo and assorted other sports. This reinforces the legitimacy of recreational use of firearms in our society. The inclusion of target shooting as a high-performance sport showcases the precision and discipline of firearms use to the general public. It also demonstrates the safety requirements involved in shooting events. But, with your help, there is hope for this sport in future Games.



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The Official Magazine of



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In defence of freedom

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From The Editor's Desk

Chris McGarry

The Right Decisions Need To Be Made

Significant changes to Canada's gun laws requires a legislative solution, not a judicial one

For members of this country's firearms community, getting any kind of substantial changes to our draconian gun laws is an arduous, uphill climb. There are many of us who consistently lobby our Members of Parliament, write letters to local newspapers and explain to friends, family and co-workers why these laws are bad and must be repealed. While we've had varying degrees of success getting (at least some) Members of Parliament on our side, gaining the support of our nation's courts has so far been largely a losing battle.

Dating back to 1993 when the Supreme Court of Canada ruled in *R. v. Hasselwander* that gun ownership in Canada was a regulated privilege and not an inherent right, the chambers of justice in our land have shown their disdain in regards to upholding the rights of firearms owners, arguably the largest minority group in Canada. A similar court ruling in 2000 decreed that the *Firearms Act*, despite violating 17 provisions of the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, was constitutionally valid and that the "pith and substance of the *Act* was in relation to "public safety," which was a matter within the criminal law power of the federal government."

In 2004, Bruce Montague, a gunsmith from Dryden, Ont., began a court challenge to protest the unconstitutionality of the *Firearms Act*. For six years, Montague fought his case through the courts. In 2010, the Ontario Court of Appeal ruled

that unlike Americans, Canadians have no constitutional right to bear arms. To further add insult to injury, the Supreme Court of Canada refused to even hear Montague's case.

Last November, the Supreme Court of Canada once again thumbed its nose at Canada's firearms community in *R. v. Dunn*, when it upheld an earlier ruling that certain types of air rifles are classified as "firearms" under the *Criminal Code*.

It would appear that our judges believe the rights of Canadians only began in 1982, when Pierre Elliot Trudeau expatriated the constitution. In reality, Canadians inherited the ancient Anglo-Saxon right to "keep arms for defence" from the *Magna Carta*, as well as the *English Bill of Rights* written in 1689. Interestingly enough, the Supreme Court of Canada has ruled that the 1689 *Bill of Rights* was never incorporated into this country's constitution. Perhaps they've forgotten that the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms* is merely an amendment to our ancient constitutions. Simply put, it is wrong for Canadian courts to wilfully ignore 800 years of English common law (ironically, 2015 marks the 800th anniversary of the *Magna Carta*.)

Fellow gunnies, until the courts of this land start protecting our rights, it is our duty to put pressure on Parliament to change the laws. In the *R. v. Montague* case, although the court found no historical right to bear arms in Canada, it did state that such a question is a political one, not a legal one. Getting our rights restored will require a significant legislative change on the part of Parliament, not the judiciary.



Getting our rights restored will require a significant legislative change on the part of Parliament, not the judiciary.



President's Message

Sheldon Clare

NFA Pushing Forward For Firearms Owners

Much has happened with the NFA over the past few months. We have made our concerns with the anti-terrorism bill C-51 known to government outside of the committee hearings. The amendments that the government has made reflect our input - our presence at the hearings would only have been used to embarrass the government, and we decided to have our concerns provided quietly to avoid that situation. We also made several key suggestions for amendments to Bill C-42, and as it works through the agenda, I am optimistic that we should get most of them. We have also presented our petitions on magazines and the AR-15 to parliament and we are hopeful that they will demonstrate a compelling need for change in the classification of those items, and more besides.

Our petition efforts have been progressing, and extending the deadline took us right into the heart of gun show season. Thus, we were able to contact many more people than we otherwise would have. Special thanks are due to all of those individuals who took the challenge and collected at least 200 signatures on each petition.

The NFA hopes to submit these petitions in time to have them dealt with before the upcoming election this fall. If we are successful in our efforts, we expect to see strong political support for eliminating the magazine capacity restrictions and for de-restricting the AR-15 rifle.

As one of the most popular modern sporting rifles around today, it makes no sense whatsoever to maintain the AR-15 in the restricted category. Of course, nothing about the classification system makes much sense, based as it is on a first premise that there are bad guns and good guns. We already know that the law should be about dealing with bad behaviour, and should not be about pieces of metal, wood and composite plastics.

The two wins in the Supreme Court of Canada are great victories for the NFA, and for all firearms owners. Guy Lavergne, whose arguments supported the Canadian government's position, ably led our intervention in the Quebec case. The result makes it clear that the nearly \$100,000 the NFA spent on this intervention was a great investment in helping Quebecers enjoy the same freedom as the rest of the country. Now, Quebec's firearms community will need to be assertive in pressing their elected representatives to stop their government and opposition calls for a Quebec registry. Such a venture would not only be unworkable and unnecessary, it would also be ruinously expensive in the face of a provincial budget that cannot afford such feel-good, but do-nothing legislation. The NFA win in *R. versus Nur*, led by Solomon Friedman at the SCC, in striking down mandatory minimum sentencing, is a huge one - it shows that we are independent, critical thinkers who are working to make a difference as we were with the federal government in the Quebec case and against it in *Nur*.

The United Nations continues to erode away our firearms rights, with many countries now supporting the *Arms Trade Treaty*. There are additional meetings underway this summer to further develop international gun control, and the NFA, along with our allies in the WFSA, is monitoring the situation closely.

In my column in the last issue, I made mention of the new board of directors, and of the great potential that the four new faces bring in to advance the NFA vision and cause of firearms rights, as well as the important contributions made by the seasoned veterans on our board, most of whom comprise the executive.

I was remiss in not acknowledging the tremendous contribution of our secretary, Jerrold Lundgard. Jerrold has displayed great loyalty, integrity, courage and wisdom in the fight for our rights for many years.

When faced with a cobra, it is better to be a mongoose than a mouse. And in that, Jerrold has proven to be a vigorous protector of the interests of the NFA, its funds and its credibility in the face of a direct threat to our effectiveness as an organization. We all owe Jerrold a tremendous debt for his efforts.

As volunteers, many of the members of your board of directors and executive officers have made great personal and professional sacrifices in order to carry forward the fight for our collective rights.

We have enjoyed some fleeting victories and endured some defeats, and even suffered unfair and harsh criticism from those who work off of rumour and malice. Even so, I am proud to report that the operational work of your executive continues unabated and with vigour in working towards a better situation for Canadian firearms owners, and in defending the best interests of the NFA and its members.

The AGM in Quebec this May represents a triumph, both for Canadian firearms owners and the NFA. At last we are able to bring forward the concerns of firearms owners who have been beaten up badly by successive legislative regimes over the past several years.

The time has come to make it clear that Quebecers deserve to be treated at least as well as firearms owners in the rest of the country, and that the NFA will continue to be aggressive in fighting for the rights of Canadian firearms owners, regardless of where they live.

Some news of interest is that the year-long process of rebranding the NFA will be unveiled this May at the AGM. You will see a new look for the NFA logo, an updated website and improved, streamlined services. This new look should position us well as we carry forward our fight.

There will be some great speakers at the meeting, and an opportunity to take in the sites of one of Canada's great historic cities. I look forward to improving my French, renewing friendships, making new ones and to seeing you there.

Rapport du Président

Sheldon Clare

L'ACAF accentue la pression pour l'avenir des propriétaires d'armes à feu

L'ACAF n'a pas chômé depuis ces derniers mois! Nous avons participé à faire amender le Projet de Loi anti terroriste C-51. Tout a été fait en marge du Comité Parlementaire plutôt que d'y avoir participé publiquement, car notre présence au sein du Comité aurait été utilisée pour faire mal paraître le Gouvernement. Pour éviter cette situation nous avons choisi de faire part de nos inquiétudes le plus discrètement possible. Nous avons aussi proposé plusieurs amendements au Projet de Loi C-42. Je suis très optimiste que la plupart seront adoptés. Nos pétitions à propos des capacités des chargeurs et des carabines AR-15 auront aussi été déposées au Parlement. Nous espérons qu'elles démontreront la nécessité urgente de faire des changements au système de classification de ces items, et plus encore.

Notre pétition progresse et vu que nous avons repoussé son échéance qui tombera dans la plus forte période des expositions d'armes nous pourrions rejoindre encore plus de signataires. Nous tenons à remercier chaleureusement ceux qui ont relevé le défi de recueillir les 200 noms par formulaire de pétition. Notre objectif est de soumettre nos pétitions pour qu'elles puissent être prises en considération avant les élections Fédérales cet automne. Si nous réussissons, nous nous attendons à obtenir un appui politique solide pour pouvoir éliminer la limite de capacité des chargeurs et que les carabines AR-15 soient enlevées de la liste des armes à autorisation restreinte. Cette carabine moderne est une des plus populaires dans la pratique des sports de tir, il est insensé de la garder dans cette catégorie. En fait, le système de classification des armes à feu est insensé en lui-même puisqu'il est établi selon la présomption qu'il y a de bonnes et de "méchantes" armes. Tout le monde sait que ce sont les comportements qui devraient être ciblés par les lois et non les pièces de métal, le bois et le plastique.

La décision de la Cour Suprême du Canada sur les données Québécoises du registre des armes d'épaules est une victoire retentissante pour l'ACAF et pour tous les propriétaires d'armes à feu du Québec. Me Guy Lavergne a plaidé cette cause avec brio. Ses arguments appuyaient la position du Gouvernement du Canada. Il est clair que les frais de presque \$100,000. dépensés par l'ACAF pour intervenir devant la Cour ont été un excellent investissement pour aider les Québécois à jouir des mêmes libertés que les autres Canadiens. À partir d'aujourd'hui la communauté Québécoise intéressée par les armes à feu devra vigoureusement faire connaître ses revendications et faire pression auprès de ses députés pour empêcher le Gouvernement et les partis d'opposition de créer un registre Québécois. Ce projet serait non seulement inutile, il serait infaisable et astronomiquement coûteux dans un climat budgétaire d'austérité. Le Québec n'a pas les moyens de se payer une loi pour bien paraître et rien accomplir. La victoire de l'ACAF devant la CSC dans R vs Nur, habilement plaidée par Me Solomon Friedman fût aussi une grande victoire. Il n'y aura plus de sentences minimales obligatoires pour des crimes impliquant des armes à feu. Nos interventions dans ces deux causes démontrent que nous possédons le sens critique et que nous sommes des penseurs indépendants qui travaillent fort pour changer les choses puisque nous avons appuyé le Gouvernement Fédéral dans la cause qui impliquait le Québec et que nous l'avons opposé dans la cause R vs Nur.

Les Nations Unies continuent de diminuer nos droits en matière d'armes à feu. À l'heure actuelle, plusieurs pays appuient le *Traité sur le Commerce des Armes*. Cet été plusieurs réunions auront lieu à l'ONU pour développer un contrôle mondial sur les armes. L'ACAF et nos alliés du WFSA surveillent la situation de près.

Dans mon dernier message, j'ai parlé des quatre nouveaux membres de notre direction et de leurs talents prometteurs pour faire avancer la vision de l'ACAF et notre cause pour la protection de nos droits en matière d'armes à feu. J'ai aussi souligné

la présence de nos vétérans au conseil de direction. En ce faisant, j'ai oublié de souligner l'énorme contribution de notre secrétaire Jerrold Lundgard. Depuis plusieurs années Jerrold a toujours fait preuve de loyauté sans faille, de courage, d'intégrité et de sagesse dans la lutte pour protéger nos droits. Il a toujours vigoureusement protégé les intérêts de l'ACAF, ses fonds et sa crédibilité lors de menaces directes envers notre efficacité en tant qu'organisation. Nous sommes extrêmement endettés envers Jerrold pour son dévouement.

Plusieurs membres de notre conseil de direction ont fait d'importants sacrifices personnels et professionnels en tant que bénévoles dans cette lutte pour nos droits collectifs. Nous avons goûtés à quelques victoires passagères et aussi subis quelques échecs, nous avons même été la cible de critiques sévères de la part de ceux qui se nourrissent de rumeurs malicieuses. Mais malgré tout ça, je suis fier de vous annoncer que votre conseil de direction travaille toujours avec autant de vigueur pour améliorer la situation des propriétaires d'armes à feu Canadiens et pour défendre les intérêts de l'ACAF et de ses membres.

Au mois de mai la Réunion Générale Annuelle (RGA) de l'ACAF aura lieu dans la ville de Québec. Ceci démontre un succès retentissant pour l'ACAF et pour tous les propriétaires d'armes à feu Canadiens. Nous sommes enfin capable d'exposer les inquiétudes des propriétaires d'armes à feu qui ont été bafoués sévèrement par des régimes législatifs injustes depuis plusieurs années. Il est grand temps de déclarer sans équivoque que les Québécois méritent au moins d'être traités de la même manière que les autres propriétaires d'armes à feu au pays. Peu importe où ils habitent, l'ACAF se battra agressivement pour la protection des droits des propriétaires d'armes à feu. Depuis un an nous travaillons pour modifier l'image de la marque de l'ACAF. Cette transformation sera dévoilée à la RGA. Nous aurons un nouveau logo, notre site web aura reçu une cure de rajeunissement et nos services seront améliorés et plus efficaces. Cette nouvelle image devrait améliorer notre visibilité pour maintenir notre lutte.

Il y aura d'excellents conférenciers à la RGA et ce sera aussi une chance de visiter une des villes les plus historiques au Canada. Pour moi ce sera l'occasion d'améliorer mon français, de faire des retrouvailles et de faire de nouveaux amis. J'espère de tous vous voir là-bas.



Vice President's Message

Blair Hagen

Long Gun Registration In Quebec

On March 27, 2015, in a split five-to-four decision, the Supreme Court of Canada threw out the Quebec provincial government's demand that the federal government turn over all registration records pertaining to non-restricted long guns owned by Quebecers.

The Quebec government had claimed that it was owed this data in the spirit of federalism, and that its denial was an imposition of the federal government's will on Quebec, even though Quebec had no problem with an earlier federal government imposing its will on the rest of Canada back in 1995 with the *C-68 Firearms Act*.

Canada's National Firearms Association intervened in this case, presenting arguments against transferring long gun registry data to Quebec. Special mention goes to lawyer Solomon Friedman of the firm Edelson/Clifford/d'Angelo and Friedman, and lawyer Guy Lavergne who argued so eloquently for firearms owners of Quebec at the Supreme Court and helped bring this case to its ultimate conclusion.

Long gun registration ended in the rest of Canada in 2012, but almost immediately after this happened the Quebec provincial government undertook a campaign of legal roadblocks and challenges to prevent the program from ending in Quebec. They were assisted by the Canada Firearms Program, which continued to facilitate the registration of non-restricted long guns on behalf of the Quebec government, even though it was no longer required by federal law and had ended in every other province.

So from 2012 until last month, if you purchased a long gun in Quebec from a store, you received a registration for it. If you purchased it from another

firearms license holder lawfully, the transfer had to be approved by the Canada Firearms Program and the Quebec SQ chief firearms officer, and you received a registration for it. If you purchased a long gun from a store or individual in Alberta, for example, the onus was on you to register your new acquisition with the Canada Firearms Program. Even though it was no longer required by law.

Quebec law enforcement agencies and the Quebec SQ chief firearms officer continued to enforce long gun registration in Quebec as if it were law though, confiscating "unregistered" non-restricted long guns and harassing their owners with threats of firearms license revocations and criminal prosecution, even though it was no longer required by the laws of Canada for anyone to hold a registration for a non-restricted rifle or shotgun.

They basically made up the laws they wanted to enforce outside of the Parliamentary process. How convenient.

You would think that the Supreme Court's rejection of Quebec's demands for that data would put an end to this issue, but you'd be wrong. Almost immediately after the decision, the Quebec provincial government announced that they would set up their own long gun registry. Brave pronouncements were made by politicians and political police about how all Quebecers believed in gun control, and how much the concept was vital to public safety and Quebec values.

Actually, it is lawful for Quebec to set up its own long gun registry. Under provincial administrative law, provinces can set up registries of property and things.

However, a Quebec long gun registry would have no force in criminal law, as did the long gun registry component of the federal *Firearms Act* had from 2003 until it was ended in 2012. The province has promised to enforce their registry, should it ever get off the ground, with fines and inspections. Theoretically, every law enforcement agency in Quebec will undertake inspections of every firearms license holder in the province to make sure they possess no "unregistered" long guns.



The Quebec government intends to establish its own long gun registry, going against what the rest of Canada is doing.

But whether a Quebec long gun registry could actually get off the ground is still in question. One of the biggest issues that sunk the national long gun registry was the ever-spiraling costs of implementation and running the registry. Bureaucrats of the Canada Firearms Program got carte blanche from the Liberal government in implementing and running their program between 1995 and 2002, and even with unlimited powers and an unlimited budget they still couldn't make it work.

Data on registrations was to be verified by a national network of firearms verifiers, to make sure that all data collected in the registry was factual and correct. The volunteer verifiers program barely got off the ground and then crashed in flames shortly before universal registration became law in 2003. To compensate for this and to encourage people to register before the deadline, the requirement for verification was dropped and registrations were issued for anything that was submitted. This resulted in the infamous registrations of glue guns and nail guns and other things that embarrassed the Canada Firearms Program so badly in the early 2000s.

Quebec has no network of verifiers to ensure that the data they collect is correct. Quebec no longer has any data from the old national registry to build on. The universal registry of the 1995 C-68 *Firearms Act* failed badly, partly due to the incompetence of firearms bureaucrats, inflated budgets with no oversight and a politically motivated civil disarmament agenda, but also due to the massive non-compliance with the program that guaranteed that every gun that required registration would never be registered.

More importantly, Quebec has no budget to register guns. Today, there can be no carte blanche spending of taxpayer's dollars on gun registration in Quebec.

More than likely, Quebec will simply charge fees in order to register firearms. At the beginning of the federal universal registry in 1995, it was intended that firearms owners would be charged \$25 for every firearm they submitted for registration.

If you owned, say, 200 or more guns, which is not uncommon in Canada, the costs could be astronomical. This encouraged low compliance with the gun registry program from many people who not only disagreed with the law, but also faced

financial hardship and ruin if they complied. The firearms bureaucrats hoped that these people would simply turn in their guns for destruction. Some did, most didn't, and the fees became part of the overall controversy in the implementation and imposition of the Liberal government's keystone civil disarmament program.

All of which will happen again if Quebec persists in trying to register guns. Recent history shows there is nothing the government of Quebec can do to make this work. Quebecers will resist any long gun registration in Quebec, and non-compliance will be the order of the day. Any fees charged by Quebec will contribute to non-compliance, and heavy-handed enforcement will guarantee that the program will be unpopular, controversial and that it will ultimately fail.

Quebec politicians look foolish and capricious. Few, beyond the gun control lobby and international civil disarmament groups, were impressed by their promise to impose registration because the concept is a proven failure in the rest of Canada. Poor conditions to start off such a program as this.



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An ambassador, a teacher, and a member. One of the most important functions of Canada's National Firearms Association is making firearms ownership and use relevant to growing numbers of Canadians.

To prosper, we must have a steady flow of new shooters and enthusiasts joining us in celebrating our proud firearms heritage.

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Matt Neumann: Aspiring Olympic Athlete and proud member of the NFA

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Preserving Our Firearms Heritage

Gary K. Kangas

Commemorating The Christmas Truce Of 1914



Firearms used in the rifle match of the competition were era-specific and a demonstration of the firearms was done after the match was over.

The First World War, the war to end all wars, was the very first major conflict to affect the entire world. Millions of lives were lost and there was much social upheaval that still has significance today. If the secretive organization of Serbian military officers, known as the Black Hand, had not woven a web of political intrigue leading to the assassination of the Archduke Ferdinand and his wife Sophia, the countries involved would have not gone to war. Incredible tools of destruction and a zeal that had been unknown before is what motivated young men on all sides to go to war.

The Germans invading Belgium were brutal in their treatment of the civilian population. This was due to the fact that the Belgians had the audacity to have a militia called the Gaurde Civique. The German high command treated them as though they were terrorists.

A great surprise to happen amidst all of the fighting and bloodshed was the Christmas Truce of 1914. In some sectors of the front, the Germans put up Christmas trees and sang carols. In another sector, the British threw a soccer ball into no man's land. In these areas, the spirit of Christmas and basic humanity prevailed.

December 2014 saw a number of Victoria Fish & Game Protective Association members, with the support of members from the Victoria and Esquimalt Reenactors Association, organize a very special event: Christmas 1914 Truce In The Trenches.

Truce In The Trenches was a rousing success. Mother Nature co-operated fully by setting the scene - fog engulfing the venue in the early morning - and then subtly changing to sun and cloud and, as the day progressed, into bright sunshine.

The pre-registered participants arrived to compete in three categories: Uni-



Participants dressed in clothing fitting to the First World War era. Pictured is a civilian and a Canadian nurse.



Dressed in clothing specific to the First World War and with Mother Nature's co-operation, participants had a great time commemorating the Christmas Truce of 1914.

formed British Empire and Allies, Uniformed German-Austro Hungarian Empire and Allies or Belgian Militia (Gaurde Civique).

The Gaurde Civique had three basic levels: uniformed, semi-uniformed or civilian attire. Militia-portraying participants arrived - one in uniform and the others in civilian attire from 1914.

The uniformed military were the majority in the British and Allies side, with one portraying a Serbian soldier. Two entries portraying German soldiers of the era arrived in full kit.

Female attendees were dressed in civilian clothing of the era and two portrayed Canadian Nursing Sisters of the First World War, while one portrayed a Canadian nurse's aide of the era. Firearms used in the rifle match were era-specific.

The competition commenced with a piper leading the squads to the range. There, a safety meeting was convened and the competition began. The squad's initial start was engaging targets at 100 yards and then advancing across no man's land to 75, 50 and 25 yards.

The targets were engaged on the command of three range officers. Their instructions were, "halt, load, ready, aim, fire," and then show clear and advance to the next station.

The entourage was then piped on the return to the range house for an authentic First World War lunch, served up by a retired Canadian Forces veteran Don Thomas, who is also an avid military re-enactor and cook. The lunch consisted of soup, bully beef, canned ham, cheese and German rye bread. Trench-style gifts were presented to each participant.

The match was hotly contested by a number of competitors who placed all their rounds on target. Top gun was Victoria Fish & Game member Sarah Johnston, who portrayed a First World War Canadian nurse's aide and shot a Long Lee rifle.

Other Fish & Game winners were Branko Diklitch, Angie Gold, Daryl Drew, Andrew Tyler, Josh Lambert and Jacques van Bodegraven. The Victoria and Esquimalt Military Re-Enactors in the winner's circle were Piper Nathan Roberts, Conan Roberts, Connor Thomas and Dan Dalby.

Medals and certificates were awarded for marksmanship in each category. There were prizes drawn by a non-participant, from names out of a hat.

After the match, spectators were treated to a hands-on demonstration of First

World War firearms. The hit of the day was the 1896 broom-handled Mauser. For the grand finale, a soccer match had been planned, however, with all of the activities taking place, the attendees ran out of time and the soccer balls sat unused.

Participants and spectators alike requested that, due to the excitement and success of the event, could another be planned for 2015? The organizers secured a date for the fall of 2015 at the Victoria Fish & Game Protective Association to commemorate the Battle of the Marne. They will continue to preserve our firearms heritage.



Top gun in the competition was Victoria Fish & Game member Sarah Johnston, who portrayed a First World War Canadian nurse's aide and shot a Long Lee rifle.



The competition commenced with a piper leading the squads to the range.



After the match, spectators were treated to a hands-on demonstration of First World War firearms. The hit of the day was the 1896 broom-handled Mauser, pictured.



Legal Corner

Guy Lavergne, Attorney At Law

Firearms & The Right To Self-Defense

In a recent address to Saskatchewan municipal leaders, Prime Minister Stephen Harper made the following statement, in respect of firearms and their use in rural areas of the country:

"It's a tool that many people use in their lives, obviously in their livelihoods..."

"My wife's from a rural area, gun ownership wasn't just for the farm, it was also for a certain level of security when you're ways away from police, immediate police assistance."

Opposition political parties, current and former politicians and the news media have been extremely critical of the Prime Minister's statement.

By way of example, Thomas Mulcair, the NDP leader, stated that he was "quite astonished" to hear Harper tell people to use their own weapons to protect themselves. Former Ontario Attorney General Michael Bryant accused the Prime Minister of irresponsibly counseling Canadians to commit a crime by using guns for their own security. The *Ottawa Citizen* quoted Eric Gottardi, chair of the Canadian Bar Association's criminal justice section, as rejecting the "notion that Canadians have the legal right to defend their homes with a gun."

Yet, that is not what Gottardi said. First, he pointed out that, as the law now stands, there are significant differences between the legal environment of the United States and that of Canada. To quote the *Citizen*, Gottardi "stressed that people should be aware of what they can and cannot do if someone breaks into their home." He added, "Deadly force through the use of a gun would never be justified unless that situation turned into one that was life-threatening. And at that point, you're really talking about self-defense."

As far as I am concerned, and from a purely legal standpoint, such criticism is not justified. Self-defense has always been part of Canadian criminal law, and it has been recognized by the common law for times immemorial.

As the law now stands, self-defense is codified at Sections 34 and 35 of the *Criminal Code*. As a matter of fact, those sections of the *Criminal Code* were amended in 2013, through Bill C-26. They read as follows:

- 34 (1) A person is not guilty of an offence if:
- (a) they believe on reasonable grounds that force is being used against them or another person or that a threat of force is being made against them or another person;
 - (b) the act that constitutes the offence is committed for the purpose of defending or protecting themselves or the other person from that use or threat of force; and
 - (c) the act committed is reasonable in the circumstances
- 34 (2) In determining whether the act committed is reasonable in the circumstances, the court shall consider the relevant circumstances of the person, the other parties and the act, including, but not limited to, the following factors:
- (a) the nature of the force or threat;
 - (b) the extent to which the use of force was imminent and whether there were other means available to respond to the potential use of force;
 - (c) the person's role in the incident;
 - (d) whether any party to the incident used or threatened to use a weapon;
 - (e) the size, age, gender and physical capabilities of the parties to the incident;
 - (f) the nature, duration and history of any relationship between the parties to the incident, including any prior use or threat of force and the nature of that force or threat;
 - (f.1) any history of interaction or communication between the parties to the incident;
 - (g) the nature and proportionality of the person's response to the use or threat of force; and
 - (h) whether the act committed was in response to a use or threat of force that the person knew was lawful.
- 34 (3) Subsection (1) does not apply if the force is used or threatened by another person for the purpose of doing something that they are required or authorized by law to do in the administration or enforcement of the law, unless the person who commits the act that constitutes the offence believes on reasonable grounds that the other person is acting unlawfully.
- 35 (1) A person is not guilty of an offence if
- (a) they either believe on reasonable grounds that they are in peaceable possession of property or are acting under the authority of, or lawfully assisting, a person whom they believe on reasonable grounds is in peaceable possession of property;
 - (b) they believe on reasonable grounds that another person
 - (i) is about to enter, is entering or has entered the property without being entitled by law to do so,
 - (ii) is about to take the property, is doing so or has just done so, or
 - (iii) is about to damage or destroy the property, or make it inoperative, or is doing so;
 - (c) the act that constitutes the offence is committed for the purpose of
 - (i) preventing the other person from entering the property, or removing that person from the property, or

- (ii) preventing the other person from taking, damaging or destroying the property or from making it inoperative, or retaking the property from that person; and
- (d) the act committed is reasonable in the circumstances.

35 (2) Subsection (1) does not apply if the person who believes on reasonable grounds that they are, or who is believed on reasonable grounds to be, in peaceable possession of the property does not have a claim of right to it and the other person is entitled to its possession by law.

35 (3) Subsection (1) does not apply if the other person is doing something that they are required or authorized by law to do in the administration or enforcement of the law, unless the person who commits the act that constitutes the offence believes on reasonable grounds that the other person is acting unlawfully.

The basic tenet of self-defense is that an individual is entitled to use reasonable force to defend himself, others or property against an actual or perceived threat. In appropriate circumstances, "reasonable force" may include the use of lethal weapons, whether firearms or others. I insist upon the words "appropriate circumstances." One of the factors that courts must consider in determining whether an act was done in self-defense is whether the force used was proportionate to the threat, or rather, to the "perceived threat," as self-defense is a matter of subjective belief, objectively verified.

Hence, if one finds out that neighbourhood kids are merely trespassing, the actual or threatened use of lethal force might be a tad disproportionate, to say the least. Similarly, if one hears an intruder in the middle of the night, it may be OK to reach for a shotgun, but it is not legally advisable to pull the trigger before the threat has been fully assessed.

And therein lies part of the problem! "Castle Doctrine," as it is known in American law, is not recognized in Canadian criminal law. Under Canadian law, a person purporting to act in self-defense is required to confirm the lethality of a threat before using lethal force. Needless to say, this does not leave much room for error.

Unfortunately, certain aspects of current firearms legislation appear to exist

solely to discourage people from using firearms in self-defense. Firearms and ammunition storage rules, which require that firearms be trigger locked, or kept under lock and that ammunition be kept in a location where it is "not readily available to the firearm," unless it is also under lock, are case in point.

I, for one, would argue that the rationale for those rules is not based upon any bona fide concern for user or occupant safety, but rather to discourage the defensive use of firearms.

Further, individuals who do use firearms for defensive purposes often find themselves facing criminal prosecution, and sometimes facing potentially harsher sentences than the criminals they were trying to stop. The Ian Thompson affair is a case in point. After successfully defending his own life and property against intruders who had firebombed his house, Thompson had to face criminal charges for negligent storage of a firearm, essentially because the police did not like the fact that he was able to gain access to a firearm fast enough to use it defensively. Fortunately, he was acquitted. Unfortunately, it probably cost him most of his life's savings. But do not count on politicians or the mainstream news media to find that outrageous. They would rather be offended by the Prime Minister's comments.



"Castle Doctrine," as it is known in American law, is not recognized in Canadian criminal law. Under Canadian law, a person purporting to act in self-defense is required to confirm the lethality of a threat before using lethal force.

Point Blank

Bruce Gold

Administrative Magic & Gun Policies

One of the certainties of Canadian political life is the unshakable belief that bureaucracy and administration have magic qualities. This belief is an article of faith with big government progressives, bureaucrats and other varieties of top-down statist. For these and their supporters, reality is subordinate to paperwork. For example, designating something a gun-free zone will create a magic place where guns cannot go.

So the problem is solved (well, sort of) until the next shooting. Then there will be a call for more restrictions, more paperwork and more onerous regulation to close the loophole. With the next incremental administrative restriction in place, the problem is solved - until the pattern repeats.

When it comes to firearms, this simple faith is justified with glib theories such as the weapons effect myth that guns, mere inanimate objects, cause violence. Politically correct bigotry against gun owners as a dangerous group of moral and intellectual inferiors facilitate the process. Public safety policy reduced to Kabuki Theatre.

This simple faith in the magic powers of regulatory paperwork is seldom stated outright. However, if we examine the "solutions" to violent crime that our betters come up with, the underlying assumptions become clear. In policy after policy, reliance and faith in the citizen is shunned and reliance on more all-encompassing and intrusive government is embraced.

Given a choice between policies that empower law-abiding citizens by supporting self-defense (the well-documented crime reduction success of concealed carry in the US, for example) and those that extend the reach and power of the state at the citizens' expense, their choices are all too clear.

Going into the federal election, we can see both the Liberals and the NDP pursuing anti-gun policies based on

magical thinking. Due to trial balloons, conflicting statements, hidden agendas and policies that are more platitude than specifics, it is somewhat difficult to pin either party down, but we can get a rough outline of their policies.

NDP policy

1. A new long gun registry, one that is simpler, cheaper and problem free. It will result in the police being "able to track every gun."

Registries, however designed, are subject to massive database problems as they try to track more than seven million ever-shifting firearms with two million owners. No known technology exists that allows the tracking of guns that were not registered in the first place or had the tracking link broken by theft. Since only a tiny percentage of registered guns are involved in crime while still the property of their lawful owners, the crime control pay off is vanishingly small.

2. Stop the smuggling of illegal firearms.

Canada has 2,000 miles of undefended border, the vast majority of which is not under surveillance of any kind. We also receive massive tonnages of international trade. No conceivable set of policies will change this reality.

3. Enabling all municipalities, provinces and territories to implement a ban on handguns.

Section 91(27) of the Constitution Act of 1867 places criminal law as a federal authority. This new policy, besides requiring a constitutional amendment, would create a legal trap for law-abiding gun owners moving across unmarked jurisdiction boundaries. It is unclear how this would inconvenience criminals who are already ignoring a host of other laws.



Both the NDP and Liberal parties are suggesting more restrictions for law-abiding gun owners, rather than focusing their efforts on criminals.

4. Have the RCMP make firearms classifications based on public safety, without political interference.

Firearms classification is part of Canada's criminal law. This policy would give unelected, nameless bureaucrats in the RCMP the power to write criminal law without parliamentary oversight. A technical ruling would criminalize citizens and provide no legal recourse.

5. While allowing that farmers and hunters are entitled to own firearms, Mulcair suggested there must be strict limits.

Entitlement limited to two groups under strict limits. Recreational shooters, re-actors, collectors, etc. do not share this entitlement.

Liberal Party policy

1. No new gun registry

The long gun registry would not be reinstated because it is too "divisive." Its crime-fighting ability and cost-effectiveness are not questioned.

2. More restrictions on classification and purchase.

More stringent classification of restricted and prohibited firearms and more limitations on purchase, all of which falls entirely on the law-abiding. Almost all current gun crime is due to unlicensed guns, which would remain unaffected by this tightening up of the regulations.

3. After two years of study, the Young Liberals of Canada proposed the adoption of an Australian-style ban on semi-automatic firearms. These proposals accept the more-guns-equals-more-crime theory as fact and demand a reduction of the number of firearms as a necessary public safety policy.

The proposal was rejected because of its political impact in rural and western Canada. The assumptions and objectives of the policy were not rejected. Australia's use of high-speed legislation with only 12 days from proposal to passage was praised.

4. Sign the United Nations Arms Trade Treaty. This treaty will establish regulations to control the transfer of conventional weapons and regulate arms brokers.

The treaty assumes that armed citizens are threats to public safety. It places gun regulations under UN control by requiring standards and compliance with UN dictates. The right to self-defence is not recognized.

Reality check

The fundamental problem of crime control through gun regulation is a cost/benefit problem. In 2013, Statistics Canada reported that there were 263,054 violent crimes. Of these, 5,600 were firearms "related." (Statistics Canada has adopted a metric that inflates firearms crime statistics.) Firearms were used resulting in injury in 1,325 crimes. Even using the inflated 5,600 figure and making the incorrect assumption that all crime guns are registered, our efforts will only impact (5,600/263,054) 2.1 per cent of violent crime.

To achieve this, we must license some 1,960,000 owners. If we incorrectly assume that every firearms crime is caused by a licensed owner, only (5,600/1,960,000) a quarter of one per cent of our effort will effect crime. For firearms registration, the numbers are even worse. Some seven million guns must be tracked (5,600/7,000,000) so only eight-hundredths of one per cent of our effort will affect crime guns.

Who is impacted by our administrative gun control laws? In 2012 there were 14,000 administrative offences. The majority, 11,260, were for mere possession. Criminals created by the administrative law itself.

Conclusion

As we review Liberal and NDP firearms policies, it is hard to avoid a sense of hidden menace. The NDP are adamant on a new long-gun registry or maybe not a registry or maybe something else that allows the police to track all firearms. How

this is to work and what burdens and restrictions will fall on the law-abiding is simply unknown. How tracking every gun can be accomplished at all, when the problem is illegal, unregistered guns, is unanswered. What is clear are more restrictions and regulations for the law-abiding, with no clear idea of how or even if this will inconvenience criminals.

The Liberal leader Justin Trudeau has declared a policy of public safety enhancement through more restrictive classification and purchase regulations. What these might be and how exactly they would impact criminals, rather than the law-abiding, is unknown. A strong party faction wanting an absolute reduction in gun numbers and a ban on all semi-automatics increases the menace. Their rejection of the policy, not on the basis of principle but because it will cost them votes, is not re-assuring.

Pie-in-the-sky platitudes also figure in the stated policies. The NDP will stop gun smuggling, perhaps by making it illegal. Oh sorry, it is already illegal. Then maybe double illegal? How they will physically end smuggling with multiple sources worldwide and a criminal element that want the tools of the trade is simply unanswered. A constitutional amendment to delegate firearms law, part of criminal law, to every hamlet and incorporated whistle stop is equally unlikely, though curiously they have not mentioned First Nations band governments, who they regard as independent entities.

Both parties share a thinly veiled contempt for gun owners. Despite very low levels of gun crime in a country with seven million gun owners, they are seen as a public menace that must be restricted, regulated and repressed. The concept of focusing on actual criminals, rather than creating administrative criminals, seems completely foreign.

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Sporting

The evolution of a game originally designed to provide hunting practice

BY JEFF HELSDON



Clays



In its infancy, sporting clays was touted as the be-all-end-all, as far as practice for hunting was concerned.

My first involvement with sporting clays was in 1988 and the course was Kettle Creek Sporting Clays, near London, Ont. Started by Blair Smith, this now-defunct private course was one of the first sporting clays ranges in my part of Ontario. I learned a lot about sporting clays, and improved my shooting through grinding targets there.

More than 25 years later, sporting clays has grown in popularity. There are more courses in my part of the province, as well as across the nation.

The basics

For the uninitiated, sporting clays is completed on a course with various stations. It is also a particularly social activity.

At each station, a variety of targets are thrown, ranging from singles to doubles. Doubles can either be a true pair, where both birds are thrown at

the same time, or a report or a following pair, where the second is thrown as soon as the first is shot. Usually a round consists of 50 or 100 targets.

The shooter typically shoots from a stand, which is built from two-by-fours and lattice. In other situations, the shooter stands on a platform or even in a makeshift blind.

There are a wider variety of targets



Clays are typically thrown in singles or doubles, but there is a wide variety of targets in competition.

than just the typical skeet or trap clay pigeon, although these are the mainstay. There are also minis, which are only 60 millimetres in diameter. These are small enough that they can be "nested" inside a regular-sized target. In between the regular 108-millimetre target and the mini is a midi target, with a 90-millimetre diameter.

Rabbit clays are the same diameter as a standard target, but are built to roll along the ground. The target is a flat disk, without the typical raised section of a standard target. They are also beefed up with a thicker outer rim, to resist breakage as they bounce along the ground.

Battue targets are 90 millimetres in diameter and are flatter than a standard target. Battues are designed to reach a stall speed and then fall quickly.

And to make the mixture of targets even more interesting, sometimes a different-coloured bird is thrown in with the mix - usually in pairs - and is designated a poison target. If the shooter breaks the poison target, any broken targets thrown with it don't count towards the score.

Many of the stations are designed to simulate hunting situations and have names like springing teal, busting grouse, rabbit/bird. Each broken bird counts for one, with the exception that poison targets can cancel out any birds broken in the pair it is thrown with.

The history

Although sporting clays is relatively new in "the colonies," it dates back to the early 1900s in Britain. The first British Open sporting clays event was held in England in 1925.

Most sources seem to agree that outdoor writer Bob Brister introduced sporting clays to North America, with an article in *Field & Stream* in 1980. The first American national shoot was held in 1985.

On this side of the border, the history is less clear, as the associations overseeing sporting clays only came about around the turn of the century. Kettle Creek, where I first shot, was the first course I knew of, and it wasn't new when I first shot there 27 years ago.

Silver Willow Sporting Clays, of Carstairs, Alta., was started in 1988. One report I had was Ontario's Uxbridge course got going in 1986. I'm sure there are other courses that are older, but the most important thing is sporting clays caught on and the number of courses has grown exponentially since the late 1980s.



Sporting clays competitions have grown in popularity over the years.

The guns

A gun with interchangeable chokes is a must in sporting clays, as the target ranges can vary from station to station and course to course.

In the beginning, the concept behind sporting clays was practice for hunting, so hunting guns were used. I started with a pump gun, but I have to say that my scores improved when I went to an over and under. Now, I often use my Beretta A400 Xtreme to shoot clays, as that is my hunting gun.

Many people still use their hunting guns, and I saw someone with a pump the last time I shot.

Most shooters use a 12-gauge for sporting clays, although 20 gauges are common. My over and under is a 20 gauge and I shot it until I recently purchased the A400. There are sub-gauge events in sporting clays competition for 20, 28 and .410.

Although it's predominately a 12-gauge game, the most common shells are one ounce or less.

As the sport advanced, so did the tools. There are many sporting-model guns from most manufacturers.

While a trap gun shoots 80-20, or 80 per cent of the shot above the aim



Sporting clays is a social activity, and participants are always encouraged to get the younger generation involved in this interesting and challenging sport.

point and 20 per cent below, sporting guns shoot 50-50, which is the same as a field gun.

A trap gun typically has a longer length of pull and a higher comb. Sporting guns aren't so easy to classify. Looking at the different models that have both field and sporting models, there

isn't a common formula to the differences in the stocks. Some of the stocks are the same as the field models; some have more drop at the heel than others; some have a different length of pull, while others do not.

According to George Wallace, sales manager at Stoeger Canada, sport-



Most shooters use a 12-gauge shotgun, but 20-gauge guns are common, as well. Loads in one ounce are less keep shooters going all day, thanks to reduced recoil.

ing guns often have extended chokes, longer barrels and scroll engraving versus the game scenes found on field guns. But, on guns dedicated for sporting clays, other features of competitive guns are often found, such as extended forcing cones, adjustable ribs, porting, higher grade walnut and better steel. Choke tubes are often extended versions to facilitate quick changes.

R.J. Eldred, one of two national delegates with the National Sporting Clays Association - Canada, started shooting sporting clays because he was a waterfowl hunter and wanted to be a better shot. He became a serious sporting clays shooter and added his two cents on sporting clay guns.

"I know some people still shooting their old Remington pumps," he said. "The majority are shooting over and unders or autos."

Over and unders are most common. Although the second shot is as quick out of a semi-automatic, some consider picking up the shells to be a nuisance. The semi advantage is reduced recoil.

In the days when I shot a lot of trap, I shot one-ounce reloads and remember that was lighter than most used. With sporting clays, one ounce or less is the standard. Some shooters use only seven-eighths or three-quarter-ounce loads.

"When you're shooting a lot of shells, recoil is your enemy," Eldred stated.

The associations and competitive shooting

The first Canadian sporting clays association was the Alberta Sporting Clays Association, started in 1998. The Alberta group founded the Canadian National Sporting Clays Association in 2010, to allow a Canadian championship and to establish a national team to participate in the world championships. Provincial associations in Alberta, Saskatchewan and British Columbia are part of CNSCA.

CNSCA made up lost ground quickly and hosted the world sporting championships at Galt Sportsmen's Club in Ontario in 2013. They have also hosted three national shoots. Judging by targets thrown, the increase has also been huge - 259,440 thrown in 2012 to 371,397 thrown last year. The largest growth has been in BC, Saskatchewan and Ontario.

The National Sporting Clays Association is an American organization, founded in 1989. A Canadian branch, NSCA-Canada, was started in 2008 and

officially recognized as the first country affiliate of NSCA in 2013. Eldred was one of the drivers to bring NSCA to Canada so registered targets could be shot here before a shooter went to compete in larger events in the US. There are registered clubs in BC, Alberta, Manitoba, Quebec and Ontario.

One difference between the two organizations is the system of rating shooters and how they move up in classes. CNSCA uses an average-based system. NSCA uses a punch-based system that is based on points earned if you place in the top three in your class at a registered shoot.

One thing stressed by the associations is having stations with targets that

can be seen long enough for the average shooter to hit.

"Targets are set for a man that is 50 years old," Eldred said. "If targets are set for somebody who is 17, they can see better than an individual who is 50. The majority of your shooters will be around the age of 50."

FITASC is an international organization holding sporting clays championships. One difference with FITASC is the shooter must start with the gun below a line marked on their vests and cannot raise the gun until they see the target.

Sporting clays has come a long way from the early days when it was just the ultimate hunting practice, and has evolved into a sport on its own.

THE FRANCHI ALTERNATIVE

Since sporting clays is a game for over and under 12-gauge shotguns, I wanted to try the game with one.

When choosing what I wanted to try, I looked for a gun with a price tag less than the Beretta and Browning sporting models, but a model that was still a decent quality gun. I had previously shot a Franchi Instinct SL in 20 gauge and when it was suggested to try that, I jumped at it.

Actually, I was impressed enough by the 20 gauge that after shooting one, I decided if I was ever in the market for an over and under again, that would be the gun.

Franchi introduced the Instinct line in 2012. It is comprised of two models in 20 gauge and three in 12 gauge. The L is a case-coloured gun with a steel receiver, while the SL, which is lighter, has a silver-coloured alloy receiver.

The barrel selector is on the safety, which is also automatic. The L and SL have walnut Prince of Wales stocks and a walnut forend.

The Sporting model is basically an SL with a 30-inch barrel, is available in 12 gauge only and has a silver receiver. It is also 0.6 pounds heavier than its SL counterpart and has a standard pistol grip instead of Prince of Wales.

Specifications for the SL 12 gauge put it at 6.9 pounds, but it feels lighter than that. The gun has great balance and the Microcell recoil pad fits in well with the look of the gun.

This gun is well put together. My test model had a matte finish on the walnut stock. The checkering was tastefully done. I couldn't find a flaw in it, despite the unique design in the forend checkering.

Fit between wood and metal parts was solid. Although the SL sports a plain receiver with little engraving, the accents are nicely done, with "Franchi" embossed on the bottom. The side is plain, except for the engraving on the hinge pin.

The model I had for testing was an SL 12 gauge. Shooting 100 rounds of sporting clays, with a mix of one-ounce and one-and-one-eighth factory loads, I found it was a pleasure to shoot with one-ounce, but the recoil was a little much when shooting a high number of one-and-one-eighth loads. Borrowing a fellow shooter's loads that were less than an ounce, recoil was almost non-existent. I also noted that ounce loads was all I really needed for the course I was shooting.

The gun's automatic safety was a pain when shooting sporting clays, but I understand from talking to Stoeger Canada that the Sporting model can be ordered with a manual safety if desired for shooting clays.

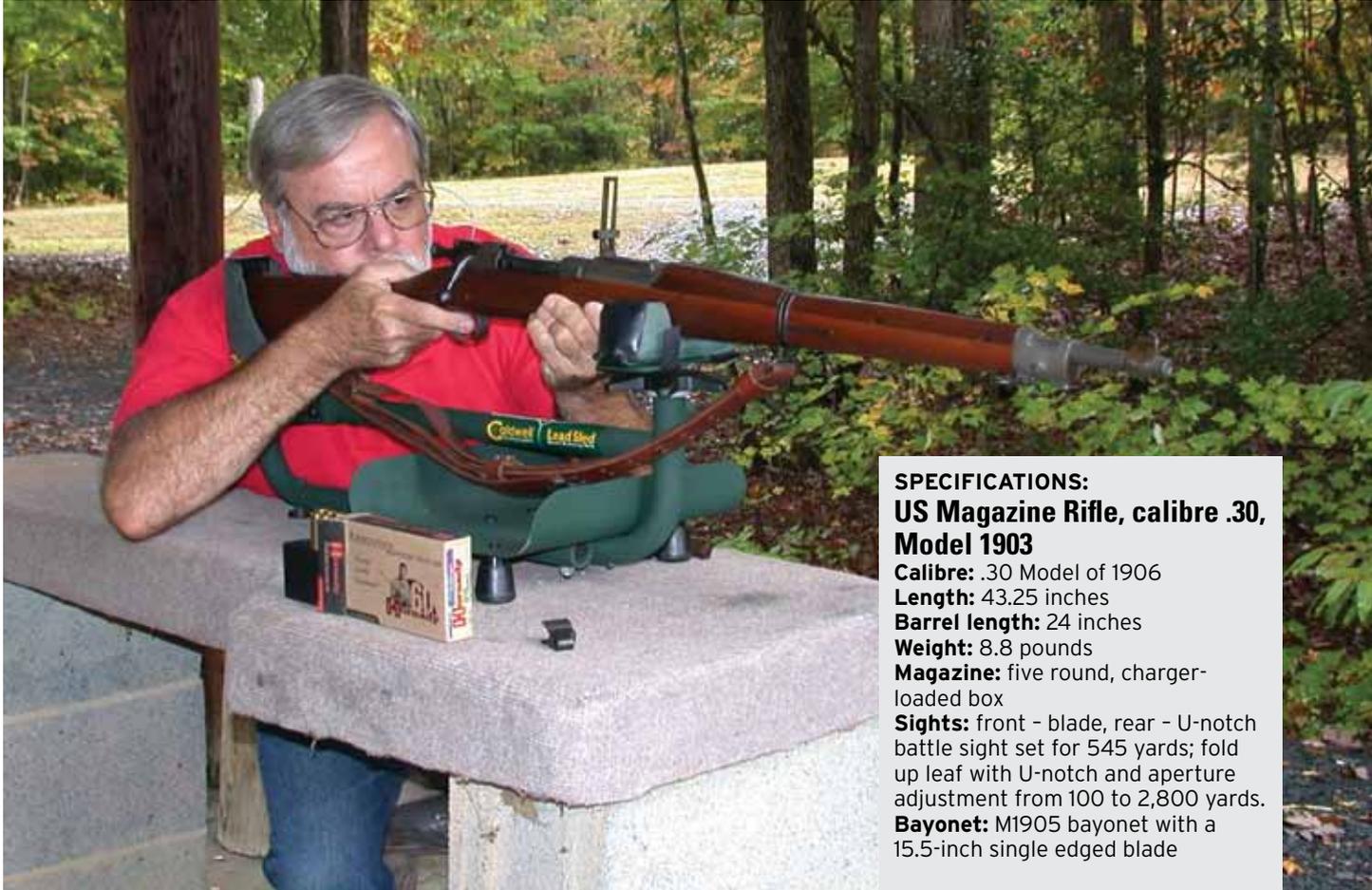
Although not cheap at \$1,950, the Franchi presents a lower price point than a Beretta or Browning and is still a quality gun. If it's doubling as a field gun, the light weight will wear much less after a day of hiking the woods.

On the semi-auto front, I previously shot both the Winchester Super X-3 Sporting and Beretta A-400 Xcel, and was impressed with both.

The US Model 1903 Springfield Rifle

The Legendary "Aught Three"

By Paul Scarlata



SPECIFICATIONS:

US Magazine Rifle, calibre .30, Model 1903

Calibre: .30 Model of 1906

Length: 43.25 inches

Barrel length: 24 inches

Weight: 8.8 pounds

Magazine: five round, charger-loaded box

Sights: front - blade, rear - U-notch battle sight set for 545 yards; fold up leaf with U-notch and aperture adjustment from 100 to 2,800 yards.

Bayonet: M1905 bayonet with a 15.5-inch single edged blade

US Magazine Rifle, calibre .30, Model 1903A3

Calibre: .30 Ball M2

Length: 43.4 inches

Barrel length: 24 inches

Weight: 8.8 pounds

Magazine: five rounds

Sights: front - blade, rear - aperture adjustable by ramp from 200 to 800 yards

Bayonet: M1 bayonet with a 10-inch single edged blade

US Magazine Rifle, calibre .30 Model M1903A4

Calibre: .30 M2

Length: 43.4 inches

Barrel length: 24 inches

Weight: 9.1 pounds

Magazine: five-round box

Sights: Weaver M73B1 2.5-times scope

Bayonet: M1 bayonet with a 10-inch single edged blade

When the US went to war against Spain in 1898, only the small, regular US Army had been armed with smokeless powder Krag-Jørgensen rifles. While it was definitely a well-designed and accurate rifle, the Krag had several shortcomings: the .30 Army (also known as the 30-40 Krag) cartridge was outclassed by the Spaniards' flat-shooting 7x57 Mauser. But more important was the Krag's slow method of charging the magazine manually, one round at a time. The Spanish Mo. 1893 Mauser was a charger-loaded rifle (stripper clip), which enabled the individual soldier to maintain an impressive rate of fire.

In 1900, the US Army established a commission to develop a new rifle. The first model, known as the Experimental Rifle of 1900, used a bolt with dual front-locking lugs and, as on the new

98-Mauser, a third locking lug on the rear of the bolt that bore against the receiver bridge. A non-rotary extractor permitted easier bolt manipulation and prevented double feeding of cartridges. It retained the Krag's 30-inch barrel and used a similar stock, sights and fittings. A single column, charger-loaded magazine held five .30-calibre rimmed cartridges, while a cutoff was included to quiet the fears of those members of the military establishment who feared "excessive expenditure of ammunition."

In 1901, a new rifle with a flush-mounted magazine and a ramrod-style bayonet - an impractical idea the US Army had been toying with for over a decade - was developed. It used a rimless .30-calibre cartridge, consisting of a bottlenecked case 2.564 inches in length, loaded with a 44.5-grain charge of Laflin & Rand W.A. nitrocellulose,

smokeless powder that propelled a 220-grain round-nosed, full metal jacket bullet 2,300 feet per second. Both the rifle and cartridge performed well enough that they were approved for experimental issue.

After two years of field trials, the commission recommended that the barrel length be reduced to 24 inches, so as to allow one rifle to be used by both infantry and cavalry, and a different rear sight be used. Both changes were approved and the rifle was adopted. The finalized cartridge used the same bullet at the same velocity, but had a thinner rim.

Aware of the likelihood that the new US service rifle infringed on several of Mauser's patents, the ordnance department reached an out-of-court settlement with the German company, whereby they agreed to pay royalties totaling \$200,000 for certain aspects of the M1903's bolt and charger-loaded magazine.

The first M1903s were issued to the cadets at West Point in 1905 and, almost immediately, objections were raised about the fragile ramrod bayonet. Firearms-savvy President Theodore Roosevelt got into the act, condemning the bayonet as "about as poor an invention as I ever saw." With Roosevelt's stinging rebuke in mind, later that year the company adopted a knife bayonet with a 15.5-inch blade and fitted a new muzzle band with a bayonet lug.

In January 1906, the US Army decided to modify the service cartridge to use the new German-designed pointed Spitzer bullet. The 150-grain FMJ bullet was driven to 2,700 feet per second by 47-50 grains of pyrocellulose powder. The shorter bullet required shortening the case neck, reducing the overall length to 2.494 inches, and all those rifles already in service had their barrels shortened and re-chambered.

The new cartridge's potential was realized, thanks in large part to the complex M1905 rear sight. It had a U-notch battle sight fixed for 545 yards and a fold-up leaf with a U notch, and two different apertures that were finely adjustable from 200 to 2,800 yards and for windage. By February 1907, all existing rifles had been upgraded and production began again at the two government arsenals. By 1912, all US Army and Marine Corps units had received the M1903.

When the US entered the Great War, there were 843,239 M1903 rifles on hand. With the expansion of the armed forces, demand for rifles outstripped the facilities at both government arsenals. It was decided to modify the Brit-

ish designed Pattern 14 Enfield rifle, then being produced by Remington and Winchester, to accept the .30 M1906 cartridge and production of the M1917 began. The M1917 proved much easier to manufacture and 2.2 million were produced by 1918, while Springfield Arsenal and Rock Island only produced 312,800 M1903 rifles during the same period.

During the war, some 65,000 M1903 rifles were modified to use the Pedersen Device. This unit temporarily replaced the bolt, thus turning the M1903 into a semi-automatic rifle firing a .30-calibre, pistol-type cartridge. A small oval ejection port was milled into the left receiver wall and a side-mounted, 40-shot box magazine was fitted. The war ended before any of these devices were used in combat and in the post-war period most were destroyed.

When the US entered the Great War, there were 843,239 M1903 rifles on hand.

Until late 1917, all M1903 receivers and bolts were casehardened, which proved insufficient in strength, especially with some of the haphazardly produced ammunition supplied by wartime contractors. In 1918, Springfield Arsenal developed a double heat-treating process that produced a stronger receiver, while Rock Island began using nickel steel for receivers, something not done at Springfield until 1927.

These early M1903s, or "low numbered" rifles as they are known (800,000 or lower for Springfield-made rifles, and below 285,507 for Rock Island) were not withdrawn from the hands of troops already using them, but those in storage were declared war reserve material and put aside.

M1903 production ended at Rock Island in June 1919, and only small numbers were produced at Springfield until 1927. On Jan. 9, 1936, the US Army adopted the M1 Garand semi-auto rifle, but teething problems with the Garand

caused general issue to be postponed several times.

1938 saw the venerable .30 cartridge updated for the last time. The cartridge, calibre .30, ball M2, was loaded with a 152-grain FMJ Spitzer bullet traveling at 2,800 feet per second.

When the US entered the Second World War, the M1903 rifle was still standard issue of most army units, as well as the entire US Marine Corps. To make up for the shortfall in M1 production, the Raritan Arsenal in New Jersey assembled M1903s from pre-war Springfield-made receivers, with barrels and parts supplied by subcontractors.

In 1941, Remington leased the machinery at Rock Island Arsenal to produce M1903 rifles for an anticipated contract from Great Britain. Few were delivered - with our entry into the war the US Army's needs took precedence.

To reduce the time and cost of manufacture, parts such as the floor plate, trigger guard and bands were constructed from stamped steel. Enough changes were made that these weapons were re-classified as the Model of 1903 (Modified) to distinguish them from earlier rifles.

In 1942, Remington developed a simple aperture rear sight to replace the complicated M1905 sight and the rifle's designation became the US Rifle, calibre .30, Model 1903A3. The new rifle displayed a lower level of detail work and finish - machine marks are obvious on the receivers and barrels, and they received a rough Parkerized finish. To reduce costs even further, many M1903A3s were fitted with barrels with two, rather than four, rifling grooves.

Despite these changes, the M1903A3 proved just as reliable and accurate as its predecessor, and, with its aperture rear sight, was probably one of the more practical bolt-action rifles ever issued to US forces.

Remington delivered the first M1903A3s in December 1942. Production was also contracted to the L.C. Smith & Corona Typewriter Co. in March 1942, and their first rifles were delivered by October of that year. It was necessary to issue M1903 rifles to each army and Marine Corps unit for launching rifle grenades, as a suitable rifle grenade launcher was not developed for the M1 Garand until late in 1943.

Many M1903A3 rifles were supplied to allied forces, notably the Free French and Nationalist Chinese. Production of the M1 Garand finally matched demand and the contracts with Remington and

Smith-Corona were canceled in February 1944. By that time, Remington had manufactured 348,085 M1903 (Modified), 707,629 M1903A3 rifles and Smith-Corona had produced 234,580.

When the US entered the Second World War in 1941, the army did not have a telescopic-equipped sniper rifle at a time when demand for one came in from all theatres. Earlier, the Remington Arms Co. had leased the machinery at the Rock Island Arsenal to manufacture M1903 (Modified) rifles for the British and had produced 64,000 units before the US government took over the contract.

Soon afterwards, Remington began producing the M1903A3 rifle, which was little more than the M1903 with a simple aperture rear sight, a number of stamped steel parts and a plainer finish. While the M1 Garand was in mass production, a rifle grenade launcher for it was not available, and so each platoon was issued at least one bolt-action M1903 or M1903A3 for launching rifle grenades.

When the army approached Remington about a sniper rifle, the company suggested that their Model 720 sporting rifle (of which they had 4,000 in stock) would be an excellent choice. To Big Green's dismay, the army disagreed.

After discussions with the army, Remington's engineers produced the M1903A4 rifle. This was a M1903A3 fit-

ted with barrels picked for their superior performance and a pistol grip "C" stock (some late production M1903A4s were fitted with the "scant" semi pistol grip stock). The receiver was drilled and tapped to accept a one-piece Redfield Junior mount for the Weaver 330C telescopic sight (military designation M73B1) and the bolt handle was modified to clear the scope during manipulation.

Because the scope was mounted so low over the receiver, no rear or front sights were fitted. The safety lever could not move through its full arc and the magazine had to be loaded manually with single rounds, instead of using a five-round charger.

The army's original plan had been to equip the M1903A4 with the Lyman Alaskan telescopic sight (also known as the M73 telescopic sight), but due to prior contracts and a shortage of critical parts, Lyman was unable to supply a sufficient number of scopes and so it was decided to standardize on the Weaver scope.

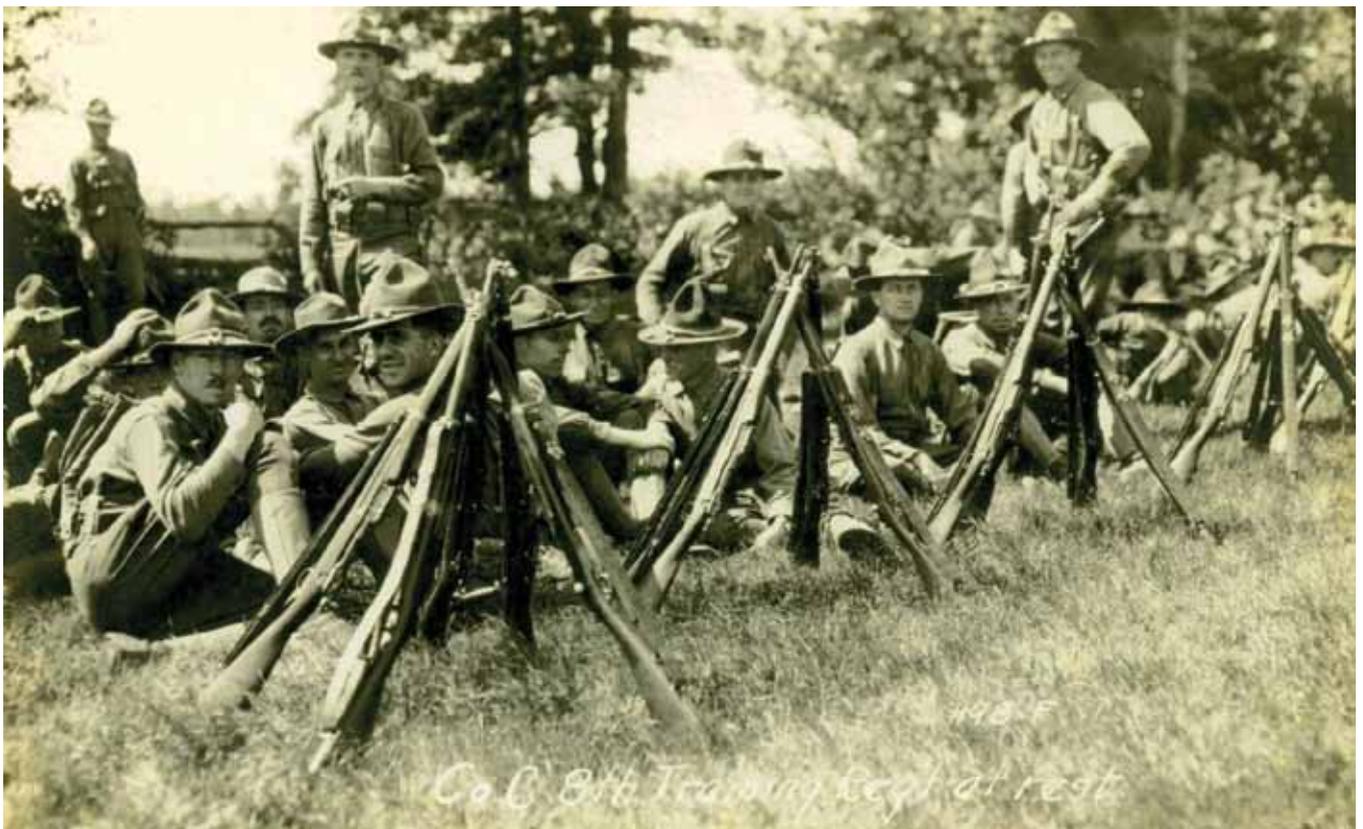
The M73B1 scope was a simple design, with a 0.75-inch diameter tube, adjustable eyepiece, 2.5-times magnification, simple cross hairs and finger-adjustable windage and elevation knobs retained by external, flat springs. Besides Weaver, the Frankford Arsenal also fabricated a small number of scopes. In addition, a

small number of Weaver 330-MR scopes were utilized, which only differed in that they had a tapered post reticle instead of crosshairs and the adjustment knobs were slotted so they could be turned with a screwdriver.

Approximately 28,365 M1903A4s were manufactured between January 1943 and June 1944. It was the standard sniper rifle of the US Army and the US Marine Corps also used limited numbers.

All in all, the M1903A4 proved a mediocre sniper rifle. Stocks were not bedded, so accuracy often varied greatly from rifle to rifle and was often less than the pre-war National Match rifles with iron sights. The inability to recharge the magazine quickly was a severe shortcoming for a combat rifle. Additionally, the M73B1 scope had a very restricted field of view, coarse cross hairs, was not overly waterproof and proved fragile under combat conditions. According to reports compiled after the war, almost every army fielded a sniper rifle superior to the M1903A4.

In the post-war years, M1903A3s were distributed as military aid to France, Turkey, Greece, Ethiopia and a number of Latin American nations. Several years ago, numbers of them were brought back from Greece, which were sold through the Civilian Marksmanship Program at reasonable prices.



US Army soldiers in 1915, training with the M1903 Springfield rifle.

The UN's *Arms Trade Treaty (ATT)* came into force on Dec. 24, 2014. While Canada has not been a naughty boy, neither signing nor ratifying the *ATT*, the UN still gave Canadians a lump of coal for Christmas. The *ATT* is a slap in the face for anyone who believes in democracy, and particularly for gun owners. The *ATT* came into force (legally) because it had been ratified by 50 nations as of Dec. 24. A total of 61 nations had ratified the *ATT* by Jan. 9, 2015. Apparently, hypocrisy is popular. Most of the ratifications are from Europe, small, impoverished African countries or very small islands. The treaty has not been ratified by any of the world's genuinely irresponsible arms exporters, such as Iran, Russia or China. Although, if one of them does ratify it, then it will confirm that the *ATT* is toothless.

“What matters is not electing the right people, but creating conditions whereby the wrong people are forced to do the right thing.”

Attributed to Milton Friedman

Treaty supporters claim that the *ATT* is now international law, that it will apply to non-signatories such as the US and Canada. This is false. The *ATT* is not binding on any country that hasn't ratified it, and neither Canada nor the US has ratified the *ATT*. Canada did not even sign it. Even though the US did sign the *ATT*, promising to ratify in the future, according to the US Constitution treaties only become binding when they are ratified by both the president and the senate. Since Obama is not a king, he cannot act independently of the senate.

On the other hand, as president, Obama can unilaterally act as if the treaty has been adopted, issuing executive orders to federal agencies like the BATF. This is exactly what Bill Clinton did with the OAS Firearms Convention (CIFTA) back in 1997. In Canada, given our royal lineage, the prime minister has the unilateral power to ratify treaties. Parliament is not involved. If Justin Trudeau were prime minister, there is no doubt that he would support the *ATT*. He hasn't yet seen a feel-good initiative that he wouldn't support. Well, verbally, anyway.

Despite the *ATT* coming into force, its restrictions have yet to be applied because UNODA (the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs) has not prepared the bureaucratic toolkits that would enable

national governments to know what laws they are supposed to pass. Nevertheless, by Dec. 24, 2015, 12 months after the *ATT* came into force, signatory countries are required to implement the necessary laws. Outside of Europe, few countries will be able to make this deadline. Anyone who imports firearms from Europe (or wishes to purchase a European import) will be hurt by the *ATT*.

Ostensibly, the goal of the *ATT* is to foster world peace by restricting the irresponsible shipment of weapons of war to fragile trouble zones. Supporters claim that establishing universal criteria for the international arms trade will accomplish this. Unfortunately, this is disingenuous. The *ATT*'s supporters have agendas other than world peace. It's not hard to dig a little and discover that one of the *ATT*'s real goals is to handicap the US and Israel by restricting their ability to export and import arms.

To the anti-gun NGOs (non-governmental organizations), restricting access to firearms to civilians is just a bonus, collateral damage as it were.

It should come as no surprise that the *ATT* has long been promoted by a committed group of allegedly progressive NGOs, such as Control Arms and Amnesty International. There are no countries the progressives hate more than Israel and the US. The lobbying efforts of the NGOs themselves expose their true motives. These NGOs rarely criticize Iran's arming of Hamas with anything like the venom they reserve for US and British arms sales to Israel.

As I have pointed out in an earlier *CFJ* article, the *ATT* is so vague that no one knows what kinds of restrictions it will impose on civilian firearms owners, in an effort to regulate international trade. The devil is in the details. Planning has already begun for amending the *ATT*. The First Conference of States Parties (CSP) will be held in 2015, probably in Mexico, since Mexico has taken the lead in planning for the CSP. Behind the scenes, Control Arms, the NGO that led the campaign for the treaty, has been working with Mexico to exclude all NGOs that did not actively promote the treaty. If they are successful, the CSP result in a treaty backed by the UN and dominated by its cheerleaders. Expect the *ATT* to resurrect the most stringent controls imaginable on civilian firearms.

The *ATT* is full of moralistic bromides, but its provisions are exceptionally vague and misleading. The *ATT* requires each country to establish a national control system for all small arms

The UN Trade Treaty Now In

ATT spell ba
for firearm

BY GARY



Small arms

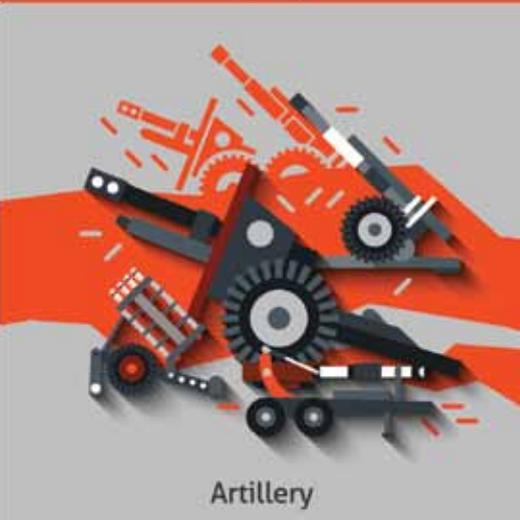
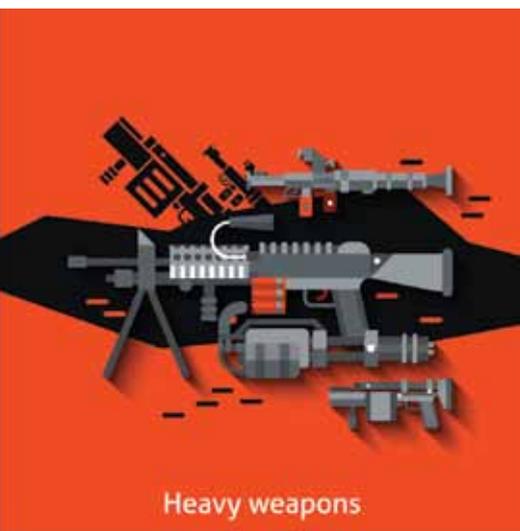


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and ammunition, and all parts and components. It then goes on to say that the national control list should be provided to the UN secretariat. Anyone who was concerned about the government knowing what firearms he or she owned should be petrified by Canada sharing that information with the UN. Remember, the balance of power in the UN General Assembly rests with the Non-Aligned Movement, the Organization of Islamic Co-operation and the world's autocracies and dictatorships.

Opponents of Israel and the US will be able to use the *ATT* and exploit articles 6 and 7 to restrict international transfers that they will claim violate a number of vague UN conditions. Unfortunately, it is impossible to know when a violation occurs, as the regulations implementing this treaty have yet to be written. Whether or not it signs the treaty, Canada will not be able to control what these rules say.

The regulations will be written by UN bureaucrats and will dictate the rules of firearms ownership within Canada, contradicting claims made by Angela Kane, the UN High Representative for Disarmament, on CBC last year. To make matters worse, the treaty can be easily amended by majority vote, so future restrictions can only get worse.

What does the *ATT* mean for me?

While the *ATT* is deceptively vague about what a national control system for small arms and ammunition, and all parts and components, might include, a broad hint is to be found in another arm of the UN, ISACS (International Small Arms Control Standards), that has invested millions of dollars in developing phony standards to aid nation states to control small arms.

ISACS was created in 2008 within a UN directorate called CASA (Co-ordinating Action in Small Arms) to provide comprehensive guidance to the more than 20 UN bodies active in policy development related to the illegitimate use of small arms and light weapons. I have been monitoring ISACS process and can attest that, unfortunately, special interest groups have captured the process.

ISACS has shifted its focus from "curbing the uncontrolled proliferation and misuse of small arms and light weapons" to advocating complex and costly measures whose effect would only result in disarming responsible citizens. This approach exacerbates the

intrinsic problems of the *ATT*.

Under the influence of anti-gun NGOs, ISACS has developed a one-size-fits-all national control system for small arms, which makes no distinction between Rwanda and Switzerland, terrorists or responsible citizens. Nor do ISACS so-called standards meet the internationally accepted definition of a standard. If adopted, the ISACS proposals would undermine democratic governments and provide powerful tools to bolster authoritarian regimes.

Widespread civilian firearms ownership co-exists naturally with democratic principles in a wide range of countries (for example, Canada, Finland, Israel, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland and the US). Indeed, respected scholars have even argued that civilian firearm ownership might be important in resisting genocide (Halbrook 2000; Kopel 2006).

Conclusions

Politicians expect praise for what they deliver to voters, but it is far more important to praise them for what they do not do. While it is true that the Harper government has not lived up to its election promises to scrap Bill C-68, the Conservatives deserve some praise for refusing to support the *ATT*. Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird knows that the *ATT* means imposing universal firearms registration, and that Canada has recently abolished the long-gun registry. Does anyone doubt that if the Liberals were to form government, with or without the NDP, they would ratify the *ATT* in a heartbeat? Remember, Chrétien's Bill C-68 started with the Liberals' endorsement of the UN's Programme of Action.

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TARGET SHOOTING CANADA WINTER

Do your part to bring target shooting ba

By Lowell Strauss, president of the Saskatchewan Target Shooting Association (formerly the



G AT THE GAMES

ck to the Canada Games

(Saskatchewan Handgun Association)



Missing the mark

Prince George, BC, Feb. 16 to 20. My cell phone buzzed with the news - "Team Saskatchewan takes third place in women's team rifle shooting! I think this is the first medal for Saskatchewan in the Games!" Texts, e-mails and phone calls poured in from excited parents and coaches during an intense four days of competition. It was an thrilling time to be an athlete, to compete at the highest level of competition in the country. But unsettling news simmered in the back of everyone's mind - that target shooting will not be an event in the 2019 Canada Winter Games in Red Deer, Alta. The athletes were all thinking, "If I don't make the podium in Prince George, I will be too old to compete in another Canada Winter Games even if target shooting makes it back on the roster."

Target shooting

Target shooting includes two 10-metre airgun disciplines: 10-metre air rifle and 10-metre air pistol. Each discipline is further divided into male and female events. At the Canada Winter Games, a team event is also held - the combined score of two athletes determines their final ranking. Both air rifle and air pistol are Olympic and Paralympic events, governed by the International Shooting Sport Federation.

10-metre air rifle shooting is shot with a 4.5-millimetre (0.177-inch) calibre air rifle, with a maximum weight of 5.5 kilograms (12.13 pounds) at a distance of 10 metres. Competitors can use specialized clothing to improve stability. The air rifle target is 45 millimetres in diameter; the nine ring is five millimetres wide, only half a millimetre larger than a pellet! The 10 ring is a miniscule half millimetre wide! The competition is so intense that during the finals, the tiny 10 ring is further divided by 10. Shooters can score a maximum of 10.9 per shot during this phase of the competition.

The course of fire is an unlimited number of sighting shots, followed by competition shots - 60 shots for men within 105 minutes, or 40 shots for women within 75 minutes. During a qualification phase, a maximum of 10 points is awarded for each shot. The top eight shooters from the qualification competition move on to compete in the finals. Shooting well may secure your spot in the finals, but does not give an athlete an advantage towards the medals. For the finals, everyone's score returns to zero to start. The athlete with the best

skills and coolest head in this particular competition will win.

10-metre air pistol is a similar event to air rifle. One of the major differences is the size of the target. An air pistol target is 17 centimetres by 17 centimetres, with concentric score rings. The 10 ring has a diameter of 11.5 millimetres. The competitor holds the pistol with one hand, unsupported, and shoots from a standing position. There are rules around the trigger pull weight, the size of the grip and the overall size of the pistol.

The course of fire during a qualification competition is the same as the one for air rifle. The top eight competitors advance to the finals. As in rifle finals, the scoring rings are divided into tenths. With each shot, a finalist can score up to 10.9 points. Athletes are allowed three minutes to prepare for finals. They are then introduced to the audience and given five minutes for sighting shots. Commands are given for each competi-

tion shot, with a time limit of 75 seconds per shot. A final consists of two strings of three shots, after which for every two additional shots the lowest-scoring finalist is eliminated from the competition. This sequence continues until only two finalists remain vying for the gold. The atmosphere can get quite tense during this elimination!

The Canada Games – a long tradition

The Canada Games are held every two years, alternating between winter and summer. Since its inception in 1967, the Canada Games has provided young athletes with an opportunity to participate in the highest level of national competition. Getting to the Games, for many of the athletes, marks a major milestone in their long-term development.

Target shooting has been a part of the winter games since the very beginning. Thirteen times, shooters from across

Canada have gathered to compete for a place on the podium. Unluckily, this 13th time may have been the last chance for target shooters in the Games.

Sport selection process

Canada Games sports are selected approximately five years in advance of the Games - the selection for the 2019 Canada Winter Games was started in 2013 and completed in 2014, after the Games host city had been selected.

To initiate the selection process, national sport organizations (NSOs) are required to apply to the Canada Games Council for consideration. In the case of target shooting, the NSO is the Shooting Federation of Canada. Each sport that applies is scored based on a number of criteria, including whether the sport is an event in Olympic or Paralympic Games, number of members, provincial/territorial ranking, use of competition and development coaching certification programs and whether or not they are an Own The Podium-funded organization. Own The Podium is "a not-for-profit organization, [which] prioritizes and determines investment strategies to national sport organizations in an effort to deliver more Olympic and Paralympic medals for Canada." If a sport meets a minimum threshold score, it is considered to be a core sport and will be included in the Games. All other sports are considered non-core sports and are evaluated further, using eight additional criteria.

Each sport is ranked according to its total score. In addition to score, sports are evaluated by subjective criteria, such as gender balance, team sizes and the potential contribution the sport would make to the Canada Games brand.

As a result of having more sports vying for inclusion than any specific Games could possibly include, the Canada Games Council has developed this evaluation process. Because the inclusion or exclusion of a sport has such a major impact on potential competition levels, the Canada Games Council prides itself on what they feel is a fair and transparent selection process.

Target shooting not an event in 2019 Games – what happened?

Simply put, target shooting's scores fell short of the cut off to be selected as an event in the 2019 Canada Winter Games. An April 30, 2013, Canada Games press release named 19 sports to



Although target shooting will not be part of the 2019 Canada Winter Games, there is hope to get the sport back on the roster for 2023.

the roster for the 2019 Canada Winter Games program. Target shooting was not on this list. However, one event spot remained and target shooting and archery were on the Canada Games Sport Committee's short list. The final decision was referred to the 2019 Canada Winter Games host city, Red Deer. How Red Deer came to its decision to select one or the other is not clear, as no staff were available to comment. But in the end, archery was selected and will be the 20th event of the 2019 Canada Winter Games.

Why is shooting in the Canada Games important?

Losing target shooting from the Canada Games should be of concern to Canadian firearms owners. Why? Because 10-metre air pistol and 10-metre air rifle are two shooting sports sanctioned by the International Shooting Sport Federation and are both Olympic and Paralympic events. High performance athletes in the sport of target shooting are in the public eye along with hockey, cross country skiing, judo and assorted other sports. This reinforces the legitimacy of recreational use of firearms in our society. The inclusion of target shooting as a high-performance sport showcases the precision and discipline of firearms use to the general public. It also

demonstrates the safety requirements involved in shooting events.

To compete in the Canada Games, target shooting athletes must be between the ages of 12 and 20. Shooting is a lifelong sport, but some of the top shooters in the country start young in the sport, a sport that requires focus, discipline, physical fitness and keen eyes.

High-level competitions, such as the Canada Winter Games, give athletes something to train for. The Canada Winter Games was the big competition that everyone was gunning for. Unfortunately, it can be a downward cycle. Competition drives performance. Without high-level competition, shooter performance decreases. As performance decreases, satisfaction with the sport decreases. Shooters dissatisfied with the sport will find another activity to throw themselves into.

No chance for 2019

Unfortunately for target shooting, the die has been cast for the 2019 Canada Winter Games. The 2019 host society and the Canada Games Council will not change the sports on the program for 2019 at this point.

Fortunately, shooting with firearms has not been entirely taken out of the Canada Winter Games. Biathlon will be an event in 2019 Games - it has been one of the sports since 1991.

Is there hope?

There is always hope. The Shooting Federation of Canada, the national sport organization for target shooting, has been encouraged to work with the Canada Games Council to determine where their sport selection scores fell short and work internally to increase their scores for future sport selection processes.

The Shooting Federation of Canada will be able to submit another application for target shooting to be included in the 2023 Canada Winter Games. That may seem like a long ways away. However, the sports are selected approximately five years in advance of the Games, and that means that the sport selection process for the 2023 games will start within three years. Acting now to improve target shooting's score may give us a chance at being back in the games in the future.

Why was archery successful? They were in the same position as target shooting - on the alternate list - but made it to the roster of official events. Archery has grown tremendously in recent years, due to such programs as the National Archery in the Schools Program. This program is an amazing success story that the entire shooting sports community can learn from. Archery has done an excellent job of marketing their program to the general public. They focus on the



Any time we can represent shooting in a positive light to the general public, the better it is for all firearms owners.

positives of having fun and being inclusive, while improving motor, listening and observation skills. Archery target shooting is also touted as a means to teach outdoor skills - an important part of connecting with wild things and wild places. Target shooting can learn lessons from this success story.

Call to action – what can you do?

This situation may be of concern to you, but you're probably thinking, "What can I possibly do to help? This sounds like a problem that the Shooting Federation of Canada needs to deal with." You are correct. But, the federation needs your help from the grassroots. There is power in numbers!

There are many things you can do:

- Organize and run a Learn To Shoot clinic to recruit new, enthusiastic tar-

get shooters of all ages.

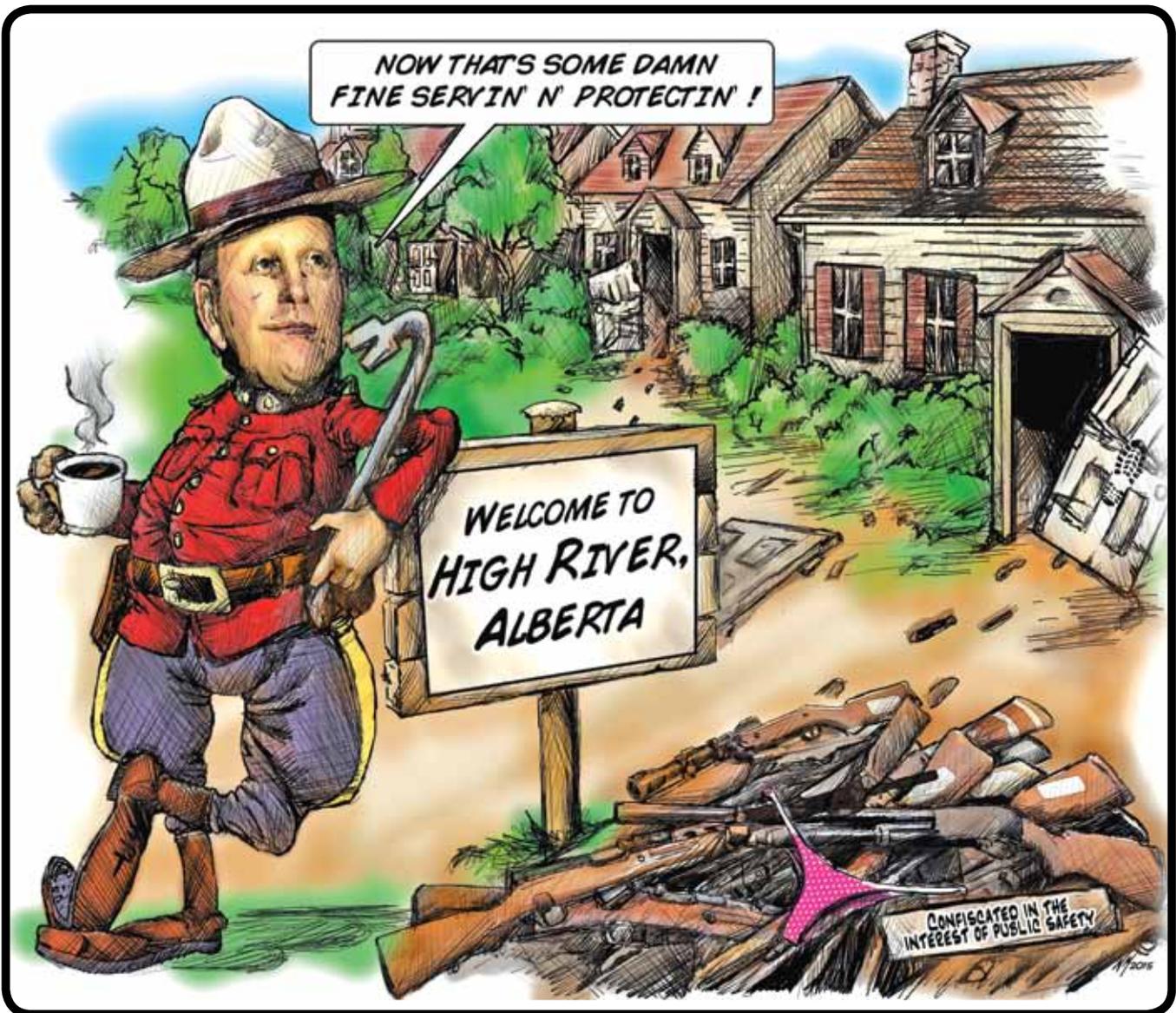
- Help out with the juniors program. Or, if one doesn't exist in your area, start one!
- Host club-level competitions.
- Get your club to support shooters wanting to compete at regional, provincial and national competitions. This can be logistical, financial and moral support.
- Consider getting involved as a target shooting coach in your local club.
- Seek training as an official and help out with local and provincial matches.
- Keep training and get provincial, then national, certification.

Do not let the administrative process keep you from becoming certified - every sport has rigorous screening and training requirements for each level.

Any time we can represent shooting in a positive light to the general public, the better it is for all firearms owners.

No, we don't need to convince everyone to run out and buy a gun and get active in the shooting sports. We just need to help average Canadians understand that shooting is a socially acceptable thing to do, when done in a safe and responsible manner. Something that law-abiding firearms owners are doing already.

Ambassadors for responsible gun ownership wear many different uniforms - competitors, recreational shooters, professionals and hunters all have a role to play in keeping shooting alive and well in Canada. Be proud of being a gun owner. Be proud of participating in the shooting sports, whatever your age or skill level. Support and cheer on our athletes competing in public venues, such as the Canada Games. The next time you see a Canadian shooter on the podium at an international event, take pride in knowing that you may have helped contribute to their success.



Nathaniel Milljour, *RightWingNation.ca*

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Ruger American 7mm-08 and .30-06

Testing a rifle that's easy on the bank account

BY BOB SHELL

While not a new idea, low-dollar rifles are popular for a couple of reasons. With a sluggish economy, low-cost handguns and rifles are both very desirable at the present time. I have tested a number of cheaper firearms and, for the most part, they are well worth the money spent on them. They are accurate, reliable and safe. Additionally, most of the desirable hunting rounds

are available. Many have splendid triggers that enhance accuracy. Believe me, I would take one of them hunting without hesitation. The only thing lacking is looks. These guns are plain Jane looking, with a dull finish and a black or gray composite stock.

If you're in the market for a fancy walnut stock and a nice finish, be prepared to shell out some extra bucks.

Rifles such as this American are made with the fewest steps and parts possible. And because of the modern manufacturing methods used, the rifles turn out quite well. While various shortcuts are taken, quality and safety are not compromised in the least.

This rifle came as a package with a Redfield 3X9 scope, which makes it more convenient. Since no sights are provided, a scope is necessary and most hunters today use one. It is really convenient to have the scope as a package deal, not to mention the cost savings, especially if the rifle lacks sights. Some, but not all, low-dollar rifles come with rings and a mount, which is a convenience and worth the extra few dollars they cost.

It can be quite challenging to find those at a store, as there are so many types of bases and rings available. I have used a number of those set ups with complete satisfaction. The trigger pull is excellent, equaling that of some of the more expensive rifles I have tried.

The trigger is a Marksman Adjustable and can be adjusted from three to five pounds, ideal weights for a hunting rifle. The bolt has three locking lugs, which makes the lift 70 degrees as opposed to the more common bolt found on a two-



Stock: Black composite
Material: Alloy steel
Barrel length: 22 inches
Sights: None, bases supplied
Twist: 1:9.5 inches RH
Length of pull: 13.75 inches
Capacity: 4
Finish: Matte black
Overall length: 42 inches
Weight: 6.38 pounds
Grooves: 6
Suggested retail \$449

lug, 90-degree system. While the lift is 70 degrees, it is a bit harder to pick up, but not to the extent where it will cause a problem. It would be a personal choice as to which system an individual prefers. The bolt movement is smooth, especially after it has been shot some.

The two-position safety is located at the rear of the bolt, with a prominent red dot indicating that it is ready to fire. While positive, it is a bit stiff and makes some noise when released. On a still day, an animal can hear it being released from some distance, perhaps as much as 100 yards. A deer or pig, among other animals, has better hearing than humans do.

The recoil pad is thick and soft, though recoil isn't a problem with a 7mm-08, but the pad will grip a shirt or jacket and that will aid in getting in a quick shot.

There are several variations of the American, including a left-handed model. Calibre selection is fairly decent, including some of the more popular rounds such as the .22-250, .270 and the .308. At this time there are no magnum rounds

available, but I strongly suspect that will change sooner rather than later. Other than some narrow circumstances, magnum rounds are not needed.

The two rounds tested here will cover almost any type of game, though for large bear I would prefer something larger.

Another advantage to a low-dollar rifle with a composite stock is if it is caught in a rainstorm, it won't sustain any damage. Dents and scratches will not hurt it, especially in the looks department. It won't swell, which a wood stock has a tendency to do when it gets wet.

When wood swells, the point of impact is frequently changed, which is a problem on a hunting trip. If it is lost or stolen, the dollars lost is not as great.

I have worked with a number of rifles that are priced for the working-class individual. They usually perform above their pay grade, so one can't help but wonder why somebody would buy a high-dollar rifle. Other than looks or a status symbol, I do not see the reason to spend the extra money.

The American offers full-length rounds so I requested and received one in .30-06, which I consider the best all-around hunting calibre. That gave me a chance to compare it to the 7mm-08 round, which is shorter. When I took it out of the box, I thought, "Wow!" It has clean lines and it shouts that it is a no-nonsense hunting rifle.

The rifle's lightweight body impressed me, at six-and-a-half pounds, which is very important to me. One shooter felt that it is too light for the calibre, though everyone else liked the weight and balance. The barrel is 22 inches long, which is fine for the .30-06 as a longer barrel doesn't give a lot more velocity in the ought-six.

It does not, in any way, resemble the Model 77, and the price is about \$200 to \$300 lower than the older Model 77. In fact, if Ruger didn't put their logo on it, you would not know that the same company makes it. I have used 77s for many years and they never let me down. The issue with the 77 is that it is more costly to make, so it may be out of reach for some buyers. Ruger's engineers came up with a different design, which equals the 77 in strength and safety, but is less costly to make.

The bolt release is on the left side of the receiver and doesn't protrude and is easy to use. The magazine is a drop-out style and made of plastic. It holds four rounds, giving the shooter a total of five. Since I haven't owned either rifle for a long period of time, I can't comment on the durability of the magazine.

Personally, if I were going to use this rifle on hunting trips, I would purchase extras. The cost is still quite reasonable and, if there is a weak spot on this rifle, that would be it. The barrel and action

are finished in a matte black colour, typical of a rifle in that price range.

Other than the calibre, it bears a close resemblance to the 7mm-08. I mounted a Hawke scope on it for my testing. The scope is a 3X9 with a red and blue-lit reticle, which makes it nice for hunting in poor light. I have used these scopes in the past and they perform very well. For information on them, go to www.hawkeoptics.com. If you are looking for a scope that gives value for your buck, I suggest that you give Hawke a good look.

What should a consumer expect from a hunting rifle, regardless of price? Primarily it has to be reliable and safe. If it isn't 100 per cent reliable under field conditions, you have a boat anchor and it should be used as such. With the limited hunting opportunities most of us have, there is no time to be fooling around with an unreliable rifle.

Next, it has to be accurate enough for the job at hand. That might mean a three-inch group at 50 yards or the same at 400. Looks are partially a personal choice, as are some of the



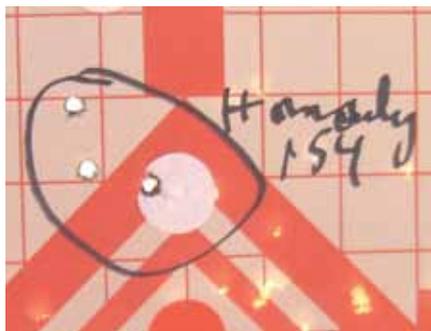
Ammunition for the 30-06.



The magazine for the Ruger American.



A view of the Hawke scope.



Factory Hornady 154-grain at 100 yards.

operating features. Calibre should be something that is up to the task under less than ideal conditions. The main question you should ask yourself is: would I take this rifle on an expensive hunting trip? Your answer will determine your decision in buying this or any other hunting rifle. Does the Ruger American meet these criteria? In my opinion, it does. It will definitely go hunting with me wearing the Hawke scope. I shot many more loads, mainly handloads, but for the sake of space I elected not to include them. I shot some reduced and cast bullet loads and the rifle handled them quite well.

I tried about 30 different loads, which gives me a good feel for this rifle. There is an endless supply of .30-06 factory loads and a decent selection for the 7mm-08.

I wanted to work with both these rifles to compare them. Everyone is familiar with the .30-06 - it's probably the most common big game round, and with good reason. The 7mm-08 is a bit less well known, but is an excellent rifle that gives good results compared to the size of the round. For shooters who find the .30-06 a bit much in the recoil department, the 7mm-08 is an excellent choice.

There is a good selection of factory ammunition and bullets. With proper loads, it will work on most large game up to the size of an elk. In the last 20 years, bullets have improved considerably and your smaller calibres, such as the .6.5 and 7mm rounds, benefit from that. Barnes and others make solid copper bullets, which usually penetrate more than a cup-and-core bullet and that is important for elk-sized game. This, in turn, benefits



The bolt has three locking lugs.

You have a choice between two great rifle designs and can get something to suit your taste and pocketbook. Performance-wise there is nothing to pick one over the other. Personal taste and your pocketbook will dictate which one will go hunting with you.

The Model 77 does offer some calibres not available at this time in the American, including the magnum rounds. With both the .30-06 and the 7mm-08, I can get three shot groups in the one-inch area at 100 yards if I do my job. Of course, some loads are more accurate than others, but none of my groups exceeded two-and-a-half inches at 100 yards and those were infrequent.

In spite of the low cost, you should expect one to one-and-a-half-inch groups at 100 yards if you shoot that well and find the right loads. Since the 7mm-08 isn't as common as the .30-06, I included more loads.

30-06 loads

LOAD	BULLET	GROUP SIZE	COMMENT
WW factory	150-grain PSP	One inch	accurate
51 X RL 15	150-grain Remington	One-and-one-tenths inches	good load
57 X H-4350	180-grain Sierra	One-and-a-half inches	fair

We brought a better rest and the groups reflected that. Due to time constraints, I was not able to do an extensive load development test, but the rifle definitely shows good accuracy potential. I was able to get some groups of one inch at 100 yards with the best loads tested. I have little doubt that with some load development, groups will shrink a little.

I have shot quite a few more expensive rifles that do not shoot any better. I let a number of shooters try it, including some range officers, and they generally liked it. I asked everyone that if they were looking for a hunting rifle in this price range would they buy or at least give it serious consideration, and they all answered in the affirmative.

SPECIFICATIONS

- Calibres .243-.270-.308 and .30-06 tested
 - Hammer-forged 22-inch barrel, free-floated
 - Trigger adjustable from three to five pounds
 - Power bedding
 - Four-round magazine, plus one in chamber
 - Weighs six-and-a-half pounds
 - No scope
 - Three locking lugs with 70-degree lift and dual cocking cams
- Suggested retail \$449**

the small calibres, which enables them to be used for hunting. Expect a successful outcome. Other reloading components, such as powder, have also improved in several areas and that benefits any type of rifle. With the wide selection of low-dollar hunting rifles that work well, we have never had it so good.

7 MM 08 loads

LOAD	BULLET	VELOCITY	COMMENT
8 grains of Trail Boss	100-grain Hornady HP	1,312	nice
48 grains of IMR 4895	100-grain Hornady HP	3,094	ok
45 grains of IMR 4895	120-grain Hornady	2,932	good load
Barnes	120 grain	2,973	accurate
37 grains 209	140-grain Sierra BT	2,132	fair
42 grains of IMR 4895	139-grain Hornady G-max	2,608	ok
Hornady G-Max	139 grain	2,837	consistent
39 grains Tac	139-grain Hornady	2,486	high ES
Hornady	139-grain GMX	2,718	good load
Double Tap TTSX	140 grain	2,793	nice load
48 grains of 760	140-grain Sierra FB	2,768	consistent
Double Tap	140-grain Barnes	2,841	ok
41 grains Tac	140-grain Sierra BT	2,730	consistent
8 grains Trail Boss	140-grain cast RN	1,204	accurate
8 grains Trail Boss	145-grain cast SP	1,162	consistent
45 grains Big Game	150-grain Barnes TTSX	2,530	ok
45 grains Big Game	150-grain Barnes X	2,545	nice
37.5 grains Tac	154-grain Hornady	2,442	high ES
36 grains 209	175-grain Hornady	1,966	consistent
42 grains Big Game	175-grain Hornady	2,339	good load

I would recommend either rifle and, with the available calibres, almost anything can be covered. The only question is which calibre would you use? For information, you can go to ruger.com.

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SHOT Show 2015

~PART 2~

Black Guns

By Al Voth

There used to be a clear distinction between the world of black guns and that of traditional firearms at SHOT Show. But each year, the line that separates the two is becoming more blurred. That's how it should be. After all, black guns (especially rifles) are simply advances in firearm technology and, like all technology, these advances are being quickly absorbed into uses other than military. Assuming we can keep using the black gun moniker for at least one more year, here's what caught my eye at the 2015 SHOT Show in this category.



A non-restricted pump-action rifle with an AR-look could be a reality in Canada if Troy Defence has its way.

Daniel Defence is offering a new rifle aimed at the 3-Gun competitor.



Mossberg has added a model to their MVP line which features an MDT chassis system.



Daniel Defence is well-known as a manufacturer of quality AR-style rifles and one of the first rifles I noticed at the show was their new 3-Gun model. It's called the DDM4V11 Pro. That jumble of letters indicates an 18-inch barrel with a rifle-length gas system, their light-weight SLiM Rail 15.0, GEN II Muzzle Climb Mitigator, Geissele SD-3G competition trigger and an upgraded charging handle. Weight is said to be right around 7.5 pounds and the few rounds I put through it suggest a rifle that will shoot exactly where it's pointed. Wolverine Supplies is the Canadian distributor and they tell me the rifle should be available about the time this magazine goes to press. If you're a 300 Blackout fan, Wolverine will also have the Robinson Arms rifle with an 18.6-inch barrel in that calibre, which I saw at SHOT. Calibre conversion kits will be available as well, with everything arriving on this side of the border around early summer 2015.

While checking out the Mossberg booth at SHOT, a version of their MVP rifle caught my eye. It was decked out with the Canadian-made Modular Driven Technology chassis and when I enquired with the staff, they confirmed the rifle is a model available this year with an MDT LSS chassis. The rifle is called the MVP LC and it'll be available in .223 or .308, with a Magpul buttstock and a muzzle brake. There will even be a package rifle, which includes a Vortex scope.

And speaking of MDT, they doubled



MDT now has Canadian made magazines for all their chassis, including the new HS3.



Benchmade's 761 Ti Monolock.



Browning's 1911 is now available in 380 ACP and it's still 85% as large as a full-size gun.

the size of their booth at SHOT and were showing off a new, fully adjustable buttstock and a new chassis. The chassis will be available sometime in 2015 and it seems to me to be a compromise between their monster TAC-21 system and the light LSS system. It's designated as the HS3 and looks as solid as the other two systems. The buttstock is machined out of aluminum and features an adjustable cheek piece and length of pull. I had a chance to use this buttstock on a coyote rifle this winter - I killed a bunch of coyotes using a Remington rifle equipped with it and the LSS chassis. MDT is also making magazines. So far, I've used the .223 and .308 models and both have performed flawlessly. Like all MDT products, they are made in Canada so there's no importation hassle involved.

Troy Defence introduced an unusual gun in 2014, but I missed it that year because it got lost in the blizzard of ARs that characterize SHOT. For some reason, I noticed it this time. "It" being a pump-action version of the AR-15 rifle.

Why a pump-action AR? Contrary to popular belief, there are thousands of laws in the US regulating gun ownership and some of them are just as silly as Canadian laws. So, when politicians make laws restricting one type of firearm, particularly semi-auto ARs, it's only natural that a forward-looking company would develop rule-beating variations. That's exactly what Troy Defence has done, in the development of a pump-action AR-15 rifle. Troy is producing models in .223 and .308 and told me they have both models in Canada awaiting approval as non-restricted firearms. Canada's North Sylva is their distributor and report the rifles are still with the RCMP, awaiting a decision on classification. That decision can take years, so while we are waiting it's interesting to imagine the technical and legal possibilities: no recoil spring means a folding stock is possible; barrel length is more flexible because the rifle is not a semi-auto; less parts means a lighter rifle; and magazines designed and intended for a pump-action rifle have no capacity limits. Hmmm.



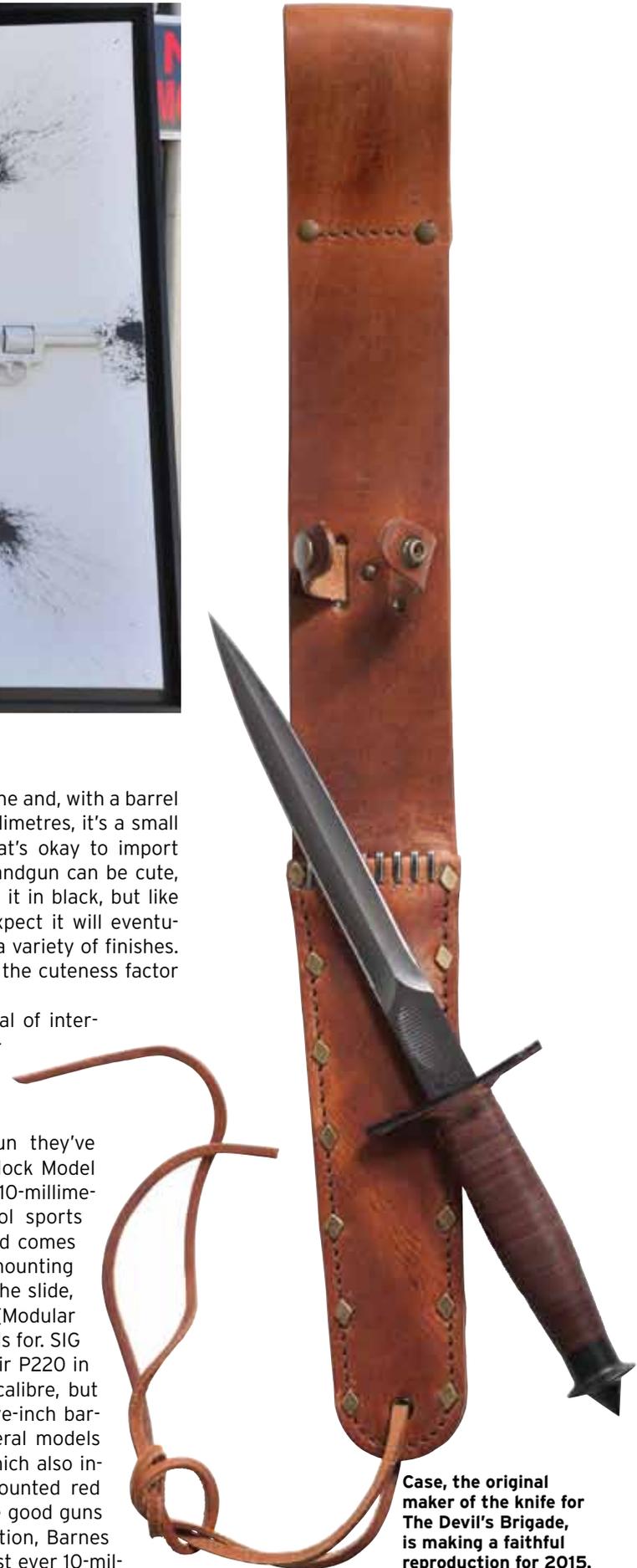
The SHOT Show is known for its guns, but there's gun art too.

Also of interest on the domestic front is the news Alberta Tactical Rifle brought to the SHOT Show. On the day their airplane landed in Vegas, they received word from the RCMP that their Modern Hunter semi-auto rifle has been granted non-restricted status. If you're not familiar with this gun, it's a rifle that's steals its looks from the AR family, but is different enough that it doesn't get caught in the "variant" clause of the current legislation. The samples I've seen are good-looking rifles and will provide a welcome addition to the non-restricted group of modern sporting rifles available in this country. Designed and manufactured in Canada, these rifles will be available in .308 first and later in a smaller-sized .223 platform. The .308 rifles are available for pre-order already, with prices starting at \$3,500.

Browning has been making a reduced-size 1911 in 22 Long Rifle for a few years now. It's scaled at about 85 per cent of a full-size gun and has always been a great plinker for shooters with smaller hands. They've now added a centrefire version built to the same size, and again it looks to be an excellent alternative for those with smaller hands who want to move up in calibre. The pistol is chambered in 380 ACP, has an

eight-round magazine and, with a barrel longer than 105 millimetres, it's a small centrefire pistol that's okay to import into Canada. If a handgun can be cute, this is it. I only saw it in black, but like the .22 version I expect it will eventually be available in a variety of finishes. Once those appear, the cuteness factor will be unbearable.

I noticed a revival of interest in the 10-millimetre calibre this year. Glock started it by introducing the largest handgun they've ever offered, the Glock Model 40 Gen 4 MOS in 10-millimetre auto. This pistol sports a six-inch barrel and comes factory ready for mounting a red dot sight on the slide, which is what MOS (Modular Optic System) stands for. SIG also introduced their P220 in 10-millimetre auto calibre, but they opted for a five-inch barrel. They have several models available, one of which also includes a factory-mounted red dot sight. And since good guns need good ammunition, Barnes announced their first ever 10-mil-



Case, the original maker of the knife for The Devil's Brigade, is making a faithful reproduction for 2015.

limetre auto loading, an offering that launches a 155-grain all copper hollow point X pistol bullet at about 1,150 feet per second. These big guns would make good semi-auto hunting or wilderness defence handguns, if such activities were allowed in Canada.

New red dot sights seemed to be everywhere, with most of the big optic companies showing at least one new model. Vortex showed me two, both intended as entry-level reflex sights. The Venom Red Dot is intended for rifles and its three MOA dot is auto-adjusting for brightness. The Viper Red Dot has a six MOA dot and is intended for pistol use. Both should show up on Canadian shelves with prices under \$400. Like many optic companies, Vortex has a lifetime warranty on their products, but unlike most others, Vortex includes electronic components in that warranty. So, their dot sights are as fully protected as their optical sights. That's a nice piece of security.

When the guns at SHOT are reaching overload for me, I make a side trip to the knife makers and find out what's new there.

As usual, Benchmade was displaying a dozen or so new models, but the

one that stood out for me was the 761 Ti Monolock. This drop-point folder is best described as a piece of tactical jewellery. The handle is machined titanium, as is the pocket clip. The blade is 3.7 inches of M390 stainless and swings open like it's on greased glass. Quality costs money and that's the case here, as this folder is priced around \$300.

Military historians were all over a V-42 Stiletto reproduction, produced by Case Knives. This is one of the most recognizable of all military fighting knives and was issued to members of The Devil's Brigade in 1942. I'm told the original design was provided to Case in those early days by then-Lieutenant Colonel Robert Frederick, who commanded what was officially called the First Special Service Force. Case made the original knives and are now producing this replica. A documented original knife is worth thousands of dollars, but this masterful reproduction will only set you back about \$550.

In the accessory market, ATI was showing off a new, six-position adjustable M4-style buttstock for the AR. Weighing in at less than six ounces, it's part of a line called TactLite and fea-

tures an adjustment system that eliminates horizontal and vertical movement of the stock on the buffer tube. It comes with two sizes of cheek rests, providing half-inch to one-and-a-quarter-inches of height adjustment, as well as various sling attachment points and a slim recoil pad. ATI backs it with a lifetime warranty and the price should be around \$100 in Canada.

In clothing, 5.11 was showing off an expansion of their Stryke line. The popular pants in this line are now joined by a shirt and shorts. The shirt is constructed with low profile detail and the ever-useful patented and hidden document pockets. A Teflon finish helps ensure stain and soil resistance. And, much to my delight, the shirt is available in tall sizes, too. The shorts feature 12, low-profile storage pockets, which include internal magazine pockets, Flex-Tac fabric finished with Teflon and a gusseted crotch. These products should be on Canadian dealers' shelves in time for the summer shooting season.

There's more, but that's all I have room for, so we'll finish this series next issue by looking at what's new in more traditional sporting arms.

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Politics & Guns

Chris McGarry

The Myth Of American-Style Gun Laws

Over the past few decades, gun control activists in Canada have employed every desperate tactic to gain public support for their disarmament agenda. One scenario they consistently warn of is that without strict controls on the use and possession of firearms by law-abiding citizens (not criminals), Canada will automatically turn into a violent society like the United States where there are no gun laws.

Due largely to outright lies and rampant anti-Americanism perpetuated by governments and the Canadian media over the past 50 years, many Canadians have a perception of the US as a society where every citizen is free to carry whatever firearm they choose, in public, without any restrictions. While several American states have very liberal gun laws (Vermont, as an example, does not require a license to carry concealed), our southern neighbours are under pressure by a strangling patchwork of gun laws enacted by every level of government, from Capitol Hill down to the local county.

While Canada's gun laws are exceedingly unnecessary and draconian in and among themselves, some states, including California, New York and Massachusetts, have laws which are worse. In New York City, handguns are severely regulated and a permit is required to purchase a rifle or shotgun. Worse yet, the government of the state of New York does not even recognize the US constitutional right to keep and bear arms. Out in sunny California, all firearms sales, transfers, even private transactions and sales at gun shows, are required by state law to go through a California licensed firearms dealer.

Philadelphia, home of the Liberty Bell and the city where the *US Declaration of Independence* was signed in 1776, has strict firearms ordinances. A couple of years ago, Mark Witaschek, a Washington D.C. businessman, was facing the prospect of two years in prison simply for having an unregistered shell casing in his car - a violation of the city's ammunition ordinances.

Truth be told, at present, there are more than 20,000 federal and state laws restricting firearms in the US. This patchwork is confusing not only for citizens, but also law enforcement. While a conceal carry permit may be legal in one area, if the holder drives across a state line or even past a school or some other gun-free zone, they can find themselves in serious trouble.

When gun control advocates, such as Wendy Cukier, sound the alarm about American-style gun laws being passed in Canada, their statements are simply misleading. Although the American constitution guarantees the right to keep and bear arms, each state has the authority to enact its own laws. Canada's National Firearms Association is fighting to rescind this country's burdensome firearms laws and replace them with legislation that protects the rights of gun owners. And when we finally do have our gun rights restored in Canada, the law will be the same from one end of the country to the other.



Although the American constitution guarantees citizens the right to keep and bear arms, each state can enact its own firearms laws. These laws vary greatly from state to state.

Team NFA

Megan Heinicke

Mental & Physical Preparation

Being a professional biathlete means that I have spent the last four-and-a-half months living from my suitcase and traveling to different countries along our World Cup Circuit. Our circuit consists of nine World Cups, with three races each, as well as World Championships, which has six races. Including qualifications races, that means I compete at least 35 times each winter. The weekly travel, variety of hotels and ever-changing food options keep things interesting to say the least. Usually the only thing that is consistent for me over the winter is my sport, biathlon, and my teammates. This year, however, there was something else. Unlike previous seasons where I have sometimes struggled on the shooting range or had rollercoaster shooting performances, this season my shooting was rock solid. Well, almost!

I came out of the Olympic season feeling like all the hard work, repetitive shooting drills, hours of combo (anaerobic activity like skiing, running or biking with shooting) and evenings spent dry firing had essentially gone to waste. I had the chance to fulfill my goals on the Olympic stage, and I wasn't able to because I simply didn't shoot well enough to compete with the best. My frustration led me to trying a new, unusual approach to shooting and it started with locking my rifle in its case for almost three months. And when I returned to the shooting range, back to basics was the name of the game. In some aspects, it was almost like learning to shoot again from the beginning.

I had my reservations about going into the season with 5,000 less training shots than most athletes, but despite a disastrous pre-season race I hit 19/20 in the first World Cup race of the season and placed 12th out of 110 women - a new personal best. It was such a relief to have started the season so well, but it was hard to believe that it wasn't a fluke performance. I had some ups and downs over the next races but never fell apart,

sometimes missing three shots out of five, like had sometimes happened last season. By the third World Cup, my confidence was rising and during the 10-kilometre Pursuit I hit 100 per cent, 20/20, for the first time ever in a major race. I remember that I could barely believe it as I left my final stage of shooting.

Over the Christmas holidays, I stayed true to my minimalist plan and didn't shoot once - literally. The truth is that I was planning on one week on the shooting range before competing in the fifth World Cup, but life has its surprises and when one of our women got sick I drove to the fourth World Cup late in the evening before our women's relay and started the race the next day. I had perfect 10/10 shooting and was fighting for a podium position throughout my leg. No one was more surprised than I was to go from one perfect shooting race to the next without a single training shot in between. It turned out to be a great start to the New Year. The next weekend, I went on to have some of my best races ever with a 9/10 sprint, which landed me in 11th place, just one second shy of the elusive top 10 and qualified me for the first Mass Start (a 12.5-kilometre for the top 30 athletes on the circuit) of my career.

I continued surprising myself with my most consistent shooting to date and somehow managed to walk the fine line between confidence and over-confidence. I hit 20/20 for the second time in a World Cup in Oslo, Norway, in mid-March and went on to shoot 90 per cent or better for all five of my races at World Championships, making me one of the top five shooters at the event. In addition, I was the most improved female World Cup shooter this season with an 8.6 per cent improvement over last season!

It all sounds wonderful, but there are two important questions: How did I do it? And can I do it again?

I have some ideas about the first question and I feel like there were three main changes that let me do the shooting I trained to do. The first was to stop over-analyzing. As a junior athlete, I en-



joyed analyzing every possible detail of the shooting process and felt that attention to detail was helping me improve. These days, I think a lot of the details of ideal shooting are already ingrained in my brain and body, and that I am much better off thinking about the targets in front of me rather than of how many grams of trigger pressure I have at any given moment.

The second change was all about pressure and my own expectations. For me, dramatically reducing my shooting training somehow also reduced my expecta-

tions. I found myself out there simply focusing on the targets and trying my best. I heard a lot less of the little voice in the back of my head telling me that I “must hit” this season. Lowering my expectations also made it easier to take on each race as a new, fresh start and leave the good or bad results from the day before in the past. Perhaps the biggest positive change here was that I found myself feeling good about setting process-oriented goals instead of results-oriented ones. I expected a high level of focus from myself on the range, but managed to stay away from putting myself under pressure to hit a certain number of targets.

The third change wasn't really a change, it was a shooting technique that my ex-teammate shared with me from her experience in the Norwegian biathlon system and it helped me many, many times. We called it anti-distraction training and it was based on the idea that I only want to think about one keyword at the moment when I pull the trigger. For me, the keyword is “black.” The general idea was to make an honest list of every thought, negative or positive, that went through my mind while shooting, and use the keyword black to block out all other thoughts. I started off by having a teammate read distractions off my list out loud to me while I dry fired. Most of them were things like, “Be careful, the wind is changing!” or, “I'm so tired, just six kilometres to go.” Or, “You'd better hit these targets, my family is watching today.” It was so simple, and it helped so much. I have come to think of it as my final bout technique - there were a lot of final shots this season that I took with the word “black” chanting in the back of my head.

As for the upcoming season, it will be all about the balance. Finding that perfect mental state of being sharp and aggressive, but relaxed; or, being confident without being over-confident. I will increase my shooting volume again, but will have longer planned shooting breaks than previous years. I hope that the experience and confidence from this season will help me take it all on again in another eight months!



Megan Heinicke on the World Cup Circuit.

NFA Book Shelf

Dean V. Roxby

Small Arms Visual Encyclopedia

Small Arms Visual Encyclopedia

By Martin J. Dougherty

Published by Amber Books Ltd.,

London UK

First edition printed in 2011,

reprinted in 2013 and 2014

At first glance, *Small Arms Visual Encyclopedia* appears to be a fine book. But upon closer study, some issues arise. At 448 pages, and over 800 full-colour photos and drawings, this certainly has the potential to be a great resource for firearms collectors, military historians and anyone interested in firearms through the ages.

The book is laid out in chronological order, and further divided into various groups and categories. Following a two-page introduction, it begins with a brief

look at the earliest medieval handguns and wraps up with modern-day military arms, with a short section on sporting guns.

Unfortunately, there are numerous small, technical details that are in error. The very first page of text, the introduction, has the headline Full Metal Jacket, yet the body of the text refers to something else. The accepted meaning of full metal jacket is a projectile fully encased in a hard jacket, to prevent expansion upon striking flesh. The text makes no mention of this, instead dealing with the transition from loose powder to self-contained cartridges. Any encyclopedia that confuses the term full metal jacket with metallic cartridge is a bit suspect.

There are many more small, but significant, details throughout this book. The Browning Automatic Rifle, M1918, is described on page 114 as, "not a true machine gun," as it does not have a quick-change barrel. Perhaps what they meant to say is that it is not a General Purpose MG. Two versions of the German Maxim MG are shown on page 120. The heavy, water-cooled, sled-mounted MG-08 is shown, as is the much lighter, air-cooled, bipod-mounted MG-08/15. However, the text states that, "It was still necessary to carry water for the cooling system."

Each firearm shown is accompanied by a short block of text and a data box, giving country, date of adoption, calibre, etc. This, too, is not immune from error. Various guns use the same 7.62 NATO round, and some minor differences in velocity are to be expected. However, this book lists a huge spread in velocity, ranging from a ridiculously low 595 M/sec or 1,950 feet per second, to a more realistic 853 M/sec or 2,800 feet per second for the same 7.62 NATO round.

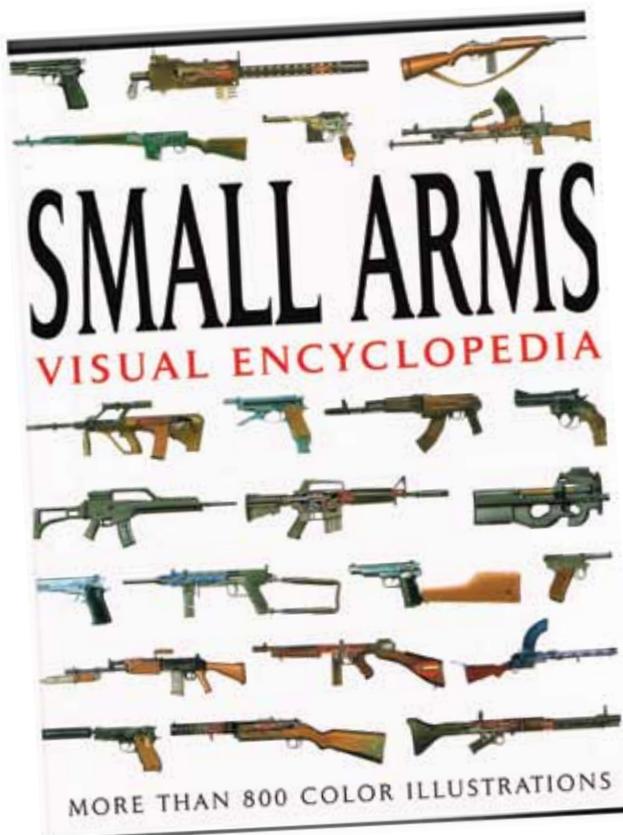
In a few cases, the text and data are correct, but an incorrect photo or drawing is shown.

In the First World War section, a Russian Maxim MG (Yes, Maxims were used by numerous countries, including Germany and Russia) is shown on the iconic Sokolov wheeled mount. That is correct, but the large "snow cap" on top of the water jacket shown in the artwork came much later, during the Second World War. In the chapter titled Post-War (following the Second World War), a re-barrelled Bren L4 is discussed. Unfortunately, the cutaway artwork clearly shows a curved magazine holding rimmed .303 rounds, rather than the straight magazine and rimless 7.62x51 NATO rounds the later L4 version used.

Another issue this reviewer noted was the habit of giving the calibre, but not the actual cartridge used. The bore diameter may well be 8mm, but is it a 8x22mm Nambu Japanese pistol, or 8x51mm French Lebel, or 8x57mm Mauser, or any of many more 8mm rounds? This is not a mistake, but a lazy oversight. Any reference book that claims to be an encyclopedia should include such basic information.

It is a shame these mistakes and omissions have not been caught, as it casts doubt on the rest of the book. There are a great many guns featured, so one can expect to see something previously unknown to the viewer. But there will naturally be a bit of a doubt as to how correct this new information is. This really is too bad, as this could have been a wonderful book. It is a large volume, slightly oversize at nine inches by 11.25 inches and 448 pages. The illustrations are either crisp, clear, colour photographs or, more often, beautiful, full-colour drawings. Well laid out, and on quality paper, it is a very nice book at first glance. Perhaps a second, revised edition is in order.

I would regard this book as a good gift for someone with a casual interest in firearms, but definitely not a reference source for serious students of military arms.



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LBS

.308 WEIGHT

8.3

LBS



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