

# CANADIAN FIREARMS JOURNAL

JULY/AUGUST 2017

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# CANADIAN ***FIREARMS JOURNAL***

July/August 2017



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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

## The Celebration Rifle

This year, July 1 marks the celebration of Canada's 150th birthday. That's a milestone worth celebrating, and what better way to do it than with a special firearm. The state of Canada's gun industry is also worth celebrating, and the custom rifle that graces our cover this month merges those two nicely. The action, barrel, trigger, chassis and muzzle brake are all Canadian-made, meaning we can pretty much build a complete rifle using Canadian parts. Add a custom paint job that echoes the Canadian flag and we have The Celebration Rifle. There's a full-length story about it inside, and more photos as well. Happy birthday, Canada! 🇨🇦



### Canadian Firearms Journal

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# From The Editor's Desk

Al Voth

## Party Time

A quick look through this issue will reveal we've tackled a couple of themes in it. The cover gives away the first one, which is the celebration of Canada's 150th birthday. That red-and-white rifle was my sesquicentennial project, and I'd encourage you to do your own. It doesn't have to be involved or expensive, but consider making the project gun related. Maybe you'd like to keep shooting clays until you've powdered 150 of the fast flyers, or if you're a handgunner, you'd like to shoot 150 training rounds every day for a week. With a little imagination, there are a lot of celebration projects you could undertake. If you come up with an interesting one, drop me an e-mail and let me know about it.

The second theme you'll see in this issue is training and skill development. Summer is when Canadians do most of their shooting, and if you're going to

build skills with live fire, this is the time to do it. So, we've got tips on handgun, rifle and shotgun shooting, from people who know what they're talking about. It's all intended to improve your abilities. And to complement that theme, Lowell Strauss takes a look at steel targets. Shooting steel is as much fun as you can have with a gun, but like everything shooting related, some precautions are required. So, be sure to read what Lowell has to say, heed his safety instructions and consider his advice if you're looking to invest in some "hard targets."

And to keep you informed, we have our regular political columnists, as well as lawyer Guy Lavergne, who breaks down the necessary steps to sell (or buy) a firearm legally. Of course, we have a few equipment reviews for you as well. Tom Tabor and Brad Fenson take care of those chores by taking a look at some of

the new guns and ammunition you need to know about.

I often throw a gun photo in on this page, because I know most of my readers would rather look at gun pictures than read what I write. So, below is another one. You'll notice a small Canadian flag on the rifle. It's from a company called Custom Gun Rails. They make small rail covers like this one, in over 400 variations, including custom designs. These covers snap onto Picatinny rails and lock down with a couple of small screws. It's a great way to put a message on your rifle, tactical shotgun or rail-equipped handgun. If you want your gun to say something, take a look at their website, [www.customgunrails.com](http://www.customgunrails.com).

That's what we have for you in this issue. If you have any thoughts or comments on what you read here, be sure to let me know. It's your magazine.







# President's Message

Sheldon Clare

## Looking Ahead

As I write this, there are several activities in play that will have an effect upon our firearms rights in Canada. First, the CPC will have selected a new leader by the time you read this. And we will, of course, stand ready to advise and assist whoever that person is in working towards positive change in Canada's firearms laws. The new CPC leader will face many challenges and it is important he or she understands what needs to be done in terms of rewriting our firearms legislation. Our meetings in Ottawa will serve to better link up with friends and clearly identify the plans of those who oppose us.

Secondly, the Trudeau Liberals have signalled strongly that they will be bringing down new legislation in early June that will modify firearms legislation, possibly affecting handguns and semi-automatics. They are claiming some of this is needed to comply with the requirements of the *Arms Trade Treaty*, which they announced in August 2016 that they would be signing. I would not rule anything out, as they have been keen on extreme actions such as banning all handguns, pump-action firearms and semi-automatics, much like what happened in Australia. By the time this gets to you, we will likely have a much clearer picture of what they intend. The NDP likewise maintains a strong anti-handgun position in its party policy, so we will need to be vocal about any additional control efforts.

Third, the Trudeau Liberals will have fully embraced the abomination that is the *Arms Trade Treaty*, as they announced they would do in Geneva last August.

The NFA was there to oppose that plan. The UN continues to create difficulty with domestic firearms owners, and to that end we will be attending the UN's General Assembly First Committee meeting in August where we are planning to hold a side event explaining the negative effects of the *Arms Trade Treaty* on businesses, individuals and clubs. We are building an international panel for that event, and I expect it will be a vigorous and interesting session for state representatives.

"What can you do to help?

Well, first and foremost, encourage someone else to join us. Our voice is stronger with more members, and at approximately 70,000 we are a major player."

Fortunately, UN marking has not come into effect. The simple fact is that it is expensive, unnecessary and there are no answers from government about process. Deferring the problem doesn't make it go away and we need to keep pressure on the government to get out of the UN marking regime completely. There will be much difficulty if it is ever put into effect, and it would lead to prices for firearms rising, and it would certainly

put the import and export market in some difficulty. There are huge ramifications to slowing down the import of firearms for ordinary people who want to enjoy them. Much credit is due to members who took the time to contact their MPs, and groups such as the CSAAA and the BCWF, which made a last-minute push in co-operation with the NFA to stop UN Marking.

As well, there will likely be some more work on the legal front – we have been advising on a number of matters, and we are moving forward on our challenge of Quebec setting up a firearms registry. Our win on the Trapper's ATC has gotten some attention and many are interested in the significance of the case to other provinces and parallel situations. As usual we are working hard to make our presence felt in Ottawa, with our lobbying efforts stepping up through to the fall session of Parliament.

What can you do to help? Well, first and foremost, encourage someone else to join us. Our voice is stronger with more members, and at approximately 70,000 we are a major player. However, an organization with 100,000 dues-paying members is a mighty force indeed, and it would serve us well to have that sort of strength – I believe it is attainable with you getting our message out. To that end, we are engaged in membership recruiting campaigns and we are actively seeking to build up our members. If there is someone that you know who should join but hasn't, please sit down with that person and explain to them what we do, and why they need to join Canada's NFA. 🍀



# Message du Président

Sheldon Clare

## Regard vers l'avenir

**A**u moment d'écrire ces lignes plusieurs enjeux affectant nos droits envers les armes à feu évoluent présentement au Canada. Premièrement le PCC aura un nouveau chef et nous serons là pour lui prêter conseil et l'assister à travailler pour faire des changements positifs envers les Lois Canadiennes sur les armes à feu. Le nouveau chef du PCC aura plusieurs défis devant lui et il est important qu'il ou elle sache ce qui doit être fait pour réécrire nos lois sur les armes à feu. Nos réunions à Ottawa serviront à contacter nos amis et identifier clairement les plans de nos adversaires.

Deuxièmement, les Libéraux de Trudeau ont signalés avec vigueur qu'ils présenteront de nouvelles lois au début du mois de juin qui modifieront les lois sur les armes à feu. Il est possible qu'elles viseront les armes de poings et les semi-automatiques. Ils prétendent que certains changements sont nécessaires pour pouvoir se conformer au Traité sur le Commerce des Armes. En août 2016 ils avaient annoncé que le Canada deviendrait signataire de ce Traité. Tout est possible puisqu'ils ont déjà démontré leur enthousiasme envers des mesures radicales telles qu'interdire toutes armes de poings, armes à pompe et semi-automatiques comme il l'a fait en Australie. Lorsque vous lirez ces lignes nous aurons un portrait assez clair de leurs intentions. Les politiques du NPD sont toutes aussi anti-armes de poings alors nous devons nous faire entendre vivement contre tout effort de contrôle supplémentaire.


Troisièmement, les Libéraux de Trudeau auront adopté à bras ouvert l'abominable Traité sur le Commerce des Armes, comme ils l'ont annoncé

à Genève au mois d'août l'an dernier. L'ACAF y était pour s'y opposer. L'ONU continu de créer des difficultés pour les propriétaires d'armes à feu domestiques, donc nous assisterons au Premier Comité de l'Assemblée Générale de l'ONU au mois d'août. Nous allons tenir un événement en marge de cette réunion pour expliquer les effets négatifs que le Traité sur le Commerce des Armes a sur les commerces, les individus et les Clubs. Nous rassemblons un groupe de spécialistes internationaux pour cet événement et je m'attends à ce que cette session soit vigoureuse et très intéressante pour les représentants d'États.

Heureusement, le marquage des armes de l'ONU n'a pas été mis en place. C'est tout simplement trop dispendieux, inutile et le gouvernement reste muet en regard de sa mise en opération. Repousser l'échéance ne règle pas le problème et nous devons garder la pression sur le gouvernement pour qu'il abandonne complètement le régime de marquage de l'ONU. Sa mise en opération créerait beaucoup de difficultés, le prix des armes à feu grimperait et causerait beaucoup de problèmes pour le marché des importations et exportations. Ralentir l'importation d'armes à feu engendrerait de nombreuses conséquences avec d'énormes ramifications pour les gens ordinaires qui veulent seulement en prendre plaisir. Nous félicitons tous les membres qui ont pris le temps d'écrire à leur député, ainsi qu'aux groupes tels le CSAAA et le BCWF qui ont fait pression à la dernière minute en collaborant avec l'ACAF pour empêcher le marquage de l'ONU.

Il y aura encore plus de travail à faire sur le plan juridique - nous sommes

experts conseils sur plusieurs sujets. Nous allons de l'avant avec notre contestation en cours pour empêcher que le Québec crée un registre d'armes à feu. Notre succès pour les Autorisation de Port d'Armes des trappeurs a attiré l'attention et plusieurs sont intéressés à savoir comment cette cause pourrait s'appliquer dans d'autres provinces et situations parallèles. Comme d'habitude nous travaillons fort pour que notre présence se fasse sentir à Ottawa. Nos efforts de lobbying seront soutenus pendant toute la session d'automne au Parlement.

Que pouvez vous faire pour aider la cause? La première chose à faire est d'encourager quelqu'un d'autre à devenir membre de l'ACAF. Plus nous sommes nombreux plus notre voix sera forte. Nous sommes déjà à peu près 70,000 et par conséquent devenu un joueur important. Si nous étions 100,000 membres payants nous serions encore plus puissants - ce pouvoir nous servirait grandement - je crois que ce but est atteignable si vous faites connaître notre message. Avec cet objectif en tête nous entreprenons plusieurs campagnes de recrutement, nous cherchons activement à grandir notre organisation. Si vous connaissez quelqu'un qui devrait devenir membre mais qui ne l'a pas encore fait, je vous prie de prendre le temps de lui expliquer ce que nous faisons et pourquoi il devrait devenir membre de l'ACAF. 







# Vice President's Message

Blair Hagen

## Delayed But Not Discarded

Canadian firearms owners and businesses received an eleventh-hour reprieve when the Liberal government delayed the June 1 implementation date of the UN Small Arms Marking Program until December 2018.

Although there is much relief and even celebrating, especially among those individuals and businesses that would be directly affected, I have to issue a reminder that this is only a temporary delay. This is because it must be assumed the government will implement this at some point in their mandate. The Liberals made a commitment to their voters in the last election, and to international actors in this issue, that they would impose it in Canada. Unlike the previous government, the Liberals certainly support the spirit of the agreement, which will have disastrous effects on the Canadian firearms industry, an industry still in recovery mode 25 years after the imposition of the gun control legislative onslaughts of the 1990s.

It's a great example of virtue signalling, a method employed by a certain social, cultural and political elite class to demonstrate the righteousness and virtue of their beliefs. And the UN Small Arms Marking Agreement is probably the biggest example of international virtue signalling the world has ever seen. These UN regulations would change importing and exporting rules by requiring every firearm, ammunition, part or accessory for a firearm be marked with its country of origin and date of manufacture and possibly more.

There is a belief among actors in the civil disarmament lobby that the mere presence or availability of firearms causes violence and strife. That if stocks of military-grade and even civilian firearms were not available, or less available, armed conflicts and crime could not manifest themselves. They celebrate a rainbows-and-unicorns belief that marking firearms entering Canada with a second serial number will show how virtuous Canada is in addressing the il-

legal international arms trade. This virtue signalling by the Canadian government comes at the expense of the rights, culture and property of Canadians.

Another disturbing manifestation of this issue is the way the Canadian government and its bureaucracy view the Canadian firearms industry. It's an industry that employs thousands and contributes to the economic and cultural success of this country. Instead, our firearms culture and the businesses that support it are seen by government and bureaucracy as engaging in a suspect and illegitimate activity. We are a leftover from bygone days when Canadians were not enlightened. Our rights, culture and property are a danger to public safety, and indeed the peace and safety of the world. Instead of being viewed as a legitimate industry with real vested interests, it is regarded as a red-headed step child, much like individual Canadians who are forced to suffer the machinations of the Canadian firearms program.

I wish I was embellishing the issue, but I'm not. Many Canadian politicians and bureaucrats have invested their careers in advancing the international civil disarmament agenda. The idea that Canada is even a contributor to or serious player in the international illegal arms trade is hilarious. A responsible and respected middle power with probably one of the least violent or corrupt societies among first world nations, the UN Small Arms Marking Program is about as needed in Canada as UN peacekeepers are in municipal hockey rinks. Canada is just not a factor in the international illegal arms trade. The Canadian government does not irresponsibly arm despots or militias. Canadian companies do not ship arms to guerrilla bands and arms entering and leaving Canada have been controlled for many decades.

This isn't even a case of meddling bureaucrats looking to establish work and careers for themselves, but rather individual bureaucrats supporting world-

wide civil disarmament agendas. They see the imposition of initiatives like this as the first steps in ending "gun cultures" in first-world countries like Canada, and especially the United States. Canada has historically been a favoured social engineering playground for these politicians and bureaucrats, until very recently when Canadians started taking their firearms rights more seriously.

The Americans have historically been more guarded about their sovereignty than Canadians. The UN plan of action was, of course, embraced by the Clinton Democrat administrations of the 1990s and the more recent Obama Democrat administrations, but the imposition of the regulations could never get past the US Congress or Senate. In Canada, it is a done deal unless or until some future federal government re-addresses the issue.

Although the UN Small Arms Marking Program has yet again been delayed in Canada, as it has been for the last 15 years, it has not gone away. And it is more likely than ever that it will be imposed at some point in Canada under the current Liberal government. A large part of the credit for this delay goes to you. Canadian firearms businesses and industry partners like the Canadian Sporting Arms and Ammunition Association, put great pressure on the federal government in recent months, expressing their displeasure in the imposition of this ill-advised program. More importantly, thousands of individual Canadians, also concerned because of the ramifications on their rights, culture and property, did as well. You were heard, and together we convinced the federal government that going forward with this now is not in their best interests.

So, a reprieve. But a temporary one. Canadian sovereignty and the rights and property of all Canadians will not be secured until Canada takes a new path on the UN Small Arms Agenda. That will not happen under the current Liberal government.

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# Preserving Our Firearms Heritage

Gary K. Kangas

## The Creation Of Montana May



Montana May and her winning technique.

Montana May's real name is Kathryn. She was born in Vancouver in the mid 1960s, during a time of cultural change. Western movies and TV series were still popular then, with new characters emerging regularly. Women were appearing in leading roles: Gail Davis

as Annie Oakley, Jane Fonda in multiple westerns, the best being *Cat Ballou*; plus the unforgettable Barbara Stanwick in the TV series *Big Valley*. Kathryn, like many children of the era, enjoyed watching westerns, especially films and television shows featuring cowgirls.

Kathryn grew up in this reformation of back to the land and the revision of a female's position in society. The perception of women was altered to reflect independence and self reliance of the frontier era.

Kathryn's father lived on a farm and hunted when he was young, so Kathryn was familiar with firearms. He maintained a basement machine shop, where she helped him and learned some machining skills. Beyond that, her life unfolded on a typical path, she married and had three children. Living a rural lifestyle on Vancouver Island with her husband and children, firearms were a part of their normal activities, including recreational shooting, archery, trap, handgun and predator control. This rural lifestyle fostered an increasing interest in firearms and shooting.

But then Kathryn found herself alone with her children. For the next few years, she focused on being employed and raising her children. Firearms took a minor role, as in occasional trap shooting with friends.

Fast forward to 2011. Having raised three children to adulthood, and established herself as a successful career woman, Kathryn, now in her mid 40s, found her interest in guns rekindled. She attended as a spectator at a number of shooting competitions, including practical pistol, trap and a cowboy action shooting event. Initially, Kathryn viewed cowboy action shooting as not affordable, but her interest persisted. So, in 2012 she joined the Victoria Women's Shooting Club at the Victoria Fish & Game Protective Association. Thus began the journey to becoming Montana May.

During a Women's Shooting Club practice, the next bay at the range was occupied by a lady cowboy action shooter who invited Kathryn to try her revolvers. Upon discovering Kathryn was a competent gun handler, the shootist offered her the opportunity to shoot a sample cowboy action stage.






Montana May mounted on Dollar.

Kathryn was elated and the die was cast! The road forward was clear. Kathryn caught the vision of competing in cowboy action events. She began attending cowboy action shoots on a regular basis, using the alias Montana May.

Kathryn's choice of alias was based on researching the independent, resourceful, strong women of the frontier era, with her alias matching her own character. As cowboy action shooting is not age or gender specific and very inclusive, the participants loaned Kathryn equipment, as well as mentoring her in technique. By the end of 2012, she had a custom belt and holster crafted by Walter Ostin, the premier gun leather maker on Vancouver Island. With a new rig and borrowed equipment, 2013 saw Kathryn immersed in the cowboy action sport and regularly appearing in the winner's circle. That year also brought her a first taste of administering an event as Assistant Match Director of "Headquarters," the oldest SASS affiliated match in Canada.

By 2014, Kathryn had acquired her firearms licence, and purchased her own rifle, shotgun and revolvers. Her role in

cowboy action shooting was accelerating. She then enrolled in a course to become a Range Officer Class I. Then in 2015, she completed the advanced course, becoming a Range Officer Class II. In August of 2015, Kathryn was the Match Director for the "Headquarters" cowboy action shooting competition. Since then she has become a pivotal figure in cowboy action shooting on Vancouver Island, designing stages, serving as a posse marshal and administering events. At an event at Courtenay, BC's "Boomtown" cowboy town, Kathryn was walking down main street, and knew she had become Montana May, when two competitors tipped their hats and said, "Good morning ma'am." She then photographed her shadow on the street, the shadow of Montana May, frontier pistolero.

Kathryn, AKA Montana May, is true to her persona: competent, resolute and a formidable competitor in cowboy action shooting events. Finishing regularly in the winner's circle, she is exhilarated by competition. A stellar example of an individual contributing to Canada's firearms heritage. 



Montana May, a pistolero's shadow.

Cowboy action shooting is a shooting sport that began in 1981 by three southern Californians, Harper Creigh, Gordon Davis and Bill Hahn. This creative trio were competitors in practical pistol shooting, plus being western movie buffs. While watching a western movie, they thought why not have a competition with old west firearms, including single-action revolvers, lever-action rifles and double-barrel shotguns. This triad of inspired and imaginative shooters invented a shooting sport that has spread worldwide. Harper Creigh is a business man, Gordon Davis (now deceased) was a high-profile leather crafter and Bill Hahn (now deceased) a multi-talented artist. With their combined creative imaginations, they organized the first cowboy action competition called End of Trail. This shooting event was held at the range in the community of Coto de Caza, Calif., in mid-1982. This cowboy phenomenon captured the attention of cowboy aficionado's immediately. By the mid 1980's there were cowboy action matches throughout the U.S., Canada, Germany and other European countries.

In 1987, the Single Action Shooting Society was born. This organization, now known as SASS, started a publication called the "Cowboy Chronicle" to promote and inform cowboy action shooters of events worldwide. As of 2017 SASS claims over 110,000 members. The End of Trail competition continues to date, but with a location change. End of Trail is now held at its own dedicated range and cowboy town a short distance from Edgewood, New Mexico. This years marks the 35th year of the End of Trail shooting competition.





# Politics & Guns

Bruce Gold

## Virtue Signalling As Policy

One of the enduring wonders of our time is the political practice of virtue signalling as a substitute for policies that actually deal with a problem or even recognize its existence. Consider the current Liberal government under our resident Philosopher King, Trudeau the younger.

When they came to power, one of their first acts was to end our military campaign against ISIS, the genocidal Muslim Theocracy. Trudeau famously dismissed the Conservative's policy with a contemptuous sneer about "whipping out our F18s" and proposed instead that we supply the victims with warm clothing and advice on surviving the local winter as they were driven into exile in their own land. This was perfection itself. The traditional Liberal disdain for all things military was paraded with their dismissal of such childish folly. It was all so beneath the pure and rarefied level of the enlightened, who understand that all violence must necessarily be counterproductive. The ignorance (or was it ignorance?) displayed by the assumption that people who had lived in the country for centuries would need our advice on how to dress warm was of no matter. The fact that military force was the only possible solution to end the genocide was clearly outside respectable discourse.

### THE UN ARMS TRADE TREATY

Our signing of the UN *Arms Trade Treaty* is another example of how virtue signalling, along with a few blatant lies, formed an excellent substitute to effective policies. This Liberal policy began with the self-important assumption that Canada was a serious supplier of illicit arms, an assumption without any evidence. Or was it the assumption that the odd stray pistol or purloined duck gun was the true driver of war and mayhem across the world? Nonetheless, there was the noble claim of coming into compliance with the moral high ground of "International" standards. The counterproductive act of making Canadian guns more expensive, to the detriment of Canada's arms industry

and gun owners, is surely justified by our newfound ability to trace the guns internationally and thus bring any evil doers to justice.

Unfortunately, reality intrudes on this claim of effectiveness, because the treaty allows any country to avoid it by not signing over title, thereby retaining "ownership" of the arms. Paragraph 3.3 says, "This Treaty shall not apply to the international movement of conventional arms by, or on behalf of, a State Party for its use provided that the conventional arms remain under that State Party's ownership."

The whole matter of risk assessment is also solely up to each nation, another loophole big enough to drive a tank through. There are no minimum standards or mechanism for enforcing minimum standards. Nor is there any mandatory method of analysis. "Serious" risk, which in theory stops the arms trade, is not defined. Countries, such as Russia, China and Iran, can ship arms by the boatload without any reporting or oversight by simply declaring it a matter of national security, or military assistance or a defence co-operation agreement. Transparency is a fraud since there are no universal standards of reporting, or method of enforcing, standards.

But, at least our expensive efforts will have some tiny benefit? Alas no, for guns in Canada are already stamped with a maker's name and serial number, which is completely adequate for any desired level of tracing. The net effect of the treaty on clandestine international arms trades amounts to zero; but it plays well with a friendly press and pleases globalists and those who support anything labelled gun control. In sum, this Kabuki Theatre is just another wonderful example of moralizing internationalism all too reminiscent of the League of Nations fiasco.

### FIREARMS LAW

For the Liberals, the crown jewel of virtue signalling is of course the *Firearms Act*. Brought in after a calculated act of political violence, the Montreal Mas-

sacre, its passage thrilled the Coalition for Gun Control and other anti-gunners. It was cheered on by those, like then-Justice Minister Alan Rock, who desired a gun-free Canada. Politically active feminists quickly used it as an official recognition of their ideological claim that Canada was a deeply misogynist country with a desperate need of government support for their cause.

In practice, it quickly became clear that the majority of the *Act's* impact would fall on the law-abiding, who were falsely identified as the problem and in need of government micro-management. This came despite a lack of any evidence that new restrictions were required. When C-68 was enacted, there were 174 "firearms-related" homicides in Canada. Since then, the Liberal's \$2 billion firearm's control apparatus has reduced the number of "firearms-related" homicides to 178 (2015 figure).

As to the scare quotes and what these figures actually mean, neither you nor I can really say, because the Liberals continue to use the deceptive "firearms related" category rather than firearms used. "Firearms related" means a gun was found nearby, not actually used. Accordingly, a knife murder will be classified as "firearms related" because a completely uninvolved firearm was later found in a basement closet! This gaming of the numbers has precedence. In 1995, when the firearms law was passed, the official number supplied by the Firearms Control Task Group (the name declares the motive) stated there were 632 firearms "involved" in violent crime. An analysis by the RCMP revealed only 73 firearms were actually used. At which point the Commissioner of the RCMP wrote to the Department of Justice to correct the record. The official response was to dismiss it as a mere methodological discrepancy.


The intent of regulating the law-abiding, not criminals, was identified by the Alberta Court of Appeal. The court noted that "[430] The act of owning, possessing and using an ordinary firearm is recognized as legitimate and beneficial to many Canadians. Law-abiding

citizens have owned and used those ordinary firearms without any danger to the public for years, despite the absence of licensing and registration requirements. The impugned legislation targets this law-abiding group. The federal government concedes, and common sense dictates, that criminals will wink at the legislation." It also noted that "[431] The real purpose of this legislation is not to prohibit misuse, but to regulate and control all material aspects relating to possession, ownership and use of ordinary firearms through an expansive, discretionary, licensing and registration system."

### CONCLUSION

If we look at these examples, and others, we see the same pattern of denial, misdirection and misnaming. Spin replaces fact, ideology replaces any analysis of cause and effect and the resulting policy is presented in the most pretentious and glamorous way possible. In a stable peaceful world or in a country not facing real and pressing challenges, this sort of political

gamesmanship might be tolerable. In the real world of 2017, it is delusional and dangerous. In the first example, the real-world effect of this political game playing was to abandon a people to terrorism, sex slavery and death. In the second example, a wonderfully high-sounding Treaty was created which will mislead the gullible while giving perfect political cover to military adventurism and ruthless power politics. In the last example, massive amounts of police and court resources have been diverted to a futile paper-chase targeting one of the most law-abiding groups in Canada. The RCMP, by their sometimes-willing sometimes-unwilling, involvement have politicized policing in Canada. A large proportion of Canada's gun owners now view them as political handmaidens to an unjust and unwarranted agenda. Due to this agenda, policies that might actually work remain disastrously under resourced. The deliberate politically motivated misnaming of problems and cynical misdirection as to solutions guarantees that real problems will

remain unaddressed and festering. In the final analysis, virtue signalling and illusionary, counterproductive policies are dangerous, a lesson that should have become obvious after the League of Nations and Neville Chamberlain. High-sounding rhetoric that leads to nothing but resources misallocated, precious time wasted and problems festering while muddying the real issues is not something that serves the needs of Canada or Canadians. 

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## 150 YEARS OF ... FREEDOM?







# BAD NEWS FOR BIRDS

Benelli updates the Super Black Eagle 3

BY THOMAS C. TABOR

**T**he question might go something like this: "When is a 12-gauge shotgun capable of 10-gauge performance, but when you squeeze the trigger it won't jar the fillings in your teeth loose?" One answer begins with the letter "B" and ends in "enelli." Over the years, the name Benelli has become synonymous with reliability,

functionality and high quality. Those are great attributes, and include the critically important feature of keeping felt recoil down to manageable levels when shooting magnum ammunition. And we now have a new Benelli shotgun that epitomises all of those characteristics and traits.

The first of the Super Black Eagle

series semi-automatic shotguns found their way into the hands of shooters over a quarter century ago. And while those shotguns were great products, Benelli has never been a company to rest on its laurels. After nearly a full decade of engineering diligence, including insight and recommendations from the company's pro-staff and veteran





When paired with Federal Premium's new 3rd Degree, 3 1/2-inch ammunition, the Super Black Eagle 3 throws a full two ounces of shot.

hunters, the newest of that series is now available: the Super Black Eagle 3.

#### THE DEBUT OF THE SBE-3

I got my first glimpse of the new Benelli Super Black Eagle 3 (SBE-3) when it made its debut in January at the 2017 SHOT Show. Picking it up for the first time, it hit me immediately how quick the new SBE-3 seemed to swing and point. Not being an engineer schooled in firearm design, that characteristic puzzled me. The balance point of most shotguns typically lies somewhere around the breech end of the barrel (where barrel and action meet). In a few cases, that point may be slightly forward, or possibly a little further back in others. The balance point of the 28-inch barreled SBE-3 seemed to be about an inch rearward. I assume this is at least partly why it seems to have faster-than-normal pointing abilities, but likely other ergonomic features play a role, as well.

This new Benelli comes to the mar-

ketplace with significant improvements over the earlier models, including advancements in its recoil management system, ergonomics and the Inertia Driven system. Even simple features have undergone modifications to improve their functionality. Like the magazine cap, its new three-sided, grooved design makes it easier to remove and screw back into place, and its wider mouth helps to prevent cross threading. To improve handling when wearing gloves, both the bolt handle and the safety button have increased in size. And to make loading easier, a bevelled loading port, redesigned carrier and a new two-piece carrier latch have been incorporated into the design. A new padded comb is intended to reduce impact and vibrations transmitted to the shooter's cheek.

Throughout the development of the SBE-3, heavy emphasis was placed on three important areas of improvement: better ergonomics, flawless functioning and an updated design, style and

feel. The end result is a shotgun that, to me, seems to swing faster than most others, is lighter in weight than most of its competition and addresses our original question of being easier on the shooter's shoulder.

#### SHELL VERSATILITY

Even though the Benelli SBE-3 was clearly designed around magnum level performance, this shotgun comes with the capability of shooting any currently produced 12-gauge shotshells, from a light 2 3/4-inch target shell, all the way up to today's massive 3 1/2-inch magnums. The only limitation that comes into play here is that the shells should possess a kinetic energy level of at least 240 kilogram meters, or the fired shotshell hull may not fully clear the ejection port. Obviously, shotshell manufacturers don't normally report on the kinetic energy level of their shells; so, I decided to test the SBE-3 by shooting a variety of different loads to see how the gun would handle them. ➤





The trim, flowing lines of the Super Black Eagle 3 receiver are indicative of the entire Benelli line of shotguns.



The Benelli Inertia System is at the heart of the Black Eagle family's reputation for reliability.

One of really great things about the SBE-3 design is that you can switch back and forth from 2 3/4-inch target loads to the powerful 3 1/2-inch magnum rounds without making any adjustments to the shotgun's mechanism. And possibly even better, when you have a need to fire one of those Herculean 3 1/2-inch rounds, which are closely equivalent to firing

a 10-gauge, it isn't going to punish your shoulder as much as you might expect. So, whether you're looking to put as many pieces of shot in the head and neck of a long beard as possible, or attempting to bring down a high-flying honker at the limits of shotgun range, the additional firepower built into those 3 1/2-inch magnums is sure to please.

#### THE SBE-3 MEETS THE TRAP RANGE

Having shot trap for many years, when I had my home built, it seemed logical to construct a regulation trap range on the property. That access gave me a unique opportunity when it came to evaluating the performance of the SBE-3.

In addition to simply evaluating how well it did turning clay targets into



Shooting from the 27-yard line, the SBE-3 made short work of clay targets. Even shooting from as far back as 40 yards, the gun never missed a target.



puffs of powder, I wanted to see for myself if it would falter when intermixing different length shells. In order to do that, I began by shooting Federal 2 3/4-inch 3-dram equivalent shells, factory-loaded with #7.5 lead shot, and a variety of light handloads. From there we moved on to shooting some Federal 3-inch Black Cloud waterfowl loads with #3 shot and steel BB shot, and finally the big boomers – the Federal 3rd Degree 3 1/2-inch two-ouncers, loaded with a mixture of copper-plated lead #5s, Flitestopper lead #6 and Heavyweight #7s.

I invited a few friends to help in the evaluation process, and they seemed every bit as excited as I was to see how the new SBE-3 would perform. Starting at the typical 16-yard line and shooting normal trap rounds, no one had anything to complain about. The performance was good and the fast-swinging abilities of the Benelli allowed us to get on the targets quickly. We followed that somewhat easy break-in routine by moving back to the 27-yard line, where only the best trapshooters shoot their handicap events from. There we found the same target shells seemed to work equally

The capability to fire 12-gauge ammunition ranging from 2 3/4-inch target loads up to the big 3 1/2-inch magnums without the need of any adjustments to the mechanism provides tremendous shooting versatility.



as well as they did on the 16-yard line. But even at 27 yards with the modified choke in place and the targets likely breaking at well over 40 yards, it didn't seem to provide enough of a challenge to this shotgun's capabilities. So, I dropped over the edge of the trap range to where the 40 yard line would be if there was such a thing on a trap range. Shooting both the 3-inch Black Cloud

loads, as well as the 3 1/2-inch 3rd Degree loads, every target that came out of the house was quickly and effectively turned to powder. I can assure you that targets at that distance appear pretty darn small and fast moving. In all likelihood, by the time the shot reached those targets they were breaking at around 60 yards. Nevertheless, every single target that left the traphouse



was smashed, and I'm confident a high-flying goose would suffer the same consequences.


In all cases, with the exception of the very lightest reloads, the empty hulls ejected perfectly. There were a couple of times when the lightest of the handloads failed to completely eject, with the hull becoming stuck in the ejection port. Those cases were, however, rare. Essentially, as a rule of thumb, any 3-dram equivalent load possessing a shot charge of at least one and one-eighths ounces functioned perfectly, as did any of the more powerful rounds.

#### THE WAY I SEE IT

Unfortunately, my evaluation period came during the spring of the year when there was little in the way of hunting opportunities available. The goose pits and duck blinds had long since been vacated, and while turkey season was in full swing, the turkeys simply weren't co-operating with me. After patterning the SBE-3 on a realistic turkey image, I was anxious to see how it would perform on a live gobbler. But try as I may, I couldn't encourage a bird to come within range. However, I did find the Benelli carried well in the field. Weighing only a little over seven pounds empty, it certainly

isn't an excessively heavy shotgun, and as such it was simply a pleasure to pack around.

Frequently, during the live fire testing, I intermixed my shotshells in order to get a better feeling as to both the SBE-3's cycling abilities with different shell lengths and the difference in felt recoil. On both counts the performance was very good. The shells cycled well and the ability to soften the recoil of the magnum rounds was exceptional. Clearly there was a noticeable difference in the felt recoil between the different shells, but the design of the SBE-3 made shooting the magnum loads considerably more tolerable. Nevertheless, moving a full two ounces of shot does generate a sizable amount of recoil, and no one should underestimate that. But rather than the usual sharp, shoulder-numbing hit of most magnum shotguns, I found the recoil of the SBE-3 seemed to be more of a "push," and as such I found it to be considerably more pleasant to endure.

This latest version of Benelli's Super Black Eagle promises to be capable of living up to the reputation of the models which preceded it. If you're questioning which magnum shotgun to buy this year, the SBE-3 may be the answer. 

## BENELLI Super Black Eagle 3

**Manufacturer** - Benelli

**Model** - Super Black Eagle 3

**Calibre** - 12 gauge

**Chamber** - 3 1/2-inch (capable of firing any length shell from 2 3/4-inch up to 3 1/2-inch)

**Weight** - 6.9 to about 7 pounds (3.1 to 3.2 kilograms)

**Sights** - Double bead (red fibre optic sight at the muzzle and mid-rib silver bead)

**Action** - Semi-automatic, inertia driven

**Barrel** - 66 to 71 centimeters (26 to 28 inches)

**Chokes** - Extended Crio (IC, M), Flush (C, IM, F)

**Stock** - Black synthetic, but also available in camouflage designs

**Magazine** - Tubular, holds 2+1 shells (potential of installing an extended tube)



The streamlined Benelli Super Black Eagle 3 is sure to become the pride of any hunter.



## AGUILA AMMUNITION IN CANADA

BY BRAD FENSON



Did you know that Aguilas ammunition has been in production since 1961? The main plant is in the old Remington factory in Cuernavaca, Morelos, Mexico. But in 2011, Texas Armament & Technology started working with them to set up a facility in Texas and produce ammunition for North America. If that sounds fairly new, it's because the branding campaign for the project only started in January 2016. And now there are already two wholesalers in Canada providing Aguilas ammunition to shooters.

There are rimfire, centerfire and shotshell products in the Aguilas line up. In fact, with their extensive range of products, Aguilas claims to be the largest manufacturer of rimfire ammunition in the world. They have 21 rimfire products, including standard 22 Long Rifle ammunition, target ammunition and specialty loads. It's those specialty loads that the brand is perhaps best known for. The Colibri, for example, is ultra-quiet in that it shoots a 20-grain bullet at 420 feet per second. They also offer a 60-grain subsonic loading, as well as hyper velocity rounds. There are several options in the 22 Winchester Rimfire Magnum, as well.

Aguilas also has 21 shotshell products for hunters, clay shooters, and for home defence. They have offerings from 410 bore to 16 gauge, with the majority of products offered in 12 gauge. The shot is uniform and perfectly shaped because Aguilas uses a 72-metre tower to make all its shot. The height of the tower ensures perfect spheres

and consistency. There's a large product offering in target loads, including an international load, traveling at 1,350 feet per second. Upland loads are available in standard or high velocity, and in 20 or 12-gauge options. There are also 410 bore, 28 and 16-gauge loads rounding out the line up for anyone shooting lead.

This year, Aguilas introduced the mini shotshell, which is a 12-gauge load just 1 3/4 inches in length. The mini is loaded with #7 1/2 shot in a 5/8ths-ounce load, shooting 1,175 feet per second. With less recoil, it is ideal for smaller-framed shooters or people doing pest control and wanting to drastically reduced recoil and noise. It also offers some interesting advantages for defence, because of increased magazine capacity and availability in buckshot and slugs.

For the handgun enthusiast, there are 26 options in the current catalogue, covering most popular calibres and load. There are also six rifle options, spanning from the 223 Remington to the 308 Winchester.

Aguilas isn't new to the market, but with its innovative production facility in Texas there is increasing availability throughout North America, including Canada. The best way to find out how accurate and consistent the ammunition is in your guns, is to try it. Whether it's a value-priced product or a specialty item available nowhere else, Aguilas might have what you need. For more information, and to see the complete offering of products, go to [www.aguilasammo.com](http://www.aguilasammo.com).







# GLOCK'S GREATNESS

Understanding the striker-fired system

BY EDWARD OSBORNE

If there's a single modern handgun that's universally prevalent around the globe, meaningful to every gun owner and immediately recognizable even to those with no firearms experience, it has to be the Glock. The squat, brick-like construction has become the hallmark of what handguns look like. And with over five million guns in service across 58 countries, the polymer pistol has seen institutional buy-in like no other.

## THE EARLY DAYS

But it didn't begin that way. In 1982, when the original Glock 17 won its first army contract in Austria, it was an outlier that broke all conventional ideas of handgun construction. Gaston Glock founded the company back in 1963 to pursue the potential of new polymers, and the G17 was their first firearm submission. They were up against industry heavy-weights with decades or even centuries of firearms manufacturing experience, including Beretta, Heckler & Koch, Sig Sauer and Fabrique Nationale d'Herstal.

Stringent for the time, the Austrian competition required the entire firearm be serviceable without tools, could not exceed 58 parts and could not suffer from more than 20 stoppages of any kind per 10,000 rounds. The Glock was able to meet all the detailed requirements, and outperform its single-action and double-action brethren. It was the first successful implementation of the striker-fired handgun, and it immediately caught the gun world's attention. Particularly so in the United States,

where military trials were on to replace the M1911, police departments were moving away from revolvers and the shooting sports were beginning to take shape and thrive.

## THE STRIKER-FIRED SYSTEM

The Glock presents a wide range of unique design choices, but none more so than its striker-fired "safe-action" system. Conventional handguns are fired from either a double-action or single-action standard. In single action, a hammer is cocked and then subsequently released by squeezing the trigger. The hammer swings forward in an arc and impacts a firing pin, which moves forward to strike the primer. In double action, the hammer begins in the forward position, with no potential stored energy. Squeezing the usually heavy trigger causes the hammer to first cock, and then release and fly forward to hit the firing pin.

But with a striker, the firing mechanism is simultaneously both hammer and firing pin together in a single spring-loaded piece that moves in line with the bore of the barrel. When the slide is charged, the striker is actually half-cocked or "pre-cocked" and will only become fully cocked and then release when the trigger is pulled.

This system means there is no external hammer or exposed moving components beyond the slide and trigger. But it also means there is no external or manual safety to engage and disengage. Instead, the Glock uses three safety mechanisms integrated into its trigger system to prevent accidental





The original Austrian Gen 1 Glock that started the polymer and striker-fired movement. Note the trigger safety.

discharge.

First, the trigger itself has an additional centre lever built into the system, so that the trigger cannot be pulled by accidental rubbing or catching. The face of the trigger must be uniformly engaged.

Second, the firing pin safety is best thought of as a spring-loaded detent that protrudes into the path of the firing pin channel. It is a physical block between the firing pin and the primer of a chambered round, which can only be removed when the trigger is squeezed and a vertical arm on the trigger bar pushes it out of the way.

Third, at the rear of the slide, a shelf from the rear of the striker butts up against the trigger bar as an additional drop safety. There are plenty of firearms in the world that can be convinced to

fire unintentionally if dropped in such a way that internal mechanisms release on impact, regardless of whether the trigger was pulled. But here, the drop shelf would normally hold the striker assembly to the rear, except that when the trigger is pulled, the bar and shelf move down and out of the path, allowing the gun to fire.

That hammerless system, and to an extent the three safety systems that go along with it, presented a revolution in small arms and laid the groundwork for Glock to build an empire. Estimates indicate that as many as 65 per cent of law enforcement officers in the United States carry a Glock as their duty side-arm.

But Gaston Glock did not invent the striker-fired system. While traditional handguns and revolvers were certainly

hammer-dependent single or double-action platforms, the idea of a striker system saw implementation as early as 1841 with the Dreyse needle gun in Prussia. The Dreyse rifle used a breech-loading system with a bullet nestled in a sabot with a primer and powder charge packed behind. The spring-loaded striker penetrated a paper cover and the powder charge to ignite the primer, which sat directly behind the bullet.

Many bolt-action rifles over the years have used striker-based firing systems, and it can even be found in one of Canada's favourite semi-auto rifles. The Czech military's Vz58s and the Canadian sport shooter's Cz858s use a hammerless striker system, too.

Gaston Glock's moment of brilliance was to compress that system into a handgun. Combined with their engineering, polymer construction and unique safety system, they created a singularly unique handgun that made for stiff competition against traditional designs. Despite initial skepticism of the "plastic fantastic" polymer frame, the rise in adoption rates has led to widespread use and an ever-increasing number of competitors and imitators.

#### THE WORLD CATCHES UP

They may have taken 35 years to catch up, but working from memory, it seems to me that almost every major handgun manufacturer on the planet either offers or is developing a striker-fired variant of their own. The list is substantial: The Beretta APX, Smith & Wesson M&P series, Sig Sauer P320 series, H&K VP9 series, Remington RP9, FN FNS9, Springfield Armory XD, Walther PPQ and Arsenal Strike One all take their key concepts from the original Glock 17.

The Glock line has expanded, as well. With regular generational revisions, designers are now working on their fifth iteration of the Glock 17 for the FBI's trials. They now produce Glocks in a vast range of sizes and calibres. From the single stack ultra-compact 380 Auto, Glock 42, to the extended barrel 357 Sig, Glock 31, the wide library also sees plenty of aftermarket support and competitive customization.

The rise of the striker-fired system shines no clearer than in the US Army's MHS handgun selection competition that finally came to a close in 2017. Although Glock was invited to participate in the Joint Service Small Arms Program back the 1980s, they never entered and the contract went to the Beretta M9.

When it came time to finally replace



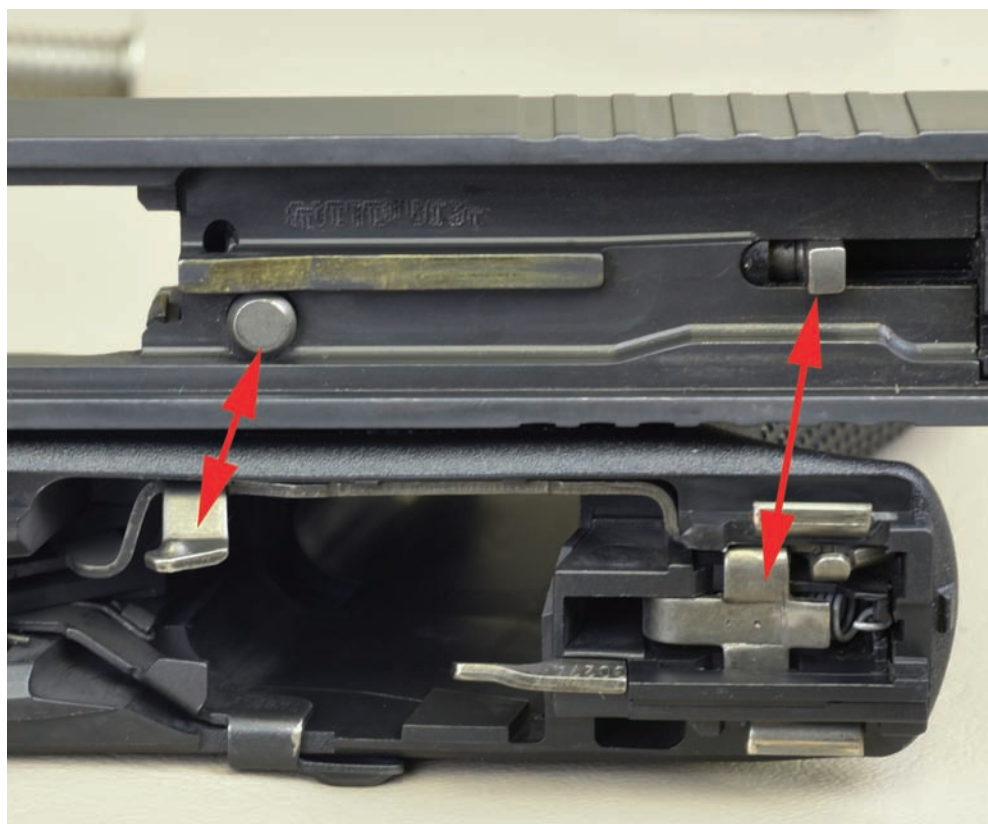


Many competitors in the action shooting sports have adopted Glocks as their handgun of choice.

Two safety systems integrated into the trigger of the Glock are visible here: the plunger, which acts as a firing pin (striker) blocking mechanism, and the drop safety. Both are engaged/disengaged by the unusual shape of the trigger bar.

the M9, Glock did submit a custom version of the Gen4 series with an additional manual safety to meet the bid requirements. Initiated in 2015, the XM17 Modular Handgun System competition explicitly required a striker-fired design. But the contract went to the Sig Sauer P320, which added a modular trigger pack to the venerable Glock design, ensuring that the serialized part was a small and robust piece of the firearm.

It was a substantial upset for Glock, who was the source of the system the contract called for. But it represents a triumph for the platform, and while new competitors fight for contracts and market share, the Glock behemoth shows now sign of slowing. With plants across the globe, and adoption at all levels of civilian, law enforcement and military usage, the Glock is here to stay. 🇺🇸





A man in camouflage clothing and a cap is aiming a rifle in a field. The text "TRAINING YOURSELF" is overlaid in large white letters. Below it, the subtitle "Steps to improve your shooting" and the author's name "BY EDWARD OSBORNE" are written in smaller text.

# TRAINING YOURSELF

Steps to improve your shooting

*BY EDWARD OSBORNE*





**S**hooting is a perishable skill. The more you do it, the better your body is able to remember and repeat the actions. But after a long winter, even the most dedicated shooter can find themselves rusty. So, the long days of summer are when most Canadian gun owners find themselves at shooting ranges. It can take several trips to get back up to where you were before, even if you spent the winter diligently doing dry fire exercises. But then part of what draws me to the shooting sports is the constant striving to improve individual skill sets.

Here are some of the tools I use to maximize my time at the range. This is not about hunting techniques, competitive strategies or small unit tactics on a battlefield. This is about the core mechanics of shooting, and what you can do to stay sharp and get sharper.

#### **SET YOURSELF UP FOR SUCCESS**

Don't start your day by taking an unzeroed rifle out to 300 yards and throwing lead at (but probably nowhere near) a sheet of printer paper with a target you got online. That's a great way to turn your money into noise and get frustrated. Begin with a rough set of goals. Something like: I want to do some handgun work, I want to take the .223 out to 500 yards or I want to speed up my shotgun reloads. Start yourself off with a win.

#### **WORK WITH A RIMFIRE**

No matter what your shooting disciplines are, you can always benefit from spending a little time with a rimfire gun. I start any shooting trip with a .22 handgun and rifle. They're cheap to shoot, and let you to focus on sight alignment and trigger control before bringing recoil and concussion into the picture. There are a multitude of rimfire guns on the Canadian market that can imitate the core mechanics of your full-bore firearms, and they're generally quite affordable. Plus, the long-term ammunition savings are unbeatable.

#### **SHOOT REACTIVE TARGETS**

If you are developing a load, and measuring groups, a paper target is a great way to track multiple shots and establish a consistent pattern. But when you are focusing on your own shooting skills, rather than the mechanical accuracy of the firearm, it's worth your while to have a reactive target.

The two key features that make steel successful is that it lasts a long time and gives



feedback on every shot. Consider a flash target, a binary target or even a pop bottle full of soda: one hit and they're done. You've received feedback of a successful hit, but cannot follow it up with that same target. Or picture an entire handgun magazine being put onto a paper target. Upon inspection, you might only see eight holes in the paper, but you can't tell if the rounds which missed were the first fired, last fired or somewhere in between.

Steel provides immediate reinforcement that what you just did worked, and while it can be heavy to hang, it saves you countless trips back and forth from the firing line to check or replace targets. Alternately, when ricochet concerns or the hassle of steel become too much, a good self-healing polymer can be a great target. Rolling shotgun targets, or hung pistol calibre "flapjacks" offer a lightweight and easy way to shoot a reactive and long-life target.

#### HAVE A SHOOTING BUDDY

From a pure safety and social standpoint, it's nice to have a friend along at the range. But if it's someone who's also looking to methodically improve their own shooting, they can be an invaluable resource.

A shooting buddy can be your spotter. They can call your shot low and left when you're trying to determine your hold over at 400 yards, when, from your perspective, it looked like the round just disappeared into the ether. A shooting buddy can be your coach. You may not notice that you straighten up out of your shooting position when you retrieve your third pistol magazine. But your buddy should catch that kind of training scar that happens when your mind is focused on other body mechanics and forgets the fundamentals for a moment.

A shooting buddy also gives you the opportunity to observe and correct others. Seeing someone else slap the trigger and pointing it out (politely) is a great way to reinforce proper trigger control in your mind, too. Taking a step back from the firing line and into the support role for another shooter will give you the opportunity to watch and see what works and what doesn't, which is a valuable skill in and of itself.

#### HAVE A SHOT TIMER & SPOTTING SCOPE

Depending on your shooting discipline, you might find one of these tools more useful than the other, but I would argue that both are key tools for getting the most out of a range day.

To set up for success, I like to open the day with a rimfire drill that emphasizes the fundamentals of marksmanship before progressing on to more advanced tasks.



Having a shooting buddy on the range helps you keep track of your more complicated drills, and offers a second eye to catch simple improvements you can make.

For anything long range, a good spotting scope will make your life that much easier. If you're shooting paper, it's a way to see your impacts without calling a cease-fire and trucking down there. And if you're shooting steel you'll know when you hit, but what about misses? My eyes aren't sharp enough to detect dirt splash at 500 yards, but my partner on a spotting scope can see that and make the adjustment call. In fact, sometimes

even a hit on steel is much easier to confirm with the use of a spotter. A 5.56 mm round might not do much to move the 500-yard gong, and the sound of the impact is easily swallowed up on a windy day. But a spotter with an optic will still see the "splash" on the target and be able to confirm a hit.

A shot timer is a simple device and there are even plenty of phone apps that do a decent job imitating one. When the button is pushed, a short countdown





is followed by a beep: the traditional shooter's start signal. After that, each sound of a gunshot is tracked down to the millisecond, and can be reviewed after the shooter is finished. This is a great way to establish when a drill actually starts, and one of the most certain ways to get metrics on speed. How long does it take you to transition between close and far targets? Check the shot timer clock.

And using that shot timer gives you the data needed for my next point.

## KEEP METRICS

I wouldn't suggest that every shooter needs to keep a complete DOPE (Data of Previous Engagements) book. Lots of us are just out there to shoot and have fun. Unless I'm feeling particularly thorough, I'd rather spend more time shooting than writing. But establishing and tracking a few key metrics is a great way to see your shooting improve throughout a season. A consistent handgun draw is something I always struggle with after a winter of primarily backcountry rifle shooting. So, the ability to track the time from buzzer to first round on target is an easy way for me to see my draw improve over a number of range and dry-fire sessions.

Similarly, if I shoot three magazines at the eight-inch gong at 300 yards every session, and keep a simple count of misses, I can start to track the long-term improvements to my basic marksmanship over a season. Keeping metrics doesn't have to be a laborious task, but it can be a great way to establish a baseline and compare improvements.

## ESTABLISH WHAT YOU WANT TO IMPROVE

This topic links back to that original goal of setting yourself up for success. If you know what you want to improve on, you can work towards it. If your goal is a vague "shoot better," then you can go in all kinds of directions and see very little result.

Think about what style of shooting you do when the pressure's on – whether it's hunting, competition, or professional

deployment of firearms, think about the ranges and scenarios you are likely to encounter. Then start thinking about drills and challenges that will work that skill set and provide you with basic metrics to track.

Here are two of my favourites and, depending on your firearm, you may throw a few extra reloads into these.

## DRILLS

The Vicker's 1-5 drill is a simple and satisfying drill designed to break shooters out of the "double tap" habit. In both competition and tactical shooting, there is a habit of "put two on it and move on." While that's certainly a solid concept to start from, you're not guaranteed to successfully neutralize a target in two rounds.

The 1-5 drill is done from reasonably close, often right at the five-yard line. With three IDPA targets arranged side by side, the shooter will work their way across the target array from left to right, but putting an additional shot onto each successive target. So, your first target gets one round, the middle target gets two rounds, the right target three rounds, and then you start to work your way back. Meaning, the last target should get a full five rounds, and have six holes in it, all within the smallest hit-zone.

I also use a simple transition drill that encourages safe firearm control when switching from different shooting positions, and emphasizes that your body positioning is the same in each stance. The shooter starts standing, with three magazines ready. On the buzzer, the shooter makes two hits on target, then transitions to kneeling for another two hits, then transitions to prone for another two hits. Then work your way back up to standing, getting your hits each time, and reloading as necessary. Any misses must be immediately made up before transitioning. This one can also be physically taxing, so it may be worth downloading your magazines if you want a shorter drill.

Depending on your specific shooting goals, the number of appropriate drills are virtually endless. I'd suggest some quick research online for your specific shooting needs can offer a number of good drills to try, and there's certainly nothing wrong with developing your own. A day at the range shouldn't feel like work, but I find those times when I'm there with a purpose are when I get my greatest satisfaction from the shooting sports. 🏆










# WHY DID I MISS?

Three common shotgunning problems

BY DR. BARRY NOLT



**T**his article is not for those of you shooting trap, skeet and sporting clays in the 90 per cent range. If, however, you are shooting inconsistently, you may want to give this a read and learn from my mistakes. I made three of them early in my shotgunning career, and I now believe they are the source of most shooter's problems. They are:

1. Eye dominance problems, which lead to cross firing.
2. Not sighting in your shotgun to confirm your point of impact matches your aiming point.
3. Failing to get your shotgun fitted properly, with emphasis on cast and drop at the comb.

#### MY STORY

Skeet and sporting clays attracted me at age 40, which coincided with my midlife crisis. I thought I needed a new hunting dog, new shotgun and a fancier SUV. But more than that, I needed to learn how to shoot a shotgun properly. I went through the usual steps of buying and selling shotguns, much to the delight of many gun shop owners. With each new gun, I would hit some targets, but missed

most of the time. Why, was a mystery to me. Initially, I blamed it on poor co-ordination, but continued doing my best to keep the economy rolling, telling my wife shotguns always appreciate in value.

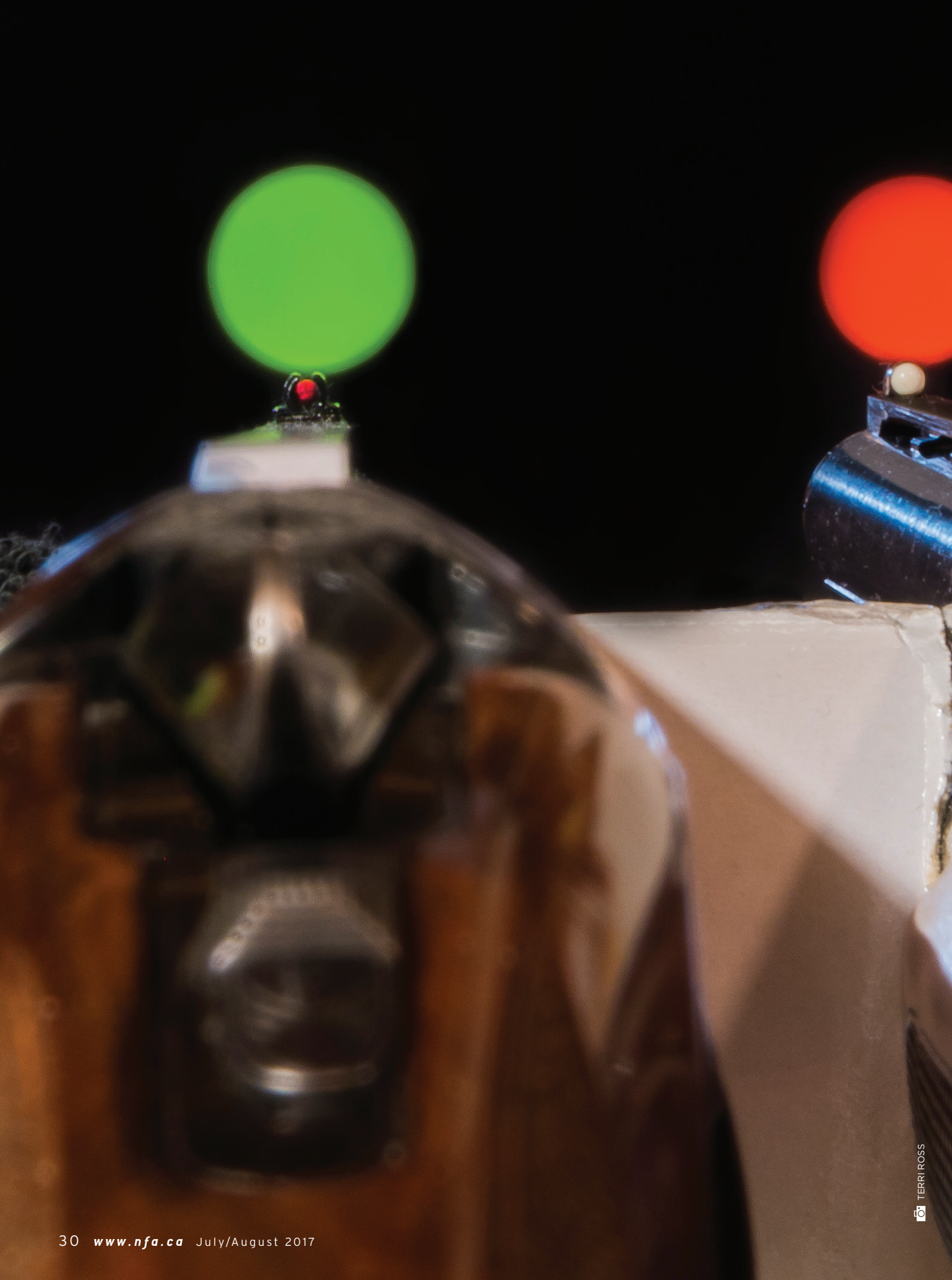
Eventually, I joined a Wednesday night skeet league. I had never shot skeet before and they welcomed me, even though on my first round of skeet I only broke one bird. But I had failed before with other ventures and wasn't giving up easily. I tried reading more books and watching more videos. That would surely help.

It did not.

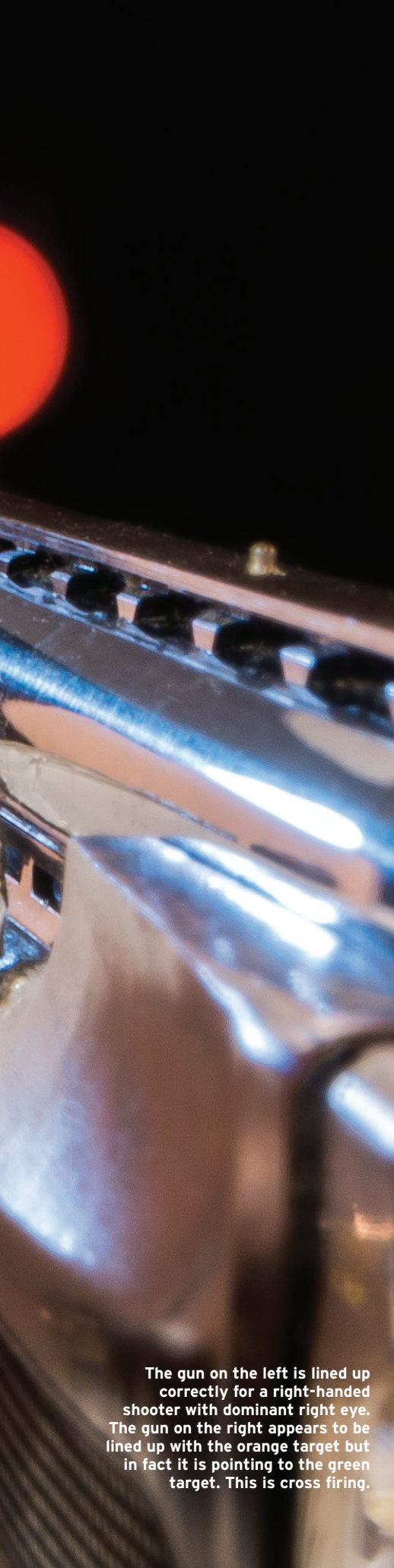
#### CROSS FIRING

At the gun club, I finally met a shooting coach willing to help me out. He stood behind me at station four and watched me shoot. He told me I was inconsistent, and that for the most part I was behind my left-to-right targets by four feet and in front of my right-to-left targets. We went back to station one and he called for a low-house bird. I missed one foot in front of it. He told me to close my left eye (I am right-eye dominant and shoot right handed) and called for another >









The gun on the left is lined up correctly for a right-handed shooter with dominant right eye. The gun on the right appears to be lined up with the orange target but in fact it is pointing to the green target. This is cross firing.

bird. This time the target was powdered. The diagnosis: Cross firing.

As an optometrist, I know and have studied binocular vision systems. I could not believe I was cross firing. How could this happen to me? I had often read about cross firing, but had incorrectly dismissed it as a problem for my poor shooting. My left eye was taking over and the right eye looking down the barrel was no longer in charge. I now know this is a significant problem for many shooters, and it happens because under certain field conditions your brain takes over and says, "I like the view from the left eye better." This switch in dominance is exacerbated by low-light conditions, tiredness, poor contrast and the stress of competition. It causes a right-handed shooter to shoot behind left-to-right targets, in front of right-to-left targets and to the left of straightaway and incoming targets. It is just the opposite for left-hand shooters. If you cross fire intermittently, it's worse because your mental computer (your brain) gets confused. You miss the bird, but the perceived sight picture is the same. It's a mystery miss and you have no idea why it happened.

We solve this problem with a Magic Dot kit. The kit comes with two oval-shaped translucent occluders and one blue opaque dot. First, occlude your aiming eye with a tissue, on the inside of your shooting glasses. With your shooting glasses on and your gun mounted, place the blue dot on the front surface of the non-aiming lens to block out the front half of your barrel (you will require help to do this properly). After you are happy with the placement of the blue dot, remove your shooting glasses with the blue dot affixed to the front surface of your lens. Now remove the backing on the translucent oval dot. Line it up with the blue dot, but on the inside lens surface. Remove the blue dot and retain for future use. Put the shooting glasses back on. Mount your gun and close your aiming eye. The front half of your barrel will be occluded. The translucent dots that come with the kits are quite large, so with consistent gun mount and face pressure you will be able to decrease the size of the dot down to about 10 or 12 millimetres.

When the dot is placed correctly, you won't be aware of it while hunting or at the range. This enables retention of peripheral binocular vision and the dot only comes into play when you mount your gun and acquire a target. Magic Dots eliminate cross firing!

#### SIGHTING IN A SHOTGUN

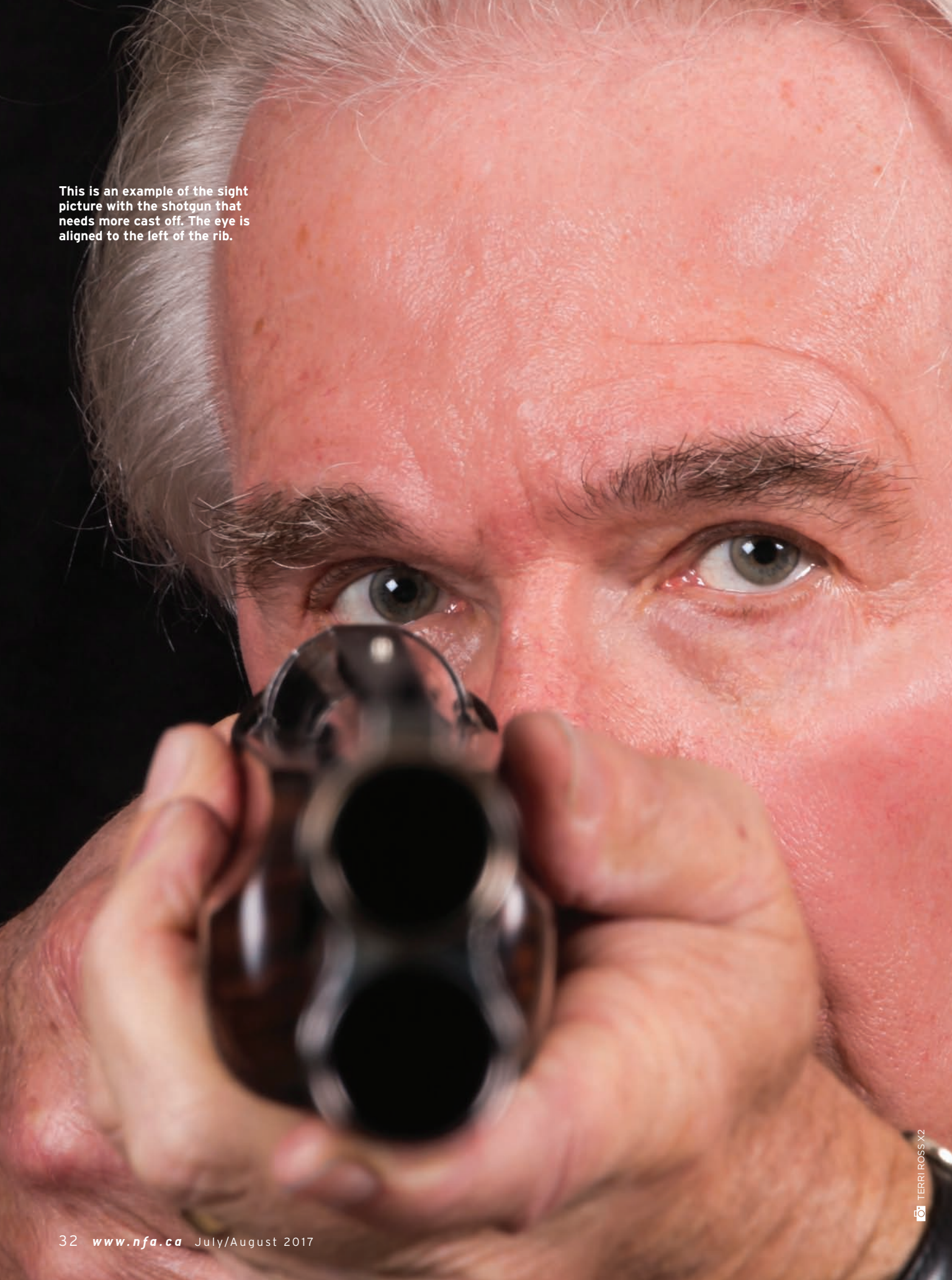
Back to the skeet range, and my scores improved. I was shooting 15s and 16s – much better, but still not great. Something was not right. One night we set the trap to throw straightaways only, as my instructor watched. The shot string was consistently high and to the left. This would suggest the stock was too high and needed cast-off. His suggestion was a custom-fit stock – increase the cast-off to bring the shot string to the right and cut down the comb to lower the point of impact of the shot string. I did not want to ruin the wood on my shotgun, so I ordered a semi-finished stock from the US, installed it on my gun and started filing.

Back to the trap, I was still high and to the left. I kept on filing until the stock was cut down to the size of a child's BB gun. Frustration was setting in. What was going on here? My friend's wife, a clinical psychologist, had just started shooting skeet and was watching me at the range one night, wielding my trusty file. Of course, she wanted to know what I was doing. I put my file down and explained the problem. She pondered the situation for a few minutes and offered a suggestion, "Barry, have you thought about plastic surgery to remove part of your face to make that gun fit?"

Back to my instructor. He thought for a moment and then asked if I had ever checked the gun's point of impact from a solid rest. Ahhh... No. He suggested I sit down and sight in my shotgun from a rest, like you would with a rifle. Under his guidance, on a calm night, I screwed in my full choke, and sighting down the barrel I touched off a few shots. I found out my expensive, Italian, semi-auto sporting clays shotgun was shooting 10 inches high and 10 inches to the left at 20 yards. It didn't matter how much I filed the comb, this was a gun barrel problem. For skeet shooting, ➤



This is an example of the sight picture with the shotgun that needs more cast off. The eye is aligned to the left of the rib.







Samples of a Magic Dot applied to a pair of shooting glasses.

this barrel gave me a built-in lead, high and to the left. No wonder stations five and six low house were my easiest targets. I returned the barrel to the gun shop and they replaced it. I tested the new barrel and found the point of impact and the point of aim coincided perfectly. Happiness was setting in and my shooting improved again.

#### PROPER FIT

If you watch a right-handed shotgunner (assuming right-eye dominant and an accurate point of aim and impact) shoot straightaways, usually they tend to chip targets more on the left side. This indicates not enough cast off is built into the stock. The stock needs to be bent more to the right to align the aiming eye in line with the rib. The right eye is the rear sight of the shotgun. If it is off to the left, the gun will shoot to the left of straightaways, behind left-to-rights and in front of right-to-left targets.

Over-the-counter shotguns have no cast off (called neutral cast) and in my opinion generally don't have enough drop at the comb. Could this be to accommodate the left-handed shooter? In Gene Hill's book, *Shotgunner's Notebook*, he states, "If you are a right-handed shot, give the bird heading right twice as much lead as you do if it crosses to the left." I believe this statement is related to the neutral cast issue. There are whole books written on shotgun fitting. Michael Yardley's book entitled *Positive Shooting* is a great read, too.


Drop is more complicated than cast, and the ideal drop depends

on which discipline you are shooting. In trap, you need a higher stock with less drop. For skeet and sporting clays, you want a flatter shooting gun, therefore more drop. Stocks that are adjustable for cast and drop are available from most gun makers. You can also have your current gunstock retrofitted. I have had this done and it has worked out great for me.

#### SUCCESS

So that is my story. If you are serious about shotgunning, make sure your dominant eye is in charge and eliminate any possibility of cross firing with the Magic Dot. If you buy a new shotgun, take it immediately to the range and bench test it to ensure it is shooting where you are looking. This is extremely important with over/under and side by sides. Even high-end guns can be off significantly. Make sure both barrels have the same point of impact. If you are still having problems, hire a shooting coach/stock fitter and follow their advice. They know of what they speak! If you are looking for a shooting coach or stock fitter, I can provide you with names and contact information.

Remember the skeet league I joined? Well I won a prize in it: "The Bird Saver Award." It's a nice carving of a drake wood duck and it sits on my fireplace mantle. People often ask if I won that duck in competition. I say, "Yes," but I never tell them I came in last!

If you have any questions regarding sports vision, shooting tints, cross firing or colour defectives, you can send me an e-mail at [bnolt@telus.net](mailto:bnolt@telus.net). 







# HARD TARGETS

A primer on shooting steel

BY LOWELL STRAUSS

**T**HWACK, THWACK! Two well-aimed shots find their mark on target. There's no mistaking the sound of a hit on steel. Paper is great for sighting in or confirming a zero, but the instant feedback of a hit or miss when shooting steel is like having a shooting coach at your side. A hit confirms good marksmanship, while a miss means you need to work on fundamentals. Plus, any target that falls over, spins or gongs is just plain fun to shoot.

I remember my first time shooting. After a brief introduction and a few shots on a paper target, I was eager to shoot something 'real' just to see what would happen. Armed with an air rifle and a half-dozen old soup cans, I made my way to the pasture to test my marksmanship. After placing one can on each post, I was ready. I wasn't concerned with punching one-hole groups, all I wanted to do was to knock those darn cans off their perches. One satisfying ping after another, I unleashed my new skill on those cans, and I was hooked on shooting!

Here are a few things to consider before purchasing or shooting steel targets for your plinking or precision pleasure.

## STATIC VERSUS REACTIVE TARGETS

Steel targets are either static or reactive. Static targets, the simplest type, don't have moving parts, but that doesn't mean they don't move. Gongs, and many of the cowboy action targets, are good examples. Some static targets are suspended by chains, rods or fire hose to help absorb bullet energy.

Other static designs include targets with stakes for anchoring into the ground, holes to be hung on a metal shepherd's hook plant hanger or with bolts that facilitate hanging on portable stands. Like all steel targets, an audible ring can be heard, even when hit from far away.

While most shooters never tire of hearing bullets impacting steel, sometimes it's fun to add an element of motion. Hits on reactive targets can be heard, but also include some type of motion. Designs include duelling trees, IPSC targets with swinging target plates, spinners, poppers, Texas stars, plate racks and many more. NRA silhouette targets – chickens, pigs, turkeys and rams – are in between. They are static until they're hit, but react by falling over, indicating a solid hit.

## MATERIALS

The steel used to make targets must have special properties. First and foremost, the target needs to be hard enough to stop the bullet without damaging the target, yet soft enough not to be brittle. To put things into perspective, glass is three times harder than target steel, but glass shatters when hit with a bullet, making it a poor target choice. Mild steel, on the other hand, is only one-fifth as strong as target steel. Mild steel is too soft for targets because bullets either punch through or crater the target, which can be dangerous due to ricochets coming back at the shooter.

Material hardness is measured using the Brinell hardness scale. This is a scale that characterizes a material's

relative hardness. It is calculated using a special instrument that pushes a hardened ball onto a surface, with a precise amount of force. The depth of the mark is a measure of a material's hardness.

Targets designed for centrefire cartridges typically have a hardness around 500 Brinell (Brinell Hardness Number BHN), while rimfire cartridges can be made from thinner and less expensive 400 BHN steel. In comparison, a spruce 2x4 is approximately 1.6 BHN, pure lead is five BHN, mild steel is 120 BHN and hardened tool steel can be 600 BHN or more.

Abrasion Resistant (AR) steel is used in mining and other high-wear applications. It is an excellent steel for manufacturing steel targets. AR-500 is a common target steel because it is both hard and tough enough to last for thousands of bullet impacts. But depending on the batch, even AR-500 can range in hardness. Some manufacturers demand a hardness report on each lot of steel they order. Others have hardness testing equipment in-house to monitor quality.

There are three main methods for cutting hard AR-500 steel: laser, plasma and waterjet. The best method is a hot topic of debate. Étienne Côté, President of XMetal Targets, has experience with all three methods. In his shop, he uses both laser and plasma machines to cut AR-500, noting neither plasma nor laser will noticeably soften the steel adjacent to the cut line. A laser cutting machine is more precise but slower, so it is used to cut detailed parts. A plasma cutting



machine is used for faster cutting on target faces. Welding directly on the targets will soften the steel, so Côté's team has designed reactive targets that do not require welding on the target.

#### SAFETY

Launching a speeding bullet at a hard object can be dangerous. Accidents happen, but when using quality targets in good condition and following safety guidelines, shooting at steel is safe.

Shooter and bystander safety should be a top priority when shooting steel, so steel target manufacturers consider safety in their designs.

Safety starts by using a good quality target. Shooting at scrap iron of unknown composition is foolhardy and asking for trouble. Hard, flat targets made from AR-500 or similar steel are ideal. Targets must be hard enough to stop bullets without damaging the targets.

Two other major factors to consider in target design are weight and movement. Do you remember your high school physics? Newton's first law of motion states, an object at rest stays at rest, and an object in motion stays in motion with the same speed and in the same direction, unless acted upon by an unbalanced force. If a target is too heavy for a bullet to move, or is designed not to move, the target face must absorb all the bullet's energy. Therefore, a stationary target will sustain more damage than a target that is spring loaded or designed to topple or swing. Bullet penetration (target damage) can be much deeper on a half-inch immobile target, than on a three-eighths-inch target of the same hardness, that moves. But all things being equal, a thicker target absorbs more energy and is recommended for high-impact velocities, or bullets delivering massive amounts of kinetic energy.

Most centrefire targets are rated for velocities of 3,000 feet per second or less. High-impact velocity shortens target lifespan by creating surface pits. And the harder a bullet collides with a hard steel surface, the farther lead spall flies. Shooting distance is a critical variable in keeping impact velocities below this threshold. For example, a target shot with a 257 Weatherby Magnum would need to be placed at 300 metres or more, to allow the bullet to slow down! While targets may withstand high-velocity impacts at close range, the risk of splash back is not worth it. In fact, even with velocities under 3,000 feet per second, most experts recommend 100 metres as the minimum safe distance to shoot steel with a rifle. Large calibres, such as 338 Lapua, need at least 200 metres. Handguns can shoot steel at 15 metres using suitable ammunition.

Heavily pitted targets should be replaced, because dings and craters mean the surface has lost its integrity. Additionally, these irregularities mean lead splatter will be unpredictable. Lead can deflect from bolts, mounting holes, pits or steel softened in the manufacturing process. This is one reason why some manufacturers don't weld reactive elements onto the back of their targets.

A bullet strike on a steel target creates a miniature starburst pattern as lead splatter radiates out in all directions. By setting targets on an angle



A 'hostage' target from XMetal Targets is one of many popular steel targets available today.





Coated cast bullets, copper-plated or traditional lead bullets are good choices for close-range handgun shooting at steel targets.

about 20 degrees from vertical, much of the splatter is directed toward the ground.

Steel core bullets found in some military surplus ammunition and all mono-metal bullets can damage steel targets. Ricochet hazards also increase with these types of ammunition, so it is not recommended for use on steel targets. Many manufacturers void the warranty if it's determined that steel core bullets damaged the target. Full metal jackets are okay to use with both handguns and rifles, if the minimum safe shooting distance is maintained. Frangible ammunition minimizes risk of dangerous fragments coming back at the shooter. Copper-plated or polymer-coated lead bullets are suitable alternatives. Jacketed hunting bullets are a poor choice for handguns at close range steel (15 metres) because jacketed bullets partially break on impact, and heavy jacket/lead fragments can fly back and injure the shooter.

It's always a good idea to wear safety glasses when shooting, ►



Eventually steel targets wear out and need to be replaced. The craters in this target may cause unpredictable ricochets, including straight back to the shooter.





Targets that move when hit absorb more of the bullet's energy, lowering target damage compared to targets that don't move.

### CANADIAN STEEL TARGET MANUFACTURERS

Xmetal Targets, [xmetaltargets.com](http://xmetaltargets.com). Premium quality steel targets (and ammunition) for military, law enforcement, shooting ranges and consumers.

Sure Shot Welding Inc. Specialty steel targets for precision rifle shooting.

Targets can be seen on Instagram @sureshot031 and Facebook - Sure Shot Welding Inc (Reactive Target Systems). For more information, e-mail [sureshot031@gmail.com](mailto:sureshot031@gmail.com).

Steel Targets. Manufacturer of steel gongs, swingers, poppers, NRA silhouettes, IPSC and cowboy action targets, [www.steeltargets.ca](http://www.steeltargets.ca).

to protect your eyes from flying brass and debris, but it's especially important when shooting steel targets because of the increased risk of bullet fragments coming back off the target. Pistol shooters are at the greatest risk.

### RANGE RULES

Before you head to your local range with a new steel target, it's important to understand the rules. Acceptable steel targets are usually supplied by the range. Range operators can ensure shooter safety by keeping the targets in good working order. Steel targets on certified ranges are regulated by the RCMP - Canadian Firearms Program, and these ranges have specific requirements for steel targets. Reactive steel targets also include bouncing targets that skip along the ground when hit. At public ranges these are often prohibited.

Shooting steel is a lot of fun. It gives instant feedback on hits and misses, and there's something satisfying about hearing a hit on steel. So, have fun, stay safe and introduce someone new to shooting by using steel targets. 🎯

## Which "Dillon" is Right for You?



### Square Deal "B"

Dillon's Square Deal "B" was designed to produce large amounts of ammunition in the least possible time for just a little bit of money. At 300 to 400 rounds per hour, you can produce enough ammo for several pistol matches or practice sessions in just a few hours.



### RL 550B

More RL 550s have been sold than any other progressive machine in the world, and for good reason: The RL 550B's versatility is almost unlimited. It will load over 160 different rifle and pistol calibers.



### XL 650

Dillon's XL 650 resulted from several years of listening to our customers expressing their fondest wishes. We took every good idea we and our customers ever had, tested them extensively, and then incorporated them all into the design of the XL 650.



### Super 1050

The Super 1050 is Dillon's commercial grade loading machine, featuring a frame and crank assembly that provides increased stroke to accommodate long rifle cartridges, yet the handle stroke is at a minimum, meaning less work for the operator.

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# MY STEEL ARM OF FIRE AND LEAD

BY ALBERT THOR



I have a third arm of fire and lead  
That grew hard and smooth and perfect  
Across the tumbling of the centuries  
Fashioned of blood, sweat and tears  
Fashioned as all great things from a grand idea  
It emerged from the alchemy of the slag pit  
Crafted by the metallurgist  
Fine-tuned by the sharpened eye  
Of the master of ballistics  
Tested on the battlefield and in the forest  
My steel arm erupts in fire and lead  
The promise of sustenance and protection  
This... this is its elemental religion:  
Sustenance and Protection...

My steel arm breathes life and it breathes death  
It breathes fire and it breathes lead  
It is thunder and lightning in the clutch of my hands  
With the simple pull of a trigger  
It brings the meeting of heaven and earth  
The fusion of heaven and hell

The anger of the gods and the joy of the angels  
Both the Sustainer and the Destroyer  
My third arm is Abraxas incarnate  
Yet this godly wand sits comfortably in my lap  
Silently without pretense and  
with a certain art and natural beauty  
It is a dependable friend who follows  
my direction with grave accuracy  
Its mere point a promise of power  
An implied thunderous, belching reckoning  
A warning to all governments  
A warning to twisted evil men  
Who would threaten the peace of community

With my steel arm I can feed my family  
With my steel arm I can protect my family  
With my steel arm I easily earn your respect  
Because this my third arm is the great equalizer  
The granter of privileges only dreamed of in the past  
While here and now it sits comfortably in my lap  
As I ruminate relaxedly on its incredible power







# *The* CELEBRATION RIFLE

Honouring 150 years of freedom

BY AL VOTH







Ultimatum actions feature a floating bolt head, which is easily interchangeable to accommodate different calibres.

I'm old enough to remember Canada's 100th birthday. Centennial projects were all the rage that year, but if I did one, I can't recall it. So, it was natural when I started thinking about Canada's 150th birthday, to surface the idea of a sesquicentennial project. Of course, it had to be a gun project. And so, a little thought and research turned this germ of an idea into a plan to build a custom rifle, made completely from Canadian components. Not only would this be a symbolic celebration of 150 years as a country, but it would also highlight how far the firearm industry in this country has come in recent years. I began by collecting parts.

#### ACTION

The heart of any gun is its action, and a call to Ultimatum Precision, of British Columbia, started one of their actions on its way to me. They began building precision actions for custom gun builds a short time ago, and I grabbed one of the first ones available. Since then, their line has already expanded and the design has been refined beyond the early version I used for what I've come to call the Celebration Rifle.

The Ultimatum action is entirely made in Canada, from 4340 steel, with a hard nitride finish. It comes fitted with an aluminum 20 MOA rail, which is located by two dowel pins and fastened with six 8-40 screws. The action features a floating bolt head, designed to allow easy calibre changes, and the three-lug design means a 60-degree bolt lift is possible. The action accepts Remington 700 pattern triggers and Savage pre-fit barrels, so completing a build is easy. This is just about as new as it gets in the Canadian gun industry.

#### BARREL

When I went looking for a barrel, I went in the opposite direction and reached out to the person who is likely the oldest barrel maker in the country. Ron Smith, of Alberta, has been making barrels since dirt was young, and his one-man operation is legendary for producing quality products. But don't go online looking for Ron's website or his Facebook page. There isn't one. And he doesn't advertise. Ron is old school. If you want a barrel, call him. He'll talk to you about your needs and if he's interested he'll put you on the list. Then

you wait.

Ron builds his barrels from steel he's found particularly suitable for the purpose. They are stainless and cut with a single-point cutter, using a machine he built himself. His trademark is gain twist rifling. This is rifling that starts out at with a slow twist and progresses to a faster twist near the muzzle. The Celebration Rifle's barrel is chambered for 6.5 Creedmoor and the rifling starts slow and finishes at one turn in nine inches.

Why gain twist? Ron believes it provides more velocity at equal pressures and it's more accurate, because it starts the bullet's rotation at a slower pace. When he asked me what direction I wanted the twist to run, I said, "Left twist, please." After all, the political left needs to feel included in this project too, and I'm all about inclusiveness. Ron, being the nice guy he is, fit his barrel to the action, as well.

#### TRIGGER

The need for a trigger took me back to the high-tech world, and to the doors of TriggerTech, of Mississauga, Ontario. It wasn't long ago that the only option for



a trigger on a custom rifle was on the other side of the US border. And though there are some great triggers down there, having a superb trigger available here is better. The fact that TriggerTech triggers are being used by many of the top American gun builders, including Gunwerks, GA Precision, Christensen Arms and Surgeon Rifles, should tell you everything you need to know about their quality. And in my opinion, yes, they are that good.

So far, TriggerTech makes rifle triggers for only Remington 700 pattern rifles, and for AR-15-type guns. However, I suspect that won't be the case for long. Once they get caught up to demand, we'll likely see other fits become available.

### MUZZLE BRAKE

A rifle like this one cries out for a good muzzle brake, so I turned to a couple of guys who exemplify the small Canadian gun entrepreneur. Shane and Steve of EM Precision Rifles are two enthusiastic Alberta-based shooters who started building their own rifles, and ended up doing work for others. They both have day jobs, but love building precision rifles enough to give up evenings and weekends to do it for others.

The brake you see here is called the Shockwave and is the larger of two muzzle brake models they fit to customer's rifles. When I asked the guys about their brakes they said, "When we designed our muzzle brakes, we were using some of the most efficient and popular brakes on the market, but we saw some short comings we thought we could fix. We decided to develop a bit of a hybrid, opting for a 20-degree brake, with a single 90-degree port to sheer off the back blast. We worked with a Canadian machine shop, Blue Chip Precision, to finalize our design and went into production. We also wanted to be able to offer both round (Sparc) and slabbed (Shockwave) style brakes to give people options. We are firm believers in gunsmith-installed brakes for permanent installs, so we wanted to give people an economic solution to a custom installation, pricing it like the popular barrel nut brakes now available." Shooting the rifle tells me they have achieved all their goals.



TriggerTech triggers use a patented free-floating roller to control the trigger's release.



The Shockwave brake by EM Precision Rifles is blended to the barrel's profile and looks like it grew there.

### CHASSIS

The Abbotsford, BC, firm of Modular Driven Technologies (MDT) doesn't need any introduction to Canadian shooters. They are a Canadian gun industry success story. And with a new model chassis introduced this year, it was natural to include them in the Celebration Rifle project. The chassis you see here is their new ESS model, and in my opinion, it's the best one yet. I say that because I see it as a great blend of size, ergonomics and ease of installation. The fact it looks slick is a bonus.

This chassis ships with the buttstock you see here, with the forend available in several configurations. A carbon fibre forend is apparently in the works for later this year. Other features include an ambidextrous release for the AICS-style magazines it uses, thumb rests on both sides of the chassis and a barricade stop at the front of the magazine housing. One of my favourite features is the polymer gripping surface at the front of the magazine well. This is the balance point for the rifle and therefore the natural point



for a shooter's hand to land when carrying the rifle. Having that detail looked after brings a smile to my face every time I pick up the gun.

An artist at MDT's paint division did the Cerakote paint job on this rifle, as well. But they are busy enough trying to keep up with demand that they can't do custom work on a regular basis. Fortunately, there are lots of talented Cerakote appliers in Canada. So, if you want a chassis with a custom look, it won't be hard to find one in your area.

#### OTHER PARTS

I confess, there's one part on this rifle that isn't Canadian. It's the pistol grip, and it's only because I couldn't find a Canadian manufacturer of an AR pattern grip. However, I did speak with one Canadian company that plans to have one available soon, but nothing in time for this project. Once it's available, it'll be added. Until then, I'm okay with this Hogue grip on the gun. It's a quality product and I consider using it a tip-of-the-hat to our friends south of the border, to say thanks for your friendship and support.

#### SHOOTING

The Celebration Rifle is chambered for 6.5 Creedmoor, and a set of Hornady Match Grade dies has been producing the ammunition to feed it. These are bushing dies, and so far, a 0.288-inch neck sizing bushing has been giving me the best results. I think I still have a little tweaking to do with the load, but the rifle seems to like Sierra 130-grain Tipped Match King bullets best. I'm using Hornady cases, Federal 210 primers and H4350 powder. My search for this rifle's sweet spot is nearing an end as the last two five-shot groups of the same load produced a 0.49 MOA average.

A LabRadar chronograph tells me velocity is 2,830 feet per second. I could likely go a little hotter, but I'm getting sub-half-inch accuracy and single-digit standard deviations. It's likely time to quit tinkering and start loading in volume. Then it'll be time to check and see where those all-important first shots from a cold, clean bore go.

Good guns aren't cheap and the parts for this gun aren't either. But



Ron Smith builds match-grade gain twist barrels on a machine he designed and built himself.

just like freedom, the cost is worth it. And have you noticed that when freedom and guns are exercised, they both make a little noise. Of course, there are always people around who don't like to see either one being used. And like guns, freedom also needs regular maintenance, because the philosophical equivalents of rust and corrosion want it to become ineffectual. We've made it 150 years, and while some corrosion is starting to show in our country, I'm optimistic we can scrub it away at the ballot box. The repeal of the *Firearms Act* would be a great reason to celebrate and I'll gladly build another Celebration Rifle when we hit that milestone. 🇺🇸

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

##### Ultimatum Precision:

[www.ultimatumprecision.com](http://www.ultimatumprecision.com)

##### Ron Smith Barrels:

403-631-2405

##### MDT Chassis:

[www.mdttac.ca](http://www.mdttac.ca)

##### TriggerTech:

[www.triggertech.com](http://www.triggertech.com)

##### NEAR Rings:

[www.nearmfg.com](http://www.nearmfg.com)

##### EM Precision:

[www.facebook.com/EMPrecisionRifles](https://www.facebook.com/EMPrecisionRifles)





# One Gun's Story

Pat Ferguson

## The Return Of Little Thunder

I was once the proud owner of a sparkling new rifle. It was custom built by my friend, John Jeffrey, from Kitimat, BC. He started with a Mauser action and a 26-inch varmint barrel mounted in a cherry/maple laminated Bishop stock. He finished her off with a Jaeger trigger set at two-and-a-half pounds. When I saw it for the first time, I let out a gasp and said, "I can't believe it! It's gorgeous!"

John set me straight: "I don't want to hear that. I want you to *use* this rifle!" I assured him I would, and for several years sent him countless photos as proof.

By the time I had mounted a 4-12X Leupold scope, my new cannon weighed in at just under 13 pounds — fairly "skookum" for a .243, huh? Of course, this was back around 1975 when hunters were still risking their lives by foolishly trying to slay deer and moose with such pathetic calibres as the 308 Win. and 30-06. What were they thinking?

It didn't take long for my buddy, Dave Brown, to get me hooked on handloading and poking small holes in large, hairy critters. The .30 calibre boys all thought I was a stark, raving lunatic, and I thanked them for their kind recognition. It didn't take them long to discover, however, that good shot placement with an 85-grain Nosler Partition screaming along at 3,350 feet per second delivered a lot of bad news.

That rifle soon became my constant companion, and any worthwhile outing always demanded her attendance. It didn't matter if I were hunting caribou, moose or grizzlies; a well-placed double lung shot always produced a quick, clean result. She soon became known far and wide as "Little Thunder." For over 20 years she was my constant companion in the mountains, and she showed many scars and gouges as proof.

I took a job for a year in Prince



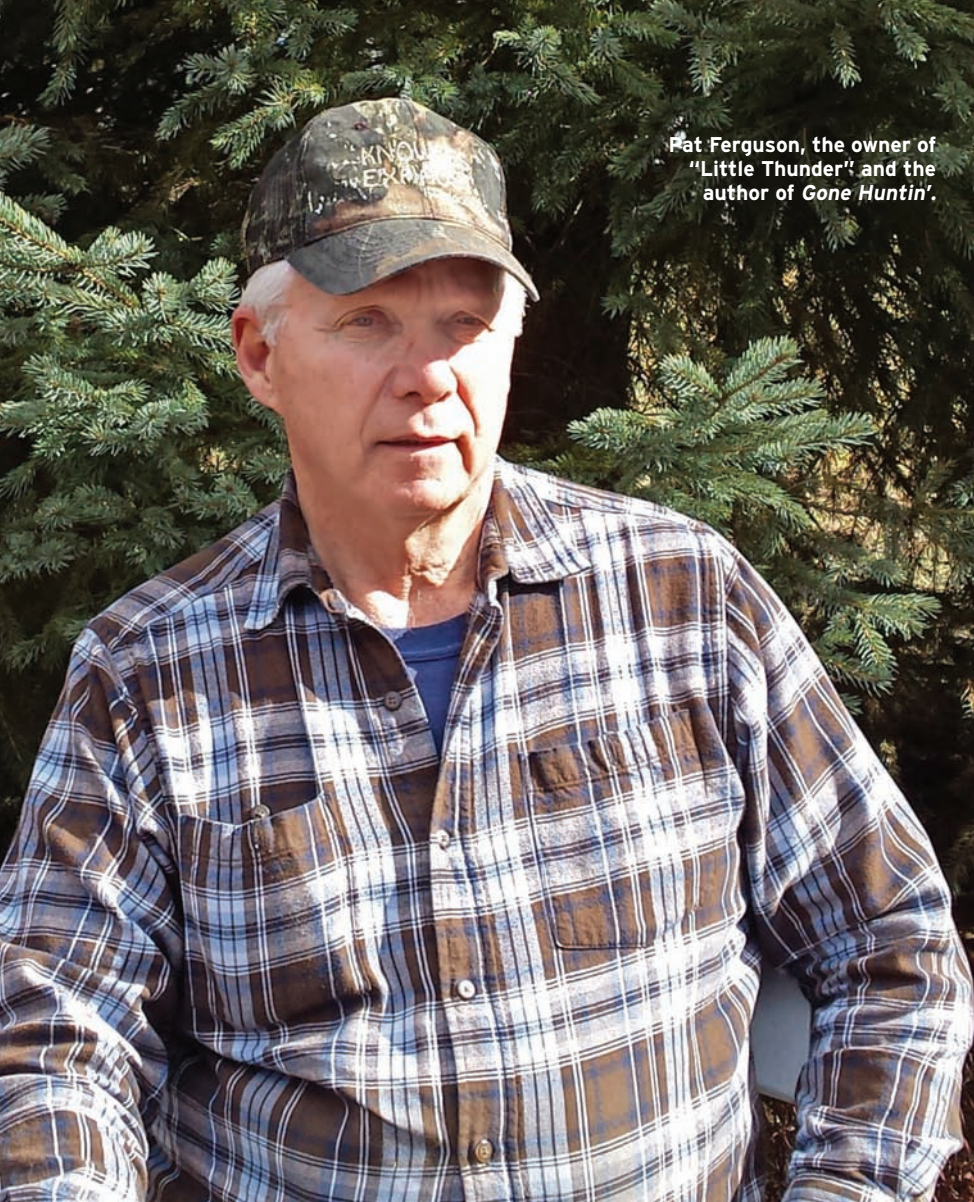
My rifle soon became known far and wide as "Little Thunder," and for over 20 years she was my constant companion in the mountains.

George, BC, and four days after moving into a new condo, we were broken into and robbed. Everything was still packed in boxes, and the gun safe was yet to be bolted to the wall. Ida and I arrived home from a committee meeting one evening to find the door smashed and our firearms and several other items gone. No words can explain the paralyzing rage inside me as I tried to cope with this dead-end situation. Eventually we moved back to Clear-

water where I continued road building and writing my first book, *Gone Huntin'*. I didn't have a clue how to get a book published, but, after five years, I decided to self-publish and finally get my hunting experiences into print. Ida and I went on book tours all over BC and Alberta and had wonderful success below the 49th as well.

Nine years after the break-in, a young man in Kitimat, BC, was preparing to head out to a camp job when a friend





Pat Ferguson, the owner of "Little Thunder" and the author of *Gone Huntin'*.



asked him if he needed any reading material. He said, "Sure," and his friend gave him my book.

Two weeks later, when he had returned to town, this young man called another friend who worked with my son, Mike. The young man said, "I think I've got a serious problem." He explained, "I just finished reading that book, *Gone Huntin'*, and there's pictures of that custom-built .243 all through the book!"

His friend said, "Ya, that gun was stolen."

The young man cried, "That's what I'm worried about! I think I've got the gun in my house!"

One thing led to another and a phone call was made to Mike. He invited the young man over to his house, where it took less than a second for Mike to identify Little Thunder. Then Mike called Ida and asked, "What is Dad's all-time most precious possession?"

She replied, "Well, that would have been his .243."

"Well, I'm holding it in my hands right now." Ida broke down and cried as Mike told her the whole story. He finished up by saying, "Don't tell Dad. The scope is gone and there's been some damage, so I'm gonna put a new scope on it and fix it up. Then I want to give it to him for Christmas."

Three weeks later we were to meet with Mike and his family in Prince George to do a gift exchange. We pulled into town and booked into Esther's Inn. The lady at the desk said there had been many phone calls for us and handed us a message. We had "orders" to proceed up to our friend Dodd Hareuther's house as soon as we got to town. I was a little tired from the five-hour drive, so while Ida unpacked our suitcases, I stretched out for a quick rest. It didn't take long for our room phone to ring. It was Mike saying, "It's about time you got here. Everybody's been waiting for you for hours!" It looked like a nice little snooze was out

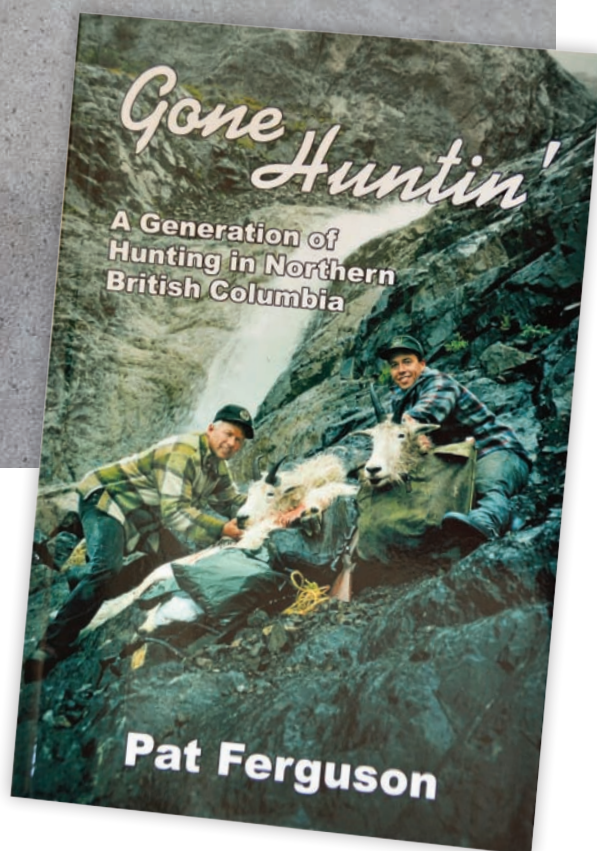
of the question.

When we pulled up in front of Dodd's place, there was an air of mystery about, as window curtains moved and faces quickly peeked out. I said, "It looks like we're busted." All the while Ida had been keeping the secret and trying to hide her excitement. Dodd met us at the door with a hug and a firm handshake and promptly ushered us upstairs to our waiting grandchildren, Andrea and Adam. As everyone welcomed us, I could feel an electrifying blast of excitement in the air.

Everyone was talking and the place was taking on a party atmosphere. Mike handed me a tall cold one, and I pulled out the computer chair and parked myself. As I took a sip of my drink, it was easy to see that I suddenly had a big semi-circle of cameras pointed at me. Since I'm usually the one pulling stunts on everyone, I thought, "Oh boy! Here we go! Now I'm gonna pay for all of my dastardly deeds!"



"Little Thunder," as she looks today. Back in the family.



Suddenly, Mike stepped through the crowd and, handing me a small, gift-wrapped package, said, "Here, Dad. Christmas is coming a little early for you this year." I was completely puzzled as the cameras began to flash. Then I read the tag on the package: "Put a little thunder in your Christmas." My brain was racing as the words tried to sink in. I opened the gift wrap to find what appeared to be a clear, plastic container of rifle ammunition. On a strip of white tape were the words "Little Thunder." As I opened the container and removed a handloaded round of .243 ammunition, the words "Little Thunder" began echoing through my head. Just then, Dodd pushed a hard gun case across the floor in front of my feet. I looked down at the case, looked at the ammunition, and looked up at Dodd.

"NO!" I cried.

He said, "Go ahead. Open it up." I slowly leaned forward and opened the case to see my old friend, Little

A book written about his hunting exploits led to the return of the author's stolen rifle.

Thunder, for the first time in nine years. I thought my heart was going to explode as the cameras flashed and the tears flowed freely. Suddenly, everyone got into the act, and I got the whole story of how everything unfolded.

The next morning, as we prepared to head for home, Mike and I were standing in Dodd's living room talking. Of course, I was holding Little Thunder. I said, "You know, son, a week before this rifle was stolen I tried to give it to you, and you told me that I'd look stupid on the mountain without it. Well, now I'm giving it to you, and you're damn well gonna' take it!" I handed him the rifle and, shaking his hand, said, "Now she's in the right hands." 🍀

**Editor's Note:** We're all aware that every gun has a story to tell, so if you have a gun with a fascinating story behind it, let us know. The gun can be old or new, and the story can be funny, sad or historical. It doesn't matter, as long as it's a great tale. If need be, we'll help you write the story, or maybe assign one of our writers to tackle it. Write the editor at [cfeditor@nfa.ca](mailto:cfeditor@nfa.ca).





# Team NFA

Patrick Haynes

## Challenging Skill Development – Part 2



**J**uri Hanin, a Finnish researcher who works with high-performance shooters, directs athletes to detail every aspect of their shot process. It is imperative that each step, however small, is captured and then verified during several benchmark trials. Once completed, the shooter becomes intimately aware of what is going on and considers their performance impact. These process components are then rated during optimal and sub-optimal off-shots.

"Sub-optimal" sounds somewhat negative, and you were also probably told that you should ignore off-shots and focus entirely on your good shots. Yes, again, initially this is valid. Shooters need to focus on the positive

aspects of their performance, so they can repeat them on the next attempt. It boosts their confidence and motivation, as well. Unfortunately, there are limits to improving a good, centre shot. What holds people back are the flyers and off-shots. Without knowledge of an error's source, process improvement becomes more difficult.

Off-shots don't just happen by accident. Usually, there are subtle actions that accumulate and result in a shot that you would like to re-take. As your awareness of the differences between optimal and sub-optimal shots grows, you can modify or abort your shot process once you detect that you're on the wrong path. In a very real sense, performance analysis for high-perfor-

mance shooting relies heavily upon error detection and correction. You must know all about your good shots; but, to improve, you need to be aware of and eliminate the off-shot performances.

Note that as you move up in shooting ability, error detection and correction never goes away. What you work on becomes smaller and potentially more difficult to erase. Detection becomes extremely challenging. I have worked with numerous shooters that, to the naked eye, appeared motionless. Regardless, they were producing minor off-shots that were affecting their performance. In these situations, errors were detected using infrared emitters and receivers, fitted to the pistols and targets, which allowed me to capture



movement every 200th of a second. This data allowed me to identify and correct the shooter's performance.

Probably the best advice I can offer is to have shooters monitor their own performance. They must be non-judgmental in their analysis. What happens is neither good, nor bad; but, it could add or subtract from their performance goals. Stuff happens. Write it down and reflect upon it. Learn from the experience and incorporate it into the next training session. Repeat the actions that advance towards the goal. Abort the shots when the preceding actions don't feel right.

Lastly, I'd like to challenge some of the wisdom regarding training and practice sessions. First, running a practice match isn't training. New shooters can benefit from them as they need to learn the match format and hear the commands. Unfortunately, once that has been learned, weekly practice matches offer little value for the developing shooter.

Slightly better than weekly practice matches are extended periods of running one particular skill. The shooter performs tasks or drills repeatedly and then goes home. Research shows that these shooters will improve over the course of the session and will experience greater confidence in their abilities. Novices will develop a basic understanding of the performance requirements. Unfortunately, research also shows that intermediate shooters rarely retain the performance improvements in subsequent training sessions. Also, those temporary improvements don't transfer into other environments, such as competitions away from the home range. Straight repetition only offers benefits to novices.


A big part of performance is developing the motor programs required. In shooting, we develop motor programs for drawing from a holster, swapping magazines, aligning sights, tracking clays, positioning a rifle, etc. Another essential part of performance is retrieving the correct motor program and putting it into action. When we repeat the same activity during one session, we retrieve the motor program once and repeat the action. Studies show that after awhile, the athlete may go



into a state similar to autopilot, performing unconsciously. This method doesn't help the shooter improve.

A better way to train involves randomizing the task or skill to be worked on. An example that I use to illustrate randomization is with three position (prone, kneeling and standing) rifle shooting. Often, you'll see athletes shooting standing all one session, then come back for a session in prone, then kneeling on another day. While gains can be made, these sessions foster automaticity. Progress demands that the athletes need to be cognitively engaged in their development. With this in mind, they can randomise the training by adopting different positions. They can also combat automaticity by getting in and out of the same position after firing five shots. The athlete could shoot numerous clays from one station, then switch to another. One could intersperse timed fire within a precision session. The main point is, don't do the

same thing over and over. Putting a ton of lead downrange doesn't necessarily produce better performances.

From all of this, I hope that you accept that shooters should question the common wisdom of the range. Look around and see how other sports are handling skill development issues. If possible, take a coaching course from the Coaches Association of Canada ([www.coach.ca](http://www.coach.ca)) and read whatever you can. Most importantly, always ask "why" when offered advice. You may find that the reasoning is valid and meets your needs. You may also find that it has to do with personal preferences or may just be a tired cliché. Regardless, you'll consciously be pursuing improvement, which is exactly where you should be. 

**Editor's Note:** This is part two of this series and the reader is well advised to review the first instalment. This is great information.





# Point Blank

Chris McGarry

## Canadian Self-Defence Laws Need To Evolve



While Canadians were enjoying the carefree, thriving 1970s, the Liberal government of Pierre Elliot Trudeau was working diligently to eradicate their self-defence rights.

As part of the natural order of the planet, everything must evolve if it is to survive and prosper. Over the past century, we've seen tremendous evolutions in automobiles, refrigeration, medicine, televisions and computers. While evolutions have occurred in countless areas, self-defence laws in Canada, for the most part, continue to be stuck in an era that has long passed. For centuries, Canada (and the majority of western nations) had common sense policies with regards to the protection of life and property. In the 1960s and 1970s, the traditional upholding of individual liberties found itself taking a backseat to the collective mindset of the 'progressive' left that was slowly but surely gaining a foothold in Canadian society.

As progressivism became incorporated into our institutions, many people embraced the concept that the state could provide for all of

their needs, including protection. A number of years ago, while browsing the massive collection of books on a neighbour's bookshelf, I stumbled across a copy of the 1982 *Criminal Code of Canada*. Ironically, having been produced the same year that the fundamentally flawed *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* was authored, the self-defence provisions of the CCC discouraged individuals more or less 'taking the law into their own hands' and instead calling the police should their lives or property be in danger.

There is an annoying myth that has been deeply ingrained into the Canadian psyche that states unequivocally that Canada is a completely safe nation with no crime, the polar opposite of the Wild West US.

While Canada remains one of the world's most prosperous, stable nations, we are not without our problems. Crime (sometimes violent) is a serious issue in many parts of this

country. Each year (though it does not receive a great amount of media attention) thousands of Canadians use firearms for self-protection.

While Canadians were enjoying the carefree, thriving 1970s, the Liberal government of Pierre Elliot Trudeau was working diligently to eradicate their self-defence rights. The right to carry a handgun for self-protection was abolished, along with non-lethal tools such as pepper spray. As proof of the leftist legal establishment's influence in Canadian politics, laws were changed to favour criminals and place heavy, unnecessary burdens on homeowners to justify their actions when forced to defend their lives and property.

The mentality that the state should have a monopoly on force exists well into this day. Saskatchewan and Manitoba, while being two of the most prosperous provinces in Canada, in recent years have also been experiencing a rise in thefts from rural farms. The issue has spiralled out of control to the point where organizations representing rural municipalities in those prairie provinces have lobbied the federal government for stronger self-defence laws. In response to farmers carrying firearms to protect themselves, the RCMP stated publicly that instead of 'resorting to vigilantism' these hardworking citizens should simply wait for the police to show up.

Court rulings in both the US and Canada have stated that police agencies have no duty to protect each citizen and can only investigate and act as a deterrent to crime. In other words, you, Joe Citizen, are on your own. This is the exact reason why Canada needs to enact rock-solid self-defence laws similar to castle doctrine and 'stand-your-ground' laws common in several American states.

Our modern society has evolved from using basic flip cell phones, the Commodore 64 and eight-track tapes. In the same vein, it's also time to abolish out-of-date self-defence laws.





# Legal Corner

Guy Lavergne, Attorney at Law

## Firearms & The Law

Selling a firearm & what you need to know



The sale of a firearm is not something to be taken lightly. It is a somewhat convoluted process, with many potential traps for unaware people.

**R**ecent legislative changes (mainly bills C-19 and C-42) have resulted in some significant changes to the steps and precautions required to properly handle the sale of a firearm, some of which are often misunderstood. This article will strive to clarify misconceptions and provide guidance, so that you may handle your next firearm sale/purchase without getting into legal trouble.

First, I cannot overemphasize the fact that almost every single aspect of Canadian firearms legislation is deeply

rooted in criminal law. What this means is that almost every single violation of firearms law may result in criminal charges being laid and prosecuted. This is especially true in respect to offences related to the illegal possession or sale of a firearm. Hence, it is important to be cautious to ensure compliance with the law, when handling the sale of a firearm.

Second, and contrary to popular belief, in spite of the disappearance of the long gun registry, a firearms licence of the appropriate class is still a requirement for the possession or acquisition of any

firearm in Canada.

In this article, I will discuss the legal aspects of a firearms transfer from the angle of a sale, since it is the most common manner of transferring ownership. However, with minor adaptations, what I write hereafter is also applicable to transfers by way of gift or inheritance. Indeed, the *Firearms Act* and *Criminal Code* refer to “transfers,” as opposed to “sales.” Transfer is a term with a broader meaning than “sale” that also encompasses “gift” and “inheritance.”





## VERIFYING THE PURCHASER'S LICENCE

Your first and main legal obligation, when selling a firearm, is to satisfy yourself that the purchaser has a valid firearms licence (PAL) of the appropriate class. This is true, irrespective of the class of firearm being sold. With respect to non-restricted firearms, since they are no longer subject to registration, the seller is entirely responsible to determine whether the firearm may legally be sold to the purchaser.

Section 23 of the *Firearms Act* provides as follows:

"23. A person may transfer a non-restricted firearm if, at the time of the transfer,

- (a) the transferee holds a licence authorizing the transferee to acquire and possess that kind of firearm; and
- (b) the transferor has no reason to believe that the transferee is not authorized to acquire and possess that kind of firearm."

Practically speaking, it means that:

(a) the purchaser has to show the seller a valid, unexpired firearms licence of the appropriate class; and (b) the seller must have no reason to believe that the purchaser is otherwise precluded from acquiring the firearm.

The first step is accomplished by asking the purchaser to show his licence. A prudent seller will note down the name, licence number and licence expiry date. A prudent seller will also ask the purchaser to show another piece of ID, to make sure that it matches the name on the firearms licence.

As to paragraph (b) you may wonder what it contemplates. Indeed, if a purchaser shows a seller an unexpired licence, what more does the seller need to know? The answer depends upon the seller's frame of mind. For example, the licence card may look like it is counterfeit or has been altered. Or the seller may have reason to believe that the purchaser's licence has been revoked, or that he/she is subject to a firearms prohibition order, or an undertaking not to possess firearms.

If the seller has any doubt or reason to believe that the licence may not be that of the would-be purchaser, or that he/she may be subject to a revocation or prohibition order, he/she may call the Canadian Firearms

Program (1-800-731-4000) to verify that the purchaser's licence is indeed valid. Section 23.1 (1) of the *Firearms Act* specifically authorizes a seller to make and obtain a response to that query from the Canadian Firearms Program. That section is not, as some anti-gun activists would like the public to believe, a provision that makes the verification of the purchaser's licence optional. The purpose of section 23 is indeed to allow a seller to verify whether a particular purchaser holds a valid licence, in spite of privacy legislation that would otherwise preclude the seller from obtaining that information.

After the transaction has taken place, it is a good idea to keep a record of the purchaser's licence information, and of any query made with and response obtained from the Canadian Firearms Program. Indeed, should the seller subsequently be charged with "weapons trafficking" under s. 99 of the *Criminal Code*, it will be incumbent upon the seller (now an accused) to prove that he/she believed the purchaser held a valid firearms licence. In such an instance, the Crown would not have to prove that the purchaser did not hold a valid licence. Indeed, section 117.11 of the *Criminal Code* reverses the burden of proof. It would be incumbent upon the seller (then accused of weapons trafficking) to prove that the purchaser had such a licence or, at the very least, that he/she honestly believed that the purchaser was not authorized to acquire or possess that kind of firearm.

## SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR RESTRICTED & PROHIBITED FIREARMS

The aforementioned considerations apply to the transfer of restricted and prohibited firearms as well, the key differences being that the latter are still subject to mandatory registration, that the Chief Firearms Officer must approve the transfer and that authorizations to transport come into play.

Section 23.2 (1) of the *Firearms Act* provides as follows:

- "23.2 (1) A person may transfer a prohibited firearm or a restricted firearm if, at the time of the transfer,
- (a) the transferee holds a licence authorizing the transferee to

acquire and possess that kind of firearm;

- (b) the transferor has no reason to believe that the transferee is not authorized to acquire and possess that kind of firearm;
- (c) the transferor informs the Registrar of the transfer;
- (d) if the transferee is an individual, the transferor informs a chief firearms officer of the transfer and obtains the authorization of the chief firearms officer for the transfer;
- (e) a new registration certificate for the firearm is issued in accordance with this Act; and
- (f) the prescribed conditions are met."

Paragraphs (a) and (b) replicate the equivalent provisions applicable to the transfer of non-restricted firearms. Paragraph (c) creates an obligation for the seller to initiate a transfer with the Canadian Firearms Program. The "Registrar" is another name given to the RCMP, as the public body in charge of the registration of certain firearms under the Canadian Firearms Program. After the seller initiates the transfer, the Canadian Firearms Program assigns a reference number to the transaction. The purchaser must then call the Canadian Firearms Program, with that reference number, to get the process to continue. At that point, the transfer is not complete and the seller is not yet authorized to let the purchaser leave with the firearm.

Indeed, the Chief Firearms Officer must approve of the transfer. In that respect, paragraph (d) is somewhat misleading. In fact, the Canadian Firearms Program acts as a proxy for the Chief Firearms Officer, in respect of getting the transfer approved. It takes anywhere from a few hours to several weeks for the transfer to be approved by the Chief Firearms Officer. As to why the delays for approval vary this much, your guess is as good as mine. Once the transfer is approved, a written Notice of Transfer is issued to the seller and purchaser. That notice references the new registration certificate number, which has not yet been printed or mailed to the purchaser. As to whether at that point the registration certificate is considered as "issued," so as to meet the requirements of paragraph (b), is unclear. As a matter of practice,



firearms dealers usually ship firearms and/or let a purchaser take possession of a newly acquired firearm upon receipt of the notice of transfer, even though the actual registration certificate has not yet been received. I should also mention that police forces appear to condone that practice.


It used to be that an authorization to transport (ATT) had to be sought by the purchaser, to take the newly acquired restricted or prohibited firearm from the seller's location, to his own authorized storage location (usually the purchaser's residence.) As a result of recent (bill C-42, 2015) amendments to sub-section 19 (2.2) of the Firearms Act, such an authorization to transport is now automatically issued to the purchaser upon approval of the transfer by the Chief Firearms Officer. Unless the seller has sought and obtained an ATT to deliver the firearm, the purchaser must take delivery of the firearm at the seller's address. Technically, the

seller cannot bring the firearm to the purchaser, without seeking a specific authorization to transport. An ATT (issued to the seller) is also required if the seller is to use a carrier, such as Canada Post, to deliver the firearm to the purchaser.

A word of caution about showing a restricted or prohibited firearm to a potential purchaser: except if the showing is to take place at a gun show, a gunsmith's place of business or a shooting club within the province, the purchaser must come to the seller's place of residence (authorized storage location) to see the firearm. Indeed, although the rules of transportation have been somewhat relaxed as a result of bill C-42, they do not allow a seller to drive around with the firearm to show it to potential purchasers, unless the showing occurs at one of the aforementioned places or the potential purchaser is a firearms dealer. Once the transfer is approved, the seller may no longer use the firearm. Indeed, the

seller's ATT is only valid for firearms that are registered to the seller. Once the transfer has been approved, the firearm in question is no longer registered to the seller.

Please also remember that a potential purchaser may not borrow a restricted or prohibited firearm to try it out, since the registered owner is the only person authorized by law to possess or transport it. Any trial must take place in the seller's presence. And, of course, any trial involving shooting live ammunition must take place at an approved range or club, since it is illegal to discharge a restricted or prohibited firearm at any other location.

To conclude, the sale of a firearm is not something to be taken lightly. It is a somewhat convoluted process, with many potential traps for unaware people. Taking shortcuts or overlooking certain aspects of the process as unimportant is a risky practice that may lead to unwanted and serious consequences. 

NFA member Terri G. was the winner of a door prize at this year's AGM, a Diamondback Tactical riflescope, kindly donated by Vortex Canada.







# NFA Book Shelf

Bill Rantz

## AR-15 Skills & Drills

**Author:** Tiger McKee

**Title:** AR-15 Skills & Drills

**Publisher:** Gun Digest Books,  
F + W Media, Inc. 2017

**ISBN:** 13: 978-1-4402-4720-0

**Pages:** 271

**Size:** Soft cover, 8.5 x 11 inches

**Illustrations:**  
Black and white

Tiger McKee is the founder of Shootrite Firearms Academy in the United States. He is one of that nation's top firearms instructors. McKee previously self-published *The Book of Two Guns – The Martial Art of the 1911 Pistol and AR Carbine*. In the introduction to this book, McKee advises that detailed instruction books and extensive practice of the skills developed are simply not intended to be a substitute for training under a qualified firearms instructor. The advantage of an instructor is they can advise you of what you are doing incorrectly and offer alternatives if a technique is not working for the student.

"Learn to run your AR like a pro!" is the sub-title and the goal of *AR-15 Skills & Drills*. As a firearms instructor, McKee constantly reinforces the need to operate any firearm safely and efficiently. The entire first chapter stresses the importance of the four basic safety rules all firearm owners should follow.

Twenty-four chapters covering basic to advanced training with the AR-15 rifle have been combined in a reader-friendly publication. The informative text is supplemented with almost 300 captioned photographs, allowing stu-


dents to visualize the comprehensive material presented. This publication is intended to be used extensively as a reference over the years. Favourite chapters will be marked and important information highlighted by owners, much like any college text.

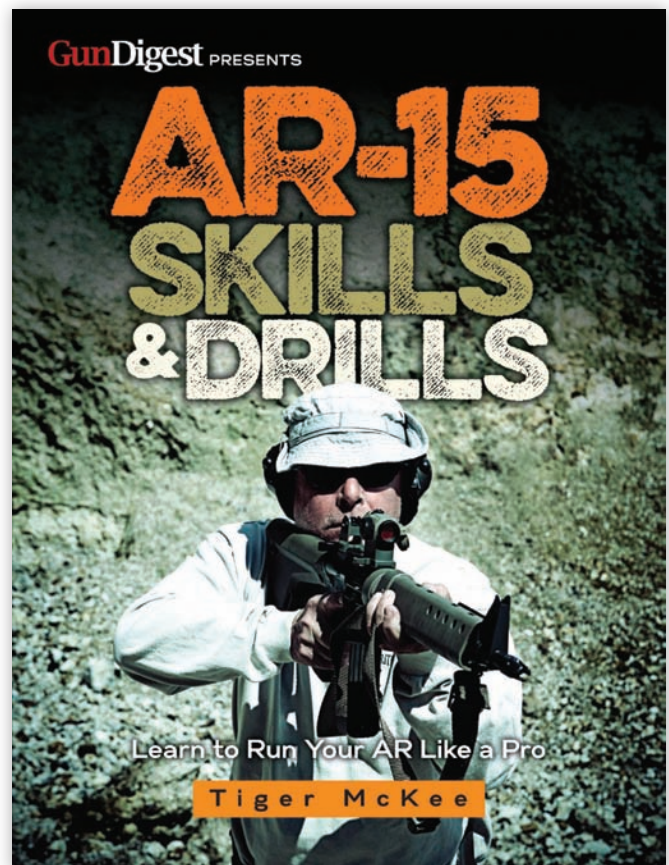
Chapters that deal with the handling of the AR-15 have suggested drills and practice which McKee advises are the best way of becoming familiar with the operation of an AR-15. Learning to deal safely with various types of malfunctions the AR-15 may experience is also explained in detail. Practicing corrective techniques is encouraged, but only with dummy ammunition.

While not intended as a tactical book, the author does include a significant amount of information related to defensive positions and dealing with threats. McKee stresses the number one tactic in a potentially violent confrontation is avoid and escape. Should this not be possible, he suggests ways of using both communication and cover to protect yourself. Should these strategies not eliminate the threat, the author also provides advice related to the necessity of self defence.

McKee describes the AR-

15 as "among the most user-friendly designed firearms ever produced." Each major part, its function and proper operation are described in detail. Affordable and easy-to-replace small parts which may be required are listed and having these readily available is encouraged.

Owners of an AR-15 rifle will refer to *AR-15 Skills & Drills* on a regular basis and it will be a valuable addition to your shooting kit when taking your rifle to the range. *AR-15 Skills & Drills* lists at \$41 Canadian. It may be located online for a lower price, but beware of the current exchange rate and costly postal charges. Please support your local firearms retailer when possible. 





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## FEATURES:

- OVERALL WEIGHT, 6.0 LBS. - PERFECT FOR ALL SHOOTERS AND PLENTY OF SAVED WEIGHT FOR ACCESSORIES
- 16" 4150 CHROME MOLY STEEL BARREL, FNC TREATED - FOR EXTENDED BARREL LIFE AND AMMO COMPATIBILITY
- AAC® 5IT FLASH HIDER
- RIFLE LENGTH AAC SQUARE DROP HANDGUARD - FOR FAST SOLID ATTACHMENT OF KEYMOD ACCESSORIES AT 7 DIFFERENT ANGLES
- ALG ADVANCED COMBAT TRIGGER (ACT) - DELIVERS CONSISTENT 5.5 LB. TRIGGER PULL
- MISSION FIRST TACTICAL MINIMALIST STOCK - FOR MAXIMUM COMFORTABLE AND MINIMAL WEIGHT; INCLUDES QD CUP, AND ROUNDED RUBBER BUTTPAD
- MISSION FIRST TACTICAL GRIP AND MAGAZINE - HIGH QUALITY

## SPECIFICATIONS:

Magazine Capacity: 30/5

Barrel length: 16"

Rifling Twist Rate:

1:7 (90924) 1:8 (91056)

Overall length: 35"

Upper Receiver: A3 Flattop Barrel

Material: 4150 Chrome Moly

Barrel Finish: Melonite (FNC)

Barrel Contour: Lightweight

Avg Wt. 6.0\_lbs

PROUDLY MADE IN THE USA BY AMERICAN WORKERS