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January/February 2016

FIREARMS JOURNAL



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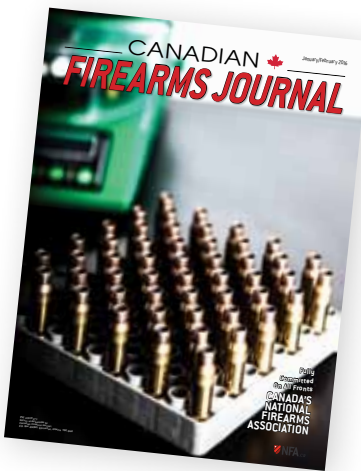


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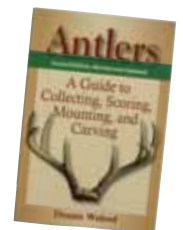
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MISSION STATEMENT

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

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On The Cover

Never Give Up

Graeme Foote, Photographer

This month's cover comes from Graeme Foote, a photographer, blogger and shooter from the Vancouver area. He specializes in firearms photography and also writes about precision rifle competition. Born with one hand, he is constantly challenging himself to overcome the hurdles his hobbies throw at him. You can follow his work at www.amputee-shooter.com.



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From The Editor's Desk

Al Voht

Winter Reading

Welcome to the first *Canadian Firearms Journal* of 2016. This time of year finds us squarely in the middle of a northern winter, which means most of us aren't doing much shooting. But that doesn't mean we need to put a hold on exercising our firearm freedoms. Winter is a great time of year to handload ammunition and to work on guns and other gear. So, that's the theme of this issue. The cover probably gave it away.

In this issue, Lowell Strauss takes a look at the tools necessary to do a little home gunsmithing and Dean Roxby puts those tools to use in turning an old SMLE into something useful again. Jeff Helsdon tries to help out those who are contemplating getting into handloading and Bob Shell tackles the useful practice of making your own dummy cartridges. To round things out, we've got a look at one of the most exotic rifles in the world, the Walther WA-2000, courtesy of Ed Osborne. And there's a review of a scope/rifle combination, the Tikka T3 and a Quigley-Ford scope, from the pen of Duane Radford. I've taken the opportunity to tell you *One Gun's Story*. It's about a gun I call the tapioca shotgun and how not to handload based on the advice you get at grocery stores. And our resident black-powder hunter, Brad Fenson explains how to easily clean your muzzleloader and why it's no longer necessary to use a bathtub for the job.

As I write this, the Liberals have only been in power a month and so far have been too busy to target lawful gun owners. How long that reprieve will last is uncertain, but I'm convinced they will come looking for us as soon as time allows. The columns and commentary from researchers like Gary Mauser and Bruce Gold provide the research "ammunition" we need to fight battles in parliament and in the hearts and minds of the public. Be sure to read it and use that information as you discuss these issues with neighbours, co-workers and family.

The Paris shootings have just happened as well, and it is reported the French will now be allowing police officers to carry firearms off duty. The hope being that when the next attack occurs, an armed person will be nearby

and able to help stop it. However, indications are it will only be in effect until the State of Emergency there is lifted. It's a small step in the right direction because it does recognize that a good defence against a random attack is armed people spread inconspicuously among the populace. Don't look for it in Canada though. Here, police are still largely prohibited from carrying firearms off duty. If the government doesn't trust them with guns, they are unlikely to trust civilians.



Je suis Paris - messages, candles and flowers are left around General Kleber statue in memorial for the victims of the Paris attacks.



President's Message

Sheldon Clare

Pushing For Change

The NFA has written the new prime minister with the goal of ensuring that no bad decisions are made with respect to Canadian firearms law. Hopefully some of the reaching out we have done, with the Liberals, will at least give us a hearing in regards to effecting policy with the new government. To that end, it is important that firearms owners take the opportunity to join the Liberal Party and get involved with local electoral boards. It is critical to take our message to party elections and meetings, where policy that may affect us can be challenged and guided.

The primary thing you need to be doing is introducing yourself to your new MP and becoming his or her source on matters related to positive efforts on our firearms laws. We cannot merely sit in a defensive mode. We must go on the offensive and keep pushing for improvements, to eliminate punitive laws that only harm the innocent firearms owner and do nothing to prevent violence and criminal activities. Now is the time to step up our efforts. Soon, processes for electronic parliamentary petitions will be in place and the NFA will be leading the effort to achieve legislative change by using this new method. We also need to follow up with our previous petitions on magazines and AR-15 rifles, which were submitted to the previous government, introduced in the house and then simply ignored.

There is at least some cause for optimism in the appointments to cabinet positions. While it remains to be seen what the political philosophy of the government will be, the new cabinet includes some talented ministers who should be willing to listen to us. And we know the

new public safety minister is well aware of the political danger of offending firearm owners. At least some of the more hostile MPs in the Liberal government have not been included in Trudeau's cabinet. The changes in government will require much new connecting with the new political reality. Political staffers from the previous government will be gone, replaced by Liberal staffers. We will need to get to know these people and ensure we can communicate our needs to them. We will only be able to do that with your help.

On internal matters, our directors have been working hard to ensure that governance issues are sorted out and that those who have wrought malicious damage on the NFA are prevented from continuing on that path. Unfortunately, legal action has been necessary to ensure the organization is protected. Despite the negative efforts of some, the organization continues to grow. The directors have taken steps, with legal support, to improve the bylaws and update them to be in better compliance with the relevant acts, and to ensure they more accurately reflect actual practices. These bylaw modifications were in effect when passed by the board and will be proposed for ratification by the membership at the next meeting.

The NFA has gone through some difficult times, but it has made us a stronger, more efficient organization. We are still the strongest advocate for the rights of Canadian firearms owners, and neither your board, nor I as your president and chief executive officer have wavered in our efforts on your behalf. We take our responsibilities seriously and are continuing to carry the fight forward. More than ever before, now is the time to assert ourselves and to be forthright with both our political opponents and allies. We also need to be reconnecting with our international allies, especially the World Forum on the Future of Shooting Activities, and bringing them up to speed with the new political situation in Canada. Doing so will keep us well positioned to work together for our common goals.



It's important that our members keep in touch with our new government, making sure our voices are heard.

Rapport du Président

Sheldon Clare

Maintenir la pression vers le changement

L'ACAF a contacté notre nouveau Premier Ministre pour lui réitérer notre souhait qu'aucune mauvaise décision soit prise vis-à-vis nos lois sur les armes à feu. Nous espérons que les contacts que nous avons déjà effectués avec les Libéraux porteront fruits et qu'ils nous permettront d'être écoutés lorsque le nouveau Gouvernement entreprendra la tâche d'adopter des politiques qui nous affecteront. Avec cet objectif en tête, il est important que les propriétaires d'armes à feu rejoignent le Parti Libéral et deviennent actifs dans leurs bureaux de comtés. Il est essentiel que notre point de vue soit entendu lors de leurs élections et réunions où les politiques nous affectant puissent être influencées en notre faveur.

Ce que vous devez entreprendre en priorité c'est de rencontrer votre nouveau Député, vous devez devenir sa personne ressource à propos de tous les sujets qui peuvent emmener des changements positifs envers nos lois sur les armes à feu. Nous ne devons pas demeurer sur la défensive - nous devons prendre l'offensive immédiatement pour obtenir des améliorations aux lois punitives qui ne font que s'attaquer aux propriétaires légitimes d'armes à feu sans avoir aucun effet pour prévenir la violence et la criminalité. Nous devons multiplier nos efforts. Les pétitions électroniques seront instaurées bientôt pour nous aider à faire pression auprès du Parlement. L'ACAF a l'intention de profiter au maximum de ce nouvel outil pour essayer d'effectuer des changements législatifs. Nous devons aussi faire un suivi sur les pétitions que nous avons présentées au Gouvernement précédent,

celles à propos des carabines AR-15 et des chargeurs qui ont été présentées en Chambre et ignorées par la suite.

Nous voyons avec optimisme le choix du nouveau Conseil des Ministres, quoique nous ne savons pas encore quelle sera la philosophie du Gouvernement. Ce Conseil des Ministres comprend plusieurs personnes très qualifiées qui devraient être prêtes à nous écouter. Le nouveau Ministre de la Sécurité Publique est très conscient du danger politique s'il se met les propriétaires d'armes à feu à dos. Au moins, les Députés les plus hostiles envers nous n'ont pas été choisis dans le Conseil de M. Trudeau.

Nous devons faire beaucoup de nouveaux contacts à cause de cette nouvelle réalité politique. Les employés de l'État précédent seront remplacés par des employés Libéraux. Nous devons faire connaissance et nous assurer de bien communiquer avec eux pour qu'ils puissent connaître nos besoins. Nous ne pourrons pas faire cela sans votre aide.

Nos Directeurs travaillent très fort pour

s'assurer que notre gouvernance soit bien claire et que ceux qui ont malicieusement infligé des dommages à l'ACAF ne puissent plus recommencer. Il a fallu malheureusement avoir recours à des moyens légaux pour assurer la protection de l'organisation. Malgré ces attaques nous continuons de grandir. Avec de l'assistance juridique les Directeurs ont réussi à mettre à jour et améliorer nos règlements pour qu'ils puissent être conformes aux Lois pertinentes et assurer une harmonie avec les pratiques courantes. Ces modifications étaient déjà en force lorsque la Direction les a passé et devront être ratifiées par les membres à la prochaine réunion.

L'ACAF vient de passer à travers une période difficile qui l'a rendue plus forte et plus efficace. Nous demeurons toujours le groupe de pression le plus puissant qui protège les droits des propriétaires d'armes à feu. Jamais la Direction ni moi-même votre PDG n'avons failli à la tâche durant cette tempête. Nous prenons nos responsabilités très au sérieux et notre regard se tourne toujours vers l'avenir. Il est temps plus que jamais de nous affirmer fermement face à nos adversaires et nos alliés politiques. Nous devons aussi reprendre contact avec nos alliés internationaux, surtout avec le World Forum on the Future of Shooting Activities. Ils doivent être informés à propos de la nouvelle situation politique Canadienne pour que nous puissions travailler ensemble vers notre objectif commun.






Vice President's Message

Blair Hagen

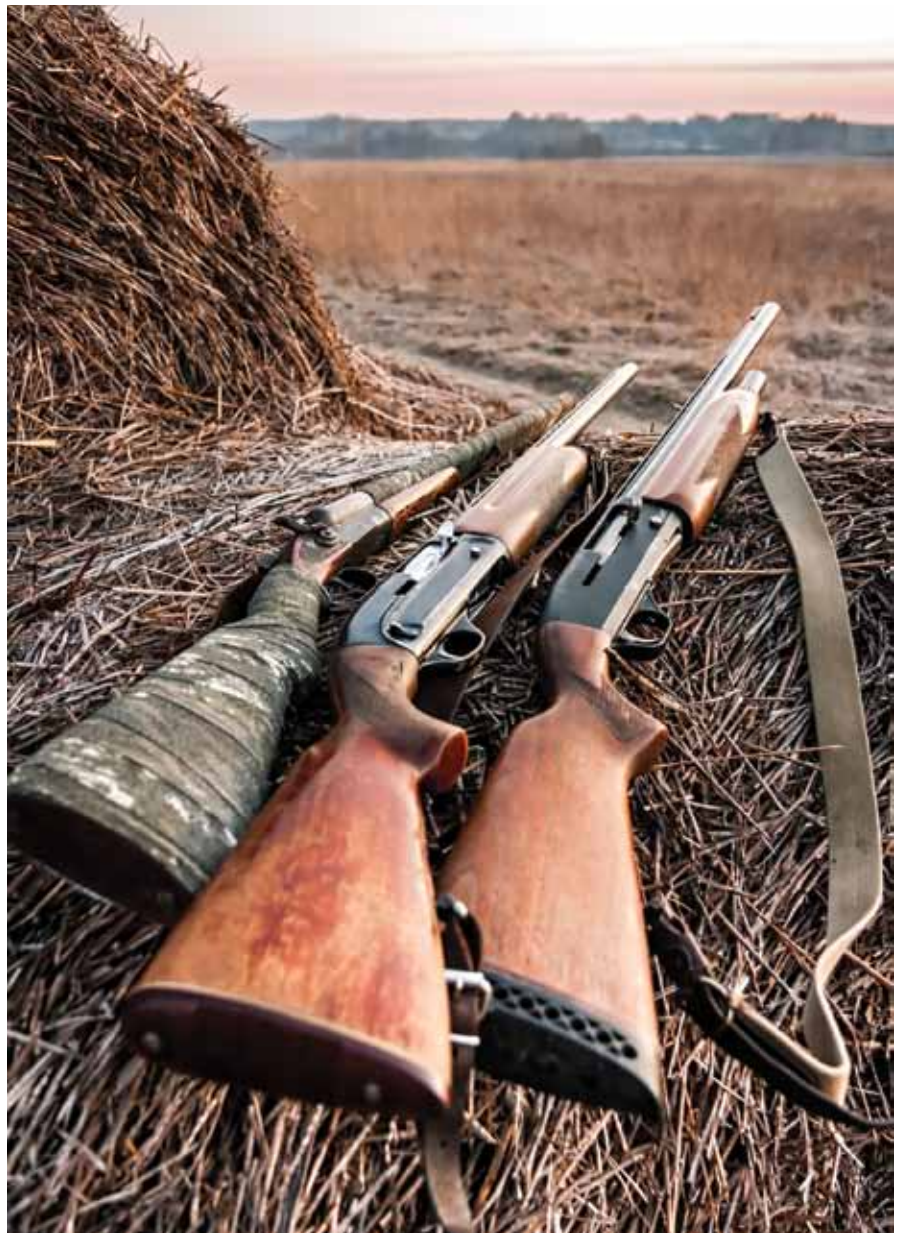
Government Has Changed — But So Have We

Governments change. Like the weather and the seasons, there is no stopping it.

The gun control battles of the 1990s were supposed to be the civil disarmament lobby's final solution to extinguishing the Canadian right and cultural tradition of firearms ownership. Thankfully, it didn't work out that way and the failure of the 1995 *Firearms Act*, and the controversy created by it, redefined the gun control debate in Canada. Its failure gave Canadians who believe in freedom the opportunity to bring about reforms to our embarrassing and retrograde gun control laws.

This political change allowed firearms law reforms to take place under the Conservative government of Stephen Harper. These reforms included the end of the hated long gun registry in 2012, the most public and egregious failure of the *Firearms Act* and the first firearms law reform in modern Canadian political history. It also included the recent minor reforms under Bill C-42 in 2015. These changes showed that the siren song of gun control would not placate regular Canadians who faced the trampling of their rights, the theft of their property and the process of having a bizarre, foreign and un-Canadian regulatory regime imposed on them.

I vividly remember the early days of our struggle against the social agenda of the civil disarmament lobby, and their friends in media and government. They sought to shame and drive firearms from the Canadian identity. The sentiment of some gun owners of that time was that if we hid it, spoke of it in subdued tones and never in polite company, we might retain a vestige of it. If Canadians who owned firearms hid out at the range or the gun club and distanced



Today's gun owners are better equipped and prepared to defend their rights. Never hide your Canadian right and tradition to firearms ownership and never apologize for it.

themselves from what those who would disarm us categorized as “American gun culture,” we might be left alone.

What unmitigated nonsense and foolishness. I, and many others, saw this approach fail and damage our cause. I can say it is an absolute and quick path to defeat. Canadians paid a heavy price from those who thought that kind of give in, give up and hide discretion to be wise. The good news is that we are recovering from that.

There is no doubt about it - we are going to face challenges over the next four years. The *Firearms Act*, except for the ending of long gun registration, is still largely intact. All the tools necessary to deprive Canadians of their rights and property are still there to be employed in the pursuit of civil disarmament. The mandatory firearms licence for simple ownership or possession of property still stands. The manifold freedom-killing regulations of the *Firearms Act* still exist, and will continue to be used as legal justification to manufacture firearms prohibitions and confiscate property.

The civil disarmament lobby now has a chance to regroup after the very public failures of the *Firearms Act*, the end of long gun registration and other reforms that were effected under the Conservative government. But we are not the same community we were in the late 1980s and early 1990s. Canadians are better organized, better informed and far more politically active today than during those dark times 20 years ago. Many who gave up their firearms back then have recently returned. Many of the firearm businesses and enterprises that were destroyed by legislation 20 years ago have been replaced by new ones. And they are better motivated and positioned to survive regulatory and legislative onslaughts than ever before. We are better, stronger, more motivated and self aware today than could have been imagined in those horrible days of the past.

As someone who analyzes trends in firearms culture and society, I can tell you that in the last 20 years, since the advent of the C-68 *Firearms Act*, we have

been joined by hundreds of thousands of new Canadians who want to enjoy our historic right and cultural tradition of firearms ownership. This is not just a right and tradition of old white guys, it is something that belongs to every Canadian regardless of background, and it has been embraced by millions as their birthright. And it is their birthright, just as it is mine and yours.

Canada's National Firearms Association will continue to fight for and represent today's Canadians and future Canadians. The important thing to remember is to never shrink from our culture and heritage. Never hide your Canadian right and tradition to firearms ownership. Never apologize for it. Never stop from advancing your legitimate right to defend yourself and lawfully own property. If we go back to the old ways of hiding at the gun clubs and in the hinterlands, our right to own property and use firearms will be extinguished by those who would disarm Canada, just as surely as was planned for in the *Firearms Act*.



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Preserving Our Firearms Heritage

Gary K. Kangas

Setting The Stage For The Future



Will Gee shooting at Headquarters, 2015.

"Preserving our firearms heritage requires action! We must do something!" This statement comes from a gun guy known to me for many years. He lives in Hawaii. I asked him long ago how he had become so successful. He said, "Do something." Most individuals will ponder, speculate and consider, but never take any action.

That do-something attitude is demonstrated every day by people in the firearms community. It was evident in the vision of Harper Creigh in 1981, when he birthed the concept of cowboy action shooting. After watching a number of cowboy movies, Harper, an active practical pistol shooter, felt the same game could be played with single actions, lever guns and double-barrel shotguns. He enlisted the support of Gordon Davis and Bill Hahn, and the competition called End of Trail became a reality in 1982, at a range in southern California. Their inspiration would become one of the fastest growing shooting sports world wide.

I stumbled across it in the late winter of 1984, while reading a *Guns & Ammo* magazine that featured an article by Phil Spangenberger. The article described a new shooting sport called cowboy action shooting. Being a cowboy aficionado, owning a number of single-action revolvers and having done some cowboy work involving guns and horses, my imagination was set alight.

Having known Phil since 1979, I called and he shared information and contacts with me. I called one of the contacts, Gordon Davis (now deceased). Gordon owned Davis Leather Co., maker of fine custom belts and holsters, and he was gracious in his response to my call. As a result of those calls, Sybil, my spouse, also a gun and cowboy aficionado, along with our daughter, flew to southern California for the third annual End of Trail competition in the spring of 1984.

We were royally welcomed by the

founders of cowboy action shooting. Harper and Bill were most cordial, as was Gordon, who supplied all the guns and ammunition for me to shoot the match. With the shooting of old-time guns, sumptuous cowboy dinners and marvellous socializing, the two-day event was dazzling. The meals and social events were held in a great horse barn, and it felt like we were in cowboy heaven. I won the Best Dressed Cowboy award, plus learned some valuable techniques in the management of single-action revolvers.

Sybil and I returned for the 1985 edition of End of Trail, where I won second place International Shootist. We repeated again in 1986 and 1987. In 1987, I won the top International Shootist award. When we returned to Victoria after the 1985 End of Trail, I enlisted the expertise of Al Page and Neil Klassen, both world-class practical pistol shooters. The plan was to assemble the first ever cowboy action shooting match in western Canada in the spring of 1986.

I supplied most of the guns and ammunition, supplemented by many rounds loaded by Al. Al and Neil supplied their knowledge of practical pistol competitions, and the event was a grand, well-attended enterprise. We set the stage for the continuation of cowboy action shooting in western Canada. The matches were ad hoc until 1991. During the early part of 1992, Al, myself and a dozen others organized Headquarters, the first Single Action Shooting Society-affiliated match in all of Canada. Then in the fall of 1992, the core group formed the Western Canadian Frontier Shootists Society, the first SASS-affiliated cowboy action shooting club in Canada. With the support of the Single Action Shooting Society and enthusiasts such as Frank McFarquahr from Ontario, the founder of the first cowboy action match in eastern Canada, the stage was set for the future. From this point, cowboy action shooting began to proliferate nationwide. There are now matches across the nation, and cowboy action shooters are able to compete almost every weekend.

Headquarters 2015 marked the 30th annual cowboy action match in western Canada. Although Headquarters is no longer the largest match in western Canada, it has a following of the most enthusiastic shootists in the west. The 2015 event was hotly contested, plus it was a trend setter. Out of the top five competitors, three were just 21, 20 and 13 years old.

The entire three-day event was well organized by Kathleen Gillert and her dedicated volunteers, including Daryl Drew as Master of Ceremonies and Al Wilson as Match Range Officer. Starting Friday, Aug. 28, there were speed pistol/rifle/shotgun side matches, plus a midrange rifle side match. The main event began early in the day on Saturday, Aug. 29, with six main stages. In the afternoon, there was a gun

cart show and shine and swap meet. Just before the potluck dinner, there was even a wedding, joining Holger and Antje Dittberner. Sunday dawned early with cowboy church, then a second mandatory safety meeting, followed by four main stages. Sunday afternoon, the long range rifle match and Scheutzen Target event took place.

The competition was non-stop action. The young competitors pressed the seasoned pros to the absolute limit. Will Gee, who is 13 years old, had the second fastest time on a stage at 17.25 seconds, followed by Kandace Peterson, age 21, who was the third fastest on a stage at 17.87 seconds. These times are top, world-class performances. Third overall was Adam Peterson who is 20 years old. There were a number of other competitors in their teens who, along with the previous three, will be in the winner's circle in the near future.

Sunday evening featured a costume parade, followed by the banquet and awards. From the opening ceremonies to the closing awards dinner, the event was flawless and the "do something" attitude of firearm owners was well represented. This ability of Canadian shooters to "do something" by organizing shooting matches and mentoring young shooters sets the stage for a bright future in the shooting sports. It's all an important strategy for preserving our firearms heritage.



Competitors at Headquarters, 2015.



Legal Corner

Guy Lavergne, Attorney At Law

Le Projet de loi 64 sur l'immatriculation des armes à feu (Québec)



Si on laisse le Gouvernement du Québec faire, l'enregistrement de tous les fusils et carabines de chasse ordinaires sera imposé de nouveau.

Le 27 mars 2015, la Cour Suprême du Canada rendait sa décision dans l'affaire du registre des armes d'épaule, ayant opposé les gouvernements du Québec et du Canada, quant à la propriété des données du registre, et la constitutionnalité de la loi l'ayant aboli. Cette bataille judiciaire s'est soldée par une défaite du Québec et de son allié, la Coalition canadienne pour le contrôle des armes et elle devait marquer la mort, du moins le croyait-on à ce moment, du système d'enregistrement des armes d'épaule au Québec. Le reste du Canada vivait alors, depuis presque trois années, sans registre des armes d'épaule.

Dans le cadre de cette poursuite, j'ai représenté l'Association canadienne pour les armes à feu à titre d'Intervenante devant la Cour Suprême du Canada. La veille du jour où la décision fut rendue, Québec annonçait son intention d'aller de l'avant avec un registre provincial, quelle que soit la décision de la Cour Suprême. Je dois avouer ne pas y avoir cru et considéré qu'il ne s'agissait là que d'une manœuvre politique et qu'on trouverait éventuellement une excuse pour ne pas y donner suite. En effet, un projet de loi antérieur en ce sens (projet de loi 20), était mort au feuilleteau en 2013.

Or, à l'occasion du 26^{ième} anniversaire de la tuerie de l'École Polytechnique, voilà que Québec nous présente le projet de loi 64, subtilement intitulé « Loi sur l'immatriculation des armes à feu ». Ce qu'on désigne sous le vocable « immatriculation » est en fait deux choses, soit un système d'enregistrement semblable à celui qui avait cours sous le défunt régime fédéral, et un système qui, en parallèle, affuble chaque arme à feu sans restrictions d'un « numéro unique » qui devra être inscrit sur l'arme de façon indélébile, lisible et permanente. Bien que la façon d'inscrire ce « numéro unique » ne soit pas précisée, et qu'il doive ulti-

mement faire l'objet d'un règlement d'application, il y a fort à parier que l'on parle ici de gravure, de burinage ou d'estampillage.

Ce qui est singulier, c'est que ce « numéro unique » n'est d'aucune utilité. En effet, la loi ne lui accorde aucune fonction. Il ne sert à rien, sauf à justifier sa propre existence. Ainsi, des armes à feu déjà parfaitement identifiées par un numéro de série, devront être gravées, burinées ou estampillées, tout simplement pour satisfaire aux exigences de la loi. La responsabilité, et vraisemblablement le coût, en incomberont au propriétaire de l'arme. De mémoire, c'est la première fois qu'une loi qui oblige des gens à endommager leurs propres biens. Il va sans dire qu'en sus du dommage causé à l'arme à feu, tant au niveau esthétique qu'au niveau de sa résistance à la corrosion, cela entraînera une perte de valeur considérable. Cette perte de valeur sera d'autant plus importante, s'il s'agit d'armes de collection, antiques, rares ou de haut de gamme. J'ai bien hâte que l'on m'explique en quoi le fait d'endommager un bien augmente la sécurité du public.

Toute personne qui possède des armes à feu au Québec pour une période de 45 jours ou plus devra les enregistrer. Suite à l'entrée en vigueur de la loi, les propriétaires d'armes à feu auront 12 mois pour les enregistrer. Suite à l'enregistrement, ils recevront du Ministère de la sécurité publique ce fameux « numéro unique » qu'ils auront 90 jours pour faire inscrire sur l'arme à feu. Si j'étais cynique, je dirais qu'il s'agit d'une extraordinaire opportunité d'investir dans l'industrie du poinçonnage et du burinage. Environ un demi-million de clients auront bientôt l'obligation légale d'avoir recours à de tels services.

La loi prévoit des amendes salées pour ceux qui ne se conformeront pas à la loi et elle accorde aux forces policières des pouvoirs de saisie correspondants.

Il va sans dire que l'objet de cette loi est de satisfaire les demandes des lobbies anti armes à feu. La présence de représentants de la Coalition canadienne pour le contrôle des armes dans les tribunes de l'Assemblée nationale, lors du dépôt du projet de loi, en fait foi.

Ultimement, si ce projet de loi est adopté, tel quel ou sous une version amendée, ce sont vos droits, votre propriété et votre portefeuille qui en seront affectés. Vous avez le choix de laisser faire ou d'élever votre voix pour protester devant ce gaspillage de fonds publics, mais d'abord et surtout, quant au fait que l'on fait à nouveau de vous, chasseurs, tireurs et collectionneurs, les boucs émissaires des agissements de quelques désaxés.

L'ACAF entend intervenir devant la commission parlementaire qui étudiera le projet de loi. Si le projet de loi est adopté, elle pourrait éventuellement contester sa validité constitutionnelle ou celle de certains articles.

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Point Blank

Chris McGarry

Every Member Is A Lobbyist

In recent years, Canada's National Firearms Association has been working diligently on behalf of gun owners in this country by lobbying Ottawa to make changes to federal firearms legislation. Lobbyists who work for the NFA, members of the organization's executive, as well as regional directors and field officers from across the country devote a great amount of time to meeting with members of Parliament, writing letters to MPs and members of the Canadian Senate, as well as promoting the NFA.

With a small group doing much of the proverbial heavy lifting, it isn't always possible to get everything done. That's where you, the member, play a significant role. Our modern world is a push-push, rush-to-beat-the-clock kind of place. We are busy people and often don't have great amounts of free time on our hands. But if we truly desire to have our rights restored, all of us must contribute to the cause any way we can.

Each NFA member can do lobbying

of their own. Take half an hour some night, sit down and write letters to the prime minister, public safety and justice ministers, leaders of opposition parties, as well as any member of Parliament or the senate. If sending the letter to Ottawa, all postage is free. If every NFA member wrote even four letters and mailed them to Ottawa, it would make a significant difference.

Another way to reach large numbers of people to tell them about Canada's National Firearms Association and the work we are doing is by writing letters to the editor in local newspapers.

In 2014, the NFA kicked off a petition campaign to have magazine limits rescinded and the AR-15 rifle moved from the restricted to the non-restricted class. Many ordinary citizens took time from their busy lives to go around to businesses and speak to friends and family members, encouraging them to sign these important petitions.

Although the *Firearms Act* has been on the books for two decades, many firearm owners in Canada still do not understand the complexities of this legislation and how it violates their rights, as guaranteed in the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*. As an NFA member, we all need to explain to uninformed friends and family that the classification provisions provided within the current laws are designed to eventually reclassify each legally-owned firearm to prohibited status. Only by increasing the number of Canadians joining pro-gun organizations can we force the will of our politicians to move on making changes to our laws. As the old saying goes, "There's strength in numbers."

With a membership approaching 80,000, the NFA is Canada's largest firearms lobby group. As an organization, we must all work together to achieve our ultimate goal. Lobbying efforts on the part of each member will bring us that much closer to getting the changes we want.



If every member did his or her part to lobby the government on behalf of the NFA, it could make a significant difference. There is strength in numbers.

Gunsmithing At Home



Setting up shop

By Lowell Strauss

A gunsmith is anyone who repairs, customizes or builds guns. Part metalworker, part woodworker, all craftsman - the gunsmith encompasses a wide range of skills. My interest in firearms repair started at a young age as I watched my grandfather bed rifle actions, re-crown barrels and tune triggers. My home gunsmithing journey began as a teenager. Only able to afford the firearms no one else wanted, I inevitably purchased the problems of the previous owners. To keep these old boom-sticks running, I needed to learn how to diagnose, troubleshoot and fix my guns. While I didn't use the title at the time, I was in fact a budding home gunsmith.

It's easy to let a lack of tools, adequate workspace or other stumbling blocks prevent a gun owner from working on his or her own firearms. Don't let expensive equipment prevent you from getting started. In most cases, equipment like mills, lathes or blueing tanks are beyond what most of us will ever need at home. But here are the basics of what you will require.

Workspace

A solid workbench is essential for gunsmithing operations. Tasks like driving out pins, sanding stocks, drilling receivers, honing chambers or pushing a tight patch through the bore all require a robust platform. A six-foot-long workbench is close to perfect, giving enough room for the full-length firearm, space to work and an area to hold parts and tools. Good lighting is a must-have, as well. Overhead florescent lights provide bright, even lighting. But supplement this with an adjustable desk lamp to provide moveable illumination onto your projects.

A vise holds your work piece securely, and is an important piece of equipment in your shop. Some specialized gunsmith vises allow a firearm or gun part to be rotated into the most

comfortable working position. However, these features come at a high price. A four to five-inch mechanic's bench vise is a less expensive option to get started. Most vises have textured jaws, which should be covered to prevent marring your barrels, bolts and stocks. "Soft jaws" can be created from lead, copper, wood, leather or even shop towels, and polyurethane versions can be purchased commercially. But note, they need to remain clean! Metal filings, lapping compound and other hard fragments embedded in these soft jaws can scratch or damage a firearm's surface.

The basics - Cleaning

Simple, but so much more important than you may think. A thorough cleaning benefits guns used seasonally, new guns or those being used after long storage. In fact, "repairing"

a firearm with mechanical problems like failure to feed or extract, or poor accuracy, may be as easy as disassembling, cleaning, lubricating and reassembling. Competition shooters know precisely how long they can run a gun before performance and reliability are affected by fouling.

I once purchased a .22-calibre target rifle from an estate; the price was right and I had known the owner. In haste, I quickly ran a few patches through the bore, wiped down the bolt and headed off to the range. The gun's bolt was sluggish. After several rounds and just as many misfires, I took the rifle home again, puzzled. That evening, I fully disassembled the bolt, revealing the problem. Long-term storage had caused lubricant to migrate into the bolt, where it turned into a red-brown gunk. It took a good solvent and some elbow grease



Reference manuals are an essential tool for gunsmiths.

A gunsmith screwdriver to fit any screw slot size.



to remove all of the crud, but it restored this firearm to working order.

Firearms can easily be cleaned if you have some basic equipment, a little know-how and reference manuals to help if you get stuck. A gun vise or cradle is a handy accessory and simplifies the task of cleaning. Gun solvent, patches, jags, brushes and shop towels will help get the job done quickly.

Gunsmith tools

Home gunsmithing begins with disassembling the firearm. New firearms are supplied with an owner's manual, but it may only cover the basic steps to disassemble for maintenance. Most modern firearms manuals include a statement like, "Do not disassemble any further than described in this manual." This statement is included either because there may not be any user-serviceable parts or simply for manufacturer liability reasons. After all, they don't want Joe Q. Public altering a firearm and making it potentially unsafe to operate. However, only by stripping a firearm into its component parts can it be thoroughly cleaned, inspected, lubricated and reassembled. Worn, broken or missing parts become obvious, especially when checked against a reference diagram.

Exploded diagrams and/or detailed, step-by-step disassembly/reassembly instructions are available as books, with the *Gun Digest* assembly/disassembly guides a popular choice. DVDs, such as *The Firearms Guide*, are good sources of information as well, as are part dealers like Brownell's. After any disassembly, it's good to perform a function test to ensure the firearm is safe to operate. If it doesn't pass, you've likely messed something up in reassembly.

Basic tools

Only a handful of tools are usually needed to tear down a firearm. Below is what I find to be the basics.

Camera: Snapping a picture at the various stages of disassembly is a quick and valuable way to jog your memory during reassembly.

Screwdrivers: Gunsmith screwdrivers have hollow-ground blades, a notably different shape than the tapered blade of a mechanic's screwdriver, the type typically found in your local hardware store. Using a screwdriver that fits the screw slot perfectly in both width and thickness prevents damage to screws as they are removed or torqued down.

Punches: Two different styles of punches are used on firearms: drift and roll pin. Drift punches are used for driving pins or moving sights and are made from steel, nylon or brass. Simply choose the right size for the task at hand. Roll pin punches are either "holder" type with a hollow to hold the pin in place for easy starting, or they have a projection in the centre to prevent deforming pins during installation.

Pliers: Parallel, smooth-jaw pliers are used for gripping pins. The smooth surface prevents marring.

Tweezers: Useful for those hard-to-reach places, a pair of needle-nose forceps is a useful addition to a toolbox.

Hammers: A few hammers, including an eight ounce, a 12 ounce and a ball-peen cover most situations. One each of brass and nylon/rubber non-marring hammers are at home on my bench, as well.

Shop manuals: Reference books are invaluable in the home shop. There are little tricks to disassembling different models of firearms and reference books will help walk you through the process.

Cleaning a firearm is much easier when it's supported in a gun vise.



Other tools

These are nice to have, but not absolutely necessary. Installing iron sights or optics, bedding an action or replacing a stock are projects that can use additional tools.

Bench block: Handy for supporting firearms while driving out pins. They can be purchased, or you can make the Canadian version by drilling a hole in a hockey puck.

Impact screwdriver: Designed to be tapped with a hammer to free stubborn screws. There is always a risk of damaging a screw or the firearm when using this tool, so use caution.

Firearm-specific tools: There are a number of firearm-specific tools that may be required for any given firearm. Examples include a bushing wrench to field strip a 1911 pistol and a Remington 700 bolt disassembly tool.

Torque wrench: While a bit pricy, a torque wrench prevents over-tightening screws and other fasteners. This is an easy mistake to make with small screws, like those in scope bases and mounts, and it can damage the firearm. Firearms are designed to work best when action screws (for example) are torqued to a specific value. Only a torque wrench allows this task to be done accurately.

Crosshair levelling tool: This consists of two bubble levels. One ensures the rifle is level, the other ensures the scope's crosshairs are properly aligned in relation to the rifle.

Bore sighter: Allows approximate alignment of a scope, so your first round

will hit the paper target. I like to use the optical collimator-style bore sight.

There are many more items that can be added depending on the specific project. Wood working tools for stock work; checkering tools to add a custom flare to the wood; a selection of files and stones for fitting and smoothing metal parts; receiver drilling jigs, bolt jewellery jigs, chamber reamers - the list is lengthy. Take a look at *Brownell's Catalogue* - an encyclopaedia of gunsmithing tools, gun parts and aftermarket accessories. You'll soon learn there is a tool available for every project.

Shop-made tools

Sometimes tools are easier to make than they are to buy. Drift punches can be made from brass brazing rod; serrations can be ground off pliers to prevent marring; flat-blade screwdrivers can be ground into specialty shapes to fit different applications.

When troubleshooting a misfiring Browning Citori, I had to free the tip of the spring guides from the recess in the hammer. I needed a tool that would allow me to compress the hammer springs. Rather than purchasing a specialty tool, I ground a groove in a flat-blade hex bit, large enough to fit around the spring guides. A little downward pressure and the springs and guides were easily removed.

Gunsmithing projects gone wrong

At every gun show, I see pathetic specimens wearing the scars of home projects that have gone horribly wrong. Not only do they look awful, they can be dangerous as well. I once spied a Winchester 1897 shotgun on a vendor's table. I don't see many of them around,

as they get snapped up by cowboy action shooters, so I took a closer look. And I could see why this one was still available. An uneven coating of flat black paint covered the receiver and barrel. Damaged screw heads and a cracked stock rounded out this one-of-a-kind scattergun. Someone hadn't taken the time to learn how to do it right. Don't be that guy!

Working on firearms is a satisfying hobby that is well within reach of most firearm owners. Start with the basics, like doing a detailed strip of a firearm, and you'll quickly gain a new appreciation for firearms design. Take the time to learn how each gun functions, and you will be better able to diagnose problems. Educate yourself; there are some great courses out there on DVD. Build on these skills, get the right tools and you'll soon be tackling more advanced projects as a home gunsmith.

RESOURCES

Brownells (www.brownells.com) One-stop shopping for gunsmithing tools, gun parts and accessories. And they ship to Canada!

Gun Digest (www.gundigeststore.com) A go-to source for books on gunsmithing, as well as assembly/disassembly manuals. Exploded parts diagrams for many different firearms can be purchased and downloaded as a PDF.

The Firearms Guide (www.firearms-guide.com) A reference guide for firearms, ammunition and airguns. Containing over 4,850 firearms schematics, there's a good chance a diagram for your firearm is on this comprehensive DVD.

A LEE-ENFIELD REBUILD

Taking a beat-up, old military rifle and turning it back into something useable

By Dean Roxby

The years following the end of the Second World War were both a glorious and an unfortunate time for military surplus rifle collectors. With the end of hostilities, hundreds of thousands of cheap military rifles flooded the market. The defeated nations, Germany and Japan, were stripped of their arms, while the victorious nations dramatically reduced their inventories. For many years following, this allowed the student of military history to amass a fine collection of arms at rock-bottom prices.

Unfortunately, it also encouraged far too many of these firearms to be sporterized. This term once meant improving the firearm, as in shortening the barrel, cutting off excess wood to lighten the gun, drilling the receiver for scope mounts and so on. At the time, this

made perfect sense. Now, 70 years later, the term has come to mean butchered or Bubba'd. Such sporterized guns have absolutely no value to the dedicated military enthusiast, and little value to the average hunter or shooter. The real value is now found in those guns that have managed to avoid such changes.

So, what becomes of a sporterized gun? A lucky few will be restored to near original condition, but most will simply remain as-is - hacksaw and wood rasp marks blatantly obvious; a sad reminder of how not to treat a piece of history. And some will be transformed into something quite presentable, although still less desirable than an unmolested specimen.

It's the route I took when a butchered Lee-Enfield No. 4 Mk. 1 was given to me for free - a perfectly reasonable price for

a Lee-Enfield with cut down wood, missing bolt and sawn down front-sight hood. While the wood potentially could have been replaced with original pattern, reproduction wood, the missing bolt meant it would forever be a mismatch at best. As well, the barrel and front sight had been altered. With all this in mind, the idea of a restoration was not a practical option. Thus, it was an easy decision to go the other route - that of updating it into something useable.

The first step was to obtain a replacement bolt. A post on the CanadianGun-Nutz web forum put me in contact with a helpful gentleman from Alberta. He offered a complete bolt for the cost of shipping only. While swapping bolts between similar rifles is generally not recommended because it can create head-



The project rifle, as received, with cut down stock and barrel and missing bolt. An original, complete Lee-Enfield (top) is shown for comparison.

space issues, the Lee-Enfield design has a simple fix for this. The bolt body has a removable head that comes in four different lengths, numbered from 0 to 3. The official sizes are:

- Number 0: 0.620 inches to 0.625 inches
- Number 1: 0.625 inches to 0.630 inches
- Number 2: 0.630 inches to 0.635 inches
- Number 3: 0.635 inches to 0.640 inches

So, if a replacement bolt has excessive headspace, then the next larger number bolt head can, in theory, be substituted. However, this is not absolute, as there is a tremendous variation in the true measured lengths. Fortunately, this replacement bolt fit well, so I was back in business.

Next, there was the issue of the front

sight, which had been tampered with. As metal had been removed, there was no turning back. As well, the crown of the barrel was damaged, so a good friend offered to cut the last inch off the end of the barrel and true it up. He was able to put the entire barrelled action in his lathe, so we did not need to remove the barrel from the receiver.

The original wood was really ugly, so out it went. That was an easy call. I had previously seen an aftermarket stock on display at the mighty SHOT Show in Las Vegas, and liked their product line. ATI (Advanced Technology International) makes glass-reinforced polymer stocks for various rifles, both military surplus and civilian models. Their Enfield line has two slightly different stocks, one for the earlier No. 1, Mk. 3, and another

for the later No. 4, Mk. 1 design. While similar at first glance, there are some important dimensional differences. But both variations of the ATI stock feature a modern Monte Carlo pattern, with a proper pistol grip and cheek piece.

I then added a Weaver pattern scope rail, also from ATI. This is a no-gunsmithing design that doesn't require any holes be drilled and tapped into the receiver, just the removal of the rear sight. Having said that, mine did require a bit of tinkering and gentle filing. Naturally, mounting a base of this design prevents using five-round stripper clips (chargers, in British terminology) to load the rifle.

With the rail firmly in place, I then added a red dot sight. A friend was selling his Bushnell TRS-25 and I have heard



good things about this sight, so I grabbed it right away. The TRS-25 is a small red dot sight that weighs in at 3.7 ounces and is well suited for the ATI base. It has 11 brightness levels to account for ambient light levels. At 100 metres and setting five, I found the dot to completely cover a target six inches in diameter. Turning the unit down to setting three allowed a small amount of the target to extend around the dot. Reflex sights, in general, are fast to use and give good accuracy, but as they are non-magnifying, they are more suited for close work rather than long range. This was confirmed by my shooting results, as I was able to do good work at 50 metres, but at 100 metres the groups opened up to at least four inches for a five-shot group.

Shooting the rifle for the first time also revealed issues with the magazine. It did not feed properly, as the tips of the cartridges were hanging up on the receiver feed ramps. Bloody frustrating! So the rest of the first range day was spent loading rounds singly. Later, I compared it to a proven magazine and it was apparent the right front feed lip was bent, as were the rear ones. This caused the rounds to be held at the

wrong angle, slightly nose-down. A few minutes with a pair of pliers put it right again. The magazine was also a rather tight fit going into or out of the rifle. A bit of work with a piece of sandpaper took care of a mould line on the stock, which helped a lot.

I also noticed that the fired cases looked noticeably different than the unfired live rounds I was using. A comparison of unfired and fired brass showed the latter had a longer and sharper shoulder fire-formed into it. The reason for this is that the Lee-Enfield chamber was cut oversize. The logic being that a battle rifle needs to chamber every single round, even if covered in mud, as might happen during trench warfare. No thought whatsoever was given to reloading brass. So where does that leave me now? The simplest option is to never reload, and only fire factory ammunition – which is also the most expensive route. Alternatively, I can resize the cases back to original spec, but case life will be short. Or I can neck-size only, to extend the life of my cases. Most likely this is what I will do. Going this route does mean that I will need to segregate this brass from that fired in my other Lee-Enfield rifles.

During the time this was all coming together, I did some research on various coatings. I wanted to give the rifle a distinctive camouflage pattern paint job and found several options, ranging from spray can enamel paints to more durable two-part chemical coatings, and even hydro-dipping camouflage patterns. Hydro-dipping offers very intricate patterns, but can be tricky to apply. Spray can paint is easy and cheap, but not really durable. So, I opted for a two-part resin system. There are several brands available, both as do-it-yourself kits and applied by professional applicators.

I wanted to apply it myself, rather than send it out, so I chose DuraCoat, from Lauer Weaponry. DuraCoat is a two-part resin coating consisting of a coloured portion and a chemical hardener. Because it is a chemical process, it does not need to be baked. This is important, as I do not have any means to bake a painted rifle. It is designed for the home hobbyist to use. The DuraCoat line has many camouflage patterns to choose from. Their kits come with the paints required and reusable adhesive stencils. I was intrigued with

I replaced the stock with an ATI unit and an ATI scope rail. The Bushnell TRS-25 is also mounted.



several camouflage patterns, and finally settled on one. Perhaps it was nationalistic pride that made me choose CAD-PAT (Canadian Disruptive Pattern). This is the unique pixel pattern camouflage now found on CF uniforms.

The DuraCoat kit I ordered contains four small jars of paint, the chemical hardener, a roll of reusable Peel 'N' Spray stencils, written instructions and even a short instructional DVD. This product needs to be applied by spray. For those with no airbrush equipment, there is a more deluxe kit that includes an aerosol pump sprayer. Mix the coating and the hardener together in the correct ratio, load the aerosol sprayer and you are ready to go. Naturally, the sprayer needs to be completely cleaned prior to applying subsequent colours, but it is reusable. I was in the market for an airbrush anyway, so I did not go this route.

It is vital that all parts be completely degreased prior to applying the coatings. Naturally, DuraCoat sells a cleaner/degreaser in an aerosol can, called TruStrip. It is designed to not leave any residue of its own after drying. As my project rifle had seven decades of gunk

to remove, this seemed like a good idea. Because I didn't know how much mileage I would get from the can, I pre-cleaned my parts in acetone and then hit them with the TruStrip. The actual coating process went well, spread over several days. Each colour layer requires a minimum of two to three hours to cure before applying the adhesive templates. As suggested in the instructions, you can apply one colour per day, and then get on with the rest of your day. Once the base coat cured, some of the templates were added. This masks the first colour underneath from the following layers. It takes a bit of planning to think which colours are held back. The process is repeated for the second colour and second group of templates. Once the third colour has cured, all the templates can be removed. A reverse female template is then used to give minor highlights of a fourth colour.

The system works, and I am delighted with the results of my first attempt at gun painting. I did notice two minor issues. The templates are thin and prone to static cling. Also, they leave a lot of sticky residue after removal. Not a deal breaker, but worth noting.

RESOURCES

atigunstocks.com
Aftermarket stock and sight base for Lee-Enfield

hical.ca
Hi Caliber Services, Canadian source for ATI stock and scope base

bushnell.com
TRS-25 red dot sight

lauerweaponry.com
DuraCoat manufacturer

beetleoutdoorsupply.com
Canadian importers for DuraCoat

This rifle has been a fun project for me. As I am mainly a milsurp collector, I don't often do a lot of creative work on my rifles. What started as a beat-up, non-functioning gun is now a rifle with a modern, unique look. More importantly, it has personal meaning for me. As I look at it, I am reminded of the input from friends that helped make this possible. I am grateful to Randy for the original gun, the gentleman who provided the bolt, Sean and his lathe work and Omid for the TRS-25.

The finished product.



A Tikka/Quigley

A match made in Heaven

By Duane Radford



7-Ford Combo



Y

ou know the bug; you get your heart set on a certain rifle and scope combination. Sometimes you can't sleep at night because you're thinking about this new outfit. I was afflicted, and finally caved in when I won a 4-16X50 Quigley-Ford scope in an Outdoor Writers of Canada membership contest. That was the spark for me to trade in a perfectly good Ruger M77 Mark II Ultra Light bolt-action 204 Ruger with a 4-12X40mm Leupold scope, for a Tikka T3 Lite rifle in the same calibre. The trade was a bit of a bath, financially. You don't always think straight when you fall in love though. I'd been smitten by the Tikka brand.

The 204 Ruger is a centrefire rifle cartridge developed by Hornady and Ruger in 2004, and ranks near the top of the fastest commercially loaded cartridges available. The Hornady factory load is listed at 4,225 feet per second with a 32-grain bullet. I purchased the 204 Ruger M77 II in 2005 and was impressed with its performance. However, as things turned out, the Tikka T3 Lite rifle shot tighter groups.

Rifle specifications

The Tikka T3 series features a plethora of rifles that are pleasing to the eye. Southpaws have long been attracted to the Tikka brand, which has catered to the left-handed market. They are known for being light, sturdy rifles, and come in variations featuring stocks of oiled walnut, grey laminate, camouflage and black polymer. Metal surfaces can be blued or stainless, and barrels are available fluted. Talk about options.

My 204 Ruger Tikka T3 Lite rifle is equipped with a durable, low-maintenance, black polymer stock with a stainless steel barrel and matching metal parts. Distinct, positive checkering on the forend and pistol grip provides a comfortable, firm grip in all weather conditions. The stock is fitted with a recoil pad, along with standard sling-swivel studs under the forend and buttstock.

The polymer stock and high-grade stainless steel are easy to clean and can stand up to adverse weather conditions, an important feature for Canadian hunters. The rifle's barrel features a 12-inch rate of twist and a length of 22 7/16 inches. Overall length is 42 5/16 inches, and the six-pound weight is a bonus when



The best five-shot group was 0.669 inches. Handloading works!

carrying it over long distances.

The rifle has a two-stage safety that, when engaged, blocks the trigger and locks the bolt down. It's well positioned, beside the bolt handle, for ease of use. When the rifle is cocked and ready to fire, the red dot at the rear of the safety and another red indicator at the rear end of the bolt are both conspicuous. The safety is ridged, front and back, and moves silently with a slip of the finger.

The action is rigid and houses a two-lug bolt, which operates smoothly with little movement from side to side. A lever at the left rear of the action makes the bolt easy to remove and service. The rifle has a single-stage trigger with an adjustable pull of two to four pounds, but I made no adjustments to its factory setting, finding the trigger has no creep and works perfectly as is. The detachable synthetic magazine holds four cartridges and I found it to be a bit stiff initially. With some lubricant it loosened up and cartridges fed easily. This rifle sells for around \$800 at my local Cabela's and Wholesale Sports.

Scope specifications

The optic I mounted on the Tikka rifle is a Quigley-Ford rifle scope, a Canadian product made at their factory in Nottawa, Ont. My scope is their QF 416 model and its specifications are as follows:

Reticle position: second focal plane

Eye relief: three to four inches

Scope adjustment: quarter inch per click at 100 yards

Parallax adjustment: adjustable objective

Scope weight: 23.5 ounces

Magnification: 4x-16x

Scope objective diameter: 50 millimetres

Scope tube size: one inch

Scope length: 15 inches

These scopes are available customized specifically for the calibre of your rifle and the ammunition you are using. Ballistic coefficient and velocity are used to calculate a trajectory and the reticle is customized to that bullet path. These particulars are then engraved on the scope so there's no mistake as to what the scope is calibrated for.



When using a Quigley-Ford scope, you only have to determine the range to your target and then select the reticle aiming point within the scope that matches that distance. Put that aiming point on your target and take the shot.

My scope was mounted at a local gun shop using Leopold bases and rings, and then bore sighted. After firing three shots at 25 yards, I was surprised to find my group a full eight inches low. After making some elevation adjustments, I zeroed the rifle at 25 yards and then eventually at 200 yards, as recommended by the factory. The only downside I experienced with the scope was less-than-definitive clicks when adjusting the windage and elevation.

The QF 416 scope sells for \$800 direct from the factory and, like all Quigley-Ford scopes, comes with a full lifetime warranty.

Shooting

I tested the Tikka T3 Lite and Quigley-Ford scope combination with two Hornady factory loads: a 32-grain V-Max offering and a 40-grain V-Max. Both are popular for varmints, such as ground squirrels and coyotes. I fired two five-shot groups at 100 yards with each ammunition, all from a solid rest and measured group size from centre-to-centre of the furthest shots with a digital caliper.

I gave the rifle a basic cleaning after every five shots and let the barrel cool off for several minutes before

All their scopes feature second focal plane reticles, so the aiming points on the reticle are only correct at one specific magnification, usually the highest.

They also come equipped with an adjustable objective, allowing for parallax adjustment at various distances and helping ensure the target remains in focus.



These scopes are available customized specifically for the calibre of your rifle and the ammunition you are using. These particulars are then engraved on the scope so there's no mistake as to what the scope is calibrated for.

firing the next series of rounds. No copper fouling surfaced while doing this. I used a Caldwell Lead Sled Plus gun rest for sighting-in purposes. This is a great rest, ideal for sighting in because of its ability to absorb recoil and minimize flinching; something that admittedly isn't a factor when shooting the 204 Ruger.

It's not unusual to have the odd flyer or stray bullet during a day on the range, especially when testing a new rifle under active range conditions, with all their distractions. For a first-time test, using factory loads, the rifle shot well.

In the best two centre-to-centre groups of three shots, all the bullet holes were basically touching each other at 100 yards. That isn't too shabby for the first go around, but I thought the rifle could shoot tighter groups. So, I subsequently test fired a handload using 32-grain Hornady V-Max bullets and 28-grain H335 powder, a load I'd worked up for my old Ruger M77 Mark II Ultra

Light. The best five-shot group was 0.669 inches. Handloading works!

Conclusions

Did I make the right decision when I traded in my Ruger M77 Mark II for the Tikka T3 Lite rifle? Was I heart broken or did my intuition prove right? I thought it was a marriage blessed in Heaven when I finished the first of five Hornady 204 Ruger 32-grain V-Max test rounds at 100 yards. Furthermore, the honeymoon wasn't too bad either when I shot the last five test rounds of Hornady 204 Ruger 40-grain V-max rounds. The acid test was when I test fired five handloaded 32-grain V-Max bullets, which had a centre-to-centre group of 0.669 inches and fit inside a loonie. With some practice, I'm confident the groups will get even better. Coyotes, watch out! Gophers, keep your head down!

204 Ruger, Tikka T3 Lite rifle - accuracy testing

| Ammunition | Velocity | Group 1 | Group 2 | Average |
|------------------------|----------|--------------|--------------|------------|
| Hornady 32-grain V-Max | 4,225 | 1.275 inches | 1.379 inches | 1.4 inches |
| Hornady 40-grain V-Max | 3,900 | 0.938 inches | 1.397 inches | 1.2 inches |

Notwithstanding the overall test results, even more interesting are the best of three centre-to-centre groups for the 32-grain V-Max at 0.377 inches and the 40-grain V-Max at 0.354 inches. I believe these groups are more representative of the capability of the Tikka T3 Lite rifle.

er at 100 yards. That isn't too shabby for the first go around, but I thought the rifle could shoot tighter groups. So, I subsequently test fired a handload using 32-grain Hornady V-Max bullets and 28-grain H335 powder, a load I'd worked up for my old Ruger M77 Mark II Ultra



I used a Caldwell Lead Sled Plus gun rest for sighting in. This is a great rest, ideal for sighting in because of its ability to absorb recoil and minimize flinching; something that admittedly isn't a factor when shooting the 204 Ruger.

How Dangerous Are Gun Owners?



*Are you a threat
to public safety?
The police think you are*

Gary Mauser

Every night, the police check all licensed firearms owners. As if that was not enough, the RCMP encourages officers to check before attending a call to see if anyone has a firearms licence at their destination. Licence information is made readily available on the Canadian Police Information Centre (CPIC) virtually without restriction through the portal to the Canadian Firearms Registry Online (CFRO). Typically, police are required to apply to a court for a warrant to access important personal information on law-abiding Canadians – but not for firearms owners. The RCMP justifies routine access to information about firearms licences by arguing that merely owning a gun poses a threat to public safety. The police say they need to know who has guns. To make this claim, the RCMP must ignore strong evidence that this policy is wrong headed.

By making firearms licences habitually available on CPIC, the RCMP encourages police officers to treat law-abiding citizens the same way they would treat dangerous criminals. Doing so violates basic principles of policing, as well as good sense. This practice grew out of the gratuitous attack on the firearms community by the Liberal government in Bill C-68 in the 1990s. Not only does allowing access to firearms licences on CPIC systematically subject respectable citizens to police heavy-handedness

(thereby jeopardizing public co-operation, or worse), it also misleads police officers by confusing upstanding citizens with dangerous offenders. Even worse: encouraging police officers to consult CFRO before attending a call endangers them by falsely implying that virtually all firearms, including those held by violent criminals, are listed in CFRO. This is downright dangerous.

Ordinary, law-abiding gun owners are solid middle-class Canadians who make important contributions to their communities. (See my recent Mackenzie Institute paper). My analysis of Statistics Canada data shows that law-abiding gun owners are far less prone to violence than other Canadians. As I reported to Parliament, Canadians who have a firearms licence are less than one-third as likely to commit murder as other Canadians (Mauser 2012).

Despite the non-violent nature of most licensed gun owners, it is still conceivable that those who the police come in contact with could be violent. The police primarily visit residences where there is a problem. Police say all gun owners are dangerous – all gun owners, licensed or not. This is understandable because predicting who is likely to be violent is exceptionally difficult and guns are potentially dangerous.

The police argue, “More information is better,” saying it is important to have as much knowledge as possible before

an officer shows up at a door. This is a delusion. More information is not always better. The challenge of sorting and evaluating complex information increases exponentially as the number and variety of facts that must be considered increases. It is not an exaggeration to point out that police risk being overwhelmed with information that may be irrelevant or misleading. Police require the best information available, not mere volume. CPIC is a portal for many databases, including the CFRO and a variety of criminal record databases. The simplicity of PAL data makes it appear to be easier to understand than criminal records; criminal records are complex and confusing. Ease of use does not mean importance.

Are Possession and Acquisition Licence holders a hazard to police?

The Chiefs of Police claim licensed gun owners are more dangerous than other Canadians. But are they? What do the statistics say about the likelihood of licensed gun owners shooting police officers? The police have never produced any pertinent statistics to support the claim that licensed gun owners pose a threat to police. In truth, they cannot. Statistics Canada has never published any statistics on how many of the murderers of police officers held a firearms licence.

Despite the generally low homicide rate among law-abiding firearms



When attending a call where a person is considered agitated or violent, officers should always assume a weapon is present on scene. Access to the CFRO should be placed under warrant, as with all other individual information on law-abiding Canadians.



owners, PAL holders might still be uniquely dangerous in the specific context of police contact. Police are called for domestic disputes, rowdy parties and burglaries, as well as other situations where they may encounter emotionally distraught people. Domestic calls can be violent.

To know if law-abiding firearms owners pose a risk to police, it is necessary to examine police killings specifically to discover the number of murderers who hold a firearms licence. Only in this way can it be determined just how often licensed gun owners have shot and killed law enforcement officers.

This article presents what I found when I submitted a Special Request to Statistics Canada, asking that they examine the homicide statistics and report to me how many police officers were victims of firearm-related homicide between 1997 and 2013, and, how many accused held a valid firearm licence or FAC. (When I made this request, 2013 was the most recent year data was available). According to Statistics Canada, there were 18 police officers shot to death during this 17-year period. Of these, three murderers held a firearms licence (a PAL, POL or FAC). None of these shootings involved suicides or off-duty murders, according to Statistics Canada.

Table 1.
Police officers victim of homicide (1997 to 2013)

| Firearm licence | Total |
|-----------------|----------|
| Yes | 3 |
| No | 14 |
| <u>Unknown</u> | <u>1</u> |
| Total | 18 |

Source: Special Request, Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey

Even though the bulk of these police-officer shootings involved illegal firearms (15 out of 18), the police are not wrong in thinking that licence holders are a potential threat. Three licensees out of 18 police murders are three too many. While virtually all licence holders are pacific, the screening done by the Canada Firearms Centre is not perfect; it cannot weed out all criminally violent people.

However, placing this statistic into a broader perspective, we see there was an annual murder rate of 0.009 police members per 100,000 licence holders over the 17-year period between 1997 and 2013. (Three murders of law

enforcement officers out of approximately two million firearm licence holders.) In other words, about one in 10,000,000 PAL holders shoots and kills a police officer each year.

Comparing PAL holders with the general Canadian population shows that PAL holders pose approximately the same level of threat to police as the typical Canadian. According to the Officer Down Memorial Page, 40 Canadian law enforcement officers died while on duty as a result of an assault of some kind, including attacks with a firearm, knife or automobile between 1997 and 2013. Twenty of these deaths involved shooting, and an additional 20 involved another type of assault. If we take 27.1 million as the average annual Canadian population over the age of 15 during this time period, then the annual murder rate for police officers is 0.009 per 100,000 people in the adult population over this time period. In other words, about one in 10,000,000 adults - the same as PAL holders.

Table 2.
Police officer deaths on duty

| | Total | Murdered | | Total murdered |
|-------|-------|-------------|------------------|----------------|
| | | by gun fire | by other assault | |
| 1997 | 11 | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| 1998 | 6 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| 1999 | 6 | 0 | 3 | 3 |
| 2000 | 9 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| 2001 | 7 | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| 2002 | 12 | 1 | 3 | 4 |
| 2003 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2004 | 7 | 1 | 3 | 4 |
| 2005 | 11 | 5 | 0 | 5 |
| 2006 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| 2007 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| 2008 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2009 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 2010 | 7 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| 2011 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| 2012 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 2013 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Total | 112 | 20 | 20 | 40 |

Source: <http://canada.odmp.org/year.php?year=2004>

To conclude, the statistics show that PAL holders pose the same level of threat to police as the typical Canadian. About one in 10,000,000 Canadians each year is accused of murdering a police officer

- PAL holder or not. These statistics undercut the police practice of routinely relying upon PALs to indicate dangerousness when going on a call. No police lives are saved by checking the CFRO before going on a call. Consequently, the CFRO should be disconnected from CPIC, since it serves no practical purpose and is dangerously misleading. Access should be placed under warrant, as with all other individual information on law-abiding Canadians.

The police should always assume a weapon could be present when attending a residence where a person is distraught or agitated. Normal households contain a wide variety of items that could be used as a weapon by a violent person - such as kitchen knives. This is not to deny that PAL information might be useful in cases where police have other evidence that a person might be dangerous or distraught. Even incomplete information could be helpful to police officers. But in those cases, a warrant should be required for access to the CFRO database.

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Team NFA

Megan Tandy

The Speed Factor

In biathlon shooting, a multitude of factors can significantly affect an athlete's shooting environment - changing weather conditions, the other 60 plus competitors on the course and cheering crowds are only a few. Nonetheless, every athlete is individually responsible for his or her shooting performance. Dealing with external factors is simply part of the game. So, what is the single most critical factor to manage? It's speed! After all, biathlon is racing and the bottom line is, the fastest athlete wins.

"Faster is better" is true for a lot of sports, so why does it present such a fascinating, double-edged challenge on the biathlon range? It's because biathlon requires finding a balance that allows the athlete to deliver precision shots between bursts of extreme physical exertion. After all, a missed target results in a time penalty consisting of skiing a 150-metre penalty loop or the use of a spare bullet, all of which costs precious time. Biathlon shooting is all or nothing; in terms of racing, there are no good shots or bad shots, only hits or misses. Naturally, all athletes and coaches prefer to see what we call safe shots (nothing too close to the edge of the metal target), but that's a topic for training days. On race day, a hit is a hit.

The circumstances are always changing and the decisions made on the range are often determined by factors such as which other athletes are on the range and how well your race is going. For example: would shooting with high risk and high speed give me the chance to catch the group of skiers ahead of me, thereby giving me the chance to draft and ski faster than I would be able

to alone? Or, if I am well on my way to achieving a qualification criteria, such as a top 10 finish, should I instead shoot three seconds slower, but with safe, controlled hits, knowing I can't afford a miss? It's an ongoing mental game that never gets old and continues to challenge even the most experienced athletes.

While the average shooting times on the biathlon World Cup circuit have significantly decreased over the last six years, there is still a limit. How fast can an athlete reload? How little movement can we have between each shot? Can some athletes get away with only breathing every second shot despite a heart rate in excess of 175 beats per minute? As our top athletes continue to push the limits, the technology and rules of our sport are constantly adapting to keep up.

My rifle has several modifications, all of which help me shoot faster. My back sight cover has a tiny extension so I can easily open or close my sights with the flick of a finger, and little hand movement. My front sight is unusual and was one of only two such modifications on the World Cup circuit last season. The front sight cover springs have been removed and it has a small copper weight, which causes the sights to open and close by themselves when I get into or out of shooting position. The thumb extension on my bolt is a common modification for women or athletes with smaller hands and allows me to close my bolt smoother and faster, without moving my finger away from the trigger. A close look at the rifles in any world-class biathlon competition reveals how many athletes individualize their rifles, always seeking ways to be faster.

The International Biathlon Union has also had to react to the increasing speed on the shooting ranges. In the 2014-15 season, regulations were introduced preventing athletes from starting to remove their rifles from their backs before being stationary on the shooting mat. This season we have another new rule: Athletes may no longer open their bolt or touch their magazines unless they are stationary on the shooting mat. While these rule changes certainly cause many athletes to modify their set up procedures, it keeps our sport fair and safe.

As for how we get so fast? After the technical details and the challenge of making the right judgment call at the right moment, there is really only one thing left: practice, practice and more practice. Biathletes often train with time feedback from their coaches, which means knowing the time for the first shot, as well as the complete bout. The most common speed training is drills. This can be with or without live shots, and is nothing more than the exercise of repeatedly getting into shooting position and getting the target in focus as quickly and smoothly as possible, until it is second nature. I can go from standing in front of the shooting mat to in-position, target sighted and ready to shoot in 10 seconds, all with my eyes closed. That's not an unusual feat for a biathlete.

The art of biathlon shooting lies in being able to judge how much risk and speed is too much. When is it worth it? For those of us who know the sport well, it's a rare race in which athletes don't push the envelope a bit too far or find themselves in the penalty loop after a misjudgment on the range.

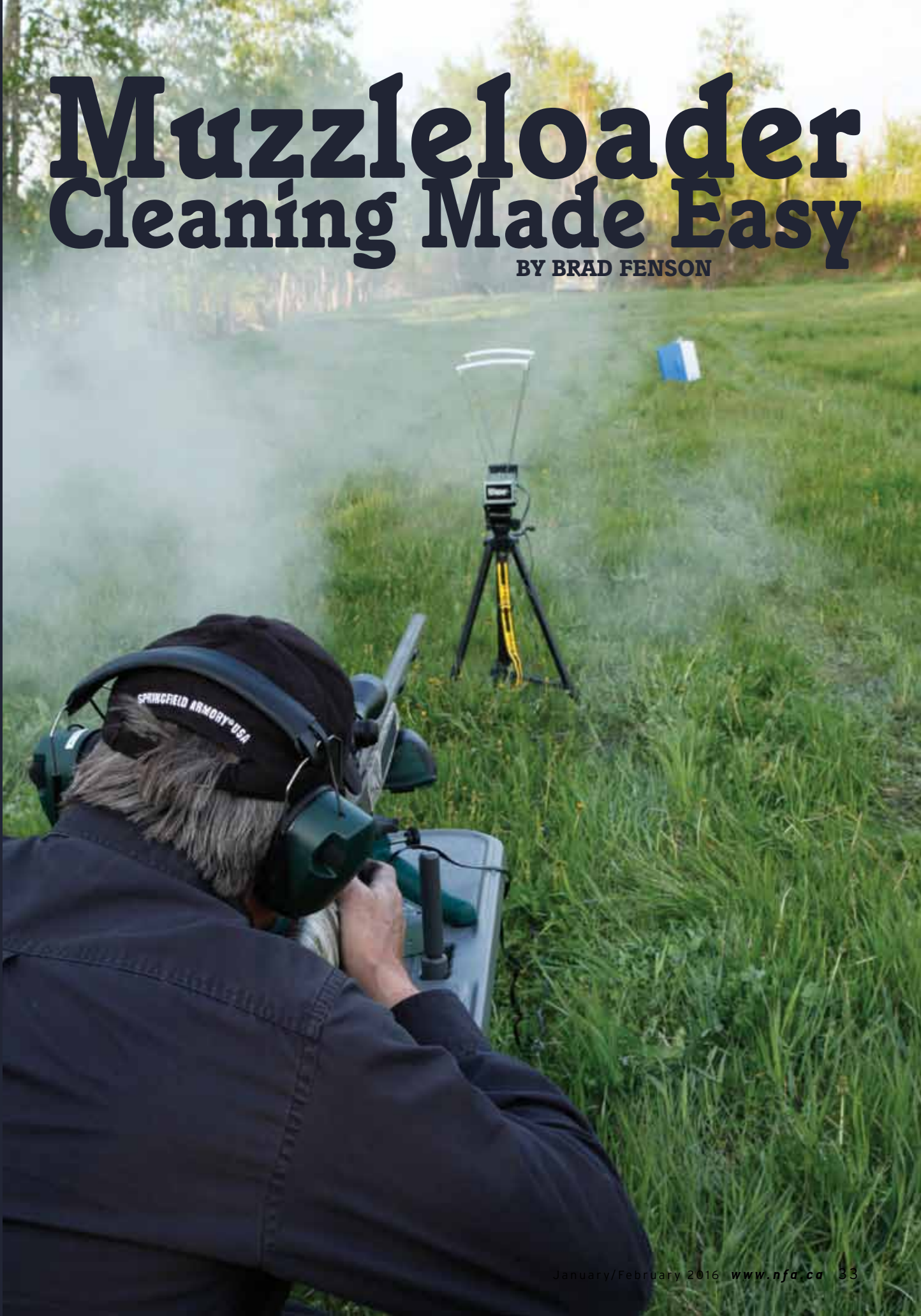


Megan's front sight is unusual and was one of only two such modifications on the World Cup circuit last season. The front sight cover springs have been removed and a small copper weight added, which causes the sights to open and close when she gets into or out of shooting position.

Editor's note: Don't let the name "Tandy" throw you off. This is the same Megan who has been a member of Team NFA for many years. The surname is all that's changed, not her winning ways or her contributions to the Canadian Firearms Journal.

Muzzleloader Cleaning Made Easy

BY BRAD FENSON



I VIVIDLY REMEMBER MY FIRST INTRODUCTION TO MUZZLELOADERS. I had a friend ask if he could stay at our house for a few days while he hunted with his favourite smokepole. I had access to some private land where a special deer season allowed primitive weapons, so an invitation was extended. He arrived two days later with an old side-lock, .54-calibre front stuffer. I immediately took an interest in the rifle and my buddy showed me how the gun worked, how to break it down and how to put back together.

We hunted hard the first day and although we saw deer, no shots were fired. At the end of the day, my friend told me the gun needed to be fired, as the powder would absorb moisture overnight and ruin his hunt the next day if not discharged from the gun. What I didn't expect was for him to ask if he could use our bathtub to clean the rifle. Once we got back to the house, he ran the water until it was as hot as it could get, he added some dish soap and dropped the barrel of the rifle right into the bath. He

swished water up and down the barrel before scrubbing it with different brushes. When no more black, greasy fouling came out of the barrel he rinsed it with clean water, dried it with a cotton cloth, and stood it muzzle down in the corner of the kitchen to dry completely.

I asked if all the cleaning effort every time he fired the gun was worth the extra work. His answer was a quick and definite, "Yes."

Shortly after that I picked up my first muzzle-loading rifle, a Traditions inline gun with a bolt action to seal the breech and primer. The ignition system may have been more dependable on this new rifle, but I quickly found the effort required for cleaning was still significant.

Almost two decades have passed since I obtained my first muzzleloader, and some of the biggest changes in muzzleloader technology are directly related to cleaning. Easy cleaning and maintenance are now significant marketing aspects in the sale of all new black powder guns. Today, most modern inline guns don't have a separate nipple,

there are no special tools required to pull breech plugs and metal finishes are designed to resist corrosion.

Cleaning may be easier than ever before, but I'll be the first person to tell you there are no shortcuts when it comes to properly cleaning and maintaining any muzzle-loading rifle. Leave fouling in the barrel or in the breech plug and the gun is likely to fail when you need it most. More problems will arise when you need to break the gun down or do a more thorough cleaning and find the breech plug stuck in the rifle. I've helped more than one person save their gun after it was put away without being cleaned properly. It often required soaking the barrel and breech in a cleaning solution, which eventually allowed the threads to break free and allowed the ignition system to be removed from the gun. After that, a complete cleaning was required, with extra elbow grease to remove rust.

Cleaning made easy

Cleaning modern muzzleloaders is often looked at as a daunting task, but



The first cleaning chore is to remove the breech plug and put it in a solvent bath.

it's never been easier. And it's a necessary exercise to ensure your rifle performs as it should. Remember, if you treat your rifle well, it will always pay you back with perfect performance.

The first cleaning chore is to remove the breech plug and put it in a solvent bath. There are several companies who make a bath container, with a basket that lifts in and out of the solvent for cleaning. I normally drop the breech plug in the bath while I spray the inside of the barrel with solvent or cleaning foam. I like to clean the barrel from the breech to the muzzle, allowing the solvent or foam to carry the fouling out of the barrel as it works its way down the rifling.

The next step is one of the most important, and involves using a brass brush to remove debris hidden in the lands and grooves of the rifling. This is a part of the barrel you can't see by looking down the bore, and if you don't use a brush the fouling will cause rust and steal accuracy from your barrel. It takes less than a minute to run a brush up and down the barrel several times to scour its entire length, with the aid of solvent, cleaning solution or foam.

At this point, I use pre-soaked patches to work the extra solvent out of the barrel and remove fouling dissolved within the solution. I find most barrels can be cleaned with three or four patches if shooting Triple Seven, White Hots or some of the newer powders like Buckhorn 209 or Blackhorn MZ. Many of these newer powders feature a low sulfur content, which makes clean up extremely easy.

I remember the first time I used the new loose powders, which supposedly allow you to hunt an entire week before cleaning. I found out first hand that doesn't always work, as I had a hang fire on a big 10-point buck. It was the last time I tried a shortcut in muzzleloading, and to this day I always clean my gun the same way, no matter what powder I use. If you use traditional black powder, you already know clean up is more involved. Even Pyrodex takes a few more patches than other powders, but it is really just a matter of minutes, as you're running 10 or 12 patches down the barrel versus three to five.

Once your pre-soaked patches start exiting the barrel without showing black fouling, you can begin pushing dry patches. The dry cotton will actually pick up fouling hiding or sticking to the inner surface of your barrel and it isn't uncommon for the first couple of



Once your pre-soaked patches start exiting the barrel without showing black fouling you can begin pushing dry patches.



There are separate brushes sold for the breech threads, which allows you to use a short wire handle to twist and clean them properly, but old toothbrushes also work well.

patches to show more colour than the last wet patch you ran. If you notice the fouling persists, simply run another patch pre-soaked in solvent. If you skipped using the brass brush, you often see more fouling at this point, which helps to point out the importance of brushing the barrel each time. When the patches come through the barrel with no fouling, you have to run a couple more through until they come out dry.

You can now work at cleaning the threads for the breech plug inside the barrel. They should have already been scrubbed with the brass brush and twisting the bristles through the threads in a circular motion will have dislodged excess debris. These threads can be a little tricky to clean as there is always some thread lubricant remaining, but putting a patch on the outside of the brass brush helps remove it. There are also separate brushes sold for the breech threads, which allows you to use a short wire handle to twist and clean them

properly. Old toothbrushes work well too, and I've even known a few hunting buddies who will steal your toothbrush in camp to clean their guns. It always means a trip to town the next day.

By the time you have the barrel cleaned, you likely have less than five minutes invested in the cleaning process. It's now time to go back to the breech plug, as the bath will have loosened any debris and just agitating the solution jar will have removed the majority of fouling. I use the old toothbrush, or a breech plug brush you can purchase, to remove all lubricant from the threads. I use pipe cleaners to remove excess fouling and solvent from the ignition port itself. Dry patches or a cotton cloth can be used to dry and clean the remaining surfaces.

The next step is critical. Cover the breech plug's threads with lubricant so it can be easily removed no matter how much shooting is done the next time you have the rifle out. The threads

provide a tight seal of the breech, and fouling shouldn't make its way into the grooves. I screw the breech plug completely into the barrel and back out again to ensure all threads have been lubricated. I then tighten the plug to the fully locked position with fingers only. Most guns won't close if the breech isn't fully inserted, and you don't need a tool or to over tighten the threads in order for it to work.

At this point, you are likely less than 10 minutes into cleaning and should have your rifle completely cleaned and reassembled. You can run a thin coat of oil down the barrel if it won't be used for some time. Otherwise, I just leave it dry and clean and ready for the next adventure. If you do use oil, make sure to run a couple of solvent patches, followed by dry patches, before hunting or shooting the next time. With modern guns, powders and cleaning equipment, a bathtub is no longer needed to clean your muzzleloader.



DUMMY CARTRIDGES

By Bob Shell

A type of ammunition that doesn't get enough respect from shooters is a dummy round – inert cartridges with no powder or primer. If it doesn't go bang, most shooters lose interest. In truth, there are many uses for cartridges that aren't functional.

Why dummies?

Most gunsmiths use inert rounds as a safe alternative for live ammunition, when checking a gun to make sure it's functioning correctly. When a gunsmith does repairs to an extractor or ejector, the only way to assess the repair is to try it out. Using live ammunition poses safety concerns, especially indoors. In those circumstances, and others, dummy ammunition is the best way to go. Live ammunition is required only for accuracy and pressure testing. Even just checking to see if a gun will successfully fire requires only a primed cartridge - no projectile needed. While I am not a gunsmith, I do work on my guns and dummies are always around.

In the past, I have taught some hunting safety courses and never had live

ammunition available to the students. Dummy rounds will do everything that needs to be done in a classroom. They are perfectly suited to show people what ammunition looks like and to safely demonstrate how a gun operates. The one exception I always made was some live ammunition used to show the students what damage a bullet could do. I generally shot at a 25-pound block of ice. That makes a graphic demonstration and helps motivate everyone to stay safe.

A major problem with many shooters is flinching. One way to detect that problem is to give the shooter a mixture of dummy and live rounds. If there is a flinching problem, it will be apparent immediately and can be dealt with through remedial training, using dummies to assist.

There are numerous ways to collect cartridges, but the easiest and least expensive way is to make duplicate rounds. Over the years, I've made many rounds for cartridge collectors. Some rare and original rounds can be expensive and a dummy duplicate shows what the original looks like. The cartridge can even be aged to make it look old. A little water mixed with vinegar and salt usually does the job. Also, a true dummy round has no powder or live primer, which cuts down on regulations regarding sending or receiving ammunition. Many amateur collectors employ this method, especially if a youngster is involved in a project.

For people who don't like to dry-fire their shotguns, snap caps come in handy and are a form of dummy ammunition. It's the same for rimfire firearms.



You should never dry-fire a rimfire without a dummy, or at least a fired case in the chamber.

Another use for dummy ammunition is key chains and jewelry. For a keychain, just drill a hole in the case large enough for a ring to pass through. This makes an attractive ornament to go along with your keys. For a short period, I made earrings using an empty case and the cup from a bullet. Since I make some of my jacketed bullets, an empty cup was formed because a bullet with its core can be too heavy for a delicate earring. Making these is time consuming, but produces an unusual gift. For someone who has more artistic talent than I do, you can make numerous decorative items using dummies.

Many theatre productions, movie

sets and re-enactors use dummies, too. I made up the dummy 7mm and 8mm Nambu ammunition for the movie studio that produced the Clint Eastwood movies *Letters From Iwo Jima* and *Flags Of Our Fathers*. Of course, they used blanks in their guns, but for handling and show the cartridges need to look real, but be inert. It would be a bad idea to have live ammunition around, as it could be inadvertently used and cause a tragic situation. Most production companies have strict procedures to prevent live ammunition finding its way to the actors.

Years ago when I worked at a prison, we had a shooting team. Back then, 38 Special revolvers were the handguns used in competition and speed loaders were not always allowed. Since some of the stages were timed, quick loading of the gun helped. The less time spent reloading, the more time we had to shoot. Therefore, I made dummies and practiced loading, dry firing and reloading during the evening hours. Today's 3-Gun competitors, as well as cowboy action shooters, do the same thing. When

speed is a factor, it's not always the best shot who wins - it could be the fastest reloader. In any case, it's a great way to practice during the off season.

Making dummies

Making dummies is fairly simple, but the exact method is determined by what the final use will be. If you have the handloading tools and dies for a specific calibre, you're in business. The procedures are the same as live ammunition, except in some narrow circumstances.

The brass is resized, just as in any operation where a bullet is going to be seated. The spent primer can be left in or removed, depending of what the dummy's purpose will be. If available, I use old or military brass for my dummies. For example, I have made dummies for belt-fed machine guns used in displays. Since military 30-06 Springfield or 308 Winchester brass is common and inexpensive, it is the brass of choice. With an original military bullet, it makes a nice display item because it looks authentic. Some other military calibres may still be



Left: Today's cowboy action shooters, as well as 3-Gun competitors and others, use dummy cartridges to practice rapid reloading of their firearms.

Inset: Dummy ammunition can be made into displays, such as these First and Second World War military rounds.

Below: Shotgun dummies are often seen in a white, translucent colour, and there's enough real estate on the shell to actually mark the word "DUMMY."





The 7.35mm Carcano cartridges (left) with the silver bullets would not fire, so they were made into display dummies and exhibited in their clip.

available but if not, 30-06 brass can be used to make them - 7X57mm, 7.7mm Japanese and 8mm Mauser rounds are good examples. Using old 30-06 brass has a couple of upsides. First, it is inexpensive, and since it is 70 years old or older, you have that authentic look. You do have to shorten and form it, which takes time.

Steel cases can be used, though some necks may not be as malleable as brass and may not hold the bullet tight enough. That is something you will have to figure out for whatever type of cartridge case you're using. Some experimenting may be necessary to get exactly what you want. New brass can be used, but doing so may be an unnecessary expense.

When available, full metal jacket bullets should be used. The reason is chambering and ejecting rounds over time tends to deform bullet points. Repeated chambering can also drive bullets deeper and deeper into the case, so a tight fitting neck and/or crimp is essential to hold the bullets in place.

Some years ago, I had a customer who wanted 45 Colt ammunition for his cowboy belt. The problem was, he wanted a primer with no firing pin mark. That turned out to be a real pain, because soaking the primers in water for a few minutes didn't deactivate them. I had to soak them for several weeks until the water turned yellow with what was ap-

parently dissolved priming compound. Then I agitated them and soaked them some more, using extras I'd made to confirm they were indeed dead.

Since I work with many obsolete guns, dummies are often required. When possible, second quality brass is employed because some of those cases are really expensive. Magtech Ammunition makes brass shotgun shells, including 28 and 32 gauge, and these are handy for making odd ball ammunition. The company advises against forming this brass into rifle calibres, even black powder rounds. That didn't stop me from trying, but I found the cases separated at the rim. With that failure in mind, I now use them only for dummies. They cost less than the better brass, and for inert ammunition they are fine.

The most important thing to keep in mind when making dummies is to separate them from any live ammunition. There are various ways to do this, including clearly marked packages or boxes. Leaving out the primer will help identify individual cartridges as inert. Commercial dummies, including snap caps, are often brightly coloured in red or orange to identify their purpose. A line of rifle and pistol action-proving dummies for gunsmiths, available from Brownells, have a dark brown colour, unlike any live cartridge. Shotgun dummies are often seen in a white, trans-

lucent colour and there's enough real estate on the shell to actually mark the word "DUMMY."

Some people prefer silver-coloured cases for dummies because they are shinier and nickel-plated cases don't corrode in the belt loops of cowboys. The acids used in tanning leather are corrosive and will turn brass cases green over a period of time. Therefore, brass cases can be used for live fire ammunition and nickel cases for dummies.

A good way to identify homemade dummies is to drill through the cartridge case near the rim. Drill enough holes, usually three or four, so that no matter which way the cartridge is viewed, the holes are visible. Militaries have used different methods to mark their dummies, including heavily indented cases, but it's a method that requires special tooling and beyond what the average hobbyist can do.

A long, cold Canadian winter is a good time to make up dummy cartridges and to practice with them. But always be extremely careful when using dummies, and ensure there isn't a live round mixed in or even anywhere in the vicinity. Used properly, dummy cartridges can make us better and faster shooters, help diagnose gun problems and make nice displays. But these are firearms and ammunition we are dealing with, so be careful. Make dummies and use them, but don't be one.

SHOULD YOU HANDLOAD?

BY JEFF
HELSDON

CONSIDER THE
ADVANTAGES AND
DISADVANTAGES
BEFORE
DECIDING



At some point, most shooters who move any quantity of lead through their barrels question if handloading is right for them. Many things have changed since I first started handloading, and the answer to that question is no longer simple. Today's shooter needs to consider cost saving, accuracy potential, component availability and legal matters before making the decision whether to handload. If you're mulling over this question right now, the following may help.

SHOTGUN

When I started trap shooting, just about everybody at my gun club handloaded. It saved money, so I jumped in with both feet. I started out shooting a 16-gauge Model 12, which I inherited

from my grandfather. Although 16-gauge shells were available, the supply was sporadic and the selection of shot sizes and loads was even more limited. Handloading let me expand my shell selection and guaranteed availability.

After I purchased a 12-gauge gun, and then a 20-gauge, I purchased loaders for both. In those days, steel shot wasn't mandatory for waterfowl and I reloaded shells for anything and everything. In fact, I didn't buy a box of 12 or 20 gauge until steel shot became mandatory. I figured I was saving money and receiving the satisfaction of loading my own shells. Steel shot changed my handloading, and that of many others. It's not that you can't reload steel, it's just more complicated and I would have needed an adaptor for my loading press.

My initial venture into handloading was motivated by cost saving. So, let's examine that rationale for a minute and use a clay target load as an example. Checking with my local gun store, Tillsonburg Gun Shop, primers are \$6 per 100 when buying a small amount. Lead shot is \$44.95 for 25 pounds and wads are \$12.95 for 500. A good shotgun powder like 700X is \$39 and a typical one-ounce reload (this is an example only) uses 17 grains. Doing the math, this adds up to about the same cost per box, for one-ounce reloads, as purchasing these shells by the flat: \$7.50 per box.

The price example above does not cover the cost of empty hulls, which are a wear-and-tear item and must be replaced when worn out. It is possible to scrounge other people's empties at the gun club to keep costs down. My example also doesn't take into account savings possibilities through buying primers and powder in bulk.

Handloading for clay target shooting does allow more versatility in load selection. For instance, there is a trend towards lighter 7/8-ounce loads for sporting clays. These will cost less to load, but not necessarily to buy and are sometimes difficult to purchase already loaded. Additionally, handloading can't always duplicate the efficient patterns produced by good factory loads.

One of the great things about handloading shotgun shells is the minimal tooling needed to get started. All that's required is a loading press and components. Single stage loaders are the cheapest, but require the operator to move the shell from station to station, plus add the shotgun wad manually. A handy addition to these basic units is an automatic primer feeder. Depending on the experience of the handloader, anywhere from four to 10 boxes per hour can be loaded. Progressive presses are a major step up and turn out a loaded shell every time the handle is pulled. The machine moves the shell from station to station and the operator only needs to pull the handle and insert wads. This increases handloading speed and output tremendously.

METALLIC CARTRIDGES

Cost savings is the main driver when handloading shotgun shells, but is only one consideration when deciding to load metallic cartridges. Increased accuracy, a wider variety of loads, more consistent powder charges and the



Increased accuracy, a wider variety of loads, more consistent powder charges and the ability to tailor loads to an individual gun are all factors to consider when reloading rifle cartridges.

ability to tailor loads to an individual gun are all factors to consider when reloading rifle cartridges.

Like shotgun loaders, these loading presses come in single stage and progressive models. There are also turret models equipped with a rotating turret that allows the dies to be kept on the press and manually rotated into position as they are needed. Of course, dies are required for each calibre and must be adjusted to resize the cartridge properly and produce the correct overall cartridge length. With a single-stage press, it's necessary to swap between a resizing and a bullet-seating die, for each operation.

But, unlike shotgun reloading, significantly more equipment is needed to load metallic cartridges. Besides the press and dies, a scale to weigh powder charges is a must and a volume powder dispenser allows quicker handloading when accuracy isn't the primary consideration. When cases expand after several uses, a case trimmer is needed to bring the empties back to spec. Small tools such as calipers, case deburring tools and primer pocket cleaners are all needed, as well. Case lube is also a must, as it ensures cases don't get stuck in the die.

A major advantage to handloading rifle cartridges is that a handload can be tuned to your rifle and accuracy can be improved significantly. The handloader gets to choose bullet make and type, as well as powder manufacturer, brand of cartridge case and even primer. Variations in all these components and how they are assembled may all affect accuracy. If you're on a quest for the ultimate in accuracy, there are an unlimited number of combinations to experiment with.

For example, Hodgdon's reloading data suggests a 30-06 Springfield loaded with 150-grain bullets is safe with 54.0 to 57.5 grains of IMR 4350 powder. In developing a load, the handloader should assemble cartridges with 54, 55 and 56 grains of powder, shooting five shot groups with each. Then, if the 56-grain loads worked fine, without showing any signs of excessive pressure, try the maximum listed 57.5-grain load. Then, evaluate the results and refine the load further, changing bullet seating depth and making minor powder weight adjustments. You'll find what your gun likes. Doing this kind of testing is a welcome pastime for some shooters, but if it sounds like a cursed chore, then perhaps handloading isn't for you.

Cost saving is another factor in handloading metallic cartridges, and here the numbers are significantly different from reloading shotshells. Again, using the example of a 30-06 Springfield rifle and 150-grain bullets with 55 grains of IMR 4350 powder, the cost for all the components is \$14.20 per box of 20, when using Sierra bullets. Switch that basic bullet for a premium Barnes TTSX, and the cost is \$27.80

per box. By comparison, a box of loaded Barnes bullets is \$54.99. But, again, this example doesn't take bulk buying into account. It also doesn't factor in the cost of empty brass. It's possible to scrounge these from friends, save empties from your own factory ammunition or buy empty brass.

If you're a handgunner, an improvement in accuracy may not be a major incentive to begin handloading. But



Progressive presses rule in the world of handguns, so if you plan on doing a lot of shooting, units like this Dillon 550B are a great choice.

considering the amount of ammunition a handgun can consume, cost saving becomes a major issue. And there are savings to be had. Progressive presses rule in the world of handguns, so if you plan on doing a lot of shooting, that's a good place to start. A press capable of mid-quantity production rates should be able to produce 400 to 500 rounds an hour. High capacity presses will double that production rate, but your investment costs will rise substantially, too.

WHERE TO START

Just like when starting any new activity, the first thing needed to begin handloading is an education. Most experienced handloaders are always willing

to help a new shooter get started in the process and there are numerous good books and videos explaining the various procedures. Just make sure your sources are authoritative and trustworthy.

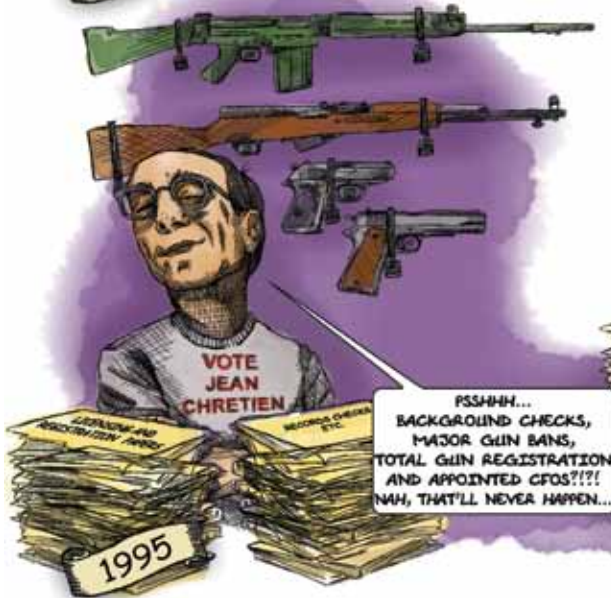
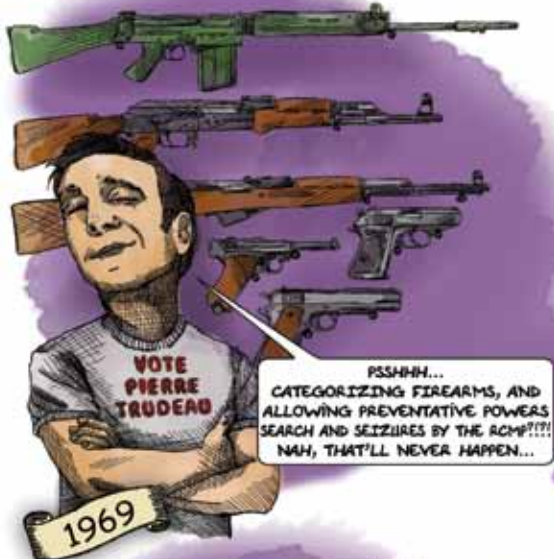
The companies that produce handloading tools and/or components are excellent sources for information. And once you have the necessary tools, you can rely on them for safe data as to which components, and in what quantity, will work best for your application. Do your research before buying those components. For instance, not all powders work well for all gauges/calibres or shooting applications. And this being Canada, it's a good idea to have a list of options as there are often challenges finding components, because many are in limited supply.

THE LETTER OF THE LAW

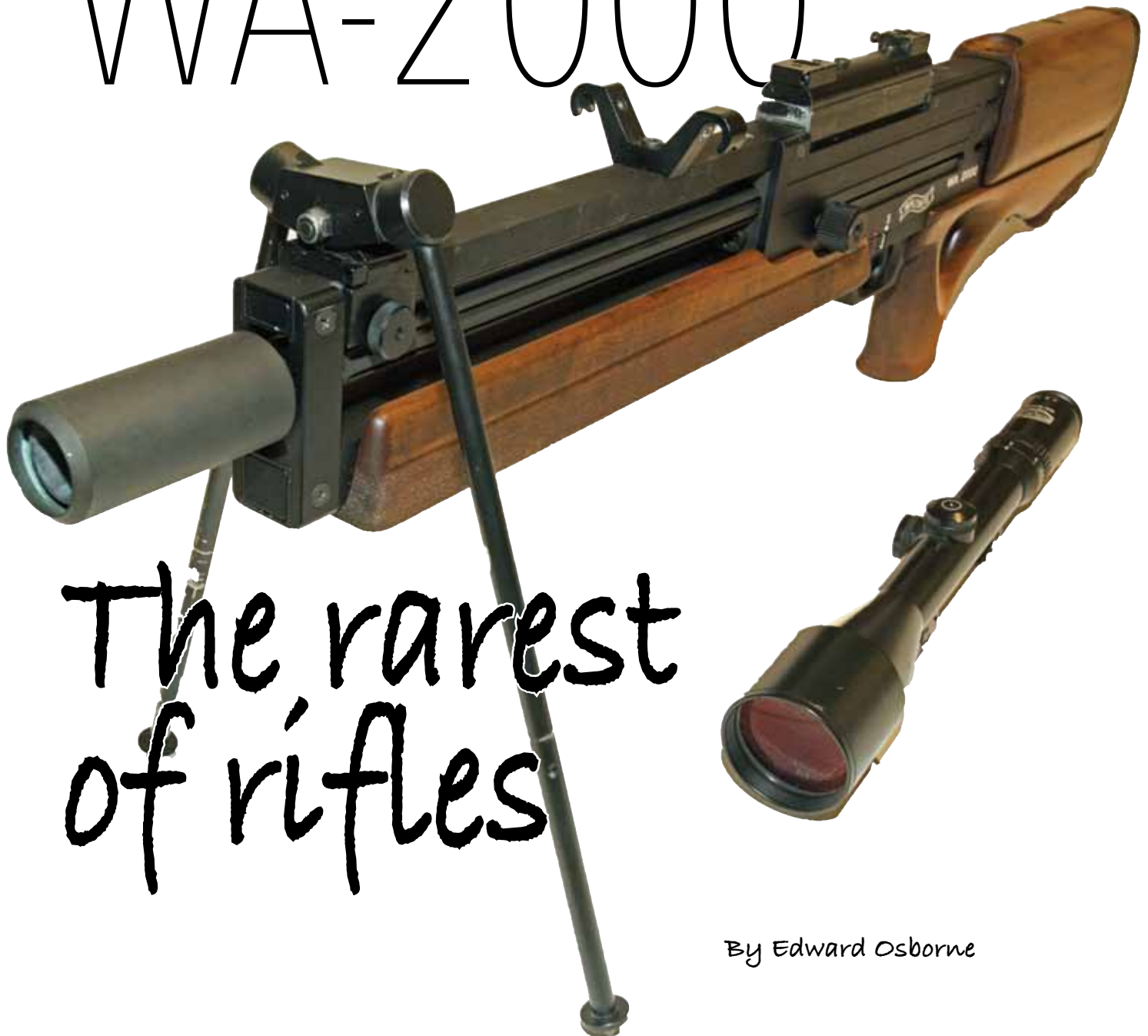
Handloaders should also be aware of the regulations governing handloading. They are lengthy enough that I can't even summarize them here, but an Internet search for *Canada Explosives Act Regulations* should quickly find them. The portions pertaining to ammunition and reloading components are located in Part 14 and, after a recent rewrite in 2013, they aren't too onerous.

Handloading has changed since I began doing it many years ago. But it's still a satisfying and rewarding activity. It can save money and provide you with more accurate ammunition than you can buy. If it sounds appealing to you, take the plunge and do it.

-A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE CANADIAN LIBERAL FIREARMS OWNER-



WALTHER'S WA-2000



The rarest
of rifles

By Edward Osborne

The WA-2000 is an immediately recognizable firearm - a truly unique creation and one of the rarest firearms in the world. One of the 176 rifles produced, this rifle is chambered in 300 Win Mag and wears a 25-inch barrel.



A close up of the safety, charging handle and barrel nut. Unlike most rifles, the WA-2000 does not have its caliber externally marked.



The WA-2000 is like a black rhinoceros - rare, elusive and extremely valuable to a select few. That model number might not sound familiar to you, and it's unlikely you've ever seen one on the shelf of a gun store. But you probably know it when you see it. The WA-2000 is an immediately recognizable firearm, a truly unique creation, and one of the rarest firearms in the world.

Back in 1982, the WA-2000 was a new design crafted by West German arms maker Carl Walther GmbH Sportwaffen. A semi-automatic rifle in a bullpup configuration, it was built specifically for police snipers and chambered in 300 Winchester Magnum. A distinctive wood and metal stock leaves the barrel exposed, but not quite free floated. It feeds from a six-round magazine and uses a gas-operated action. An integrated bipod is built into the stock and the rifle is normally paired with a Schmidt and Bender 2.5-10x56mm optic. The butt of the stock and the trigger pull weight are adjustable, similar to an Olympic biathlon rifle. While the system was built for the 300 Win Mag, Walther also created barrels and conversion kits allowing the rifle to shoot 308 Win and 7.5x55mm rounds. Only 176 completed rifles were produced and they have commanded prices as high as \$75,000.

The WA-2000 was born from historical tragedy. At the Munich 1972 Summer Olympics, terrorists from the Black September group kidnapped 11 athletes from the Israeli Olympic team. There was an armed standoff inside the Athlete's Village and extended hostage negotiations unfolded in front of the world. After an initial clumsy rescue attempt by German border police, which was broadcast on television, armed officers were forced to withdraw as negotiations continued. Remember, this was a time before the widespread presence of SWAT teams, Special Forces and professional negotiators. The terrorists, demanding passage to Egypt, loaded their

surviving hostages onto a bus and were subsequently transported in two helicopters to an airfield where a waiting aircraft would ostensibly take them to Cairo. But the actual plan was for German marksmen to kill the terrorist leaders on the airfield and free the hostages.

It was a doomed operation. Reports commissioned in the aftermath listed a string of errors and oversights that make the entire enterprise look ludicrous in retrospect. There were five German sharpshooters tasked with eliminating eight terrorists in nearly simultaneous fashion, using only the standard-issue G3 rifle with iron sights. Because of the West German constitution at the time, military forces could not be involved in actions on German soil, and so police officers were picked based on their recreational shooting skills. A personal

A close up of the ejection port, bolt release and magazine well. Note the lack of a shell deflector on the receiver.



The bipod in the open position. Unusually, the bipod is mounted on the top of the receiver and swings down on either side. You can see some of the wear on this particular WA-2000 on the bipod legs.

interest in firearms and dedication to recreational shooting sports will do wonders for an individual's marksmanship skills, but they are no substitute for dedicated sniper training. Even worse, snipers one and two found themselves positioned in a field directly opposite the snipers inside the control tower, sitting inside friendly fields of fire. The statistics on the yardages of each sniper are not publicly available, but the Fürstenfeldbruck tarmac is two kilometres wide and three kilometres long. These men had no radios, no night vision optics and were forced to initiate a gunfight at 11 p.m. when Luttfif Afif, leader of the Black September cell, discovered the getaway plane was unexpectedly empty. The resulting exchange of fire lasted over

an hour. At the end of it all, the hostages, five terrorists and a single police officer were killed.

This catastrophic failure led directly to the creation of the GSG-9 special police unit and the WA-2000. The sharpshooters that day needed better training, a better plan and a better rifle. The WA-2000 was designed as a compact, precision rifle that could be outfitted with a telescopic or night vision sight, still a rarity at the time. Walther chose to build the rifle around the 300 Win Mag cartridge specifically for its exceptional stopping power and flat trajectory.

So why did GSG-9 go on to become a world-class counter-

terrorism unit, while the WA-2000 only enjoyed a few years of extremely limited production before fading away into history?

The biggest limitation, by far, was the price. In 1982, the first year of official production, the base model cost \$9,000. This might seem expensive, but not unreasonable for a professional government agency with deep pockets. But remember, this was 1982. When you factor in the inflation, that \$9,000 price tag was the equivalent of \$22,000 in today's dollars. So, to have one or two of these rifles in the armory was a massive investment.

And unfortunately, they weren't quite ready yet. There are actually two variants of the WA-2000. The one you see pictured in this article is Gen 1, recognizable by the barrel style flash-hider and smooth rear wood. In a later generation, Walther switched to a more traditional elongated bird-cage flash hider, added a rear monopod sculpted into the wood and crucially improved the gas system. Interestingly, they also abandoned the fluted barrel of the first generation rifles in favour of a standard heavy barrel. Records from the early trials by SAS and Secret Service teams aren't available, but the rumour is that the initial run of rifles had reliability issues, which would also explain why the line did not see widespread adoption.

Despite that, the WA-2000 still enjoys a presence in popular culture. James Bond fans will recognize the rifle as carried by Timothy Dalton in *The Living Daylights*, while gamers may have noticed it featured in the *Call of Duty* and *Rainbow Six* series of videogames. The distinctive wood and metal combination, along with the price and rarity, have created a fiction that lives on.

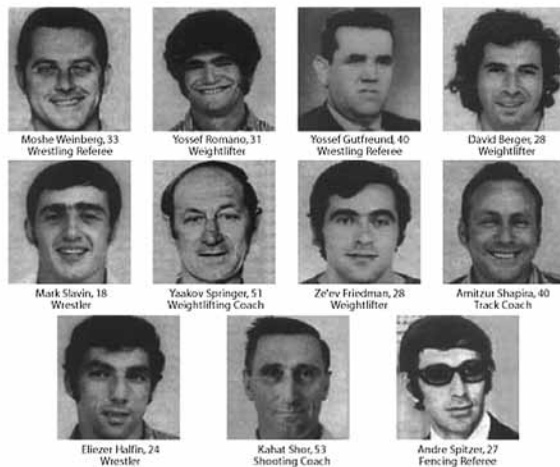
From the original 176 rifles, rumour has it only 15 ever made their way into the US. Eleven of those still reside in the possession of Earl J. Sheehan, Jr., president of Carl Walther in the US. This is where the prices start to get crazy. Keep in mind that during production, the WA-2000 could run from \$9,000 to \$12,000, but modern auctions of the rifles have ranged from \$36,000 to a whopping \$75,000. Apparently, if you ask Earl, he's still willing to sell a few of his 11 rifles, but you'd better bring your chequebook. That \$75,000 price is his. It's unknown how many of the initial 176 made their way into Canada, but we can say for certain one did.

The photos in this article were taken in Canada, of a first generation WA-2000 with an unusual past. Its current caretaker wishes to remain anonymous, and it took quite a bit of negotiating to get the photos you see here. This is because a healthy future for this particular rifle was in jeopardy not long ago. As part of an RCMP undercover operation several years ago, a man in his 60s was arrested on drug charges. A search of his home resulted in the discovery of the WA-2000, more drugs and a few other firearms, which were then confiscated. If you don't know, firearms confiscated in connection with drug crime often end up destroyed - a tragic end for something that should be in a museum. As part of the defendant's guilty plea, the judge accepted a joint petition from the defense and crown attorneys for the rifle to be donated to a caretaker, rather than face the smelter. That remarkable co-operation in the courtroom is what led to the photos you

see laid out before you: a rarity anywhere, and all the more so because this rifle is still putting rounds down range.

Whether the WA-2000 is actually worth its exorbitant price tag is open to debate, but it is doubtlessly an iconic firearm with plenty of history. This one, more than most.

The victims of Munich...



The Munich massacre was an attack during the 1972 Summer Olympics in Munich, West Germany, on 11 Israeli Olympic team members, who were taken hostage and eventually killed, along with a German police officer, by the Palestinian group Black September.

THE Sun
Wednesday, September 6, 1972

MASSACRE AT THE GAMES

Terrorists slaughter 9 Israeli athletes

By SAM PEREGRINE DESER
NINE Israeli Olympic athletes were shot dead early today in a gun battle between police and Arab terrorists. They were killed when West German police marksmen opened fire on the Palestinians, who had held the athletes for 18 hours. Five terrorists were killed and three captured. The massacre at the Forestalhof on Bonn, a few miles from the Olympic Village at Munich, was a senseless and, to the critics, that gripped the world yesterday. The Israelis and the hostages they captured in the Olympic Village had been flown there for helicopter to Israel, a jet to Cairo, Egypt. But the Germans harbored a planned ambush - and just after midnight the Arabs opened fire - Israeli before blowing five away up with a grenade. **Deser - Page 4 & 5**

Blinded victim... taken to Olympic village

After the horror... helicopters at NATO airbase following disaster rescue mission last night

One Gun's Story

Al Voth

The Tapioca Shotgun

When you move to a small town, it doesn't take long for word to get around that you're a gun guy. Eventually, wearing that label results in some interesting phone calls and coffee shop encounters. That's the situation I found myself in many years ago, when the reputation of being a gun guy led me to the tapioca shotgun. And yes, that's tapioca as in the pudding.

"So, you're the guy who collects guns," said the local resident, when we were first introduced.

"Well, I'm not really a collector," I said. "But I've never seen a gun I wasn't interested in."

"I should show you my old shotgun," he said. "My dad bought it in the dirty

'30s in a pawn shop in Vancouver. I think he paid \$10 for it." I nodded encouragingly. "It looks to be a custom-built gun," he said. "It was probably really expensive in its day, but my dad just wanted it to have a gun around the place. We're out of town a ways, and when he bought the property, critters like bears, cougars and coyotes needed to be discouraged." He stroked his chin and looked off in the distance. "But then something happened to it." His eyes came back to me. "It's a good story."

What gun guy could resist a teaser like that. So, we made arrangements to meet and I got my first look at the tapioca shotgun. My new friend handed me a double-barrel side-by-side shot-

gun with external hammers. The size of the receiver suggested right away that it was a 10 gauge and the owner confirmed it. From across the room, I could tell it was British and hand built. Hand-cut engraving decorated the side-plates and much of the other surfaces on the old gun. When he handed it to me, I saw the name W.W. GREENER was modestly engraved on each of those side-plates.

At this point, you'd think I would be wiping the drool from my face, but there was no danger of that happening. You see, the first six inches of the right-hand barrel was completely missing and the matching part of the left barrel was misshapen. The top and bottom ribs were curled back like a banana peel, indicat-



Greener-built guns require little introduction to gun people, since they are one of the most famous British makers.



ing something disastrous had happened in the muzzle area. I looked up at the owner. "Okay. What's the story on that?" I asked, pointing to the missing part of the shotgun's muzzle.

In response, he reached into a bag and pulled out two vintage boxes of Canner 10-gauge shotshells, opening both. One was full and the other had three shells missing.

"Sit down and hand me the gun," he said. "It's a long story."

"Remember, I told you my dad bought the shotgun to control critters on the homestead?" I nodded. "Well, the first problem he had with critters turned out to be the neighbour's cattle. Mom started a big garden and the neighbour's cows took a liking to it. They would break down the fence to get at her vegetables and, of course, they ruined all her hard work. Dad talked to the neighbour, but it didn't do any good and the fence got busted and the garden raided no matter what he did."

"Let me guess," I said. "He figured on using the shotgun to discourage them."

"Yup. But he didn't want to actually shoot the cows, he just wanted to scare

them off. About this time, a friend told him he could take the pellets out of a shotgun shell and replace them with rock salt. Shoot a cow with that, and it won't do any permanent damage, but it should discourage them from coming back. Good theory, right?"

I nodded in agreement. "I don't think rock salt would penetrate a cow's hide, but it might be worth a try."

"That's what he thought. So, he went to town and stopped at Ruby's Grocery looking for rock salt." The puzzled look on my face prompted him to explain. "Before your time," he waved dismissively. "Ruby Jim was a little Chinese lady and she used to have the only grocery store in town." He explained which downtown building used to be hers and I picked up a little local history in the process.

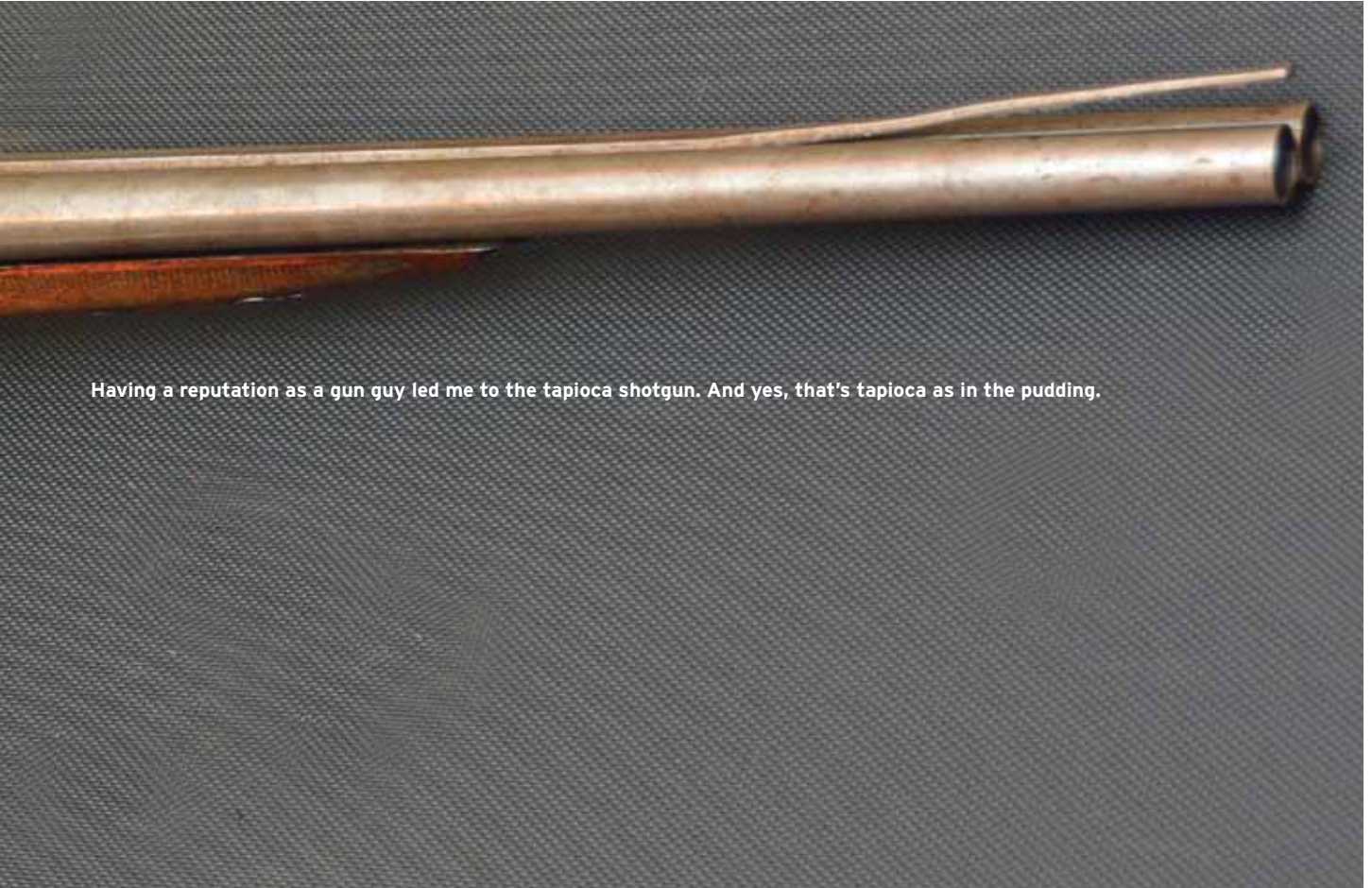
"Anyway," he continued, "Ruby had no rock salt. But she asked him what he wanted it for and when he explained, she hustled over to a counter and pulled down a box of tapioca pudding."

"This work good. Just like rock salt," she told him. "You see."

"Dad took her handloading advice, bought it and when he got home handloaded two 10-gauge shells with tapioca pudding granules." I buried my face in my hands, and the story-teller continued. "The next afternoon, mom yells at dad to tell him she sees the cows are back in the garden. So, dad grabs the shotgun and a box of shells and heads out to correct the situation.

"When he's close enough, he drops a tapioca shotshell into the right-hand barrel, levels off at the nearest cow and drops the hammer. There's a big boom, but the cow just looks up and wanders off to the other side of the garden and starts eating cabbages there." The story-teller opened the shotgun's action and pantomimed the next step. "Well, that didn't do much good, so he put another tapioca shell in the right-hand barrel and gave that cow another blast. Same reaction. The cow just wandered off a little further.

"Dad's getting a little frustrated by now and he's out of tapioca shells, too. The cows are far enough away, on the other side of the garden, and he figures pel-



Having a reputation as a gun guy led me to the tapioca shotgun. And yes, that's tapioca as in the pudding.

lets won't do any really damage to them, so he drops a load of #2s into the gun."

"Right-hand barrel?" I asked, already knowing the answer.

"You guessed it. And when he lowered the boom on that one, his world came to an end. The gun blew up and he went flying, arse over tea kettle. He woke up with a sore shoulder and some blood dripping down his face, but other than that he was fine. The cows were gone though."

I took the gun back and ran my hand over the remains of the barrel. "The tapioca melted and formed a solid block at the end of the barrel. Then, when he fired real ammo, the pressure had nowhere to go and it took the gun apart." My friend nodded in agreement. "Great story," I said.

"Why don't you give it a good home," he suggested. "I would just have to get a licence to keep it now and I don't want to do that." He put the ammo back in the bag and handed it over, as well. "Maybe you can restore it, or something." I thanked him and took the gun, having little idea what to do with it.

Later, when I had some time, I took the gun apart, did some basic cleaning and found an interesting inscription on the barrel's top rib. There it says: "W.W.GREENER, 'THE TRAP GUN', 68 HAYMARKET LONDON, MANUFACTURED EXPRESSLY FOR C. E. TISDALL, VANCOUVER, B.C." That prompted an investigation, but this gun arrived in my hands long before the Internet and research was much more difficult then.

Greener-built guns require little introduction to gun people, since they are one of the most famous British makers. But it was Tisdall that fascinated me the most. Since that time, I've learned that Charles Edward Tisdall was born in Birmingham, England, in 1866 as the son of another British gun maker, W. H. Tisdall. Charles moved to Fredericton, N.B., in 1886, where he set up a gunsmith shop of his own, but only operated it for two years before moving to Vancouver in 1888.

In Vancouver, he apparently opened a sporting good store, but quickly became active in politics and was elected to the provincial legislature, as well as serving as the 19th mayor of Vancouver from

1922 to 1923. He died in March 1936, and perhaps that is when this shotgun found its way into a pawn shop. From there, the trip to a remote farmyard and an encounter with a tapioca-shooting farmer finished its working career.

Because of the peeled-back barrel and ribs, the gun was impossible to put into a case of any kind. Since I was living a mobile life at the time, this prompted me to cut the damaged portion off, something I wish I hadn't done now. But it's still a minor piece of Canadian history and I think I'll look for a museum that would like an interesting firearm with a unique story behind it. There must be a home somewhere for a tapioca-shooting shotgun.

EDITOR'S NOTE

As we all know, every gun has a story to tell. If you have a gun with an 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 even assign one of our writers to tackle it. Write the editor at editor@nfa.ca.



Politics & Guns

Bruce Gold

America's High Homicide Rate & Other Lies

The high US gun ownership rate is frequently cited as causation for the high US homicide rate. Both are presented as extreme aberrations, which are far above similar rates in the rest of the world - a sign of US backwardness or the perverse influence of the "gun lobby." This supposed linkage is then used to support an argument for restrictions and confiscations. Some authors claim the US homicide and/or firearm's homicide rates are the highest in the world. More sophisticated versions of this argument restrict the highest rates claim to comparisons with the developed world or to comparable nations. These claims have gone unexamined for too long.

We can start by noting there is a general principle in the social sciences that cross jurisdiction comparisons should compare roughly similar jurisdictions, to better understand how factors interrelate. Following this practice, researchers often restrict their comparisons of the US to developed nations where the US stands out with both a high homicide rate and a high gun ownership rate.

However, we can note that anti-gunners are not doing policy studies to sort out policy effects between similar jurisdictions. Anti-gunners are arguing that there is a universal law governing the relationship between two factors: civilian gun ownership rates and homicide rates. Of course, if such a universal law exists, we should see it playing out across all cultures and societies, not just developed nations. If it is a universal law, then legislation and control efforts might modify the numbers and shift the final results, but the pattern should remain discernable to researcher's investigations.

Following this reasoning, let's examine the homicide rates across all countries where there is data available and look for this universal relationship. The first revelation is that the US does not

have the highest homicide rate. We find that some 93 countries have higher homicide rates than the US. The highest, Honduras, has a homicide rate of 90.4 per hundred thousand (all numbers from UN Office of Drugs and Crime, 2012 figures). This is almost 20 times the US rate of 4.7. Some 22 countries have rates four times as high, including Mexico with 21.5. Some 57 countries have rates more than twice as high as the US. The "horrific" US homicide rates start to look a lot different when put into perspective with the rest of the world, where the average homicide rate is 8.6, over twice the US rate. Those who sneer at the "violent" US while praising other cultures have some explaining to do. The numbers also explain why anti-gunners want to limit the comparison to a carefully chosen subset of countries where they get the preferred outcomes.

But how do these homicide rates relate to civilian firearm ownership rates? Let's examine the countries with the top 20 homicide rates where we also have firearm ownership rates:

| Country | Homicide rate/100,000 | Average firearms/100 people |
|--------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Honduras | 90.4 | 6.2 |
| Venezuela | 53.7 | 10.7 |
| Belize | 44.7 | 10 |
| El Salvador | 41.2 | 5.8 |
| Guatemala | 39.9 | 13.1 |
| Jamaica | 39.3 | 8.1 |
| Swaziland | 33.8 | 6.4 |
| South Africa | 31 | 12.7 |
| Colombia | 30.8 | 5.9 |
| Bahamas | 29.8 | 5.3 |
| Congo | 28.3 | 1.4 |
| Trinidad & Tobago | 28.3 | 1.6 |
| Brazil | 25.2 | 8 |
| Rwanda | 23.1 | 0.6 |
| Dominican Republic | 22.1 | 5.1 |
| Mexico | 21.5 | 15 |
| Nigeria | 20 | 1.5 |
| Equatorial Guinea | 19.3 | 19.9 |
| Botswana | 18.4 | 4.9 |
| Namibia | 17.2 | 12.6 |
| Average | 32.9 | 7.74 |

Sources: UNODC & Small Arms Survey

If we look at this chart, we can see at once that homicide rates are not determined by the rate at which civilians own firearms. The worst two countries have very modest firearms ownership rates, and the average of all these countries is a mere 7.74 per cent.

Some readers will note that I have not included firearms homicide rates in these comparisons, as so many anti-gun authors do. Unlike them, I see no reason to prioritize the means of death over the fact of death. Dead is dead and one wonders at the mental process of those who consider a death by firearm more important, immoral or ritually unclean than a stabbing or being beaten to death with a tire iron.

One might suspect there is some religious or cult-like superstition that justifies the precedence anti-gunners give to one means of death by an inanimate object and consider it more important than other means, also accomplished with inanimate objects - though of a different kind.

There are some other revelations in this little chart and the data behind it. For one, it brings into question the multicultural piety that all cultures are equal. Are we to draw no distinction between Canada's culture and the incredibly violent culture of Honduras with 177 times our homicide rate? Or even more bizarrely, are we to feel morally inferior because we have three times their firearms ownership rate? Perhaps the multiculturalists can enlighten us as to how, specifically, these cultures are equal or of equal worth.

Another revelation is how our little chart explains why Boko Haram terrorists can raid a Nigerian village, kidnap hundreds of girls into sex slavery and murder hundreds of villagers with impunity. The gun ownership rate of 1.5 per cent explains it all. The villagers are completely disarmed and helpless before a murderous military force. What local police protection exists, assuming it exists at all, would be hopelessly outclassed and hard put to defend itself, much less anyone else. Under these conditions, one might conclude that the old Anglo Saxon tradition of a citizen's militia, which still survives in countries like Canada, was the obvious policy response. The complete absence of any discussion, much less action towards forming a militia, is proof there are powerful people, both in Nigeria and internationally, who prefer sex slavery and butchery of their citizens to those citizens being armed.

But, let's also look at the claim of a universal law by examining the homicide rates in the 20 highest gun ownership jurisdictions.

| Country | Average firearms/100 People | Homicide rate/100,000 |
|----------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| United States | 88.8 | 4.7 |
| Switzerland | 45.7 | 0.6 |
| Finland | 45.3 | 1.6 |
| Serbia | 37.8 | 1.2 |
| Cyprus | 36.4 | 2 |
| Saudi Arabia | 35 | 0.8 |
| Iraq | 34.2 | 8 |
| Uruguay | 31.8 | 7.9 |
| Sweden | 31.6 | 0.7 |
| Norway | 31.3 | 2.2 |
| France | 31.2 | 1 |
| Canada | 30.8 | 1.6 |
| Austria | 30.4 | 0.9 |
| Germany | 30.3 | 0.8 |
| Iceland | 30.3 | 0.3 |
| Oman | 25.4 | 1.1 |
| Bahrain | 24.8 | 0.5 |
| Kuwait | 24.8 | 0.4 |
| Macedonia | 24.1 | 1.4 |
| Montenegro | 23.1 | 2.7 |
| Average | 34.6 | 2.02 |

SOURCES: UNODC & Small Arms Survey, 2012 data

This second look confirms the findings of the first - there is no universal law that more guns equals more homicide. If anything, the relationship is reversed. In the top and bottom 20 countries (with data available), high civilian gun ownership

is tied to low homicide rates and low gun ownership is tied to high homicide rates. We can also see the hollowness of the anti-gun argument in Canada. Our low homicide rate of 1.6 per hundred thousand, far below the world average of 8.6 per hundred thousand, does not justify crime wave hysteria. We can also note that our finding of more guns equals less crime can be identified in the US as well, where between 1994 and 2010 firearm numbers increased by 93 million. Over the same period, all homicides dropped by 37 per cent. (ATF and Justice Department statistics.)

Conclusion

The true state of our violent world is being hidden by studies conceptualizing violence as a problem of the developed world, or somehow of a different nature than violence in the rest of the world. This false exclusion seems to imply that somehow human nature is different elsewhere, or the use of intentional violence for political power or criminal profit is not a universal problem. Anti-gun activists, who insist on linking US firearm ownership to high homicide rates without putting the issue in context, are either dishonest or willfully ignorant.

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NFA Book Shelf

Bill Rantz

Antlers

A Guide to Collecting, Scoring, Mounting, and Carving

Antlers

A Guide to Collecting, Scoring, Mounting, and Carving

By Bill Rantz

Second edition, revised and updated

Author: Dennis Walrod

Stackpole Books

Soft cover, published in 2010

Six by nine inches, 211 pages

Colour photographs

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As hunting season draws to a close for another year, hunters across Canada have the opportunity to reflect on time spent in the field. Great companionship, outstanding food, near misses and game harvested are just some of the frequently shared memories. Often, the antlers of a special buck, whether taken on a frosty morning or only seen on occasion, dominate the discussion among hunters. Terms such as "huge," "incredible" and even "unbelievable" may be used to describe a set of antlers.

Dennis Walrod, author of *Antlers*, fully understands the interest and intrigue generated by wild game antlers among both hunters and non-hunters. In his book, he shares his knowledge of antlers, both as grown on game animals and regarding their use after harvest or shedding.

Antlers are sought after by individuals who are collectors, carvers, fabricators, taxidermists and even medical researchers. There is a growing demand for antlers and keen competition among individuals to acquire the best available. As *Antlers* is written in the US, for an American market, the cash value of desirable antlers is stressed throughout the book. Canadian readers need to approach this information cautiously, as it may be illegal to sell or barter antlers in your province. Quoting from the Ontario 2015 *Hunting Regulations* (page 29): "In

general it is illegal to buy, sell or barter any game wildlife or specifically protected wildlife or their parts (including taxidermy mounts)."

But Walrod provides a great deal of information that applies to antlered game, regardless of location. The science behind antler growth is presented and the important role of velvet antlers in medical research is clearly established. While eastern medicine has long valued antlers, current researchers are focusing on treatment of osteoporosis and bone grafting.

Scoring whitetail antlers is discussed in detail and interesting statistics are shared regarding score trends over the past century. Guidelines provided will enable one to score a particular set of antlers accurately, using Boone and Crocket criteria. Worksheets provided in the appendix will need to be enlarged for practical use.

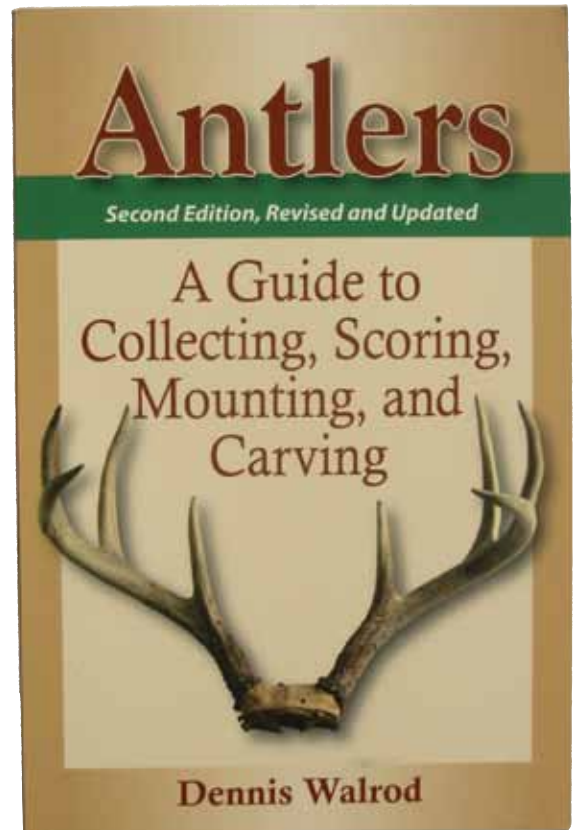
Antler shed hunting is becoming popular, as it provides an enjoyable outdoor experience for the entire family. Walrod shares advice to make a shed hunting day more productive, including tips on training your dog to find antlers.

Mounting or displaying a set of antlers is a natural culmination to either the hunting or shed-finding experience. The author offers numerous suggestions for simple yet effective displays, as well as advice for achieving stunning full taxidermist mounts.

Colour photographs of the famous Hanson typical buck, which scored 213 5/8 points, and a picked up non-typical American buck, which set the bar at 333 7/8 points, are shown. The majority of top scoring antlers in the US are purchased by either Cabela's or Bass Pro Shops. Such amazing sets of antlers are now being reproduced and referred to as cast antlers. Apparently, some are so well done they have been sold as originals to unsuspecting buyers.

Artists have discovered that antlers, especially those of whitetail deer, are an excellent substitute for ivory, and are now creating carvings, scrimshaw, knife handles and jewellery. Fabricators have turned antlers into both decorative and functional pieces, such as chandeliers.

Antlers: A Guide to Collecting, Scoring, Mounting and Carving lists at \$22.95 in the US and may be purchased online. Shipping costs and exchange on our dollar are significant, so first try locating a copy through your local book dealer.



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