

CANADIAN

FIREARMS JOURNAL

MAY/JUNE 2020

 NFA.ca



Fully Committed On All Fronts
CANADA'S NATIONAL FIREARMS ASSOCIATION

PM 40009473
Return undeliverable to:
Canadian Firearms Journal,
P.O. Box 49090, Edmonton, Alberta T6E 6H4

 NFA.ca



HG-105

Introducing the non-restricted HG-105 semi-auto 12ga shotgun. The bullpup configuration allows for a smaller overall length without a compromise in barrel length and a favourable weight distribution which reduces strain. The detachable magazine allows for rapid reloading over conventional tube systems. It features a monolithic top picatinny rail, 3" chamber, 18.5" barrel with interchangeable chokes, height adjustable check rest and a bottom picatinny rail. Economically priced \$300-500 less than comparable alternatives on the Canadian market, with no compromises made in quality or design. The HG-105 was thoroughly tested in-house to ensure the utmost in reliability and durability, and is backed with a 2 year warranty. Comes with manual, one 5 round magazine, soft case, angled foregrip and detachable flip-up iron sights. Now available in Desert Tan finish. Priced at just \$699. IN-STOCK.

**TACTICAL
IMPORTS**

- IMPORTS
- ONLINE RETAIL
- DISTRIBUTION

TACTICALIMPORTS.CA
SALES@TACTICALIMPORTS.CA
800.994.6223



CANADIAN ***FIREARMS JOURNAL***

May/June 2020



COLUMNS

4
ON THE COVER

5
FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK
Fear?
AL VOTH

6
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
Interesting Times
SHELDON CLARE

8
VICE-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
Guns & COVID-19
BLAIR HAGEN

10
**PRESERVING OUR
FIREARMS HERITAGE**
Whistlin' Will Wins It All
GARY K. KANGAS

12
POLITICS & GUNS
Government By Folly
BRUCE GOLD

50
LEGAL CORNER
Red Flag Gun Laws
GUY LAVERGNE

54
NFA BOOK SHELF
Bolt Action Military Rifles
Of The World
BILL RANTZ

FEATURES

14
KEEPER OF LEGENDS
Collecting guns, acquiring stories
TIM FOWLER

18
UNDERSTANDING 5-STAND
Another alternative for shotgunners
JEFF HELSDON

24
AIRGUN CHALLENGE
The sport of field target in Canada
LOWELL STRAUSS

28
YOUNG SHOTGUNNERS
Introducing kids to wingshooting
KEVIN WILSON

32
HANDLOADING LUXURY
Redding's T-7 turret press
TIM FOWLER

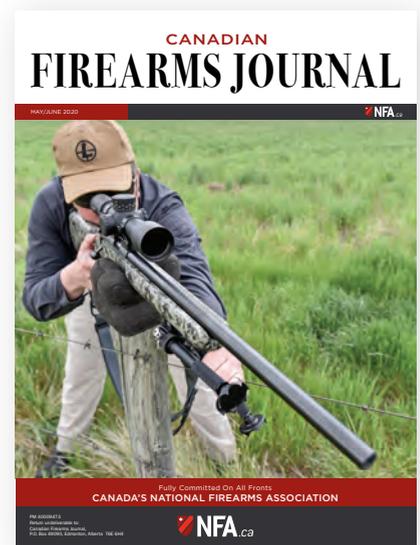
34
A WILDERNESS COMPANION
Thoughts on the
Backpacker shotgun
EDWARD OSBORNE

38
A LEGEND REBORN
SIG's P210A is exceptional
BOB CAMPBELL

40
WYOMING SIGHT DRIFTER
A tricky problem, fixed
with a simple solution
JEFF SMITH

42
CANADA'S COMPACT GLOCK
Reviewing the Glock 48
NORMAN GRAY

47
TURKISH DELIGHT
The smallest gauge – Turkish style
AL VOTH



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.

The contents of the Canadian Firearms Journal are copyrighted and may be reproduced only when written permission is obtained from the publisher.



On the Cover

Lowell Strauss grabbed this shot of a friend sniping gophers in Saskatchewan, with a rifle set up for that job, as well as rimfire precision rifle competitions. The rifle is a CZ 453 Varmint, epoxy bedded in a Boyds Pro Varmint stock and painted with good old Krylon camo. The optic is a Leupold Mark 5, 3.6-18X with H59 reticle, mounted in Leupold Back Country 35-millimetre high rings on an EGW 20 MOA rail. Accessories include an Atlas bipod fixed to a pic rail bedded to the stock and a Magpul MS3 sling. Favoured ammunition is Eley Force for CRPS matches and Eley High Velocity HP for gopher hunting. With that kind of gear, both the gophers and the targets are bound to take a beating. 



Canadian Firearms Journal

The Official Magazine of



CANADA'S
NATIONAL
FIREARMS
ASSOCIATION

Editor

Al Voth

cfjeditor@nfa.ca

General Manager

Ginger Fournier

ginger@nfa.ca

Accounts/Membership

General Information

Legal Inquiries

membership@nfa.ca

info@nfa.ca

legal@nfa.ca

National Executive

National President

Sheldon Clare

1-877-818-0393

sheldon@nfa.ca

EVP, Communications

Blair Hagen

1-877-818-0393

blair@nfa.ca

Treasurer

Bill Rantz

1-877-818-0393

bill@nfa.ca

Secretary

Jerrold Lundgard

1-877-818-0393

jerrold@nfa.ca

CANADA'S NATIONAL FIREARMS ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 49090

Edmonton, Alberta T6E 6H4

Toll Free: 1 877-818-0393

Local: (780) 439-1394

Fax: (780) 439-4091



PM 40009473
Return undeliverable to:
Canadian Firearms Journal,
P.O. Box 49090, Edmonton, Alberta T6E 6H4
PRINTED IN CANADA



From The Editor's Desk

Al Voth

Fear?

It's mid-March as I write this, and the reaction to the COVID-19 pandemic is just getting started in Canada. I stopped by Starbucks for a tea this morning and the doors were locked, with signs indicating it's now drive-thru only. My grandkids are all locked out of their schools, and my church has gone to online services only. These are things we've never seen in my lifetime, and I've been around for more than half-a-dozen decades. In a month or two when you get to read what I'm writing, things will no doubt have changed again.

As gun owners, we are probably more prepared for bad circumstances than most people in society. And, no, I'm not talking about our ability to shoot our way out of dangerous situations, although we do have that capability. I mean mentally prepared. It's been my experience that gun owners tend to have a more self-reliant attitude and are less prone to the pandemic of fear

that can spread faster than any virus, and make people do stupid things.

I heard a song the other day with a line that says, "Fear can go to hell," and that's become my mantra for the situation we're in. Sure, I'll adapt to what's happening by changing what's necessary in my routine, I'll try and make wise decisions, including self-isolating if necessary, and then I'll help others as much as possible. But fear? It can go to hell where it belongs. Going hunting is the original form of self-isolation and that's where I'll be. It's spring, so gophers are out, the crows are back, and some farmer friends need pigeon control. And then there are all the gun-room chores I'm way behind on. This might become a nice break.

There's always reading to catch up on too, and you can start with this issue of the CFJ. Our usual columnists have some interesting and educational material for you, as do the feature writers. I'd particularly like to draw your attention

to the 18-year-old Canadian who won it all at Winter Range. Whenever a Canadian wins an international championship, it's good reason to celebrate. See Gary Kangas' report on this wonder kid in his regular column.

Look, too, for a couple of short handgun reviews in this issue. If you like polymer guns, Norm Gray takes a look at the Glock 48, but if you prefer steel and walnut check out Bob Campbell's thoughts on the new generation SIG P210. If airguns are more to your liking, you should consider the sport of field target, which Lowell Strauss explains in detail. And then we have a few shotgun items as well, including an introduction to 5-Stand by Jeff Helsdon and some instruction on how to get kids started in wingshooting by Kevin Wilson.

I trust what you read here will give you some ideas on how to spend your spring, whether it's in community or in self-isolation. Look after yourself and look after your neighbours, too. 





President's Message

Sheldon Clare

Interesting Times



It is quite clear there are far more pressing issues for government to deal with than pushing more gun bans upon hapless firearms owners.

Il est évident qu'il y a bien plus d'enjeux qui demandent l'attention du gouvernement plutôt qu'encore s'en prendre au malheureux propriétaires d'armes à feu.

At time of writing, the country is in the throes of the COVID-19 pandemic. Hopefully, by the time you are reading this, the worst of that matter will have passed, and some sanity will be starting to return. It seems the thin veneer of civilization is only three days away from food riots. Maintaining the supply chain and logistical system is critical at such times. With common sense and respect for community, the pandemic will pass, as do all such crises.

Our lobbyist has been very busy. Charles Zach recently met with Minister of Public Safety, Bill Blair. It was an uncomfortable meeting and, unsurprisingly, one in which no minds were changed. It seems that it is to be full speed ahead on the gun grabbing, despite the fact people clearly want firearms, particularly those targeted by the Liberals. Charles also met with all the CPC leadership candidates and several other MPs from the major federal parties, and some provincial ones as well.

OICs that are tied to compensation are budget items, and money bills need to be put to Parliament. As well, it must be clear that in the opinion of

the governor in council, there must be no legitimate sporting purpose for any proposed ban of firearms. We can certainly prove sporting purposes for AR-15 rifles and variants. After all, the AR15s were marketed for sporting purposes early on, and there is ample evidence to support that claim.

Our NFA Report Card on the CPC leadership candidates will help provide some guidance as to possible alternatives, but it is important for all of us to hold candidates to their promises. Deeds matter, and words are merely wind. What is also significant is the need to get involved in policy work at the local level, to ensure that party grassroots are fully engaged in telling the party what people want. It is quite clear there are far more pressing issues for government to deal with than pushing more gun bans upon hapless firearms owners. The short list would include the economy, sovereignty and leadership, just to name a few, not to leave out the obvious pandemic, and resulting shift in our finance, health and education systems.

It is interesting to see the sudden in-

terest in firearms ownership amongst some, amid fears of system breakdown. Several, who never would have considered buying a firearm, are suddenly finding out there is an onerous process attached to firearms ownership, possession and use – and that it doesn't meet their timelines. In some jurisdictions, there is no access to courses, and governments have closed down transfer processes. It seems that licenses are very much about keeping firearms out of the hands of the public, especially in interesting times.

Thanks to those of you who have supported our efforts with your membership and donations. We have been taking steps to identify comments in media generally attacking firearms owners and us as an organization, and I appreciate your efforts in identifying media examples of such comments. Hopefully our AGM in Quebec can go forward, but if not, we will continue to act in the best interests of the NFA and the firearms community and hold it another time. Be ready for an election at any time. Stay safe, look after your families and keep your powder dry.

Message du Président

Sheldon Clare

Quelle époque intéressante

Au moment d'écrire ces lignes le pays est aux prises avec la pandémie du COVID-19. Je souhaite vivement que par le temps que vous lirez mon message le pire de la crise sera passé et que les esprits se seront calmés. Il semble que notre civilisation soit d'une fragilité manifeste et que nous ne sommes qu'à trois jours d'avoir des émeutes reliées à la peur du manque de nourriture. Maintenir la gestion de la chaîne d'approvisionnement est essentiel. Avec le respect communautaire et le gros bon sens la pandémie passera comme toutes les crises passent.

Notre lobbyiste est très occupé. Charles Zach a récemment rencontré le Ministre de la Sécurité Publique, Bill Blair. Le malaise était palpable durant cette rencontre et sans surprise, tous sont restés sur leurs positions. Apparemment que les saisies d'armes sont au programme et ce, le plus vite possible malgré le fait que les gens veulent posséder des armes à feu, en particulier celles qui sont visées par les Libéraux. Charles a aussi rencontré tous les candidats à la chefferie du PCC et plusieurs autres députés permis les principaux partis politiques fédéraux. Il a aussi rencontré quelques députés provinciaux.

Les décrets qui sont liés à des compensations sont des items qui font parti du budget et les projets de loi impliquant des liquidités doivent être présentés devant le Parlement. De plus il faut que tous reconnaissent que le gouverneur en conseil est de l'opinion qu'aucune arme destinée à des fins sportives légitimes ne soit interdite. Nous pouvons facilement démontrer que les carabines AR-15 et leurs variantes ont plusieurs utilisations sportives. Ces carabines ont été mise en marché à l'origine exactement pour les sports de tir et il existe amplement de preuves pour appuyer cette affirmation.

Le bulletin accordé à chaque candidat à la chefferie du PCC nous aidera à faire notre choix mais nous devons



With the world in the throes of COVID-19, more citizens became interested in firearms ownership.

Le monde étant bouleversé par la COVID-19, plus de citoyens se sont intéressés à la possession légitime d'armes à feu.

les obliger à tenir leurs promesses. Les gestes comptent et les paroles s'envolent. Nous devons nous impliquer localement pour créer des politiques favorables à notre égard et nous assurer qu'au niveau local tous soient engagés à dire au parti ce que les électeurs veulent. Il est très clair qu'il y a beaucoup d'enjeux plus pressant pour le gouvernement que d'infliger encore des interdictions d'armes à feu sur de malheureux propriétaires d'armes à feu. Comme par exemple, l'économie, notre souveraineté, le leadership et sans oublier la pandémie qui affectera nos finances, notre système de santé et d'éducation.

Il est intéressant d'observer que soudainement certaines personnes s'intéressent à la possession d'armes à feu, motivés par la crainte de l'effondrement de notre système. Plusieurs d'entre eux qui n'ont jamais pensés de se procurer une arme à feu sont surpris d'apprendre comment il est couteux d'entreprendre le processus pour obtenir et utiliser des armes - ils s'aperçoivent aussi que les

délais ne s'accordent pas avec leurs échéanciers. Dans certaines juridictions aucun cours ne sont offert et les gouvernements ont cessé de faire les cessions d'armes à feu. Il semble que les permis soient devenus le moyen d'empêcher l'accès aux armes par le publique et ce, surtout pendant une époque intéressante.

Merci à ceux qui nous ont appuyer en devenant membres et en faisant des dons. Nous avons commencé à identifier dans les médias les commentaires négatifs qui attaquent les propriétaires d'armes à feu et notre organisation. J'apprécie vos efforts pour identifier les exemples d'attaques médiatiques. Nous espérons que notre RGA qui se tiendra au Québec pourra toujours avoir lieu, sinon nous allons continuer d'agir pour défendre les intérêts de l'ACAF et de toute la communauté intéressée par les armes à feu. Notre RGA pourra avoir lieu à un autre moment. Une élection peut avoir lieu soudainement, soyez prêts. Restez en sécurité, occupez vous de vos familles et gardez votre poudre au sec. 



Vice-President's Message

Blair Hagen

Guns & COVID-19



The shifting political fortunes of the day will always present challenges, but Canadians who will not retreat from the values and beliefs that make this nation great have overcome greater challenges in the past, from outside and from within.

The COVID-19 virus has thrown a scare into the Canadian public. Besides the usual run on the stores for the necessities of life, one of the results of the virus' appearance has been a run on firearms businesses nationwide for guns and ammunition. In recent days, firearm retailers have received many inquiries about purchasing guns and ammunition from unlicensed individuals. Of course, they were promptly informed it is not lawful for them to purchase or possess them, and the months-long bureaucratic process they must endure to do so.

On one hand, I honestly don't understand why otherwise rational adults suddenly pick a time of uncertainty to panic and buy arms for their defense. On

the other hand, I completely understand the concern. We've all been there. But it's something which should be done with serious and sober reflection, not in the midst of some eleventh-hour crisis.

Interestingly, a lot of firearms licenses were pulled out and dusted off by those souls who thought they'd never need it or ever use it, but who obviously understand the necessity and what is required to acquire a firearm in Canada today. They, and others, were the ones who, at a national level, cleaned firearms businesses out of guns and ammunition. The basics went first. I would be surprised if there is a retailer in Canada with any 12-gauge pump shotguns left. They were the first to go, along with all the buck and slug that could be had.

Next, handguns. As with every round of political or social uncertainty, thousands of first-time handgun purchases were made by those holding a restricted firearms license, but never contemplated using it. The fancy black rifles were all sold previously, after the Liberal's threats of gun bans and confiscations. Strange times indeed.

All of this has once again resulted in a difficult learning experience about gun control for many Canadians who are not used to having their lives disrupted and their well-being challenged. The refrain, "What do you mean I need a license? It's just a shotgun" or, "It's just a .22," was heard again and again across the nation, as those who feared for themselves and their families were

turned away at the gun counter.

"What do you mean I need a license to buy shells? They're for my dad! He has one!"

No sale.

"We'll call you when the handgun transfer is approved."

"Why can't I take it now? I need it now!"

And the answer from the other side of the gun counter came back many times in the form of a question, "You support gun control, right?"

"Yes."

"This is gun control."

A rude awakening for fearful people who maybe have a right to be fearful for themselves and their families in these trying times but are denied the tools of protection through government and bureaucratic edict.

The fact is, the majority who panic purchase guns and ammunition will never need them, and firearms businesses will probably reap great

financial reward buying all this stuff back and re-selling it after the panic has subsided. It'll be an expensive lesson for many, but after this crisis and panic, at least more Canadians will be reacquainted with this necessity of survival, having a means of self defense.

And that's a good and positive thing. You are, after all, you and your family's last line of defense. There aren't enough law enforcement officers in your city, town, province or municipality or this entire country to protect you if things ever really go bad. And why should they be expected to? They have families of their own to protect.

It's encouraging to see the responsibility for self-protection has not been distilled out of our national character by the decades of dedicated social re-engineering by governments, judiciary and academia in Canada. Civilization is a fragile thing, and the institutions that support it and facilitate it are confused,

befuddled and stretched to the limit at the best of times. A lot of Canadians seem to know this and understand that only fools rely on politicians to provide for their wellbeing. Doing so is foolish in the extreme.

Despite the assurances to the contrary from our political and social betters, this is still a frontier nation in many ways, and self-sufficiency and common sense has not been bred out of us by the silly social and cultural juveniles with utopian world views. So, be kind to your family and coworkers. Help your neighbours. Be polite and courteous and respect the rights and property of your fellow Canadians. Don't let the fear mongering and bromides of politicians and mainstream media drive you crazy and we will all come out the other end of this in typical Canadian fashion.

...Just fine, thank you, and how about yourself?

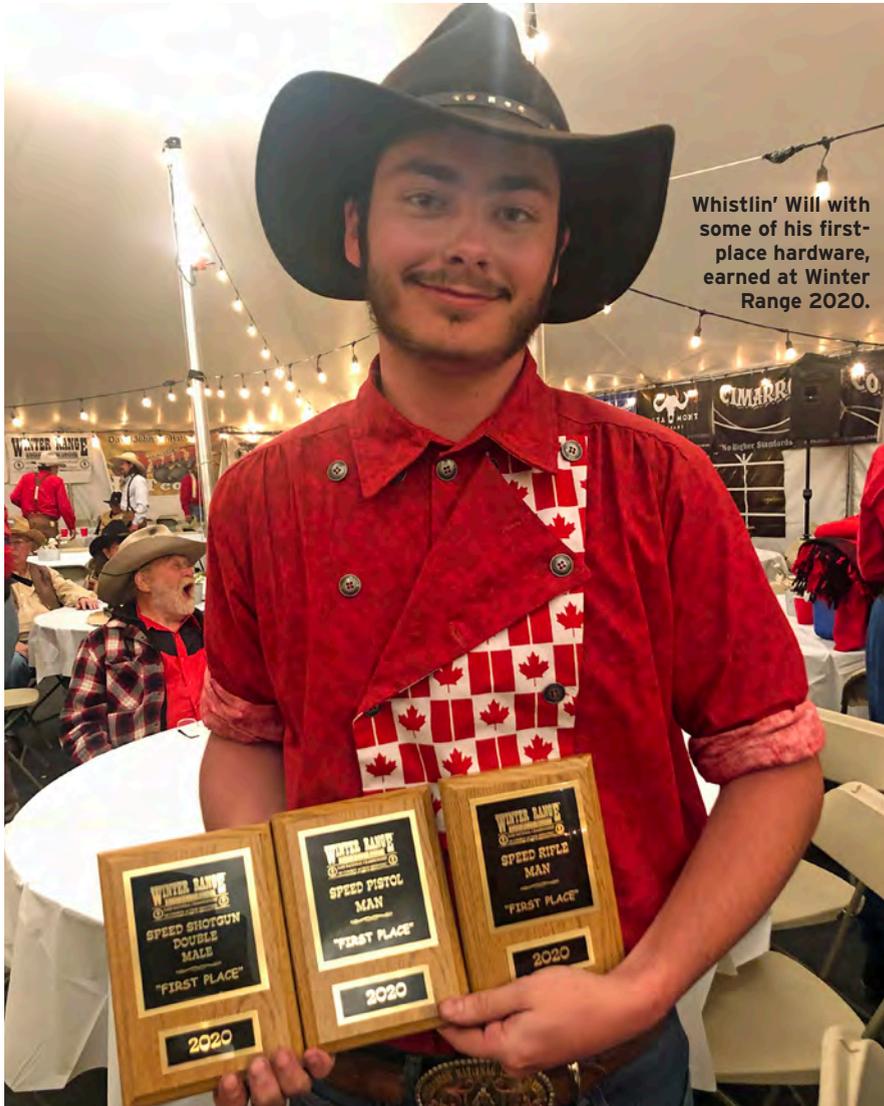




Preserving Our Firearms Heritage

Gary K. Kangas

Whistlin' Will Wins It All



Whistlin' Will with some of his first-place hardware, earned at Winter Range 2020.

Whistlin' Will, an 18-year-old cowboy action shooting competitor from Courtenay, BC, recently won it all at Winter Range 2020. Winter Range is one of the two most prestigious cowboy action shooting matches held in the United States. The End of Trail match is held in the summer in New Mexico, and Winter Range is held in the winter in Arizona, and they each host between 700 and 800 participants. The attendees

are international in scope and come from Europe, Australia, Canada and all over the United States.

And when I say Whistlin' Will won it all, I mean all! He won Top Gun, Top Cowboy, Speed Pistol, Speed Rifle, Speed Shotgun and the Man on Man. Will's speed and focus are breathtaking, and he maintained it through all 12 stages of the match. Will fired 280-plus rounds in an average of 17.42

seconds per stage, without missing one target. It earned him an international championship.

For those not familiar with this type of competition, the competitor must fire 10 revolver rounds from two revolvers (five rounds each), 10 rifle rounds and four-plus shotgun rounds at multiple groups of targets set at varying distances, while moving from one position to the next and following a prescribed set of instructions. This requires the shooter's total attention, because if the stage instructions are not followed, the competitor has five seconds added to their raw time, making an error a costly event. This blend of accuracy, speed and problem solving makes matches exciting, fun and challenging.

Whistlin' Will began attending cowboy action competitions at age six, a container of Cheerios always at hand. Cheerios being his very favourite cereal. Accompanying his Dad, "Little Edgy," Will began showing an interest in the events, as it was his job to deliver bottled water to competitors at the various stages. Will began keeping score at eight years of age and competing at age nine with two .22 revolvers, a .22 rifle and a .410 shotgun. By the time he was 12, Will was displaying the qualities of a budding champion by writing stage copy and soon after becoming a match director.

By age 13, Will was beating adult competitors. By 15, Will was Top Gun at most of the local matches on Vancouver Island. Will has gone on to win Top Gun at Headquarters, Canada's oldest Single Action Shooting Society-affiliated match, for at least three years. Then winning the Canadian Nationals several times, plus matches in the interior of British Columbia. Will then went on to compete at End of Trail in New Mexico and Winter Range in Arizona in 2019, finishing in the top ranks, and culminating in this year's win at Winter Range.

Will's shooting skill is a credit to him



Will in action at Winter Range.



Above: Will competing at age nine, with a .22 rimfire rifle.



Right: At eight years of age, Will was scoring other shooters.

and excellent coaching by his Dad and many of the foremost cowboy action shooters on Vancouver Island. Will's family encourages him and gives him the opportunity to travel extensively to events all over Vancouver Island, the interior of British Columbia and Alberta. He has always enjoyed support and mentoring at all these various events in his quest to become a champion, including learning how to tune his equipment to the best advantage. He now gives advice to many of the adult competitors, and is liked and respected by all, his good nature and unassuming demeanor endearing him to everyone.

We congratulate Whistlin' Will on his dedication and unrelenting focus on being a champion competitor in cowboy action shooting. He is a stellar role model for all ages and a genuine credit to the sport of cowboy action shooting. To watch Will shoot, go to YouTube and query "Winter Range 2020 Whistlin Will."

Whistlin' Will's match score card at Winter Range 2020 - no penalties or misses.

WINTER RANGE
NASS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP OF COWBOY ACTION SHOOTING

Alias: Whistlin Will
Shooter Number: 194
Category: Cowboy (Any Age)
Posee Number: 25

COWBOY STAGES			
STAGE	RAW TIME	PENALTY	TOTAL
1	13.97	0	13.97
2	12.04	0	12.04
3	22.65	0	22.65
4	12.96	0	12.96
5	17.56	0	17.56
6	20.02	0	20.02
7	20.02	0	20.02
8	15.89	0	15.89
9	16.12	0	16.12
10	17.17	0	17.17
11	17.28	0	17.28
12	18.41	0	18.41

The Winter Range, cowboy action shooting championships are held at the Ben Avery Range, 24 miles north of Phoenix City Centre, Arizona, just off of Interstate 17 near the town of Cave Creek. The range is the largest publicly operated shooting facility in the United States. Covering 1,650 acres, it is operated by the Arizona Game & Fish Department, and provides a public facility hosting all shooting disciplines, including archery. The range is named after Ben Avery, an Arizona outdoor activist, who financed the original construction, beginning in 1959, with a personal loan. The Ben Avery range promotes training, firearms safety, hunter education and hosts international competitions for all shooting and archery sports. The campground features pull-through sites, electricity, restrooms and showers.

Sources:

Victoria Fish & Game Historian,
B.C. Island Archive
Ben Avery Range History
Rand McNally Road Atlas



Politics & Guns

Bruce Gold

Government By Folly



While semi-automatic rifles are common in sports shooting and hunting, how often they are used in crime is unknown.

The Liberal Party has long had a reputation for governance by press release, where policies are announced to great fanfare, followed by little or no action. Trudeau has taken this one giant step forward by embracing policies that are so contradictory and self-negating that they can only be described as folly.

For example, tanker traffic is banned on the west coast, crippling Canadian energy exports, but similar traffic from countries with lower environmental standards carrying foreign oil are welcomed on the east coast. First Nations self-governance through their elected band councils is praised and pushed in the direction of a nation-to-nation relation with Canada. Then the entire structure of elected Native governance is bomb shelled by negotiating with unelected traditional chiefs who support an anti-oil agenda. This unconstitutional act (one cannot change the political structure of Confederation by an ad hoc "recognition" of new types and levels of governance) creates a new undemocratic, unaccountable level of government in Canada. In each case, structural necessities are sacrificed for small and transient political gains. This is folly.

The firearms file is another example of this governance by folly. The current, much-talked-about gun ban for "assault rifles" is a case in point.

ASSAULT RIFLE – FACT & FICTION

This class of firearms gets its name from the Sturmgewehr 44 (literally storm rifle), a carbine-sized rifle shooting an intermediate-sized cartridge and capable of automatic or semi-automatic fire. The term has been adopted by anti-gun groups to mean virtually any semi-automatic rifle they don't like. As defined under the Firearms Act and Canadian law, it means whatever the speaker wants it to mean, since there is no legal definition in Canadian law. This type of rifle came into service (half a million produced) in the Second World War some 76 years ago. During those 76 years, no government has seen the need or utility of defining the type, a clear indication that they have almost no impact on gun crime in Canada. Automatic firearms have been banned for decades, so a strict understanding of the category would entail a ban on something that is already banned.

The current Liberal policy on "assault rifles" is firmly based on resolutely not defining what is going to be banned,

which makes the whole policy entirely free floating. The Liberals can imply "all semi-automatics" to anti-gun enthusiasts and imply only a few "black military-looking rifles" to hunters and imply "only dangerous ones" to the uniformed. This gesture of total contempt for the intelligence of all Canadians is a certain indicator that the whole agenda is a public relations stunt with little, if any, basis in evidence. Blair, the Liberal spokesman for the gun file, has stated there are some 250,000 semi-automatic "assault rifles" legally owned in Canada and owners would get "fair market value" for them. This would amount to something in the neighbourhood of (\$1,200 x 250,000) \$300 million. With costs to police, courts, administration, etc., this could easily grow to over \$1 billion. Since the government is already into deep deficit spending this money, like the money Trudeau is giving away internationally will have to be borrowed.

EMPIRICAL BASIS

The empirical basis for such a ban is how often such rifles are used in crime. There is also a moral/aesthetic basis for the ban. The moral argument against "something or other" (Liber-

als' refusal to give a definition) is based on philosophical opinions, for example, pacifism, utopianism. The esthetic argument is based purely on appearance – for example, nylon stock versus wood. The esthetic argument is the one most favoured by anti-gunners and is intentionally aimed at low information voters.

While these rifles (let us assume the broadest category, all semi-automatic rifles) are very common in sports shooting and hunting, how often they are used in crime is unknown. Let's go through the numbers. First, only a minority of guns used in violent crime are recovered, e.g. 34 per cent of homicide guns in 2016. This undercuts any hard number analysis of "crime guns," since the majority of such guns are of unknown type, origin or ownership.

Of the guns we know about, only 18 per cent of firearms involved in violent crime are rifles and shot-guns. Since semi-automatic rifles are very much the minority of all guns in this category, this factoid demonstrates beyond all dispute that an "assault weapon" ban, however defined, will have no effect on firearm crime rates in Canada. "Assault rifles," however defined, are such a small part of an already small part of violent crime (only three per cent of violent crime involves a firearm) that even a total ban will have only a trifling effect on crime rates.

This would seem a compelling argument against spending \$300 million and diverting tens of thousands of police manhours on such a tiny slice of crime. However, it still ignores the elephant in the room. How many of these "assault rifles" were legally owned and how many were illegally acquired? Answer: we don't know because a succession of governments and generations of police officials simply could not be bothered to even try to collect the numbers and find out. This is another indication of how politics trumps reality in the firearms debate. The hard fact that a ban on legal ownership does not stop illegal use again reduces the effectiveness of any ban on legal ownership.

The American assault weapon ban was from 1994 to 2004. The most comprehensive examination of the



The current Liberal policy on "assault rifles" is firmly based on resolutely not defining what is going to be banned.

ban's impact was a 2018 study by the RAND Corporation. It found there was no convincing evidence that the ban reduced violent crime. This is not surprising, since studies have demonstrated that assault weapons were used in less than 8 per cent percent of violent crime in the US.

There remains the rhetoric of the Montreal Massacre of three decades ago. One wonders when we will finally honour the dead by telling the truth about the incident. The high body count was a direct result of the police simply standing outside and refusing to intervene or inconvenience the killer in any way. We do not honour the dead or prevent future incidents by telling politically convenient or agenda-driven lies about what happened. The Montreal coroner's report specifically stated that the type of rifle used by the killer was irrelevant to the carnage. This hard, established and official fact has not stopped political activist groups like the Coalition for Gun Control from spending 30 years on a crusade against various types of inanimate objects as a solution to violence against women. The fact that the murdered women were, by law, unarmed and defenceless is never mentioned by such groups

who insist that armed self-defense is impossible (hundreds of thousands of such defenses in the US are simply ignored or dismissed with pseudoscience studies.)

CONCLUSION

These and other policies show a government so mesmerized by its own press releases that it favours an imaginary world where belief is reality. This is compounded by the shortest of short-term thinking, where essential needs are sacrificed for the political need or just as often political convenience of the moment. We know from Statistics Canada that between 2013 and 2016, there was a 20 per cent increase in homicides in Canada. This was driven by a 68 per cent increase in gang-related homicides.

We also know that our national police force, the RCMP, is under-budgeted and overtasked, with serious internal problems to the point where it cannot go more than a year or two without another major scandal. The proposed ban would require hundreds of millions of dollars in additional policing and other law enforcement costs and require the full-time work of hundreds of officers. Not a word is being spoken about increasing RCMP budgets or manpower.

The diversion of effort to do this symbolic, politically expedient paper chase against "some" guns will simply reduce police capacity on other files such as terrorism, organized crime and industrial espionage. Policies at this level of wishful thinking and counter productivity are folly. 🚩

REFERENCES

Juristat Bulletin—Quick Fact
Firearm-related violent crime in
Canada. Statistics Canada
June 28, 2018.

Number and percentage of homicide victims, by type of firearm used to commit the homicide. Statistics Canada, Table: 35-10-0072-01 (formerly CANSIM 253-0005).

The Effects of Bans on the Sale of Assault Weapons and High-Capacity Magazines. Rand Corporation, 2018.



KEEPER OF LEGENDS

Collecting guns, acquiring stories

BY TIM FOWLER

Everyone I know has a collection. My grandmother collected tea-cups; my grandson collects replicas of dinosaurs. Both museums and private collectors acquire firearms as part of the process of building their collections. Rarity, type, function and condition drives demand and value for firearm collectors. Some gun owners collect original, blued Colt Pythons, while others collect Mossberg 22s. What makes a collection? And what makes a valuable addition to a gun collection?

Turns out, story drives value for museums. The Royal Alberta Museum (RAM) has some fine firearms in their collection. Some are handmade commemorative pieces that are new-in-box quality, and others clearly have had a more storied past.

“Without story, there is no relevance,” said Anthony Worman, acting director of collection services at the RAM, located in Edmonton, Alta. Worman has been doing museum work for more than 20 years. The culmination of his undergrad, diploma and post-grad work is all focused on collecting objects that help tell meaningful stories. When potential acquisitions are presented to the museum, it is Worman’s job to ask, “So what?” What about this object will help the museum tell a story? What is the object’s provenance? (Provenance: the place of origin or history – Oxford Canadian Dictionary.)

The search for meaningful stories connected to the objects in the collection is critical. The RAM firearm collection contains about 2,000 pieces and is made up of type collections, which are examples of a particular firearm, and items with provenance – firearms that tell a story. While private firearm collectors search for rare guns in pristine condition, the museum searches for firearms and accompanying objects that help tell a story.

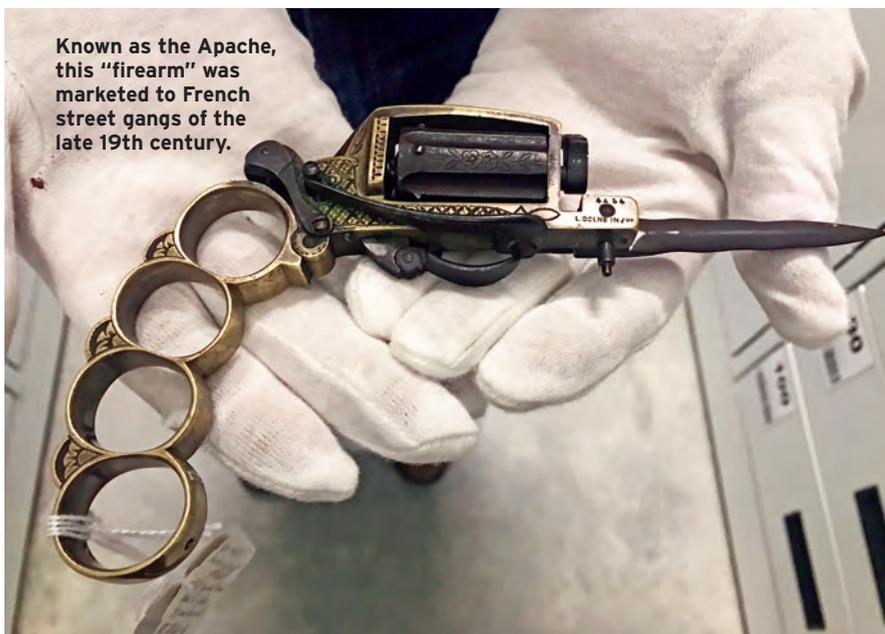
“Just because something is in really good condition means absolutely nothing, unless you can tell me a story about it. Likely the one that is 98 per cent new and in the box has no story whatsoever. We have type collections, but what we are looking for is relevance. Without story, there is no relevance. My favourite object is the next one with the next best story,” said Worman.

WHAT IS MUSEUM QUALITY?

The term museum quality is a misnomer. Collectors use terms like new-in-box, excellent, very good, good, fair and poor, and these classifications influence



Anthony Worman, acting director of collection services at the Royal Alberta Museum holds a Cooney Ace 1 single shot that is both valueless and priceless.



Known as the Apache, this “firearm” was marketed to French street gangs of the late 19th century.

price significantly. Sometimes the words museum quality are inserted into a description of a firearm for sale. Let's say you were named in your great uncle's will. You learn that he left you a remote cabin in the boreal forest and in that cabin you find, along with a number of other things, a case-hardened Winchester 1886 manufactured in 1887. He saved the rifle, along with the original packing and papers. Miraculously, you discover it in perfect condition – the pristine barrel never smeared with lead or dusted by burned powder. This gun will bring a premium price for the gun collector looking to add this particular Model 1886 to his collection. You call your gun collector buddy and he confirms you can likely trade this gun for a new sedan. However, it is of little acquisition interest for a museum curator.

If this same gun was beaten up to the point where it barely functioned but came with a collection of objects that tell a story of how the lever-action was used to collect black bears, and your great uncle filled barrels with salted smoked black bear bacon to feed his family and neighbours through winters of the late 1800s, that might make it attractive to a museum. If the gun could be acquired with great uncle's stack of bear hides, a bacon barrel, some of his hunting clothes, a diarized record of bear hunts and number of barrels of bacon sold, along with some other records of travel and weather, and other things from that cabin, these items would be of keen interest to a museum because they tell a story.

THE IMPORTANCE OF STORY

The best example of the value story brings to an object is a well-rusted Cooley Ace 1 single-shot .22-calibre rifle, catalogued in a storeroom of the RAM. To a collector, the firearm is valueless. Even the Blue Book of Gun Values states about Cooley that "there is limited collector demand and values should be based on utility rather than collector premiums due to rarity." This particular .22 is of no utility, as it cannot be fired. The Standard Catalogue of Firearms doesn't even list Cooley. Nearly every Canadian adult that came from hunting roots has at least one Cooley in the family. A collector of Cooley firearms would dismiss the firearm in an instant. The action is seized with rust, the barrel is deeply



The serpent lock plate is the most recognizable feature of a North West Trade gun.

pitted, the stock is held together with hockey tape and a wood screw. There is what appears to be a rectangle of rubber inner tube between the cracked stock and the rusty barrel.

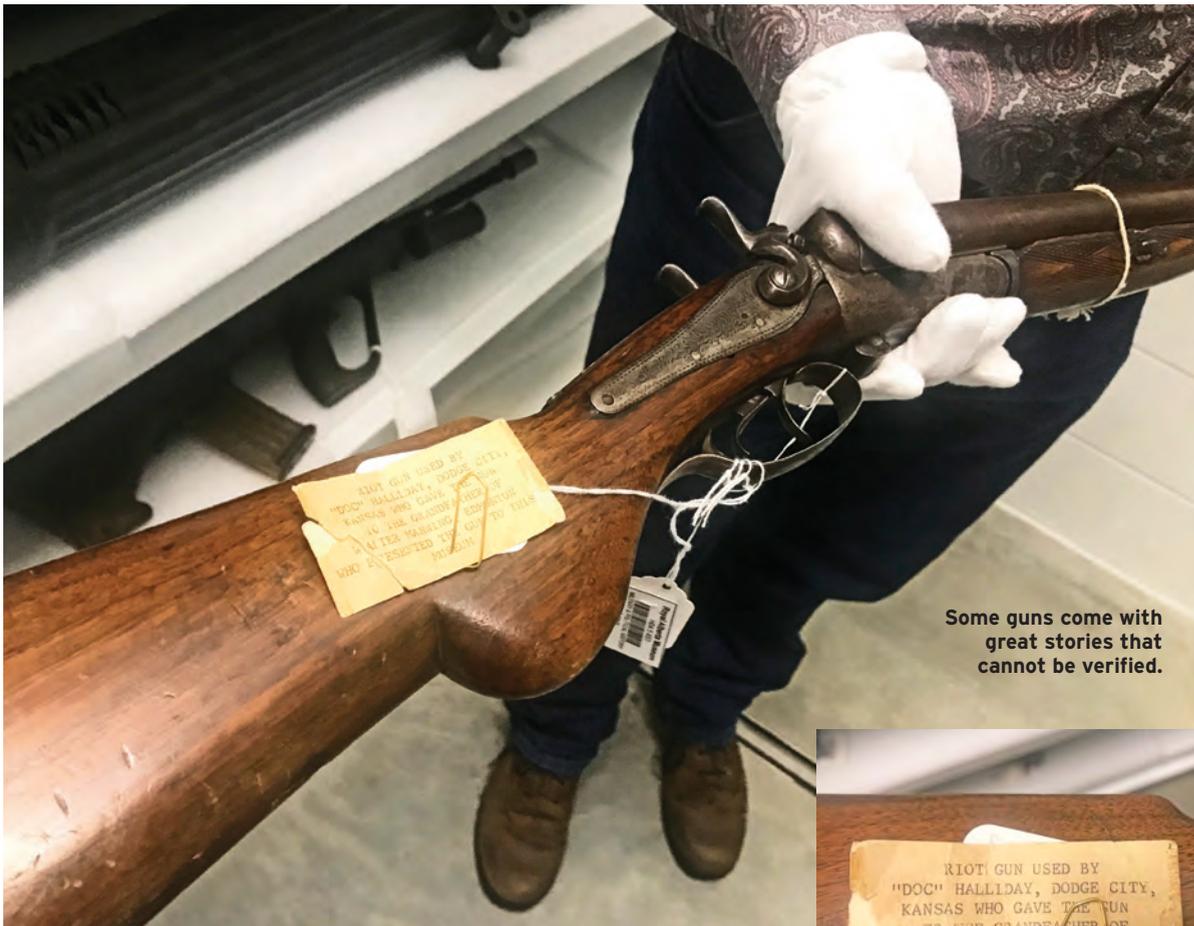
But the story that accompanies the little .22 makes the gun priceless. The gun belonged to Bella Twin, a Cree woman, and trapper from near Slave Lake, Alta. As a massive grizzly bear appeared along the trail where she stood, Twin made the choice that she was better off to use her Cooley Ace 1 on the bear than wait and see what might happen. She had the presence of mind to place shots from her single-shot 22 Long Rifle exactly where it would immobilize and eventually kill the grizzly bear. That grizzly bear, taken May 10, 1953, was the world

record for a time. The bear hide is at the RAM too, which further enhances the story. This provenance makes the gun priceless.

A quick Google search will help you find an article about this incident, photos of Bella Twin, the bear's skull and hide, as well as photos of the Cooley Ace 1 that match up with the photos in this article.

MUSEUM ACQUISITION

While there is a market developing for deactivated firearms, museums prefer to have functional firearms. (For many private collectors, the only way to own a previously prohibited firearm is to have it permanently deactivated.) These firearms still can have a story, but deactivation dimin-



Some guns come with great stories that cannot be verified.



ishes the value because the history of the object is altered.

"The museum has a business license that allows us to own prohibited firearms. Why would we take that and turn it into a block of steel?" said Worman. "I've then just destroyed part of that object's history and story. We have about 2,000 firearms in our collection and less than one per cent have been purposefully deactivated, though some are inoperable due to condition. We're not required to deactivate firearms. If we were a car museum, we wouldn't remove the engines. We may never drive it. We are never going to use our firearms, but we are not required to deactivate them. That would take away from the value."

Part of Worman's job is to explore and verify potential acquisitions. He tells this story: "You're in a dingy barn, with a flashlight, looking under stuff and there's a green crate. It's a firearm crate. Let's hope it's full. It's British, either a Bren Gun or a Lewis. Open the lid... it's a Lewis. Let's hope it works. Cock and pull the trigger. Full auto works. It's a good day when you find a machine gun." Now visitors to the RAM can see a Lewis gun as part of a story in the gallery.

CONSIDERING A DONATION?

The RAM is a mature museum with 12-and-a-half million objects in careful storage, which means they must be selective about what objects are added to the collection. Even though they are very selective about what they acquire, they are still on the lookout for objects that tell a story. People who think they have something museum-worthy should reach out to the museum and ask. If the museum has an interest, they will ask for photos of the items and might even arrange a site visit.

"From the museum collection perspective, we are going to be very selective about what stories we bring in, why we bring them in, what those stories might be and what stories we can tell. One thing people should think about is when they are looking at donating something to the museum, there is no guarantee we will take it. It's not necessarily that object itself, it's that object and the other objects that tell the story," said Worman.

If there are no objects, there is no story. This is the value of the museum collection: story. 📌

THE ROYAL ALBERTA MUSEUM

RAM collects and preserves objects and specimens that reflect the diversity of the province, as it relates to the heritage of Alberta's people and the natural environment.

The collection is used for a variety of reasons, including for public exhibition; for historical and scientific research; to support loans to other provincial, national and international museums, education institutions and community groups; for community engagement (including ceremony by/for Indigenous communities); for teaching/training; for tours; for the public dissemination of information; and for the advancement of scientific and museological practices.

UNDERSTANDING 5-STAND

Another alternative for shotgunners

BY JEFF HELSDON





Isaque Mendes, a champion shooter, says it's important to get a visual lock on a target before you make a move to break it.

There's not much doubt sporting clays is the ultimate practice for the hunting shooter. But it requires a lot of time, and from a gun club perspective, a lot of land. A growing alternative is 5-stand.

To put it simply, 5-stand is sporting clays shot on a trap field. It consists of targets thrown from a variety of machines, including rabbit targets, to simulate wild game situations. While this sounds like sporting clays, 5-stand is different in that it is not shot in natural environs and the shooters rotate through five different positions as if they are shooting trap. Shooting cages, as used in sporting clays, are put on the field in most cases.

For example, at a recent Oxford Fish and Game course in Woodstock, Ont., the first target thrown was a rabbit. Next came a following pair (where the second target is launched when the trigger is pulled on the first) thrown from a tower behind the shooting range. The final targets were a true pair (both thrown at the same time) from a thrower to the right side of the range and out front. These targets were coming towards the shooter and simulated incoming ducks.

A round is 25 targets and as the shooter rotates through the five different trap positions, the angle changes. Using the example of the course above, the rabbit transitions from a going-away shot on number five, to a crossing shot on number one, and is quartering to various degrees on the stations in between.

At NFA-affiliate Hamilton Gun Club, the targets were completely different. There were nine throwers, with a varied combination thrown. A former combination skeet and trap field was used, with all throwers part of the game, but in unique ways. The birds thrown from the trap house, for instance, were not standard trap target angles. One machine throws the target on its side in an arcing pattern, placing the face of the target towards the shooter. The options also included an incoming mini, overhead outbound shots and quartering shots at various angles.

An interesting thing about the Hamilton 5-stand course, and this may be unique in Canada, is the shooters are covered when shooting. An open-faced building was erected on the former trap 25-yard line to provide shelter from inclement weather.

THE HAMILTON GUN CLUB

The second largest continuously operating gun club in Ontario and a site for the Canadian and provincial trap championships, Hamilton Gun Club installed 5-stand more than 10 years ago after environmental and neighbour issues forced them to condense their sporting clay course.

"When it comes to younger generations, they want something quick," said Isaque Mendes, the club's 5-stand director. "Skeet can take a half-hour, while trap is 15 minutes. We can run through 5-stand in seven minutes. On top of that, you have target presentations similar to sporting clays."

When the club first launched 5-stand it was popular, even though there wasn't a sporting clays director. After a while, popularity waned but is starting to bounce back under Mendes' direction. He is promoting it as a way to get some quick shooting in while waiting to shoot trap or skeet, as practice for sporting clays, and also on its own merit.

He tries to tweak the machines on a monthly basis, moving them slightly, tilting them or changing the speed, with the concept to keep the target mix fresh and challenging. "It's almost >



A standard trap field can be converted into 5-stand with the addition of shooting cages and a few extra throwers.

like a tune-up for sporting clays,” he said. To the best of his knowledge, there is currently no 5-stand competitive circuit, or registered competitions in Ontario.

TIME & MONEY

There’s no doubt sporting clays is great practice for wing shooting. It’s also developed into a challenging competitive sport in its own right. But, with most courses being 100 birds, my experience is it usually takes two or three hours to complete. Looking at it another way, counting travel time, a morning or afternoon can be easily used up.

I’ve found shooting 5-stand is quick. Actually, it’s faster than shooting a round of trap because multiple targets are shot at each station instead of singles. There are fewer stations than skeet, so it is also quicker than that game. Mendes told me he figures a fast squad can shoot 25 trap targets in 15 minutes, but it only takes about half that for 5-stand, since multiple targets are thrown at once.

If you are a shooter who wants to practice weekly, shooting a couple of rounds of 5-stand is a much smaller time commitment than sporting

clays. The reality is many people are pressed for both time and money, making this is the perfect discipline to prepare them for hunting season.

HISTORY

5-stand is actually an offspring of sporting clays, originating when the latter sport was starting to gain popularity in the early 1990s. One of the initial problems was there weren’t a lot of sporting clay courses in those days. The National Sporting Clays Association (NSCA) addressed this deficit with several trucks equipped with target throwers, shooting cages and generators.

“Some of the clubs they went to didn’t have space for a permanent, large-scale course, so the 5-stand set-up allowed them to simulate sporting clays in a smaller space, often overlaying skeet and trap fields,” said Sherry Kerr, director of communications for NSCA/NSSA. “Some clubs also used the 5-stand set-ups on larger areas to create a temporary sporting clays course. Once clubs were widespread around the country and we no longer needed the traveling courses, NSCA 5-stand became a fixture at many clubs and the events

part of tournaments.”

While Hamilton Gun Club has room and a sporting clays course, Oxford Fish and Game does not.

EXPERT SHOOTING ADVICE

Derrick Mein was the M-AA 5-stand winner at the NSCA championships. He is a member of the USA Shooting national shotgun team and has wins in sporting clays, trap, skeet, international trap and international skeet.

“To me, 5-stand gives you a larger variety of targets in a smaller setting,” he said. “If you only have time for a quick 10 to 15-minute practice, 5-stand is good, whereas with sporting clays you are looking at an hour or hour-and-a-half.”

He rated 5-stand in the middle of the difficulty scale in the clay disciplines. He said one drawback for beginners is it can be confusing where the machines are located and targets originate from, as there isn’t a standard.

The NSCA, which oversees competitive rules for 5-stand and sporting clays, allows the shooter to start either with the gun mounted, as in trap or skeet, or unmounted. From what I have seen, most shooters have

Which "Dillon" is Right for You?



Square Deal "B"

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



RL 550C

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



XL 750

The XL 750 is the newest evolution of Dillon Precision's world-renowned family of high-volume auto-indexing reloading machines. The XL 750 incorporates the same proven five-station Quick Change toolhead as Dillon's industry dominant XL 650.



Super 1050

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

dillonprecision.com • Call 800-762-3845 for a FREE catalog, ask for stock # 029-14690

RIFLESCOPES / RED DOTS / RANGEFINDERS / BINOCULARS / SPOTTING SCOPES

RAZOR HD
RIFLESCOPES

PREMIUM optics
INCREDIBLE value
TOP TIER service
and VIP warranty



Please note: Painting or dipping your riflescope is allowed under our VIP warranty

1-866-343-0054
vortexcanada.net

their gun up. Mein likes to call for the target with his gun close to his shoulder, but not mounted. "Make sure you know where each target is coming from before you make your move," he said. "It's important to get a visual lock before you make a move to break it."

I saw this when shooting at Hamilton, breaking the first target in a following pair and not even seeing the second one although I knew where it was coming from. After this occurred a couple of times, Mendes suggested, "Look down after breaking the first bird, then you'll see the second one." His suggestion paid off.

GUNS

Many shooters use a 12 gauge, but there is no reason a 20 gauge couldn't be used on some courses. In fact, there are often sub-gauge events in competitions. Looking back at the two courses I shot in Ontario, I would consider shooting my 20 gauge at the set-up in Woodstock, but not the one in Hamilton.

Mein prefers either improved cylinder or modified choke for 5-stand. I found this varies, depending on the course. There were targets in Hamilton where modified is needed, but in Woodstock I shot improved cylinder and would consider moving to a more open skeet choke.

AN ALTERNATIVE FOR GUN CLUBS

Many gun clubs don't have the room for sporting clays and have stuck strictly to trap or skeet. Thinking of the five clubs on our local interclub trap shooting league, three don't have the room for sporting clays. The other two have sporting clays. I can think of another three clubs within an hour's drive that also don't have room for sporting clays.

The beauty of 5-stand is the existing trap field and throwers can be engaged to present an alternative shooting discipline – one that better simulates hunting conditions. After the initial set-up of the additional machines, club members could take the cages off their fields and be back to a regulation skeet or trap range in a matter of minutes. Unfortunately, only a small number of clubs in my area have taken that initiative so far.

COMPETITIVE SHOOTING

Competitive shoots for 5-stand are



12-gauge guns are the most popular for 5-stand, but the smaller gauges will work too.

regulated through NSCA. Often these shoots are part of a sporting clays event, but some are held as stand-alone events. The rules regulate scoring and make suggestions on how the course is to get set, but target mix is left to the organizers.

"Keep in mind that these recommendations are for registered events, and clubs having non-registered events may set up their targets however they wish to accommodate their shooters," Kerr said. "For introducing new shooters to clay target shooting or for a corporate event, they might set up close, easy, straightforward targets. Then for a club championship, they might set them harder. That's part of the beauty of 5-stand. Target setters can do what they wish and ac-

commodate their shooters."

NCSA has two events at its national championship. One, M-AA Class, is for more skilled shooters and has more difficult targets. The other class is for the remainder of the classes. Classifications are set up with a system similar to other clay shooting disciplines.

PARTING SHOTS

As a newcomer to 5-stand, I found it easier than sporting clays – and the scores of those who shot it regularly reflected that. The game is quicker and easier on the pocketbook than sporting clays and it presents better practice for hunting situations than trap or skeet. And it's a lot of fun. Give it a try! 🍀



NFA

FREEDOM.
SAFETY.
RESPONSIBILITY.

AIRGUN CHALLENGE

The sport of field target in Canada
BY LOWELL STRAUSS





Several manufacturers sell field targets, allowing shooters to practice or set up a course of their own.



Imagine a wooded shooting range peppered with silhouette targets of birds and animals. Some are up close but barely visible from behind a large tree root; other critter shapes are up in a tree or on the far side of a breezy creek. Competitors use an air rifle and shoot from various positions to simulate real-world conditions. This is the sport of field target and it's enjoyed by shooters from around the world.

WHAT IS FIELD TARGET?

Field target is a shooting sport that challenges participants in a variety of small game hunting scenarios. There are three major divisions: Hunter, World Field Target Federation (WFTF) and Open, each with slightly different rules for equipment and scoring. Competitors use either springer or pre-charged pneumatic (PCP) airguns. They shoot from any position unless a lane is set up for a forced position, at targets ranging from 15 to 55 yards.

The divisions of field target roughly represent the progression through the sport. Hunter division is geared at new shooters, allowing them to try this sport before they invest big money in high-end competition equipment. Rifles with a scope suitable for Hunter Division range in price from \$500 to \$600 and rules minimize extra gear. WFTF division is more competitive than Hunter, and

shooters will shell out more for guns, optics and gear. The cost of springer rifles in this division average \$800, plus \$1,000 for a competition-level scope. PCP rifles start at \$1,000, with higher-end models costing \$1,500, topped with scopes worth \$2,000 to \$4,000. The Open division has the fewest rule restrictions. Competitors can take advantage of top-shelf guns and gear. Complete rifle rigs costing more than \$9,000 show a serious commitment to field target on the quest to gain a competitive edge.

Field target has a strong social side to it, too. Clubs and individuals are encouraging and welcoming of newcomers. Experienced shooters bring their families to share the fun. Cool drinks and a hearty meal often round out these weekend events. Jeff Hemming, Canadian Field Target Association (CAFTA) president, says, "It's as much about the camaraderie with shooting friends as it is about the thrill of the sport."

CAFTA has youthful energy – it only started in 1984. CAFTA is Canada's national governing body for the sport and one of 43 member countries of the WFTF. CAFTA created an informative video about field target, and it's worth checking out. Visit www.caftacentral.ca to watch.

RIFLES

The shooting division dictates the type of rifles used in competition. Rifles are >

limited by muzzle energy – a calculation of pellet mass and velocity – measured in foot-pounds or joules. Hunter and Open division guns top out at 20 foot-pounds using either a .177 or .22-calibre rifle, while the WFTF division caps the muzzle energy at 12 foot-pounds with a .177 calibre only. To reliably knock down the farther targets, most shooters opt for rifles with muzzle velocities over 500 feet per second, and so require a firearms license in Canada.

OPTICS

A riflescope permits the shooter to see and precisely aim at the small hit zone of a field target. In the Open and WFTF divisions, any sighting system may be used, though large riflescopes with 32 to 50 times magnification are the norm.

High magnification requires larger objective lenses for enough light transmission. Objectives of 60 millimetres or more are possible.

A secondary function of the scope is to estimate the distance to the target. At high magnification, these scopes have a narrow depth of field – the area that is in sharp focus. To determine distance and compensate for pellet drop, a shooter checks the distance markings on the focus wheel after the target is in sharp focus. This system is accurate to within two metres or less over the distances of a field target range. At an estimated distance, competitors may either adjust their scope turrets or use holdover to compensate for pellet drop.

The Hunter division more closely simulates hunting conditions, so the

rules for optics and their use are a little different. In Canada, scope magnification is capped at 16x, and while CAFTA allows focusing, distance markings are removed from the focus wheel. Turret adjustment is not allowed, and so shooters rely on holdover to mimic the fast-paced action of hunting small game. In real-world hunting, there often isn't time to dial turrets for a dead-on hold.

SHOOTING SUPPORTS & OTHER GEAR

The Hunter division is the most restrictive in terms of shooting gear. It harkens back to the roots of field target as a shooting sport that simulated hunting small game and pests. Only natural supports, such as bracing against a tree, are allowed. WFTF is the middle ground with higher-end guns and gear, while



Above: Shooters in the sitting position at the firing point.

Left: A PCP airgun in a field target competition.

JEFF HEMMING (SHOOTERS); PHOTO BY GEORGE HARDE (SHOOTER, BOTTOM)

in the Open division, your budget is the only limiting factor. The CAFTA website includes a handy reference table summarizing the gear allowed in each division.

TARGETS

Field target traditionally uses animal silhouette-style targets with a circular hit zone in the faceplate. To knock over the silhouette target, a pellet must contact the trip paddle in the hit zone with enough energy to trigger it. In Canada, hit zones vary in size from a quarter inch to 1.75 inches, getting larger as distances increase. A 0.25 inch or six-millimetre target doesn't allow much room for error, especially with a .22-calibre or 5.56-millimetre pellet! Targets are set between 10 and 55 yards from the firing point, and shooters reset their targets once the scorer gives them an okay.

For better or worse, a shift in the social culture around hunting is changing a few things in the sport of field target. The circular trip paddle in the target was originally called the kill zone and represented an animal's vitals – a hit on a live animal in this location ensured a quick and humane death. Now, they are termed "hit zones." In some competitions, animal silhouette targets are being replaced by geometric shapes. Nonetheless, the shooting challenge remains the same.

COURSE OF FIRE

A match director co-ordinates the match, while the course marshals are responsible for safety and rules on the firing line. Most matches consist of 50 to 60 shots or double that for larger competitions like nationals or world championships, which are shot over two days. In the case of a tie, shoot-offs determine the winner by ramping up the difficulty until one of the competitors misses a shot.

Match directors increase the difficulty of an individual target by "fitting the target into the landscape," which means setting it in challenging natural locations, which may include things like overhanging branches, though the rules state all competitors must have a clear and unobstructed view of the hit zone.

Each shooter is a buddy marshal for their shooting partners, to help monitor safety at the firing point. This person doubles as a score keeper in a group of two.

GETTING STARTED

Any shooting club that hosts a sanctioned match (one that follows the CAFTA field target rules) becomes a CAFTA member for the year. In 2020,



Team Canada members at the 2019 World Field Target Championships in England.

CAFTA is offering a marshalling course to teach people how to host a safe and challenging match. Jeff Hemming suggests that most people start in the Hunter division with minimal guns and gear, some of which they may already own. New shooters attending a match are paired with someone more experienced for tips, tricks and safety coaching on the line.

Hemming recommends visiting the CAFTA website for a brief video introduction, plus many online resources, including the easy-to-read Canadian field target rules. After reading and watching, if you still have questions, any of the board members are more than happy to help answer your questions.

COMPETITIONS

Competing in field target is a great way to travel the world and go shooting. Local, regional, national and international matches are held throughout the year. Grand Prix matches add to the fun, whereby shooters aggregate their score over a series of matches.

Each year, the WFTF oversees the World Field Target Championships. Depending on the location, between 300 to 350 shooters attend the Championships. In 2019, England hosted a record breaking 450 shooters. The competition was fierce (yet friendly, I'm told). Astonishingly, two shooters cleaned the course, knocking down all targets on two different days of the competition. Team Canada finished 18 points off third place and 25 points out of second. Team member Joel Goodwin finished fifth overall!

In August 2020, South Africa hosts the World Championships. As a member of the WFTF, Canada holds 12 spots to send shooters to the World Championships each year, so keep this championship in your sights if you want to take your

shooting to the next level, and travel the world doing it.

In 2023, the World Field Target Championships are coming to Canada. Hemming says, "We're excited to host the World Championships in 2023. Preparations are already underway, and we are looking for volunteers to help make it a success and showcase Canada to the world."

In Canada, there are five active field target clubs, four in Ontario and one in British Columbia. These clubs typically have monthly matches from spring through fall, and it's not uncommon for the clubs to host events three weekends per month. The Canadian National Championships are a two-day match held in July each year.

LAST SHOT

If you want to improve your marksmanship skills, consider field target shooting. Field target offers challenging targets at a variety of distances and tests a shooter's skill in field shooting positions. If you want to master reading and compensating for the wind, try shooting a lightweight, slow-moving pellet at 55 yards. It's a sport for all ages. The friends you meet and the places you'll travel make it a rewarding shooting sport.

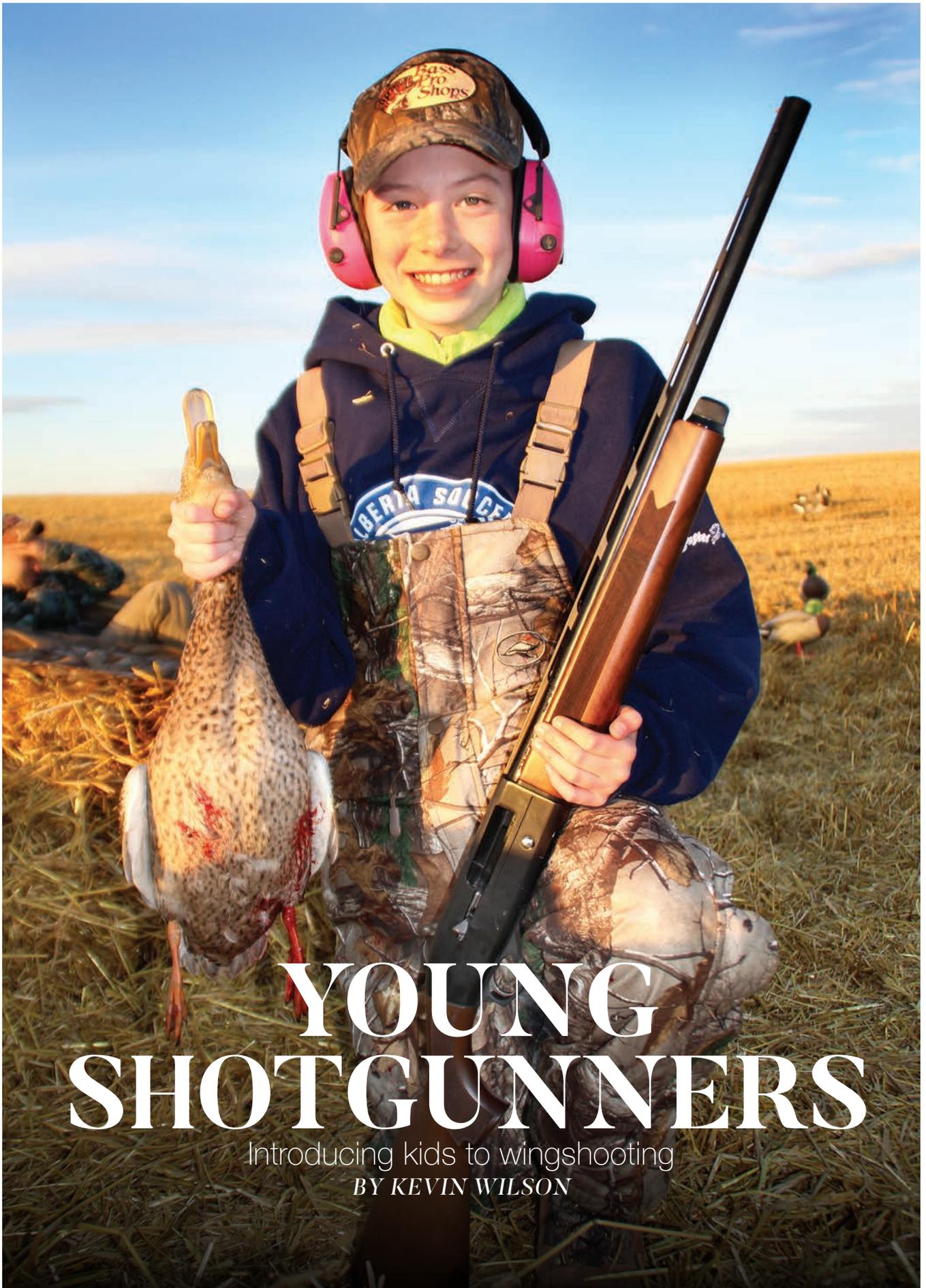
CAFTA is eager to help new clubs get started sharing in the fun at locations across Canada, so contact them if you are interested. Are you up to the challenge? 🍀

RESOURCES

Canadian Field Target Association
- CAFTA

Website: www.caftacentral.ca

Email: ftcanada@bell.net



YOUNG SHOTGUNNERS

Introducing kids to wingshooting

BY KEVIN WILSON

Be sure to provide detailed instruction and closely supervise young people when you are introducing them to layout blinds, as they present a whole new set of variables.

Kids love to shoot, but putting a shotgun in their hands presents a unique set of challenges. From fit to function, here's how to properly introduce a young protégé to clays and wing shooting.

On my 14th birthday I received my first shotgun, a break-action 12-gauge Winchester Cooley. Fond memories of my dad and I shooting clay targets at my uncle's farm will be with me forever. Even more indelibly etched in my memory was my inaugural duck hunting season. Since then, nearly four decades have passed, and both clays and hunting are two heritage activities that I am now passing on to my own kids.

I assure you that when a young person picks up a shotgun, shoulders it, swings, pulls the trigger and sees their target explode, an overwhelming sense of satisfaction is unmistakable. To get to that point, however, requires some work. Kids come from different backgrounds. They have varying aptitudes and bring their own apprehensions. Recognize these, teach them properly, and success will follow.

THE RIGHT AGE?

In Canada, there is no age restriction on shooting a shotgun. Hunting yes, but shooting no. Fortunately, at least for now, parents and guardians still maintain the freedom to decide when to introduce their kids to the shooting sports. I know many youngsters who are shooting rimfires by five years of age, but generally from a fixed rest and of course with direct supervision. But shotguns are different. Targets are usually moving, and a lot is going on. That means discretion is in order when kids are introduced to shotguns.

I have two girls. Both were light-weights as adolescents, but capable of handling a shotgun by the age of 10 and both were hunting waterfowl by the legal age of 12. In my estimation, they were both big enough, and mature



enough to follow instruction, handle the firearm, understand consequence and comply with firearms safety rules by that age.

OVERCOMING APPREHENSIONS

Shotguns are loud, they have a recoil and, most importantly, they break or kill what they shoot. Handled incorrectly, they are dangerous. Used properly, they can be very safe. For some kids, noise and recoil are a big deal. Both of my daughters were apprehensive the first time they shouldered a shotgun. Thankfully, we can take steps quell that fear.

Communication is key. If your young protégé is concerned, talk it out. Have them watch you first, then discuss what they can expect. In my experience, manually simulating recoil by having the young person shoulder the unloaded shotgun, then abruptly jolting the butt into their shoulder, without any trigger pull or noise, can provide a moderate introduction. Clarify that, depending on the gauge they will be shooting, the recoil and noise will vary.

Proper hearing protection is a must. I'm a big proponent of noise dampening inserts or e-muffs. The best thing you can do is pick up a pair of Decibullz custom-molded percussive filters, Champion e-muffs or Howard Leight Impact Sport shooting muffs. These are three of the most economical options I've found, and they work great.

PROPER FIT

Your most critical decision will be deciding what size of shotgun to put in their hands. Kids are usually smaller in stature. Companies like Mossberg, for instance, make youth-sized shotguns with stock spacers that allow the gun to grow with the user. If you need to modify an existing shotgun, having a gunsmith measure and size the shotgun to properly fit them will always be in the young person's best interest. Measure for length of pull and recognize that they're going to grow. Barrel length is also an important consideration for smaller-statured shooters. It affects the shooters balance, their ability to swing the shotgun and, in many instances, their ability to properly sight the shotgun.

While fit is important, the size and action of the gun is most critical. With very young kids (for example, from 10 to 14 years of age), a lighter weight .410 Bore, 28 gauge or 20 gauge is often better suited than a 16 gauge or 12 gauge. For learning, I would avoid 10 gauge altogether due to its size and recoil.

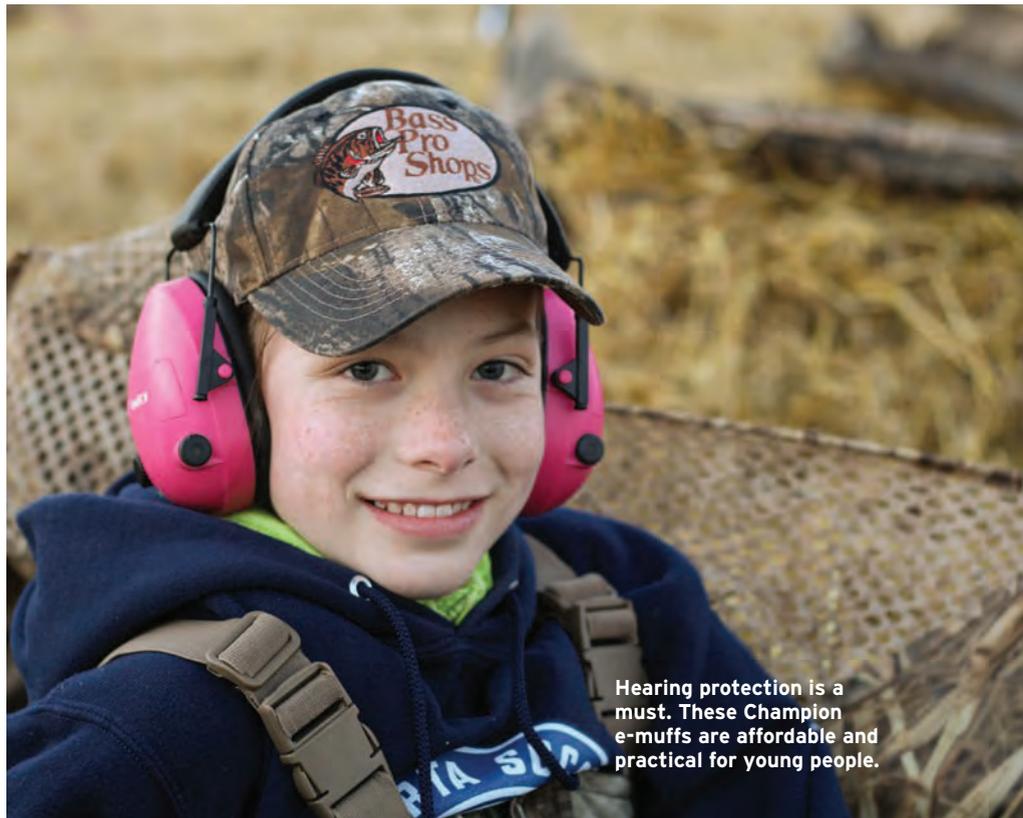
To enhance the young person's initial shooting experience, a break-action single shot may be better suited for first timers than a double (an over/under or side-by-side), pump action or autoloader. Naturally, a smaller young person will be able to handle a smaller and lighter shotgun better than they would a bigger, heavier shotgun. >

SAFETY & STANCE

Placing a shotgun in a young person's hands requires that they learn by safely advancing through a series of simple to more involved steps. New shooters must be closely supervised. At first, talk about proper stance based on whether they shoot right- or left-handed and have them position their feet accordingly, with a staggered stance so that they can comfortably lean into the shot. Reinforce that their stance should be relaxed and balanced, with their feet shoulder-width apart and their weight shifted slightly forward onto their left foot if they are a right-handed shooter, or the right foot if they are left-handed. I can't stress the importance of this explanation enough, especially when teaching kids. With proper explanation, it will help to keep them from losing balance following recoil.

HANDLING

Before handing over the shotgun, first open the action and double-check that it is unloaded and safe. Continually reinforce the importance of firearms



Hearing protection is a must. These Champion e-muffs are affordable and practical for young people.



Left: When introducing kids to shotgunning, the appropriate-sized shotgun with eye and ear protection are all important.

safety and then allow them to explore the firearm. Go over all the parts of the gun, the action and the specifications. Discuss matching ammunition and how to read and understand the specifications of the shells they will be shooting (for example, shot size, length and weight), along with the options for target and hunting applications. Reinforce the importance of keeping the barrel pointed in a safe direction, and the action open when the shotgun is not in use or is being carried between

encasement and a shooting zone.

When you feel the young person has a basic grasp of what the shotgun is, its size, how it works and the ammunition, allow them to shoulder it and swing. Be sure to review the differences between shotguns and rifles. Explain that rifles require precision aiming, and a gentle trigger squeeze due to the discharge of a single projectile. Then compare that to a shotgun that requires pointing and pulling the trigger to discharge, essentially spraying

the shot in a circular pattern. Affirm that, in the beginning, they will be aiming, but as their shooting skills evolve it will become more instinctive. Aiming will transition bio-mechanically and mentally into a pointing and trigger pull maneuver. Last, but not least, talk about the basic principles behind shooting at moving targets.

The next progression involves range time. With eyes and ears on for safety, go through the motions of pointing the shotgun at a stationary target, then advance to swinging and dry firing while in motion. If available, dummy rounds can be advantageous, but not necessary.

MOVING TO LIVE ROUNDS

When you and your young protégé decide they're ready for the next step, progress to loading a live round, putting the safety on, shouldering, pointing, moving the safety off and discharg-

ing when they are on target. As one of the skill progressions, I've found it is beneficial to have them shoot at a stationary target to begin with. Even if they are shooting a double, pump or autoloader, I still recommend beginning with just one live round. Some will take to this immediately and others may require a few rounds before showing a level of comfort. The steps following are simple, but important as the next progression involves advancing to shooting clay targets.

As a rule, whenever teaching someone to shoot at a moving target (for example, skeet, trap or sporting clays), it is valuable to talk about shooting zones. In other words, clarify that they have a window of opportunity within which they are allowed to swing and discharge. Anywhere outside of that zone is a no-point and no-discharge area. This applies to wingshooting bird game, as well. Teaching a new shooter, and especially young people, the discipline to respect those boundaries can be tricky, but imperative.

Continuing your instruction, circle back and talk about leading the target and follow-through. Explain sustained lead, and the importance of timing the shot on a moving target. Although not always necessary, if a third person is available, have them operate the launcher while you stand directly behind the young shooter to closely monitor their actions. For the first few clays, have them swing and follow – but refrain from shooting. Then have them do the same but dry fire, without a live round, when they feel they are leading the target sufficiently. If you take these steps, most kids only need a few reps before muscle memory and instinct kicks in. As soon as they feel comfortable, advance to using a live round. I'm always amazed at how accurately most kids are after only a few shots. With limited exceptions, even if they are using a double-barrel, pump or semi-auto, I rarely allow them to load more than one round at a time during their initial session. Use discretion when determining the right time to progress to multiple rounds.

Like all shooting sports, repetition is key. The more a young person can handle and shoot their firearm, the more proficient they will become. And the more proficient they become, all else being equal, the safer their handling practices should be as well. When you feel the time is right, if they express interest, introduce them to wingshooting.

FIRST HUNTS

Wingshooting is an enjoyable sporting activity with a multitude of benefits. Introduced properly, I've never seen a young person dislike it. The biggest difference you'll find transitioning from a range to a field-shooting scenario is the body position of your young shooter and the highly variable, and often unpredictable nature of the birds. So, to minimize the risks and maximize chances for the young person to experience success, consider your variables and mitigate accordingly.

With upland bird hunting, you are typically walking. While flushing these birds, the most important thing is to ensure that the young person is carrying their shotgun in a safe manner. In other words, with two hands, with their safety on, their finger off the trigger and ideally with their barrel pointed upward. Be clear in explaining where they can and cannot shoot (for example, not over anyone's head), given proximity to other hunters and dogs that may be working the ground.

With waterfowl, we can often set up our decoys in a way that allows us to predict where the birds may land. Most often you're hunting in a group and this means multiple gunners. Your party may be shooting from a layout blind or upright panel blind. Either way, this will be a new experience for your young protégé. Review the safety rules before the shoot and clarify each participant's shooting zones. Take time to answer any questions they may have before the flights begin.

In my experience, the best way to introduce kids to duck and goose

hunting is in a scenario where they are the first, or primary, shooter. If there is opportunity after the young person's one to three rounds are spent, then others in the party may shoot. By making it about them and stressing the importance of good, clean shots, they can focus uninhibited on making their shots. I've found it particularly useful on a young person's first duck or goose shoot to have them follow the same progressions as we do at the range. That is, for the first few volleys of birds, have them follow incoming birds with an empty gun and dry fire when they feel they are on the bird. Then, when they feel comfortable, they can load a single live round and follow the same steps. Inevitably, when I've had young people do this, they see success right away. Similarly, if they have advanced to a double, pump or semi-auto, I've had them load multiple rounds and give that a try. I once mentored a 15-year-old who had never hunted ducks before. Following these same progressions, I watched him take his full limit of eight greenheads in a matter of 45 minutes.

My biggest recommendation is that regardless of whether the young person is being introduced to upland or waterfowl hunting, it's always a good idea for you as the mentor to sit or walk immediately behind the young shooter. Offering careful instruction or correction as necessary, and otherwise monitoring how they carry, handle and shoot, can help to ensure that they learn properly and develop safe skills which will carry forward throughout their lifetime. 🦆



Sitting down in a relaxed environment with your young person, and talking about guns and a hunting experience, is an important first step.



HANDLOADING LUXURY

Redding's T-7 turret press
BY TIMOTHY FOWLER

As I strode out of a big city hotel into the busy downtown, a guy with a good haircut and a great story hit me up for some cash. Before handing over a crisp 50, I said, "If you're lying to me, I'm out \$50. But if you're lying to yourself, well, that's on you."

Every handloading manual I have starts with a chapter on how handloading will save you money. Believe this,

and it's on you. I have handloaded 15 different cartridges for over 20 years, ranging from 17 Fireball to 45 Automatic, and haven't saved a cent. A more accurate version of the truth is, once your equipment is paid for you can shoot two or three times more ammunition for the same cost as an equivalent number of factory rounds. This amounts to a 50 per cent to 70 per cent

savings per round, depending on how many loads you can safely squeeze out of a cartridge case.

THE REDDING T-7 TURRET PRESS

At some point, if you are serious about reloading, you will want a second press. I recently added a Redding T-7 turret press to my classic NRMA (National Reloading Manufacturers Association) bench that I built out of solid fir. While classed as a single stage press, the T-7 turret features seven threaded holes for dies. The press functions both as a manual index press, allowing various processes to be performed on a single cartridge while it remains in place, and as a single station press allowing the batch processing of cartridges.

The T-7 is a beautiful piece of American-manufactured steel that feels solid the moment you take it out of the box, and every time you pull the lever to perform an operation. A moveable handle fits in one of three slots on the head, to rotate the seven-hole turret to align dies with the shellholder/ram assembly.

This is particularly helpful in loading handgun cartridges using carbide dies that require no lubrication. My preference is to use the press for batch processing bottleneck cartridges, allowing me to keep focused on one step of the reloading procedure at a time. The turret speeds up the batch reloading process by allowing the various dies to remain perfectly in place, without disturbing their adjustment. This saves time installing and removing dies, while also eliminating the possibility of messing up a die's adjustment. Handloaders can even purchase replacement heads and an optional turret head stacker to hold multiple sets of dies, ready to be switched out with a twist of a hex key.

INCREASED PRODUCTIVITY

The productivity of a turret press lands somewhere between the single station and the progressive reloading press, while maintaining the precision tolerances required to load bench rest competition-worthy rounds. The press is supplied with an integral manual priming assembly, with both large and small primer cups. Redding also manufactures an automatic primer option, which eliminates the need to handle each primer individually. The T-7 features a hollow ram that drops punched primers into a clear, flexible



Above: The results of handloading include increased accuracy, enhanced knowledge of ballistics and improved shooting skill.

Left: Redding's T-7 turret press works to index or batch process cartridges.

tube fitted with a plug to keep spent primers under control. Empty the tube when it fills with spent primers or rig the tube into a garbage pail.

It's worth noting that Redding provides a lifetime warranty on their equipment and there is every reason to believe it will outlast my lifetime and be used by my grandkids to load cartridges for the firearms I leave them. The Redding T-7 is helping me produce more loaded rounds than my single stage press and do it with

extreme accuracy. Canadian price is right around \$500.

I'm coming up on 20 years of handloading hundreds of rounds for everything in my gun safe. I have learned a lot, had some serious fun, and improved my shooting ability. However, my bank balance hasn't changed for the better as a result of handloading. Tell your friends and family how much money you saved, but if you believe this, well, that's on you. 🍀



A WILDERNESS COMPANION

Thoughts on the Backpacker shotgun
BY EDWARD OSBORNE



Above: The stock has been shortened from its original size, while maintaining a non-restricted overall length.

Below: The gun's folding feature makes easy to store and transport.

I've only ever met one person with an Authorization to Carry – a geologist who made his living in the wilderness scouting for mining and oil companies. He carried a 357 Magnum Smith & Wesson in a full-flap leather holster that had been worn dark along the bottom. To hear him tell it, he'd fired that gun in some state of need while working in the Yukon, Alberta and northern British

Columbia. He also said he'd drawn it more times than he could count.

To be so isolated and remote makes a person sensitive. Out there, the body falls into doing what human beings have been doing for hundreds of thousands of years: watching for danger, detecting patterns, assessing risk. But there's a fulfillment there that we don't get anywhere else. To survey a valley rich >





The shell carrier is made in Edmonton by LOF Defence, attached by hook and loop, and carries a three-inch slug and a two-and-three-quarter-inch No. 4 shot.

with life stimulates some lower-mantle aspect of our brains.

I love being outdoors. As far outdoors as I can get. When I sleep in the city, I dream of landscapes.

And I've always considered myself an eager hoop-jumper when it comes to firearms law. Extra testing and paperwork for additional access? Sign me up. I've arrived at the Del Bonita border crossing into Montana with a half-dozen firearms, each with their full suite of American and Canadian paperwork. I wanted to go somewhere new and try a new sport, they asked for additional registrations and authorizations, and I was happy to work through the requirements to have that happen.

But I know I'll never own an ATC – never have a legal handgun holstered while hiking the slope of a mountain. The society we live in now is no longer interested in such things. Even with my penchant for paperwork. Without a professional requirement to be solo in the backcountry, or a credible threat against my life that police are unable to address, I will not meet the criteria Canada has set for an individual to carry.

I have mixed feelings about urban carry. In Colorado Springs, I once witnessed a man in shorts, sunglasses and flip-flops adjust the Springfield XDM holstered inside

his waistline while slurping a can of Olympia beer. He still haunts me to this day.

But after the dirt roads have given way to scrubby trails, and the creek-bank mud tells you you're the first human to cross it in weeks, I do want a firearm at hand. I've picked mine, and I can explain why.

I make the case that the gun you have at hand is infinitely superior to the gun you left behind. Weight matters. In moments of foolish excitement, I've hauled 20-pound, heavy-barrel rifles out into the woods for what I thought would be a good day's shooting. But when it comes to actual hikes, backpacking and scouting, the core requirements are simple: light, handy and reasonably effective in the event of disaster.

Ask a few Canadians about their bush guns and you'll hear frequent mentions to granddad's .303 Enfield or a compact lever-action carbine. But I'm thrifty, bordering on frugal, and desire a little more flexibility in terms of ammunition selection, so I opted for the ever-functional 12-gauge solution.

In the past five years, Canada has seen an explosion of imported shotguns from a variety of locations. While homemade (sawn-off) barrels remain very much prohibited, manufacturers have finally realized there is a real de-

sire here for short-barreled shotguns. Law reminder: For a manually operated firearm, any factory-manufactured barrel length is legal, and the firearm is non-restricted if it meets an overall length of 660 millimetres.

I settled on a break-action, single-shot 12-gauge shotgun with a 14-inch barrel. There were a variety to choose from, but I opted for a Dominion Backpacker of Turkish make, brought in by CanadaAmmo. In all honesty, I had my sights set on a Sinsinati from Corwin Arms, but finding stock can be a tricky thing. Today, the Backpackers are sold out at CanAm, and some other retailer with yet another manufacturer has taken their place.

My particular blend of Backpacker features extractors (not ejectors) and an internal hammer. Its 14-inch barrel has a modified choke, with a simple brass bead sight. The cross-bolt safety is easy to use, and the trigger breaks reliably at six pounds. It uses a second trigger-style lever to break the action. With a three-inch chamber, it can safely fire a



The author, having set down his pack in the southern Alberta foothills, proceeds to put a few rounds through the Dominion shotgun.

wide range of loads, and weighs four pounds, nine ounces.

I've outfitted it with a short leather sling, a Canadian-made blaze orange carrier for a pair of shotshells and a custom-shaped stock that brings the whole assembly right down to almost the 660-millimetre mark. I like it very much.

Now, I think the question of why a person chooses to bring a firearm with them into the wilderness is worth some exploration.

You may find you have friends or family members who are uneasy about this idea. As a civilization, it seems we are uneasy about firearms in this historical moment. If you find my case compelling here, consider sharing this explanation with them. I consider it a service to the sport if we can shift hesitant detractors into merely neutral territory. Not every conversation needs to be an evangelical conversion, and contrary to debate-club experience you're unlikely to shout someone into changing their mind. But the question of justification is a topic I'm happy to explore.

It's easy for any shooter to say, "Duh, bears!" and leave it at that. The gun is for wildlife defense. But I think that fails to explore the real nuance. I carry a firearm in the wilderness to experience true comfort there.

Human beings have a complicated relationship with solitude. We are founded in social connection but crave seclusion. We need it in different forms at varied frequencies, but if you look back across the oeuvre of human writing, you'll find texts expressing a desire for alone-ness in nature from every culture and time-period we have record for.

But a human infused with separateness loses those social ties of security. There is no one to watch their back, consult with or gain assistance from. A solitary human leaves society and instead becomes that most elemental of creatures: prey. When alone in the woods, they will always sleep with one eye open. From an evolutionary perspective, a solitary human was a human in a weakened state, vulnerable to ambush from wildlife or other humans.

The firearm is a leveler. It is not a rude assertion that the world is my dominion. I make no claim to ownership over nature with a gun in my hand, enforcing submission to my will and whim. But I am elevated beyond prey. I have teeth, and a fighting chance should a predator of any kind make an attempt. I know that in the event of disaster, if I were unable to return home, I would have options that might still give me a chance to reunite with

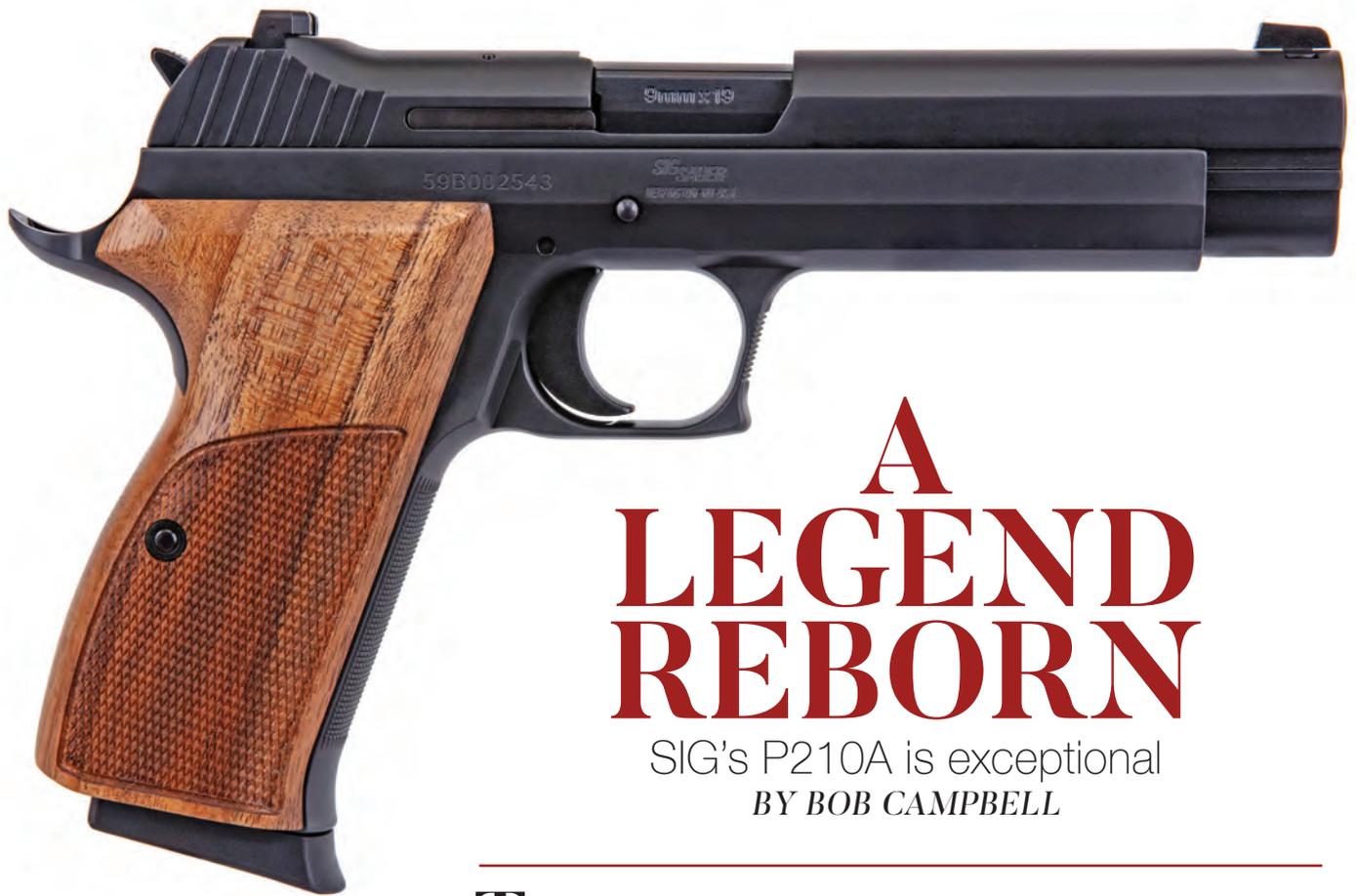
friends, family, tribe. Beyond the firearm, there is a whole world of preparedness in the pack: food, fire, water, shelter. But it begins there.

Why then do we go? If to enter the wilds alone is to place oneself at some level of risk, why bother with the journey at all?

Some don't. Many people go their entire lives within the confines of their walled cities. Others partake in only a saccharine sampling of curated and secure wilderness. They would rather witness it from a parking lot than risk losing themselves in it.

But I think there is a reason our ancestors found themselves exploring out of Africa, and it was not a casting out of the wretched. Whatever the process that drives great painters to recreate vibrant landscapes, it pushes us on further to seek out the next valley, riverbend or frontier.

To be immersed in the forest is to reconnect with those primeval moments, that feeling of expansion within. It's part of why we still hunt, and why I'm at my happiest crossing an unseen meadow with a shotgun over my shoulder. 



A LEGEND REBORN

SIG's P210A is exceptional

BY BOB CAMPBELL

There are a very few handguns I hold in the greatest esteem, as being head and shoulders above the rest. A well-made 1911, the High Power and the CZ75 are among these. I also have a lot of respect for the SIG P series service handguns. For some time, I have wished to own a SIG P210 9mm pistol, but finances and opportunity have not met.

Most modern introductions of new pistols are reasonably priced, polymer frame, striker-fired handguns. There are also plenty of inexpensive 1911s, and when someone introduces a top-quality pistol it seems to be on the 1911 pattern. The new SIG P210A is an exception. This is a steel frame, single action 9mm with a single column magazine. It certainly isn't like most handguns today, as it defines excellence and accuracy. No, it isn't exactly like the original P210, but then a Les Baer 1911 isn't like the original National Match.

The original P210 replaced the Luger as the Swiss service pistol and served from 1948 to 1975, when it was replaced by the SIG P220 9mm. The Swiss placed a premium on accuracy and the P210 delivered. The pistol was designed by noted firearms designer Charles Petter, who was the designer responsible for the French 1935A as well. While often

criticized as an odd and underpowered pistol, my experience with the 1935A is that it is a miniature P210 in most regards. The pistol is very accurate. I once undertook a loading project with the 7.65 French Long the 1935A chambers. The result was a super accurate pistol that fired a cartridge more powerful than most 32 H&R Magnum loads. But that is another story. The P210 chambered the much more powerful 9mm Luger cartridge, which the Swiss had large stores of. The pistol became immensely popular in this nation of shooters and was widely used in target competition.

SIG pioneered the system in which the barrel hood butts into the ejection port for lockup. The P series uses this system and is certainly famous for accuracy. The P210A uses this system, rather than the P210's locking lugs. The pivoting trigger is basically the same, while the pistol features an elongated grip tang for greater comfort. A great improvement is the new safety. The original P210 features a safety behind the trigger and just in front of the grips. This isn't a fast or tactically sound system, and the new version is much better. The pistol is stainless steel, a big plus, and the stainless is covered in a black Nitride finish.

This new SIG is made in the US. This

SIG P210A SPECIFICATIONS

CALIBRE: 9mm Luger

CAPACITY: Eight plus one rounds

TRIGGER: Single action only

FRAME AND SLIDE: Stainless steel with Nitron finish

BARREL: Carbon steel

BARREL LENGTH: 5.0 inches (127 millimetres)

OVERALL LENGTH: 8.4 inches (214 millimetres)

WIDTH: 1.6 inches (41 millimetres)

WEIGHT: 36.9 ounces (one kilogram)

HEIGHT: 5.3 inches (135 millimetres)

The P210A features a magazine release just behind the trigger and a much-improved thumb safety.



is interesting, as the original P210 was made in Switzerland by Schweizerische Industrie Gesellschaft. It might be said the new pistol is Americanized, or perhaps modernized. I don't think any of us complained when SIG changed the P220's magazine release from a heel position to a push button just behind the trigger. However, I'm certain some will complain concerning the P210A's detail changes.

The P210 is a thinner and better-balanced handgun than its images portray, and I find it lively in the hand. However, it isn't a lightweight, as it weighs 37 ounces and is 8.4 inches long. My pistol is the fixed sight version, which fits my personal tastes well. The rear sight is adjustable for windage and the front post is dovetailed in place. Sights feature a white three dot set up. The front strap is nicely checkered, and the grips are finely finished. This all contributes to maintaining an excellent grip on the gun.

The slide lock lever is extended, and the new beavertail grip tang makes for more comfortable shooting. I find the grip design keeps the pistol centered and the sights come to the eye naturally as the pistol is grasped. The new lock up for the ramped barrel makes for excellent accuracy, as the firing tests proved.

Since the P210 features reversed frame rails, with the slide riding inside the frame, there is less slide material to grasp when racking the slide. However, properly designed cocking serrations riding on a raised boss in the slide give the hand excellent purchase. And that slide is well fitted, with no lateral play at all. In common with the Petter-designed P35 and the Tokarev TT33, the P210 features a modular trigger design. The hammer, mainspring, sear and disconnect are in this unit. The trigger press on my pistol is a smooth 3.8 pounds without any trace of creep, grit or backlash.

For the firing evaluation, I chose nine

loads from SIG Sauer, Fiocchi and Winchester. The SIG P210A is a robust handgun, well suited to full power or +P ammunition, so I included these. The loads used were the SIG 365 (a personal defense loading using the proven V Crown JHP), the SIG 115-grain V Crown JHP and the SIG 147-grain FMJ. I also used the Fiocchi 124-grain FMJ, the Fiocchi 115-grain XTP Extrema and 124-grain XTP Extrema. Winchester loads included the Winchester 115-grain Silvertip, the 124-grain PDX +P and the Winchester 147-grain PDX. The pistol is delivered with two magazines, but I ordered another for the testing. Beginning with the FMJ loads, I faced man-sized targets at seven and 10 yards. I found the pistol comes on target quickly and offers excellent hit probability. It has a natural feel in the hand and stays on target well during rapid fire. It wasn't difficult to quickly empty the magazine into the X ring. Speed loading is easier due to the funnel formed by the pistol's grips. As for absolute accuracy, the pistol is capable of one-inch, five-shot groups at 25 yards. I achieved this goal at times, but for the most part the service-grade loads printed five shots into two inches. Certainly, the pistol is more accurate than I.

Unlike the Swiss and German P210 pistols, SIG's new version, while not inexpensive, will be affordable for many of us. CNC machinery makes for real precision and manufacturing efficiencies. There are two versions available, the Standard model with fixed sights and the Target model with a fully adjustable rear sight, a fiber-optic front sight and larger grips. The Target model of the P210A is available in Canada for about \$2,300. If you want an accurate 9mm, it's well worth its price. 

Target model upgrades include a fully adjustable rear sight and larger grips.





The Wyoming Sight Drifter consists of a steel "hammer," and a brass punch connected by a strong spring.

THE WYOMING SIGHT DRIFTER

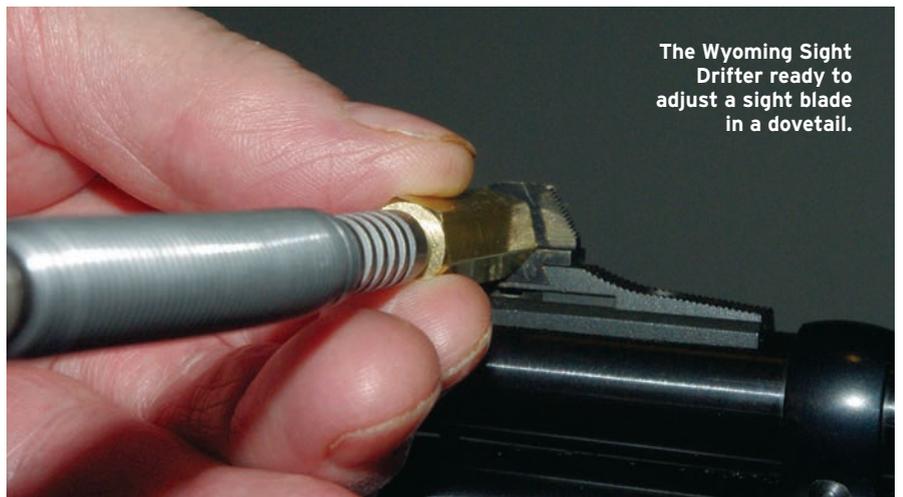
A tricky problem, fixed with a simple solution

BY JEFF SMITH

For most of the history of firearms, open or iron sights have been the predominant type of sight on rifles, shotguns and handguns. However, over time optics have replaced iron sights on most hunting rifles, the exception being lever guns and rifles built for hunting dangerous game, where the shooting can occur at close range. Many modern sporting rifles have also kept open sights; however, they are a breed of their own.

Just like with optical sights, any shooter who wants to be proficient with an iron-sighted rifle must ensure the gun is zeroed with those sights. To accomplish this, it is imperative to adjust either the rear or front sights, and sometimes both. Occasionally, this will entail changing the front blade to one of a different height or raising or lowering the rear sight. While that corrects for vertical error, it does nothing for the equally common lateral misalignment. Some front sights are set in a dovetail cut into the barrel or on a ramp which has a dovetail in it, and if a lateral adjustment is needed the sight must be moved in the dovetail. This is done by moving the sight in the dovetail through use of a sight pusher or with a hammer and a brass or nylon punch. This can mean taking multiple, bulky tools with you to the range.

Last year, I was looking for a simple



The Wyoming Sight Drifter ready to adjust a sight blade in a dovetail.

method of installing and adjusting the front sight on a couple of lever guns I have. That's when I discovered a website advertising a small, simple tool designed to be used at the bench, range or even while hunting, which allows for easy manipulation of the sight. Called the Wyoming Sight Drifter, it utilizes a brass punch connected to a steel punch by a strong spring. To adjust a sight, you simply place the brass firmly against the sight then, pull back on the steel end then let it go. The spring-loaded "hammer" sharply strikes the brass, thus moving the sight. The movement of the sight is managed by controlling

the energy released by the strike.

In addition to installing and adjusting iron sights, I have found it to be useful as a starter punch where pins and larger parts need some persuasion. Recently, I was reassembling a rifle I had refinished for a friend and found the trigger guard didn't want to easily slide back into the recess in the wood. A bit of careful tapping with the tool and it was firmly in place.

Designed and sold by Wyoming rancher Steve Anderson, this handy tool is machined in the United States. It is available at www.wyoming-sightdrifter.com for \$32 USD plus shipping. 🇺🇸



2020 AGM

Alt+ Hotel Brossard, QC (South Shore Montreal)

**POSTPONED
DUE TO COVID-19**

NEW DATE: TBD

TOLL FREE: 1-877-818-0393

NFA.ca



156, Leduc Blvd.
Brossard (QC) J4Y 0L2



CANADA'S COMPACT GLOCK

Reviewing the Glock 48
BY NORMAN GRAY



I'm old enough to remember a gun world that was polymer-free – one consisting of blued steel and wood. The undisputed king of the handgun was John Moses Browning's 1911. Then the '80s happened. The Austrian military needed a replacement for their aging Second World War handguns, and pistol trials were conducted to find a modern replacement. Bids were being accepted by any manufacturer that wanted to throw their hat into the ring. Gaston Glock decided to do just that, even though he had never manufactured a firearm. Glock figured if it was a manufactured product, he could do it, as he already had successful military and civilian contracts. Well, wouldn't you know it, the Glock 17 won the trials, and handguns would never be the same.

A few years later, in 1988, Glock's introduction of the Model 19 gave customers the option of a shorter barrel with a 15-round capacity. However, countries with limits on magazine capacity and barrel length kept the G19 out of reach of their citizens. But all that changed in 2019 with the introduction of the Glock 48. Canadians could finally enjoy shooting a compact Glock handgun.

The G48 is essentially a G19 with a 4.17-inch (106-millimetre) barrel and a slimmer grip frame. Of course, that slimline profile meant changing the magazine from a traditional double stack to a less congested single stack. The combination makes for a Canadian-legal Glock that's reasonably compact.

The 1.1-inch (28-millimetre) wide slide sports forward cocking serrations for chamber checks and utilizes Glock's nDLC finish. The nDLC finish is an ion bonding process that is an exclusive part of the Glock manufacturing process. The finish increases protection against corrosion and scratches and improves the ability of the pistol to function in unlubricated or adverse conditions. It's a finish which will be standard on all Gen5 pistols. Sight options range from standard OEM plastic, to steel, night sights and the AmeriGlo bold sights currently used on FBI duty pistols. The barrel of the G48 is Glock's Marksman barrel, with their new rifling pattern and improved crown.

The frame is constructed of Glock's non-fiberglass, reinforced polymer, and is the same frame used on the G43X. It has a reversible magazine release for all you southpaws, and medium stippling composed of tiny squares for positive grip control. I have never had, nor heard of any issues from anyone in regards to controlling any of their Glocks; of course, you always have the option of aftermarket re-stippling. If that wasn't enough, they added a small beavertail, so slide bite is negligible, depending

on your grip and hand size.

Range time consisted of inspection, chronographing and accuracy testing. However, testing Glocks has always been somewhat blasé for me, as their initial design and function haven't changed much since 1982. What makes Glocks so desirable is their simplicity and die-hard reliability; that's why I own three. The chambering of the venerable 9x19mm Luger is a given in any newly manufactured handgun. It's the default cartridge of the world and its militaries. With practice, it's not

hard to control any model chambered in 9mm, and the performance of the round has increased exponentially since 1902 when it was introduced. I used a combination of standard full metal jacket, match-grade FMJ and Black Hills Honeybadger. I also added some frangible ammunition from Polyfrang and DoubleTap because shooting steel has grown steadily in popularity, and since ricochets are never fun or desired, the frangible ammunition makes a great addition to your range loadout. Test results looked like this:

NOTES: Accuracy is derived from the average of five, five-shot groups fired from the bench at 15 yards. Velocity figures are the result of 10 rounds recorded on a Caldwell Ballistic Precision Chronograph G2 placed 15 feet from the muzzle. Abbreviations: (SD), standard deviation; (AG), average group; (FMJ), full metal jacketed; (TCMC), truncated cone metal case.

Chronograph & Accuracy Results - Glock 48 - 9x19mm			
AMMUNITION	Velocity (fps)	SD	AG
Black Hills Ammunition 100-grain HoneyBadger	1,219	10.4	2.2 inches
DoubleTap 9mm 124-grain FMJ-RN Match	1,088	6.4	2.2 inches
DoubleTap 9mm 90-grain Frangible	1,440	10.7	2.3 inches
Polyfrang 9mm 90-grain Frangible	1,278	27.7	1.7 inches
Winchester 9mm 147-grain TCMC	997	10.5	2.4 inches

Below and inset: The AmeriGlo sights are an asset for both day and low-light shooting.

I've been shooting Glocks for around 30 years, and I've witnessed them go from Generation nothing to Generation 5. We should expect technology, materials and aesthetics to change for the better and I feel Glocks have. The AmeriGlo sights were a positive addition to making sighting effortless. Combined with the 2.4-kilogram

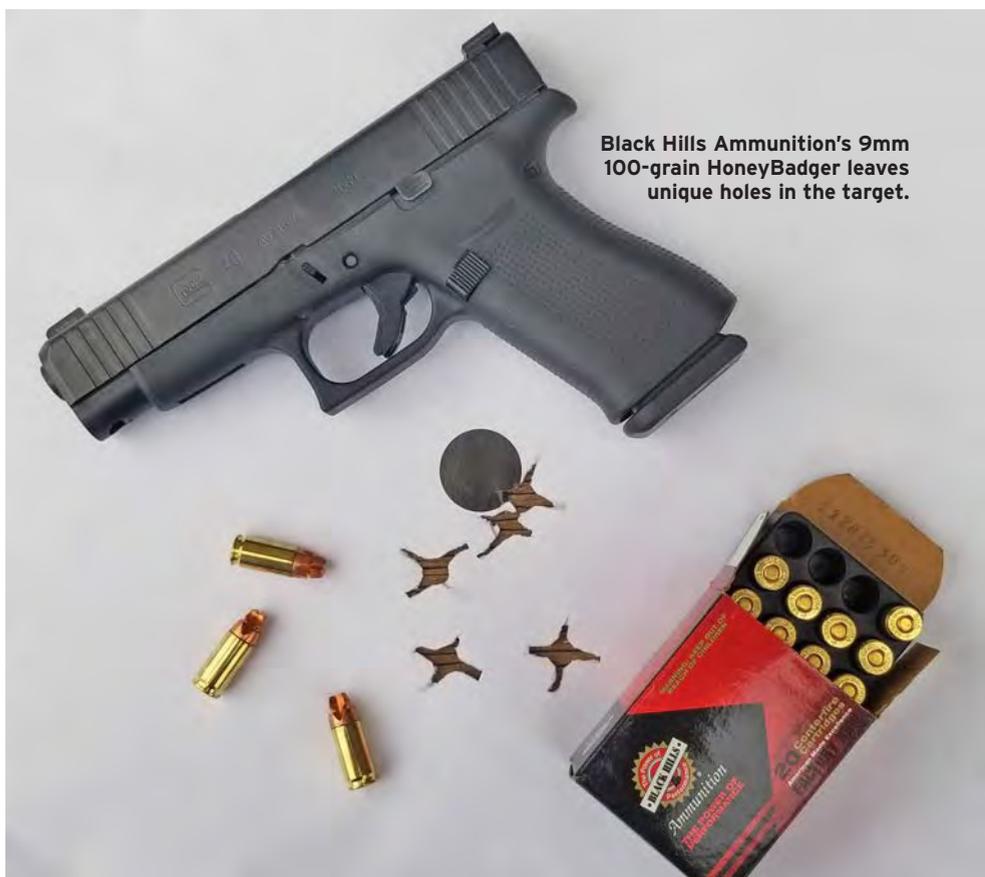
(5.4-pound) trigger, it was easy to acquire the target and place the round where intended. Even with my extra-large hands, I found the grip was large enough to control the pistol.

I've adopted the practice of asking others around me to shoot whatever I'm testing and asking their opinion. The men I offered the G48 to all liked it, even though it was compact, saying, "It's comfortable to hold and shoot despite the size." The women told me the single best >



thing was the grip size. Comments included, "It was comfortable and easy to control versus other manufacturers," and, "It's a contender for purchase."

Since the first Glock 17 reached the hands of Austrian soldiers, Glock has become a well-respected and iconic manufacturer of reliable handguns around the world. Glock coined the phrase, "Glock perfection," and you only have to watch TV and movies to see how heavy their influence is. When I acquired my first Glock in the early '90s, I felt drawn to its natural simplicity. Trust me when I say I've shot a lot of rounds through my Glocks, and in all these years I've only encountered one mechanical issue, and Glock fixed it at their expense. Based on many years behind their trigger, Glock will always be a part of my collection, and if you don't own one, the G48 would be a fine place to start. 🇺🇸



Black Hills Ammunition's 9mm 100-grain HoneyBadger leaves unique holes in the target.



Left to right: Lead-free 90-grain PolyFrang, DoubleTap 90-grain Frangible, 124-grain FMJ-RN Match, Winchester 147-grain TCMC and Black Hills 90-grain HoneyBadger +P.

SOURCES

GLOCK INC.: us.glock.com/en
Black Hills Ammunition: www.black-hills.com

DOUBLETAP: www.doubletapammo.net

POLYFRANG: www.polyfrang.com

WINCHESTER: www.winchester.com

GLOCK 48 SPECIFICATIONS

MODEL: 48 - PA4850301AB

TYPE: Striker-fired semi-automatic

CALIBRE: 9x19mm (9mm Luger)

CAPACITY: 10-round magazine with an orange follower

BARREL: 106 millimetres (4.17 inches) with polygonal barrel rifling

WEIGHT: 588 grams (20.74 ounces) with an empty magazine

OVERALL LENGTH: 185 millimetres (7.28 inches)

HEIGHT: 128 millimetres (5.04 inches)

SLIDE WIDTH: 22 millimetres (0.87 inches)

Slide length: 174 millimetres (6.85 inches)

FRAME: Non-fiberglass reinforced polymer

SIGHTS: Standard Glock, OEM, Night or AmeriGlo

TRIGGER: Safe action trigger, 2.4 kilograms (5.4 pounds)

SAFETY(S): Safe Action system utilizing three automatic, independently operating mechanical safeties.

PRICE: \$656 CAD

Become an
NFA
FIELD
OFFICER

Are you a firearms activist
eager to make a difference
and fight to protect gun owners' rights?

Volunteer and join our leadership team today!

FIELD OFFICER PROGRAM:
1-877-818-0393 // info@nfa.ca



NFA

CANADA'S
NATIONAL
FIREARMS
ASSOCIATION

Devenez AGENT DE TERRAIN NFA

Êtes-vous un(e) activiste voulant faire une différence et se battre pour protéger les droits des propriétaires d'armes à feu?

***Joignez-vous à notre équipe
de bénévoles dès aujourd'hui!***

PROGRAMME AGENTS DE TERRAIN
1-877-818-0393 // info@nfa.ca



NFA

CANADA'S
NATIONAL
FIREARMS
ASSOCIATION

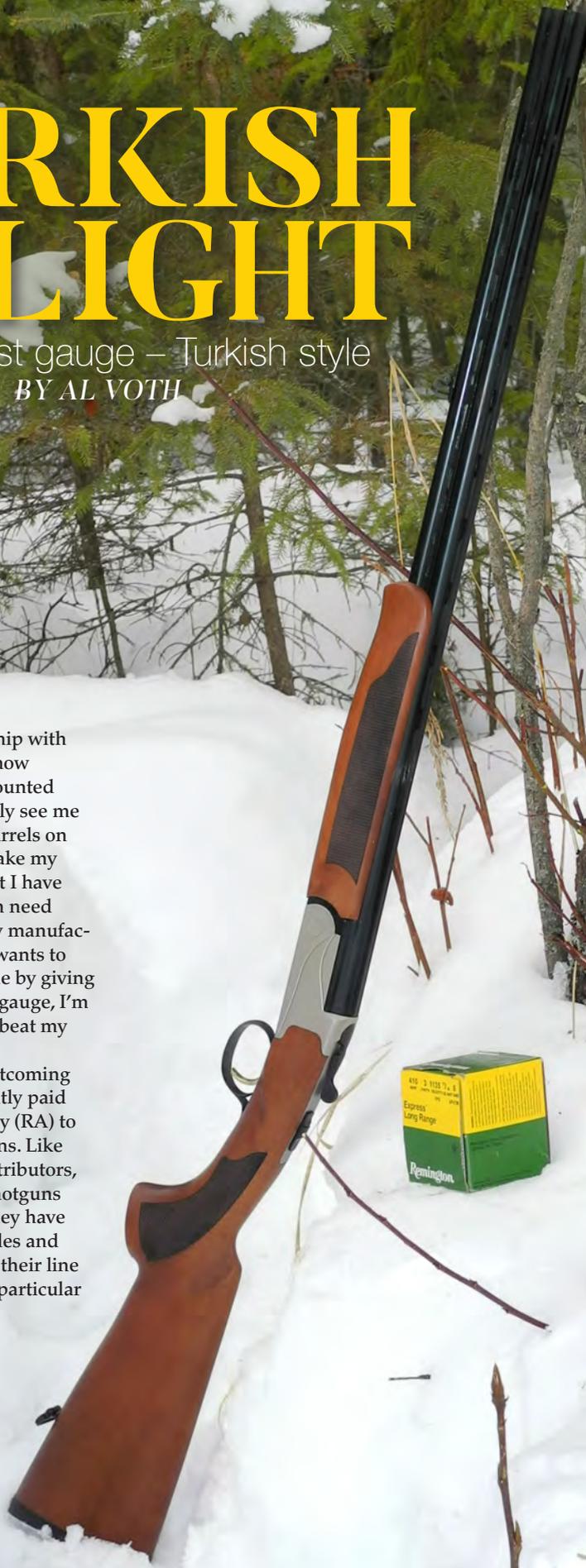
TURKISH DELIGHT

The smallest gauge – Turkish style

BY AL VOTH

I have a strange relationship with twin-barrel shotguns. Show me one with the barrels mounted side-by-side and you'll likely see me yawn. But put one of the barrels on top of the other, and it'll make my heart race. There's no doubt I have a problem, and maybe even need counseling. However, if any manufacturer reading these words wants to help me overcome this issue by giving me a fine double-barrel 20 gauge, I'm certainly willing to try and beat my affliction.

I noticed this mental shortcoming of mine again when I recently paid a visit to Revolution Armory (RA) to inspect their line of shotguns. Like several other Canadian distributors, RA is importing a line of shotguns manufactured in Turkey. They have an extensive offering of styles and gauges, but I was drawn to their line of 410 Bore guns, with one particular





model catching my eye. You guessed it, the gun's an over/under, and it followed me home for a little one-on-one time at the range and in the rabbit woods.

ORIGINS

RA calls the model I took home the Elite, and like all their shotguns it's manufactured by Kirici Silah Arms. Located in Konya, Turkey, the seventh-largest city in Turkey, the company is named after its founder, Ahmet Kirici. I'm told Ahmet worked as a gunsmith for 13 years, always with the vision to open his own manufacturing facility. That dream was realized in 2005, and now this family-operated business owns a modern gun manufacturing facility that exports all manner of shotguns to more than 40 countries. A quick look through their catalogue shows not only over/under guns, but also side-by-sides, pump, semi-auto and revolver shotguns. Styles range from the traditional Elite you see pictured here, all the way to ultra-modern tactical bullpups, with all these styles represented in the RA catalogue.

SPECIFICATIONS & INSPECTION

The Elite is a fairly typical over/under of box-lock design. It's available in 12 and 20 gauge, as well as the 410 Bore I tested. This is a single trigger gun, with barrel selection accomplished via a left/right sliding tab mounted on the gun's tang safety. The barrels

are 26 inches long on my gun, with an overall length of 43 inches. Those barrels are chambered for three-inch shells and separated by a ventilated mid-rib. The gun's top rib is ventilated too, with a matte finished top surface, which is very nicely done. At the muzzle end, a single brass bead looks after sighting chores.

The gun comes with five removable, flush-fitting choke tubes, even in the 410 Bore chambering, allowing the gun to be set up with a broad selection of choke options. The gun pictured here is equipped with extractors only, but a version is also available with ejectors, at an additional cost of \$75. Cocking, for both barrels, is accomplished as the gun is opened, and then fired with a trigger pull that's reasonably consistent for both barrels, at about six pounds. Recoil is absorbed by the gun's five-pound, three-ounce weight and a rubber butt pad.

The Elite has a 4140 steel receiver, which is nickel plated, while the barrels are finished in a matte black oxide. It's worth noting that the receiver of the 410 Bore is sized properly for this smallest of shell sizes. As its light weight suggests, the receiver is so small I can wrap my hand around it and my fingers will overlap significantly. The stock is Turkish (what else) walnut, again with a satin finish. Overall, it's a pleasing combination and the quality of fit and finish, while not in the same class as a Beretta, is

excellent, considering the price point. And that price point is a shockingly low \$625 CAD. How they can produce a gun like this, for that price, is beyond me, but there it is.

SHOOTING

Initially, the gun opened tight, much tighter than I expected. However, by the time I'd gone through a few boxes of shells, some dry firing and several disassembly/reassembly cycles, it was more manageable to open, though still requiring some effort. I believe that's a good thing, as it suggests that with proper lubrication and some more use, the gun should break in nicely, with the opening lever still positioned well to the right of centre.

Initial work at the patterning board with the top barrel revealed the gun shooting slightly low for me. That's a common situation with shotguns, as my face and body type seem to dictate that I usually have to raise the comb a tad to get a perfect fit. But then I always prefer to set the bird on top of the bead when wingshooting, as opposed to covering it. With this gun, if I covered the bird, I got a hit. Lateral dispersion (windage) was perfect.

Note that all this was with the top barrel. When I tested the bottom barrel, I found it shot slightly lower and to the left, in relation to the top tube. The difference averaged about two to three inches at the 15-yard distance where I did my patterning. Think-



Top Left: The Elite breaks down in typical over/under fashion for transport and cleaning.

Top Right: The receiver is nickel plated for durability and easy cleaning.

Left: The shotgun tested was equipped with extractors only, the best option for handloaders.

ing one of the choke tubes might be off, I did some tube swapping, but there was no change. I don't doubt that regulating two barrels to impact at exactly the same point of aim is probably one of the hardest things to accomplish on a two-barrel gun, and they didn't get it perfect on this gun. The next gun off the line may be different, or maybe you just have to pay another \$2,000 to get point of impact perfection – I'm not sure. In any case, it likely doesn't make much difference in the field, especially considering the limited distances at which the 410 Bore is typically used.

Pattern quality was fine with both barrels, and well within the parameters we've come to expect from the 410 Bore. Clays broke consistently whenever I performed the shooter's functions properly. The gun's feathery weight made it fast to the shoulder and easy to carry when I took it into the dark timber where the local rabbit population lives. Deep March snow made the going tough, so the light weight was much appreciated.

SUMMARY

Considering this gun's \$625 price, this is a fantastic little shotgun. It's well

built, attractive and handles just fine. The closest thing to a flaw is the less-than-perfect barrel regulation, which may just be a quirk of this one gun. If you have thousands of dollars to spend on an over/under, you will certainly get an upgrade in quality, but for the price, you'll likely never get as much gun for as little cash. Working with this little scattergun didn't do a thing to modify my love affair for over/under guns, as opposed to side-by-sides, it just reinforced it. If you'd like to learn more about this and the other Revolution Armory products, visit their website at www.revolutionarmory.com. 



Legal Corner

Guy Lavergne, Attorney at Law

Red Flag Gun Laws

In his most recent mandate letter, Minister Blair was instructed by the prime minister to, “develop a mechanism for suspending licences for those who pose a danger to themselves or others.” In early February 2020, Minister Blair was quoted as “working on red flag laws, to remove guns from people deemed by the courts to be a risk to themselves or to someone else.”¹

Amazingly, the fact that such mechanisms already exist in Canadian law appears to be somewhat foreign to the prime minister and to the Honourable Mr. Bill Blair, who is the incumbent Minister of Public Safety, and long served as the city of Toronto chief of police before entering the federal political arena. Based upon these declarations, it seems that the most powerful decision-makers lack a basic understanding of existing Canadian legislation.

A so-called red flag gun law is a legislative scheme that allows police, government agencies and/or courts to remove firearms from an individual, and/or prevent such an individual from having legal access to firearms, even in the absence of a criminal offence.

As a matter of fact, the existing Canadian gun control legislation already features multiple mechanisms that allow police forces, chief firearms officers and courts to remove firearms from persons they view as potentially dangerous individuals and/or prevent them from having access to firearms in the first place.

The following is an overview of what already exists.

LICENCING

The centrepiece of Canadian gun control legislation is the licencing scheme. Indeed, Section 91 of the *Criminal Code* (CC) makes it a criminal offence for anyone to possess a firearm without the required licence and, when applicable, registration certificate. The counterpart of Section 91 of the CC is Section 4 of the *Firearms Act*, which states that licences, certificates and



The Canadian gun control system only focuses on the law-abiding.

Le système canadien de contrôle des armes à feu se concentre sur les individus respectueux des lois.

authorizations may be issued in order to authorize possession of firearms, in circumstances that would otherwise constitute a criminal offence. Firearms licences may only be issued to those who are deemed not to be a threat to themselves or to others². Licences may be revoked, at any time and without judicial process³, if a chief firearms officer deems the licence holder to represent a danger to himself or to others. Typically, when a firearms licence is revoked, the licence holder is given 30 days to legally dispose of his/her firearms. However, when a police officer believes there exists a threat to the person or to others, the firearms and licence card (PAL) may be seized and removed immediately⁴.

Of course, none of this applies to individuals who possess firearms illegally, because although they are often true criminals, the Canadian gun control system only focuses on the law-abiding.

PROHIBITION ORDERS

Provincial courts already have the power to issue firearms prohibition orders. I wrote a column on that topic a few years ago, and I encourage you to read that column⁵ for an in-depth

overview of that topic.

A prohibition order may be issued for preventive reasons, at the request of a police officer, if there are reasonable grounds to believe that an individual may be a threat to himself or to others⁶. The issuance of a prohibition order triggers an automatic licence revocation⁷ and precludes an individual from possessing a firearm, even under the supervision of an authorized person. It further precludes the issuance of a new firearms licence to that individual. Although a prohibition order may, on its face, appear to be limited in duration, it may very well forever disqualify a person from being issued a firearms licence. Indeed, a firearms officer may refuse to issue a firearms licence for any good and sufficient reason⁸, including because a person has been subject to a prohibition order in the past, even though that order has expired.

SEARCH AND SEIZURE OF FIREARMS

Searches and seizures of firearms may be carried out for allegedly preventive reasons, even though no offence has been committed⁹. A search warrant may be obtained, and a firearm seizure may take place, in the absence of any criminal offence, when a police officer

believes, upon reasonable grounds, that an individual may be a danger to himself/herself or others¹⁰. In exigent circumstances, such a search and seizure may even take place without a warrant¹¹.

This is the very essence of a red flag gun law. It does not even require a court's intervention. Indeed, although a search warrant (when needed) must be authorized by a justice of the peace, that process takes place *ex parte*, i.e. in the absence of the targeted individual. It is only after the fact that the targeted individual may contest the validity of the search and seizure before a court of law¹².

THE LATEST

Thus, the police, the government and the courts already have all the tools required to prevent and/or end access to firearms.

However, Minister Blair subsequently changed his tune to some extent, perhaps from the realization that he was not proposing anything that did not already exist. Indeed, he was reported as saying, "Our government wants to empower not just the police, but doctors, individuals in domestic abuse situations, communities and families to raise a flag on people who pose a risk

to themselves or an identifiable group, ensuring they do not have access to firearms."¹³

As far as domestic partners, family and community members are concerned, those situations are already addressed by existing legislation, insofar as they can request the police to take action. Allowing them independent access to the courts, without police intervention, is unlikely to prevent tragedies, insofar as courts are inherently slow.

As far as allowing doctors and other health professionals to act as whistle-blowers, it has already been done in Quebec. Indeed, in 2007, Quebec passed legislation¹⁴ allowing doctors and other health and social services professionals to report to police the fact that a patient may be dangerous to himself or others and has access to firearms.

Without legislation relieving them of privilege, professionals such as doctors would be precluded from disclosing what they know. However, there is a flip side to that coin. If such legislation is passed, some patients will question whether they can speak to their doctor or health professional in confidence. Further, some may altogether refrain from seeking professional help and

thus compromise their own health/safety or that of others for fear of losing their firearms.

In the end, what the Liberals are planning might create a problem, rather than solve one, which is assuming there is one in the first place. 

REFERENCES

- ¹ "Ottawa to adopt 'red flag' laws to allow courts to confiscate guns from people deemed to pose a threat", by Robert Fife, the Globe and Mail, February 3, 2020
- ² S. 5
- ³ Section 70 of the Firearms Act.
- ⁴ Section 117.04 of the Criminal Code.
- ⁵ Canadian Firearms Journal, March-April 2017, p. 52
- ⁶ Section 111 of the Criminal Code.
- ⁷ Section 116 of the Criminal Code
- ⁸ Section 68 of the Firearms Act
- ⁹ Section 117.04 of the Criminal Code
- ¹⁰ Section 117.04 (1) of the Criminal Code
- ¹¹ Section 117.04 (2) of the Criminal Code
- ¹² Section 117.05 of the Criminal Code.
- ¹³ As reported in iPolitics, by Tim Naumetz, on February 5, 2020
- ¹⁴ Loi visant à favoriser la protection des personnes à l'égard d'une activité impliquant des armes à feu et modifiant la Loi sur la sécurité dans les sports, Article 8



Nathaniel Milljour



Rubrique Juridique

Guy Lavergne, avocat

Les Lois de type « RED FLAG » Au Canada



COURT HOUSE

Dans sa plus récente lettre de mandat, le premier ministre Trudeau a demandé au ministre Blair d'«élaborer un mécanisme de suspension des permis pour les personnes qui représentent un danger pour elles-mêmes ou pour les autres». Au début de février 2020, le ministre Blair disait « (traduction) travailler sur une législation visant à retirer l'accès aux armes à feu aux personnes considérées par les tribunaux comme présentant un risque pour elles-mêmes ou pour autrui».¹

Étonnamment, le fait qu'il existe déjà de tels mécanismes dans les lois du Canada semble échapper au premier ministre et à l'honorable Bill Blair, qui est pourtant ministre de la Sécurité publique, et qui a longtemps été chef de la police de la Ville de Toronto, avant d'entrer dans l'arène politique fédérale. Ces déclarations semblent suggérer une profonde incompréhension des lois existantes de la part des principaux décideurs.

Une loi dite « Red Flag Gun Law » est un régime législatif qui permet à la police, aux organismes gouvernementaux et/ou aux tribunaux de retirer l'accès légal

aux armes à feu à une personne, même en l'absence d'une infraction criminelle.

En fait, les lois canadiennes actuelles sur le contrôle des armes à feu comportent déjà de multiples mécanismes qui permettent aux forces policières, aux contrôleurs des armes à feu et aux tribunaux de priver les personnes potentiellement dangereuses de tout accès légal aux armes à feu.

Voici un aperçu de ce qui existe déjà à cet égard en droit canadien.

RÉGIME DE PERMIS

La pièce centrale du système canadien de contrôle des armes à feu est le régime de permis. En fait, l'article 91 du *Code criminel* (« CC ») édicte que la possession d'une quelconque arme à feu est une infraction criminelle, sauf lorsque la personne est titulaire du permis requis et, le cas échéant, d'un certificat d'enregistrement. La contrepartie de l'article 91 CC est l'article 4 de la Loi sur les armes à feu, qui stipule que des permis, certificats et autorisations peuvent être délivrés afin d'autoriser la

Provincial courts already have the power to issue firearms prohibition orders

Les cours provinciales ont déjà le pouvoir d'émettre des ordonnances d'interdiction d'accès aux armes à feu.

possession d'armes à feu, dans des circonstances qui constitueraient autrement une infraction criminelle. Les permis ne peuvent être émis qu'à ceux qui sont considérés ne pas constituer une menace pour eux-mêmes ou pour autrui². Les permis peuvent être révoqués, à tout moment et sans procédure³ judiciaire, si un contrôleur des armes à feu estime que le titulaire du permis représente un danger pour lui-même ou pour autrui. En règle générale, lorsqu'un permis d'armes à feu est révoqué, le titulaire du permis dispose de 30 jours pour disposer légalement de ses armes à feu. Toutefois, lorsqu'un agent de police croit qu'il existe une menace pour cette personne ou pour autrui, les armes à feu et le permis (PAF) peuvent être saisis immédiatement.

Bien entendu, rien de tout cela ne s'applique aux personnes qui possèdent illégalement des armes à feu, parce que, bien qu'il s'agisse la plupart du temps de véritables criminels, de telles mesures ne peuvent s'appliquer qu'aux personnes respectueuses des lois.

ORDONNANCES D'INTERDICTION

Les cours provinciales (au sens du Code criminel) ont déjà le pouvoir d'émettre des ordonnances d'interdiction d'armes à feu. J'ai écrit une chronique sur ce sujet il y a quelques années, et je vous encourage à lire cette chronique,⁴ pour un aperçu plus approfondi de ce sujet.

Une ordonnance d'interdiction peut être rendue à des fins préventives, à la demande d'un agent de police, s'il existe des motifs raisonnables de croire qu'une personne peut constituer une menace pour elle-même ou pour autrui.⁵ La délivrance d'une ordonnance d'interdiction déclenche une révocation⁶ automatique du permis et empêche une personne de posséder une arme à feu, même sous la supervision d'une personne autorisée. Elle empêche en outre la délivrance d'un nouveau permis d'armes à feu à cette personne. Bien qu'une ordonnance d'interdiction puisse, à première vue, sembler limitée dans le temps, son émission pourrait très bien à jamais disqualifier une personne de détenir un permis d'armes à feu. En fait, un contrôleur des armes à feu peut refuser d'émettre un permis d'armes à feu pour quelque raison⁷ valable, y compris en raison du fait qu'une personne a fait l'objet d'une ordonnance d'interdiction par le passé, même si cette ordonnance est dorénavant expirée.

PERQUISITION ET SAISIE D'ARMES À FEU

Des fouilles et des saisies d'armes à feu peuvent être effectuées pour des raisons qualifiées de « préventives », même si aucune infraction n'a été commise⁸. Un mandat de perquisition peut donc être obtenu, et une saisie d'armes à feu peut avoir lieu, en l'absence de toute infraction criminelle, lorsqu'un agent de police croit, pour des motifs raisonnables, qu'une personne peut constituer un danger

pour elle-même ou pour autrui.⁹ Dans des circonstances où il pourrait y avoir un danger immédiat pour la sécurité de cette personne ou de toute autre personne, une telle perquisition et saisie peuvent même être effectués sans avoir préalablement obtenu un mandat¹⁰.

De telles dispositions représentent l'essence même d'une loi de type « red flag ». Elles n'exigent même pas l'intervention d'un tribunal et permettent donc aux autorités d'agir avec célérité. En fait, bien qu'un mandat de perquisition (au besoin) doive être autorisé par un juge de paix, ce processus a lieu ex parte, c'est-à-dire en l'absence de la personne visée. Le potentiel d'abus est donc bien réel. Ce n'est qu'après le fait que la personne visée peut contester la validité de la perquisition et de la saisie devant un tribunal¹¹.

LES DERNIÈRES DÉCLARATIONS DU MINISTRE

Ainsi, la police, le gouvernement et les tribunaux disposent déjà de tous les outils nécessaires pour empêcher l'accès légal aux armes à feu, ce qui semble rendre redondante la démarche supposément entreprise par le Ministre Blair.

Cependant, le ministre Blair a par la suite modifié quelque peu son discours, peut-être à la suite d'une prise de conscience qu'il ne proposait rien qui n'existait pas déjà. En fait, il aurait déclaré : « (traduction) Notre gouvernement veut habiliter non seulement la police, mais aussi les médecins, les personnes en situation de violence familiale, les collectivités et les familles à faire un signalement à l'égard des personnes qui posent un risque pour elles-mêmes ou pour un groupe identifiable, en veillant à ce qu'elles n'aient pas accès aux armes à feu¹² ».

En ce qui concerne les partenaires domestiques, la famille et les membres de la communauté, ces situations sont déjà abordées par la législation existante, dans la mesure où ces personnes peuvent demander à la police d'agir. Il est peu probable qu'elles prennent la peine de s'adresser indépendamment aux tribunaux, dans le cas où les forces de l'ordre refuseraient de s'impliquer. Par ailleurs, le recours aux tribunaux est vraisemblablement illusoire dans

une véritable situation d'urgence, puisque les tribunaux sont intrinsèquement lents.

Quant au fait de permettre aux médecins et aux autres professionnels de la santé d'agir comme dénonciateurs, cela a déjà été fait au Québec. En effet, en 2007, le Québec a adopté une loi autorisant les médecins et autres professionnels de la santé et des services sociaux à signaler à la police le fait qu'un patient ayant accès à des armes à feu puisse être dangereux pour lui-même ou pour autrui¹³.

Sans législation les relevant de leur secret professionnel, ces professionnels seraient empêchés de divulguer ce qu'ils savent. Cependant, cette médaille a un revers. Si une telle loi est adoptée, certains patients se demanderont s'ils peuvent communiquer avec leur médecin ou professionnel de la santé en toute confidentialité. De plus, certains pourraient tout simplement s'abstenir de rechercher l'aide professionnelle dont ils ont besoin et ainsi compromettre leur propre santé/sécurité ou celle d'autres personnes de peur de perdre leurs armes à feu.

Ce que les libéraux prévoient faire pourrait ultimement créer un problème, plutôt que d'en résoudre un, à supposer qu'un tel problème existe *a priori*. 

REFERENCES

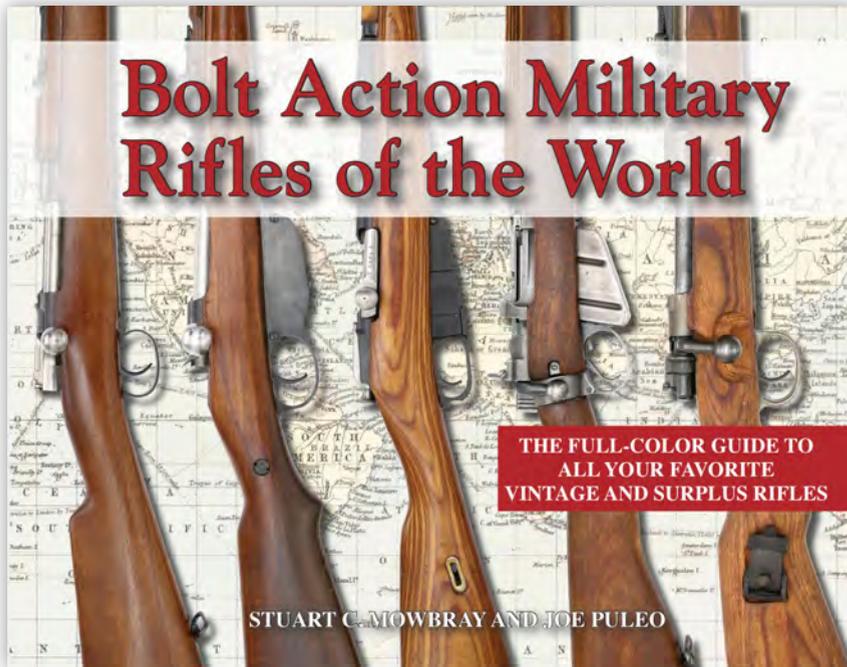
- ¹Ottawa to adopt 'red flag' laws to allow courts to confiscate guns from people deemed to pose a threat", Par Robert Fife, the Globe and Mail, 3 février 2020
- ²Article 5 de la Loi sur les armes à feu
- ³Article 70 de la Loi sur les armes à feu.
- ⁴Canadian Firearms Journal, mars-avril 2017, p. 52
- ⁵Article 111 du Code criminel.
- ⁶Article 116 du Code criminel
- ⁷Article 68 de la Loi sur les armes à feu
- ⁸Article 117.04 du Code criminel
- ⁹Article 117.04 (1) du Code criminel
- ¹⁰Article 117.04 (2) du Code criminel
- ¹¹Article 117.05 du Code criminel.
- ¹²Comme rapporté dans iPolitics, By Tim Naumetz, le 5 février 2020
- ¹³Loi visant à favoriser la protection des personnes à l'égard d'une activité impliquant des armes à feu et modifiant la Loi sur la sécurité dans les sports, Article 8



NFA Book Shelf

Bill Rantz

Bolt Action Military Rifles Of The World



Every bolt-action military rifle now available to civilians has a history only the rifle's features and markings can share. As tools of war, whether used to protect the homeland or attack the people of neighbouring countries, these firearms usually experienced harsh military duty. As conflicts ended, many were put into storage until they were sold throughout the world as war surplus. Eventually, large numbers of these firearms appeared in retail outlets and catalogues, where they could be purchased at bargain prices.

Authors Stuart Mowbray and Joe Puleo noted the wide variety of bolt-action military rifles currently available through gun dealers, auction sites and gun shows. They decided to provide firearm enthusiasts with a single-volume publication enabling collectors and dealers to confidently identify a specific bolt-action military rifle.

Such a task required extensive knowledge from known experts, as well as material previously published. Mowbray and Puleo advise the reader, Bolt Action Military Rifles of the

World contains technical data provided for academic discussion only. Details may have been chosen from contradictory sources and, despite the authors' best efforts, may contain mistakes. Such honesty is appreciated, as it would be virtually impossible to assemble such an enormous amount of data on hundreds of rare, antique and historic firearms without potential errors.

Mowbray and Puleo provide details on the military bolt-action firearms of 46 countries, organized alphabetically in the easy-to-use table of contents. Each country is discussed using a similar format. As this review is to be published in a Canadian publication, I initially located the section on Canada. High-resolution, coloured photographs of the Ross Rifle include full length and enlargements detailing specific features. Rare archive photographs of soldiers posing with Ross Rifles are a great addition and representative of many found throughout the book.

All 2,431 photographs in Bolt Action Military Rifles of the World are ac-

companied by a short explanation as to the significance of the content. The text is informative, concise and easy to understand. A handy table lists key specifications of each rifle, which may help the collector confidently identify a specific firearm.

Providing all information currently available was never the goal of this publication. There are often comprehensive books devoted exclusively to one type of firearm, such as The Type 38 Arisaka by Allan & Macy. Mowbray and Puleo acknowledge such works and encourage motivated readers to pursue additional information.

Bolt Action Military Rifles of the World is an incredible single-volume publication. Readers may quickly access an enormous amount of information on hundreds of surplus military rifles potentially encountered at retailers or gun shows. Demand for these firearms has increased dramatically over the last decade, causing prices to soar. Even minor variations in features or markings can greatly affect rarity and value. Whether you are a buyer or seller, the knowledge contained in Bolt Action Military Rifles of the World will help you make educated decisions.

Currently, Bolt Action Military Rifles of the World has a cover price of \$69.99 USD. It will become a well-used and valued reference book in any firearms library. 

Title: Bolt Action Military Rifles of the World

Authors: Stuart C. Mowbray and Joe V. Puleo

Publisher: Andrew Mowbray Inc. 2009 & 2012

ISBN: 1-931464-39-1

Pages: 408

Size: Hard cover with dust jacket, 11 by nine inches

Photographs: Current – colour; archive – black and white

LANZ

SHOOTING  SUPPLIES

WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED

THE BRANDS YOU KNOW FROM THE NAME YOU TRUST.



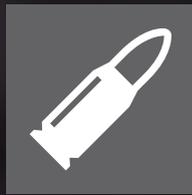
RIFLES



SHOT GUNS



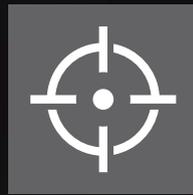
HANDGUNS



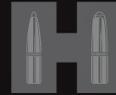
AMMO



GUN RANGE



PLUS MORE



GET THE LANZ SIGNATURE SERVICE WITH EVERY FIREARM PURCHASE

We offer, at no charge, 30 minutes range time with a staff member who will spend time answering all your questions about your firearm, we'll also give you some tips on cleaning, marksmanship and history.



lanzshootingsupplies.com

289.407.0675

Located at Silverdale Gun Club

   @lanzshooting



NO COMPROMISE.