

CANADIAN FIREARMS JOURNAL

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 NFA.ca



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CANADA'S NATIONAL FIREARMS ASSOCIATION

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EXTREMA RATIO

The Best Knife Brand on the Market?



There are hundreds upon hundreds of different knife brands out there but what makes something the best? Here's five reasons why we're convinced Extrema Ratio Italy makes the best knives on market:

History.

Extrema Ratio is based out of Prato, Italy. The company has it's beginning in the late nineties, filling a niche market void for law enforcement and military customers that needed high quality knives they could trust their lives upon. In the twenty plus years they have been in business their relationship with law enforcement and military have expanded, working closely with military and law enforcement units to create knives specifically for the end users requirements. Over time they have also expanded into the civilian market, producing knives built for more every day use as well as tribute knives, all without compromising on the build quality and design that makes the brand so special.



Materials.

Extrema Ratio knives are made from N690 Cobalt Stainless Steel sourced from a small plant in Austria, the same steel that is often used in the manufacture of surgical instruments. This steel along with their tempering methods produce a steel of great strength and flexibility, with the capability to take and retain a razor sharp edge. The handles provided

on the fixed blade knives are made from a grip polymer called Forprene which provides a very sure and comfortable grip even when wet. The folding range of knives have a shell made from a very strong anticorrosion alloy. The best materials are used throughout to ensure reliability and longevity.



Design.

To achieve best performance and function, no compromises are made in the design. This makes Extrema Ratio Knives best known for their outstanding ruggedness and their suitability to meet the requirements of the toughest military standards. Extrema Ratio knives are known for overbuilding their knives, they have a level of ruggedness not seen anywhere else. The Extrema Ratio design team uses a 3D system to design new models and create prototypes. Each knife design is meticulously inspected and field tested. There is something alluring about the architecture of Extrema Ratio, their high standards create designs that are uniquely appealing – beauty through function. Extrema Ratio is ISO certified and is an official supplier of the NATO forces.



Craftsmanship.

Each knife is hand assembled, hand finished and inspected by the Extrema Ratio team of craftsmen. Extrema Ratio believes that no machine is able to replicate the care

and attention to detail that a trained craftsman is capable of. All knives fall under this same level of scrutiny. All knives are individually serial numbered.



Warranty.

Extrema Ratio is so confident in the materials and production that they provide a full no-nonsense lifetime warranty on all of their knives.



This no-compromise approach to the materials, design and craftsmanship is what sets Extrema Ratio apart in the market, their reputation for excellence is unsurpassed in the industry. Unfortunately this does not come cheap, however you will have something that you can trust even in the most extreme circumstances. Something that will last you a lifetime and never let you down. Knowing you have the best is a special experience, most owners are so impressed that they end up purchasing multiple after their first.

We are the exclusive Extrema Ratio importers for Canada and carry their full line-up including new releases. All knives have free shipping.

TACTICAL IMPORTS

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CANADIAN ***FIREARMS JOURNAL***

September/October 2020



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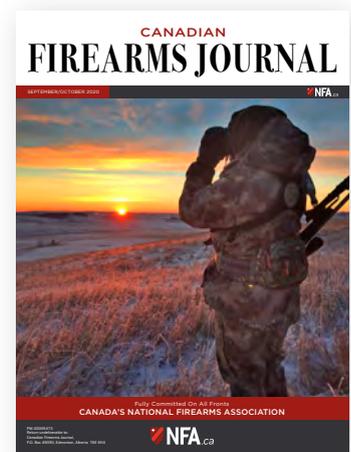
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MISSION STATEMENT

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

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On the Cover

This month's cover comes courtesy of TJ Schwanky, who captured this image on a frosty November morning in the foothills of western Alberta. It shows Vanessa Harrop surveying the landscape, looking for elk. Vanessa has her trusty Sako Carbonlight rifle, chambered in 7mm-08 Rem slung over her shoulder and ready to turn an elk into steaks. Both TJ and Vanessa have authored feature articles in this issue of the *CFJ*.



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From The Editor's Desk

Al Voth

An Election During Hunting Season?



Welcome to the September/October issue of the *Canadian Firearms Journal*. As you'll quickly gather by thumbing through these pages, this is our annual hunting issue. While this means our content is focused in that direction, it's not exclusively hunting, as there's just too much going on in the political world to ignore those happenings. In case you need reminding, there's a strong likelihood our fall hunting season will be interrupted by a federal election. That could create conflicts with many people's hunting plans, but if it does, it'll be worth sacrificing some hunting time to ensure our right to continue owning and using firearms is protected. So, not only should you get out to vote, but also consider supporting the candidate you'll be voting for with some volunteer campaign time and with finances.

In other news, I'm pleased to report that some *CFJ* content has again won awards in the Outdoor Writers of Canada annual communication awards. This makes

three years in a row that award-winning content has appeared in these pages. This year's awards are based on 2019 content and saw regular contributor Lowell Strauss win second place in the Magazine Feature – Other category for his Just for Kicks story. Well done, Lowell!

Other writers who are regular contributors here also won awards for their work appearing in other publications. They include TJ Schwanky, Jeff Helsdon and Vanessa Harrop, all of whom have work appearing in this issue. As an editor, it's a pleasure to work with writers and photographers who have the skills and professionalism these folks bring to their work.

I'd also like to draw your attention to a series of rifle-related articles we have in this issue, which are intended to create a continuum on information for rifle hunters. Vanessa Harrop starts it off with a piece about why proper gun fit is so important to shooting success, providing some information which is meant to be used before even firing a

shot. Duane Radford then takes over and explains how to sight in that rifle properly. However, we all know this range time often reveals accuracy issues which need to be addressed. If that's the case, Lowell Strauss steps in and provides some diagnostic and solution-based advice about steps to take when a rifle isn't performing like it should. And then, when everything is working perfectly, TJ Schwanky provides some tips for accurate shooting, especially at a distance. Hopefully, it will all contribute to a successful season for readers.

If your season includes hunting with a modern sporting rifle or shotgun which we are still allowed to take afield, I'd love to see photos of your harvest and the "black" gun you used to take the animal(s) with. E-mail them to me at cfjeditor@nfa.ca and I'll consider putting together a page in a future issue with a collection of these photos. I think it'd be a good response to Trudeau's ridiculous, "You don't need an AR-15 to take down a deer," comment. 



President's Message

Sheldon Clare

Our Team

It has been 10 years since we rebuilt the modern NFA with the aim of becoming a professional organization capable of influencing Canadian politics. We are there, but there is still more to do, and it's more members who will help make that happen.

These are incredibly crazy times. Riots and protests are encouraged, and social gatherings and quiet meetings and religious services banned. Law and order are denigrated, and vandals praised – the world is flipped upside down. Along with it, people control is running rampant, and as usual gun control is its fellow traveler. The attack on western civilization continues apace, with various movements working to deny, denigrate and destroy history. It's not OK.

We have a Liberal government which has done everything it can to destroy Canada as we know it, and they are well on their way to succeeding. Our deficit is the highest it has ever been, and the national debt will crush Canadians for generations. However, those self-assured manipulators who think they know what is best for us have a problem, and it's you, it's me, and it's other Canadians who believe in freedom. We will not be bullied and pushed aside. Stay strong my friends and do not despair. We have no choice but to persevere in this fight against the bully tactics of the left and their attempt to push us aside. Never, ever give up your property.

By the time you read this, the leadership race for the CPC will have been determined, and all indications are that the divided entity that is the CPC will be forced to move further away from the Liberal left and Red Toryism that has gotten us into the mess we are in. Gun control is merely an indicator issue of the bigger problem, because if Liberal elites want our guns, they likely want other things too.

We are fighting this craziness in a focused way. As a result of the government gun ban by OIC of May 1, 2020, I worked with lawyer Solomon Friedman to locate potential clients and witnesses for a judicial review challenge of the OIC. To that end, Cassy Parker and KKS Tactical became the client to take forth the challenge. Guy Lavergne is crafting our intervention in the same case. The NFA is the designated fundraising agency for that case, and we are also raising funds for our intervention and our political fight. Along with Blair Hagen, I oversaw other legal matters on the advice of lawyers Ken Heintz, Guy Lavergne and Derek Birch.

We have seen a terrific increase in our social media efforts and traditional media efforts. I would particularly highlight the work of Jerrold Lundgard, Dwayne Gorniak, and especially Jordan Vandenhoff in that regards, as well as the excellent support of Nathaniel Milljour and Gael Forest. We have built relationships with The National Telegraph, The Gun Blog and other media in support of our goals. I have been pleased to participate in several NFA Talk episodes to promote NFA. Every show so far has been an improvement on the previous one, with the bilingual CPC leadership debate hosted by myself, and Chuck Cote being a shining example of NFA professionalism.

Our fundraising efforts, especially direct mail, have been well positioned to fight the current crises facing firearms owners, and our increase in membership, as well as our growth in financial resources, are proof that we are on the right path. In particular, I would thank the Silverdale Club for becoming a full member NFA club. It is a terrific boost that is making us even more effective. We are currently preparing a plan for

the next federal election, whenever that may be, and expect to engage several ridings with a view to electing pro-gun candidates. Our recent virtual AGM was a complete success. The membership supported some bylaw changes, including the addition of an additional director to the Atlantic provinces, and the ability to appoint two directors at large. Our budget has grown commensurate with our goals and our fundraising efforts.

The election of executive officers saw me returned as president, with Blair Hagen as executive vice-president communications, and Jerrold Lundgard as secretary. It is my honour to be working with a team of dedicated people who make all my personal efforts, as well as our collective actions, possible. Our office staff, under the leadership of our general manager, Ginger Fournier, have proven to be highly effective in serving our members and supporting the board. Robert Bracken is energetic and motivated with more provinces to oversee and build up than any other director; Chuck Cote and Joe Esteves are committed and passionate about the fight in a very difficult political environment; Rick Igercich has proven committed to education, training and promotion of NFA. Jordan Vandenhoff has breathed new life into our social media, becoming incredibly professional under his watch.

Bill Rantz continues to be a dedicated and thorough treasurer. Thanks Bill! Jerrold Lundgard is an amazingly effective communicator and Facebook wizard. He is largely responsible for the effective moderation of our Facebook page and groups, and for building our team of moderators. Dwayne Gorniak has proven time and again to be a tireless worker for NFA, organizing Alberta field officers, attending gun shows and speaking up and



We are fighting this craziness in a focused way. As a result of the government gun ban by OIC of May 1, 2020, I worked with lawyer Solomon Friedman to locate potential clients and witnesses for a judicial review challenge of the OIC.

Nous nous battons contre cette folie de manière structurée. Suite au décret du 1er mai 2020, j'ai travaillé avec Me Solomon Friedman à la recherche de clients et témoins potentiels pour tenter une poursuite contre le décret. If allowed to continue, the Liberal Party will systematically destroy

supporting me in our work. Charles Zach was a terrific board member and is now a highly effective lobbyist. Last, but by no means least, Blair Hagen is a stalwart vice president and tireless organizer in the greater Vancouver region, as well as one of our experts on both the legal process and the industry side of our fight. We have been well-represented both domestically and internationally by this board. I am grateful to each of you for your hard work, support and loyalty to our cause. We have a great team, and together we are making a difference.

We must be ready for a major fight in the next federal election, as it could happen any time – either when the Liberals think calling one is to their advantage, or when their endless scandals force an end to the coalition which allows them to hold their majority. I will again be asking for you to contribute, knowing it can be annoying, but please do what you can, and encourage others to join and support us. We have budgeted a quarter of a million dollars to beat the Liberals in vulnerable ridings, and that will take the construction of a mighty war chest. I am confident that we will prevail in court. However, the political fight between those who want free stuff and more limits on freedom versus those who work hard and value their rights is what matters. That fight will get tougher before things get better. 🇨🇦

Message du Président

Sheldon Clare

Notre équipe

Dix ans ce sont passés depuis que nous avons rebâti l'ACAF moderne pour qu'elle devienne une organisation professionnelle capable d'influencer la politique Canadienne. Nous sommes fidèles au poste mais il reste beaucoup de travail à faire. Nous y arriverons en ayant plus de membres.

Nous vivons dans des temps incroyablement fous. Les émeutes et les manifestations sont encouragées mais les réunions sociales, les réunions tranquilles et les services religieux sont interdits. La loi et l'ordre sont dénigrés et les vandales sont félicités - le monde est basculé à l'envers. Le contrôle des gens se fait de plus en plus présent avec son fidèle compagnon, le contrôle des armes. Les attaques envers notre civilisation occidentale se multiplient par les mouvements

qui dénie, dénigrent et détruisent l'histoire. Ce n'est pas acceptable.

Notre gouvernement Libéral a tout essayé pour détruire le Canada tel que nous le connaissons et il semble qu'il va réussir. Notre déficit est le plus gros qu'ils n'a jamais été et cette dette nationale écrasera les Canadiens pendant des générations. Par contre, ces manipulateurs imbus d'eux mêmes, qui pensent qu'ils savent ce qui est pour notre bien ont un problème. Ce problème c'est vous, moi et d'autres Canadiens qui croient en la liberté. Nous ne nous laisserons pas intimider et mettre de côté. Soyez forts mes amis et ne vous découragez pas. Nous n'avons pas le choix que de persévérer contre les tactiques d'intimidation de la gauche et leurs tentatives de nous mettre de côté. Ne vous séparer jamais de vos biens.



Quand vous lirez ceci, la course à la chefferie du PCC sera bien enclenchée et tout nous porte à croire que cette entité divisée sera forcée de se positionner de plus en plus loin de la gauche libérale et des conservateurs “rouges” qui nous ont mis dans le pétrin que nous sommes. Le contrôle des armes n’est qu’un enjeu qui indique l’existence d’un plus gros problème; Si les élites libéraux veulent nos armes c’est aussi parce qu’ils veulent d’autres choses.

Nous nous battons contre cette folie de manière structurée. Suite au décret du 1er mai 2020, j’ai travaillé avec Me Solomon Friedman à la recherche de clients et témoins potentiels pour tenter une poursuite contre le décret. C’est comme ça que Cassy Parker et KKS Tactical sont devenus plaig-nants dans cette poursuite. Me Guy Lavergne prépare notre témoignage dans la même poursuite. L’ACAF est l’organisation désignée pour recueillir les fonds nécessaire à cette cause. Nous faisons aussi une levée de fonds pour notre témoignage et notre lutte politique. Suite aux conseils de Me Derek Birch, Me Guy Lavergne et Me Ken Heintz, Blair Hagen et moi-même avons supervisés d’autres sujets d’ordre juridique.

Nous sommes de plus visibles sur les médias sociaux ainsi que dans les médias traditionnels. En ce sens, je tiens à souligner le travail de Jerrold Lundgard, Dwayne Gorniak et particulièrement Jordan Vandenhoff. Nous avons aussi bénéficié d’un appui excellent de la part de Nathaniel Milljour et Gael Forest. Nous avons bâtis des relations avec le National Telegraph, The Gun Blog et d’autres médias qui appuient nos objectifs. Ce fut un plaisir de participer dans plusieurs épisodes du NFA Talk pour promouvoir l’organisation. Chaque épisode a été meilleure que la précédente. Le débat bilingue de la chefferie du PCC, animé par Chuck Coté et moi-même fut un exemple remarquable du professionnalisme de l’ACAF.

Nos levées de fonds, spécialement celles par la poste ont portées fruits et nous placent dans une bonne position pour faire face à la crise qui se présente devant les propriétaires d’armes à feu. L’augmentation du nombre de nos membres et l’augmentation de nos ressources financières prouvent

que nous sommes sur la bonne voie. Je tiens à remercier en particulier le Silverdale Club qui est devenu un club membre de l’ACAF à part entière, c’est un coup de pouce nous rend encore plus efficace. Nous sommes entrain de préparer un plan vis à vis la prochaine élection fédérale, qui sait quand elle arrivera, et nous nous attendons de pouvoir entreprendre plusieurs cir-conscriptions qui sont d’accord d’élire des candidats pro-armes. Notre RGA virtuelle fut un succès retentissant. Les membres ont été d’accord de changer certains règlements, incluant l’ajout d’un directeur de plus pour les provinces de l’atlantique et l’habileté de nommer deux directeurs sans régions spécifiques. Notre budget a augmenté selon nos objectifs et nos levées de fonds.

L’élection de notre comité exécutif a aussi eu lieu, Blair Hagen fut réélu comme Vice Président aux Commu-

“Dix ans ce sont passés depuis que nous avons rebâti l’ACAF moderne pour qu’elle devienne une organisation professionnelle capable d’influencer la politique Canadienne.”

nications, Jerrold Lundgard comme secrétaire et moi-même comme Président. C’est un honneur de travailler avec une équipe dévouée qui rend mes efforts personnels et nos actions collectives possible. Sous le leadership de la Directrice Ginger Fournier, nos employés de bureau ont été très efficaces au service de nos membres et comme soutien du comité exécutif. Robert Bracken est énergique et motivé, il a plus de provinces à superviser et à développer que tout autre directeur; Chuck Coté et Joe Esteves sont passionnés et très engagés malgré un environnement politique très difficile; Rick Igercich a démontré son engagement envers l’éducation, la formation et la promotion de l’ACAF. Jordan Vandenhoff a apporté une bouffée d’air frais dans nos médias sociaux qui sont devenus incroyablement professionnels grâce à lui.

Bill Rants continu d’être un trésorier dévoué et minutieux. Merci Bill! Jerrold Lundgard est un communicateur hors pair et un expert sur Facebook. Il est responsable de la modération de notre page Facebook et de ses groupes ainsi que de la formation de notre équipe de modérateurs. Dwayne Gorniak nous a prouvé maintes et maintes fois qu’il travaille sans relâche pour l’ACAF, il organise les agents de terrain de l’Alberta en assistant aux expositions d’armes et en prenant la parole pour m’appuyer dans notre travail. Charles Zach fut un excellent membre de notre comité exécutif et il est devenu un lobbyiste très efficace. En dernier mais non le moindre, Blair Hagen un pilier de l’ACAF, notre Vice-Président, un organisateur infatigable dans la grande région de Vancouver. Il est aussi un de nos experts à propos du processus légal et de la lutte impliquant l’industrie des armes à feu. Nous sommes bien représentés par ce comité exécutif autant au Canada qu’à l’international. Je suis reconnaissant envers vous tous pour votre excellent travail, votre appui et votre loyauté envers notre cause. Nous avons une bonne équipe et ensemble nous faisons une différence.

Nous devons nous préparer à une bataille majeure lors de la prochaine élection fédérale qui peut arriver n’importe quand - ce sera lorsque les Libéraux percevront un avantage ou bien lorsque leurs scandales sans fin causeront la désintégration de leur coalition qui leur donne leur majorité. Je vous demande de contribuer à nouveau, même si cela devient ennuyant, mais je vous en prie, faites ce que vous pouvez et encouragez d’autres personnes à se joindre à nous. Nous avons un budget de un quart de million de dollars pour battre les Libéraux dans les circonscription où ils sont vulnérables, pour ce faire il nous faudra bâtir une caisse électorale solide. J’ai confiance que nous serons victorieux à la cour. Par contre, la bataille politique entre ceux qui veulent plus de choses gratuites de la part du gouvernement et que notre liberté soit plus limitée versus ceux qui travaillent fort et pour lesquels leurs droits ont beaucoup de valeur, c’est la lutte qui nous fait face. Elle deviendra plus difficile avant que les choses s’améliorent.

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

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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!***

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Vice-President's Message

Blair Hagen

Our History Leads Us Forward

As we roll through the middle of this most bizarre year of 2020, it is important to take stock of where we've been, where we are and where we're going.

The Liberals have not only imposed Bill C-71, featuring the return of long gun registration by stealth and the return of all of the other outrages of their civil disarmament program, they have also imposed their OIC banning over 1,500 firearms – registered and unregistered. However, the two-year amnesty, so graciously extended by the thieves and rights and freedoms hating ideologues currently occupying Ottawa, gives us the opportunity to start preparing for not only the defeat of the Liberal civil disarmament program, but the Liberal government itself. The two go hand in hand.

The vote for the new leader of the Conservative Party of Canada approaches, and one thing that must be made crystal clear is the following: Any Conservative leader who does not embrace the Canadian right and cultural tradition of firearms ownership is not worthy of the name, and not worthy of support. Any Conservative leader who does not take up the cause of fundamental firearms law reform will not be tolerated.

Thankfully, I can report that those who have participated in this Conservative leadership campaign have said that, to varying degrees, they accept that CPC members and activists have put this issue at the forefront of the campaign. It is obvious this is a deeply important issue for them. Now it is time for the Conservative Party to decide.

Despite what many might think, NFA isn't a partisan organization, our membership comes from all political backgrounds and orientations, with a large part being small 'c' and big 'c' Conservative. NFA has run up against not only Liberal governments, but also Conservative governments in the past. We don't play favourites. We give credit

where credit is due and point out legislative and firearms law reform policy failures when they are apparent. NFA has no false gods or sacred cows when engaging in protecting and advancing the Canadian right and cultural tradition of firearms ownership.

This Liberal government and leader are scandal ridden, incompetent, and have been bankrupting Canada with irresponsible economic, foreign, social and cultural policies. Their prime minister is a political lightweight who doesn't have the intelligence to run a Canadian Tire franchise, let alone a nation. If anybody out there reading this runs a Canadian Tire franchise, you know exactly what I mean.

His cabinet, composed by Liberal Party hacks and ideologically driven snowflakes, have failed Canadians at every turn. They blew their 2016 "miracle majority" government and were reduced to a minority by a new, inexperienced and untested Conservative challenger in 2019. In contrast, I remember a Canada of a few decades ago when the Liberals had a massive majority government, were unopposed in parliament, whose prime minister and cabinet were widely viewed as competent, and it seemed they would rule forever.

Fortunately, Liberal political hegemony has long been broken in Canada. No longer do they represent political omnipotence and inevitability. Canadians will soon have the opportunity to defeat them again. Oh, how times change, and often for the better. And they will change again.

It must be said that 2020 is an anniversary of Canada's National Firearms Association, as this particular incarnation was re-founded in Edmonton, Alta., in June of 2010 from its previous incarnation, the National Phoenix Firearms Communication and Information Association (NFA).

After the passing of its national presi-

dent, patriarch and founding member, David A. Tomlinson, in 2007, there was some real doubt as to whether NFA would continue because of its close association with DAT, his work and his looming presence in legal affairs and gun politics in Canada. I was the last national president of that National Firearms Association, and it was clear that if NFA was to continue, it would have to be re-invented for the new political and legal realities that Canadians faced in the new post-Liberal, post C-68 gun registry era.

Then British Columbia branch president Sheldon Clare personally took up this mission with great determination and vigour, and with the board of directors of the time saw it through to its ultimate conclusion. And so, in 2010, Canada's National Firearms Association was born. Or reborn, if you like. Sheldon Clare was its first president.

So, congratulations to Sheldon Clare on this important anniversary. With his leadership, we've seen the end of the universal firearms registry in Canada (2012), firearms law reforms under Bill C-42 (2016) and the maintaining of a commitment to firearms law reform from the Conservative Party of Canada.

Your NFA executive has seen trying times before, political and legal challenges for which no solutions seemed apparent at the time. But through creating the political and legal environments necessary to advance firearms law reform, we have created opportunities to make real firearms law reforms. The first in modern Canadian political history.

We've blazed a path that has shown that politicians and bureaucrats do not always win on their civil disarmament agenda. Canadians will remind them who is really in charge and will take away the privilege of governing and regulating when those politicians and bureaucrats step out of line and offend the ancient rights and freedoms of Canadians. 



Preserving Our Firearms Heritage

Gary K. Kangas

Creating A Spencer Sporting Rifle



Shaping the forend.

Military rifles and sporting rifles have been hunter's companions since the invention of firearms. Spencer rifles and Sharps rifles of military configuration were advertised by the Hudson's Bay Co. and T. Eaton Co. in their late 19th century and early 20th century catalogues. Modified 577 Sniders were readily available as well. In later times, surplus military rifles converted to sporting use became part of the hunting culture in Canada, and the practice of converting rifles has continued since the Boer War, the First World War and the Second World War. The conversion

of Long Lee Rifles, Mark III Enfields and No. 4 Enfields was quite common, with many of these rifles still available for sale. These rifles can be acquired in full stock military style, with just the forend wood cut down, or in full customized sporter versions.

Our family had a 22 LR, with which I learned to shoot at age eight. My first big bore rifle was a Snider Enfield of 1860s vintage that I purchased at age 11. The ammunition was available but priced at \$1 for a paper-wrapped package of 10 Kynoch Berdan primed rounds – extremely costly for ammu-

munition in that era. My initial hunting experience began around age 12, hunting gophers on my maternal grandparent's farm. Since my early teens, I have always had a job, delivering magazines, working after school or whatever. This allowed me to buy ammunition and to pursue firearms collecting and the shooting sports.

In my mid-teens, I acquired two nice Model 94 Winchester rifles with octagon barrels, one in 32-40 and the other in 38-55, and my fascination with sporting and obsolete military rifles has never diminished. I find the challenge



Finished forend with horn inserts.

Spencer military rifle, top, and sporter, bottom



of handloading obsolete black powder ammunition gratifying. The research required sometimes can prove to be daunting, and was particularly so in the pre-Internet era. However, I was fortunate in my youth to talk to old timers who actually used many of the rifles that I began to shoot. My favourite uncle was an excellent rifle shot and consummate outdoorsman who would take me hunting in the muskeg country of central Alberta. His hunting arms were a bolt-action Mauser single-shot 12-gauge and a 99 Savage lever-action in 303 Savage.

I have owned several Enfield Snider conversions, Sharps sporting and military rifles, plus a Stevens, a Maynard, countless Winchesters and others. Regrettably, in my constant pursuit of upgrades, many were sold or traded for different models; however, the quest has always proved gratifying. The ability to practise with a Snider, Sharps, Long Lee, SMLE, a nice 95 Winchester, an 1873 saddle ring carbine or a 1903 30-06 Springfield is like reliving a time past. Having an 1886 Winchester rifle chambered for the 45-70 Gov't as your saddle gun while packing in the Monashee Mountains on horseback imparts a genuine sense of high adventure. Competing in rifle events with these guns tests one's ability. When you are up against keen-eyed, competent rifle shooters, your true marksmanship is revealed for all the world to see. Sometimes it's not as good as you would have wished.

Fast forward to 2019 when I acquired a Chiappa Spencer seven-shot military rifle in 44-40 (of course, the proper military chambering is the 56-50). However, because it was not in the correct military chambering and because the 44-40 has similar ballistics to the Spencer 56-46 sporting cartridge, I decided to convert this rifle into a proper Spencer in sporting dress.

The process began with cutting the barrel from 30 inches to 26 inches, doing a crown and bevel, then cutting a dovetail and installing a hunting-

style blade front sight. The drilling of a second hole in the underside of the barrel for an additional screw to fasten the sporting style forend was needed. I then turned my attention to fashioning the forend, finding in my assortment of wood a perfectly sized piece of walnut which I have likely had for 40 years. Upon studying the original Spencer sporters, I found they usually had a pewter forend cap. I only discovered one image with a Schnabel-style forend. Nonetheless, I opted to create the Schnabel version, with the addition of a horn insert. I then spent hours carving, sanding and fitting, until the forend looked proper. I then tackled the horn, which I found to be extremely hard! Endless rasping, sanding and fitting this insert was one of the hardest tasks I have ever undertaken. To top this off, I also made a horn insert to go around the escutcheon for the first forend screw. This proved so daunting I did not do the same for the second screw. I then turned two screw escutcheons from round stock, as per the originals. Multiple coats of Tru-Oil gun stock finish were next. Screwing the forend in place completed the job.

Then off to the range. I test fired the rifle with black powder handloads consisting of 34.5 grains of 2F black powder topped off with a 0.017-inch milk carton wad sealing off the powder from a 0.060-inch thick grease wad consisting of 50-50 beeswax and Crisco as black powder bullet lube. This was then sealed off by a 0.006-inch newsprint

wad to prevent the grease wad from sticking to the bullet, the bullet being a 205-grain round nose flat point. This load proved to be very accurate. I have shot the gun at a cowboy match, where it shot well but proved to be slow. I had fabricated a three-shot speed loader for the additional rounds needed to bring me up to a 10-shot per stage capability. However, after losing my place on the target array, one of my posse mates suggested that I only load five rounds and create a speed loader holding an additional five – this would allow me to better follow the target sequence. Additionally, I have just received a buckhorn rear sporting sight from Shiloh Sharps and a front folding sight from Montana Vintage Arms which are soon to be installed.

After all this labour, I believe my efforts resulted in a credible creation for an old geezer. I now have a Spencer sporter which was created for a reasonable sum, particularly in comparison to one of my friends who has an original Spencer sporter with Canadian provenance valued at about four times mine. It's been my attempt to continue the history of Canada's firearms heritage. 

Sources:

Victoria Fish & Game Historian, Wikipedia, The Canadian Encyclopedia, Spencer Sporting Rifles by Matt Sears



Politics & Guns

Bruce Gold

The Rule Of Law

If reducing violent crime was Trudeau's real objective, one might imagine he would address the government's crippling under resourcing of the RCMP or the escalating problem of violent criminal gangs as an appropriate policy agenda. Instead, Trudeau's major agenda is an attack on the ownership of extremely low risk guns and on Canadian property rights. In the process, Trudeau's Liberals have again demonstrated their admiration for China's basic dictatorship by going after the rule of law itself. Their excuse for this ideologically driven attack on the law and private property rights is an Orwellian appeal to "public safety."

WHAT WAS DONE

On May 1, 2020, the Liberals launched their attack on Canadian's private property with "Regulations Amending the Regulations Prescribing Certain Firearms and Other Weapons, Components and Parts of Weapons, Accessories, Cartridge Magazines, Ammunition and Projectiles as Prohibited, Restricted or Non-Restricted: SOR/2020-96." This Order in Council (OIC) prohibited over 1,500 different firearms, effectively banning their use and possession. Canadian citizens who currently possess some 250,000 of these firearms woke up on May 1 to discover they were now criminals. The proffered excuse for this seizure of hundreds of millions of dollars in private property was that they were "military-style assault weapons." Weapons which, according to the government, had no other purpose but to "kill the largest number of people in the shortest amount of time."

What is a military-style assault weapon? Historically, military-style assault weapons, as actually used by the military, have been effectively prohibited since 1978. However, the Liberals have carefully avoided any limitation to their policy by refusing to create a legal definition of the term. The current list of newly banned items includes some shotguns, target rifles, hunting rifles and an amazing collection of already



prohibited mortars, anti-tank guns and rocket launchers. The other term being used to define these newly illegal firearms is that they are "variants" of a listed gun. However, this vague term has no legal definition, allowing the government to again include anything it wants.

This first mass prohibiting of a very loosely defined type of firearm was followed by the RCMP re-classifying 9,500 additional firearms by way of the secretive Firearms Reference Table (FRT). The RCMP has since provided a retroactive, hard-to-access, 839-page list of these additional prohibitions. This process is how the Liberals are now making Canadian criminal law and no one can tell with any certainty that what was legal yesterday is still legal today. The RCMP are continuing to re-write the law as they expand this list (without benefit of any binding legal definitions) and work their way through the 187,000 items in the FRT.

This is possible because the Liberals have empowered (delegated) the RCMP to independently classify firearms into prohibited, restricted and non-restricted

categories based on the RCMP's own technical evaluations.

As this technical re-classification continues, firearms are placed into different categories and subjected to different licencing, use and storage requirements. Therefore, re-classification can and often does subject the unknowing owners to new and different legal requirements. In effect, the RCMP are independently changing the criminal laws that apply to individual Canadians. However, the classification list, as such, is not actually part of Canadian criminal law. It merely acts as a stand-in for the law and as such is used by government, business, customs agents, police and courts. This sloppy, half-baked process violates basic principles of Canadian law by separating parliament from the law-making process and placing the RCMP in the position of being both law creators and law enforcers. The FRT's restricted access and the completely non-transparent process by which classifications are made therefore creates a body of secret, ever-changing criminal laws. This is a fundamental rejection of responsible government and the rule of law.

ORDER IN COUNCIL

OICs are a throwback to colonial rule before democratically elected, responsible government was established in Canada. The governor general in council exercises authority on behalf of the Crown and on the advice of their council. Once a proposal has been accepted by the governor and council, it is formally put forth as an Order in Council. At this point, it has the force of law and can send a violator to prison. In 1968, the Liberals gave the governor general and council the power (delegated) to place individual firearms into the categories of restricted weapon and prohibited weapon. Since then, the designation of each firearm into a separate category with different legal requirements has proceeded without needing any further reference to parliament.

Under the Criminal Code, the governor in council's power to classify firearms is limited because they "... may not prescribe any thing to be a prohibited firearm, a restricted firearm, a prohibited weapon, a restricted weapon, a prohibited device or prohibited ammunition if, in the opinion of the governor in council, the thing to be prescribed is reasonable for use in Canada for hunting or sporting purposes." Trudeau's Liberals, in the manner of dictators, used the "opinion" that they are not suitable to get around the demonstratable fact that these firearms have been widely and safely used for hunting and sports for over a century.

These OICs are a problematic way of establishing criminal law because they are not indexed or updated like other laws, making it extremely difficult to determine what is actually the law, much less track a shifting maze of new, canceled, partially superseded and amended orders, all with different in-force and out-of-force dates. Since these ever-changing laws have never gone through parliament's legal processes and procedures, they are always open to court challenge as to whether they have been properly made, have proper jurisdictions and are subordinate to or superior to other laws. This volatility makes the Liberal's plan to make firearms classification a fast, ongoing, ever-changing matter, regulated by OICs, a recipe for legal chaos and uncertainty.



Though used extensively in competition, Trudeau's Liberals are of the opinion the AR-15 is not suitable for sporting use.

RULE OF LAW

The rule of law as a fundamental legal and political principle was first laid down by Magna Carta Libertatum (Great Charter of Freedoms 1215), which states, "No free man shall be seized or imprisoned, or stripped of his rights or possessions, or outlawed or exiled, or deprived of his standing in any other way, nor will we proceed with force against him, or send others to do so, except by the lawful judgment of his equals or by the law of the land." This established the principle that every person was subject to and protected by the law and not at the mercy of arbitrary power. Obviously, for this legal principle to work, the law must be reasonably stable and known. That the law must be known is an absolute necessity to prevent citizens from being entrapped and to give officials a set and stable guide to their own conduct under law.

As we have seen, this whole process of RCMP-driven, OIC-promulgated law is offensive to justice and contrary to our most basic legal traditions. The process is secretive, and the actual state of the law cannot be known with any certainty. The hidden changing of the legal requirements imposed on an individual by nameless bureaucrats makes it impossible to comply with the law. This is, in its effect, a bill of attainder¹ nullifying that person's civil rights and their right to property.

The criminalization of individuals due to their ownership of property for which there is no legal definition reduces their Charter right to a fair trial to the whims and fancies of judges who are also adrift in a sea of opinions as to what the law might be. The instability of the OIC process means that every case, in every instance, requires an extensive and meticulous legal examination of all current and previous OICs as a necessary preliminary to every intervention, arrest and trial, just to determine what the law is or, rather, was on the particular day of the incident in question.

By these policies, the Liberals have rejected the essential political principle of the rule of law, reducing it to the whims of particular individuals, applied inconsistently and arbitrarily. As Canadian citizens, the law is our property just as much as it is any bureaucrat, politician or judge's. Neither Trudeau nor his Liberal party have the right or privilege of abusing our laws or us in this manner. 🇨🇦

REFERENCES

¹Bill of Attainder: Legislation which declares a person or group of persons guilty of a crime and prescribes their punishment without the benefit of a trial or judicial hearing.

SIZE MATTERS

Firearms must fit the shooter

BY VANESSA HARROP





Checking eye relief and the distance from thumb of firing hand to nose.



Checking length of pull - this rifle fits.

Proper rifle fit is often overlooked when purchasing a new firearm, but it's crucial for maximum field accuracy. Not all rifles fit the same, nor do all shooters require the same fit.

Many people's first experience shooting is with a borrowed rifle, and these guns typically don't fit very well, resulting in bad habits developed early. New shooters may learn to adapt, but few ever shoot a poorly fitting rifle to its full potential. The trick is to initially shoot a rifle which fits perfectly, resulting in more shooting enjoyment and fewer bad habits. Even if you've been the victim of a poorly fitting hand-me-down, moving to a proper-fitting rifle will instantly help you shoot better and more comfortably. The size of your rifle does matter.

There are many determining factors involved in properly fitting a rifle, including LOP, overall body size, neck length, cheek size, the rifle's drop at comb and heel and even the clothing the shooter wears. But first up is length of pull (LOP).

LENGTH OF PULL

The LOP is the distance between the middle of the trigger and the butt end of the rifle stock. A proper LOP is necessary to ensure the shooter can shoulder the rifle comfortably, and it also puts the head and eye into the correct position to use the sights or scope. >

Having a rifle with a correct LOP can help reduce the amount of felt recoil.

Determining your LOP is one of the most important ways to establish whether the rifle will fit you. With this dimension correct, you will have quick sight acquisition, better control, better accuracy and feel more comfortable. You know you have found the right rifle when you shoulder the rifle and your sight picture is immediately on target, your finger can easily reach the trigger and you don't have to strain your neck to rest on the cheek piece.

MEASURING LOP

First, ensure the magazine and chamber are empty. Next, use a tape measure to find the distance between the centre of the trigger and the centre of the butt plate or recoil pad. Write this measurement down. Most factory rifles have an LOP between 33 and 34.9 centimetres (13 and 13.75 inches).

Now, to test the rifle fit, grasp the rifle around the grip with the hand you shoot with and extend your arm out. Place your index finger on the trigger face and then bend your arm at the elbow, 90 degrees. Make sure that the butt plate/recoil pad is nestled into the bend of your elbow. If there is more than 2.5 centimetres (one inch) of space between the butt plate/recoil pad and the bend in your elbow, the LOP is too short. If your finger does not reach the trigger, then the LOP is too long. The rifle should sit comfortably in the bend of your arm and your trigger finger should rest comfortably on the trigger.

Now, shoulder the rifle in the firing position. Check the distance from the middle knuckle of the thumb of your firing hand to your nose. This measure-

ment should be about 3.8 centimetres (1.5 inches) from your nose. The LOP is too long if the distance is greater, and too short if the distance is less than this.

ADJUSTING LOP

Depending on the rifle, there may be several options for adjusting the stock length. If the LOP is too long, for example, and it has a thick recoil pad, it's a simple matter of going to a thinner pad. If that's not an option, depending on the stock design, trimming it may be possible. But if not, then your only other option is replacing the stock with a proper-fitting one. Typically, composite stocks don't lend themselves to trimming, nor do stocks with raised cheek pieces.

Fortunately, there are numerous manufacturers of aftermarket stocks offering various lengths of pull. Some are easily changed with basic tools, while others require the services of a gunsmith.

If the LOP is too short, you can usually swap the recoil pad for one that is thicker or add spacers between the stock and the butt plate/recoil pad. There are many options for recoil pads and spacers available. Some of the better-known manufacturers are Limbsaver and Pachmayr. With a few basic tools, this is a fairly easy modification at home.

COMB HEIGHT

Another important consideration is the height and angle of the comb. The comb is the top part of the rifle's stock where you rest your cheek. The drop at the comb is the measurement between the line of sight and the comb of the stock. Many rifle manufacturers are now offering adjustable cheek pieces on their

rifles to allow shooters to change comb height, sometimes in the field. Aftermarket add-on cheek pieces are also available. Having the option of easily adjusting comb height is a real bonus on a rifle that gets fired from many different positions. For example, I like a low comb height when shooting prone but prefer a higher comb when shooting from the standing position. Having a stock which allows me to quickly adjust this height is a real bonus.

To see what comb heights suit you best, take a rifle with a proper LOP and a scope mounted in the lowest possible rings, then get in the position you mostly commonly shoot from. Now, with your eyes closed, rest your head on the cheek piece as if you are about to shoot. Hold that position, open your eyes and look through the scope. Is your eye centred in relation to the scope's view? If you are looking at the bottom of your scope you need a higher comb. If you're looking at the top of the scope, a lower comb is necessary. On rifles with an adjustable comb, it's a simple matter of moving it up or down and repeating the process until, with a relaxed head and neck, your eye is centred in relation to the scope. On non-adjustable stocks where the comb is too low, an aftermarket cheek piece may solve your problems; and on stocks where the comb is too high, going to higher scope rings is an option.

Proper comb height is especially critical on shotguns where rapid alignment is required for fast target acquisition, but even on rifles it affects comfort and accuracy.

EYE RELIEF

Once you're happy with LOP and comb height, you need to ensure your



These are both Tikka T3 rifles but sized very differently.



The author shooting her 375 H&H. Proper fit significantly improves the ability to deal with heavy recoil.

eye relief is correct. Eye relief is simply the distance your eye is from the rear end of the scope. It's evaluated in much the same way as comb height.

Get into a comfortable firing position, placing your head on the cheek piece with eyes closed. Once comfortable, open your eyes and take note of what the scope's image looks like. When eye relief is set correctly, you should see a perfect circle with no black edges. If you don't, move the scope, not your head, forward or backward until you have a clear sight picture with edge to edge clarity. Make sure to keep your head in a relaxed, natural firing position. Some scopes offer more non-critical eye relief than others, and I'd suggest setting the scope as far forward as possible while still maintaining that perfect sight picture. I like scopes that offer four-plus inches of eye relief. This helps prevent getting hit by the scope during recoil, especially when shooting from awkward positions.

ADJUSTABLE RIFLES

In recent years, several manufacturers have started offering consumer-adjustable stocks on their rifles. Plenty of rifles now come with a LOP that can be adjusted with factory-supplied spacers. These include rifles like the Tikka T3x Compact. But the real change in the past couple years has been rifles with multiple points of adjustment. These

rifles enable you to change the stock to fit not only your LOP, but comb height as well. The Savage AccuFit System, Sako's new S20 and the Ruger Precision Rifle are but a few examples.

But, in my opinion, the real game changer is the new Benelli LUPO. Not only are LOP and comb height easily adjustable, but so too are drop, cast and trigger reach, all via supplied shims that fit between the rear stock and action. There are over 30 stock configurations available to ensure this rifle fits every shooter.

WOMEN & YOUTH

Women offer some unique challenges when fitting a rifle. Typically, our cheekbones are higher, necks are longer, arms shorter and our frames are smaller. This makes finding a rifle that fits a real challenge, often requiring numerous trips to the gun shop. Few hand-me-down rifles from fathers or spouses fit women well, creating a potential disaster, especially for new shooters when they end up shooting rifles too big and heavy for them. Most men believe women require low-recoil chamberings, and for new shooters it's a great way to start, but with a proper-fitting rifle, most women find recoil quite tolerable, even from heavier magnums. The key to mitigating recoil is proper fit. Women that are afraid of recoil have probably never shot a proper-fitting rifle.

The same advice for women applies to youth shooters. They require rifles that fit their smaller stature. However, kids grow rapidly, so selecting a rifle that's adjustable is important, allowing the rifle to grow with them. Again, rifles like the Tikka T3x Compact are a great choice, as the rifle comes with a 12.5-inch LOP stock, creating ideal ergonomics for small-framed shooters, but also includes several spacers to increase LOP as the shooter grows.

It's great to see rifle manufacturers offering an increasing number of these adjustable rifles. Gone are the days where one size needs to fit all, and it's a welcome change. Properly fitted stocks used to be the sole domain of custom rifles, but now, even rifles for the budget minded are offering adjustability. Always remember that rifle fit is the foundation of accuracy and enjoyment when shooting. Also, please ensure that your rifle is always proved S.A.F.E. before doing any of the exercises above. 

RESOURCES

Benelli LUPO rifle: www.benelliusa.com/rifles/lupo-bolt-action-rifles
Tikka T3x Compact: www.tikka.fi/rifles/tikka-t3x/t3x-compact-0



FINDING THE BULLSEYE

Steps to sighting in a rifle
BY DUANE RADFORD



Shooting at extended distances requires a rifle that's precisely sighted in.

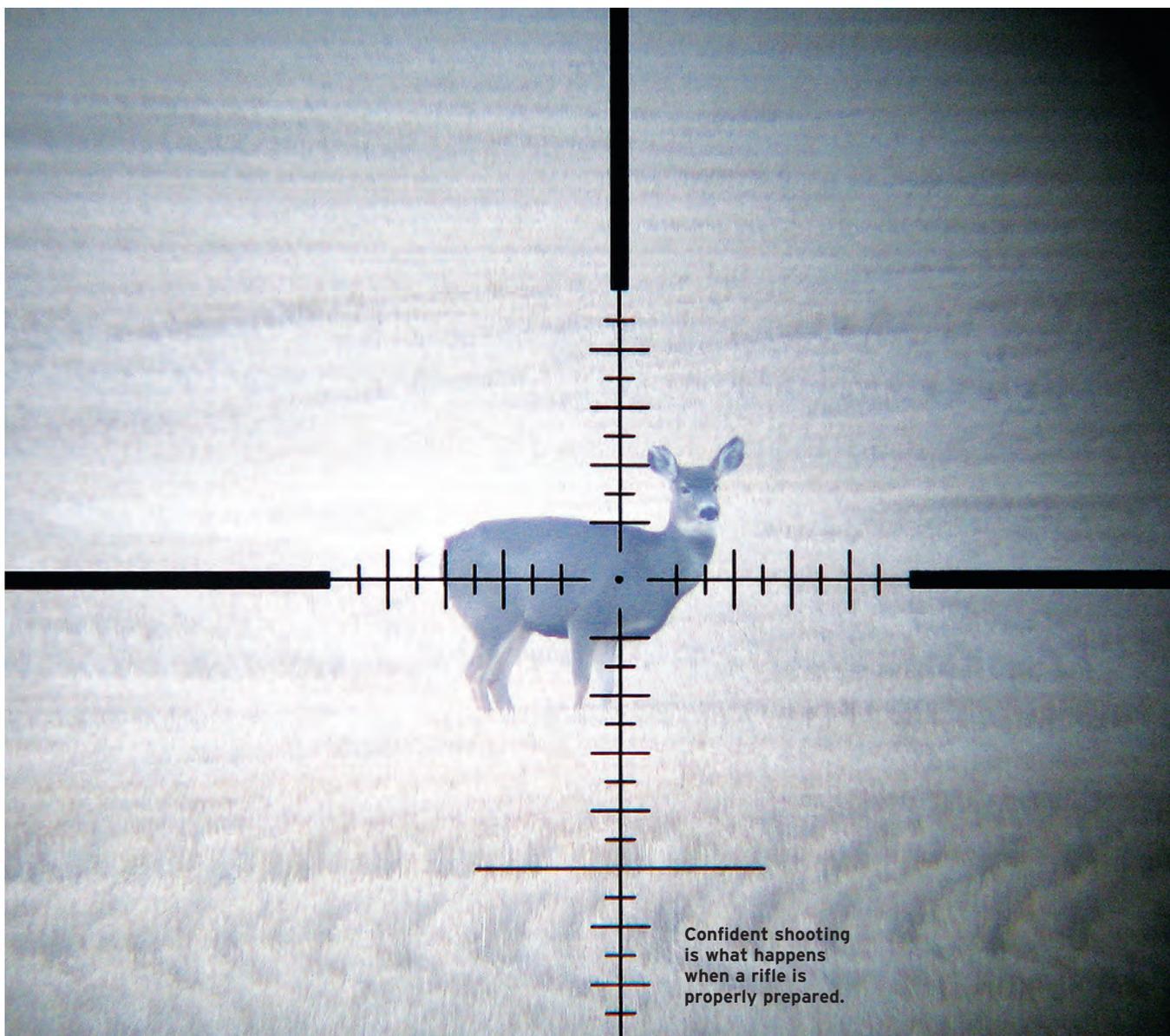
The calf moose was bedded down in tall grass beside a small bull about 100 yards off a dirt trail on the Alberta prairies. It was -15 degrees Celsius with a north wind blowing, enough for frostbite to be an issue. It was the last week of the season, pickings were slim, and this was the first chance I'd had at a legal animal in four days of hunting. The game was wired. It was now or never. However, I couldn't hope for a better place to tag a moose, which are challenging to field dress under the best of conditions. A spine shot was the best option. I put the crosshairs of my 300 WSM Tikka just behind the moose's shoulder and touched off a shot. It didn't get out of its bed. The shot broke its spine and, with a follow-up finishing shot, it was all over.

The previous season I tagged a trophy antelope shortly after legal shooting time on opening day. It was taken with a 200-yard shot using my 270 Win Tikka. I was determined to take a buck home, come hell or high water. It had taken me 11 years to draw a tag, so

it was all business. I wanted to enjoy some delicious honey garlic pronghorn pepperoni, quality steaks and ground meat. During two days of scouting prior to the season opener, I'd only seen six bucks. There would be no fooling around.

Both hunts were successful because my rifles were properly sighted in. I was shooting handloads that I'd developed, and I'd practiced shooting before going on both hunts. I was confident I could take an animal up to 300 yards, the distance which is my personal limit.

There is no mystery to sighting in a rifle, but it's best to follow some basic procedures to get it right. Sighting in your rifle is the key to success, whether you're target shooting, plinking or big game hunting. Unfortunately, it's not taken seriously by all shooters, to their detriment. However, I'm pleased to report that over the last few years I'm seeing more and more shooters adopt the correct process. The following are my suggestions regarding how to get it right. >



Confident shooting
is what happens
when a rifle is
properly prepared.

RANGE MEMBERSHIP

I always suggest that rifles be sighted in at a gun range, primarily for reasons of safety. Shooters must ensure they have a backstop to prevent unwanted ricochets. But another reason is because ranges offer known shooting distances, such as 25, 100 and 200 yards/metres. If you ingrain these known distances into your mind, this knowledge will be indispensable under field conditions. While I have a laser range finder, I find that my estimates are usually quite accurate up to 300 yards based on the shooting ranges I've frequented.

EYES, EARS & FLINCHING

Hearing protection is a must while sighting in a centrefire rifle, as it protects against hearing loss and helps prevent flinching. Also, it's a good idea to wear shooting glasses for eye protec-

tion, just in case something goes wrong. And it's always good practice to wear hunting clothes to the range, just to make sure your rifle feels comfortable under field conditions.

The crack of a rifle is enough to make almost anybody flinch. Add in the recoil and it just makes matters worse. Flinching is common among shooters and is a conscious avoidance reaction to anticipated noise or recoil. It can be a hunter's greatest nemesis, and if present is a habit which must be broken. When shooting, focus on the fundamental principles of good marksmanship to improve your accuracy and avoid problems associated with jerking the trigger or flinching. Fortunately, modern rifles are much less prone to cause flinching than older models, as they generally have a shock-absorbing recoil pad instead of an unforgiving solid butt plate.

A SOLID REST

Use sandbags or a commercial shooting rest to steady the rifle. There are many commercial shooting rests on the market, and they'll pay for themselves after a few trips to the range. However, if you're on a budget, pick up some used cloth birdshot bags, fill them with sand and sew them tight. You'll need three bags for the forearm and two for the buttstock. I've seen shooters use all manner of rests, from sleeping bags to pillows, none of which cut it as solid rests. You can shoot all day with these types of rests and you'll never zero in your rifle. Your rest must be solid, or you'll simply waste your time and ammunition.

A good example of the importance of a solid rest occurred a while ago when a friend and I checked out our rifles. Using a plastic rest, he took several

Right: A solid rest is essential to properly sight in a rifle.

Below: Adjustment values are usually marked on a scope's windage and elevation turrets.



shots at 100 yards, resulting in a two-inch by three-inch group. This seemed odd because we knew his rifle could shoot tighter groups. I suggested he fire some more rounds, using my solid rest. Subsequently, he shot a group that was less than half an inch!

START CLOSE

If your rifle hasn't been previously sighted in, get it bore sighted. Sporting goods store staff will often bore sight a rifle/scope combination when it's purchased. If not, start your shooting at 25 yards/metres. And even if it was bore sighted, it's a good idea to start your shooting at this close distance. Adjust windage and elevation turrets as needed to get your rifle shooting to dead centre at a short distance, and then move to longer ranges.

THE CENTURY DISTANCE

Next, take three shots at 100 yards/metres. Adjust the scope so the rifle is sighted in to hit where you want it. Open country hunters might want it two-and-a-half to three inches high at this distance, while those who hunt in timbered areas might want the rifle shooting exactly to point of aim. In any case, triangulate the approximate centre of impact by connecting the bullet holes and base your adjustments on that point.

STAY COOL

Repeat these three shot groups until the point of impact is where you want it, always spacing the shots so that you're shooting from a relatively cool barrel, with the interval between shots increasing as the barrel warms. If

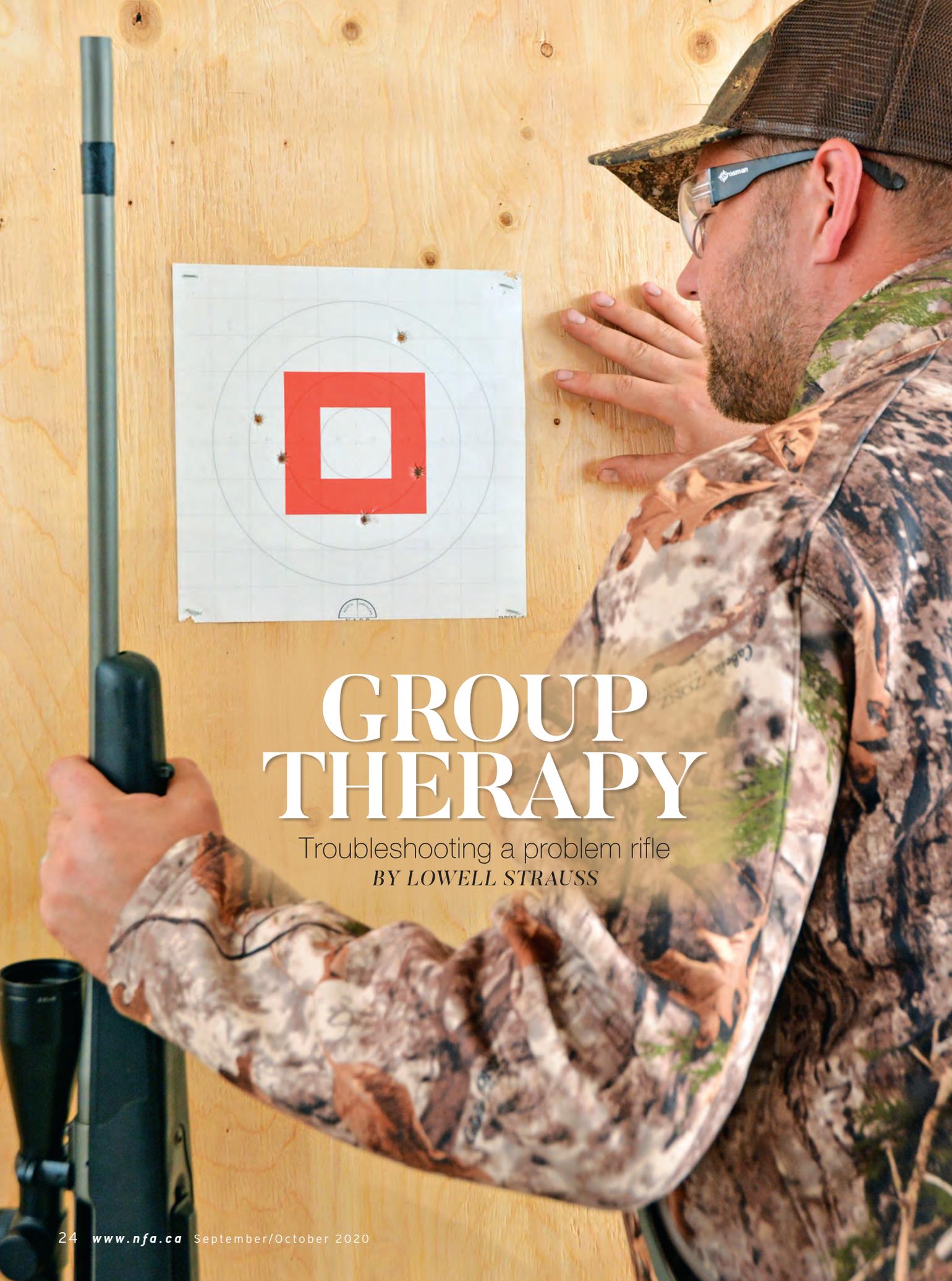
you're shooting from a cold, clean barrel don't be surprised if your first shot is a bit higher than you'd expect. I've often seen the first shot from a clean barrel go slightly high. If all goes well, you should be able to get a one-inch group at 100 yards/metres, even with factory ammunition.

GO FURTHER

If your shots have the potential to be further than 100 yards/metres, this is the time to set targets at the 200 or 300 mark. Follow the same three-shot process at these distances. When you're confident your rifle is zeroed, and you know where it's hitting at all the distances you're likely to shoot at, it's time for some target practice. Accurate shots don't just come from sighting in, they're also the result of lots of practice, after the sighting-in process.

PRACTICE

There's no substitute for practice to get used to the feel and action of your firearm. Shoot from a variety of positions, because you'll never know what may happen when a shot opportunity presents itself. Start by shooting from a standing position. Next, switch to a sitting position, as well as kneeling. Finally, take some shots from prone, the most accurate field position. When you can consistently place three shots in a six-inch bullseye at 100 yards (from a sitting position) you're ready to go hunting. 🏆



GROUP THERAPY

Troubleshooting a problem rifle
BY LOWELL STRAUSS

“Not a bad group...for a shotgun!” quipped my shooting buddy as we analyzed the target. The trouble was, this was a pet handload from my tack-driving varmint rifle, definitely not a scattergun.

“It normally shoots better than that!” I retorted, passing the Kimber 84M over to him. “See if you can do any better.” He couldn’t. Something was wrong.

We’ve all been there – a rifle that, for some unknown reason, doesn’t shoot the groups we expect. It’s a complex topic that may be the result of ammunition, the shooter or a faulty rifle setup.

Sometimes it’s an easy fix, other times it’s more complicated. However, the arrangement of bullet holes on a paper target is a powerful diagnostic tool, if you can decipher what they’re telling you. So, let’s walk you through how to diagnose and troubleshoot a problem rifle. I’ve also summarized these methods in a flowchart for quick reference. Grab your tool bag, and let’s get started.

PROBLEM 1 – LARGE-DIAMETRE GROUP

Big, random groups are the most difficult to diagnose. Sometimes a single problem is the culprit; other times, a myriad of issues need fixing. Without burning through hundreds of rounds of ammunition in the quest for accuracy, I start by figuring out what I know.

Ammunition is the first thing I examine when accuracy goes south. Did I

switch ammunition, even to a new box/lot number? Handloaders know that swapping reloading components – bullets, powder (and charge weight), primers or cases – may result in significant changes on paper. At the least, different ammunition changes the point of impact, and at most, it adversely affects accuracy. If I rule out changes in ammunition, I move on to the rifle.

Is the bore clean? That’s easy to discover. Scrub the bore with a quality solvent to remove gun oil, carbon and copper fouling until the patches come out clean. To expedite diagnosis at the range, I pack a portable cleaning kit and rifle cradle. Accuracy diminishes with fouling and, at some point, every rifle just needs a good cleaning. After cleaning, I shoot a confirmation group. If things don’t improve, I’ll see if someone else will shoot a group through my rifle in case shooter fatigue is the culprit.

After the bore, I turn my attention to the scope. A loose screw in the scope’s base or rings destroys accuracy. The heavier the recoil, the more likely it is to wiggle things loose. I once tested a Savage Arms 212 bolt-action 12-gauge slug rifle, and the rings were so loose after the first five rounds they nearly fell off the rifle. Tightening ring screws with a torque wrench prevents over-torquing screws, which can lead to other problems. Blue threadlocker helps hold screws in place. Fixing this common

problem often restores accuracy. Then I shoot another test group.

Next up, the action screws. Many rifles perform their best at a pre-determined torque. These specifications may be found in the owners’ manuals or by asking other shooters online. If you’re using an aftermarket stock or chassis, follow the chassis manufacturer’s guidelines. In most cases, the Goldilocks principle applies – not too loose, not too tight. Consistency is the key to accuracy.

At this point, it feels like a lot of work and ammunition have gone into the diagnosis. And they have! If I still haven’t found a solution, I circle back to the scope. Diagnosing a faulty scope is difficult when the results are erratic. If I suspect the scope, I usually swap the original scope out with a backup. After mounting and boresighting the alternate scope, it’s back to the range for more testing. If the backup scope yields the desired result, the problem is solved. At this point, I don’t need to see tiny sub-MOA groups – ‘acceptable’ is good enough for now. In fixing the big problems, I may reach an accuracy goal I can live with, or at least tighten the groups to the point where I can work on more specific, smaller problems.

PROBLEM 2 – VERTICAL STRINGING

There are several reasons shot groups string vertically. On thin-contour hunting barrels, barrel heating is a culprit. >



Before heading to the range to test and troubleshoot accuracy, the author packs a portable cleaning box with everything he may need.



Over tightening or under tightening screws can both cause problems, making a torque wrench, like the Fat Wrench by Wheeler Engineering, an essential tool.

To solve this problem, either don't let the barrel heat up (easier said than done on a summer's day at the range), or just allow it to cool between shots. Other problems include barrel free-float issues, stock flex, ammunition, firing pin spring problems, shooting technique and more. Early in my hunter education, my grandpa told me to never place the forend of the rifle on a solid surface to shoot because the rifle jump during recoil causes vertical stringing. To this day, I always cushion the rifle with something soft before taking a critical shot.

PROBLEM 3 – HORIZONTAL STRINGING

Side-to-side dispersion in a group is often a result of wind pushing the bullet, poor trigger control or both. Try shooting on another day or swap out shooters to check these issues. Shooting from a bench using a solid rest is also something to consider when accurizing a rifle.

PROBLEM 4 – GOOD GROUP, WITH FLIERS

I like to shoot five-shot groups to measure accuracy. When compared to a three-shot group, the extra data provides a deeper insight into shot-to-shot consistency. There are problems with five-shot groups, too, including barrel heating and shooter fatigue. If you've ever noticed that the fliers only occur on the fourth and fifth shots, these factors may be coming into play.

Ammunition causes fliers, too. A cartridge left to 'cook' or heat up in a hot chamber before firing may have higher pressure and a different point of

impact. A cartridge that was accidentally dropped may have the bullet pushed out of alignment or its tip damaged. Sadly, budget ammunition may not deliver good accuracy due to inconsistency in the components.

PROBLEM 5 – POINT OF IMPACT SHIFT

A multitude of reasons can shift the centre of the group away from the bullseye. Factors like air temperature, barrel heat, ammunition type, shooter technique and type of lighting all cause bullets to impact a different spot. For example, on a hot day a velocity increase may cause a higher POI or jerking the trigger may shift the group to the right or left. Some are consistent and predictable, and others, like shooting techniques, may cause groups to grow bigger because of shooter-induced POI shift between shots.

OTHER CHECKS

After working through all the previous issues, if your accuracy isn't improving there are a few more possibilities to consider.

The crown protects the rifling at the muzzle and allows expanding gases to exit evenly behind the bullet. A damaged crown may affect how the bullet leaves the rifle. Check this area and repair it if damaged.

As the bore wears after multiple shots, ammunition that worked well when the rifle was new may no longer provide desirable results. Handloaders that tune their load to their rifle can squeeze the maximum life out of a rifle barrel by

adjusting seating depth to compensate for throat erosion. Everyone else is at the whim of ammunition manufacturers. After thousands of centrefire rounds, perhaps a new barrel is in order!

USED RIFLES

When buying a used rifle, I do my best to give it a thorough inspection for obvious flaws that will inhibit its accuracy. A damaged crown is fixable, for example, but a pitted, neglected bore is not. I usually fare reasonably well doing these inspections, but now and then I end up with a lemon anyhow. Recently, I've had the opportunity to use the Endosnake borescope. This small inspection camera plugs into my phone, allowing me to visually check the bore for fouling, throat erosion, rusting and pitting. It's a handy tool that I pack in my range bag or my pocket at the gun show.

Nevertheless, all used guns I acquire are disassembled and undergo a deep clean. After that, I take a variety of ammunition and head to the range for the fun of seeing how they'll group.

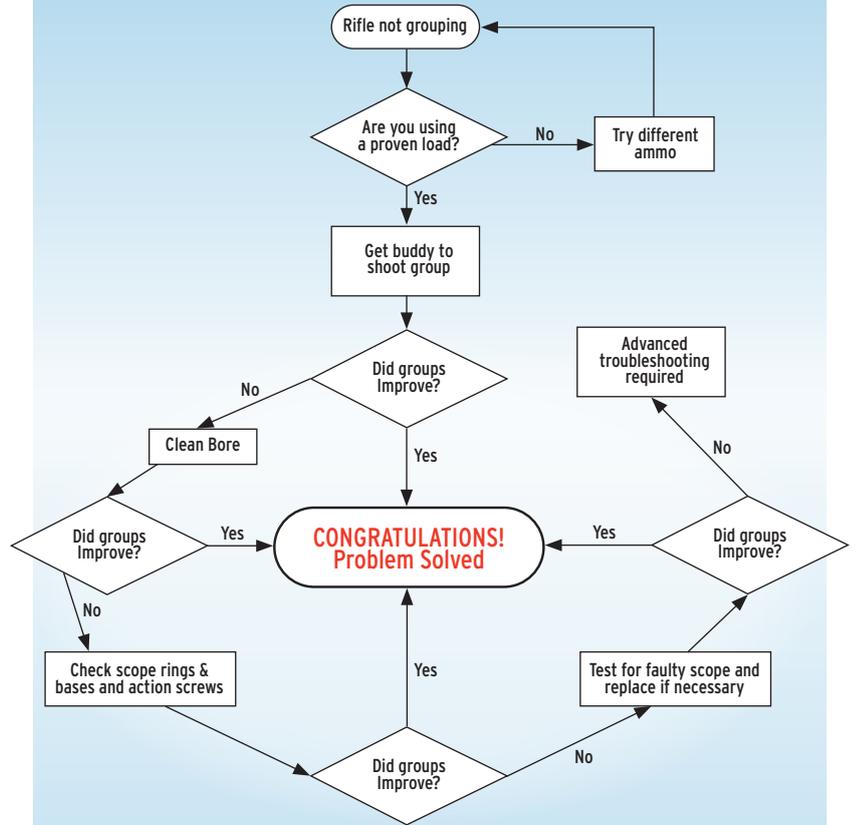
NEW RIFLES

Many new rifles now come with an accuracy guarantee and often a test target fired at the factory; it's a good indicator that, stoked with the right ammunition, the rifle will shoot as advertised. However, I still prefer to disassemble new guns and inspect them for obvious flaws. On a new budget rifle, I found the barrel pressed against the forend on the left side – an imperfection in its low-



Top: The arrangement of bullet holes on a paper target is a powerful diagnostic tool, if you know what they're telling you.

TROUBLESHOOTING FLOW CHART



quality injection-molded plastic stock, and an accuracy killer! After 30 seconds with my rotary tool and mini sanding drum, I enlarged the barrel channel enough to free-float the barrel as it should have been from the factory.

SUMMARY

Three factors affect accuracy: ammunition, shooter skill and the rifle/optic combination. Trying different loads in a new (or new to you) rifle is the first step. Some rifles prefer only one type of ammunition; others are omnivores, shooting acceptable groups with a wide variety of brands and bullet weights. If there's an upside to troubleshooting an inaccurate rig, it's the opportunity for lots of trigger time. If I remember the principles of marksmanship, I always find the more time I spend pressing a trigger, the more my shooting improves.

Townsend Whelen, a US Army colonel and gun writer, once said, "Only accurate rifles are interesting," and I have to agree. I don't expect sub-MOA groups from a 303 British Lee-Enfield or Winchester Model 94 30-30, but I do like to reach the full accuracy potential of each rifle I have the privilege to own.

Understanding a rifle's accuracy potential isn't just for bragging rights, though that's fun, too. It instills confidence on the range and in the field. And as for my favourite varmint rifle, it turns out that tightening the scope rings fixed the problem. 🏆



A soft yet sturdy rest, supported on a solid bench, helps to remove shooter error when testing a rifle's accuracy potential.



LONG RANGE SUCCESS

10 rules for long-range shooting
BY T.J. SCHWANKY



This mid-Asian ibex was taken by the author at just under 800 yards.

I certainly wouldn't call myself a dedicated long-range shooter and, when hunting, it's my goal to get as close as possible before taking a shot on an animal. But I've also hunted long enough to know that getting close isn't always an option, especially in the mountains or the more open plains of western Canada. For this reason, I've spent considerable time equipping myself and practicing for those eventual long-range scenarios. I'm well practiced out to 800 yards and have taken several animals at or near that range. There's no magic to it. It just takes the right gear and dedication. These are 10 rules I live by when it's necessary to go long.

1 KNOW YOUR RANGE

These days, any serious long-range shooter owns a laser rangefinder. While

they are available in standalone units, I much prefer to have a combination binocular/rangefinder for hunting, as it's one less item to carry. The lasers in the high-quality units are accurate to one yard at 600 yards and, when shooting at long range, this type of accuracy is a must. Most rangefinders are rated on highly reflective surfaces like mirrors and their actual range-finding ability on a deer-sized animal is likely 50 to 60 per cent of their rating. If you plan on shooting out to 1,000 yards, then get a rangefinder rated for 2,000 yards.

For hunting, a rangefinder that calculates angle and true ballistic distance is a must. Whether shooting uphill or downhill, your true ballistic distance will be shorter than the actual range. With closer-range shots, angle plays a minor role, but at longer ranges it can make a

A critical skill to learn is keeping your head down after you've fired your shot.



big difference, especially when shooting at steep angles. In the mountains, for example, it's not uncommon for the true ballistic distance to be 50 to 100 yards shorter than the actual range at distances exceeding 500 yards. This can have a significant effect on point of impact if not properly compensated for.

2. SELECT THE RIGHT CARTRIDGE

I'm not a fan of extreme velocity cartridges for long-range hunting, believing that a bullet leaving the muzzle at around 3,000 feet per second with a heavy-for-calibre weight is ideal. If you look at most of the extreme range chamberings, like the 50 BMG, 408 Chey Tac and 338 Lapua, they are all in that muzzle velocity range. It seems this is where bullets stabilize well, accuracy is good and velocity still sufficient for bullets to expand at longer ranges. I also prefer lower recoil chamberings, so my choices are definitely in the 6.5mm to .30 calibre range. Cartridges like the 7 Remington Magnum, 6.5 PRC and 300 Winchester Magnum are all favourites with long-range hunters, but there are another couple dozen that fit the criteria. I'm far from a cartridge snob and just want

one that fits the criteria of a muzzle velocity around 3,000 feet per second and that's capable of delivering a heavy-for-calibre bullet at 1,500 feet per second at the maximum ranges you intend on shooting.

3. SELECT THE RIGHT RIFLE

Obviously, accuracy is paramount, and the further you want to shoot, the more accurate the rifle must be. For those never intending to shoot beyond 500 yards, a rifle capable of MOA accuracy is minimum. If you plan on shooting beyond that range, then accuracy must increase proportionally. For example, a 1,000-yard rifle would need to be capable of .5 MOA accuracy. I wouldn't consider anything but a bolt-action rifle for long-range hunting, as it's the platform which offers the best accuracy with the option of a quick follow-up shot. There are lots of schools of thought as to whether barrel length and rifle weight effect accuracy, and I don't think they do. But rifle fit and comfort certainly do. It's been my experience that few people shoot extremely lightweight rifles well and there's no question that heavier rifles are more stable. With that said, I've got a couple of sub-six-pound rifles that

shoot .38 to .5 MOA easily, but they fit me like a glove. Barrel length, within reason, plays no role in accuracy and with many cartridges, the velocity loss per inch is minimal as well. If I were looking for a super lightweight mountain rifle, I wouldn't hesitate to shoot a rifle with a 20 to 22-inch barrel. For something I wasn't packing around in the mountains, a longer barrel may help balance the rifle better and the added weight does help with stability. Also, you want a barrel with a faster rifling twist rate, so it stabilizes the longer bullets best suited for long-range shooting.

4. SELECT THE RIGHT BULLET

With the proliferation of long-range hunting bullets hitting the market now, good choices have never been greater. The perfect long-range hunting bullet must obviously be accurate in your rifle, be heavy for calibre, have a high ballistic co-efficient and expand reliably down to impact velocities of 1,500 feet per second. While there are lots of great hunting bullets out there, long-range bullets are specialized. They are typically of cup and core construction. This construction method offers the



most consistent accuracy for expanding hunting bullets and it allows bullets to expand at lower impact velocities than say bonded or mono metal bullets. There was a time that ammunition for long-range hunting was strictly the domain of handloaders, but factory ammunition is becoming increasingly better and now it's often possible to get maximum accuracy from a rifle using factory ammunition. If I can offer one word of advice, it's to check accuracy at the ranges you intend shooting. While bullets may shoot impressive groups at 100 yards, groups often open up at longer ranges due to the bullet destabilizing while in flight. I've seen many traditional hunting bullets that shoot under MOA at 100 yards, open up to two or three MOA at 500 yards.

5. SELECT THE RIGHT OPTICS

While the argument about long-range optics usually begins with first or second focal plane, I'm going to say right now that it really doesn't matter for hunting optics. I shoot all second focal plane scopes. What does matter is that the scope has a reliable means of ballistic compensation that allows you

to maintain the same point of aim and same point of impact through a wide variety of ranges. Simply put, I want to put the crosshairs exactly where I want the bullet to hit, regardless of the range. This is easily accomplished with a ballistic-type reticle with multiple hashmarks or with exposed turrets that are turned for the range being shot. I use both systems, and each has its advantages. The turrets allow for longer ranges and, with the addition of custom-burned yardage turrets, it's just a simple matter of turning the turret to the desired yardage, rather than having to count clicks as with MOA markings on your turret. The ballistic reticles typically max out around 800 yards and they are not usually yardage indicated, so you need to remember what yardage each hashmark represents. They are quicker to use, however, as there is nothing to adjust. I'd say pick a system you like best and become intimately familiar with it. They both work.

I also like a scope that has a maximum magnification of 15 power or greater. More magnification means a more accurate point of aim, but it's ▶



To become proficient, you need to practice under field conditions.

Range-finding binoculars with angle compensation are a top choice for determining precise distances.



also important to have a scope with a lower-end magnification for those closer shots. My go-to scope is a 3-18x50. Long-range scopes will have at least a 30-millimetre tube. The larger tube allows for more MOA adjustment. Traditional one-inch tubes typically don't allow enough adjustment to shoot past 500 to 600 yards if you are relying on turning turrets for elevation compensation.

6. TAKE A REST

Most long-range shots taken under hunting conditions are from the prone position, as it is the steadiest position to shoot from, so most of my rifles are equipped with a bipod. It does add forward weight and throw a rifle off balance when not in use, so I prefer a bipod that is easily detachable. Whether it is affixed to the rifle depends where I'm hunting and what the odds of a long-range shot are, but even when not on the rifle, it's close by in my pack. While supporting the front of the rifle is critical, so too is supporting the rear on those long shots. Rather than carrying an additional aid for this, I typically just remove my sweater or jacket and roll it up to support the rear. This ensures your rifle is rock steady with the minimum amount of gear.

7. CENTRE MASS MATTERS

If you aren't willing to practice at the ranges you plan on shooting, under actual field conditions, you should not be taking long-range shots, period. Once your rifle is sighted in, get off the

bench. It's time to start practicing under the conditions and from the positions you'll be shooting from when hunting. I'm a big fan of shooting steel at longer ranges, as the sound of a bullet banging a gong is the real reward when practicing. Forget about shooting tight groups and concentrate on aiming for centre mass on the gong. Long-range hunting isn't the same precision game that long-range target shooting is. There are no precise aim points, nor opportunities to shoot tight groups. With long-range hunting, you get one shot; and if you put it somewhere close to centre on that 10-inch circle where the vitals reside, you've done your job. Some of the best F-class shooters I know are the worst long-range hunters, because they can't make that transition to shooting for centre mass in the vitals. It takes practice! Obviously, all the basics of breathing and trigger control apply, but the real practice is coming to terms with not aiming at a tiny dot, but rather centre mass.

8. LEARN TO READ THE WIND

The wind is the greatest variable and the least controllable factor in long-range shooting. There are instruments to measure wind velocity and they can be a great aid, but often the wind at the shooter's location is vastly different than at the target. An effective long-range hunter needs to be able to read these variables by paying attention to the environment. Take notice of how the grass or trees are blowing at your location versus

at the target. Wind is easy to compensate for when you know the exact wind speed, but when you don't, there's no substitute for experience and that only comes from practicing in the field. The best method I've found is to measure the wind at your location with a wind meter and then compare the environmental signs. If the grass is bending over twice as much at the target, then compensate for twice what the wind meter says.

9. KEEP YOUR HEAD DOWN

Shooting form is critical and the worst habit I see is lifting one's head immediately after the shot. There is no better view of how the animal reacted after a shot than through your scope, yet I constantly see people searching with their naked eye. Evaluating where the animal is hit is critical in determining if a rapid second shot is required and how you may need to adjust your elevation or windage. Keeping your head down will also improve your accuracy.

10. KNOW WHEN TO SAY NO

The absolute most critical skill a long-range hunter can learn is when to say no and walk away from a shot. There is an entire new set of ethics that come with long-range hunting versus shooting at targets, and if you are not 100 per cent certain of making the shot, then the only option is to try to get closer or simply walk away. If you are not willing to do this, you shouldn't be taking long-range shots at animals. 🍀



NFA

FREEDOM.
SAFETY.
RESPONSIBILITY.

POST-BAN 3-GUN

Speculating on the future
BY TYSON SOMMERVILLE

*And those damned police!
They'd better leave my guns to me.
A man needs his gun: There are dangers
You can't always predict, you know.
No bear's going to take me before
my time, either; when he comes
stealing my grub he'll learn
about it from this gun barrel.*

— Bill Peyto Alone by Gordon Burles



I found this poem in the book *Tales from The Canadian Rockies* (edited by Brian Patton, Hurting Publishers Ltd., copyright 1984) under the section, *The Railway Years: The Tourists and the Settlers, 1885–1918*. It truly enforces my belief that the more things change, the more they stay the same. As someone looking down the barrel of yet another gun ban, I can't help but sympathize with this old hunting guide. Just a man, trying to retain the tools of his trade. Granted, he makes money off his trade and I shovel money onto the burning dumpster fire that is mine.

As everyone with a firearms licence has been made aware, many sporting and hunting rifles have been banned. Topping this list is the terminally ill-reputed AR-15, a rifle which is the standard for 3-gun competitions. My league and its executives, however, are truly the "never say die" type, and it was decided the show would go on. When the COVID



Top: Manipulating stripper clips in competition takes more finesse than expected.

Left: The author's competition belt all set for clipazine division - 10-and-a-half pounds loaded.

restrictions eased, a match date was set and announced, complete with two new divisions, peashooter and clipazine – peashooter being a rimfire category and clipazine being for semi-autos running clips, such as the SKS and magazine-fed bolt-action rifles such as scout rifles. Clipazine was also modified to require only a single shot on paper, like heavy metal, to help speed things up. Pistol calibre carbine (PCC) also saw a boom in popularity for this match. Looking through my collection, the closest thing I had to a usable, and legal, rifle was my M44 Mosin Nagant. Realizing I would be far from competitive, I decided to also run my Norinco 1911 and my Remington 870. I also had a bit of a self-satisfied chuckle at the fact that I couldn't use my dedicated sporting rifle, but I could use my purpose-built military rifle. Gun laws are strange.

The match itself was a good time. It was our first match of the year, so at the very least, it was nice to see each other again. As for firearms, it was almost a show and tell. There was no shortage of WKSs, Tavors, M1 Garands, and of course, the famous SKS.

Oddly, I seemed to be the only one foolish enough to run a Mosin. My runs through the stages were best described as either a hog fight or a dumpster fire. Many competitors struggled with equipment, their lack of familiarity being the primary issue, as well as general rustiness from a long winter on lockdown. I learned a thing or two about the finesse required to run a stripper clip in a hurry. My pistol was... rough. My shotgun, on the other hand, I was happy with, but a 15-round capacity will do that.

For me, this match was an attempt to answer the commonly squawked question, "Why do you need an assault rifle? Can't you just use a different gun for your competitions?" But anyone who has owned guns under a Liberal government knows that using a different gun would just cause an expansion of the bans. As soon as a gun control advocate sees how fast I can run a pump-action, or how fast some people can run a bolt-action, they will just pencil them onto the next list of demands. Then all they have to do is hold their breath and stamp their feet until the government gives them what

they want. So, let me take a second and talk about the new face of 3-gun, and perhaps lament its demise.

Our post-ban match was undeniably fun. And if someone, somewhere, deep in the bowels of our government has the power and good sense to shred this foolish OIC, I will propose a once a year event wherein we all bring something silly for a competition. However, I'm afraid that if the ban stands, especially with the recent additions via FRT, staying competitive will be cost prohibitive. The few competitive semi-autos still available are both expensive and clearly in the sights for the next ban. This results in no one wanting to buy a Tavor for \$2,000 or \$3,000 only to have it prohibited next time a criminal does something terrible.

Those that crave the competition atmosphere will likely jump ship to IPSC or an IPSC rules pistol and shotgun match and enjoy it while they can – before the promised pistol ban. As for 3-gun to continue forward, though, I just don't see it. I hope I'm wrong in speculating that this ban may be the death of 3-gun. Crime, of course, will be unaffected. 🗡️



NEW ZEALAND'S FAILURE

How successful was the New Zealand amnesty and buyback?

BY GARY MAUSER



In 2019, the socialist New Zealand Prime Minister, Jacinda Ardern, took advantage of a horrific shooting incident in Christchurch to ban “military style” semi-automatic “assault weapons” by an immediate Order in Council. (For more, see the March/April issue of *Canadian Firearms Journal*). Ardern said her goal was, “to strengthen our gun laws and make our country a safer place.” Subsequently, the New Zealand police held a buyback of lawfully held firearms. Unsurprisingly, gang leaders, when asked, said they wouldn’t comply.

The premise for the new gun laws was false. According to anonymous sources, the Christchurch killer was wrongly granted a firearms licence due to police blunders, not a lack of new laws. The police failed to properly vet him when he applied for a firearms licence in 2017. New Zealand has long had an intrusive screening process that is designed to root out applicants who are not deemed “fit and proper persons.” Among other errors, police failed to interview a family member as required, instead relying

on two men who only knew the killer through an Internet chatroom.

The New Zealand Police claimed the buyback was a success, but critics disagree. The effort was ill-conceived and went over budget. All the surrendered guns had been legally held, so disarming peaceable people was unlikely to make anyone safer. Since there was no agreement about how many guns were prohibited, it is difficult to know the effectiveness of the collection process. As in Canada, most of the newly banned firearms had never been registered, so ownership is nearly impossible to identify.

ESTIMATING FIREARM STOCK

The first problem in evaluating the buyback is that no one knows for sure how many firearms New Zealanders own that were banned and should have been surrendered. In part, this stems from the lack of a solid definition of “military style” semi-automatic “assault weapons” (often called MSSAs). Plus, most firearms did not have to be registered.

Estimates of the number of MSSAs vary widely, from a low of 55,000 to a high of 240,000. Nicole McKee, the national secretary of Council of Licenced Firearms Owners, said there were at least 170,000 prohibited firearms in circulation. COLFO is one of the most prominent firearms groups. The National Party spokesperson, Brett Hudson, reported that the police had told parliament there were 240,000 firearms to be prohibited. In developing its proposal for the New Zealand Police, KPMG estimated there were 175,000 prohibited firearms to be collected in the buyback. Finally, the New Zealand auditor general reported that the New Zealand Police had initially made an unreasonably low estimate of just 55,000 firearms to be confiscated.

NEW ZEALAND AUDITOR GENERAL'S REVIEW

Thanks to an overview released by the New Zealand auditor general, it is now possible to update my earlier evaluation of the New Zealand government’s 2019 buyback in the March/April issue of *Canadian Firearms Journal*.

The New Zealand auditor general reported that fewer guns had been turned in than the police had expected, and that the administrative costs were found to have ballooned from the amount budgeted, NZ \$18 million to almost double, NZ \$35 million. Importantly, the auditor general admitted that this was only a partial accounting of program costs because there were other costs involved that were not reported. The auditor general observed that the funding shortfall was made up from the general crime prevention services budget, meaning important crime prevention projects may have been neglected.

The New Zealand auditor general reported that, according to the provisional police data, as of 13 February 2020, a total of 61,332 firearms had been surrendered, 14,220 of which were E-cate-

gory firearms. (E-endorsement firearms are similar to Canadian restricted weapons in that they are registered to the owner, enabling police to know names and addresses of the owners). The New Zealand auditor general revealed that the New Zealand Police had lost track of 1,862 E-category firearms because their records had been poorly maintained.

According to the New Zealand auditor general's review, between 26 per cent and 35 per cent of military-style semi-automatic firearms stock was surrendered, depending upon the estimate of total prohibited firearms.



Top: In 2019, New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern took advantage of a horrific shooting incident in Christchurch to ban legally owned firearms

Bottom: The New Zealand Police claimed the buyback was a success, but critics disagree.

	Upper Estimate Firearms Stock (240,000)	Lower Estimate Firearms Stock (175,000)
Auditor General	26 per cent	35 per cent
New Zealand Police	23 per cent	33 per cent

This new total of surrendered firearms is 5,082 higher than the initial New Zealand Police report in December 2019. It includes 477 additional E-category firearms that were surrendered after December. These new estimates, while marginally improving the estimated success of the New Zealand confiscation scheme, show that the buyback failed to collect the bulk of the newly prohibited firearms.

Unsurprisingly, success was higher (95 per cent) for firearms covered by an E-endorsement. Almost all (14,220 of 15,037) firearms covered by an E-endorsement were surrendered. This high surrender rate for E-category firearms masks an exceptionally low rate for other prohibited firearms. Just 47,112 non-registered military-style semi-automatic firearms were surrendered. Depending upon the estimate of firearms stock used, this means that between 21 per cent and 29 per cent of the newly prohibited firearms were surrendered. This legislation created many new Kiwi paper criminals.

The chickens are coming home to roost.

The long-awaited report of the Royal Commission of Inquiry into the Christchurch killings is due out on July 31. Prime Minister Ardern ordered it immediately following the Christchurch attack, but then ignored it to launch

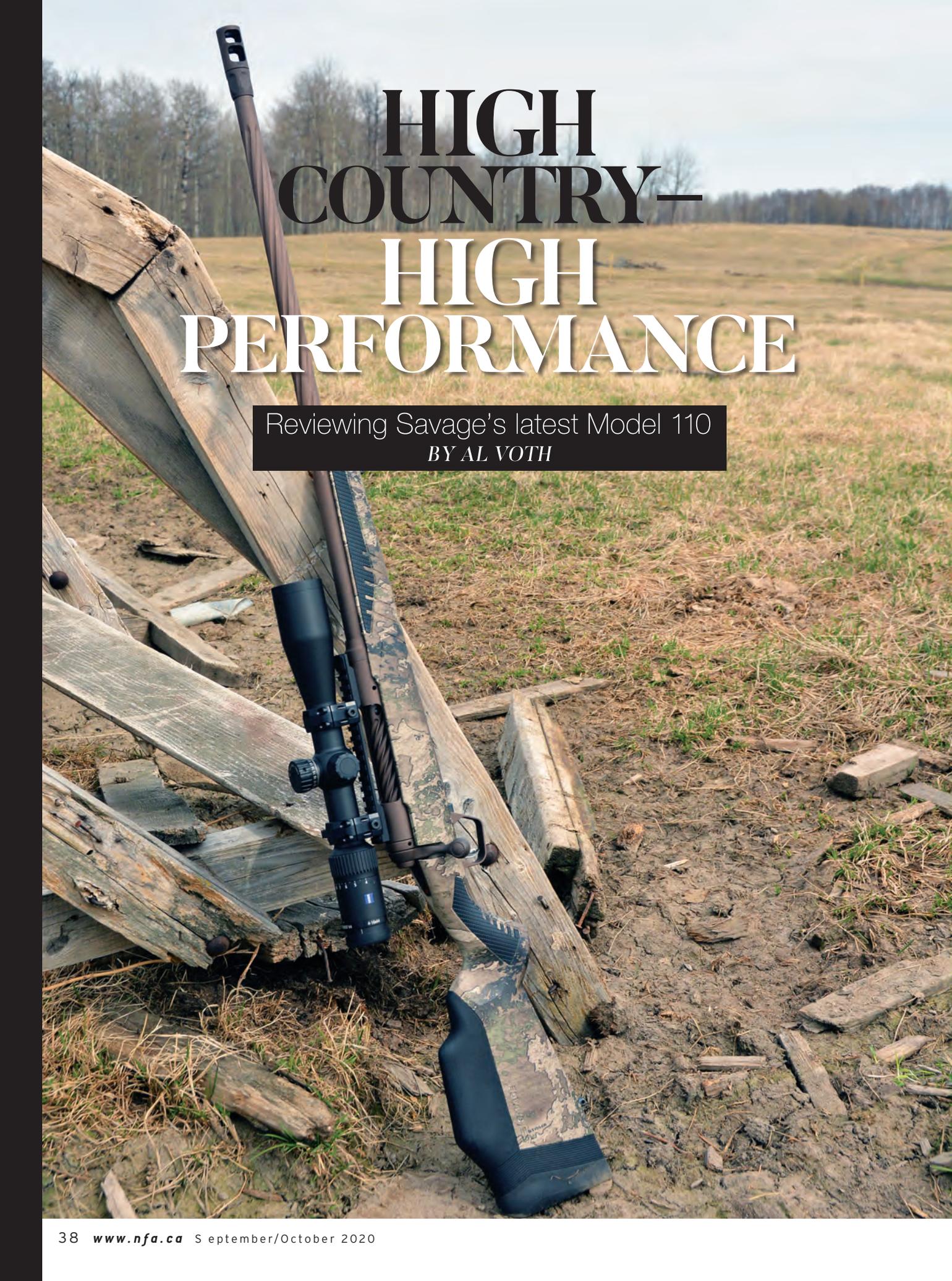
the gun buyback and ram two legislative packages of gun controls through parliament. The findings of the Royal Commission of Inquiry could play an explosive role in the fall election.

For various reasons, support for Ardern's Labour Party is falling since it peaked during the COVID-19 lockdown. Nevertheless, her socialists may still manage to win another mandate in September, even as public opposition to the buyback continues to grow. After first contributing to the anti-gun frenzy, the National Party, the main opposition party, has now joined with the small libertarian party, ACT (the Association of Consumers and Taxpayers), in openly opposing an additional round of gun restrictions. Immediately following the Christchurch shootings, only ACT had the courage to oppose the buyback. Widespread criticism of the second round of gun laws even managed to alienate one of the minor parties, New Zealand First, that is propping up Ardern's coalition government.

It is too soon to evaluate the impact of the buyback or the new gun laws on violent crime. It has only been six months since the buyback ended, and the new gun laws have just been passed by parliament. All we have at this point are reports that the numbers of gang members have increased. 🚩

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- www.police.govt.nz/crime-snapshot

A Savage Model 110 rifle with a scope is leaning against a wooden fence in a field. The rifle is the central focus, with its scope and barrel clearly visible. The background shows a grassy field and a line of trees under a cloudy sky.

HIGH COUNTRY— HIGH PERFORMANCE

Reviewing Savage's latest Model 110
BY AL VOTH



Savage's 110 High Country is finished in subdued and glare-free colours.

It's no secret that Canadian hunters currently have a broader selection of firearms available to them that at any other time in history. Factories seem to be tripping over themselves to produce niche firearms for every conceivable corner of the market. Those niches include ultralight rifles at one end of the spectrum and purpose-built long-range monsters at the other end. Inhabiting the area between are the rifles most hunters actually use.

Savage recently introduced a specialized rifle which certainly fits into the hunting category, but which crowds the long-range end of the spectrum, where the big guns live. They call it the 110 High Country and over the last few months I've had the opportunity to give one a good workout.

THE BASICS

The High Country is a right-hand only offering based on Savage's well-known 110 action. I see Canadian retail is hovering around \$1,200, so it's not an economy rifle, but it's not crazy expensive either. At that price point, the consumer gets a Savage equipped with

all their trademark features, including AccuTrigger, AccuStock and AccuFit. Notably, the barrel and action are all stainless steel with a matte brown PVD coating. Savage says this coating is more durable than other competitive finishes and, at only two to four microns thick, there's no concern about it interfering with tight manufacturing tolerances.

Magnum calibres come standard with a muzzle brake, while non-magnum offerings just have the threaded muzzle, with a protective cap. The High Country is offered in 11 calibres, ranging from 243 Win at the small end, to 300 Win Mag. All the most popular hunting calibres are represented, with the 280 Ackley Improved the most unusual chambering in the list. The rifle I've been working with is chambered in 7mm Remington Magnum. Barrel length is 24 inches for all calibres, but add about two more inches for rifles equipped with the twin-port muzzle brake. The magazine is detachable and holds three magnum and four standard cartridges. However, only two of the more rotund 300 WSM rounds will fit. >

Top:
The excellent
AccuTrigger is
standard on the
High Country.

Bottom:
With five different
comb heights and
five butt spacers,
the AccuFit
stock is capable
of numerous
configurations.



The rifle's safety is located on the tang and is of the three-position trigger-blocking type. When slid fully to the rear, the gun won't fire and the bolt is locked in the closed position. In the fully forward position, the gun will fire and the bolt can be cycled. The mid-position blocks the trigger but allows the bolt to be cycled for safe loading and unloading.

APPLICATION

With the bare rifle weighing in at eight-and-a-half pounds (3.86 kilograms), this is not a lightweight. With the addition of a 20 MOA rail, Zeiss Conquest 4-16x44mm scope, Zeiss Precision rings (with integral bubble level), a sling and three rounds of ammunition, the entire package comes in at 10 pounds (4.54 kilograms). Obviously, this isn't most people's idea of a mountain rifle. However, for the hunter who stays on flatter terrain and/or hunts from a stand or vantage point where longer shots can be expected, this could be just the ticket.

The heavy barrel is spiral fluted, as is the bolt. This, of course, reduces weight, but it also looks cool, giving the rifle a modern, high-tech appearance. And since life is too short to hunt with an ugly gun, this rifle can't be ruled out on that criteria.

SHOOTING & HANDLING

The High Country arrived at my door with the trigger set at a reasonable hunting weight and providing a nice, clean break with minimal take-up or after-travel. It's a classic AccuTrigger, and just works.

The muzzle brake is a side-discharge design, making it more suitable for



prone shooting than a typical radial brake. I made a point of shooting it from a low prone position in a grassy field and it didn't kick up any debris to annoy me or interfere with spotting my shots. The brake is effective at taming recoil and the rifle's weight and soft recoil pad ensure the shooter doesn't get bashed around. This is a comfortable gun to shoot.

That comfort is certainly aided by the AccuFit stock, which provides five different comb heights and an equal number of inserts to adjust length of pull. If you can't make this stock fit you, you're weird. Note, however, that with

the highest comb inserts installed, there is no straight-line access to the bore for a cleaning rod. A bore guide, coupled with a flexible rod, works fine in this case, or the barreled action can be removed from the stock. It's not feasible to remove the comb insert for cleaning and maintenance.

I detected no stock flex in shooting or handling the rifle and found the barrel channel is generous enough to clear the barrel along its entire length. The action fits tight in the stock, as is normal for Savage's AccuStock. The aluminum core the action sits in extends the length of the forend and provides a solid founda-

tion for bedding and absorbing recoil.

This rifle doesn't carry much of its weight behind the trigger, making it noticeably muzzle heavy. The balance point of this rifle, set up as pictured, is exactly at the barrel/action joint. While some people will find this makes it more awkward to carry, I have always found a muzzle-heavy rifle easier to shoot well from field positions. This rifle confirmed that is still the case, at least for me.

Cleaning the High Country proved a surprisingly pleasant experience. I expected lots of copper fouling from this magnum-chambered barrel but found just the opposite. The barrel cleans easily of both powder and copper fouling, indicating a smooth interior. A look with my borescope confirmed this is a nicely finished barrel, which, no doubt, helped it perform so well in the accuracy department.

ACCURACY

I tested the High Country with some Hornady and Remington factory ammunition I had on hand, as well as a variety of handloads. As you'd expect, the rifle has its preferences, with Hornady's Superformance product being one of them. Their 139-grain SST offering in this line put five shots into 0.84 inches at 100 yards, and then to show it wasn't a fluke did it again with a 0.86-inch five-shot group. This load clocked in at just under 3,190 feet per second and would be a good option for a hunter wanting a lighter bullet. In the heavy bullet department, the Superformance 162-grain SST put five bullets in 0.96 inches at 100 yards, but my second group only managed 1.35 inches for five shots. Velocity averaged 2,990 feet per second. I also tried some factory loads designed for less recoil. Remington calls their offering Managed Recoil, while Hornady's is labeled Custom Lite. Groups ran from one-and-a-half to two-and-a-half inches, with no clear winner.

My handloading started with H1000 powder and CCI 250 primers in Hornady cases. Velocities were so uniform with all bullets (standard deviations almost always in the single digits) that I saw no reason to change these components. Of the hunting bullets I tried, Sierra's 160-grain BTSP was the winner, turning in consecutive five-shot groups of 0.77 and 0.90 inches. And for the steel-bangers out there, I tried Hornady's 162-grain ELD-Match bullets with groups of 0.93, 0.74 and 0.78 inches.

Having established the basics of this rifle's accuracy potential, I still had most of a box of Hornady 162-grain ELD-Match bullets left. And with a pile of fired brass at hand, I loaded up enough for some long-range fun. Our range has steel out to 800 metres, so that became my goal. There was little wind the day I shot, but mirage was heavy. When I made the right environmental call, the rifle easily rocked the smallest steel (10 inches) out to 600 metres. Only 16-inch steel is available at 700 and 800, but the rifle made short work of those as well. It's worth noting that during this shooting session, the rifle's recoil management was good enough for me to spot my own shots through the Zeiss scope.

ISSUES

The High Country proved free of any significant problems. But I suppose it's worth noting that the magazine can be easily inserted improperly, setting up a potential scenario where it drops unnoticed into the field and is lost. It's just a matter of making sure the rear of the magazine is inserted first, and then rocking the front into place to latch it. Once it's in place, the magazine is supported front and rear, making for a

solid, flush-fitting system.

I did find there was an occasional feeding problem from the magazine, but this only happened when running the bolt at a moderate speed. Run it slow or fast and there were no issues. The issue which arose was caused by the base of the cartridge rising too high as the bolt closed and the cartridge's belt catching on the chamber's edge at 12 o'clock. When it happened, drawing the bolt back just a hair allowed the cartridge to drop and chamber normally. Belts on cartridge cases were never a good idea, and I'm sure they give rifle designers fits. This is just another example.

VERDICT

There's a lot to like about the High Country. It's good looking, shoots well, priced fairly and, thanks to the Accu-Fit system, can be modified to fit just about anyone. Recoil management in the magnum calibres is great, and the barrel cleans up easily. If the size and weight parameter of this rifle fit into your hunting style, it's hard to see how anyone could go wrong with the High Country. I have no 7mm in my collection right now, so I might just keep this rifle. 🏆



ZEISS CONQUEST V4

A rifle like the High Country is only as good as its sighting equipment, and when a Zeiss Conquest V4 arrived for testing the same week as the rifle, it was a natural fit. The model I used is their 4-16x44 with a ZMOA-T30 reticle. This is a fine, Christmas tree-like reticle with hash marks in minutes-of-angle, as well as windage dots in the lower half. This made-in-Japan optic has a 30-millimetre tube with an external elevation turret that is zero-stop equipped and has 80 MOA of adjustment. The windage turret is a low-profile, capped type, which can also be reset to zero. A side-mounted parallax knob, adjustable from 50 metres to infinity, rounds out the feature set.

This 4-16 optic retails for \$1,450 here in Canada and proved perfectly suitable for the up-to-800-metre shooting I did. So far, I haven't run any scope-specific tests on it, but I can report the adjustments feel positive and always produced the point of impact changes I expected. Optically, the glass is excellent. Mounted in Zeiss Precision rings with an integral bubble level, this sighting system just plain worked.



REVIEWING THE RENEGAUGE

Savage's first semi-auto shotgun

BY JEFF HELSDON



The Renegaugue shines at the patterning board, producing decent patterns from all chokes.

The Savage Renegaugue is a gun of firsts. Released in January 2020, it is the first semi-automatic shotgun from Savage Arms. It is also the first dual-valve, gas-operated semi-automatic and the first completely new North American shotgun platform in a decade. But it wasn't born overnight. Savage has had this gun in development for seven years.

CONCEPT

"Seven years ago, we started a journey toward becoming a full-line firearms manufacturer – which means every type of platform," said Jessica Treglia, senior brand manager for Savage Arms.

For the unfamiliar, Savage has its proprietary bolt-action rifles, both in centrefire and rimfire, and MSR semi-automatic rifles. It also produces the Savage Fox side-by-side shotgun. Through its Stevens line, the company has pump shotguns, an over/under and a break-action single shot. Missing was a semi-automatic shotgun.

Savage's claim of being the first new North American semi-automatic shotgun action in more than a decade is made in a field which has only a few players. Mossberg's 930 was introduced in 2008, and although the 935 and 940 are newer, they are a similar action. The same with Remington's Versa Max,

which was introduced in 2010, followed by the V3 in 2015. The latter is based on the Versa Max's action.

Along the Renegaugue's development path, the company president stopped the project two or three times for various reasons. At one point in development, the gun was too heavy. Then it looked like the price would be too expensive. But these hurdles were overcome, and the project ended up under the guidance of Savage engineer John Linscott. He is also the brains behind the A17 rifle.

Treglia said, "We determined early on that our semi-auto must be reliable and must cycle all ammunition. We wanted it to hit a balance between being too heavy and too light. Obviously, too heavy is no good, but once you get too light it can quickly mean too much recoil."

FEATURES

The result was a shotgun with a futuristic look. It borrows on the technology of Savage's AccuFit system to make a shotgun that fits the shooter. The gun comes with adjustable combs, three different recoil pads to vary the length of pull and shims to vary the cast. >



A unique feature of the Renegade is its dual gas valves. Savage calls this a dual regulating inline valve (D.R.I.V.) gas system. Its basic operating principle isn't that much different from most other gas-operated semi-automatic shotguns in that after the shell fires, gases expand behind the wad, and shot is pushed out the barrel. Some of these combustion gases are bled off partway down the barrel, where they push against a piston-like assembly linked to the action. This pushes the action back to eject the shell and a return spring closes the bolt again, while loading a new shell. What differs is the fine details of how that gas is handled.

Treglia explained that some auto-loaders can't handle light-loaded shells because there isn't enough gas to ensure reliability. But when these guns are set up to be reliable with light loads, magnum ammunition will create too much force, potentially causing damage by slamming the action open too violently. "Magnum loads may dump too much gas into the system, and that's also where recoil picks up and hurts the shooter," she explained, adding the dual valves allow for a precision-tuned action.

Providing a figure of 10 units of gas – which is a made-up number – she explained light loads will use all 10 units. With more powerful loads, the excess gas that isn't needed is bled out

the front through Savage's patented dual-valve system, making the system self-regulating. At present, the Renegade is only available in a three-inch model but will shoot everything from the lightest target loads to the hottest goose loads. No adjustments are needed on the part of the shooter.

Not only is D.R.I.V. easier on the shooter's shoulder, it's easier on the gun, as bolt velocity is relatively constant. "You're not slamming the bolt rearward excessively hard and therefore the gun isn't going to take a beating," Treglia said. But Renegade goes one step further in recoil taming. There is a stock rod buffer in the stock to absorb felt recoil and extend the action bar assembly's life. The rod has a polyurethane insert to absorb any overtravel of the action bars when travelling rearward. The comb risers are made of a gel to reduce recoil further, with the recoil pad also containing a similar gel.

At a retail price of about \$1,780 CAD, the Renegade isn't aimed at the shooter looking for the most economical gun. But it comes in at less than the many of the Bs – Beretta, Browning and Benelli – but more than most Remington and Mossberg models.

There is a lot of value for the money with the Renegade though. The action bar assembly and pusher sleeve are chrome-coated to make things oper-

ate smoother, enable easier cleaning and increase durability. The gun also has a melonite finish on the barrel to increase corrosion resistance, a fiber optic sight, and comes with a hard plastic carrying case. All controls – the action release button, bolt handle and safety – are oversized. The magazine port is also oversized and beveled for fast reloads and the trigger housing is angled like on competition guns. The gun comes with improved cylinder, modified and full chokes, and uses the Beretta/Benelli Mobil system, meaning there is lots of choke tube availability.

At present, there are three models of the Renegade: two waterfowl models with Mossy Oak shadow grass blades camo in 26 and 28-inch barrels; two turkey models, both with 24-inch barrels, but a choice of bottomland or obsession camo; and two field models with a grey and black finish and two barrel lengths.

PERFORMANCE

Since there aren't too many semi-autos that can't handle heavy shells, I decided to put the Renegade through its paces with a few boxes of one-ounce trap loads. I found the gun functioned flawlessly, firing and ejecting each one.

Putting the gun to my shoulder the first time, I noticed it fit different than I was used to. The raised comb fit better to my cheek than a lot of other guns,



The Renegaugue has a melonite finish to make it more water resistant.



A fluted barrel helps trim weight and adds to the gun's aesthetics.



The dual valve system of the Renegaugue is self-regulating and requires no adjustment when alternating between light and heavy loads.

field or competition. Recoil often results in a sore cheek when I walk away from a round of trap, but that wasn't the case with the Renegaugue. It really does a grand job of taming recoil.

The other big difference I noticed was the gun's balance, in that there was more weight forward than I'm used to. It made for easy shots on straight-aways but required a learning curve when swinging the gun on angled shots. This isn't something which is necessarily a problem, it's just not what I am used to. Treglia said this weight at the front end was due to the dual-action valves. To compensate, they fluted the barrel and shaped the forearm to keep it slimmer and cut some weight. The dual valves and fluting do give the

gun a unique, futuristic look.

Assembly and disassembly of the gun is simple, unlike some of its competitors. To assemble, it's just a matter of keeping the action closed and sliding the barrel and action assembly on. There is a little spring play with the connection, but I found it easy to compress this and then tighten down with the forend cap. It screws in until it clicks to signify it's in place.

The grip tape on the pistol grip functioned well, even in the 30 degree Celsius-plus heat when I was shooting the gun.

At the patterning board, I used Score #2 hunting loads. My Internet research puts the average pellet count in one-and-a-quarter ounces of lead #2 at 109

pellets. The Renegaugue did a good job, putting 99 per cent on the paper. Improved cylinder had 116 on the paper with the greatest concentration in a 30-inch circle and the most even pellet distribution. Modified had 106, which were more spread out. Full had 103 on the paper, which again were more concentrated in a 30-inch circle.

What's next? Treglia wouldn't give any hints of when a 20 gauge, or other gauges, would follow, but she did suggest there would be more to come in the Renegaugue line. "We're not just going to launch a product and not support it," she said. "If you look at the 110, rimfire line, or whatever, we tend to put out a lot of line extensions and service the whole market." 



OLD FRIENDS, REDONE

Classic revolvers are being reintroduced

BY BOB CAMPBELL

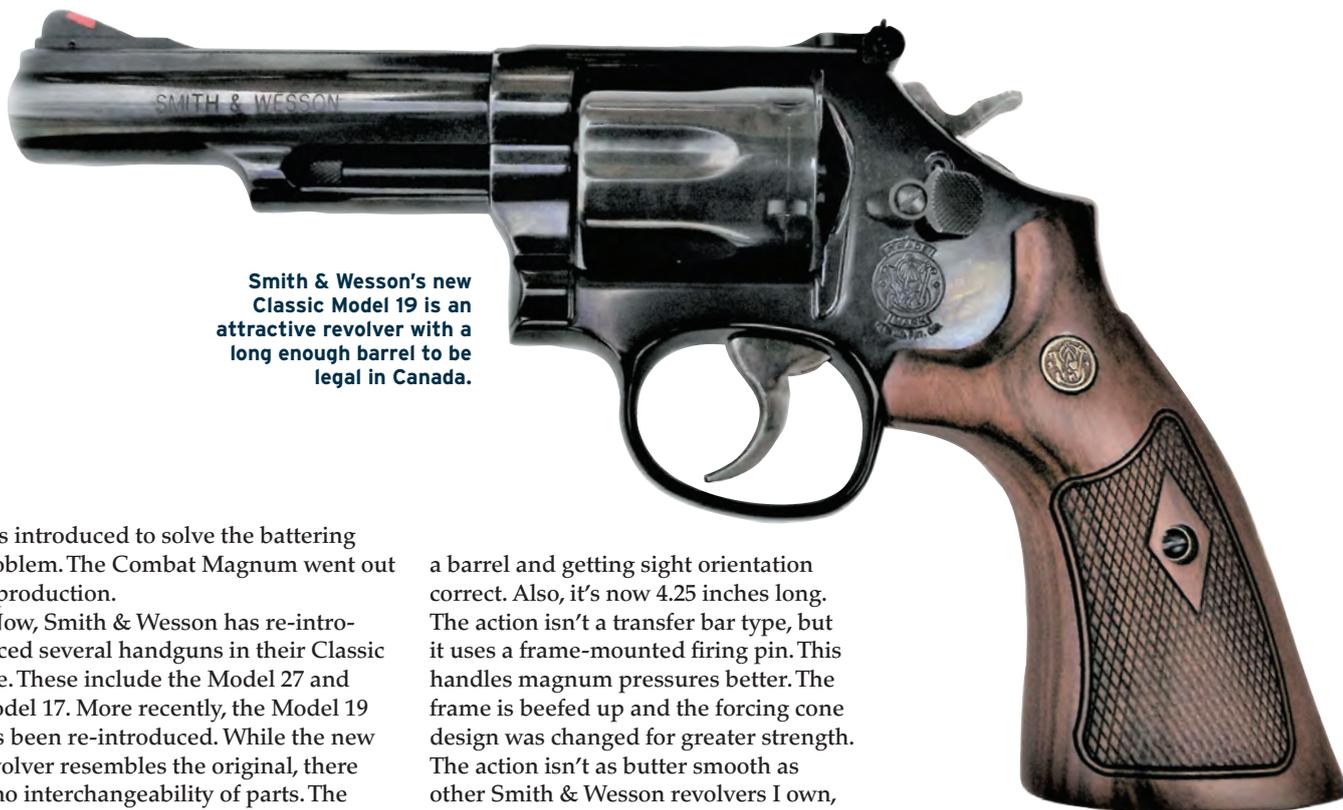
Voltaire said that originality is nothing but judicious imitation. Perhaps this may be said of several modern revolvers. When we tally up the makers who copy the great guns of the past, there is no shortage. Clone guns from Rossi, Taurus and Uberti are plentiful. Now we can add Colt and Smith & Wesson to that list of imitators. Their re-introduction of classic revolvers, such as the Colt Python and Smith & Wesson Model 19, is causing some excitement. That's fine, but we also must understand

that these handguns are not quite the same guns of old. The following is my experience with both.

SMITH & WESSON MODEL 19

The Smith & Wesson Model 19 or Combat Magnum was among the most famous K frame revolvers. A fully adjustable rear sight, a ramp post front sight with a bright insert and a smooth trigger action made the Model 19 among the most desirable of revolvers. The Model 19 was built on the K frame, a size origi-

nally designed for the 38 Special. When the 357 Magnum cartridge was chambered in a lengthened cylinder in 1956, trouble came along with it. Gas rings, ejector rod bushings and the small parts of the action took a beating. The design of the forcing cone wasn't ideal for the magnum cartridge and these sometimes cracked. This revolver was intended to be fired with 20 38 Specials for every magnum cartridge. While there were several improvements along the way, eventually the larger L frame revolver



Smith & Wesson's new Classic Model 19 is an attractive revolver with a long enough barrel to be legal in Canada.

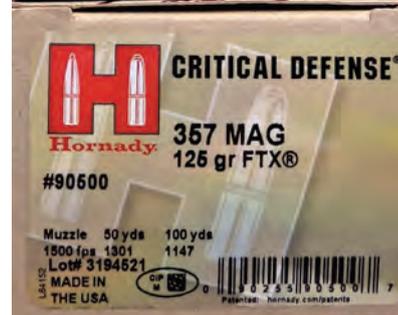
was introduced to solve the battering problem. The Combat Magnum went out of production.

Now, Smith & Wesson has re-introduced several handguns in their Classic line. These include the Model 27 and Model 17. More recently, the Model 19 has been re-introduced. While the new revolver resembles the original, there is no interchangeability of parts. The barrel is the now familiar sleeved type, with a shroud over a screwed-in barrel. This eliminates the problem of fitting

a barrel and getting sight orientation correct. Also, it's now 4.25 inches long. The action isn't a transfer bar type, but it uses a frame-mounted firing pin. This handles magnum pressures better. The frame is beefed up and the forcing cone design was changed for greater strength. The action isn't as butter smooth as other Smith & Wesson revolvers I own, but then they have seen much more use. However, I was able to back off the tension screw on the mainspring and ▶



This target was included with the new Python, but rather than save it for future collectors, the author put it to its intended use.



With quality ammunition, both re-introduced revolvers proved accurate.

achieve a smoother trigger while maintaining reliability. Also, the grip frame is a round butt rather than the original square butt, allowing the use of several different designs, including square butt conversion grips.

There are good things Smith & Wesson has retained, including their micrometer rear sight, which offers an excellent range of adjustment and good visibility. The front post makes for a good sight picture. The trigger and hammer are case hardened in appearance, but these parts are metal injection molded (MIM). Modern CNC manufacture makes for tighter throats and leads.

The Classic Model 19 may not be as smooth as the original in double-action fire, but accuracy seems slightly greater than the original. I used several handloads with the Hornady 125-grain XTP and Titegroup powder during my evaluation. Five-shot 25-yard groups as small as 1.8 inches were achieved, with the average being 2.4 inches. This is an interesting and well-made revolver offered at a fair price.

COLT'S PYTHON

The re-introduction of the Colt Python has created quite a stir, especially in a

time when used Pythons are bringing thousands of dollars. Colt introduced the Python in 1956. Considerable work had been done in customizing revolvers prior to this introduction, and the new Colt codified many of these improvements. The Colt Official Police frame was considerably strengthened, excellent quality adjustable sights were incorporated into the design, while a heavy underlug barrel added style and recoil-dampening weight. The action is a marvel of smoothness and the Python is among the most accurate revolvers ever manufactured. In my opinion, for long-term use the Python isn't quite as durable as Smith & Wesson revolvers, but for the shooter that knows how to handle a Python, it is a rewarding revolver.

The new Python boasts several improvements. The frame is strengthened in the top strap area and the cylinder is re-designed for additional strength. The hammer and trigger are slightly modified but retain a close resemblance to the original. Internal parts are not interchangeable with the original. The barrel is a single forged unit in common with the original.

The front sight may be changed out if needed, and the barrel crown is nicely

countersunk. The grips are similar to the original, but the geometry is different, with the angle of the grips and trigger guard changed in a manner which makes recoil control and comfort superior with the new Python. I own the original and the new Python illustrated isn't a test gun or loaner, but my personal revolver purchased with hard-earned money. The new Python is a superior revolver as far as smoothness and accuracy are concerned. The original isn't going anywhere, but the



Top to bottom: Colt's first double-action 357 Magnum, the New Service, the 2020 Colt Python and an original Python.

new gun is the better revolver.

When I dry fired the new Python, I was surprised to find the double-action pull is less than 10 pounds, and I was concerned the revolver may not fire with hard magnum primers. Such fears were groundless. The Python has fired every loading I cared to try. The new Python is great fun to fire at ranges of 100 yards or more. Keep the front sight on target, press the trigger, follow through, and you have a hit. The single-action trigger breaks at less than three pounds. Firing from a

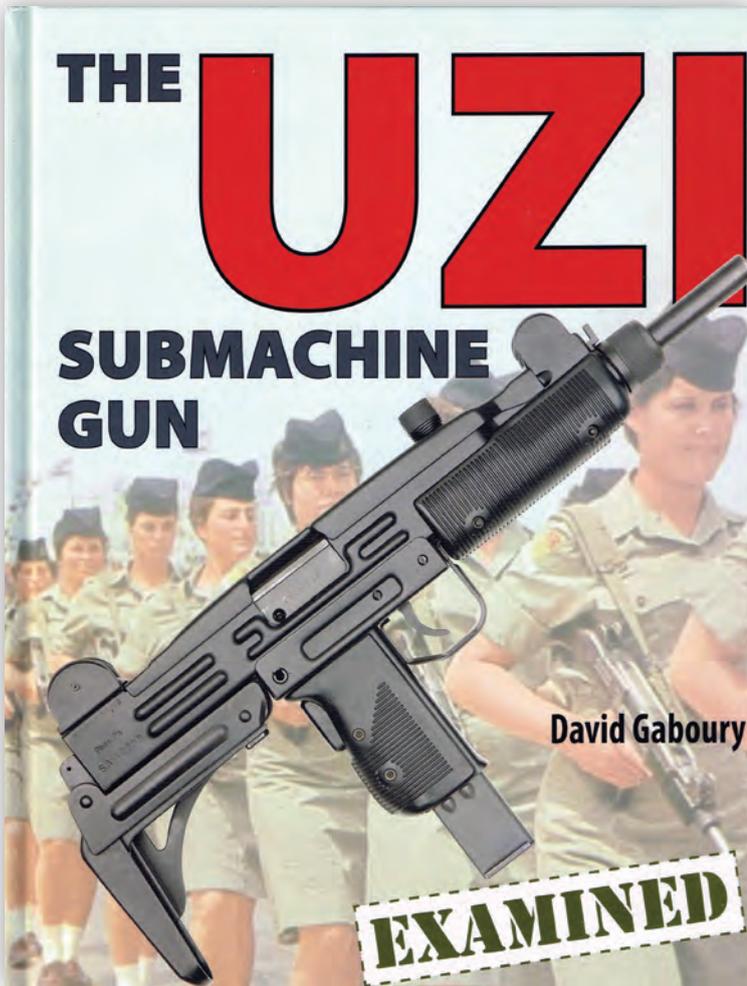
solid bench rest position at 25 yards, I gauged the accuracy of this six-inch barrel revolver. The Hornady 357 Magnum 158-grain XTP has proven especially accurate. I am certain the revolver is capable of consistent one-inch 25-yard groups, but on average the groups run 1.25 to 1.5 inches. The single most accurate loading has been a combination of the Hornady 125-grain XTP and 7.5 grains of Titegroup for 1,310 feet per second – 1,250 feet per second in a 4.25-inch barrel. The Python is a joy to use and fire.

These re-introductions of older revolvers are excellent quality by any standard. I think the Smith & Wesson is a good revolver of the type. While purists will not like the MIM internal parts, this revolver should serve well just the same. The Python represents a modern version of a classic Colt, with certain improvements that will add to longevity. The new Python is as smooth as any previous revolver, but it should prove more robust in long-term use. You pay your money and you take your choice. 

NFA Book Shelf

Dean Roxby

The UZI Submachine Gun Examined



The name UZI is universally recognized, even by those with no interest in firearms. And yet, the history and background of this famous gun has not been documented in much detail. This book corrects that.

Divided into six parts, and further divided into 30 chapters, author David Gaboury covers the entire family of UZI firearms, including the original SMG, the Mini and the Micro, as well as pistol and carbine variants. (David Gaboury is the owner of the web forum uzitalk.com.)

Beginning with a brief history lesson on the creation of the nation of Israel, and their immediate need for weap-

ons, the book covers several foreign SMG designs which Israel initially considered. In chapter two, we are introduced to a young IDF soldier named Uziel Gal, who had designed his own version of what an SMG should be. Following the submission of a prototype for testing, it was accepted by the IDF.

Following the original full-size UZI was the Mini UZI, and then the Micro. The book goes into detail to sort out all the UZI variants, in both full-auto and semi-auto. Pistol and carbine versions are covered as well. Also examined are little-known or little-produced types, such as the Ruger

MP9 and the UZI Pro, both of which use a polymer lower receiver.

Chapters 11 and 12 cover the adoption by the Netherlands and West Germany in the mid '50s. These were built in Israel. Chapters 13 and 14 cover UZIs built under license by FN in Belgium, and by Products, Inc. of South Africa. Chapter 15 looks at the Chinese Norinco knock-off, along with some legal issues that arose between importers.

Part four, chapters 17 to 21, deals with the UZI in the US. Both civilian and US government agency sales, pre- and post-May 86 full-auto, and 1989 AWB issues are touched on while covering the various importers that brought UZIs to the US market. Action Arms, Group Industries, UZI America and Vector Arms are given a chapter each.

Part six deals with operation, parts identification, calibre conversions, magazines, manuals and accessories. Each subject is given its own chapter. The section on manuals contains an impressive collection of military and civilian manuals, in several languages.

With 304 pages, and approximately 1,000 black-and-white photos, this book covers it all. Although the gun is prohibited in Canada, books about guns are not yet banned. So, if you have an interest in the UZI family of SMGs, this reference is worth a serious look. 

Title: The UZI Submachine Gun Examined

Author: David Gaboury

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Photographs: 1,000 black & white photos

ISBN: 978-1-931464-76-6

Pages: 304

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