

CANADIAN

FIREARMS JOURNAL

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2020

 NFA.ca



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CANADA'S NATIONAL FIREARMS ASSOCIATION

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CANADIAN **FIREARMS JOURNAL**

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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 features a commemorative Second World War knife, created by Boker to honour the soldiers of the Devil's Brigade. This unit was a combined force of Canadian and US soldiers who are best known under that name, but they were officially known as the 1st Special Service Force. This was a commando group formed in 1942, under the command of the United States Fifth Army. All United States Army Special Forces Groups are generally considered to be lineal descendants of this combined Canadian/American unit.

Boker's commemorative knife is a replica of the unit's V-42 combat knife, complete with sheath and the unit's red shoulder patch. Also included is a sticker with the words, "The worst is yet to come," in German. Apparently, these early commandos left stickers like this behind as they created carnage behind enemy lines. The knife is available from all Boker dealers and is pictured here with a battle-scarred German Mauser 98 rifle. 



Canadian Firearms Journal

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From The Editor's Desk

Al Voth

The Poppy



This issue of the *Canadian Firearms Journal* will be arriving in mailboxes just in time for our Remembrance Day celebration here in Canada. I'm reminded of the time many years ago when I was in the US just prior to Remembrance Day and, of course, I was wearing a poppy. I ducked into a hair salon for a badly needed cut and the nice lady buzzing my scalp asked about "the flower." That question would never have been asked in Canada, and it was my first encounter with the fact the poppy is not a universal symbol. I did my best to explain the meaning of the poppy, but I either did a poor job or it didn't sink in for some reason as she shrugged and said, "That's nice. I try not to get political." As a result, I learned the poppy is mostly used in Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the United Kingdom; not so much, if at all, in the US.

It seems to me that, even in this coun-

try, more controversy swirls around the poppy every year. People with political agendas are doing their best to make it a symbol of war-mongering, colonialism, violence, racism, animal cruelty and every other negative you care to name. Of course, it's all an effort to promote their own agendas while trampling on the graves of veterans to do it. I'm sure even some of Canada's federal politicians would love to toss their poppies in the trash as well, and the only thing keeping them from doing it is the ensuing wrath of voters. So, look around this Remembrance Day and see who is proudly wearing a poppy. Most of those people will understand the value of freedom and have some appreciation for the cost of keeping it.

Naturally, we gun owners are some of the most vocal people in Canada on the subject of personal freedom. That's to be expected, since we are the current

"whipping boy" for many of society's ills, especially crime. Governments are supposed to protect minorities against the persecution of mob opinion; but in our case, today's government is leading the charge. They need to create an enemy, a scapegoat, someone to blame for criminal violence, and we've been selected. As history shows, it's not a new strategy, only the focus has changed from being race-based to belief-based. I fully expect more belief-based persecution in the years to come. These guys are just getting started.

However, we'll continue to promote and celebrate freedom in these pages, and we have lots of content for doing so in this issue. Gary Kangas has his annual tribute to Canada's soldiers in his column, and we have a wide selection of reviews, reports and opinions. I trust you'll find it all educational and inspiring. Enjoy your magazine. 



President's Message

Sheldon Clare

Battle Stations!

Thank you for your vigorous support of the NFA in this difficult time for firearm rights. I am pleased to report that your contributions to our legal and political fight have so far brought in some \$750,000, which should stand us in good stead for the legal battle underway against the Order in Council attack on us and our property. This fledgling war chest should also give us a strong start in fighting an election, whether it comes sooner or later. Even so, we will need to continue growing our membership and building funds to fight an election. The way parliament works, there could be one at any time, especially in a minority situation.

To that end, we have increased our professional presence on social and traditional media. We are continuing to engage in lobbying activity in Ottawa and to forcefully press for fundamental change to the over 50 years of gun control laws that have nothing to do with public safety and everything to do with civil disarmament. As one longtime observer mentioned to me recently, it really seems these firearm laws are designed and intended to fail. Then the argument, "If we only had more gun laws," can be trotted out until they are all gone.

The political situation is a tense one. The Liberals, NDP and Bloc Quebecois have made themselves our enemies. If you value individual rights and freedom, you should not support those parties. The Conservatives have been willing to listen to our ideas about a full review of our firearms laws, but even they are still hung up on the essence of failed gun control (licensing of people, classification of firearms into good guns and bad guns, and registration of firearms.) It will take a lot of effort to turn around this seriously flawed view of firearms control.

By the time you read this, we will



have delivered your pink slips to Prime Minister Trudeau. He likely won't take the message seriously, but he should since over 2,000 of us made significant contributions to add to our war chest. I know that our fundraising asks are frequent, but they are working, as we are gaining great resources for our fight. I learned many years ago as a political organizer that the best way to get money for a good cause was to ask for it, and that is just what we are doing. We are trying to build up our membership base to reach 100,000 and beyond. More members mean more communication, more awareness and a strong basis to push for our goals of reform and freedom.

We are in a time of historical change. The upheavals in both the United States, and to a lesser extent in Canada, coupled with the danger of economic collapse through poor decisions, and the dangerous growth of socialist movements are clear threats to the individual rights that firearms ownership represents. This is not to mention the economic and social

disaster forced upon our society by the current COVID-19 situation and the all-too-rampant corrupt misuse of taxpayer money. The fact is that people have given up a great deal of freedom in return for a little security – whether perceived or real. Regardless, this global situation has had the effect of causing tremendous damage to our society, economy and interpersonal relations. From my perspective, it's no wonder there are elements in our government and society who want us to give up our guns. The desire to get control over large numbers of free thinkers makes getting our firearms an essential part of what appears to be a growing neo-Marxist agenda.

I hope we are able to find a political solution which will prevent conflict, but I fear we are coming to a great clash of culture and ideology. Such a clash is probably unavoidable given the number of factors in the mix. Before this happens, it is more critical than ever that you are involved in politics and you continue to support our efforts, while encouraging others

We are continuing to engage in lobbying activity in Ottawa and to forcefully press for fundamental change to the over 50 years of gun control laws that have nothing to do with public safety and everything to do with civil disarmament.

Nous continuons notre lobbying à Ottawa avec l'objectif de changer fondamentalement 50 ans de contrôle des armes qui n'a rien à voir avec la sécurité publique et tout à voir avec le désarmement civil.

to do the same.

We are living in dangerous times that have historical precedents, and it is important for us to take steps now to support calm, rational players who will fight for the private ownership of property and the individual rights which go along with property ownership. These key indicator issues are closely tied to firearms ownership and use.

To be clear, all aspects of firearms

ownership and use are at risk. The same people who don't like you owning firearms also don't like personal protection, collecting firearms and the hunting and target sports. None of us are secure from the gun-grabber goals. Make it clear to your elected representatives that we aren't sheep, and we will stand for our rights and our community. And whatever else you do, be an informed voter. 

Nous sommes dans une période de changement historique. Les révoltes aux États-Unis et moindrement au Canada, le danger d'effondrement économique à cause de mauvaises décisions et la dangereuse croissance de mouvements socialistes sont des menaces réelles envers les droits individuels que la possession d'armes à feu représente. Sans oublier le désastre social et économique causé par le COVID-19 et l'usage corrompu de l'argent des contribuables. Les gens ont donné beaucoup de leur liberté pour très peu de sécurité en retour, qu'elle soit perçue ou réelle. Peu importe cette situation globale cause beaucoup de dommages à notre société, notre économie et nos relations interpersonnelles. Je ne suis pas surpris de voir qu'il y a des éléments dans notre gouvernement et notre société qui veulent nous désarmer. Le désir de contrôler un grand nombre de libre-penseurs rend l'acte de mettre la main sur nos armes à feu un objectif essentiel de ce qui apparaît être un mouvement néo-Marxiste grandissant.

J'espère que nous trouverons une solution politique qui pourra prévenir des conflits mais je crains que nous arrivions à un grand affrontement de culture et d'idéologie. Il est probablement inévitable vu tous les éléments qui le compose. Avant que cela n'arrive, il est très important que vous vous impliquiez en politique et que vous continuez à nous appuyer tout en encourageant d'autres à faire de même.

Nous vivons une époque dangereuse dont les précédents historiques sont alarmants. C'est donc important que nous prenions les moyens d'appuyer des intervenants calmes qui vont se battre pour la possession de propriété privée et les droits qui l'accompagne. Ces enjeux clé sont intimement liés à la possession et l'usage d'armes à feu.

Soyons clairs, TOUS les aspects de la possession d'armes à feu sont à risque. Les mêmes personnes qui n'aiment pas que vous possédiez des armes à feu, n'aiment pas aussi la protection personnelle, la collection d'armes à feu, les sports de tir et la chasse. Aucun d'entre nous sommes en sécurité contre ces gens. Ne vous gênez pas de dire à vos élus que nous ne sommes pas des moutons et que nous maintiendrons nos droits et notre communauté. Quoique vous fassiez, soyez un électeur informé. 

Message du Président

Sheldon Clare

Aux postes de combat!

Je vous remercie pour votre appui vigoureux durant cette époque difficile en regard des droits des armes à feu. Il me fait plaisir de vous annoncer que vos contributions pour notre lutte politique et juridique s'élèvent à \$750,000. Nous sommes donc bien équipés pour contester le Décret qui fut une attaque envers nous et notre propriété privée. Ce montant devrait aussi nous permettre de nous défendre avec vigueur lorsqu'une élection sera déclenchée. Nous devons quand même continuer d'accueillir plus de membres et d'augmenter le montant de notre caisse pour nous battre durant l'élection. Nous pourrions en subir une n'importe quand vu le gouvernement minoritaire.

Pour ce faire nous avons augmenté notre présence professionnelle sur les médias sociaux et traditionnels. Nous continuons notre lobbying à Ottawa avec l'objectif de changer fondamentalement 50 ans de contrôle des armes qui n'a rien à voir avec la sécurité publique et tout à voir avec le désarmement civil. Un observateur de longue date m'a fait remarquer récemment, que les lois sur les armes à feu sont conçues pour échouer, comme ça l'argument "Si seulement il y avait plus de lois sur les armes à feu" est présenté jusqu'à temps qu'il n'en reste plus une.

La situation politique est très tendue. Les Libéraux, le NPD et le Bloc

Québécois sont tous nos ennemis. Si les droits individuels et la liberté sont important pour vous, vous ne devriez pas voter pour ces partis. Les Conservateurs acceptent d'écouter nos idées par rapport à une révision complète de nos lois sur les armes à feu mais ils sont quand même convaincus du bienfait de lois qui ne fonctionnent pas (l'émission de permis, la classification des armes qui les qualifient comme bonne ou mauvaises et leur enregistrement). Il nous faudra beaucoup d'effort pour changer cette vision sérieusement erronée du contrôle des armes à feu.

Quand vous lirez ces lignes, le Premier Ministre aura reçu vos avis de congédiement. Il ne les prendra sûrement pas au sérieux mais il devrait parce que plus de 2000 d'entre nous avons contribué à notre caisse électorale. Je sais que nous demandons fréquemment des fonds, mais ça marche et nos ressources pour la lutte augmentent sans cesse. Il y a plusieurs années lorsque j'étais organisateur politique j'ai appris que la meilleure manière de recevoir des fonds pour une bonne cause était de les demander et c'est ce que nous faisons. Nous essayons d'augmenter le nombre de nos membres à 100,000 et plus. Plus de membres équivalent à plus de communications, plus de sensibilisation et une bonne base pour pousser nos objectifs de réforme et de liberté.



Vice-President's Message

Blair Hagen

The Liberal Disarmament Plan

Many of you reading this will have grown up in an earlier Canada, where the contract between citizens and government was respected. Canadians respected laws, and the government respected rights and property. We are a nation founded on English Common Law, which protected the rights, freedoms and property of Canadians. However, those stays which so famously established Canadian civil society, our laws, our governments and our history are being attacked by a Liberal government behaving like an insolent child smashing a toy he has grown bored with. Those concepts have not only been abandoned by the Liberals, they have been dismissed with prejudice and contempt. And not just the firearms issue, but other issues of rights, free speech and economic opportunity and security. Think about that.

Your sacrifices of personal rights and freedoms in an attempt to continue to legally possess your property over the years and decades mean nothing to them. Less than nothing, actually. Their firearms legislation and their Order in Council are literally ideological flights of fancy.

Juxtapose this with the recent decriminalization of marijuana. You foolishly attempted to comply with firearms laws, while others ignored and flouted the drug laws they disagreed with and were finally rewarded with changes by Liberal governments.

And now they will attempt to confiscate your property using the law.

Oh, they say they will pay you for them, as if that is any consolation. They haven't said how much or even devised a scheme to do it, but in their twisted minds the offer makes it okay. "You want your money, don't you?" Well, it's not okay and it doesn't erase the egregiousness of the act.

How do you feel about that? More importantly, what do you think about

that? Is this the kind of Canada you want to live in, ruled by a government which rewards responsibility and lawfulness with the confiscation of lawfully acquired and owned property?

Basically, the Liberals are emotional juveniles. Their irresponsible actions as government are driven by progressive politics and feelings. Their symbolism is more important than the rights, freedoms and property of Canadians, and this is dangerous to every citizen of this country. The Liberals have all but admitted this act will do nothing to make Canada safer, but nonetheless it is important because of their values. Liberal values. Their values.

The belief behind it is that "hunters" will not object to the confiscations because it does not affect them. It is alleged the firearms targeted are not used in hunting, so it is unlikely to cause the political controversy and furor that the Liberal attempt at universal registration did back in the 1990s/2000s. This is how obtuse the ideologists and party apparatchiks in the Liberal Party are. Far from the anecdotal support from "hunters" the Liberals claim to have, the move has caused opposition from a whole variety of Canadians, some of whom have no interest in firearms but much interest in how the Liberal move affects their rights and property. Not only are individual Canadians concerned, but the provincial governments of Alberta and Saskatchewan, and the Conservative Party of Canada as well.

Your gun today, my gun tomorrow. Soon, no guns. That is the Liberal disarmament plan, and it was exposed by the 1995 C-68 Firearms Act with its attempt to impose mandatory licensing and universal registration. The fact that the Liberals are attempting to use the restricted firearms registry, as well as pre-2012 long gun registry data, which was supposed to be destroyed, proves this beyond a shadow of a doubt.

The Liberal plan is that when they can get a scheme together and find somebody to operate it for them, Canadians will line up to hand in their property and receive the payment deemed appropriate for it in due course. Recalcitrant Canadians who do not comply will be targeted selectively, according to the leisure of the Liberals and law enforcement. As usual, the Liberals have dismissed any thought of the ramifications of their confiscations on the rights, freedoms and property of Canadians, the relationship between Canadians and the government and the relationship between Canadians and law enforcement.

The Liberal Party obviously believes we are used to being treated like criminals, that Canadians have accepted they have no right to arms or property, and that Canadians will accept any gun law imposed because they say so. The Liberals are about to learn a hard and stark lesson – again. They have obviously learned nothing from their 1995 C-68 Firearms Act debacle, and it is essential that Canadians mete out the appropriate punishment a second time. The Liberals have proven they are not worthy of the privilege of forming government.

There is no evidence this property is a danger to public safety, there is no demand from law enforcement that it be seized, and there are no statistics showing these firearms are used in more crimes or tragedies than other firearms. The Liberal justifications are a lie. Full stop.

As we begin this journey of once again securing our rights, property and culture, as we begin this journey of once again defeating the Liberal civil disarmament agenda, all of us require a single-minded determination that justice will be done. We will stop this tyranny and we will put things right because we are Canadians and it is in our blood. 

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POINT BLANK

Chris McGarry

The Needs Argument

2019 was a record year for mass shootings in the United States. Following these tragic events, particularly the mass shootings in El Paso, Texas, and Dayton, Ohio, which occurred within 12 hours of each other, the mainstream news and social media were alive with the usual weak argument that, “Nobody needs an AR-15.” As if the model of firearm used was solely responsible for the mass shootings, not mental health, violent video games, bad parenting, etc.

As those of us who stay regularly in the loop know all too well, the lowly AR-15 has received a punishing dose of bad press. For years, anti-gun politicians in Canada salivated at the thought of outlawing this popular sporting firearm, which, contrary to what a gullible, uneducated public believes, is no more of a military-grade weapon than your father’s 30-06. In the wake of the worst mass shooting in modern Canadian history, which took place on April 18, 2019, in central Nova Scotia, the Trudeau Liberals wasted no time exploiting this national tragedy to bolster their own antigun agenda. They moved swiftly to ban over 1,500 models and variants, including the evil AR-15, which to date has never been used in a mass shooting in Canada.

In a free society, it’s taken as a given that for most items, an onus needn’t be placed on citizens to justify a specific need for ownership, whether that be a firearm, car or yacht. Trying to explain this to people who just plain can’t accept the idea that gun control and, more specifically, the outlawing of specific classes of firearms due to their frightening looks, does nothing to enhance public safety, is downright frustrating.

In the days following the Nova Scotia shootings, the Coalition for Gun Control, which has had the ear of the Trudeau government since it took



office in 2015, addressed a shocked and angry public with the same tired platitudes regarding the lack of need in Canadian society for semi-automatic firearms. In this case, what our leftist politicians and their lackeys in the mainstream media failed to make widely known right away was that the Nova Scotia shooter was prohibited from legally possessing firearms and acquired the firearms he used on the black market. The Trudeau government adopted a facts-be-damned mentality when presented with hard evidence, and advanced with their disarmament agenda for cheap political gain.

While gun rights advocates always seem to be fighting an unending uphill battle against the illogical rhetoric spewed liberally by anti-gun groups, sadly one of our biggest opponents wears the same uniform as us. I’m referring to a class of gun owner who doesn’t mind throwing his brother and sister gunnies under the bus, as long as the type of firearms he happens to own never find themselves in the sights of anti-gun politicians. These poor,

unwitting souls are commonly referred to as Fudds. And each of us knows at least one.

It wasn’t all that long ago that I had a Fudd tell me nobody needs to own an AR-15, as the firearm’s sole purpose is to kill. Even more alarming was when he affirmed how over the moon he was regarding the RCMP’s decision to ban magazines for the 10/22 rifle and also further tighten the screws on AR-15 and semi-auto owners. After all, who needs a magazine that holds any more than a few rounds for a casual day of hunting in the backcountry? Given that this individual is a licensed firearms owner who enjoys hunting and target shooting, he should know better. Today, the antis are targeting AR-15s. Next year, it could easily be the rifle or shotgun he uses for hunting game in the fall.

The next time an anti or uninformed person tells you that nobody needs an AR-15, or any semi-automatic firearm for that matter, reply by stating unequivocally that when governments acquire the power to decide what property citizens are permitted to own, even if they don’t own firearms specifically, their SUV or large house could one day be deemed a menace to the environment and confiscated. Okay, I know that sounds like lunacy, but if you read the fine print contained within UN Agenda 2030, a document many western governments have signed on to, the danger is more a threat than most people think.

In conclusion, whatever property a law-abiding citizen owns is their business, just as long as they use it responsibly. For the sake of liberty and common sense, let’s put the needs argument to rest once and for all. 

Chris McGarry is a freelance writer and indie author who lives in Prince Edward Island.



Preserving Our Firearms Heritage

Gary K. Kangas & Daryl Drew

The Unseen Soldiers

The Second World War officially began on Sept. 3, 1939, when Britain and France declared war on Germany in response to the invasion of Poland. Canada entered the war Sept. 10, 1939, and in response young men and women volunteered themselves for service in combat, as well as support and covert operations.

Canada's declaration of war resulted in the formation of new military units, many of them largely unseen by the public and the media of the day. These unseen soldiers laboured under dangerous conditions, but they have not received the high-profile acknowledgement of front-line combat soldiers. They made Canada secure in an era when our coasts and supply lines were vulnerable, when ships were being torpedoed in the St. Lawrence by German U-boats, and during Japanese attacks on Vancouver Island. Canada was at war at home and multiple other fronts.

One unit, designated the Devil's Brigade, was perhaps better known than most unseen soldiers. It was a joint American/Canadian Special Commando unit designed for covert operations, specially trained and specially equipped with weapons such as the distinctive V-42 stiletto fighting knife. These specialists trained at Fort William Henry Harrison near Helena, Mont. This first special service force was activated in July 1942, with half American and half Canadian troops. The Montana location was selected for its proximity to mountain terrain for winter training and flat terrain for airborne training. The training was intense and rigorous.

The day after Canada entered the Second World War, 19-year-old Victor Drew, a machinist assistant working at a stove works in Sherbrooke, Que., joined the Sherbrooke Regiment, his initial training likely taking place in Fort William, Ont. Sometime during 1940, members of the Sherbrooke Regiment were seconded to the Canadian



Provost Corp., which is Military Police. At the outbreak of the Second World War, Canada was without any Military Police, but on Sept. 13, 1939, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police received permission to form a Provost Company using volunteers from its ranks. This unit was designated the 1st Provost Corp. (RCMP) of the 1st Canadian Infantry Division. The Canadian Provost Corp. was officially authorized in June 1940. Vic Drew quickly found himself guarding prisoners being transported from Halifax to Montreal on CPR trains. This was followed by undercover work with the RCMP Military Police catching traffickers of morphine and heroin from stolen Army medical supplies.

When Japan attacked Pearl Harbor, the 10th Company Provost Corp. was formed, and troops were re-assigned to defend the west coast. The attack on Pearl Harbor and the invasion of the Aleutian Islands by Japanese Imperial Forces intensified concerns over the possible invasion of Canada's west coast. The 6th Military Division was established on Vancouver Island at Work Point Barracks in Esquimalt, with brigades within the division be-

ing rotated to Nanaimo and Alberni and via transport to Tofino. Attached to this unit was the 10th Company of the Canadian Provost Corp. of Military Police. Vic Drew was now stationed at the Bay Street armoury in Victoria. The 10th Company of the Canadian Provost Corp. was operational in all phases of Military Police work, from security and intelligence to convoy escort, and was fully mechanized with Indian and Harley Davidson motorcycles.

Moving troops, Bren gun carriers, artillery and tanks was all done in convoys that travelled at night under blackout conditions. By the winter of 1941/1942, Vic Drew was a 21-year-old sergeant responsible for the orderly movement of these convoys along the narrow gravel road from Nanaimo to Port Alberni. The route taken wound around Mount Arrowsmith on a one-lane road, which was prone to fog, rain, snow and ice in the wintertime. The young Military Polices would attach a side car to their motorcycles, weighing it down with gear to provide stability in the deep snow, which was common on the mountain. The drop offs were vertical without guard rails, and in



Vic Drew, centre, in 1942.



Vic Drew, 1943.

blackout conditions during a blizzard it was not uncommon for convoy vehicles to slide into each other, even though each vehicle, including motorcycles, had a small blue light in the front and the back that was visible for about 10 feet. If a truck slid into the barrel of an artillery piece ahead of it, the truck's radiator would be punctured and the truck would have to be pushed off to the side to await a wrecker truck, several of which followed the end of the convoy.

Within an hour in such a storm, the three-man escort would be stiff from ice and snow, draped in icicles, as they moved in and out between the vehicles to keep them properly spaced and on track. We often forget that these young men were carrying huge responsibilities. Road conditions were hazardous even in summer. They wore no protective gear such as helmets, and casualties were high among the Military Polices, as accidents and fatalities were not uncommon.

Once the convoy reached Port Alberni, some Military Police remained to disperse troops to transport locations, while others returned to Nanaimo to prepare for the next convoy,

which meant they were on the road for 20 hours at a time.

Another task assigned to the Provost Company, should a successful invasion of Vancouver Island occur, was to carry out behind-the-line harassment of the enemy along the logging roads that crisscrossed the island. For this mission, the Military Police were armed with 303 British rifles, STEN guns, .38 calibre revolvers and explosives.

When the Japanese became entrenched on Attu and Kiska of the Aleutian Islands, the Alaska Highway was built in response, and Allied Forces moved north in the attempt to remove the Japanese. An invasion of these islands, beginning with Kiska, was launched on Aug. 15, 1943. The Canadian contingent was assembled in Nanaimo, but upon arriving at Kiska found the Japanese forces had been quietly spirited away by submarines of the Japanese Imperial Navy. Members of the 10th Provost Co. remained on Kiska four months before being recalled to Victoria.

By 1943, the threat of Japanese inva-

sion on BC's west coast was reduced. Members of the 10th Provost Co. were sent to Terrace, BC, to escort the Brigade, which had been stationed there, and subsequently reassigned to Wainwright, Alta. These troops were to train for deployment to Italy and Normandy. The troops were moved by train to Prince George, then by road convoy, one of the longest ever undertaken in Canada, to Wainwright, Alta. From there, the 10th Co. Provost Corp. was deployed to other units and duties until the end of the war in 1945.

Next issue, we'll look at more unseen soldiers, including two further military adventures in British Columbia, Vancouver Island, the Gum Boot Navy, Pacific Coast Militia Rangers and the Devil's Brigade. 

Sources:

Daryl Drew/Vic Drew reminiscences, Wikipedia, History the of the 10th Co. Provo Corp.



Politics & Guns

Bruce Gold

Fundamental Change

In this age of political upheaval and radical political rhetoric, it's important to understand when someone is changing fundamental structures, while presenting the change as a mere shift in policy.

FROM RIGHT TO PRIVILEGE

An example of fundamental change is the Firearms Act. Prior to this legislation, firearm ownership was regulated in various ways, but with the Firearms Act the Liberal Party turned ownership of these inanimate objects from a right to a criminal offense and 400 years of our cultural and legal traditions were swept away. Millions of Canadians who had followed all the rules and behaved in accord with law and custom were now instant criminals by Liberal Party fiat. Making fundamental change is like changing the layout of a house's foundation – it supports everything. With this change, every aspect of gun ownership, use and commerce became subject to criminal law.

If one wonders why peaceful, law-abiding citizens are now monitored by the Canadian Police Information Centre and subject to 24/7 background checks, this is why: they are engaging in "criminal activity" allowed under license and extensive regulation. Why are people (criminals) who had previously lost the right to arms not included? Because they are not engaging in current illegal activity, they get a pass. Note how slipperiness the verbiage becomes. People say that criminals have "lost the right" to possess firearms as a punishment for criminal behaviour. When in truth, all Canadians have lost the right by government decree. With the law criminalizing the mere ownership of firearms, the Liberals introduced a fundamental change to our rights, then hid the change behind a completely malleable agenda of "licensing." They could then pretend not much has changed. Citizens could still have their now criminalized inanimate objects, albeit under sufferance, as a long-established custom becomes a highly regulated, conditional privilege.

FROM ELECTED PARLIAMENT TO APPOINTED COUNCIL

Another fundamental change was the restructuring of our legislative practice. Under Section 91(27) of the Constitution, Parliament has broadly defined an exclusive jurisdiction over criminal law in Canada. This is part of the Supremacy of Parliament, a vitally important inheritance from the struggle between Parliament and divine right kings. This centuries-long struggle for power and control of the state was the struggle for representative government anchored in the right to vote. This struggle proceeded through bloody civil wars and includes our struggle for voting rights (early voting rights were narrowly restricted by social class) so that all citizens would be represented. The resulting supremacy of an elected legislature and its untrammelled right to make law, especially criminal law, is rightly viewed as a fundamental bedrock of Canadian democracy.

The Liberal Party decided, for purely self-serving political reasons, that governing through Parliament did not suit their electoral strategies. With the Firearms Act, they shifted all firearms regulation out of the elected legislature. Henceforth, firearm's law would be decided by cabinet and mandated through the governor and council.

A short history demonstrates how regressive this is. The office of the governor and council began when French Canada was conquered during the French and Indian War and King George III appointed a royal governor in 1760 (Field Marshal Amherst, commander of the military forces that conquered Canada.) Seventy-odd years of direct rule in the feudal manner followed, and it was not until the Rebellion of 1837 that responsible government finally emerged and elected legislatures began our tradition of responsible government. The end to direct royal rule in Canada came 60 years after America's rebellion against the practice and 150 years after it ended in Britain.

With the Firearms Act, the Liberals returned to the direct rule of Canada (now at the bidding of cabinet instead of the monarchy.) This shifting of legislative authority was a fundamental change because it took all future changes to firearms law (criminal law) out of the elected legislature, insulating it from political debate and parliamentary voting. Some might interject at this junction that it is of little concern how they shuffle the paperwork in Ottawa, and in any case, so what? This change doesn't currently affect my old hunting rifle or my trusty duck gun so it's clearly not my problem.

On May 1, 2020, Trudeau and the Liberals demonstrated why this is every gun owner's, and indeed every Canadian citizen's problem. On that date, an Order in Council was promulgated that rewrote criminal law and over 100,000 law-abiding Canadian citizens who had followed all the laws and complied with all the regulations awoke to find they were now criminals by Royal Decree. Without debate, Parliamentary vote or legal warning, they now faced 10 years in prison. Those inclined to dismiss this as just a gun owner's problem, and good riddance, would be wise to remember that Common Law, the basis of our jurisprudence, advances by precedent. A mighty precedent for the creation and application of criminal law in Canada has been set, and criminal law, my friends, can apply to anything the government of the day wants it to apply to. There now exists a proven method of ruling by decree, quite free of any troublesome Parliamentary oversight and debate. Something fundamental has changed in our hard-won democracy.

FROM CERTAINTY TO SECRECY

One of the basic tenants of the rule of law in democratic countries is that the law must be known and understandable. This principle serves as a limitation on the power of the state. It is a protection against tyranny because it enables

everyone – citizens, police, bureaucrats and judges – to know what the law permits, forbids and requires. The most recent firearms ban (prohibitions) is a deliberate violation of this principle. The Liberals have, for reasons of public relations and political maneuvering, banned military-style assault weapons without creating a legal definition of what they are banning. This leaves the actual criminal offense undefined and reduces the law to a matter of shifting opinion. The Liberals have compounded the legal uncertainty by making changes through Orders in Council which are not collated or promulgated the way normal laws are. In each case and in every instance, the court, the prosecution and the accused must engage in a laborious search of all Orders in Council to find what the law was on the occasion of the incident. They must then determine if the Order is lawful, within delegated powers and applicable to the case.

This legal mess is further compounded by the government's policy of "ever-green" classification, where firearms classification, with their accompany-

ing license and other specific legal requirements, will occur in a rapid, on-going manner. The RCMP contribute to the chaos with their murky firearms classification process and by recording the ever-changing results in the secretive Firearms Reference Table. This sort of legal practice is often referred to as a Star Chamber. Named after the medieval Court of the Star Chamber, it refers to a court with arbitrary rulings, no due process and secretive proceedings. Such courts often impose punishments for action the government disapproves of for moral reasons, even if they do not violate the specifics of any law. The virtue signaling over the most recent gun ban (reclassification) confirms this tendency. No Canadian citizen can receive anything even vaguely resembling a fair trial under secretive laws where guilt or even the law itself is reduced to the subjective, often political opinions of judges, prosecutors and police.

CONCLUSION

The Liberals have imposed a system

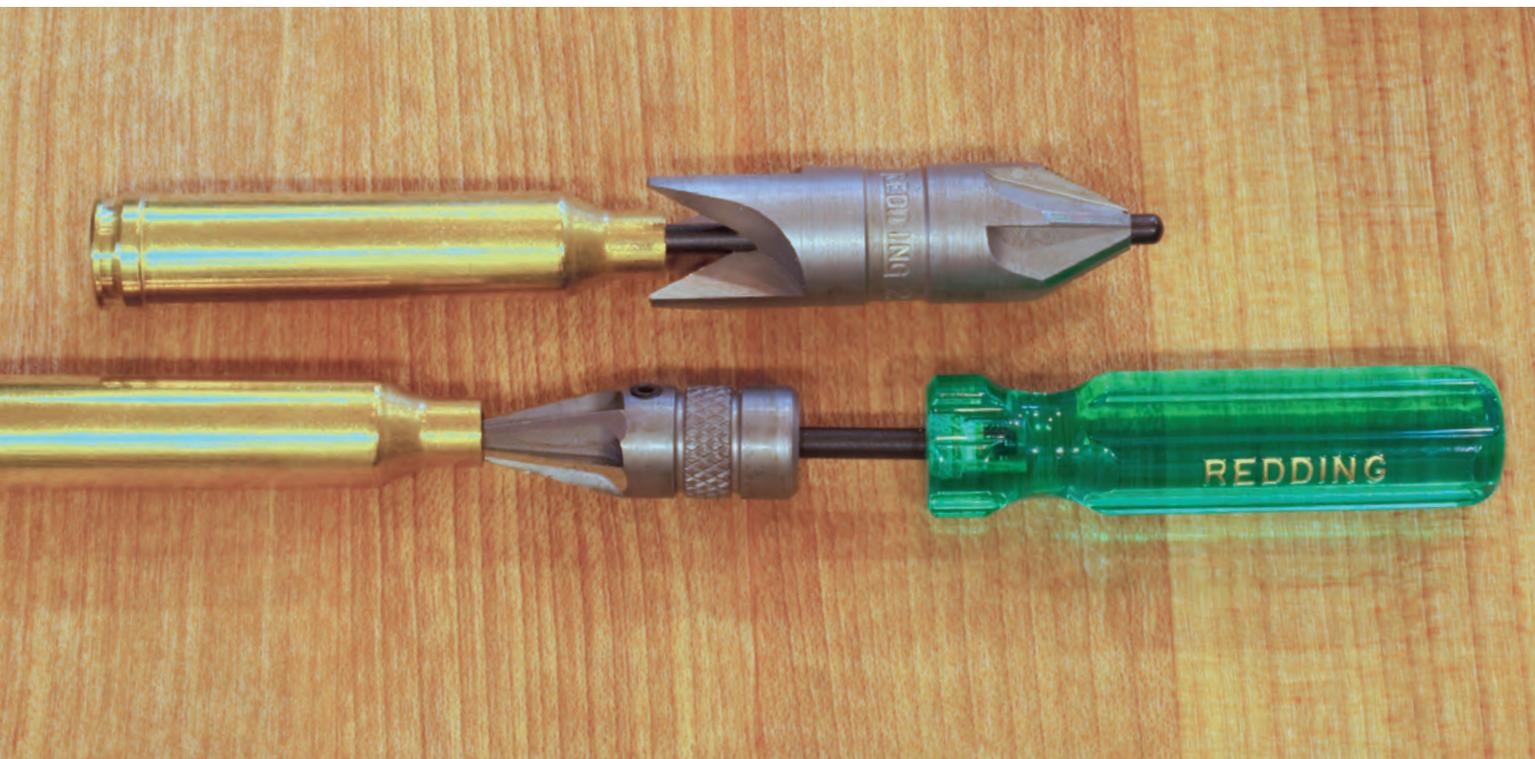
of arbitrary direct cabinet rule on Canada. Under their now-accepted precedent, any majority government can vote any part of the criminal law, hence governance, out of our open parliament and into secretive direct rule through cabinet. It is no coincidence that this agenda began with the right to arms and its long historical association with the right to self defense and citizenship.

Some Canadians are very complacent with this approach to firearm regulation, and indeed see firearms themselves as overdue for complete elimination. For some reason, they seem to miss the whole concept of "process." A government that can use this process to social engineer firearms out of Canada (at least for the law-abiding) can use the process for any other desired re-engineering. Complacency is not something to hand a political party that believes Canada is a blank slate to be written on as they please. And it becomes dangerous when handed to a PM who openly admires China's basic dictatorship.



Nathaniel Milijour

HOW SOON SOME OF US FORGET...



Both chamfering tools index off the flash hole to ensure an even bevel on both sides of the case mouth.

Handloaders tend to tinker. And Redding Reloading Equipment manufactures tons of tinker-perfect tools – like their two piloted neck chamfering/deburring tools and their brand-new Slant Bed Concentricity Gauge. All three tools are an effort to provide consistent and concentric bullet and rifle bore alignment, which is one of the many variables handloaders try to control. This is because case and bullet concentricity determine if the bullet engages the rifling straight or slightly off-kilter. This, of course, affects accuracy. The more closely a bullet is aligned to the bore, the more likely it will exit the muzzle consistently and be off to an accurate start.

NEW TOOLS

The two piloted hand tools help handloaders obtain consistent chamfers inside and outside case mouths, while the new concentricity gauge confirms how closely bullets are aligned with the bore of the rifle. For a handloader, the only thing better than perfectly aligned bullets in rows of polished brass cartridges are bullets from rows of polished brass cartridges that punch ladybug-sized groups when sent downrange. After all, the accuracy game of handloading is played in incremental steps. Each step, when properly done, shrinks holes

closer to the size of those ladybugs. To the extent that each step in the process is precise and repeatable, theoretically, the output will be predictable accuracy. Handloaders control and manipulate these various variables by adjusting and testing results. Redding's indexed low-angle chamfer and deburring tools help handloaders get low-angle case neck chamfers consistent and the new Slant Bed Concentricity Gauge confirms the results.

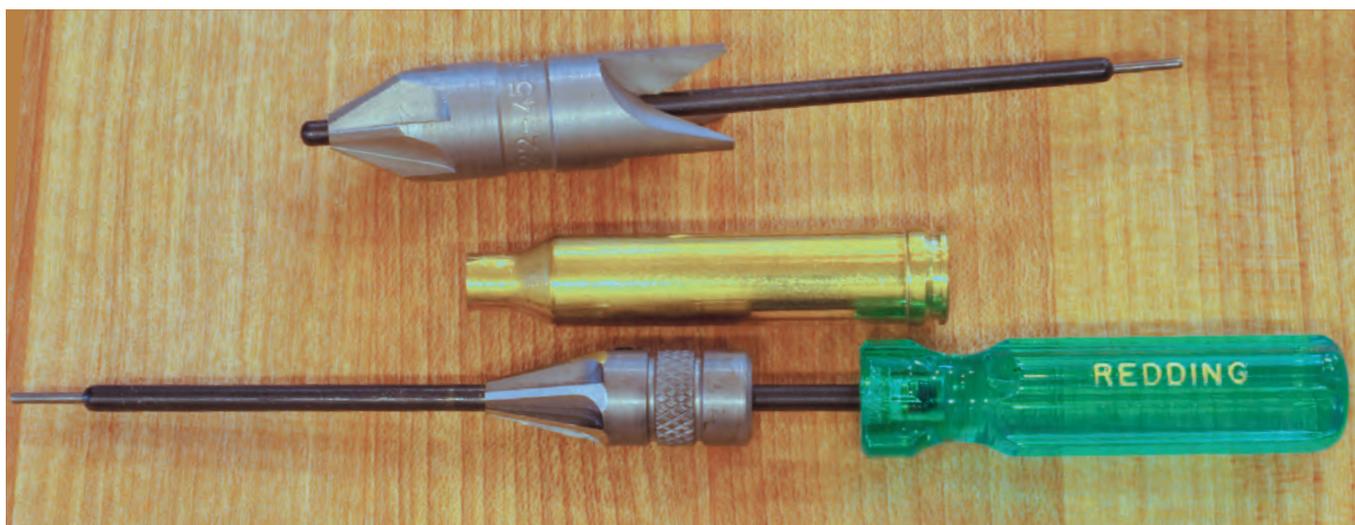
A.J. Ferris, an engineer with Redding Reloading, told me, "The inside chamfer reamer indexes off the case flash hole, so the idea is to keep the inside chamfer aligned and as concentric as possible. The thinking is if the bullet is seated in the case straight and even, it comes out of the case the same way and has a better chance of leaving your barrel evenly. If you start (the bullet) straight, it's easier to end up straight. The 15-degree (VLD) chamfer tool's low angle works well with any bullet."

INNOVATION P

Being a tinkerer himself, Ferris developed the Slant Bed Concentricity Gauge to measure how concentric handloaded rounds are. He was frustrated with the contortions required to read his existing concentricity gauge and wanted >

RIGHT: The strain required to read a dial disappears with the innovative tilted angle of Redding's Slant Bed Concentricity Gauge.

BOTTOM: Depth can be set and locked, so the same amount of material is removed from each case.



to reduce the risk of a reading error because of the angle of the gauge. It led him to make some major design adjustments.

Concentricity gauges aren't new, fussy handloaders have been using them to check loads for some time, but what is new is the slant Ferris put on the gauge. "I wasn't necessarily making a tool to sell. I had a few gauges of my own at home and thought there was room for improvement. I set out to make one for myself. One of the things I wanted to accomplish was to be able to see the gauge. Then I got the brainstorm to cant it back 30 degrees so it's right in front of your eyes and at line of sight when it's sitting on the table," said Ferris.

Ferris shared the gauge he made with some of the customer service

folks at Redding who are also handloaders. When they started to use the gauge Ferris made to diagnose concentricity problems, someone said, "Why don't we commercialize this and make it available to our customers?" It's now a valued part of their extensive line of handloading tools.

USING THE TOOLS

The top two measurements the Slant Bed Concentricity Gauge checks are case neck concentricity before loading, and bullet runout after loads are completed. Once cases are sized, run them through the concentricity gauge and remove the outliers. Or, as some handloaders do, add case neck turning as an additional step to ensure neck concentricity. Once cases are trimmed, bevel the inside edge of the case mouth with the flash-hole-

indexed low-angle (15 degrees) reamer and then deburr the outside edge of the case mouth with the indexed deburr tool. Both Redding reamers have a hex screw on the shaft of the reamer so handloaders can set a consistent cutting depth, ensuring a repeatable amount of material is removed from the inside edge of the case mouth.

I used the low-angle reamer to load a fresh batch of 7mm Remington Magnum brass, trimming to minimum, deburring and low-angle chamfering using the flash-hole indexed reamers. The new Slant Bed Concentricity Gauge confirmed the bullet runout as less than three thousandths of an inch, with some varying less than two thousandths. Now this tinkerer is closer to shooting those bug-sized groups. 🏆

STUCK!

RCBS helps handloaders out of a jam

BY TIMOTHY FOWLER



The RCBS Stuck Case Remover is a good addition to any loading bench.

Successful handloading requires good judgment. Misjudge the amount of case lube required for reforming brass and you either dimple the case shoulder with too much lube, or your handloading session screeches to a halt because of a stuck case – too little lube.

Sometimes balance can be elusive. The last time I experienced an inexorably stuck case, my son and I were cranking out some 243 Winchester loads for his hunt the following day. Ten strokes in, a new brass case stuck on the downward stroke of the press arm. We sent that die back to RCBS for them to extract and replace the decapping pin, which they graciously did at no charge. That was before we knew

there is an easier way. Now I have an RCBS stuck case remover on my bench. Until this test, it had yet to be used. It was surprising how much effort it took to force a twice-fired 223 Remington case to stick in a full-length sizing die on purpose.

RCBS and others market stuck case removers. It is one of those extras for the loading bench that is worth adding before you need it. The RCBS kit comes with a drill bit, tap, a bolt that threads into the tapped case and a cap that fits over the die to act as leverage for the bolt to grip and lift the case. It works like this:

Remove the die from the press, unscrew the decapping assembly and insert the die upside-down in the press or put the die in a vice. Caution: do not attempt this next step if there's a live primer in the case!

Using the supplied drill bit, carefully drill through the web at the bottom of the case using the primer cup and flash hole as a guide. Use a little cutting oil or light gun oil to help the bit cut.

Once clear, use the tap to cut threads inside the freshly drilled hole. Again, a drop or two of oil helps the process. Once the tap clears the web, back it out and remove it.

Slip the steel cap over the end of the die and thread the bolt into your freshly tapped case.

Using the provided hex key, tighten the bolt and the case will back out from the die.

Once clear, clean the die with solvent and give the interior the smallest smear of oil. You may have to replace the decapping assembly if it was damaged during removal. Obviously, the case is ruined.

Resume your reloading session wiser about case lubrication.

The stuck case remover is one of those loading bench additions that handloaders will rarely need. But when you jam a case in a die, it is the only thing that will enable you to proceed with loading. It's worth noting I have ruined more cases out of fear of not getting enough lube on the case than sticking a case because of insufficient lube. In 20 years of loading thousands of rounds, I've had three stuck cases, the third of which was done on purpose for this article. In the first two incidents, I was under a bit of pressure to crank out some loads for an upcoming hunt. That's probably another lesson – don't be in a rush when you're handloading. 🚩



RULE BEATER

Spectre Ballistic's 10/22 adapter
BY TYSON SOMMERVILLE



I recently had the opportunity to test the 10/22 magazine adapter from Spectre Ballistics, an Alberta company that's big on creative solutions. This handy device allows shooters to use Remington 597 magazines in a Ruger 10/22. Why, you ask, would anyone want to do that? Simple – to increase magazine capacity.

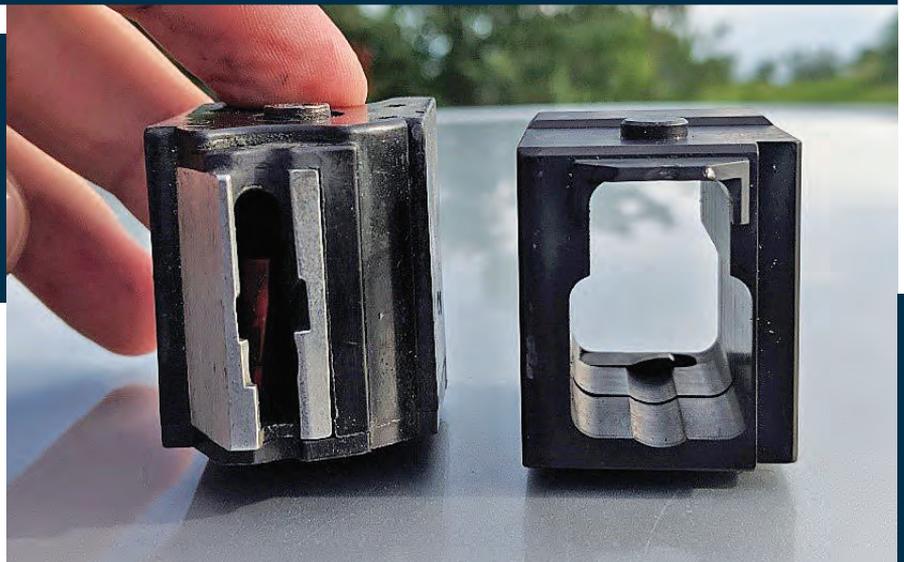
Ruger 10/22s, due to the existence of a rare pistol variant called the 10/22 Charger, can only have a 10-round magazine because the standard 10/22 magazine is now considered a pistol magazine. The Remington 597, on the other hand, only comes in rimfire rifle models and as such is not subject to magazine capacity laws. As a result, magazines with up to 30-round capacity are readily available.

As for Spectre's magazine adapter, install is a snap – take out the original magazine, put this in its place and you're done. No milling, drilling or gunsmithing. This, I liked. As for reliability, the only issues I could make happen occurred when pushing the magazine forward while firing. Doing this prevented the action from going into battery completely, creating a light strike. I twisted, pushed and pulled every which way with no other issues; even firing the rifle upside down (in a safe fashion) caused no troubles.

After some usage, the only flaw I encountered was with the Remington 597 magazines themselves. I had

Remington magazines in a Ruger rifle restore its capacity.

Spectre's magazine adapter replaces the 10-round magazine with a filler block designed to take Remington 597 magazines.



two of them shatter springs. Initially, I thought the adapter was causing feed issues, but upon inspection, my magazines sounded like maracas. I took them apart and found that what should have been one long spring was now nine pieces in one magazine and four pieces in the other. A bit of research online shows that some people have had much better results with the 597 magazines if they follow a preliminary break-in process. It's simple, only load the magazine to five rounds a few times, then 10 rounds a few times, then 15, and so on.

One thing I was hesitant about, but really came around on, is the magazine release being on the left-hand side. I worried it would be awkward, but

found it wasn't. It turns out I much prefer it over the original Ruger release. With this adapter and longer magazine, I can maintain control of the rifle with my right hand, grab the magazine with my left, then use my left thumb to hit the release and pull the magazine out. This allows me to always have positive control of both the firearm and the magazine. In a rushed reload, as in a shooting competition, it's even pos-

sible to have a fresh magazine in the left hand, hit the release with the left index finger, allow the empty magazine to free fall (it has enough weight and clearance to do so) and then insert the fresh magazine.

I think anyone who picks up one of these adapters will be happy they did. After being lent one to test, I've decided to buy one. You can buy them direct from www.SpectreBallistics.com. 🚩



NOTICE OF RESULTS OF ELECTIONS FOR OFFICE OF DIRECTORS — *Fall 2020*

The NFA is pleased to announce that the 2020 fall election for directors is now completed. We would like to congratulate the new board of directors who shall take office immediately. The elected by acclamation are:

British Columbia - Yukon

Blair Hagen serving a 1 year term
Sheldon Clare serving a 2 year term

Alberta – NWT & International

Dwayne Gorniak serving a 1 year term
Jerrald Lundgard serving a 2 year term

Saskatchewan

Vacant at this time.

Manitoba – Nunavut

Vacant at this time.

Ontario

Rick Igercich serving a 1 year term
Jordan Vandenhoff serving a 2 year term

Quebec

Charles Cote serving a 1 year term
Joseph Esteves serving a 2 year term

Atlantic Provinces

Donald Feltham serving a 1 year term
Robert Bracken serving a 2 year term

Welcome to the NFA team!



CALIBRE, CARTRIDGE OR BULLET DESIGN

Which is most important?

BY KEVIN WILSON



Visit any Internet shooting forum and you'll quickly discover posts asking which rifle calibre, cartridge or bullet design is best for some specific application. It's usually a fair question because the growing list of options can be dizzying.

But before we can even start to discuss the topic, we need to establish some definitions. For the purposes of this article let's say that calibre refers to a rifle's bore size, as in .224, .308, .375 etc., usually expressed in inches, but sometimes expressed in millimeters. Then, cartridge refers to the entire round of ammunition, using its industry designation, as in 223 Rem, 308 Win or 375 H&H. This leaves us with bullet design, and by that, I mean the physical construction characteristics of just the projectile.

Some shooters simply want to know which calibre they should buy, caring more about the size of the bullet than the cartridge configuration itself. In other words, their focus is on which bore size is too much gun versus too little, and which is exactly right. Others want to know which cartridge is best, while still others just want projectile (bullet) information. Problem is, this topic isn't as straightforward as it used to be.

Whenever someone tells me they're in the market for a new gun, and >

then asks which I think is the best calibre/cartridge/bullet design, my response is qualified. Years ago, I would promptly offer up my own personal pet ideas, but nowadays my response is more involved. It's evolved from immediately proclaiming personal favourites and denouncing the ones I disliked, to talking more about target species, anticipated shot distances, bullet performance and then corresponding cartridge options. In fact, my usual response almost always touches on a category of options, but zeros in on the most suitable cartridges as a top priority. Allow me to explain why.

CALIBRE CHOICES

Not that long ago, rifle shooters favoured a small handful of bore size choices. With few exceptions, traditional favourites like .224, .270, .308, .303 and .338 covered it all. Ammunition in these bore sizes was commonly stocked on the shelves at hardware stores and gun shops. Any rifle found on a target range, the porch of a farmhouse or in the closet of a hunter in Canada would be in one of these calibres. Recently, however, we've seen the popularity of other bore sizes increase. These include .17, .204, .243, 6.5mm and .284, to name a few.

For starters, consider this: If you're hunting medium to bigger game like elk, moose or large bears, chances are you'll consider something with at least a .30 calibre bore. For smaller to medium-sized big game, like deer and black bear, the .30s are great too, but you might consider a .277, .257 or even a .243-sized rifle. Now, before you go shaking your head, understand that the second and equally, if not more important, part of the equation is your cartridge of choice. I have young daughters who have both been remarkably successful taking an assortment of North American and African plains game with a 243 Winchester using a 95-grain AccuBond bullet.

CARTRIDGE SELECTION

This just reinforces that firearms and ammunition have come a long way, especially over the last couple decades. So much so, in fact, that the age-old question of which is the best hunting calibre, cartridge or bullet is, to some extent, being bumped aside by highly specialized cartridges. So, to answer the "what's best" question, it's important to consider both calibre and cartridge, how they interact and the



For big game like deer, elk, moose and wild sheep, bullet mass retention is key, something these bonded core bullets excel at.

shooter's end goal.

To be fair, each cartridge was designed for a certain purpose. Some, like the 6.5 Creedmoor, while initially designed for target shooters, has found great success among hunters. Others, like the 204 Ruger, were designed for varmint and predator hunters, and it hasn't moved an inch from that niche. As an example, consider the classic .30 calibre rifle bore. Winchester currently offers factory ammunition for 10 different .30 calibre cartridges, and that's not all of them, by any means. Hornady's handloading manual lists data for 24 cartridges in this bore size.

So, if we consider for a moment that calibre choice is important, but secondary to our cartridge selection, how do we go about choosing the right one? No doubt, it can be a bit dizzying. Yes, calibre choice is important, but so is cartridge design. Should it be belted, rimmed, bottleneck, straight wall, long or short? High tech is the name of the game these days and if you have the patience to wade through specifications, you'll eventually end up with a suitable cartridge. The key lies in determining which parameters are most relevant. If you have a preferred calibre, as long as it's somewhere in the ballpark of suitability for the species you plan to hunt, marry it with a suitable cartridge and you're good to go.

BULLET DESIGN

Few hunters have a clear understanding of the immense range of bullets on the market today. Terminology like X-bullet, Partition, Ballistic Tip, Bonded, Core-Lokt, A-Frame, Fail Safe, Soft Point, Solid and a lot more are common in today's ammunition marketplace. Frankly, it makes my head spin just thinking about it. To make a decision about bullet design, always think about your application. Are you hunting, and if so, what species? What are your likely shooting distances? And what muzzle velocity is your rifle/cartridge combination capable of?

Just like rifle cartridges, today's bullets are designed for specific applications. Some are made to expand violently, others to retain their mass. Some are made to retain velocity over distance and minimize cross wind influence, others are built solely for accuracy. While bullets are improving all the time, to date, no manufacturer has been able to design the ultimate bullet that's perfectly suitable for every mission.

Peruse the ammunition shelves at your local gun shop and take the time to educate yourself. Even if you reload, you still must choose your components. All manufacturers have their own versions of what works best. Companies like Barnes, Federal, Winchester,

Remington, Norma and Hornady have unique and sometimes shared designs on the shelf. The following are among my personal favourite expanding bullets for medium to large-sized game.

Barnes X – This bullet has a reputation for penetration while retaining its weight after impact.

Nosler Partition – A great choice for hunting most big game, partition bullets have just that, a partition of material between the front and rear core sections of the bullet. This partition serves to stop expansion and enhance penetration.

Nosler Ballistic Tip – Spitzer projectiles, these popular bullets use colored plastic tips to cause rapid expansion of their lead alloy cores.

Remington Core-Lokt – A venerable bullet with Remington ammunition, the Core-Lokt boasts an internal lip that serves to hold the lead in place. This bullet has a reputation for consistent penetration and mushrooming after impact.

Sierra Game King – This bullet is known for its accuracy and quick expansion. It is one of the preferred bullets among deer hunters.

Swift A-Frame – This bullet has

a bonded core and a wall of jacket material designed into its mid-section to keep the nose from coming apart after impact. It is known for punching a broad hole upon impact, retaining almost all its weight and a consistent mushroom.

Trophy Bonded Bear Claw – A lead-core bullet, the Trophy Bonded Bear Claw also has a reputation for retaining almost 90 per cent of its weight.

Winchester AccuBond – This design combines the Ballistic Tip concept with a bonded lead alloy core and is known to retain 60 to 70 per cent of its weight after upset.

BULLET WEIGHT & PERSONAL FAVOURITES

If you're not confused enough by now, here's another question. What grain-weight bullet should you choose? Simplistically speaking, the lighter the bullet, the faster it flies. And within any given category, lighter bullets are usually intended for the smaller game suitable for that calibre of firearm. By

Regardless of your target species, you need to carefully consider calibre, cartridge and bullet design.

comparison, heavier bullets are designed for use on the bigger species that same calibre is used to hunt. For instance, a 30-06 Springfield loaded with a 125-grain soft point may be fine for coyote control, although it's overkill if preservation of the fur is the end goal. At the other end of the spectrum, a heavier 180-grain Nosler Partition bullet out of that same cartridge would be better suited to hunting big whitetails, mule deer, elk and moose.

I've experimented with many cartridges over the years and have settled on a few personal favourites. For coyote and wolf hunting with my 22-250 for instance, I like Winchester's Super-X 55-grain Pointed Soft Point bullet. For deer and elk, I like to use a 7mm Rem. Mag., feeding it Winchester's 160-grain Accubond CT ammunition. This bullet is fast, flat and consistently retains its mass. Most often I'll find the bullet lodged just under the skin on the opposite side of the body from the entrance wound.

TEST IT AT THE RANGE

Regardless of which calibre and cartridge combo you choose, be sure to test them at the range long before you plan to hunt. Only by shooting at different distances, and even different targets, will you learn how it performs. Remember, not every rifle likes every brand of cartridge. You may have to test a few factory offerings before settling on the one that works best in your rifle. Strive to find the balance between accuracy and terminal performance.

If you're not sure where to begin, don't be shy about talking to other hunters and the staff at your local sporting goods store. Remember, everyone has an opinion. It's up to you to sift through all the information and determine which calibre and cartridge design and bullet construction/weight will work best for your application.

WHICH IS MOST IMPORTANT?

In the end, the decision is yours. I know hunters who are fixated on the cartridge, but myself, I lean much more toward bullet choice. Shot placement and bullet performance are, in my view, the most important factors. If your equipment is dialed in, you understand the cartridge ballistics and you know where it shoots, the rest will fall into place. 🏆



HUNTING OR TARGETS

Understanding the 6.5 Creedmoor

BY T.J. SCHWANKY

I've long been a fan of new cartridges, and I make no apologies for eagerly awaiting their release each year. Do we really need more cartridges in this day and age? Likely not, but when has need ever mattered when buying new rifles, especially those chambered in sexy new offerings? I have little doubt that I could successfully hunt every animal in North America for the rest of my life with my trusty old 30-06, but what fun would that be? I like shooting the new stuff. I'm under no illusions that new is necessarily better or that it can do anything the 100-plus-year-old 30-06 can't, but I love to shoot and I love to tinker, and new rifles and new cartridges fit that bill perfectly.

I got in on the 6.5 Creedmoor craze early in the game. Actually, I got in before there even was a craze. While many shooters seem to believe this little cartridge was an overnight success, the truth is, its development dates to 2007. According to Neil Davies, marketing director at Hornady, it was during the 2007 Camp Perry matches when Hornady engineer, Dave Emary, and High Power National Champion, Dennis DeMille, began talking about developing the ultimate 6.5mm for their sport. If there's one thing about Hornady, they've never shied away from bringing

wildcats mainstream, so Emary and fellow Hornady engineer, Joe Thielen, went to work and in 2008 announced a new 6.5 offering called the 6.5 Creedmoor. It was designed as a true short-action cartridge, and with over an inch between case length and overall length, it had plenty of room to utilize the 140-grain A-Max bullet from Hornady, a favourite among match shooters.

While many believe the 6.5 Creedmoor was designed around the 308 Winchester, the truth is, it was designed around the 30TC, the roots of which can be traced back to the 307 Winchester. It's a bit ironic that this new long-range target cartridge had roots in a cartridge designed for short range use in lever-actions, but with the case slightly shortened and the rim removed, the necked-down 30TC was the ideal case for the new 6.5 Creedmoor. While designed as a long-range target cartridge, it didn't take hunters long to see the potential in the Creedmoor, and in 2009 Ruger offered the first hunting rifle chambered in it, their Hawkeye model. It was a year later that I got my first rifle chambered in 6.5 Creedmoor, custom built by Rocky Mountain Rifle.

As time went on, the popularity of this cartridge began to grow, slowly at first and then to the point where for a couple

years in a row it was the most popular new centrefire cartridge in the world. Most major manufacturers now offer rifles chambered in the 6.5 Creedmoor and it continues to be a number-one seller for many. Also during this time, an almost cult-like group of haters emerged. How or why this happened is certainly open to speculation, but there's little doubt these naysayers became one of the Creedmoor's most effective marketing tools. The cartridge went from relative obscurity to mainstream in a couple short years. Even though the cartridge had been around for seven or eight years at this point, it led many to believe it was an overnight sensation when its popularity soared due in large part to all the exposure the haters were giving it on social media.

One need only spend a couple hours on Facebook or Instagram to see dozens of memes questioning the sexuality of Creedmoor shooters, the ethics of Creedmoor shooters, and dozens of other ridiculous accusations. I've seen YouTube videos go into great detail as to why the Creedmoor is only suitable for targets and not for hunting. It is somewhat comical to watch how many shooters don't even have a basic concept of physics. In truth, the 6.5 Creedmoor is a near ballistic clone to the 260 Reming- >





LEFT: Most rifle manufacturers are chambering in the Creedmoor now, including Sako.



RIGHT: The Creedmoor is well known for its long-range abilities on targets.

ton and the 6.5x55 Swede; both cartridges that have proven themselves very proficient hunting cartridges. Yet, in many shooters' minds, the Creedmoor is somehow not an ethical big game cartridge. Of course, this is ridiculous. Two identical 6.5 bullets traveling at the same speed are going to have identical terminal results regardless of what case they were launched from. Yet the arguments on the Internet persist.

Let's look at what first attracted me to this cartridge and why it remains one of the most popular cartridges today.

A TRUE SHORT ACTION

The Creedmoor case is 1.920 inches in length and overall cartridge length is 2.825 inches, allowing it to fit in a standard short action, even with the new heavier-weight, high-ballistic-coefficient bullets. The 6.5x55 requires a long action and the 260 Rem, while technically a short-action cartridge, can have magazine issues with longer, high ballistic coefficient bullets. While action length may not be a critical factor for many hunters, for those looking for a light-weight mountain rifle, it can be critical. There can be a half pound-plus difference between otherwise identical short and long-action rifles. For serious mountain hunters, this is a major consideration.

AN EXTREMELY EFFICIENT CARTRIDGE

The Creedmoor achieves impressive velocity for such a short case. With a 120-grain bullet, it tops out at just over 3,000 feet per second; and even with the heavy-for-calibre 143-grain ELD-X, muzzle velocity is right at 2,700 feet per second. When compared to the 260 Rem and 6.5x55, both of which have larger cases and require increased amounts of powder to achieve similar velocity, it

shows just how efficient the cartridge is. And, while unique to each rifle, the Creedmoor does seem to retain velocity better in a shorter barrel than the other two. This is another important factor for those looking to decrease rifle weight. Again, several ounces can be saved by losing three or four inches of barrel length.

LOW RECOIL

The actual recoil produced by a rifle is a standard calculation which combines bullet weight, powder weight, velocity and rifle weight. The 6.5 Creedmoor, shooting a 143-grain bullet at 2,700 feet per second, in a seven-pound rifle, would produce roughly 16 foot-pounds of recoil. Compare this with a 300 Win Mag shooting a 200-grain bullet at 2,900

feet per second, and you get about 40 foot-pounds or 2.5 times the amount of recoil. While it seems to be a badge of honour for some to brag about how much recoil they can tolerate, the undeniable truth is that most people shoot low-recoil rifles far better than rifles with higher recoil. This is especially true when shooting from the prone position.

However, actual recoil and felt recoil are not always the same. Rifle fit plays a big role in felt recoil, but so too does powder burn rate, and this is where Hornady has a bit of a trick up their sleeve. By using proprietary powders in their factory loads, they have been able to control the burn rate of the powder; so rather than one big pressure spike, the burn gives a more rounded curve of pressure, helping reduce that sharp



TOP: Modest recoil is one of the reasons the Creedmoor is easy to shoot accurately.



LEFT: The Creedmoor is a true short-action cartridge, even with long bullets.

recoil often associated with shorter cartridges, especially some of the short magnums. While the case design of the Creedmoor is often described as inherently accurate, and there may be some truth to this, the main reason the Creedmoor is so accurate is that people shoot it better due to the reduced recoil and more rounded pressure curve.

IT'S ALL ABOUT THE BULLETS

It's no secret that the 6.5 Creedmoor benefits greatly from the proliferation of heavy-for-calibre, high-ballistic-coefficient .264-inch bullets available today. This calibre seemed to be the initial focus of the long-range bullet craze, and the Creedmoor really shone because it used them nicely in a short action. Between the great bullets available and the pleasant recoil, the 6.5 Creedmoor quickly became known as a 1,000-yard rifle, and there's little doubt it's more than capable of banging steel all day long at this range and further. This is where some of the hate for the Creedmoor and its pigeonholing as only a target cartridge likely began. While there's little doubt it can efficiently hit a target at 1,000 yards, that does not mean it's a 1,000-yard hunting rifle.

Let's forget everything you think you know about how bullets kill for a minute. Energy is not a measure of kill-

ing ability in today's world of modern bullets. It worked fine when every bullet was constructed the same, but now that bullets have become highly specialized, it really means little. All that energy really does is allow the bullet to penetrate and expand. Depending on bullet construction, more or less energy may be required to achieve optimal results. Impact velocity is a far more reliable measure of terminal performance.

If we take a mono-metal bullet like the GMX, for example, we need an impact velocity of around 2,000 feet per second or greater to get reliable expansion. If we look at the 120-grain GMX in the 6.5 Creedmoor, we drop below that 2,000 feet per second threshold at about 520 yards, in effect making the Creedmoor using this bullet an effective 500-yard rifle. If we use a more specialized long-range bullet, like the 143-grain ELD-X, we can allow that impact velocity to safely drop to around 1,800 feet per second, and likely a bit less, and still get

reliable expansion and penetration. So, with a muzzle velocity of 2,700 feet per second, a 143-grain ELD-X will remain above 1,800 feet per second all the way out to around 700 yards. Even at 800 yards, the impact velocity would be close to 1,700 feet per second. Obviously selecting the right bullet is critical if you intend on shooting longer ranges.

There is nothing magic about the 6.5 Creedmoor, but there's really no reason to hate it either. For those looking for a very capable 6.5 in a light-weight rifle, there may not be a better choice. For those looking to push their hunting ranges beyond 700 yards, you are likely better off looking at one of the faster 6.5s, and there are plenty. The Creedmoor is definitely my go-to sheep and goat-hunting rifle, and it's more than capable on game up to the size of elk. 🦌

PERFECT PRACTICE

The Mantis X10 Elite Shooting Performance System

BY LOWELL STRAUSS





Using Bluetooth, the Mantis X10 connects to Android and Apple devices and displays real-time feedback via the app.

My target made me cringe in misery. It reminded me of the harsh reality that marksmanship is a perishable skill. After a two-month range hiatus due to the COVID-19 lockdown, I had lost a lot of ground. I used the pandemic as my excuse for not training. But even in the good times, there is seldom enough time for live-fire training – not only to stay sharp, but also to improve. Bottom line, I desperately needed trigger time, with coaching or feedback to help me improve quickly.

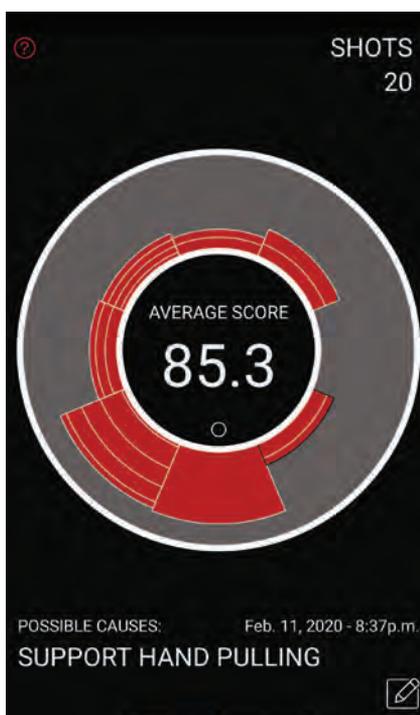
Well, ladies and gentlemen, I discovered a reasonably inexpensive training tool guaranteed to improve your pistol, rifle and shotgun shooting. You can use this tool from the comfort of your own home or at the range with live ammunition. Let me introduce the Mantis X10 Elite, an advanced shooting performance system for every shooter looking to tighten their rifle and pistol groups or improve shotgunning form.

WHAT IS THE MANTIS X10 ELITE?

The X10 Elite detects barrel movement and is the most advanced ‘smart’ sensor in the Mantis X family of shooting performance systems. It works with pistols, rifles and shotguns (plus bows if you’re into archery), continuously collecting and analyzing movement data before, during and after each shot. It can be used in any training environment, with options for dry fire, live fire and CO2.

This second-generation model is smaller and lighter than the original, boasts a new quick-detach system, three times more battery life and a four times faster data rate. It connects via Bluetooth to a smartphone, streaming data points in real-time. The X10 Elite analyzes, traces, diagnoses and coaches shooters, while saving and tracking your progress. Training with a Mantis X is addictive, and I found myself running short dry-fire practice sessions every day. Because the Mantis X uses data and not best >

➤ The Mantis X10 works with all guns and analyzes shots during live fire, dry fire or CO2 training sessions.



▲ A spider chart displays the direction and magnitude of firearm movement during shooting. Clicking on the individual red segments pops up coaching tips. This is an example of a 20-shot rifle group.

guesses like, “I felt like I pulled that one,” or “I don’t know what happened on my fourth shot, maybe it’s just a flyer,” it speeds the progression to better shooting.

On the flip side, the tool is a harsh critic. Slapping the trigger, anticipating recoil or poor follow through are all measured and analyzed in the app. It’s like having a personal coach who sees and guides every shot. It celebrates the great shots and affirms corrections on the poor ones.

INSIDE THE APP

Using Bluetooth, the Mantis X connects to your Android or Apple phone. There are two apps for firearms training: one for pistol/rifle and a separate app for shotgun training.

Pistol/Rifle app: Once connected, you’ll find four tabs for using the application.

SETTINGS

To get the most from the Mantis X10, it’s essential to take a moment to set things up right. In the settings tab, users select the gun type, shooting hand, live or dry fire and sensor location. Creating and logging into a Mantis X account saves training histories and provides sharing between other Mantis users in a group – an online way to shoot together, compare performance and encourage each other.

Selecting pistol versus rifle from

the gun-type opens different firearm-appropriate training drills, including shot timer, benchmark drills, primary hand only, reload drills, cadence drills, hostage taker drills and more. Advanced analytics include holster draw analysis and recoilmeter (recoil analysis.) The app’s built-in courses walk you through a series of shooting drills to advance from basic to elite marksmanship. The rifle training menu contains similar drills to the pistol menu, optimized for longer distances and different shooting positions.

Shotgun: To take advantage of shotgun analysis, Mantis developed a separate app for the shotgun shooting sports; however, it maintains a familiar layout. It includes training modules for American trap, international trap, international skeet, open training and handicap. As with rifle and pistol, the shotgun app measures barrel movement and provides feedback on wasted movements that cost time and result in missed targets.

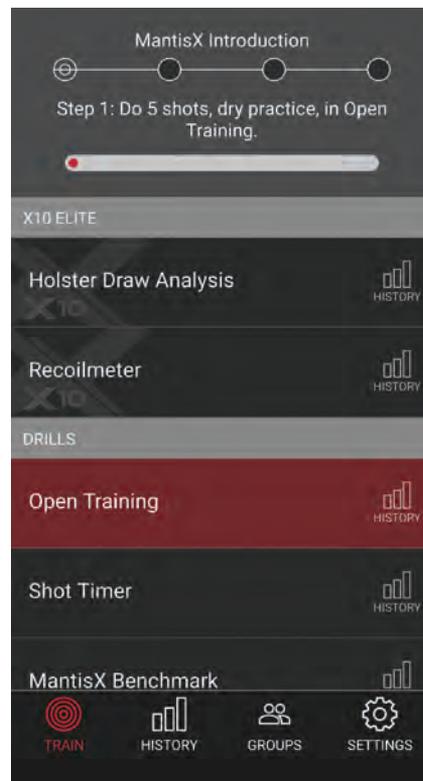
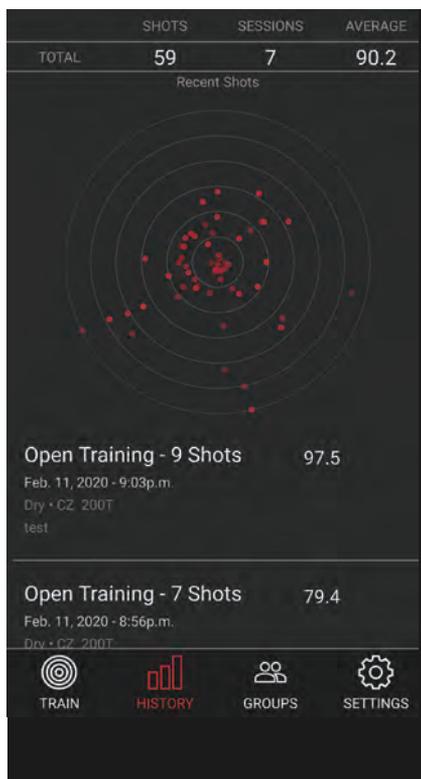
SESSION ANALYSIS (HISTORY)

If you’re a numbers person, you’ll love the session history part of the Mantis X application. In this area, session stats are tabulated and graphed in spider charts, as well as line and bar graphs (movement chart.) A colour-coded, detailed trace plot displays the barrel movement during hold/sighting, trigger pull, shot break and recoil.



▲
A shot trace of a poorly executed shot with a lot of movement during trigger squeeze (yellow.) The option of adding notes for each shot helps during training.

The history screen in the app summarizes shooting data. Applying filters allows the shooter to drill down in skill areas that need work ▼



▲
The app contains specialized analyses and training drills designed for shooter growth.

The shotgun app contains three different views to analyze performance. The one called the Heat View shows a detailed trace of firearm movement. It's colour-coded based on the acceleration of the shotgun tracking the target. The Score View is for changing shooting stations and marking hits and misses. The Compare View overlays shots on top of each other.

TRAINING

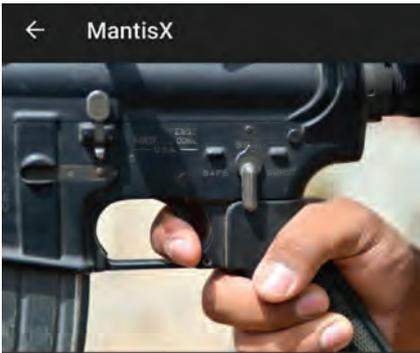
A broad set of training drills incorporated into the app focuses on different dimensions of shooting performance using various scenarios for marksmanship, speed, reaction time and reload drills. Mantis X saves shooting sessions and tracks performance over time. It's fun to watch my progression towards being a better shooter. There are good days and bad days, but overall, my scores are gradually going up, and the magnitude of holding errors is decreasing. Reviewing the training record with a shooting instructor is another proactive way of improving >

The spider chart displays the direction and magnitude of barrel movement during the trigger pull, and groups shots according to similar movement patterns. Clicking on individual shots provides possible causes of shooting errors and detailed self-coaching tips to help correct these errors.

The app traces movement and stability during the hold and aim, trigger press, shot break and recoil. From these measurements, it scores accuracy – how much you moved away from your sighted position during the trigger pull, with a perfect score equaling 100 (not possible without being clamped in a vise.)

Detailed coaching tips in the app help correct errors detected during shooting.

▼



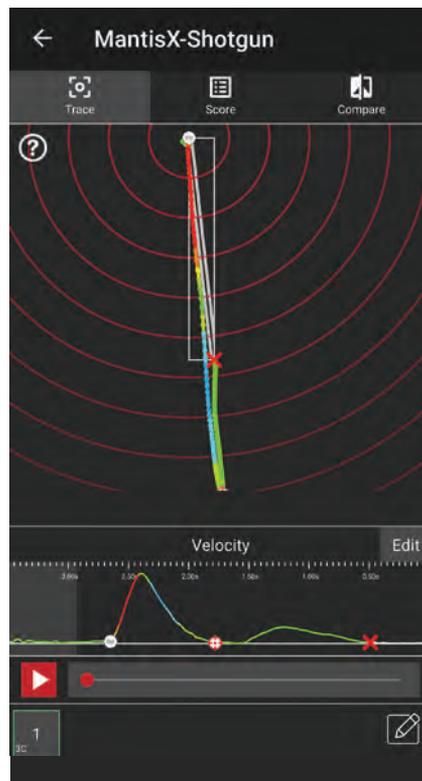
JERKING THE TRIGGER

Movement in this area could be caused by one of the following:

- Jerking the Trigger
- Movement of the Firing Elbow
- Varying Head Pressure
- Too Much Trigger Finger

Below are detailed descriptions of the issues.

"Jerking the Trigger" means that the trigger is squeezed without paying attention to proper technique. Trigger control is the act of firing the weapon while maintaining proper aim and adequate stabilization until the bullet leaves



▲

The shotgun app includes a plot of barrel movement and velocity, as well as quick tips for correcting movement errors

your shooting skill. The app also allows for notetaking on individual shots. As simple as it is, I like this feature. Referencing notes is a great way to learn. For example, if I was tired or had too much coffee during the day, I note that in the app, that way I better understand any anomalies.

For each shot, Mantis X detects the direction of the barrel movement during the trigger pull. If you tend to shoot right, the right sector lights up. After a few shots, the training device shows the pattern of your movement.

GROUP

Want to turn your at-home training into a social event? The app allows that too. Join an online shooting group within the app to track, follow and train together.

OVERALL IMPRESSIONS

The Mantis X10 Elite Shooting Performance System is a comprehen-

sive training tool for most shooting disciplines. It represents outstanding value, and anyone serious about improving their shooting skills without burning through a lot of ammunition should consider purchasing a Mantis. The X10 has all the bells and whistles of several other individual models. If you're a competitive pistol shooter, the holster draw and recoil analysis alone are worth the extra money for the X10 model. The unit's one-button operation is easy to use and connect to the app, and the app is intuitive and user-friendly. I coach my son, who is starting in target shooting and biathlon. The MantisX helps me, as a coach, to give feedback, especially during dryfire sessions where there's no target to indicate holding errors. The X10 worked on every gun I tested, from PCP air pistols and rifles to cartridge-firing handguns, rifles and shotguns, both in dry fire and live fire modes.

While still useful for performance analysis, I found the shotgun app lacks the detailed coaching tips I find so valuable for the pistol/rifle application. Nevertheless, Mantis regularly updates their apps and is adding user-requested features, so I expect more features to appear in the shotgun app.

You can't go wrong buying a Mantis X10. It will pay for itself many times over in saved ammunition, and the extra training and feedback will undoubtedly improve your shooting; I know it has sure helped me. Now, come hell or high water, I don't have an excuse to skip training, even during a pandemic. 🏹

RESOURCES:

Mantis <https://mantisx.com/>



NFA

FREEDOM.
SAFETY.
RESPONSIBILITY.

COMPACT POWER

Ruger's fast handling Guide Gun

BY THOMAS TABOR



As the name implies, Ruger's Guide Gun was developed specifically to possess the traits hunting guides frequently look for in their personal rifles. As a result, a great deal of emphasis was placed on the Guide Gun's ability to be fast handling and quick to point, both important characteristics if the critter you are pursuing has a desire to eat, maul, gore or stomp you. While these traits are certainly valuable ones to consider when hunting dangerous game, they are often equally important when it comes to many other types of hunting and shooting scenarios.

Outwardly, the Guide Gun reminds me somewhat of a jungle carbine-style rifle, possibly one of the old Lee-Enfields from the Second World War era, but I can assure you the similarities end right there. At the heart of the Guide Gun is Ruger's time-proven Model 77 Hawkeye action. Then, building on that solid foundation, Ruger engineers incorporated a wide variety of innovative advancements to enhance its field ruggedness and make it a more versatile rifle.

THE TEST RIFLE

Designed to withstand anything nature can throw its way, the Guide Gun features all stainless-steel construction, with Ruger's Hawkeye grey matte colour finish and a Green Mountain laminated stock. My test rifle arrived chambered for the fairly new and impressive 375 Ruger cartridge. But it is also currently available in 30-06 Sprg, 338 Win Mag or 416 Ruger. Earlier there was a chambering in 300 Win Mag, as well as a few other less mainstream choices, but in recent years



The Guide Gun comes with a muzzle brake, a counterweight replacement and a simple thread protector cap.



The Scout-style stock comes with spacers allowing the length of pull to be adjusted from 12-and-a-half inches to 14 inches (32 centimetres to 36 centimetres.)

those cartridge offerings have apparently been dropped from the Guide Gun line.

The 375 Ruger is certainly an impressive round, capable of stopping any critter currently residing in North America, or for that matter, any beast living on planet Earth. When sighted-in to impact 2.4 inches (61 millimetres) high at 100 yards, you can expect its big 300-grain bullet to drop only 10.8 inches (27 centimetres) at 300 yards. That bullet launches from the muzzle at about 2,660 feet per second to produce a whopping 4,713 foot-pounds of en-

ergy. And if you were looking to shoot a little lighter bullet, the 270-grain slug performs even better ballistically. Typically, that bullet exits the muzzle at about 2,840 feet per second and produces about 4,835 foot-pounds of energy. With a reasonable zero of 1.8 inches (46 millimetres) high at 100 yards, this bullet is down only about eight inches (20 centimetres) at 300 yards. Ballistically, both loads outshine the old favourite 375 H&H Mag and does so from a cartridge case about the same length as the standard '06.

Another favourable and versatile

feature of the Guide Gun is its Gunsite Scout-style stock, which allows the shooter to easily vary the length of pull from 12-and-a-half-inches to 14 inches (32 centimetres to 36 centimetres). This is accomplished by removing or adding any combination of the supplied three half-inch (13 millimetres) spacers between the recoil pad and the buttstock of the rifle.

The Guide Gun also comes equipped with Ruger's LC6 trigger, a non-rotating Mauser-type controlled round feed extractor, a three-position safety, cold hammer-forged barrel, quick point-



For the accuracy testing, Tom shot the Guide Gun off the bench utilizing a Lead Sled.

ing express-style sights, swivel studs with both a barrel-band mounted stud and a forend stock stud, a set of one-inch scope rings and an integral scope mounting base.

HOLDING THE GUIDE GUN ACCOUNTABLE

Many shooters today prefer the benefits associated with having a rifle equipped with a muzzle brake, which results in reducing both the felt recoil and the muzzle jump of the rifle. However, the downside to these devices is an increase in noise at the shooter's position and for anyone else close by. Because of this, in some shooting situations it may be desirable to temporarily remove the brake from the barrel. Unfortunately, when this is done it generally results in changing the bullet's point of impact.

Ruger has taken an ingenious approach to this problem by including an alternate counterweight replacement for the muzzle brake. If the shooter chooses to remove the muzzle brake, it is unscrewed and the counterweight

is screwed in to replace it. When this is done, the barrel's harmonics remain the same, with no change in the bullet impact point. This eliminates the need to rezero the gun each time the brake is removed or reinstalled. Being somewhat of a sceptic by nature, I wondered if those claims were accurate. So, I conducted my own testing with the muzzle brake in place and with it replaced by the counterweight. The results of that testing can be visually seen in the accompanying photo comparing those two installations. The reader can make up their own mind whether the amount of deviation between these two 100-yard groups is worthy of concern or not. I feel the difference is so minimal it would go unrecognized under practically all field conditions.

Ruger provides another option if the shooter prefers to not use either the muzzle brake or the counterweight. For those individuals, the company includes a simple threaded cap which matches the contour of the barrel and

protects the barrel threads from potential damage.

The test rifle arrived with its trigger set at what I thought was a reasonable pull weight averaging 4.5 pounds (five-pull average), with a variation just shy of 12 ounces. I quickly mounted a Leupold Vari-X II 3-9x40mm scope on the rifle and headed out to see how it would perform on the range. Once I got the scope zeroed and began shooting for accuracy, I quickly became impressed by the trigger's performance. I found the pull to be crisp, void of excessive creep and generally smooth in its movements. Because I was going to send quite a few rounds through the rifle, I decided to do my bench testing with a Caldwell Lead Sled loaded with an estimated 25 or 30 pounds of additional weight. The Lead Sled certainly helped to soften the felt recoil and encouraged a higher degree



of steadiness.

Firing factory-loaded Hornady 270-grain SP-RP cartridges, I registered what I felt were very good three-shot groups at 100 yards, consistently measuring around one inch (25 millimetres), with the smallest group being a perfectly shaped seven-eighths-of-an-inch (22 millimetres). Once satisfied as to the accuracy of the 270-grain load, I moved on to the factory-loaded 300-grain Hornady DGS SPF ammunition. Like many rifles, I found this one preferred one load over another, and in this case that preference was clearly for the lighter 270-grain ammunition. Even though the 300-grain loads shot what I believed were acceptable groups for a powerful rifle, the groups produced by the 270-grain loads were clearly tighter and more consistent. While those earlier rounds routinely produced three-shot, 100-yard groups in the one-inch-and-under category, the 300-grain cartridges only seemed to be capable of groups measuring about two inches (51 millimetres).

Of course, by handloading, a shooter could likely improve on the accuracy and at the same time have access to a much broader selection of bullet styles and weights. I was, however, happy to accept the performance of the 270-grain loads due to the fact this particular bullet weight provided the best overall ballistic performance of the two factory rounds, including better accuracy, flatter trajectory and more retained energy at extended ranges.

THE WAY I SEE IT

Overall, I came away impressed by the Ruger Guide Gun. Its durable construction should certainly be capable of resisting whatever the weather and hunting conditions might throw its way. For a calibre bordering on big bore status, the 375 Ruger shot accurately and I found the trigger much to my liking. I felt the factory-set pull-weight of 4.5 pounds was a good setting for a hunting rifle and the spread between the weights of pull wasn't as great as many other triggers I have tested. The fast handling capabilities and potential for lethal knockdown power would, in my estimation, make the Guide Gun chambered in 375 Ruger a great choice for anything from elk or moose all the way up to and including the largest and nastiest of bears, or any other potentially dangerous game. In my mind, a large part of what makes this rifle special is its flexibility. The ability to easily adjust the stock's length of pull and being able to remove the muzzle brake without changing the impact point certainly are worthwhile attributes.

As a gun writer, I test a lot of rifles, which are generally sent to me on a loan basis from the manufacturers. In most cases, after I have run them through their paces and have completed my work, they are usually packaged up and shipped back. In this case, however, rather than sending the Guide Gun back to Ruger, I chose to call it my own and wrote out a cheque for its purchase. I believe the versatil-

The bullet impact points were almost identical, whether the muzzle brake was in place or replaced with the factory-supplied counterweight.

ity and other attributes built into this rifle are just what I've been looking for, and as such it has become part of my personal collection. Just don't tell my wife, who, for some totally illogical reason, seems to think I have enough firearms. 🏹

SPECIFICATIONS

Manufacturer: Ruger
Model: Guide Gun
Calibre: 375 Ruger
Weight: 8 to 8.12 pounds (3.6 to 3.7 kilogram)
Overall length: Adjustable, varying from 40.5 to 42.5 inches (103 to 108 centimetres)
Sights: Safari style iron sights
Action: Bolt
Trigger: Ruger LC6
Barrel: 20 inches (51 centimetres)
Stock: Green Mountain laminated
Magazine: Box type holding three cartridges in all calibres, with the exception of the 30-06, which holds four. An additional round can be fed directly into the chamber.
Price: MSRP \$1,740 (Canadian)





COMMEMORATIVE GUNS

Special firearms highlight parts of history

BY JEFF HELSDON

TOP: This Browning Buckmark special edition features walnut grips with special checkering and NRA/Browning etching on the barrel.

Firearms have been a large part of North America's history, so it's no surprise tributes to some of the significant milestones of both Canadian and American history have been immortalized through commemorative guns. Events like Winchester's centennial, Canada's centennial, the United States' bi-centennial, and famous people like John Wayne have been the object of Winchester's commemoratives. Other companies, such as Remington, Marlin and Browning also have struck special edition guns.

I clearly remember seeing my first commemorative at a fundraising dinner when I was 15. It was a Ducks Unlimited Gun of the Year with special engraving and gold inlay. I also recall a neighbour, who was a collector, showing me some of his Winchester 94 collectables.

These guns make a lasting impression with their blend of artistry, history and craftsmanship.

Mention commemorative guns, though, and most people think of the Winchester Model 94 commemoratives. Danny Michael is the associate curator at the Cody Firearms Museum at the Buffalo Bill Centre of the West. Through its history, Winchester kept a reference collection of every gun manufactured. In the 1950s, a museum was opened at the factory in New Haven, Conn., to display these guns. In 1976, the company made a decision to loan the collection to the Cody Museum. The museum still holds the Winchester reference collection after the company donated it.

"Winchester, as a company, dating all the way back to the days of Oliver Winchester, had a sense of their own >



history," Michael told me. "And it's out of that mentality where the commemoratives started to grow." A part of this may have been Winchester's marketing slogan, initially associated with the Model 1873, as, "The gun that won the west."

"For Winchester, it emerged as a marketing idea," Michael said of the slogan. "Certainly, it was true to a certain extent because they sold a ton of rifles and a lot did go west. But the slogan about winning the west emerged as a 20th century marketing ploy."

Michael said the idea that the Winchester lever-action actually did win the west is debated today. Some argue the trap door Springfield rifle, which was standard issue to the military of the day, "won the west."

Romance aside, Winchester introduced the first commemorative in 1964 to celebrate the state of Wyoming's Diamond Jubilee. Two years later, the next commemorative followed when Winchester had its centennial. More than 100,000 of the centennial guns were issued. "They were popular and sold pretty quickly," Michael said. After the Nebraska Centennial in 1966, the fourth commemorative was the Canadian Centennial in 1967. There were 20,000 of these made and it sold out.

A flurry of models followed, often at

The Antlered Game Model 94 commemorative, also pictured in the opening photo with Goble Firearms owner Wayne Goble, is typical of many commemoratives with detailed engraving on the receiver, a medallion inlaid in the stock and a special finish on the receiver.



the pace of several per year, until 2005. Some of the highlights include Buffalo Bill, Cowboy, NRA, Wells Fargo, Legendary Lawman, Antlered Game, several Native tribes, John Wayne, Annie Oakley, Ducks Unlimited, National Wild Turkey Foundation and Winchester's 125th anniversary. The Teddy

Roosevelt commemorative was struck in his beloved Model 1895.

The Canadian commemoratives that started with the centennial gun demonstrated the American company didn't forget its northern neighbour. These guns differed from their American counterparts, as most were



This Citori 725 pays tribute to the wild west with its special engraving.

made in Winchester's Cooney factory in Coburg. They include North West Territories, an RCMP issue, CP Rail, Alberta Diamond Jubilee, Saskatchewan Diamond Jubilee, Calgary Stampede, Louis Riel, Ontario Conservation Officers and Ducks Unlimited – Canada. Some of these, such as CP Rail, had an employee-only issue.

Several commemoratives paid tribute to the history of the west, and included the Little Big Horn, Sioux and Cherokee. According to Wayne Goble, owner of Goble's Firearms in London, Ont., these were popular in Europe because of the spaghetti westerns – Italian-made westerns popular in the 1960s that made actors like Clint Eastwood famous.

Michael said there is still a big market for commemoratives, as some collectors focus exclusively on these guns. Although it's no longer like it was in the heyday, there are still commemoratives being issued by Winchester, Colt and other companies. "Certainly, they're still doing smaller issues of commemoratives and there are other companies doing it too," he said. "There are even companies which buy up guns and then issue their own commemorative as well."

For many people, the commemorative guns represented an investment, a hope they would increase in value. Goble, who has been in business for 43 years, said that theory didn't play out. He is one of the larger used gun dealers in Canada and is often buying collections and retailing the guns. "What happened is they made too many," he said. "They made too many of each model and too many models."

For instance, he said the NRA commemorative issued in 1971 didn't sell that well. "I can remember them being on sale for less than they were

originally retailing for," Goble recalled. "That was '72 or '73."

Some of the more valuable models are actually the Canadian ones. Numbers of these were more limited, and Goble said some American collectors seek them. He reports seeing the RCMP commemorative, which was issued in a public model and another for employees only, go from its original value of \$189 to \$500 quickly. But now he said they aren't worth much more than a Sioux or a Little Big Horn model. Typically, today, Goble said, a used commemorative in the original box would fetch between \$700 and \$900. "A standard pre-'64 30-30 carbine will bring as much or more if it's in good shape," he added.

Remington has also made commemorative firearms over the years. Of note, is a Model 742 released to celebrate the Canadian centennial in 1967. More recently, in 2016, the company released eight special edition firearms to celebrate the 200th anniversary of its founding. These, of course, included its flagship Model 700, but also a pistol, Model 7600 pump rifle, Model 1100 semi-automatic shotgun and Model 870 pump-action shotgun.

Although there are currently no commemorative firearms in its line-up, Ruger has issued several over the years. These include a Canadian centennial 10/22, a special edition to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the 10/22 and several pistols.

On the handgun side, Colt manufactured a lot of commemorative models as well, both in revolvers and Model 1911s. "We didn't see them much up here in Canada, but in the States, they were huge," Goble said.

In the heyday of Ducks Unlimited fundraising dinners and the accompanying auctions, DU commemorative

guns went for large dollars. Although it helped a good cause, that hasn't translated into a good financial investment. "People are usually disappointed in what they get for them," Goble said. "Remington did three different 870s for DU and people don't get a lot more for them than for other used 870s."

Today, the vast majority of guns auctioned or raffled at DU events lack any special engraving or medallions. Recently, there were special guns for the 75th and 80th anniversaries of the organization, but normally there are no special markings.

Goble's staff was responsible for the handiwork of inlaying Ruffed Grouse Society medallions into the stocks of guns for dinners. The company also imported the National Wild Turkey Federation guns for a few years. Again, Goble said these aren't worth much, if any, more than a standard model.

As a buyer of used guns, and many estates, Goble is finding a lot of families are selling their heir's guns and are disappointed with what commemoratives bring. On the positive side, he added, "Was it really a good investment? If you had pride of ownership and enjoyed it, that's good."

Today, Winchester is still producing commemoratives, but in more models than just the 1894. There are still two models of 1894 listed on the website to pay tribute to the 125th anniversary of the model. There are also commemorative editions in the Model 1892, Model 1866 and Model 1895. Colt currently doesn't have any special editions, nor do other companies that I'm aware of, but there is little doubt these will resurface at special moments in either the company's or North American history.

If you're considering buying one of these guns, experience suggests they aren't always an investment which will increase in value, at least in Canada. However, acquiring one can still be worthwhile for those who appreciate fine craftsmanship and history. 🏹

SIDEBAR

One good resource, both for commemorative guns and any Winchester gun, is www.winchestercollector.org. This website provides a summary of the commemorative guns and also is a resource for any Winchester gun owner to find out when their gun was manufactured.

PERFORMANCE CENTER PRECISION

Reviewing Smith & Wesson's Model 41 PC

BY NORMAN GRAY



In 1947, Smith & Wesson started drawing up plans for their newest handgun, the Model 41. This was to be a semi-auto handgun chambered for the 22 LR cartridge and intended for the growing sport of target shooting. After 10 years of testing and refinements, it was released to the general public in 1957, with Smith & Wesson producing an initial 679 units. After the first year in production, 9,875 Model 41s were offered to consumers. The pistol's popularity grew, and it remained in production until 1992 when it was dropped from the line. However, it returned in 1994 and remains in their catalogue, with three variations currently available.

There are two standard models of the 41 in S&W's lineup, with the only difference being the barrel length – either 5.5 inches (140 millimetres) or seven inches (178 millimetres). The third model is significantly different in that it is called the Performance Center model and has some additional features. These extras include a rich blue finish, custom wood grips, a Picatinny rail, skeletonized Pat-

ridge front sight and the gold inlaid seal of the Performance Center. This pistol comes with the 5.5-inch barrel, but a feature common to all three frames is the switch-barrel design, which allows any 5.5 or seven-inch barrel to be used on any frame. Of course, you can purchase the seven-inch barrel separately, and a little web surfing shows it's available for somewhere around \$530 CAD.

I managed to source a Performance Center 41 for some testing and certainly enjoyed working with a gun that screams performance and has undoubtedly benefited from revisions throughout the years. The Picatinny rail on the barrel will accept any sight designed for a Pic-rail, with my choice being a C-MORE STS reflex sight. I found the sight is equipped with a number of features to complement the Model 41, and the 3.5 MOA red dot allows for straightforward target acquisition without covering the target. C-MORE specializes in competition sights, so they know their stuff.

The Model 41 Performance Center comes with a micrometer click adjust-

able target rear and Partridge front sight. The rear sight is adjustable for windage and elevation, while the skeletonized front sight is removable, and I think its skeletonized design adds a distinctive look. The integral Picatinny rail is machined as part of the barrel; therefore, the front and rear sights and any mounted optics always maintain zero when the barrel is removed for cleaning.

As expected, fit and finish are superb. This model's lines reflect the heritage of the original, but with ultra-modern detail. S&W have always had a beautiful, in-depth, rich bluing process, and the

Model 41 reflects that with the words “Performance Center” and the S&W Performance Center logo in gold across the slide. Simply put, this pistol is a work of art that puts holes in targets.

The target trigger is broad and grooved for the comfortable placement of the trigger finger. On my sample, the trigger broke at 2.14 pounds. S&W says it sets the trigger at 3.25 to 3.75 pounds, and why this sample was lighter, I’m not sure. I’m certainly not complaining. The Model 41 also employs a trigger stop to adjust the over-travel. This is accomplished while the trigger guard is in the down position for disassembly, then by inserting a correctly sized hex wrench to make adjustments.

The slide and magazine release are accessible with the shooting thumb, but require canting the pistol slightly to achieve this action. The safety sits behind the slide release. The checkered wood target grips are a rich brown, with a beautiful grain pattern running throughout. They are also ergonomically designed to support the shooting thumb and trigger finger. Both sides bear an engraved S&W logo to finish them off. The magazine well is flared for easy magazine insertion. Push it home with a thumb to seat the magazine securely and a clear, audible click is heard.

The front strap is grooved, and the grip fit my extra-large hands very well, making it easy and fun to shoot. The Model 41 comes with two 10-round magazines. While they’re built well, loading is awkward. I feel they could have easily addressed this with a larger protruding thumb button to ease potentially sore fingers while loading multiple magazines. Other manufacturers have corrected this in later models in response to consistent customer concerns. The Model 41 also has the S&W trademark magazine disconnect feature, something I have never been fond of in any make or model handgun.

I used seven varieties of 22 LR ammunition, consisting of match and standard ammunition. The pistol proved completely reliable as I didn’t experience any ammunition related stoppages at all. The precision, button-rifled barrel was designed to optimize the match ammunition, and it did just that. Federal Gold Medal Match

RIGHT: Pulling the trigger guard down allows field stripping and adjusting the trigger pull.

BOTTOM: The Model 41’s trigger is wide and grooved.



and Lapua Center-X gave the best performance, with all five bullet holes touching in most groups I fired. The non-match 40-grain Winchester Super X had the largest groups at 1.8 inches. Clearly, the Model 41 is capable of shooting better than its handler.

The Performance Center Model 41 offers great versatility, whether used in competition or just good, old-fashioned plinking. Overall, it’s a tack-driving target gun and plinker. If you have the means to afford one, I highly recommend it. The 41 design has been around for over 60 years now, and with proper care this version of the Model 41 should serve Canadian shooters for at least that long again. 🇨🇦

SMITH & WESSON PERFORMANCE CENTER MODEL 41

SKU: 178031

TYPE: Blowback, single-action, semi-auto

SAFETY: Thumb safety

CALIBRE: 22 LR

CAPACITY: 10+1 rounds

TRIGGER: Target trigger (2.75 pounds)

BARREL LENGTH: 5.5 inches/140 millimetres

OVERALL LENGTH: 10.5 inches/26.67 centimetres

WEIGHT: 42.6 ounces/1,207.7 grams

GRIPS: Wood target

FRONT SIGHT: Removable Partridge

REAR SIGHT: Adjustable

FRAME SIZE: Full size

BARREL SLIDE & FRAME MATERIAL: Carbon steel

SLIDE & FRAME FINISH: Blue

PRICE: \$2,000 CAD

MANUFACTURER: Smith & Wesson, 2100 Roosevelt Avenue, Springfield, MA (International)

PHONE: 1-413-781-8300, website: www.smith-wesson.com

ACCURACY RESULTS | S&W PERFORMANCE CENTER MODEL 41

22 LR AMMO	BULLET WEIGHT	AVERAGE VELOCITY (FPS)	SD	AVERAGE GROUP
CCI Select Competition	40 grains	1,072	12.9	1.3 inches
Federal Gold Medal Match	40 grains	961.3	11.0	0.7 inches
Lapua Center X	40 grains	967.7	7.2	0.7 inches
Lapua Midas +	40 grains	976.4	10.1	1.0 inches
Remington Club Xtra	40 grains	970.9	2.4	0.9 inches
Remington Match EPS	40 grains	972.9	5.2	1.3 inches
Winchester Super Speed	40 grains	1,144	18.5	1.8 inches

NOTES: Accuracy results are averages of five, five-shot groups at 25 yards from a sandbag rest. Velocity figures are a 10-shot average recorded on a Caldwell G2 chronograph placed 15 feet from the muzzle.



SHOOTER'S CHRISTMAS

Gift suggestions for your Santa

BY AL VOTH

I know. It's hard to believe Christmas is just over a month away. But the smart Santa will do his/her shopping early this year, especially if looking for gun-related gifts. There's high demand for just about everything shooting related, especially in the US. And since most of our gun products come from there, we'll likely be seeing shortages in Canada soon. Of course, the best Christmas present Canadian shooters could get would be to see Trudeau and his gang of Liberals kicked out of government. So, we'll all ask Santa for that one, but in the interim, here are a half-dozen products I've been using over the last year which might just fill a need for a Canadian shooter. Point these out to your personal Santa, or just treat yourself.



1 FORSTER BENCHREST POWDER MEASURE

Powder measures like this Forster Benchrest model are volume measures, meaning powder is dispensed into a cavity which is adjustable for volume, and then dumped directly into a cartridge case. I've never thought of them as being particularly accurate until I started using this one. Forster has obviously worked some of their magic into this machine, as it throws wonderfully uniform charges when set up carefully.

For me, that setup includes sturdy mounting, keeping the hopper at a reasonably uniform level and throwing at least 40 preliminary charges which are recycled back into the hopper, thus allowing the powder therein to settle to a uniform density. Once I think I have the setting right, I throw 10 charges into a single container, then weigh that, averaging it out by moving the decimal one spot to the left. In a recent loading session, with two different cartridges, using two different powders, the average weight was bang on to 1/10th of a grain. Once set up, it takes about five seconds to fill a cartridge case. It's accurate, fast and looks to be pretty much bomb-proof.

Cost of the measure is about \$200 CAD and I note that X-Reload.com is one Canadian retailer who usually has it in stock. The stand, if you need one, is an extra \$30.

2 REAL AVID SIGHT PUSHER

Open sights on rifles and handguns are regularly seen mounted in dovetails. And for good reason. Dovetails are durable and they allow lateral adjustment. They also allow for replacement of the sight if needed. And since the universe seems to operate on the law that any dropped gun will always land on its sights, adjustment and replacement are commonly done on dovetail mounted sights. Unfortunately, it's usually done with a punch and hammer, resulting in damage to the gun and the sight. I'm speaking from personal experience here.

A much better method of adjusting/replacing dovetail mounted sights is the Master Sight Pusher from Real Avid. It's designed to hold a pistol slide firmly in non-marring jaws, while a movable block, mounted on a threaded rod, pushes the sight in the direction



selected. It takes some time to set this rig up properly, but it's worth it in the precise movements it's capable of and the lack of damage which results. This is an exceptionally sturdy tool, which can be used at home or at the range while sighting in. Priced around \$200 CAD, it's available from any Canadian Real Avid dealer, of which there are many.



3 GALCO GUN BELTS

Every gun owner needs a good belt. And good belts can be hard to find – I mean really good belts. Yes, you can find something good enough to hold up your pants anywhere, but good belts are scarce. In my experience, the best belts are made by people who make holsters, so when I'm in the market for a new belt, my first stop is a holster manufacturer. As most shooters know, Galco makes excellent holsters, and I can tell you their belts are great too.

I've been wearing their EDC Holster Belt, and although we don't "EDC" here in Canada, it's still a great belt with a bit of a tactical look. It strikes a good balance between stiffness and flexibility, in the form of an updated Ranger-style belt featuring an adjustable billet strap and a quick-release,

cobra-style buckle. It comes in four sizes, fitting waists from 34 to 50 inches, and is available in black or flat dark earth colours. For the more traditionally minded, Galco's SB2 Casual Holster Belt is made from a double thickness of leather, has a solid brass buckle, comes in several widths, a wide range of sizes and three colours. It's a gorgeous piece of leather and, like all leather belts, takes a little time to break-in and adjust to your body.

Some Canadian dealers carry Galco, with their products also widely available online. If you order online, be sure to visit Galco's website and familiarize yourself with their belt measuring system first. Do not assume you know the correct size to order. Expect to drop about \$100 for one of these top-quality belts.

4 BERETTA SHOP

Located at the Stoeger Canada website (www.stoegercanada.ca/store), the Beretta Shop is, in my opinion, one of the best kept secrets around. However, if you own any guns originating from the Beretta/Benelli/Sako/Tikka/Uberti/Stoeger family, it's a place you should definitely visit before Christmas. They have a ton of branded merchandise, including clothing, bags, boots, cases, knives, optics and even firearm parts and accessories. Pictured here are a Beretta-branded 12 gauge shell belt and a shell bag from the store.

Prices range from a few bucks to a few thousand, so there's something for every budget. One of my favourites, at a \$12.99 price, is a Tikka branded facemask to help shooters navigate the COVID-19 rules. Pay the store a visit and expect to be surprised at what's available.

5 EFFECTIVE RANGE TARGETS

Skill assessment is the focus of Effective Range Targets (ERT), and in this age of long-range shooting it's a desperately needed system. The goal is determination of a hunter's maximum effective shooting distance from a variety of realistic field positions. Towards that end, the inventors of this target system have developed a series of targets based on the vital zones of most North American game animals, including deer, elk, pronghorn, moose, coyote and bighorn sheep.

A quick glance at these targets shows what appear to be typical scoring rings, but which are actually distance-simulation rings. In use, the targets

are hung at 100 yards and engaged with five rounds from a realistic field position. To read the target, simply select the smallest scoring ring which encloses all five shots. The distance indicated by that ring shows the furthest range at which you should be shooting at that species of animal from the position just used.

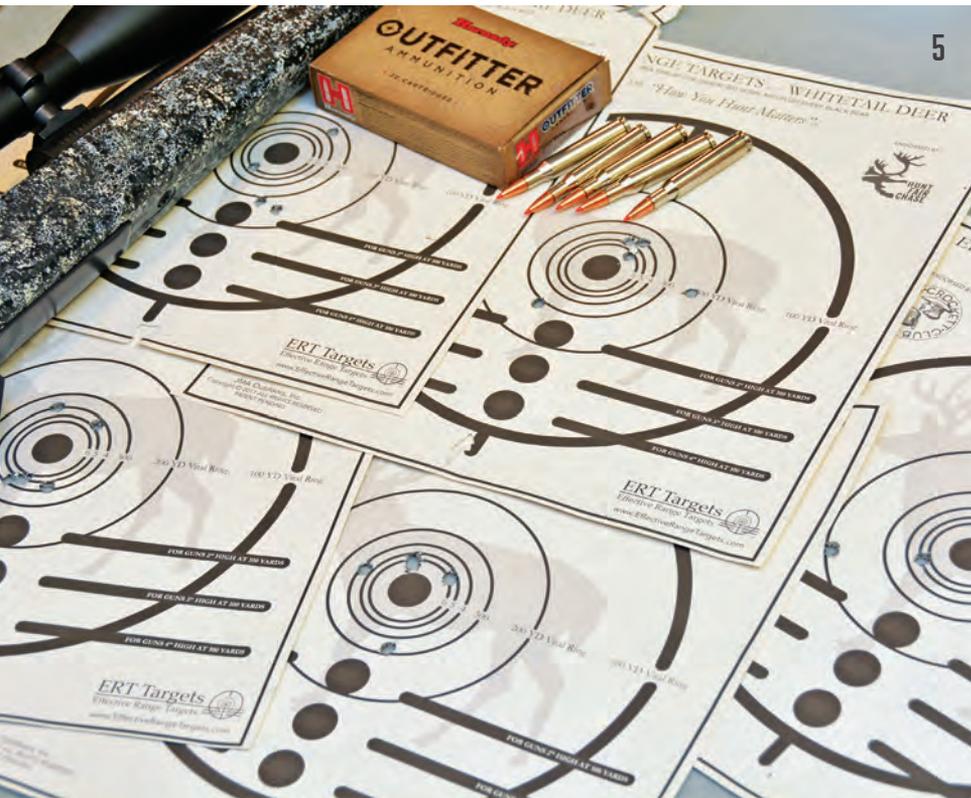
These targets make for great competition with buddies and are a no B.S. assessment of how good you can really shoot a rifle in a realistic hunting situation. Some Canadian retailers have them, and they are also available from the company website at www.effectiverangetargets.com. Prices start at \$10 US for a bundle of targets.

6 REGULATOR MUZZLE BRAKE

The last three rifles I purchased were all threaded for muzzle devices. This is common practice now and it's a shame not to take advantage of that threading. Of course, we can't install suppressors here in Canada, but muzzle brakes are still okay. The most flexible brake I know of is a Canadian product made by Matador Arms. Its uniqueness lies in the ability to adjust the brake for the amount of gas which is redirected.

When fully open, its triple chamber port works like any effective brake and drastically reduces recoil and muzzle rise. Naturally, this increases noise around the shooter's position as well. So, during shooting sessions when this isn't desirable, the brake can be completely "turned off" by simply twisting the front cap. No tools are required and it stays solidly in the selected position. Additionally, there are about 60 other positions between fully open and fully closed, so the brake effect can be tuned to the shooter's preference.

It's available in four bore sizes, including .223, 6.5mm, .308 and 9mm, each with appropriate thread patterns. Price is around \$200 CAD, which is great value for a brake with this kind of flexibility. 





Legal corner

Guy Lavergne, Attorney at Law

Antique Firearms – What Are The Rules?



This flintlock Pennsylvania rifle is classified as an antique, even though it is a modern reproduction by Traditions Firearms.

Cette carabine à chargement par la bouche est considérée comme une arme à feu historique en raison de sa platine à silex, bien qu'elle soit de fabrication moderne.

In both my legal practice and as a firearms enthusiast, I often encounter confusion and misconceptions when it comes to the rules applicable to the possession, storage, transportation, usage and transfer of antique firearms. Often, people believe that since antique firearms are not subject to licencing or registration, their use is not otherwise regulated. This is not so. In this column, I will try and clarify the applicable rules.

WHAT IS AN ANTIQUE FIREARM?

Any review of the applicable rules must start with a proper understanding of what is an antique firearm in Canada. A two-prong definition of “antique firearm” can be found at subsection 84(1) of the Criminal Code:

antique firearm means:

(a) any firearm manufactured before 1898 that was not designed to discharge rimfire or centrefire ammunition and that has not been redesigned to discharge such ammunition, or

(b) any firearm that is prescribed to be an antique firearm.

Paragraph (a) of that definition is quite straightforward, as it only covers firearms that have a date of manufacture which predates 1898, and do not use either rimfire or centrefire cartridges. Thus, it includes all kinds of muzzle-loading firearms manufactured prior to 1898, as well as original (as opposed to modern reproduction) cap and ball revolvers.

Paragraph (b) i.e. “any firearm that is

prescribed to be an antique firearm” refers to those firearms that have been designated as antiques by regulation (i.e. prescribed.)

A list of firearm types deemed to be antique can be found in the Regulations Prescribing Antique Firearms (SOR/98-464.) There is a wide array of such firearms. In brief, the list is as follows:

A reproduction of a flintlock, wheel-lock or matchlock firearm, other than a handgun, manufactured after 1897;

Rimfire rifles manufactured before 1898, other than those capable of discharging 22 Short, 22 Long or 22 Long Rifle ammunition;

Medium and large bore (8.3 millimetres or greater, as measured from land to land) centrefire rifles manufactured before 1898, other than magazine-fed repeating rifles (i.e. single shot, and double barrel rifles);

Shotguns manufactured before 1898 capable of discharging only rimfire ammunition;

A shotgun manufactured before 1898 that is capable of discharging centrefire cartridges, other than 10, 12, 16, 20, 28 or 410-gauge cartridges;

A handgun manufactured before 1898 that is capable of discharging only rimfire cartridges, other than 22 Short, 22 Long or 22 Long Rifle cartridges;

A handgun manufactured before 1898 that is capable of discharging centrefire cartridges, other than a handgun designed or adapted to discharge 32 Short Colt, 32 Long Colt, 32 Smith & Wesson, 32 Smith & Wesson Long,

32-20 Winchester, 38 Smith & Wesson, 38 Short Colt, 38 Long Colt, 38-40 Winchester, 44-40 Winchester or 45 Colt cartridges.

In a nutshell, prescribed antique firearms include, essentially, long guns that are muzzleloaders (including modern reproductions) featuring a primitive ignition system (other than a percussion cap) manufactured after 1897 and firearms manufactured before 1898, capable of only discharging obsolete, non-commercially available cartridges.

It also appears, although this is not settled law, that by “manufactured” what is meant is the date that the individual firearm was actually manufactured, as opposed to the date a particular design was put in production. Thus, otherwise identical samples of a particular firearm may belong to different categories (e.g. antique versus restricted or prohibited), based solely upon the date on which they were officially manufactured, even though those dates may be mere days apart.

ANTIQUÉ STATUS LETTERS

Firearms verifiers are individuals appointed pursuant to the Firearms Act to determine the classification of specific firearms. Verifiers can issue antique status letters. An antique status letter serves as proof that a specific firearm qualifies as an antique firearm.

Although Canadian firearms law does not spell out that a firearm may not be considered as an antique firearm until such time as an antique status letter has been issued, it is preferable to obtain one to avoid any potential issue with law enforcement or the criminal justice system. An antique status letter is also extremely useful when attempting to transfer an antique firearm, as it avoids any doubt as to the status of the firearm and the applicable rules underlying the transfer and the future use of the firearm.

EXEMPTION FROM CERTAIN RULES

Per subsection 84(3) of the Criminal Code, antique firearms are exempt from the application of Sections 91 to 95, 99 to 101, 103 to 107 and 117.03 of the Criminal Code, as well as the provisions of the Firearms Act (in its entirety). Let me translate this in lay terms:

Inapplicability of Sections 91 to 95 of the Criminal Code (possession offences):

Antique firearms are subject to neither licencing, nor registration. Thus, they can be acquired without a firearms licence. However, the acquisition of cartridge ammunition for an antique firearm requires a firearms licence, although the assembly of ammunition from components does not.

Possession of antique firearms, including handguns, is not limited to specific places, such as ranges. Further, they do not require an authorization from a Chief Firearms Officer to be transported or carried (more on that later). However, they cannot be possessed in locations or in circumstances where the law specifically prohibits the possession of firearms (e.g. demonstrations, schools in Quebec, etc.)

In theory, it is possible to openly carry a loaded antique handgun. This does not mean law enforcement agencies and officers are fully aware of this technicality, and if you elect to do so, you do it at your own risk. Further, concealed carry of an antique handgun remains prohibited, since antique firearms are nevertheless considered as weapons under the Criminal Code. Finally, open carry (whether loaded or not) is not permitted while using a motor vehicle (see the rules applicable to transportation below.) Carrying a loaded antique firearm is also prohibited in certain locations where firearms may not be discharged (see below.)

Inapplicability of Sections 99 to 101 of the Criminal Code (trafficking offences):

Transferring an antique firearm (which includes not only selling, but also lending, selling, gifting, bartering and shipping) is not subject to any formality such as licence verification (none is required) or CFO approval.

Inapplicability of Sections 103 to 107 of the Criminal Code (export or import offences):

Antique firearms may be imported to Canada or exported from Canada.

Beware, however, that the country to which you are exporting or are importing from may have different

requirements.

Further beware, since regulations prescribing rules applicable to import/export of firearms are nevertheless applicable, pursuant to Subsection 84(3.1) of the Criminal Code.

Inapplicability of Section 117.03 of the Criminal Code (seizure upon failure to show licence, registration or authorization):

This provision is redundant, since antique firearms are subject to neither licencing, registration, nor authorization (to transport or to carry.)

APPLICABLE RULES (STORAGE, TRANSPORTATION, USAGE, ETC.)

Pursuant to subsection 84 (3.1) of the Criminal Code, antique firearms are subject to regulations enacted pursuant to Section 117 (h) of the Firearms Act, and subsection 86(2) of the Criminal Code. Again, in lay terms, this refers to everything having to do with the storage, usage, display, transportation, shipping and export/import of firearms. This is an important distinction, and one which is the source of a great deal of confusion. Thus:

Antique firearms must be stored in the same manner as any other comparable firearm that is not an antique.

Antique firearms may not be stored, shipped or transported when loaded.

Antique firearms may not be loaded (or carried while loaded) in locations where the discharge of firearms is prohibited, including pursuant to provincial or municipal legislation. The latter severely restricts a person’s ability to openly carry a loaded antique handgun, since the discharge of firearms is expressly prohibited in most urban areas and on most public roads.

Antique firearms may only be discharged in circumstances where it is safe to do so. Negligent discharge of an antique firearm (just like any other firearm) is an offence under subsection 86(1) of the Criminal Code.

Finally, antique firearms are treated just like any other firearm if they are used in the commission of a criminal offence. Also, an individual who is under an undertaking not to possess firearms or subject to a firearms prohibition order may not possess antique firearms. 



Rubrique Juridique

Guy Lavergne, avocat

Armes à feu historiques (Quelles sont les règles?)

Dans ma pratique juridique et en tant qu'amateur d'armes à feu, je constate souvent une certaine confusion, ainsi que des croyances erronées, lorsqu'il est question des règles applicables à la possession, à l'entreposage, au transport, à l'utilisation et au transfert d'armes à feu historiques (communément appelées armes à feu antiques). Les gens croient erronément que puisque les armes à feu historiques ne sont pas assujetties à l'obtention préalable d'un permis ou à l'enregistrement, leur utilisation n'est pas autrement réglementée. Or, ce n'est pas le cas ! Dans cette chronique, je tenterai de clarifier les règles applicables en la matière.

QU'EST-CE QU'UNE « ARME À FEU HISTORIQUE » ?

Toute discussion des règles applicables doit commencer par une bonne compréhension de ce qui est considéré comme une « arme à feu historique » au Canada. Une définition à deux volets de « arme à feu historique » se trouve à l'article 84 (1) du Code criminel :

arme à feu historique Toute arme à feu fabriquée avant 1898 qui n'a pas été conçue ni modifiée pour l'utilisation de munitions à percussion annulaire ou centrale ou toute arme à feu désignée comme telle par règlement.

La première partie de cette définition est assez simple, car elle ne couvre que les armes à feu qui ont une date de fabrication antérieure à 1898 et qui n'utilisent ni les cartouches à percussion annulaire, ni les cartouches à percussion centrale. Ainsi, ce volet comprend toutes sortes d'armes à feu à chargement par la bouche fabriquées avant 1898, ainsi que des revolvers à amorce et poudre noire originaux (e.g. Colt 1851, etc...) (par opposition aux reproductions modernes de ceux-ci).

Le second volet, c'est-à-dire « toute arme à feu qui est désignée comme telle par règlement » couvre un échantillonnage plus vaste.

Une liste des types d'armes à feu réputées être des armes à feu historiques se trouve dans le Règlement



Modern in-line muzzleloaders, like this Remington 700 Ultimate, are not antiques.

Les armes à feu à chargement par la bouche de conception moderne, comme cette carabine Remington 700 Ultimate, ne sont pas considérées comme des armes à feu historiques.

désignant certaines armes à feu historiques (DORS/98-464).. Il existe un large éventail de ces armes à feu. En voici un résumé:

Reproduction d'une arme à feu à platine silex, à platine à rouet et à mèche, autre qu'une arme de poing, fabriquée après 1897.

Carabines à percussion annulaire fabriquées avant 1898, autres que celles capables de tirer des munitions de calibre 22 court, 22 long ou 22lr.

Carabines à cartouche unique (de calibre de 8,3 mm ou plus, mesuré entre les cloisons) à cartouche à percussion centrale fabriquées avant 1898;

Fusils de chasse fabriqués avant 1898 uniquement capables de tirer des munitions à percussion latérale;

Un fusil de chasse fabriqué avant 1898 capable de décharger des munitions à percussion centrale de calibre autre que 10, 12, 16, 20, 28 ou 410;

Une arme de poing fabriquée avant 1898 qui est capable de décharger uniquement des cartouches à percussion latérale, autres que des cartouches de calibre 22 court, 22 long ou 22lr.

Les armes de poing fabriquées avant

1898 qui peuvent tirer des cartouches à percussion centrale, à l'exception de celles conçues ou adaptées pour tirer des cartouches de calibre 32 Short Colt, 32 Long Colt, 32 Smith and Wesson, 32 Smith and Wesson Long, 32-20 Winchester, 38 Smith and Wesson, 38 Short Colt, 38 Long Colt, 38-40 Winchester, 44-40 Winchester ou 45 Colt.

En bref, les armes à feu historiques désignées par règlement comprennent : les armes d'épaule à chargement par la bouche (y compris les reproductions modernes) comportant un système d'allumage primitif (autre qu'une amorce) fabriquées après 1897 et des armes à feu fabriquées avant 1898, capables de tirer uniquement des cartouches obsolètes et non communément disponibles dans le commerce.

Il semble également, bien qu'il ne s'agisse pas d'une règle établie de façon définitive, que, par « fabriquée » ce qu'on entend, c'est la date à laquelle l'arme à feu en question a été fabriquée, par opposition à la date à laquelle on a commencé à produire un type particulier

d'arme à feu. Ainsi, par ailleurs, des exemplaires identiques d'une arme à feu particulière peuvent appartenir à des catégories différentes (p. ex. antiquités par rapport à armes à feu prohibée ou à autorisation restreinte), uniquement en raison de la date à laquelle elles ont été fabriqués « officiellement », même si ces dates peuvent différer de seulement quelques jours.

CERTIFICATS D'ARMES À FEU HISTORIQUES

Les vérificateurs d'armes à feu sont des personnes nommées en vertu de la Loi sur les armes à feu pour déterminer la classification d'armes à feu spécifiques. Ils ont la possibilité d'émettre des « certificats d'armes à feu historiques ». Un tel certificat sert de preuve qu'une arme à feu spécifique est considérée comme étant une arme à feu historique.

Bien que la législation canadienne sur les armes à feu ne prévoit pas expressément qu'une arme à feu ne puisse être considérée comme une « arme à feu historique » tant qu'un tel certificat n'a pas été émis, il est préférable d'en obtenir un pour éviter tout problème potentiel avec les autorités policières ou le système de justice pénale. Un tel certificat est également extrêmement utile lorsqu'on désire céder une arme à feu historique, car il évite tout doute quant à la classification de l'arme à feu, quant aux règles applicables à la cession, et à celles qui encadrent l'utilisation future de l'arme à feu.

EXEMPTION DE L'APPLICATION DE CERTAINES RÈGLES

En vertu du paragraphe 84(3) du Code criminel, les « armes à feu historiques » sont exemptées de l'application des articles 91 à 95, 99 à 101, 103 à 107 et 117,03 du Code criminel, ainsi que des dispositions de la Loi sur les armes à feu (dans son intégralité). Permettez-moi de traduire cela en termes simples:

Inapplicabilité des articles 91 à 95 du Code criminel (infractions de possession) :

La possession d'une arme à feu historique n'est soumise ni à l'exigence d'un permis, ni à l'enregistrement. Ainsi, elles peuvent être acquises sans permis d'armes à feu. Toutefois, l'acquisition de cartouches pour une arme à feu historique nécessite un permis d'armes à feu, bien que la fabrication de munitions à partir de composants (pour usage privé) ne

l'exige pas.

La possession d'armes à feu historiques, y compris les armes de poing, n'est pas limitée à des endroits précis, comme les champs de tir. De plus, l'autorisation d'un contrôleur des armes à feu n'est pas requise, pour leur transport ou cession. Toutefois, elles ne peuvent pas être possédées dans des endroits ou dans des circonstances où la loi interdit expressément la possession d'armes à feu (p. ex. lors de manifestations, dans les écoles au Québec, etc.)

En théorie, il est possible de porter ouvertement une arme de poing antique chargée. Cela ne signifie pas que les forces policières sont pleinement conscientes de cette technicalité et si vous choisissez de le faire, vous le faites à vos propres risques. De plus, le port dissimulé d'une arme de poing antique demeure interdit, puisque les armes à feu historiques sont néanmoins considérées comme des « armes » en vertu du Code criminel. Enfin, lors du transport dans un véhicule moteur, une arme à feu historique doit être déchargée et, s'il s'agit d'une arme de poing, verrouillée et remise dans un coffret. Le port d'une arme à feu historique chargée est également interdit à certains endroits où il est interdit de tirer avec une arme à feu (voir ci-dessous).

Inapplicabilité des articles 99 à 101 du Code criminel:

La cession d'une arme à feu historique (qui comprend non seulement la vente, mais aussi le prêt, la vente, le don, le troc et l'expédition) n'est soumis à aucune formalité telle que la vérification du permis ou de sa validité (aucun permis n'est requis) ni à l'approbation du Contrôleur des armes à feu.

Inapplicabilité des articles 103 à 107 du Code criminel (infractions relatives à l'exportation ou à l'importation).

Les armes à feu historiques peuvent être importées au Canada ou exportées du Canada.

Toutefois, assurez-vous que le pays d'où vous exportez ou d'où vous importez, n'a pas d'exigences additionnelles.

De plus, les règlements prescrivant des règles applicables à l'importation ou à l'exportation d'armes à feu sont néanmoins applicables, conformément au paragraphe 84(3.1) du Code criminel.

Inapplicabilité de l'article 117.03

du Code criminel (Saisie en cas d'omission de présenter un permis, un enregistrement ou une autorisation) :

Cette disposition est redondante, puisque les armes à feu historiques ne sont soumises ni à l'autorisation, ni à l'enregistrement ni à l'autorisation (pour le transport ou le transport)

RÈGLES APPLICABLES (ENTREPOSAGE, TRANSPORT, UTILISATION, ETC.)

Conformément au paragraphe 84 (3.1) du Code criminel, les armes à feu historiques sont assujetties aux règlements adoptés en vertu de l'alinéa 117 h) de la Loi sur les armes à feu et au paragraphe 86(2) du Code criminel. Encore une fois, en termes simples, il s'agit de tout ce qui a trait à l'entreposage, à l'utilisation, à l'exhibition, au transport, à l'expédition et à l'exportation/importation d'armes à feu. Il s'agit d'une distinction importante qui est source de beaucoup de confusion. Ainsi:

Les armes à feu historiques doivent être entreposées de la même manière que toute autre arme à feu comparable qui n'est pas une arme historique.

Les armes à feu historiques ne peuvent pas être entreposées, expédiées ou transportées lorsqu'elles sont chargées.

Les armes à feu historiques ne peuvent pas être possédées lorsque chargées dans des endroits où le tir d'armes à feu est interdit, y compris en vertu de la législation provinciale ou municipale.

Ceci restreint considérablement la capacité d'une personne à porter ouvertement une arme de poing antique chargée, puisque le tir d'armes à feu est expressément interdit dans la plupart des zones urbaines et sur les routes publiques.

Les armes à feu historiques ne peuvent être déchargées que dans des circonstances où il est sécuritaire de le faire. La décharge négligente d'une arme à feu historique (comme de toute autre arme à feu) constitue une infraction au paragraphe 86(1) du Code criminel.

Enfin, les armes à feu historiques sont traitées comme n'importe quelle autre arme à feu si elles sont utilisées dans la perpétration d'une infraction criminelle. De même, une personne assujettie à une ordonnance de possession d'arme à feu ne peut posséder une arme à feu historique. ❗

NFA Book Shelf

Bill Rantz

Gun Control In The Third Reich – Disarming the Jews and “Enemies of the State”

Gun Control in the Third Reich opens with a lengthy list of review comments by academics praising author Stephen Halbrook’s extensive research. It is noted hundreds of books have been written about Adolph Hitler’s ruthless dictatorship which fail to mention the disarming of Jews and other “enemies of the state.”

“In Stephen Halbrook’s extraordinary book, Gun Control in the Third Reich, the consequence of disarming a population, making them vulnerable to imprisonment and annihilation, is told with frightening detail. It is a history with poignancy.” – Herbert I. London, President, London Center; former President, Hudson Institute.

Newly discovered documents from German archives, diaries and newspapers of the time share the history of how the Third Reich used gun control to effectively repress enemies and consolidate power. Halbrook has presented this information in an easy-to-read, thought-provoking publication supported by extensive footnotes and a detailed bibliography.

Gun Control in the Third Reich is divided into four units, which represent distinct historical periods between the end of the First World War and the 1938 Night of the Broken Glass. Events occurring during the Second World War are discussed in a concluding chapter.

Part I: Dancing on a Volcano: The Weimar Republic

Part II: 1933: Enter the Fuhrer

Part III: Gleichschaltung: Forcing into Line

Part IV: Reichskristallnacht: Night of the Broken Glass

Conclusion: Whither the German Resistance?

Providing a detailed synopsis of Gun Control in the Third Reich is challeng-



ing. This book needs to be read in its entirety to fully understand how an entire population can be deprived of basic human rights in less than 20 years.

Shortly after the First World War, Germany’s Weimar Republic introduced gun registration and prohibition as a means of controlling political violence between Communists and the emerging Nazi party. As of Jan. 13, 1919, all firearms and ammunition were to be surrendered immediately or face five years in prison and a hefty fine. Punishment for even possessing a firearm could be brutal. After a 1920 general strike and attack led by Communists, the Freikorps battalion shot 10 Red Cross nurses on sight because they were carrying pistols.

The 1920 Law on the Disarmament of the People and the 1928 Law on Firearms and Ammunition continued to restrict ownership of firearms by introducing registration, licensing, confiscation of military firearms and

even restrictions on reloading cartridges. Adolph Hitler seized power in 1933 and used the existing registration records to identify, disarm and attack “enemies of the state.” Nazi party members were exempted from some firearm restrictions in a 1938 law signed by Hitler. Weeks before the 1938 Night of the Broken Glass, these same records were used to locate and arrest Jewish gun owners.

The slaughter of millions of people during the Holocaust is well documented. While the disarmament which preceded this annihilation was not the cause, it obviously prevented any potential resistance. After reading Gun Control in the Third Reich, you will be left to ponder the firearm freedoms we once enjoyed in Canada. Many have been limited, controlled or even terminated by our successive governments.

Priced at \$19.50 USD, Gun Control in the Third Reich and a companion publication by Halbrook, Gun Control in Nazi-Occupied France, listing at \$23.95 USD, may be purchased online directly from The Independent Institute. Amazon currently offers both in Kindle editions for under half the book price. 📖

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