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SWEENEY ANSWERS THE QUESTION P. 29

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PROOF Research on
Moose p. 60

CZ 557 on
Mule Deer p. 90

Weatherby Mark V on
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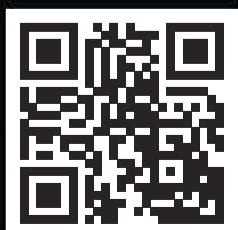
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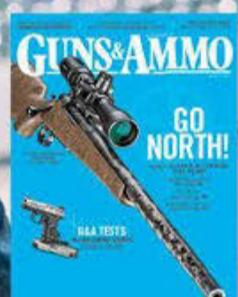
TERMINATOR GENISYS

... A Gun Story

The "Terminator" movies have collectively entertained several generations of moviegoing gun enthusiasts, and the newest installment lives up to the original. G&A presents an exclusive behind-the-scenes look at its hardware.

BY JEREMY STAFFORD

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Guns & Ammo's subscriber cover features the PROOF Research Terminus chambered in .300 Win. Mag. p. 60

COVER PHOTOS: MICHAEL ANSCHUETZ, ABOVE: PARAMOUNT PICTURES

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FNH USA offers its new compact striker-fired FNS pistols in both 9mm and .40 S&W. Do they antique hammer guns?

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The Alaskan moose hunt of a lifetime inspired by a grandfather's photograph.

BY CODY VOERMANS

GO NORTH THIS YEAR!

90 THE JACK O'CONNOR WAY

A .270-chambered CZ 557 in pursuit of Alberta's coldest mule deer.

BY SGM KYLE LAMB (RET.)

98 SHOOTING FLAT

Follow two Marines on horseback through a 10-day trek deep into Alaska's Central Range to hunt Dall sheep.

BY ERIC R. POOLE

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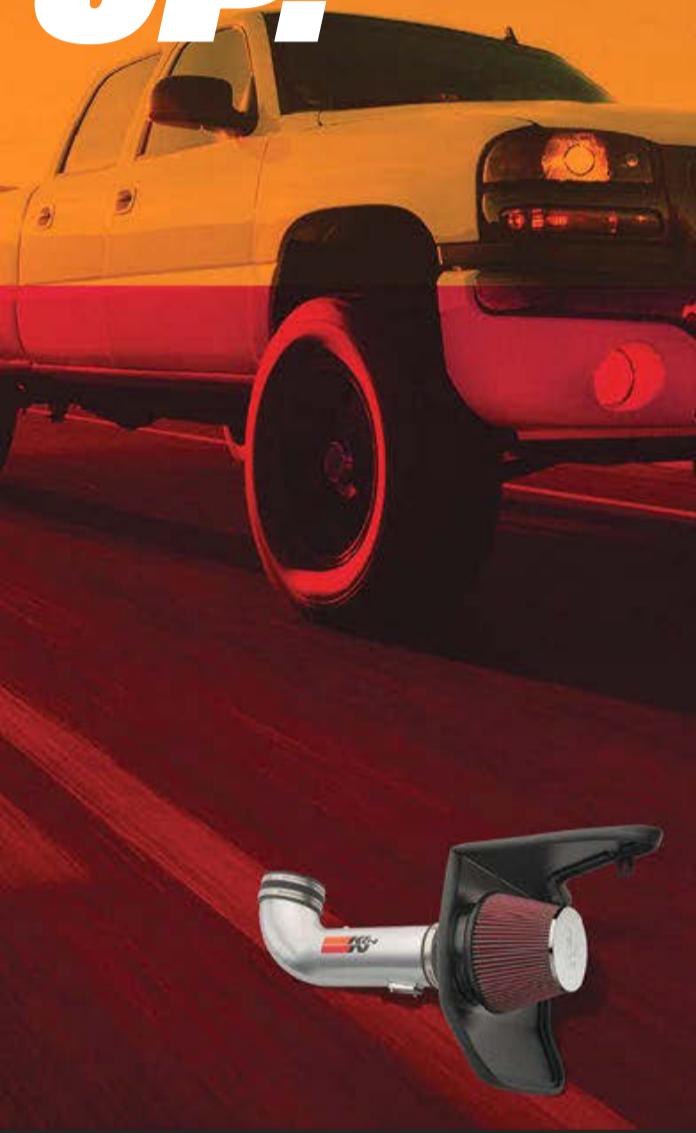
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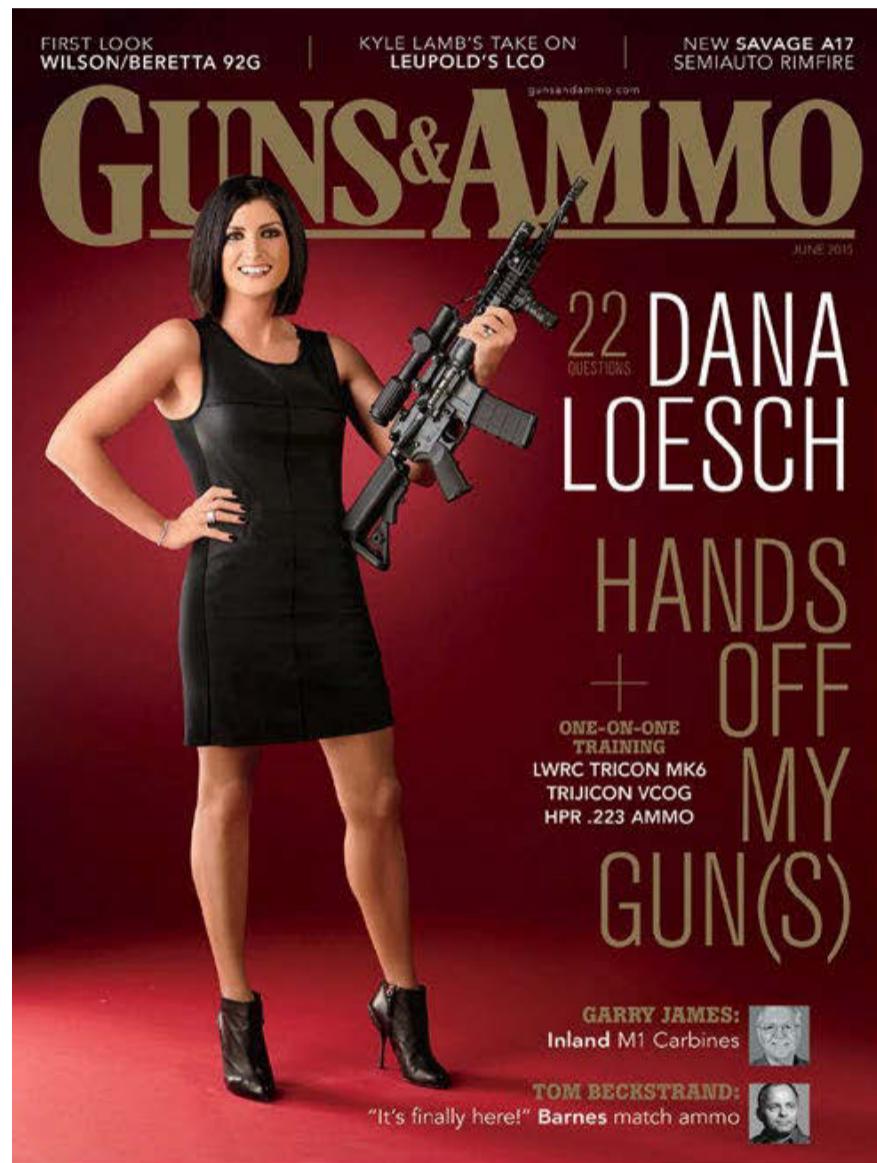
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**DANA COVER**

Worst issue ever. Won't be renewing if this is an example.
Anonymous

The name of the magazine is "Guns & Ammo." The name is not "Guns & Ammo and Second Amendment Paranoia." I admit that the bride and her .45 was a really cute picture, but "The Blaze"? The puff-piece on Glenn Beck's wild-eyed eye candy — complete with double-entendre headlines — is of zero interest to people interested in, ahem, guns and ammo. More guns. More ammo. Less politics ... please.

Everett Van De Voort, Naperville, Illinois

MORE ON AIWB

Reading Steven O'Leary's comment titled "AIWB" in the June issue of G&A,

I realized this just might have saved my life. Carrying in the appendix position would certainly either

cause me to shoot my foot if standing up or my thigh if sitting down if my firearm were to accidentally discharge. Thanks to Steven and Guns & Ammo for printing his comment. I, for one, will never carry in the appendix position again.

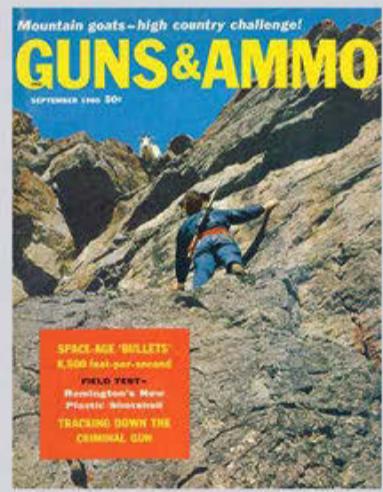
Dale Deming
email

NO REMORSE

I happened to think of another pro-gun argument that never really occurred to me and probably hasn't to many others. It's the integrity and backing by the gun manufacturers of the products they sell. While I'm sure a few of us have had a bad experience here and there, by and large the gun companies back their stuff. While most of the guns I own have never presented any problems, I've had to send a few in for service, and I've always had good experiences with the outcomes. Most firearms owners have become accustomed to that service and see it as the norm. Think for a moment how almost nothing else you purchase has anywhere near that backing. My wife and I bought a new refrigerator a few years back. We were finally able to afford a fancy one with the double top doors with the bottom-drawer freezer.

SEPTEMBER '60

Though the mountain goat's horn structure is not too impressive, many hunters consider the rugged, high terrain it inhabits to be one of the best outdoor challenges. Gordon Eastman, a veteran goat hunter of the late 1950s and a record-book holder, authored "High Country Challenge" for Guns & Ammo, which served as a primer to describing the costs and obstacles faced when hunting the wily white goat in North America. Eastman wrote, "For goat hunting, 200 yards is ideal sight-in range If your rifle is scoped and weighs under eight and a half pounds, and you have confidence in it, this should serve you well."



It cost us about \$1,300. Though it didn't excite me as much as a new 1911, I was stoked at having a built-in ice machine. Within three months, it lost its firm seal. About eight months later, the digital board broke, and it lost its cooling power and once again had to be fixed. About nine months later, it went belly



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up and was out of warranty. I was angry and wound up yanking off one of the doors, then pulling out the bottom freezer drawer and kicking it around the backyard. I replaced it with the cheapest refrigerator that would keep my food cold. I rolled the dice and lost. When we buy a gun, the

manufacturer usually backs it for life. You never buy a gun and hear the next statement out of the salesperson's mouth be, "Would you like to spend an extra few hundred dollars on our extended warranty?" Again, gun makers seem to fix it for life. What other industry has that much respect and

value for its customers and a firm belief in its product? None. Regardless of anyone's opinion on the gun issues, one thing you cannot argue with is what the industry brings to the table in terms of customer service, customer retention and overall care. The rest of corporate America should see this as a frame of reference.

Alan Miller
email

NRA SAFETY RULE #1

More power to Mrs. (I assume) Albright and her firm stance on girls with guns that aren't small and pink! However, such a proud, seasoned shooter with a great teacher should know better than to rest lazy fingers on triggers in photos.

Paul Campo
Farmington Hills, Michigan



MAKING PEACE WITH COLT

I have reread the first several paragraphs multiple times, and each time I feel compelled to go out and procure a piece of history. This was the best introduction to a gun review I've ever read. The historic references evoke emotion and make one proud to be an American, where freedom to own a piece of our history still remains. Keep up the good work.

Paul O. Buchbauer
email

I must thank G&A for the fine story of the Colt SAA. You certainly know how to fuel one's fire to obtain a six-shooter. I have two Colt revolvers but not an SAA. I've wanted one forever; maybe someday.

Timothy Rudzinski
email

GOLDEN SERVICE

I purchased a Leupold Sequoia spotting scope in August 2008. Unfortunately, the tripod failed. I placed a call to the folks at customer service

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and offered my credit card number to pay for shipping and the necessary repairs. Within several days, a new tripod arrived at no charge. Leupold had no way of knowing that I have several handgun and riflescopes, so replacing the tripod at no cost was above and beyond. A tip of the hat to a great American company!

Walter M.
Edmonton, Alberta,
Canada

SPOT ON

Col. Boddington's article "The Right Zero" is absolutely correct for riflemen pursuing game at distances I consider ethical. This long-range hunting frenzy is stupid and detrimental to ethical and rewarding hunting pursuits. Hunting is so

much more than shooting. Shooting at distance should be limited to target competition activities. His explanation of the old phrase "2 inches high at 100 yards" is logical and so very practical. I learned that process at age 14, and it has been most useful through the years. The graph on page 23 was immediately explanatory and practical. Keep the good articles coming.

J.P. Tyson, M.D.
Denison, Texas

TOO CLOSE TO THE MUZZLE

As a surgical technologist, I assisted a plastic surgeon who treated a "forward-serration injury" that occurred at the Chapman Academy in Columbia, Missouri. The patient presented in the ER with an injured left hand, which included burns to the inside of the third finger and a bone missing from the middle phalanx of the little finger. He had put a .45 slug

through his pinky. Amazingly, the nerves and vessels were intact. We squared off the ends of the bone and pinned it together, leaving him with a short digit.

Denton Warn
Hutchinson, Kansas

LEUPOLD HAD IT FIRST

I was surprised to see the piece by Tom Beckstrand in the May issue about Nikon's new Spot On scope system. The column made it sound

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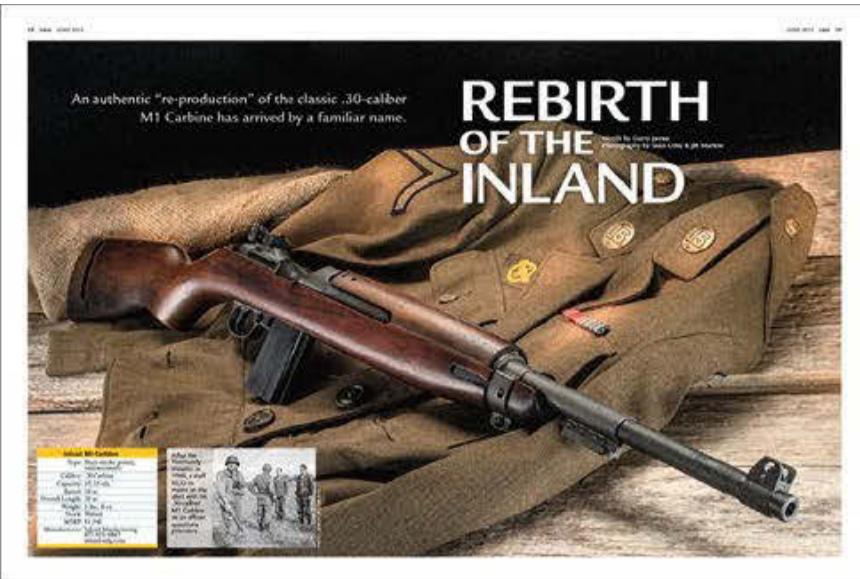
like it was a new concept, but Leupold preceded Nikon by several years with an identical system that should have shared the spotlight.

Tom Taggart

email

GOOD MEMORIES

Garry James' article on the M1 Carbine was excellent and brought back memories of when I carried one made by Rock-Ola. There was only one minor problem: Every two or three shots,



mine would jam or stove-pipe. (It didn't play music either.) Fortunately, I was

with an ordnance company. When we landed on an island in the Pacific, the

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#WhatWouldYouDo If you shoot a nice group, do you stop and save the target or keep shooting?

Atomic @atomicgray Walk it in a bit more, then clover leaf the hell out of the bullseye

Robert Howard @RightHoward more ammo = more shooting

island was well secured, and I never had to use it. Wondering if I had to, I thought about putting a handle on the end of the barrel so I could swing it like a club.

Harold G. Cohen

Morton Grove, Illinois

CONFUSED

While reading the April issue of G&A, Patrick Sweeney's "Handgunning" column, "Strike, Restrike, Lucky Strike," indicates that it is possible for a striker-action pistol to have restrike capability. This is confusing to me, as my understanding of a striker-action pistol is that the slide must be racked in order for it to partially cock the striker, with the trigger being pulled fully cocking and then releasing the striker onto the primer.



Indeed, my Ruger LCP must have the slide racked in order for the pistol to fire. Once the trigger is pulled, there will be no "restrike" possible; pulling the trigger does nothing. Also, I am confused by the barrel-length dimensions of pistols. In my mind, a shooting tube consists of a chamber and the barrel. How can we include the chamber length as part of the total barrel length, especially when the cartridge lengths vary

according to caliber?
Steve B.
Fort Worth, Texas

Don't wander too far into the weeds on this. The important detail is not whether a given striker-using pistol, or traditional double action, has restrike. The important issues are: Do you want it, do you need it, and how do you manage it? As for pistol barrel-length measurement, it is a great example of "That's the way it

has always been done." We measure the overall length of the barrel, including chamber, because it is easy. Also, we measure revolver barrels without the cylinder because it is easy. Trying to measure the barrel as only the portion of the tube that is rifled would require either elaborate measuring tools or lots of estimation. At least this way, we all know exactly what we mean when we say a barrel is a certain length. In today's

world, clarity should not be discounted.
— P. Sweeney

ARTICLE IDEA

I always enjoy the "Gun Room" for its identification and values. Mr. James' ability to come up with answers is nothing short of awesome. He must have a research library the size of a barn. It would be great to see an article about him!

Jerry Mandel
Henderson, Nevada

OOPS, OUR BAD

Thanks for printing my letter about The Man Eater of Mfuwe. However, I guess my writing was not easily understood. Charl Beukes was the PH in charge. Charles Goldenburg, Wayne Hosek and I were the clients in camp at that time. Wayne Hosek, pictured with the lion, made a great shot. There is a lot more to the story.

Gerald Spenny
Congress, Arizona

In the June issue on page 86, it is said that the carbine parts are "machined to high tolerances." Should it say "close tolerances"? High tolerances suggest wider and, hence, sloppier. That may be what was meant, as combat arms are designed with larger clearances to function dirty, but people not knowledgeable of manufacturing terminology will misunderstand the wording. Second, that issue's "Proofhouse" column states that the Savage A17 is made from "2140 chrome-moly steel." There are no steels numbered in the 2000 range. Chrome-moly steels are in the 4000 series.

Harold Parks
Sunrise Pass Arms Co.

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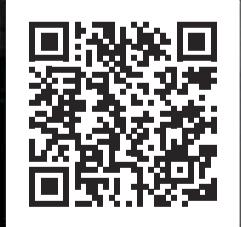
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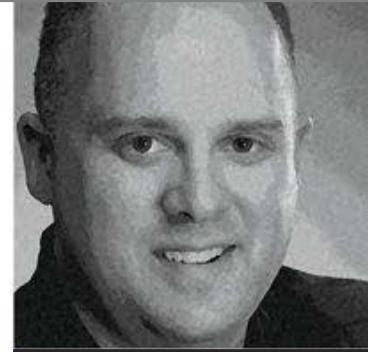
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ERIC R. POOLE

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HUSH THAT NOISE

NOISE-INDUCED HEARING LOSS and tinnitus are two of the most common afflictions among military veterans, police officers, recreational shooters and hunters. Gunfire is loud, and most shooters at the range take the necessary precautions by wearing hearing protection, though sometimes not enough. Few hunters wear ear pro in the field, and troops and police don't get the chance to call a cease-fire to dig out their muffs, which is unfortunate. Even one gunshot can permanently damage hearing, and the long-term financial impact to taxpayers is staggering. More disability claims are paid out to military veterans and retired law enforcement for hearing loss than any other type of injury. It's a plaguing problem, and suppression devices can help.

Not only are hunters protected when using a muffled firearm, it allows that hunter to maintain full situational awareness while causing less stress to nearby wildlife. If dogs are part of your kind of hunting, they could benefit, too. (Notably, SilencerCo offers a 12-gauge shotgun suppressor called the Salvo 12.)

Then there are the noise complaints. As urban areas consume surrounding rural property, shooting ranges and hunting preserves are regulated to the point of being closed. Although suppressed gunfire is not silenced, noise complaints from those who live nearby are diminished.

So, how do they impact accuracy? With some designs, suppressors actually give their host firearm an accuracy boost by slowing the expanding gases from influencing trajectory. Further, particularly with new shooters, the reduction of noise can decrease flinching and anticipation, which leads to better shot placement.

Whether you call them "cans," "suppressors" or "silencers" (as Hiram Percy Maxim patented his design in 1909), the growth in ownership and usage the last few years can be largely credited to the merits of education efforts by suppressor manufacturers and an independent organization formed in 2011, the American Suppressor Association (ASA).

"We try to hold as many legislative demonstrations as possible," says Knox Williams, president and executive director of the ASA. "We take a group of people out to a range, even inviting the most rabid anti-gun advocates. After they shoot a suppressed firearm,

they usually come back and say, 'What's the big deal?'"

Vermont House of Representatives member Patrick Brennan experienced ups and downs with a pro-suppressor initiative that recently passed after several years of trying. The challenge in most situations is breaking out of a gridlock in committee. The ASA was able to gather 50 administrators from surrounding states' natural resource agencies and legislators at a range in nearby New Hampshire and show them what suppressors really were. The resulting bill in Vermont was gratifying.

"It's not a perfect bill," says Williams, "but it's a massive step in the right direction."

So what is the "perfect suppressor law" at the state level? Williams answers, "Civilians should be able to possess suppressors if they're in compliance with federal law, and there needs to be a provision for legal hunting. Additionally, there has to be a 'shall sign' component that prevents the Chief Law Enforcement Officer, or CLEO, from refusing to sign unless there is quantifiable data to suggest that a citizen shouldn't be able to have a suppressor."

Only a dozen states include a CLEO provision, and certain states' political climate is not ready for that change. "The resistance is with local law enforcement, because some feel they are conceding power," says Williams. "Some people forget that the CLEO signature was supposed to verify that a background check had been done. It was never intended to be veto authority."

As of this writing, it is legal to possess suppressors in 40 states. By the time you read this, the governor in Vermont may have also signed a bill, bringing that number up to 41. It's legal to hunt with suppressors in 36 states, with Montana and Minnesota recently changing its laws in favor. The ASA expects Maine and Michigan to join this movement by the end of the year for a total of 38.

"No state is impossible to reach," says Williams. "I don't think we'll ever get the District [of Columbia], but I'm optimistic in achieving pro-suppressor reform throughout the U.S."

As a veteran who suffers from hearing damage, I've been honored to be a board member of the ASA. I encourage you to join the cause. Find out more at americansuppressorassociation.com. **G&A**

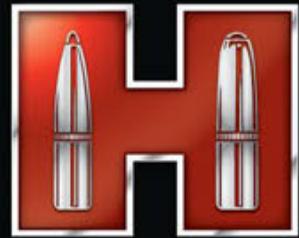


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6.35mm ZEHNA: \$500

TWO WWII BRING-BACK AUTOS

Q: I recently inherited two of my father's captured handguns from World War II. I have a customs document dated July 6, 1945, declaring four handguns along with a camera and a few other items collected from overseas. Attached photos show the two guns we were able to find; both of these stayed in my father's desk drawer for as long as I can remember. Although ammunition is a little hard to find, I was able to take both out and shoot them. Both have a crown over an "N," while the Walther has another crown over an oval with two lines through it along with some other marks these old eyes can't describe. I have been able to find some generic information on the Zehner but can't nail down the Walther. Any additional information would be greatly appreciated and passed on when the day comes for my son to take possession of them.

M.D.
Spring, Texas

A: I think I can help you out here; it's the least I can do for the future gener-

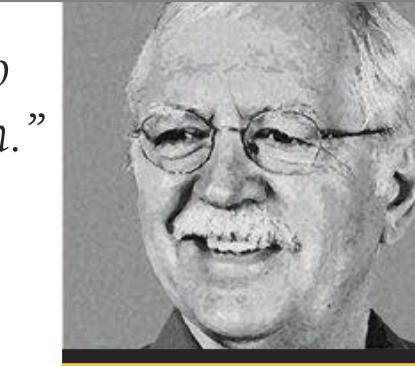
ation. Your excellent photos, along with the fact that the guns have the crown "N" proofmark, indicate that they were intended for the civilian market. Both are of pre-World War II vin-

THE AUCTION BLOCK

Nighthawk Custom and Guns & Ammo teamed up to create 100 signature 1911s designed by G&A Editor Eric Poole and contributor Richard Mann around the philosophy of the late Jeff Cooper. It was featured on the subscriber cover of the May 2015 issue.

Nighthawk generously agreed to donate the first of these limited-production pistols (SN# GA00001) for auction with 100 percent of the proceeds going to benefit Honored American Veterans Afield, or HAVA. HAVA is a group that helps connect disabled veterans

with hunting and shooting sports. This pistol sold at auction online on April 22, 2015, raising \$5,001 for charity. To learn more about this and other auctions, visit gunsamerica.com.



GARRY JAMES

GARRY.JAMES@
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tage. The 6.35mm Zehna pistol was manufactured by E. Zehner Waffenfabrik of Suhl, Germany, in the early to mid-1920s. A simple blowback, this pistol does have some interesting design features such as a separate backstrap that can be removed along with the mainspring and sear. Your little auto seems to be in top-notch shape and is doubly interesting in that it has its original box. I'd say it's worth a good, solid \$500, perhaps a bit more. The Walther is a Model 4, introduced in 1910. Caliber was 7.65mm, and around 75,000 of these pistols were dragooned into service by the Kaiser for use by German forces in the Great War, some undoubtedly also being carried in the Second World War. It also saw considerable police service. Again, condition on this piece seems to be pretty good, and the fact that it has its original holster adds to the cachet. Value is in the \$350 to \$400 range. If it has a small World War I acceptance eagle stamped on it, you can tack on another \$50.

MYSTERY DOUBLE SHOTGUN

Q: I recently acquired what seems to be an antique side-by-side shotgun marked "W.G. Henderson"

HAVE AN HEIRLOOM? Curious about a vintage firearm? Email Garry at garry.james@outdoorsoft.com, or send a description with detailed photos to Gun Room, Guns & Ammo, 2 News Plaza, 3rd Floor, Peoria, IL 61614. Please include your name and state of residence.

Due to the volume of requests each month, personal replies are not possible. The most interesting or unusual queries are answered in Guns & Ammo magazine.

on the top of its Damascus barrels. It has beautiful detail engraving. I have looked all over the Web to find out exactly where it was made and if it has any value. In any event, I would probably make a nice oak and glass case and put a sign on it that would read "Break glass in case of civil war." I would appreciate any help you could give me.

W.R.
email

A: The photos you sent, including the proofs on the gun's water table, indicate that you have a nice, English-made, double-barrel, top-lever shotgun circa 1880. It has profuse scroll engraving and appears to be of a reasonably high grade. Unfortunately,

condition seems to leave something to be desired, so your shadow-box plan sounds like a capital idea. I can find no listing for W.R. Henderson in any of my resources, but from what I can see, it appears as though he was a more than competent maker.

MARSHWOOD HEIRLOOM SHOTGUN

Q: I read your article in the March 2015 issue of Guns & Ammo, and the section on the Aristocrat Shotgun piqued my interest. I have a shotgun passed down from my grandfather who lived near Corning, New York. The serial number stamped on the receiver, the metal portion of the forearm assembly and the

underside of the barrel is 635XX. On the right side of the receiver is "PAT APR.20-1915." "Marshwood" is stamped on the left side of the receiver. I did a Google search some time ago and came to the same conclusion you reached in your article, i.e., this is probably a "hardware gun" manufactured by Crescent Arms. When I first took possession of this gun, it was in rough shape. The first time I fired it, it doubled, and I thought I had broken my hand. I took it to a gunsmith, and he repaired the inner workings and a chip in the stock, and installed a recoil pad, as it kicked like a mule. (I nicknamed the gun Bertha after the German Railway Gun.) I

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used it for several years and took many pheasants with it. I haven't fired the gun since 1981 when I took my last pheasant. I still get it out of the safe once in a while, oil it and reminisce about the hunts and watching the dog work. I really enjoy your articles in *Guns & Ammo*. Maybe now I'll have time to read them as they come out.

D.A.

email

A: Well, D.A., you are spot-on concerning the origin of your shotgun. It was definitely a Crescent product, though my listings do not tell me exactly who it was made for. Crescent made scads of very serviceable arms from 1890 into the 1930s intended for the

economy market, quality representing a fair balance between cost of manufacture and retail price. I'm glad you are seeing to Bertha's needs and hope she gives you many more years of enjoyment.

COLT 1908?

Q: In reading your reply ["Colt Model 1908 Pocket," June 2015 G&A], I felt it was correct as it went. I read another writer who stated that Colt never listed a Model 1908. The 1908 moniker came about because 1908 was the year that caliber .380 ACP was introduced to the Colt Pocket Hammerless, which previously only had the caliber .32 ACP. I recognize that this is nitpicking, and whenever anyone talks of

the Model 1908, I try to correct them. However, with the upcoming reissue, that may change. I'd like to get one.

P.R.

email

A: You are essentially correct, and your point is well taken. The designation "1908" has become standard usage with collectors and writers (it's even listed as such in Larry Wilson's "Book of Colt Firearms," among others) for convenience's sake. This is certainly not the first time guns have been given nonfactory appellations that have stuck. I'll be getting one of the reissue Pockets myself for testing fairly, though at this juncture I believe they will only be in .32. I have a

minty original military in my own collection, so it will be fun to compare them. Thanks for writing.

UNIQUE M1 CARBINE

Q: I could sure use your help. I have a very unusual M1 carbine, and anything you can tell me about it would be appreciated. If you refer to the photos I sent, you can see that the hook used to chamber a round on the right of the chamber has been milled off. Also, the entire gun is in the white. There is a wooden handle on the forestock to chamber a round since the hook has been milled, and the barrel is threaded for a silencer. It does read "US Carbine Cal 30 M1." It has a flip iron and peep sight and no

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FINAL, FINAL WORD ON VIETNAM .38 S&Ws

Q: In the May 2015 issue, E.M. from Guatemala City further confuses the issue of S&W revolvers used by helicopter pilots in Vietnam. I believe the confusion stems from model numbers of S&W revolvers and the military designations. E.M. states, "I believe the reader was referring to the S&W Model 13 revolver. This was a lightweight Model 10 with a 2-inch barrel and round butt." E.M. may be confusing the issue revolver with the USAF Aircrewman revolver, which carried the military designation M-13. This was indeed a lightweight variation of the S&W Military & Police sporting an aluminum frame and cylinder. These came into being in 1954. Unfortunately, the aluminum cylinder would sometimes "grenade." The military tried low-pressure ammo but ultimately withdrew these revolvers from service and destroyed them, hence the high collector value today. (Caveat Emptor: It has been said that there are more fake Aircrewman revolvers than there were ever real ones.) One of the issue revolvers to Army helicopter pilots in Vietnam was the S&W Model 12, chambered in .38 S&W Special, which is exactly what E.M. describes. This was the lightweight version of the S&W Model 10 using an alloy frame and steel cylinder. I don't know what the military model designation was for the 2-inch-barreled S&W Model 12. The S&W Model 13 (as opposed to the M-13 from the '50s) was an all-steel, 4-inch-heavy-barreled K-frame chambered in .357 Magnum. This also descended from the Model 10, with early prototype versions stamped "Model 10-6," which later changed to "13" (followed by the various engineering changes throughout its life). To recap: M-13 — USAF Lightweight .38 Specials from the '50s that were recalled and destroyed. S&W Model 12 — Lightweight .38 Specials issued to Army helicopter pilots during Vietnam. S&W Model 13 — All-steel .357 Magnums, civilian. Now maybe we can lay this issue to rest.

B.H.

Titusville, New Jersey

A: Many thanks for your thoughtful comments. Sounds good to me, and I think, as you say, we can now finally put this matter to bed.

bayonet lug. On the stock is a tiny plaque that reads "LT CMDR R K WHITNEY USNR PILOT." I've had several speculations about why this rifle was altered — one was for use by tunnel rats in Vietnam, though everyone tells me they only used .45s, as the tunnels were too small for a rifle, even an M1 Carbine. Another suggestion was that it might have been used on Swift boats in stealth operations. Whatever its use, my guess is that the handle on the forestock was added so the rifle could shoot subsonic ammo, which would not have had

sufficient gas to chamber a new round, so the operator did that with the handle. There was no need for the hook, so it was ground off. Combine subsonic ammo with the threaded muzzle, and it seems obvious that it was used for very quiet operation, my guess is to take out sentries, but then why would there be a plaque that commemorates a U.S. Navy pilot? Any good theories?

S.B.
email

A: Well, I must say, that's the darndest-looking M1 Carbine I've seen in awhile.



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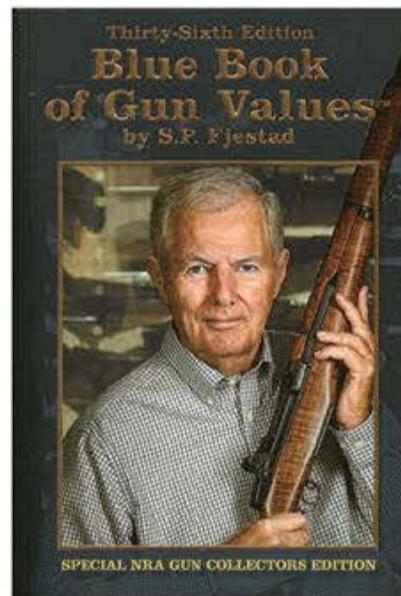
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22 G&A AUGUST 2015

I applaud the tinkerer's ability to convert the piece from semiauto to pump action; it would be interesting to investigate the mechanism. Theories? Well, I can't possibly speculate on the name on the plaque, nor whether the gun has any unusual military provenance at all. The fact that it's now in the white (could it possibly be nickel-plated?) and the fact that high-wood stock has been sanded and varnished, coupled with the rather fancy slide handle, lead me to believe this was some sort of philosophical basement gunsmith project. Your speculation concerning the subsonic/silencer/pump arrangement sounds plausible. Beyond that, my crystal grows dim. **QA**



RECOMMENDED READS

"Thirty-sixth Blue Book of Gun Values," by S.P. Fjestad, Blue Book Publications Inc., 2015, 2,512 pgs.

If you've been reading this column for any length of time, it should be obvious the respect Garry James holds for the "Blue Book of Gun Values." It has become the standard reference book for modern and vintage arms, and there are few canny dealers at gun shows who do not have one stashed beneath their tables. It is much more than just a price guide. There are historical references, condition guides and identification sections. This year's edition is bigger and better, featuring current NRA President Alan Cors on the cover and more than 2,500 pages of information. Its alphabetical listing of arms (A.A. to Zoli) has even more features than ever, including serial-number listings, a trademark index, a glossary, etc. G&A can't recommend this book too highly. The BBOGV sells for \$55 (softcover) and \$85 (hardcover) and can be ordered from Blue Book Publications Inc., 800-877-4867, bluebookofgunvalues.com. **\$55**



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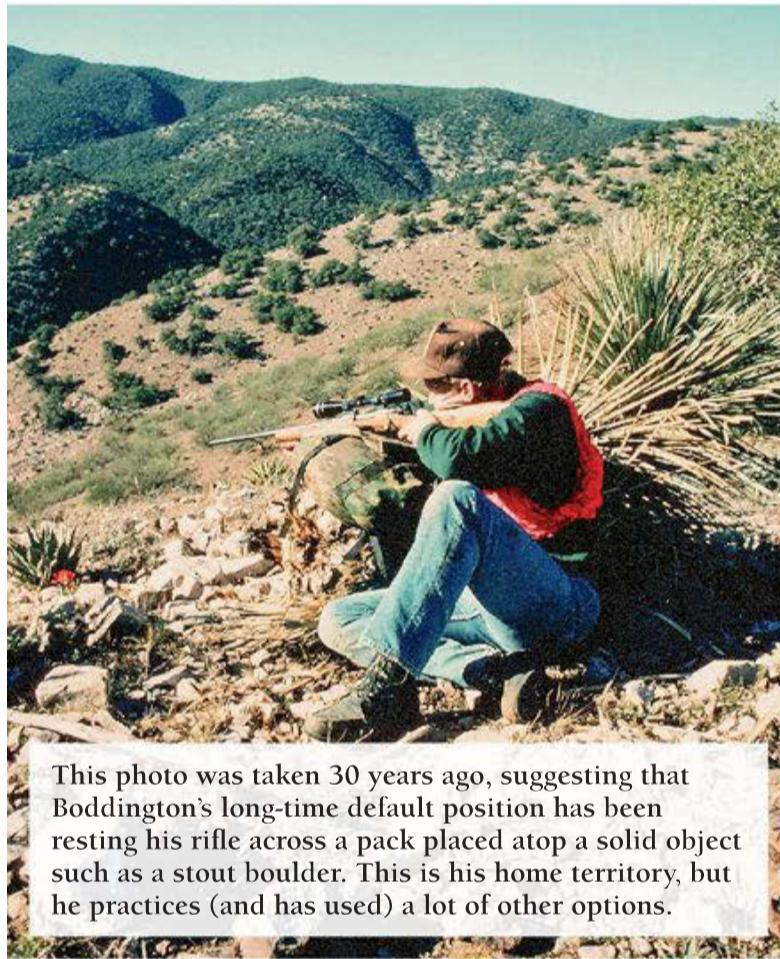
PRACTICE LIKE YOU HUNT

IN THE MARINES, an often-heard mantra is “Train like you fight,” but in my day we didn’t always do it that way. During most of my career, the Marine Corps qualification course for both rifle and pistol was a set-piece affair: known-distances for the rifle; positions of prone, sitting, kneeling and standing. The pistol course required a two-hand hold. We had some modifications, including bobbing targets and timed and rapid fire, but while it was always good fun, it had little relationship to the shooting in a firefight. Eventually, things changed. Today, annual qualification is done in full gear, requiring engagement of multiple targets and some serious running and gunning.

The analogy is simple. Too many of us do most of our practice from the benchrest, but I’ve seen no benchrests in deer woods or on sheep mountains. Actually, neither the classic range situation nor the benchrest is wrong. Both offer essential baselines.

I believe that all serious rifle shooters should have a good background in the classic shooting positions. In field shooting, you never know when there won’t be a steady rest available. If the cover is low, you can sometimes go prone. More likely, there’s low brush in the way, so you can get into a good sitting position, or if the shot must be rushed, you can drop to one knee. Once in a while, there’s nothing to be done but stand up and shoot. As the least steady position, this is a last resort, but since it’s also the most difficult, it should be practiced frequently anyway.

Once you’re comfortable with the basic positions, they can be modified



This photo was taken 30 years ago, suggesting that Boddington’s long-time default position has been resting his rifle across a pack placed atop a solid object such as a stout boulder. This is his home territory, but he practices (and has used) a lot of other options.

infinitely. Prone is even better with a bipod or over a pack. Or, you can lean into a tree or sit or kneel behind a boulder or log. The same tree or a tall rock can turn a wobbly standing position into a stable platform.

The benchrest is an altogether different baseline. It isn’t about you; it’s more about your rifle, learning how well it groups with various loads and building confidence with it. The bench is essential for establishing the perfect zero for your hunting conditions, and that also builds confidence. The basic idea is to sandbag the rifle so steadily that it does what it can do with almost no human interference, something that is not possible from less steady positions.

There is, however, a shooting aspect to the bench. Since there are no wobbles, it is the very best place to learn, practice and master the essential skills of trigger and breath control. Therefore, I don’t advocate abandoning the bench or giving up dropping into that

cramped sitting position with a tight sling now and then. With more frequency, it’s a good idea to put all else aside and shoot standing. You may not use the formal shooting positions all that often in the field, but when you need them, you need them badly.

The best pronghorn I ever shot was from a sitting position with a tight sling. I’d been stalking him for an hour, but he was angling toward me, and I was stuck. There were no rocks, and the only plant life was needle-tipped yucca. I figured he’d cross an opening at about 225 yards, so I undid the rear sling swivel and formed a loop above my biceps, scrunching into a tight

LETTERS FROM KEITH

“I killed my 50th elk for my own use three years ago in Colorado and have not had a shot since.”

— Elmer Keith, February 27, 1975





Terrain and vegetation will often dictate your shooting position in the field. Though left-handed, Boddington does practice right-hand shooting during the off season for situations like this.

sitting position while the animal was out of sight. When he stepped into the opening, I pasted him. Because of vegetation and terrain, the roll prone position is rare in the field, at least in my experience, but I've used it. As for kneeling and standing, I can't tell you how many times I've used those options, usually aided by a hasty sling.

These are all positions that can easily be practiced on any range. Then, you need to get creative. Start by replacing the sandbags, rifle rest or Lead Sled with a daypack. Change your height with a different seat, or simply crouch behind the bench so that it becomes almost second nature to figure out how to scrunch that pack into a steady rest at different angles and heights. Then, get away from the bench, and do the same from prone, sitting and kneeling. On a formal range, you can often use a support beam to practice leaning against a vertical rest; in less formal settings, there may be trees or fenceposts.

If shooting aids are of interest, practice with them. Although they add gun weight and are impossible in a saddle scabbard, bipods are wonderful tools. Some models have telescoping legs, allowing use in sitting and kneeling positions, and these are fantastic, but no shooting aids are useful unless you've practiced with them. A lot of hunters carry telescoping monopods or two-legged shooting sticks. With my copious African experience, I often use the classic three-legged African shooting sticks. The ones I use now are from African Sporting Creations, with three removable segments. This allows the opportunity to build a steady tripod at three different heights. I carry them a



Boddington's favorite shooting aid is a set of three-legged African shooting sticks, almost universal in Africa but useful elsewhere as well. Since this is a common position, he practices it frequently.

lot, even using them as a walking stick on mountain hunts. I don't always use them — my default setting is a pack over a rock — but since I often carry shooting sticks "just in case," I practice with them often.

If all this sounds like a lot of work and ammo to be burned, I have some good news. It is essential to shoot the rifle you intend to hunt with, but you don't have to shoot it all the time. Effective position practice can be done with a .22 or, for that matter, an air rifle. You'll want to do plenty of shooting with your hunting rifle, but what's more important is learning how to get steady in a wide variety of shooting positions. The larger the repertoire of positions you're familiar with, the more successful you will be.

While you're practicing, keep two learning goals in mind. First, make sure you know the proper height of a rest for you, whether from prone, sitting, kneeling, standing or somewhere in the mix. As both a dad and a husband, I am very conscious that the perfect rest for me will not be ideal for my wife or my daughters. You, the shooter, have to find or build the rest that is the right height for you, so you need to know what works best for you.

Second, and perhaps most important, you need to learn how to get steady fast. Hunting guides all over the world have stories about awful shooting by

folks like you and me, but their more common complaint regards hunters taking too long to get into position and get the shot off. It takes a lifetime of field experience to figure this out, but speed can easily be improved through practice. As you're sorting through the positions you want to practice, don't start in position. Start standing a few yards away, and make a drill of it. Accurate shooting is important, but it won't help if you can't get the shot off before the animal is out of view.

More good news: None of the practice I've mentioned actually requires shooting. You can practice positions — and getting into position — in your garage, living room, backyard and so on. Just make sure the firearm is unloaded. While you're at it, do some practice from your weak or support side. I'm left-handed, but in some cramped situations such as in treestands and ground blinds, I've shot a few deer and a couple of turkeys right-handedly. It's good to know how to accomplish this as part of your skill set. Just one word to the wise: Start this practice with dry fire, and work up to a .22. If you've never shot from your weak shoulder, you'll be amazed how sensitive it is to recoil. **GA**



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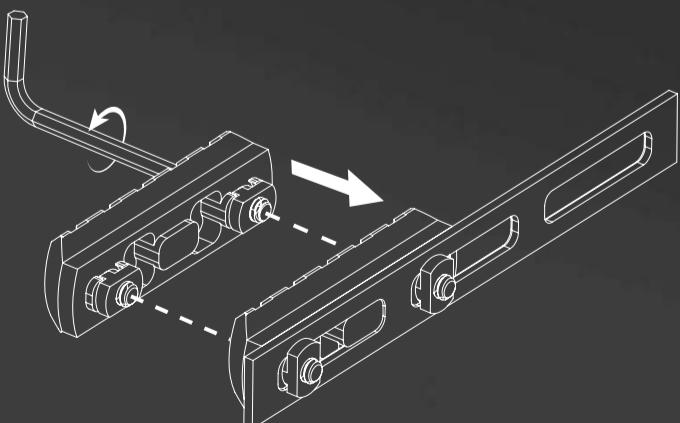
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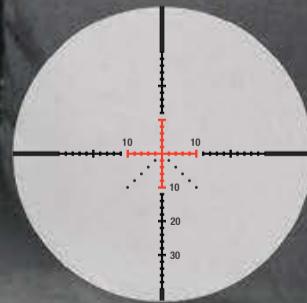
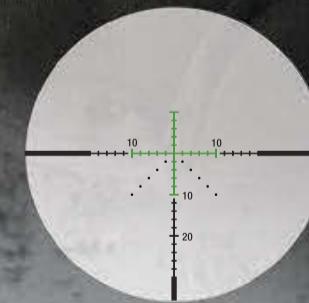
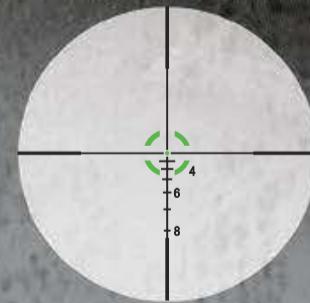
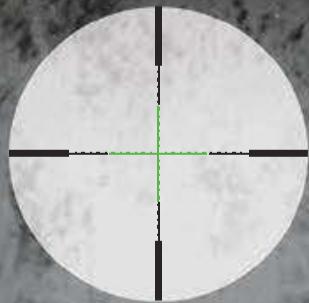
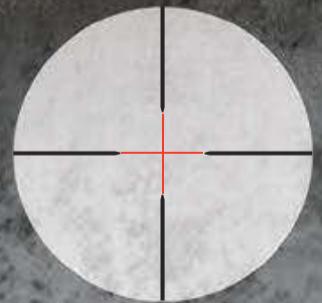
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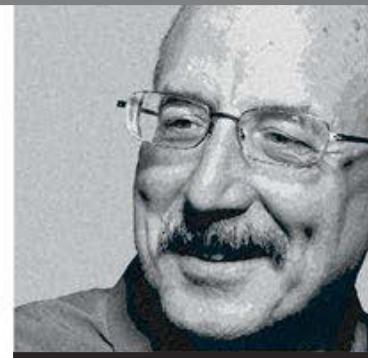
Note: Reticles enlarged for detail. Not all reticle options are available in each model.

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Brilliant Aiming Solutions™

"The recent FBI report and decision that it will be going back to 9mm Parabellum are simply an acceptance of reality."



PATRICK SWEENEY

"HE'S DEAD, JIM."

THE .40 S&W IS AS GOOD AS DEAD. When the FBI weighs in on a firearms subject, the gun industry tends to listen. That it is actually correct in this instance does come as a bit of a surprise to some but not all of us. Before we can accept how we got here, first we have to first consider the path taken.

If you don't know the full historical drama that got us from the .40 G&A in the mid-1970s to the unveiling of the .40 S&W in 1990, then the wholesale adoption by police departments soon after, pull out your back issues of *Guns & Ammo* and read up.

The problem the .40 had that has gotten it to this point is much the same as what happens to many blockbuster movies: It overpromised and underdelivered. The .40 was going to be the Great Compromise. It was not only going to give us most of the performance of the .45 ACP with most of the capacity of the 9mm, it was to do so without beating us up in the process. It was going to be the Goldilocks pistol cartridge. By the late 1980s, many police departments were moving or considering moving to self-loading pistols. They were mostly in 9mm. Suddenly, with the .40, they could have it all, so they shifted wholesale to the .40. As a result, you could buy a police trade-in 9mm during the Assault Weapons Ban and even get it with high-cap magazines.

That was then, and this is now, and some of us even feel a bit cheated. Why? The .40 didn't deliver on its promise. The basic FMJ load is absolutely awful on the street. A copper-clad truncated cone .400 inch in diameter and 180 grains going a nominal 900 feet-per-second penetrates like you can't believe. I've never been able to stop one in two full rifle blocks of ballistic gelatin back-to-back, and that's 36 inches



of gel. If I want to recover the bullet, I have to drape an old panel of body armor over the back. Otherwise, it's gone, and not slowly either.

Not that a 9mm FMJ is much better. But when we go to a JHP in the .40 and subject it to the FBI tests, we find something curious; to get the performance we want, we end up with nearly .45 ACP levels of recoil in order to perform better than a 9mm. Ouch.

That wasn't the end of it. We found that not only didn't we get what we were promised, the costs were much greater. I know what you're thinking: The .40 load costs more

than 9mm? A quick price check shows .40 S&W going for \$2 to \$3 a box more than 9mm. That isn't the cost that departments worry about, however. You see, for a long time, and for many models still, a .40 is just a 9mm with a few small changes. So, you get the full recoil and wear and tear of a 180-grainer at 950 fps on a frame and slide that were designed for a 125-grain bullet at 1,100 fps. This means the .40 is going to have a shorter service life than the same pistol in 9mm. If you are in charge of keeping a fleet of pistols running in a department, the rate of service, overhaul and replacement can become a large part of your costs.

Then there is the occasional busted gun from a blown case. If your municipal accountants insist on the lowest-cost practice and training ammo, that means reloads. Statistically, you are going to bust more guns with .40 reloads than with 9mm. We're back to the ".40 in a 9mm" situation.

Blow a case in a 9mm, and in many guns it means a new pair of grips, maybe a new magazine. If you are running a fleet of polymer-frame pistols, a 9mm might not even mean that. A .40? Oh, that's going to entail a replacement pistol.

COOPER ON HANDGUNS

"All sorts of service nines are being offered, especially in Europe, but they are still nines. Using a 9mm pistol for self-defense is much like using a .375 on buffalo. Most of the time it will do — most of the time."

— Jeff Cooper, December 1998





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Then there are the remedial costs. Not everyone in a department is a SWAT candidate. Don't pretend to be surprised. You've got short officers/deputies, both men and women. You've got sworn personnel who are the functional equivalent of social workers with guns and badges. Some, even if they could police and not have to pack a gun, would prefer to work in 1960s Mayberry with Andy Griffith's character, Sheriff Andy Taylor.

Every time the crew goes to the range for qualifications, a certain percentage of the no-gun, nonstrapping officers will fail the first go-round and maybe even the second. They have to be coached, trained and run through the course as many times as it takes for them to pass. This uses up ammo, takes time and really annoys everyone involved. It is easy for them to get a real attitude about the process. "Oh, (bleep); I have to go shoot the qual course again this year?"

Granted, we get to keep the capacity, as most .40s now have a capacity pretty close to that of the 9mm out there. The exemplar here is the Glock, where a G17 holds 17 rounds of 9mm and a G22 holds 15 rounds of .40. However, since we're putting up with near-.45 recoil, how advantageous is that?

The field of JHP design and performance has changed markedly since the early 1990s. In the early days, just passing the test was a feat in itself. Now we take it for granted that any bullet design in any caliber will ace the tests, and now it is a matter of picking the "best" one.

Yet we still have the problem of the .40 underperforming. It's not that it can't post an FBI score right up there with the best of them. It can, but it's at a cost.

I have an example, but first, let me be clear: I think the engineers at Hornady are brilliant, and I love them like brothers. But the .40 Flex load? The Critical Duty load? It is a 175-grain bullet at a listed 1,010 fps, and it does more than that out of my full-size guns. Personally, if I'm going to put up with that much drama, I'll go with a .45 where I can have a 180 XTP or the Critical Defense with less recoil. If I want more bullet weight, I can have it in .45 but not in .40. As smart as they are at Hornady, they can't negate the laws of physics. At the other end of things, if I want to get something a bit more compact and ease the recoil cost, I can go with Hornady's 9mm Critical Duty, a 135 at the same 1,010 fps, and get full expansion and just as much penetration.

This is where the departmental choice comes in. You see, you or I buy a handgun, and we stick with it through thick and thin. Or, maybe we buy another and put the old one in the back of the safe. A law enforcement agency doesn't

"THAT WAS THEN, AND THIS IS NOW, AND SOME OF US EVEN FEEL A BIT CHEATED. WHY? THE .40 **DIDN'T DELIVER** ON ITS PROMISE."

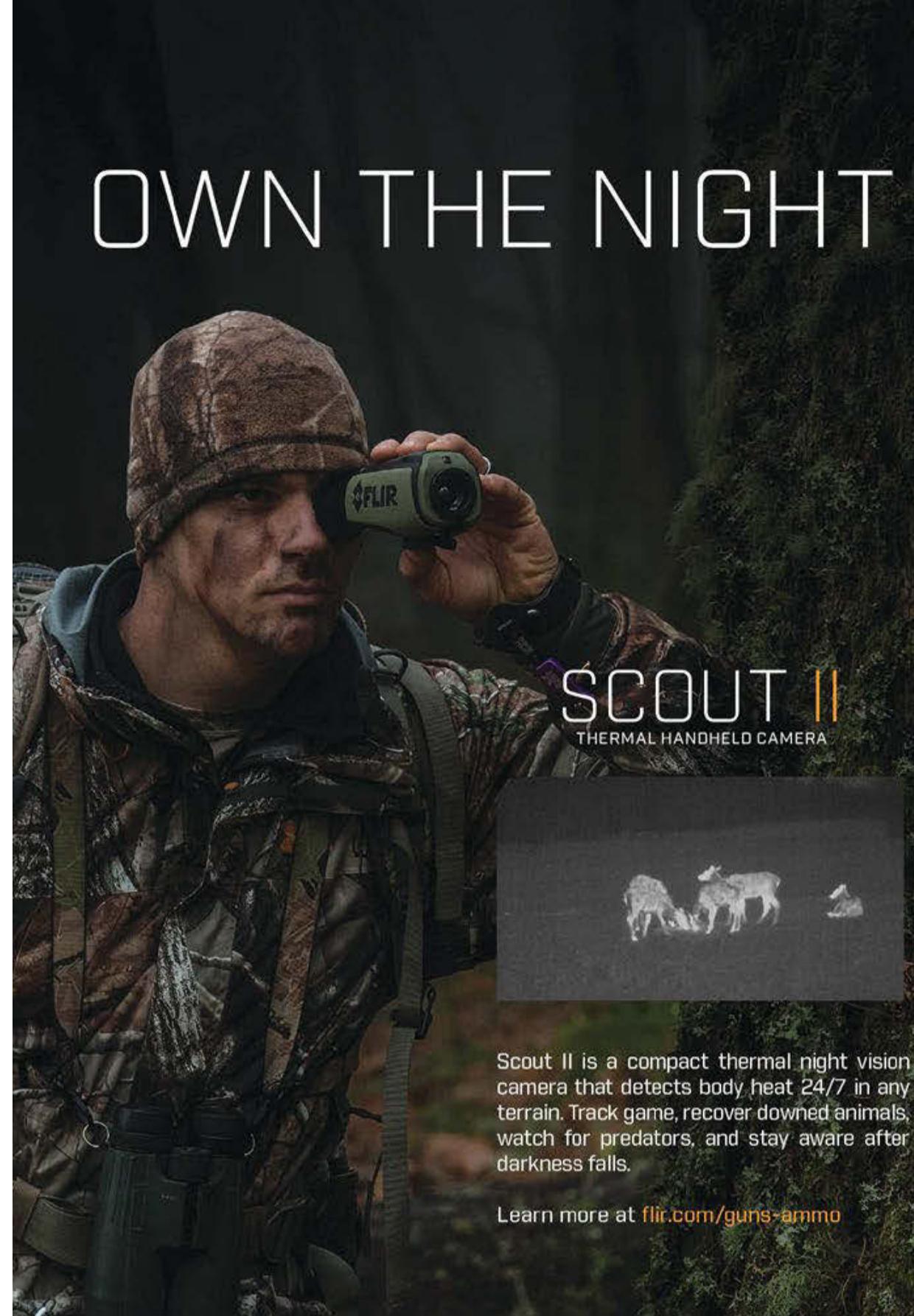
do that. Many departments will do a complete replacement every five or 10 years. Some, if they are happy with what they have, do a simple restocking, sending the worn, busted ones back and buying extras to fill up inventory. Each time, they get to revisit the questions, Are the guns holding up? Are our people passing the qual course? Lest you sneer at the latter question, consider this: If your female officers are failing the course and their careers are suffering, you are cruising for a lawsuit based on "disparate impact." If you switch to 9mm and the women all pass, you have no worries. By passing, it also means they are shooting faster and more accurately, which is better for everyone.

Given the quality of 9mm ammo, it isn't like they are settling for second best. If you have to choose a 9mm load at random, among Speer Gold Dots, Hornady Flex and Winchester Ranger you could not choose badly (apologies to those I've left out). Your officers will get more and better hits, they'll use less time and ammo in practice and qualification, and the guns will last longer.

The recent FBI report and decision that it will be going back to the 9mm Parabellum are simply an acceptance of reality. I've been unbearably snarky in the past about FBI agents' ability to pass any kind of a qual course with "real" ammo, but the reality is just that: For police, the nonsworn and the military who can use it, the modern 9mm JHP is a superbly effective cartridge. (Those stuck with FMJs, I feel your pain.)

Does this mean you should switch? If you want to. However, if you are happy, comfortable and competent with your .40, don't let me change anything. I'm leaving my .40 ammo for competition, where the rules make it the only real choice in a lot of equipment divisions. For my personal use, daily carry and that sort of thing, I'm not going to be stopping in the middle. Make mine 9, or I'm going all the way to the big .45 ACP. No more .40s for me. **G&A**

OWN THE NIGHT

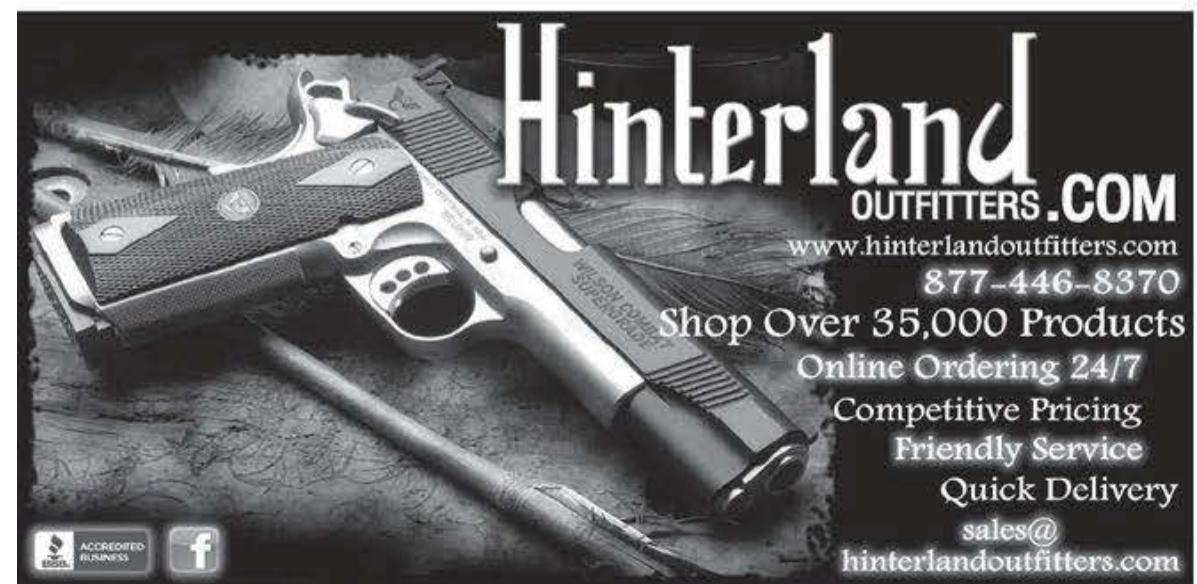


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GALCO GREAT ALASKAN SHOULDER SYSTEM

FOR WHEN BEARS OUTNUMBER two-legged predators, Galco offers its Great Alaskan Shoulder System. The holster-and-strap system is made from full-grain steerhide, and the holster features additional soft leather lining. Designed to be worn over outer layers, the strap system is widely adjustable for up to 54-inch chests to accommodate a large range of body types and clothing layers, and it can accept a spare magazine pouch or shell holder. The holster, as tested, featured a single button retention strap.

30-Day Carry While the Great Alaskan Shoulder System is available for 12 gun makers and numerous models, I tested it using my lightweight Smith & Wesson 329 in .44 Magnum. This 4-inch Scandium-frame revolver has been my preferred backcountry pick for nearly a decade since it only weighs

1.94 pounds with all chambers loaded. This weight still wears on you after miles of steep trails and rough terrain, but this holster comfortably distributed the load during my testing.

The holster was easy to put on. Loop it over the off shoulder like a shoulder rig, but instead of an offside retention belt strap, it has a horizontal strap that goes around the midriff region, orienting the gun in a crossdraw position slightly above belt level.

As an outdoorsman, I found this carry position ideal, as the problem of most shoulder- or belt-carry positions with a wilderness gun is one of access. Backpack shoulder and waist straps make either carry method uncomfortable and impractical — sometimes nearly impossible — to access. Adding or shedding clothing layers also makes most traditional carry options difficult and time-consuming.



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WINNER OF THE NRA 2015 GOLDEN BULLSEYE AWARD FOR AMERICAN RIFLEMAN'S RIFLE OF THE YEAR

RUGER.COM/AMERICANRIMFIRE



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 RUGER®

Galco	Great Alaskan Shoulder System
Materials	Steerhide (leather), plastic (buckles), brass (hardware)
Carry Type	Shoulder
Retention Type	Level 2 (buttoned strap)
Adjustability	Torso length and girth
MSRP	\$170
Handgun Fit	Various, Smith & Wesson Model 329 (tested)
Accessory Rail Accommodations	None
Positions to Carry	Crossdraw over the shoulder or crossdraw across the chest
Average Time to Attach	30 seconds
Comfort Rating	4/5
Concealment Clothing	N/A
Average Draw-to-Fire Time	2.02 seconds
Manufacturer	Galco, 800-874-2526, galcogunleather.com

Draw-to-fire time is the average of five clean draws from under a concealed garment, presented to a stationary target positioned at 21 feet.

The Great Alaskan Shoulder System is comfortable while wearing a backpack as well as for the seated position such as while on a horse or ATV or riding in a bush plane.

Strap the Galco on over waders, and it rides perfectly. If deep-water crossing is expected, the gun may get wet, but for most fording or fishing situations it's held above water.

I like this holster for all things outdoors where concealment is not an issue. The button-activated single retention strap is very secure, but it takes a bit of practice to become efficient with it. While it can be operated with one hand in a

pinch, the hammer of the 329 tends to drag on the strap. I found that the fastest method was to unbutton the strap with the left hand and hold it out of the way while drawing with the right hand. After a fastest draw of 1.86 seconds and an average of just over 2 seconds, this system has surprised me with just how versatile it is. **CM** — Mike Schoby



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CHRIS MUGGETT
GAEDITOR@
OUTDOORSG.COM

Integrating lasers to improve hit probability is just the start.



LaserLyte sights for the SCCY CPX pistols are available in black, tan and pink. Shooters get all three easy-to-install options in one pack. The unit only adds three-quarters of an ounce, and batteries last five hours in Constant On mode. **\$105**

SCCY TRIGGERGUARD LASERS

LASERS USED TO BE the gadgetry of science fiction. They were absolutely huge in size when first saddled over pistols back in the 1980s.

However, the concept makes practical sense. Place a small, yet visible red dot on a target, then pull the trigger. If one has properly sighted-in the laser at a certain distance and the unit has been made well enough to hold zero, the bullet should impact that spot exactly. Even then, these devices should have eliminated the need for irons as a primary sighting tool ... but they were enormous.

Given time, like so many tech devices lasers got smaller. Now we have options such as LaserLyte's Master Module system, which makes the unit part of the pistol's profile. Also, with the prevalence of injection-mold technology, it wasn't difficult for LaserLyte to add color dye to the plastic granules to offer its products in multiple colors, colors that are spec'd to the host firearm's frame. Recently, LaserLyte introduced its newest creation, a triggerguard laser, or TGL, to color coordinate with the optional-colored frames of the

Diamondback .380 and 9mm pistols, and SCCY's CPX-1 and CPX-2. The laser has two modes, Pulse and Constant On. It's not hard to predict that other models will follow.

The benefits are better integrated lasers for improved ease of use and increased hit probability under low light, but be sure to dial it in first. It should be noted that the proper application of marksmanship fundamentals still apply. If you snatch the trigger, you should still expect to miss. Unlike your favorite sci-fi movie, bullets don't follow the path of a laser beam in real life. At one zeroed point, they intercept each other. Lasers are not a hardware solution to a software problem. **G&A**



The LaserLyte UTA-FR turns off automatically after six minutes.

The AB3 offers Browning performance at economy prices. American glass from Trijicon just became more prolific.



TOM BECKSTRAND

A-BOLT, THE THIRD

GROWING UP, one of the two most popular conversation topics between my dad and me was guns. This apple didn't fall very far from the tree, so we spent a lot of time in gun shops, at gun shows and at the range shooting and talking about firearms we both loved. I always valued my dad's insight into firearms and still share a lot of the opinions he passed on to me as a young man.

Whenever anything Browning came up, the old man would pause (sometimes with a hand over his heart) and express a degree of reverence seldom witnessed outside of church. I learned at my father's knee about the quality, craftsmanship and performance that made the Browning name famous. One of the company's more recent creations is the AB3, a bolt-action rifle chambered in many common cartridges.

The AB3 falls into the highly competitive category of economy rifles that try to squeeze as much performance out of every dollar as possible. This category does little to excite passion in a rifle enthusiast, but the rifles are easily the most purchased demographic in the bolt-action family. As Kyle Lamb once jokingly stated about this class, "If you forget where you left it, you can just go buy another one."

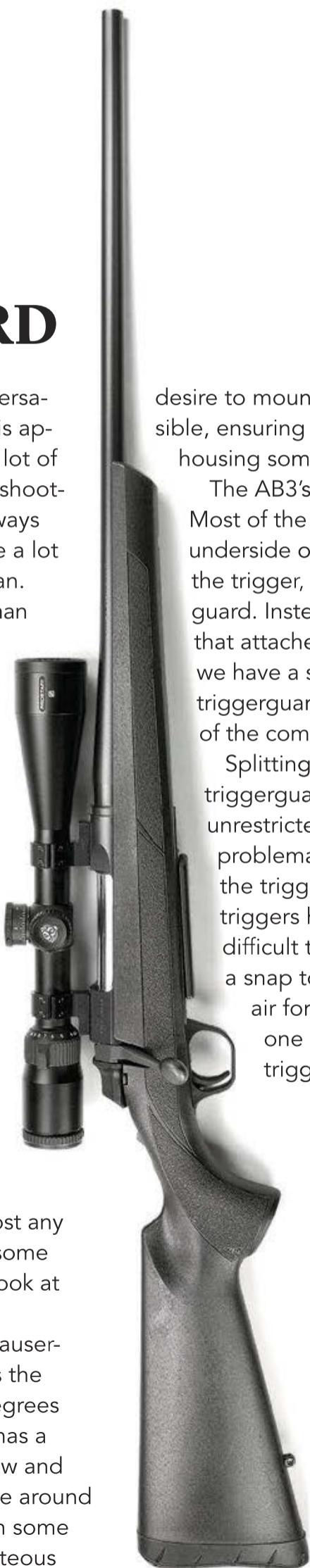
The AB3 has the injection-molded polymer stock that we're used to seeing on this category of rifle and the light-contoured barrel common on most any hunting rifle. Where we see more-modern, and in some cases preferable, features on the AB3 is when we look at the bolt and trigger.

The bolt has three locking lugs instead of the Mauser-inspired two-lug system. The additional lug means the bolt handle only has to travel approximately 60 degrees to unlock the action, whereas the two-lug system has a throw closer to 90 degrees. The AB3's shorter throw and flattened bolt handle give the bolt lots of clearance around the back end of the scope, or ocular housing. With some of the bigger variables on the market and our righteous

desire to mount scopes as close to the barrel as possible, ensuring that the bolt handle clears the ocular housing sometimes requires special consideration.

The AB3's trigger is unlike any other I've seen. Most of the trigger's mechanicals are attached to the underside of the receiver where we expect to find the trigger, with the remainder housed in the trigger-guard. Instead of the common cassette-type trigger that attaches to the receiver with a couple of pins, we have a simple housing that consists of a polymer triggerguard, the trigger and a spring, while the rest of the components bolt directly to the receiver.

Splitting the trigger components between the triggerguard and the receiver gives the shooter unrestricted access to these small and sometimes problematic parts. The more access we have to the trigger, the easier it is to maintain. Cassette triggers have a housing around them and can be difficult to repair in the field. The AB3 trigger is a snap to open up and blast with compressed air for easy operator-level maintenance. Also, one of the best field fixes for a troublesome trigger that's clogged with dirt and debris is



Browning AB3

Type: Bolt action
Caliber: .30-'06 Win.
Capacity: 4 rds.
Barrel: 22 in., 1:10-in. twist
Overall Length: 42.75 in.
Weight: 6 lbs., 13 oz.
Stock: Injection-molded polymer
Length of Pull: 13.5 in.
Finish: Matte blue
Sights: None
Safety: Two position, tang mounted
MSRP: \$599
Manufacturer: Browning Arms Company 800-333-3288 browning.com



The three-lug bolt has a short throw and flat knob, making for a fast-cycling action.



With some of the trigger components encapsulated in the triggerguard, operator maintenance is straightforward.



The AB3 is Browning's least expensive rifle competing in a tightly contested field.



The bulk of the trigger components attach to the bottom of the receiver but are not enclosed.

to wash it with lighter fluid. I prefer Zippo. Once it evaporates, the lighter fluid leaves a dry lubricating film on the trigger's internals.

While the trigger and bolt are the most distinguishing aspects of the AB3, the rifle comes with a couple of popular features that many desire on a contemporary hunting rifle. The safety is mounted on the tang, a convenient

location when we're trying to find it in a hurry, and the detachable box magazine makes loading and unloading a snap.

The AB3 is Browning's newest workhorse designed to be there for us when we need it. It makes a fine all-around hunting rifle that marries Browning's legendary reputation for quality craftsmanship with a value-driven market.



Trijicon HD Spotting Scope

Power: 20-60X

Objective Lens: 82mm

Focus: Dual, coarse and fine knobs

Eye Cup: Yes

Replaceable Eyepiece: Yes

Reticle: No

Sunshade: Collapsible

Length: 15.5 in.

Weight: 4 lbs.

MSRP: \$1,899

Manufacturer: Trijicon
800-338-0563
trijicon.com

TRIJICON'S SPOTTER AND BINOS

GOOD GLASS makes our life outdoors much more pleasant. Hunts become more effective if we can let our eyes do the work while we sit on a hilltop and scan more terrain than we could ever walk in a day. Not only do we cover more ground with good glass, we huff and puff a lot less with optics on our side.

In order to be as efficient and comfortable as possible in the field, we need good, quality equipment that gives us hours of use without the eye fatigue and headaches that can

creep up on us if we use substandard products. I like to stick with manufacturers known for their quality products when I'm spending my money, and I always keep in mind that performance costs money. I prefer to hover around midlevel pricing while making sure that I'm getting the features I like.

Trijicon's new HD spotting scope and binoculars fall into that category of midlevel pricing while offering top-level performance, both optically and with the features it offers. Get ready to see farther, better.

The spotting scope is big enough for range use but small enough for field performance. The 20-60X magnification is usable across a wide range of environmental conditions. Any more than a top end of 60X and we'll be hard-pressed to find a situation where we can use it, thanks to humidity and mirage. However, the eyepiece is interchangeable, so it's only a matter of time before additional magnification ranges are available.

I'm a big fan of angled eyepieces for those who do a lot of solo shooting. The angled eyepiece makes it possible to lie behind our rifle with the spotting scope positioned low over our left shoulder (for a right-handed shooter). This configuration allows us to stay behind our rifle and still use a spotting scope to assess and track wind. An angled eyepiece also requires less vertical adjustment from our tripod, so we can

get away with using smaller, lighter tripods in the field.

Trijicon's spotting scope also has two focus adjustment knobs on top of the scope body, an ideal arrangement. The knob closest to the observer is for coarse adjustments, and the smaller knob handles fine adjustments. A fine adjustment is desirable whether we're spotting game or reading mirage because it lets us get the focus exactly where it needs to be. Mirage can be particularly tricky. I've found that it's best to look for mirage in areas of high contrast (where bright-green grass meets a gray rock pile, for example), then pull the focal plane from the grass/rock pile intersection closer to the observer so that the high-contrast area is blurred slightly. Once we get the hang of it, we can observe mirage and wind quickly and easily, especially with a focus knob setup like the one on this Trijicon scope.



With a removable angled eyepiece and the focus adjustment knobs up top, we can use the Trijicon spotter for a wide number of activities. This spotter will suit everything from mountaintop hunts to solo range sessions well.



The binoculars are light and compact for 10x42s, thanks to a magnesium body surrounded by rubber armor. Measuring a slight 5 1/2 x 4 3/4 inches and weighing 1 pound, 7 ounces, these are prime candidates for any hunt, even if it takes us into steep terrain where weight is our enemy.

The binos are the classic straight roof-prism design, sit comfortably in the hands and are easy to adjust. There is a diopter focus ring for the right eye and a single focus adjustment wheel that rides between the two barrels. The eye cups adjust easily and stay in place, and the lanyard attach-

The 10x42 binos are some of the smallest and lightest we've seen. They have terrific image quality and great features, and they are compact enough to take anywhere.

Trijicon 10x42 HD Binoculars

Power: 10X

Objective: 42mm

Tube Diameter: 30mm

Focus: Single knob

Ocular Focus: Yes

Eye Cups: Yes

Reticule: No

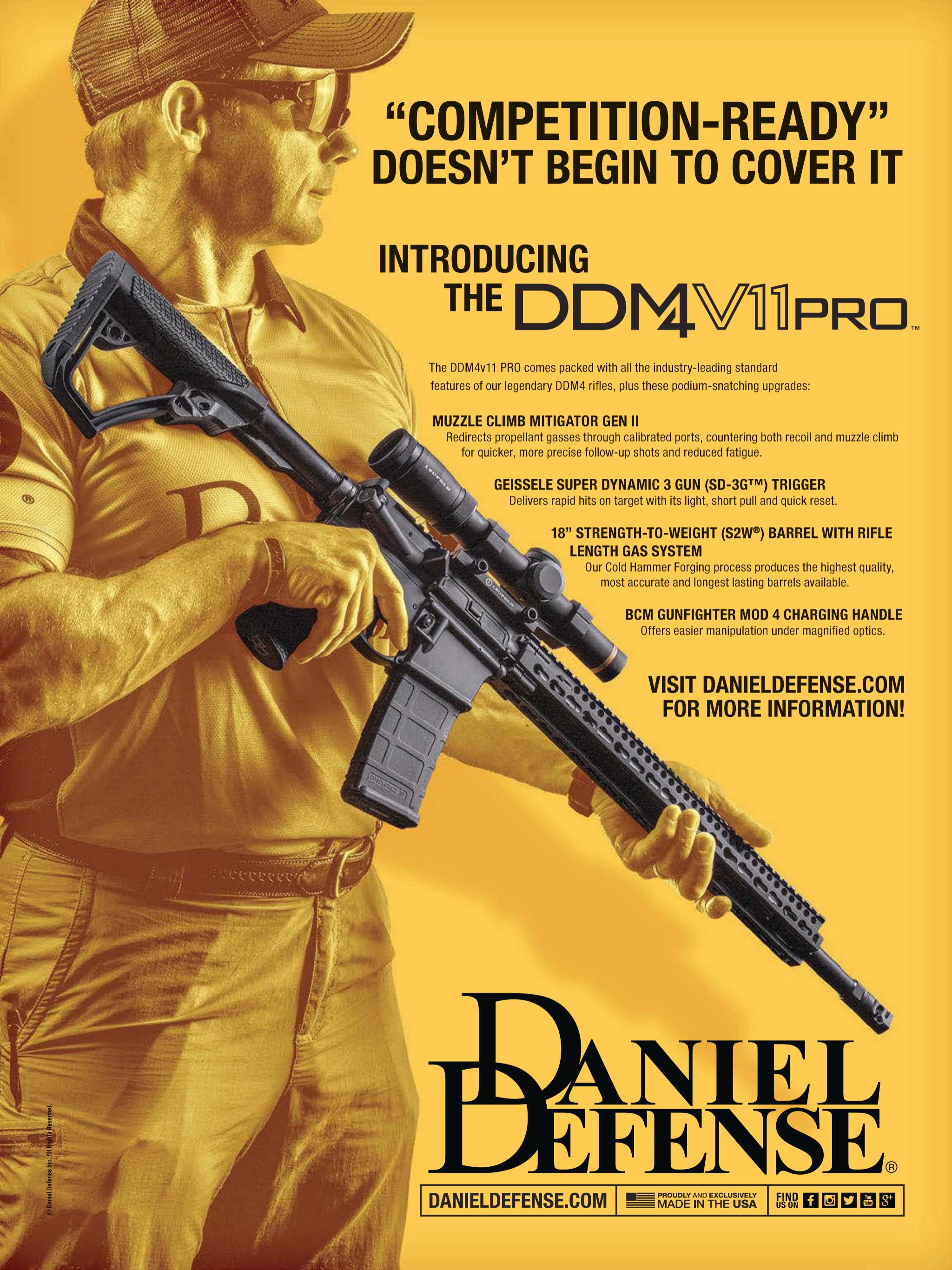
Length: 5.5 in.

Weight: 1 lb., 7 oz.

MSRP: \$849

Manufacturer: Trijicon
800-338-0563
trijicon.com

ment points are two small, rectangular-shaped loops that sit on the outside of each barrel. Everything about these binos indicates quality customer feedback during the design process and a focus on simplicity and performance. **GA**



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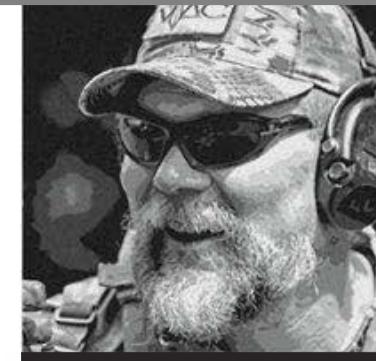
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SGM KYLE LAMB [RET.]

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COMBAT MINDSET: PART I

SO, WHAT IS COMBAT MINDSET? Does this term make you nervous and restless in your seat? Does it make your palms sweaty and your stomach churn? If it does, get over it. Whether you are in the cockroach-infested slums or fighting for your life in the dusty streets of downtown Baghdad, it is all truly combat. A kinder and gentler approach would be to talk about survival mindset, it's true, but I want you not just to survive but to thrive in a life-or-death situation.

If I were tasked with writing the meaning of combat mindset in the next Wikipedia entry, I would write this: "Being prepared for any life-or-death situation that you may or may not become involved in, willingly or unwillingly, from now until your last days."

If you can overlook the semantics of this term, we can get down to business with the need to be prepared at any time of any day in any place. When I present the topic of combat mindset at seminars, I break it down into terms and times that I understand: before the fight, during the fight and after the fight.

For Part I of this series, the focus will be on before the fight. I feel that before the fight is absolutely the most important phase of any situation we may get into. When you think of the time before the fight, it can be from 10 years to one second before things go south. If you think

about being prepared, this is definitely in the "before" phase of the fight.

So, when it comes to that "before" phase, what is the most important preparation you need to make?

For many, the focus is simply on firearms training, knowing how to shoot. Having the know-how is important, but how to do the same tasks while the bullets are flying may require a slightly different mindset than on a basic range day. Let's start with the obvious and work through the

other relevant but often-overlooked preparations we need to make.

Training We all seem to focus on training, but are we emphasizing the right things, and are these training sessions realistic? A good example is the Diamond Formation that many law enforcement organizations use for active-shooter training. I believe this system was developed simply so those who invented it could say it was their idea. Not good. Training and tactics should be relevant and work in most situations.

The Diamond Formation dictates that you will receive fire in the hallway. You will then stand in the middle of the hallway in your Diamond Formation and return fire. If you have



SGM Kyle E. Lamb (Ret.) spent more than 21 years with the U.S. Army, more than 15 years of which were serving in numerous theaters with U.S. Army Special Operations.

"IF YOU ARE ABLE TO PUT YOURSELF INTO A **SITUATION** OR, BETTER YET, A SIMILAR **SCENARIO** SEVERAL TIMES BEFORE THE **REAL-WORLD** SITUATION STRIKES, YOU WILL BE WAY AHEAD OF THE CURVE."



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your wits about you, standing in the middle of a hallway as bullets are flying by is not realistic or safe. Remember, the goal here is not to merely survive but to thrive in a fight. The bottom line is that you must conduct a sniff test; if the training seems unrealistic, find other options. Will this technique help you survive first contact with the enemy?

Firearms Shooting is fun, so most of us have no issue with firearms training. What about the not-so-fun firearms-training evolutions that we run much more infrequently? How about night shooting? You most likely will have your combat mindset tested when it is the worst possible time of day; you need to train for just such a situation. For example, you might need training that helps make you comfortable fighting in the middle of the night. Do you have a weapon-mounted light? If not, you should. Do you know how to use this light? Can you make it work with one hand?

Strong- and Support-Hand Training

When it comes to training tactical shooters, I find that most voids in skill sets involve shooting the primary (carbine) or secondary (pistol) firearm with the strong or support hand only. This training is priceless. By the way, the more you train with the strong or support hand only, the more effective you will be when you grab your firearm with both hands.

Conducting strong- and support-hand training is not always an indicator that you will be shot and leaking fluids when you finally have to transition to one hand or the other. There are also situations that might



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"WALK YOURSELF THROUGH EACH POSSIBLE SCENARIO. THINK HOW THE BAD GUY WILL LOOK. SEE AND FEEL YOURSELF DRAWING THE PISTOL."

just require a switching of hands. Train, train, then train some more.

Medical Training Medical training is invaluable, and you have a better chance of using it than your firearms training. Medical training is not EMT training. EMT training is fine, but for tactical and responsible gun owners, we should know how to stop the bleeding, create an airway and get better medical treatment as soon as we can. This is yet another area of emphasis that I have seen many lacking. Get some tactical medical training; you will not regret it. It may save a loved one's life someday.

Medical Gear Right up there in importance with medical training is medical gear. If you are in the fight, you should

have the right gear to help you out. If you train with any of a number of companies that provide tactical medical training, they should be able to provide you with a basic trauma kit as well. Notice I said "trauma," not first aid. First-aid kits usually involve the equivalent of Little Mermaid Band-Aids. Trauma kits are made to treat severe injuries such as gunshot wounds and deep cuts — the type of injuries sustained in a fight. Always carry a tourniquet with you.

Scenario Training The absolute best way to train is with scenario-based training. If you are able to put yourself into a situation or, better yet, a similar scenario several times before the real-world situation strikes, you will be way ahead of the curve. Shooting drills and training

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"UNDERSTANDING WHAT YOU WILL ENCOUNTER AND HAVING ALREADY **DEALT WITH IT MENTALLY** PRIOR TO BULLETS SLICING THROUGH THE AIR WILL MAKE LIFE A LITTLE EASIER WHEN THE **STINKY KIND OF MUD HITS THE FAN.**"

scenarios are two entirely different things. Shooting drills are designed to build shooting skills that you will later use in a fight. Training scenarios are intended to build on the shooting drills, testing the shooting skills as they are applied to a realistic scenario involving on-the-spot thinking and stress.

Mental Preparation If you ask me, being mentally prepared is the most important preparation you can make. Understanding what you will encounter and having already dealt with it mentally prior to bullets slicing through the air will make life a little easier when the stinky kind of mud hits the fan. At least that is the hope. If you ever have a chance to read or attend a seminar presented by Lt. Col. Dave Grossman (Ret.), I recommend it (grossmanacademy.com).

This may sound crazy, but I disagree with a huge amount of the information that Col. Grossman puts out. However, the most important fact is that he gets me thinking. He is a great presenter and will have you visualizing scenarios you never thought about. I want you to imagine how this or that life-or-death situation will affect you — not me, you. You are the one in the gunfight, dodging bullets. Coming to terms with your feelings before a fight is much better than wondering what is going on when you are in the fight.

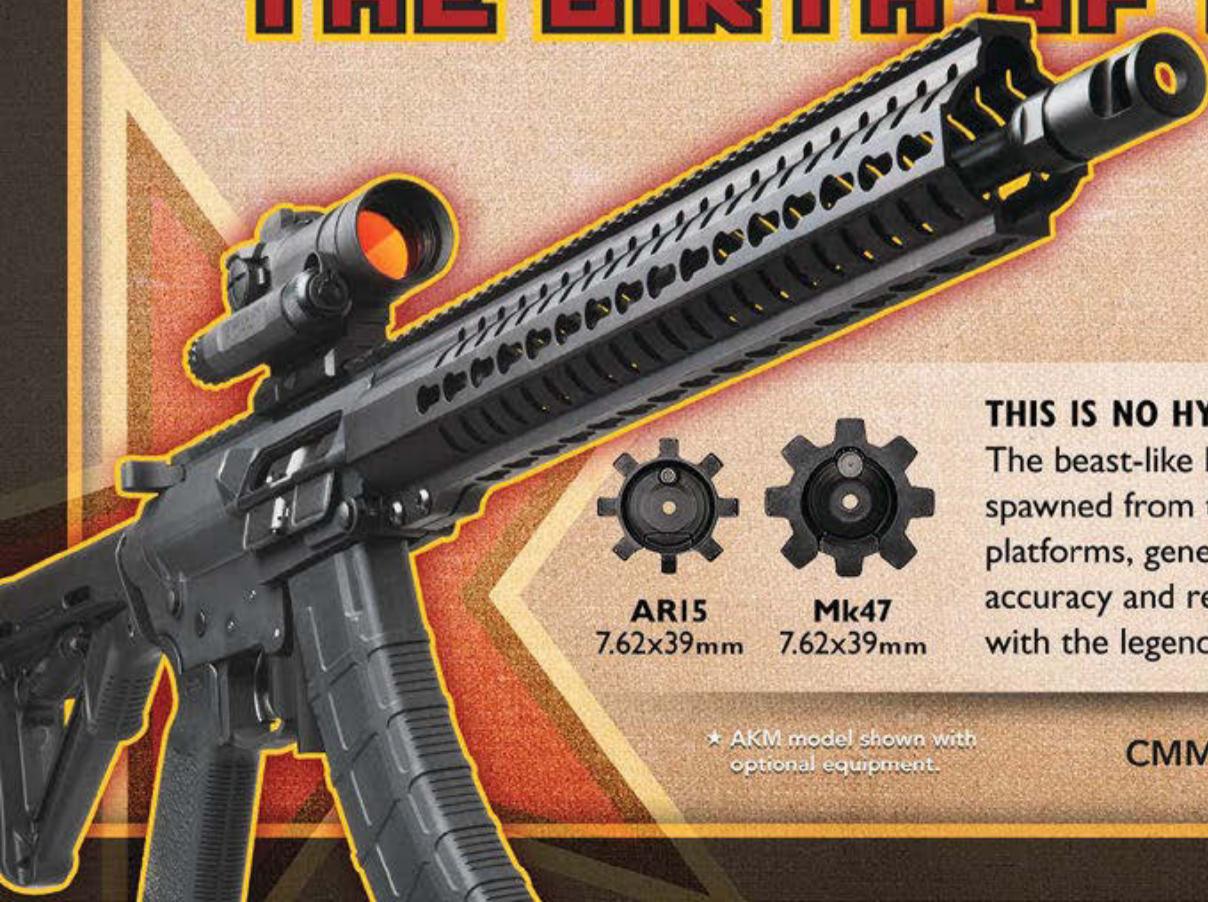
What will a gun sound like when you have auditory exclusion? What will you be able to see during a fight? Will you be able to see your sights?

Walk yourself through each possible scenario. Think how the bad guy will look. See and feel yourself drawing the pistol. I like to visualize the scene as though it were

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"IF YOU HAVE **ANYTHING ON YOUR MIND** OTHER THAN THE TASK AT HAND, YOU DIDN'T GO INTO THE FIGHT WITH THE CORRECT **COMBAT MINDSET**."

happening to me from a first-person perspective, not from a bird's-eye view. Continue with this training until you are completely comfortable with the process and you are coming out on the winning end. This is very important: When you visualize, it should always be positive, not negative.

Your Department's Policies If you are working with a law enforcement department and you are involved in a shooting, what will happen to you? Will you have your pistol or carbine taken away? Yes. Does this mean you are guilty of any wrongdoing? Absolutely not. Understanding the process will give you a chance to just do what needs to be done. Will you be investigated? There is no doubt there will be an investigation to determine whether it was a good shoot. Once again, this does not imply guilt; it's just the process. Be prepared for whatever that procedure may be. Of course, you should quickly be issued another firearm to use while the investigation is ongoing. Get to the range, check your zero, and be prepared for the next fight.

Having a Will You need to have a will drawn up by a lawyer as well as a power of attorney for your loved ones. Sometimes bad things happen to good people. In my experience, it is the families of the ill prepared who end up suffering for months, maybe years, trying to sort out their loved one's affairs. If you have a family, you owe it to them to get a will. This is usually a boilerplate affair, but if there are specifics, ensure that they are noted. Also, specifically inform those around you of what you want. Once you are gone, things may not go exactly like you had hoped, but at least you expressed your feelings before it was too late.

The peace of mind that comes from training with your firearms to a high level of confidence; executing numerous realistic, scenario-based events whenever possible; having the right gear, whether it be shooting or medical; getting your mind right; and having a will can make a difference in your overall confidence and attitude. Being aggressive in a fight is a good thing. If you have anything on your mind other than the task at hand, you didn't go into the fight with the correct combat mindset. The "before" phase is the beginning. Next month, we'll explore what happens during the fight. **G&A**



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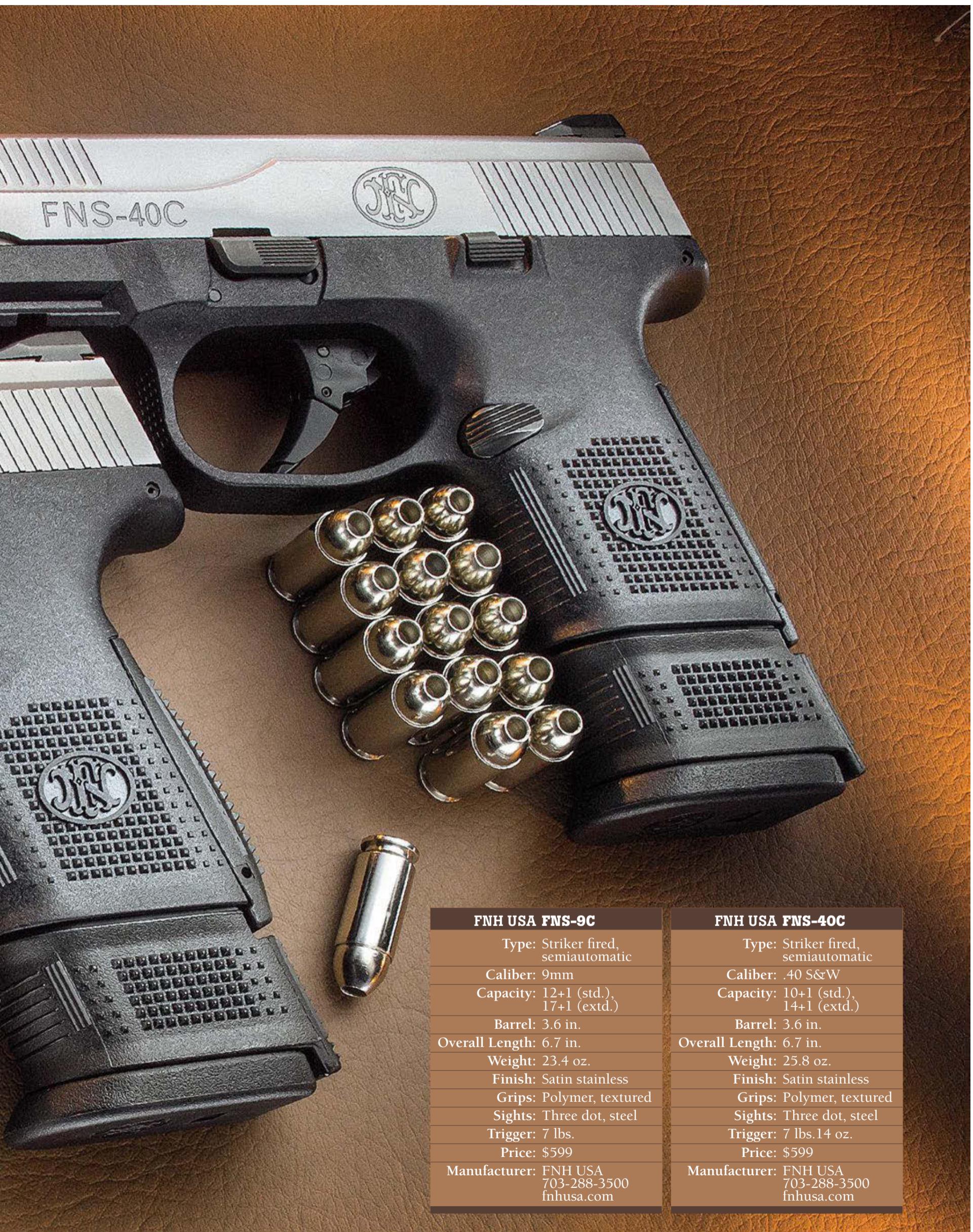


TWO OF A KIND

FNH USA offers its new compact striker-fired FNS pistols in both 9mm and .40 S&W. Do they antiquate hammer guns?

WORDS BY CHRIS MUDGETT | PHOTOS BY SEAN UTLEY



**FNH USA FNS-9C**

Type: Striker fired, semiautomatic
 Caliber: 9mm
 Capacity: 12+1 (std.), 17+1 (extd.)
 Barrel: 3.6 in.
 Overall Length: 6.7 in.
 Weight: 23.4 oz.
 Finish: Satin stainless
 Grips: Polymer, textured
 Sights: Three dot, steel
 Trigger: 7 lbs.
 Price: \$599
 Manufacturer: FNH USA
 703-288-3500
 fnhusa.com

FNH USA FNS-40C

Type: Striker fired, semiautomatic
 Caliber: .40 S&W
 Capacity: 10+1 (std.), 14+1 (extd.)
 Barrel: 3.6 in.
 Overall Length: 6.7 in.
 Weight: 25.8 oz.
 Finish: Satin stainless
 Grips: Polymer, textured
 Sights: Three dot, steel
 Trigger: 7 lbs. 14 oz.
 Price: \$599
 Manufacturer: FNH USA
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Molded Picatinny rails located on the dustcover of each handgun allow us to attach a pistol-mounted light and/or laser.

When utilizing the extended magazine, capacity is increased to 17 rounds for the 9mm and 14 rounds for the .40 S&W.



HAMMER-FIRED, double-action/single-action (DA/SA) defensive pistols have had their day and may be on the road to extinction. This is, perhaps, not a news flash to most of the shooting public, but often police administrators and as many firearm manufacturers are slow to respond in favor of a better mousetrap.

Why has the DA/SA pistol stayed in the holsters of so many in this community for so long? On the law enforcement side, every agency is different, but the most-generalized reasons are that those empowered to make department-wide purchasing decisions don't know any better, are not firearm enthusiasts and/or suffer from years (if not decades) of institutional inbreeding.

First, I'd like to try and convince you that a striker-fired pistol is a better option over a DA/SA handgun given all other things being equal. Consider that a striker-fired pistol provides a more consistent trigger pull for every shot, rather than an 11-pound double-action press followed by a series of 5-pound-pull single-action shots, for example. Additionally, a striker-fired pistol's short trigger pull often feels lighter with a quicker reset. There is less chance that our sights will be disturbed prior to the shot breaking with a striker versus a DA/SA pistol, which may help our shots find more accurate placement. There; now I hope we're in agreement.

Enter FN FNH USA jumped into the striker-fired-pistol business two years ago with its new FNS-series handguns. They remain very similar to the hammer-fired DA/SA FNP and FNX lineup. However, the FNS has proven to be a more popular model than anyone expected. Dave Sevigny of Team FNH USA has even used a stock FNS-9 and an FNS-9 Competition model to win a pair of Steel Challenge championships since adopting the brand in 2013. That guy can shoot.

Building on the success of the FNS series, FNH USA has introduced two new compacts for 2015. They are the FNS-9C and FNS-40C, and these models are geared toward those looking for a more concealable version of their full-size brethren.

A Pair of Aces Both the FNS-9C and FNS-40C are available with a black frame with a matte-silver slide or black frame with a matte-black slide. Each slide is machined from a brick of stainless

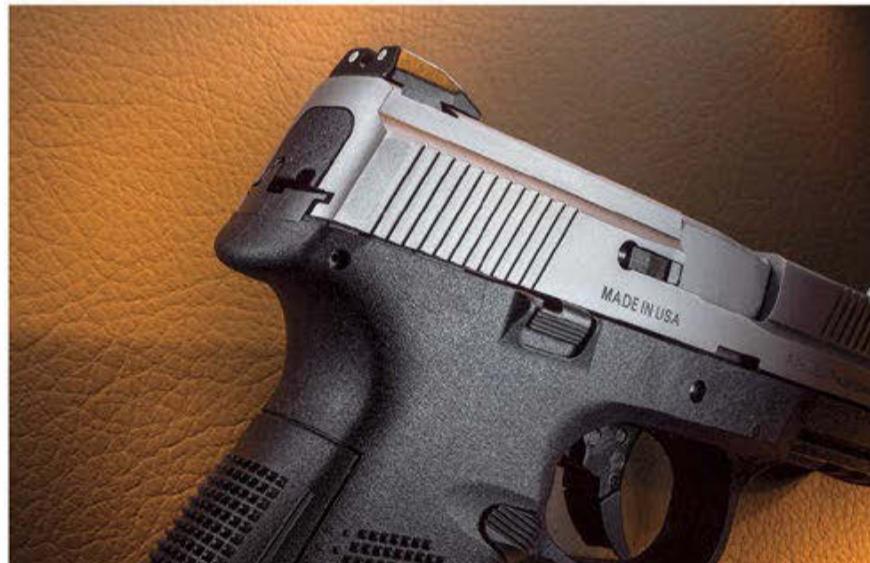


This pistol is completely ambidextrous, and its controls feel like they're extended (even though they are not).

The full-size magazine and grip sleeve make these pistols handle like their full-size counterparts, providing shooters with a larger surface area to grip for more control during rapid-fire strings.



If bi-tone pistols are not your thing, both FNS Compacts are available with a matte-black slide, which complements the frame.



The slide serrations are some of the best in the business. They allow plenty of grip without abrading your fingers.

PHOTO: SEAN UTLEY

steel and is given an external extractor driven by a spring-loaded plunger. When hooked over a cartridge rim, the extractor is pushed out to the side and reveals a red dot to visually indicate that the chamber is loaded. Additionally, the extractor claw is huge (.26 inch by my measurement) and unlikely to ever reach a failure point.

The exterior of the front of the slide, forward of the trigger-guard, is noticeably machined thinner than the rest of the slide,

which makes performing press checks with your support thumb and forefinger easier in an overhand manner. Additionally, both the front and rear cocking serrations provide tremendous grip. Those with reduced grip strength will surely appreciate this feature, as the slide seems to stick to a shooter's fingers without abrading them. (I'm a big fan of these serrations.)

Mounted atop are three-dot steel sights dovetailed into the slide. A simple sight pusher or a light strike with a hammer and punch



The FNS-9C and FNS-40C are easy to fieldstrip. Is an FNS-357 model chambered in .357 SIG in our future? (Note the mag.)

will drift the sights for windage adjustments. The rear sight is serrated to reduce glare, but the front is not. A deeper notch has been cut into the rear sight, which makes the big, white-dot front sight on presentation from a holster or ready position more forgiving to locate and align with the smaller white dots at the back.

Inside the slide, the barrel is of the cold-hammer-forged stainless steel variety for which FNH products are known. The chamber and integrated feed ramp are polished and assist in feeding, even when fouled from several-hundred-round range sessions.

Both 9mm and .40 models utilize dual-recoil-spring assemblies to manage recoil and cycle the pistols, but this setup certainly tames the recoil of the .40 S&W cartridge in this pistol in particular. It was a pleasant surprise. In my experience, compacts chambered in .40 are the most brutal of all service-type pistols to fire. The FNS-40C was very easy on my hands, even when launching high-pressure defensive ammunition through its bore.

The striker-fired operation is what separates the FNS pistols from their predecessors. As mentioned at the outset of this article, the striker design affords us just one trigger pull to learn — not two — unlike traditional DA/SA triggers. G&A's sample FNS-9C



Each FNS Compact pistol ships with two grip panels. One is more arched than the other. Mudgett preferred the flattest one.

measured 5½ pounds, and the FNS-40C averaged 7.7. Not too bad, in our opinion. (I'm confident that these will lighten as they are dry-fired and shot past 1,000 rounds.) The trigger pull itself has a somewhat spongy and stagey takeup on both pistols, yet the trigger manages to break crisply and at a predictable point. Reset comes with an audible and tactile click and slightly nudges the trigger forward. Just like the takeup, reset is a bit slow and spongy.

The trigger shoe is hinged at the middle; its face is smooth, and its placement is smart with a wide face. Even my large hands like it.

The frame is made of polymer. However, its slide rails are made of steel and removable (rather than molded into the frame) for detailed maintenance by someone such as an armorer. At the user level, the backstraps are easily interchangeable. Two alternatives are delivered with these pistols, one that's more arched than the other. (My hand preferred the flatter of the two.)

The grip surfaces of the frame are textured with small pyramid-shaped cubits, which are pretty aggressive. If they are too aggressive for you, a little sandpaper can be used to knock off the edges, but keep in mind that this is a defense-oriented pistol, and grip consistency is key. I'd rather have a pistol stick to my hand

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PERFORMANCE TUNED.

The front of the slide is slightly bull-nosed for easy reholstering.

during a fight for my life than feel like a bar of soap.

One of the features about these FNS Compacts I've come to love since shooting them is that the frames are wider than the slides. This creates a shelf around the takedown-lever area that serves as a great spot to place our support-hand thumb to gain additional leverage and control over the pistol during rapid-fire strings. Up top, the slide rides relatively low on the bore's axis, which reduces felt recoil, allowing us to get back on target faster.

Also fast are reloads. Combined with the glass-smooth magazine body, this compact model's grip features a generously open funnel that helps speed up urgent mag changes.

All controls are placed in appropriate locations with minimal size and completely ambidextrous. The slide release — or "slide

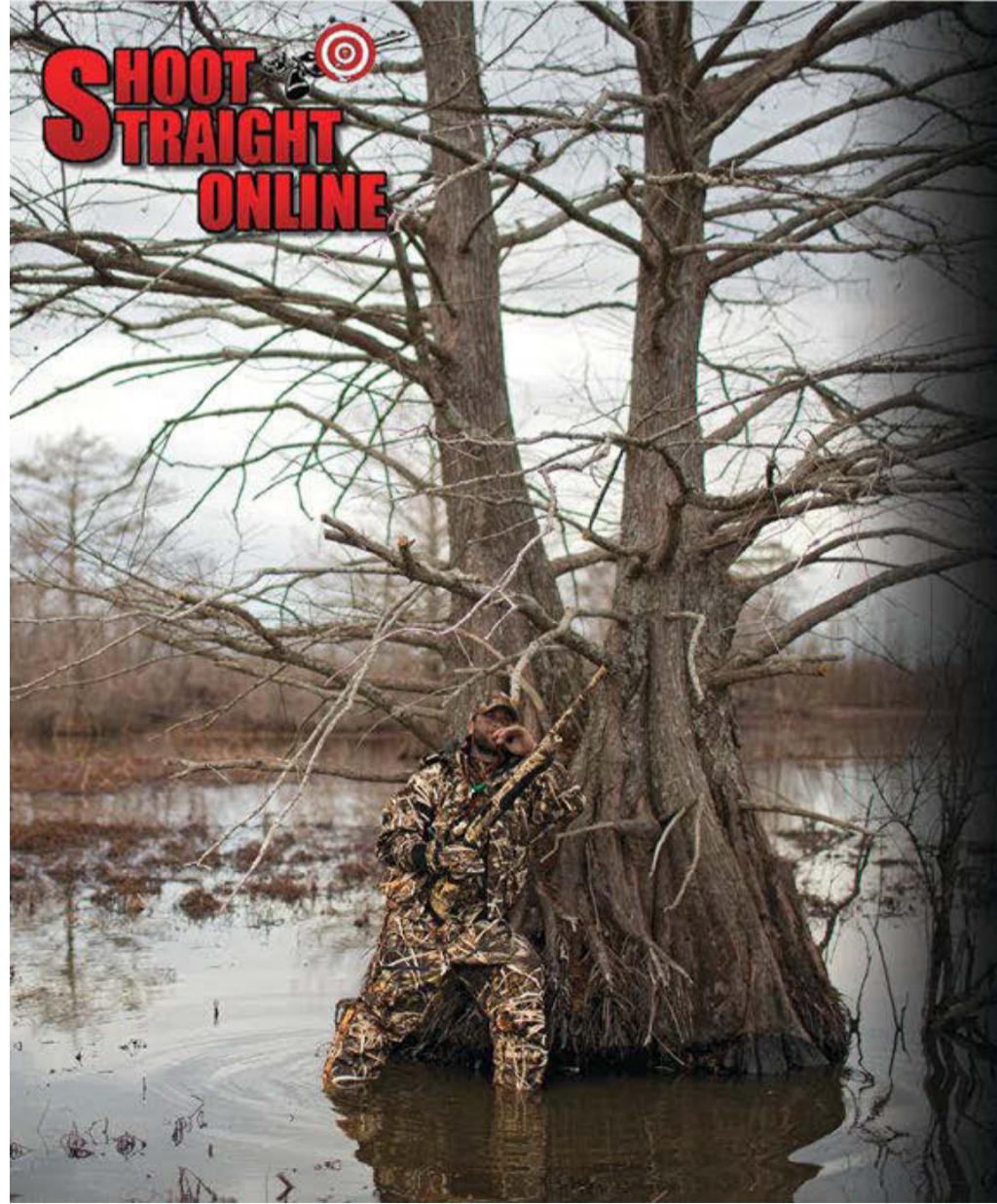


The dual-recoil-spring assembly deserves some credit for dampening the felt recoil of the FNS-40C in particular.

stop," as G&A Editor Eric Poole insists on calling it — is angled inward toward the frame to allow for easy upward activation by your firing-hand thumb to lock the slide to the rear. The top of the lever has a bit of a ledge built in, allowing for a quick sweep of the thumb (aka "slide release") to get us back in action after a slide-lock reload. The magazine button is serrated and pear shaped, plus it has a relief cut into the frame that makes the button feel as if

it were an extended type even though it's not. This is becoming a popular aftermarket modification to many polymer-frame pistols and is a welcome feature on a factory gun.

If you desire an external safety, the FNS pistols are available with or without an ambidextrous manual safety lever. (G&A's test samples arrived without this feature.)



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A 1.6-inch, three-slot accessory rail is available from which to hang myriad lights and lasers from on the frame's dustcover. Imbedded within the polymer rails is a flat, stainless steel insert laser-engraved with the serial number and QR inventory code.

Open the high-quality, molded plastic pistol cases, and you'll find that FNS Compacts are delivered with three slick, nickel-coated steel magazines, which is somewhat of a rarity these days. Each magazine body is grooved, tumble-polished and has a rather reflective, bronze-colored appearance. They are not only smooth to insert, they are certainly drop free. Furthermore, the feed lips lack sharp edges, making them friendly to load to capacity. The 9mm's low-profile magazine with angled basepad holds 12 rounds, and the .40-caliber model holds 10. A third magazine is also provided, which comes from the full-size FNS model. It features a sleeve that slides down the magazine body to blend the textured grip frame with the longer mag. The same texturing is given to this sleeve as is found on the pistol's frame. This means we have the option to carry 17 rounds in the 9mm and 14 rounds of .40. I found that the additional surface



The FNS Compacts sport industry-standard three-dot notch and post sights. The white dot found on the front sight is larger and bolder than those on the rear.

area of the extended magazines further assisted with recoil management at the range. It felt like this was a full-size FNS as opposed to these pistol's Compact markings.

Trigger Time Both pistols ran reliably with every load we fired through them. With that said, those here at Guns & Ammo who participated in shooting them were dis-

pointed in the level of accuracy experienced from both samples. In fairness, it must be noted that G&A received perhaps the very first FNS-9C and FNS-40C samples available from FNH USA late last year. That said, the best five-shot cluster we observed fired from our FNS-9C at the bench positioned at 25 yards measured 3.45 inches. This group came from Federal's 147-grain HST load.

The FNS-40C produced slightly better results with 180-grain Winchester PDX1. This load printed a five-shot group at the same 25-yard distance measuring 2 3/4 inches. Unfortunately, the remaining five-shot groups fired by two different shooters averaged between 4 and 7 inches at 25 yards. We have seen a contrast of mixed reports from other gunwriters surrounding accuracy with FNS Compacts, and we can't rule out that our

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G&A stands behind these results produced at the bench, but in fairness to current FN production, it is important to recognize that both Jim Tarr of Hand-guns magazine and Joel Hutchcroft of Shooting Times reported test averages of the FNS Compacts between 2 and 3 inches at 25 yards. This leads G&A to wonder if our samples may have been pre-production prototypes designated only for photography.

PERFORMANCE (9mm)

LOAD/GR.	VELOCITY (FPS)	ES	SD	BEST GROUP (IN.)	AVERAGE GROUP (IN.)
Remington GS/124	1,010	50	21	5.97	6.69
Win. Defend/147	865	17	6	4.05	6.19
HPR JHP/124	940	19	7	3.82	6.67
Fed. HST/147	960	43	16	3.45	4.53
PolyCase RNP/84	1,273	16	7	4.70	5.48

PERFORMANCE (.40 S&W)

LOAD/GR.	VELOCITY (FPS)	ES	SD	BEST GROUP (IN.)	AVERAGE GROUP (IN.)
Remington GS/180	873	33	13	3.58	7.08
Win. Defend/180	983	39	13	2.75	4.17
HPR JHP/180	900	17	8	4.93	5.78
Fed. HST/155	1,091	34	14	4.75	7.16
PolyCase RNP/114	1,187	27	10	2.88	4.58

Notes: Velocity is the average in feet-per-second (FPS) of five shots fired across a ProChrono chronograph at a distance of approximately 6 feet from the muzzle. Average group size measured in inches (IN.) is the average of five five-shot groups fired at 25 yards from a benchrest. Grains (GR.); Extreme Spread (ES); Standard Deviation (SD)

early samples' production may have factored into these pistols' below-average precision.

A Full House Assuming that the performance of your FNS pistol meets your demands, these compact variants have a lot going for them. FNs are super reliable, carry plenty of ammo onboard and seem to champion the best aspects found on their competitors. For example, the slide cuts machined at the front and the extended magazine sleeve are reminiscent of the Springfield XD; the shape of the protected slide release, the hinged two-piece trigger shoe, the rear of the slide and the striker cover's contour with the frame's beavertail conjure thoughts of a Smith & Wesson M&P; and the stepped triggerguard checkering and pyramid-shaped cubit texturing of the FNS Compact grip are much like the type found on a Glock Gen4 model. The FNS line certainly stands apart from this crowded segment of the market, but I hope you end up with one of Dave Sevigny's tackdrivers. **GA**



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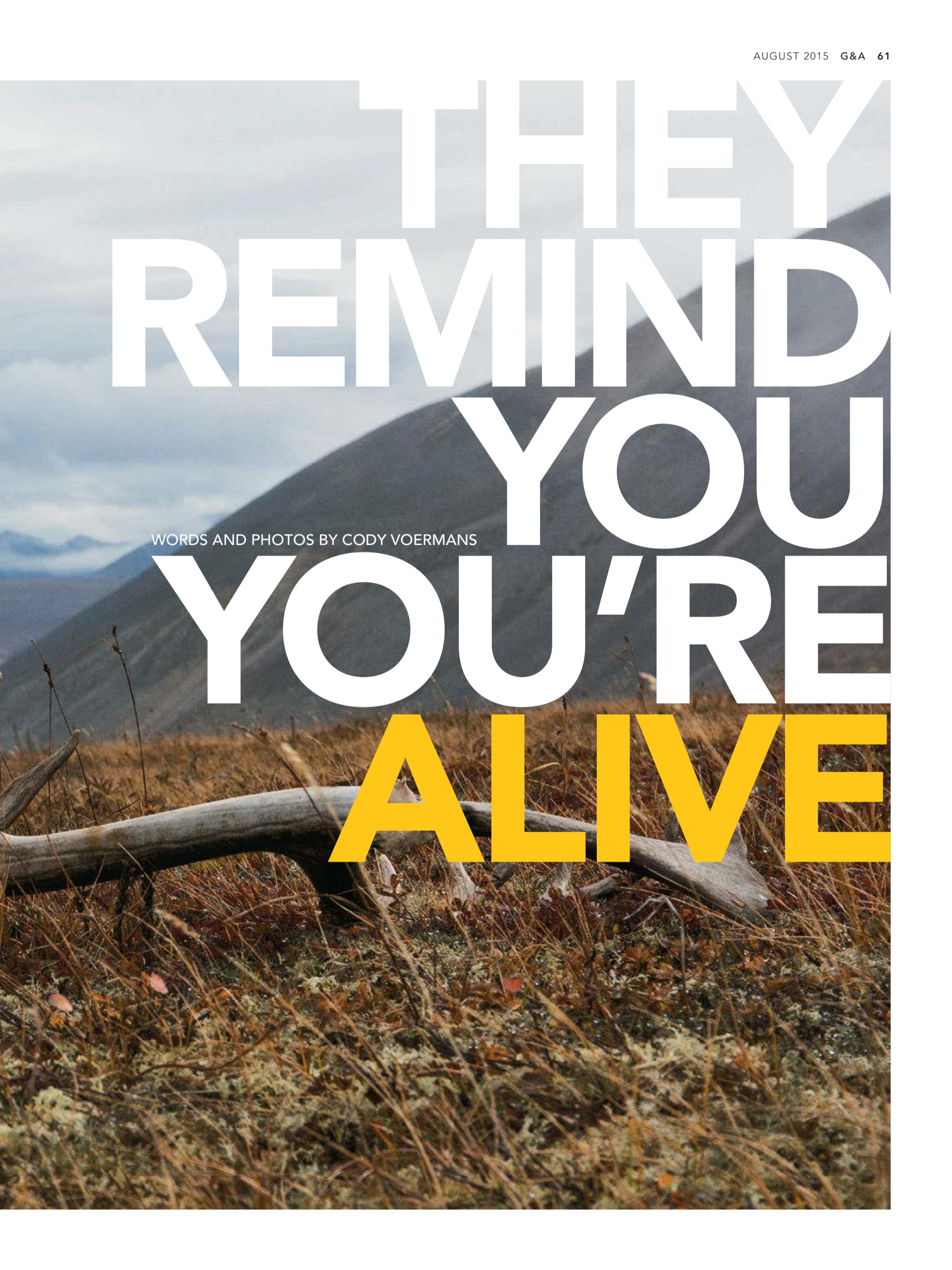
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WORDS AND PHOTOS BY CODY VOERMANS

SO OFTEN IN MY LIFE, the adventures I've been fortunate to experience have started with questions. For example, "What's over that ridge?" or "Can I climb that mountain?" The beginning of my adventure for Alaska-Yukon moose was no different.

It began more than 20 years ago with the first time I inquired about an old photograph resting on a bookshelf in the basement of my grandfather's house. The photo showed my grandfather as a young man, much younger than I had ever known him. He was standing with his hands on his hips, proudly supporting a large set of moose antlers strapped to his vintage pack frame. All 6 feet, 2 inches of his lean profile was dwarfed by the antlers, and I was captivated by his fiercely proud smile. It seemed odd that he could smile so confidently while straining every muscle under a heavy load, lost in a nasty tangle of 12-foot alder brush 200 miles from civilization on the Alaska Peninsula. Looking at that photo, I couldn't help but ask my grandfather what it was about a moose that made him so happy. His response was short and deliberate, and it left me with more questions than answers. He said, "Son, there's no better feeling than the strain on your back a great set of antlers puts there, but moose antlers do a little more. They remind you you're alive."

To this day, I'm not certain whether my grandfather meant that as a challenge or a warning. What I am sure about is that he had a solid understanding of how to motivate a 17-year-old boy. His words poured fuel on my growing passion for arctic hunting, and from that day on, I did more than dream of a northern moose hunt. I researched hunting areas and outfitters, read every available text on moose and moose hunting, and saved every extra dollar.

Choosing an outfitter was the easy part. At the time, my good friend Tavis (Tav) Molnar was a guide for Arctic Red River Outfitters in the Northwest Territories of Canada. Each winter after the hunting season, he would recount wild stories of trophy moose living too deep in the Mackenzie Mountains for even the most intrepid hunters to reasonably pursue. He joked of remote



Voermans' grandfather Pat McVay packing out his trophy near Yantarni Bay on the Alaska Peninsula, 1976.

giant bulls sporting huge antlers that defied the laws of gravity and forced them to walk backward, dragging their heads under the weight. Tav was and is an expert storyteller, and he constantly fanned this fire by describing the giant bulls of the Arctic Red River and assuring me that I could be the first hunter crazy enough to pursue them on foot deep in the mountains. It didn't take many stories for Arctic Red River Outfitters (arcticred-nwt.com) to become the only choice for my future moose hunt.

The hard part was saving enough money. Through my college years and for many years after, the cost of a moose hunt grew faster than my bank account, and my goal seemed hopelessly out of reach. Fortunately, my college degree led to a good career, and my savings caught up to the cost of a moose hunt 20 years after I first set my mind to the goal. Coincidentally, it was about that same time when Tav purchased Arctic Red River Outfitters and began running the business with his wife and two young sons. Finally, the stage in life was set for

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Frustration in the form of dense fog and low visibility. Voermans' 20-year wait continued for at least one more day.

my own wilderness moose hunt.

My trip was planned for the middle of September, and Tav allotted 10 days for the backcountry hunt. Unfortunately, the responsibilities of outfitting wouldn't allow him to accompany me, so he assigned Kevin Wheale, one of his best and most ambitious moose guides, to lead the adventure. On a windy September evening, Tav landed Kevin and me by way of Super Cub airplane in an area east of the Arctic Red River. Our plan was to hunt along the front range of the Mackenzies and move our camp as we traveled. If and when I took a moose, we would then spend the remainder of the 10 days searching for an acceptable airstrip, or even building one, large enough for the Super Cub to land and then move us back to base camp.

Heavy fog and steady rain delayed that plan for the entire first day of the hunt. The rain was of little matter, but the thick fog that came with it reduced visibility to less than 50 yards and stole any hope we had for moose hunting. On the second morning, the fog was still hanging low but periodically lifted enough that we could see the lower slope of the mountains. Both Kevin and I figured that was enough visibility for us to hold a general direction, and shortly after breakfast we began hiking east along a creek bottom with our 50-pound packs. There was no hope of spotting a moose at any distance beyond 100 yards in the dense



Anticipation. Finally, the fog lifted over Kaleb Creek.

haze, but at least we were moving and it felt like we were hunting.

All day, Kevin and I slogged through tundra marshes and across the boulder fields of washed-out creek bottoms without ever seeing past a couple of hundred yards. Throughout the hike, the only time the view changed was when we switched who was hiking in the lead. For seven hours, we hiked through the fog along the base of the mountains and finally reached the crest of a flat-topped ridge that provided a level campsite.

Both of us were tired and intensely frustrated that two full days of moose hunting had passed with no hope of spotting a bull. That frustration was short-lived. As Kevin and I set up our camp, the fog began to lift and slowly exposed a large open valley below and the towering peaks of the Mackenzies beyond. In the haze, Kevin and I had unknowingly placed our camp in the front row of a wilderness theater with a spectacular view. On one side of our camp, the jagged crags of the Mackenzies rose up to spectacular heights. Their treeless peaks stabbed at the rising clouds with serrated edges of ancient granite. On the other side, gentle rolling hills covered with dense spruce stretched out peacefully as far as the eye could see. In between, as if Mother Nature herself struggled with indecision, Kaleb Creek rumbled through a sharp cut on the near side of the valley, and beyond that the valley flattened out



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The northern lights was an unexpected gift. Below, from left: Moose camp with a view, a clear morning at Kaleb Creek and, finally, the narrow cut.



to a 2-mile-wide rolling oasis dotted with spruce groves, shallow lakes and willow thickets. The view was enough to make the adventurer in me stop in awe and the hunter in me smile with anticipation. Our camp overlooked an expanse of prime moose habitat that held enough promise to quell all frustration from the first two days of the hunt.

In the evening, the weather continued to change for the better. The fog dissipated, the wind died off to nothing, and the temperature began to fall. A large bull caribou fed across the ridge within 100 yards of our camp. His appearance indicated that animals were on the move after the last two days of rain, and Kevin and I knew the next day would finally provide perfect conditions for moose hunting.

Regrettably, my anxious anticipation made sleep impossible that night. Now that the fog had lifted, the first real day of moose hunting was approaching, and I lay in my tent imagining giant bulls scattered across the valley below camp. It didn't take long

for me to become frustrated with the long night, even angry at how slowly the quiet minutes passed by. My only company was the distant hiss of Kaleb Creek rumbling through steep canyons and the occasional sounds of a rock falling in the far reaches of the mountains. Luckily, my impatient vigil found a reprieve with a gentle glow that slowly illuminated my tent. Too early for sunrise, the aurora borealis was the only explanation, and I quickly dressed for a rare chance to witness the northern lights.

Crawling out of my tent, the vision that greeted me was an unexpected gift. In my 20 years of planning for a moose hunt, I thought I had prepared for every scenario, but never had I imagined a light show on this scale. Directly above my tent and then on all sides, emerald-green streaks twisted across the sky and touched each horizon. Fluid formations of pale green with orange fringe hung over the Mackenzies like glowing curtains. They fell over the peaks engulfing our high camp from all sides and moved in churning waves as if fighting their own tide. By nearly impossible

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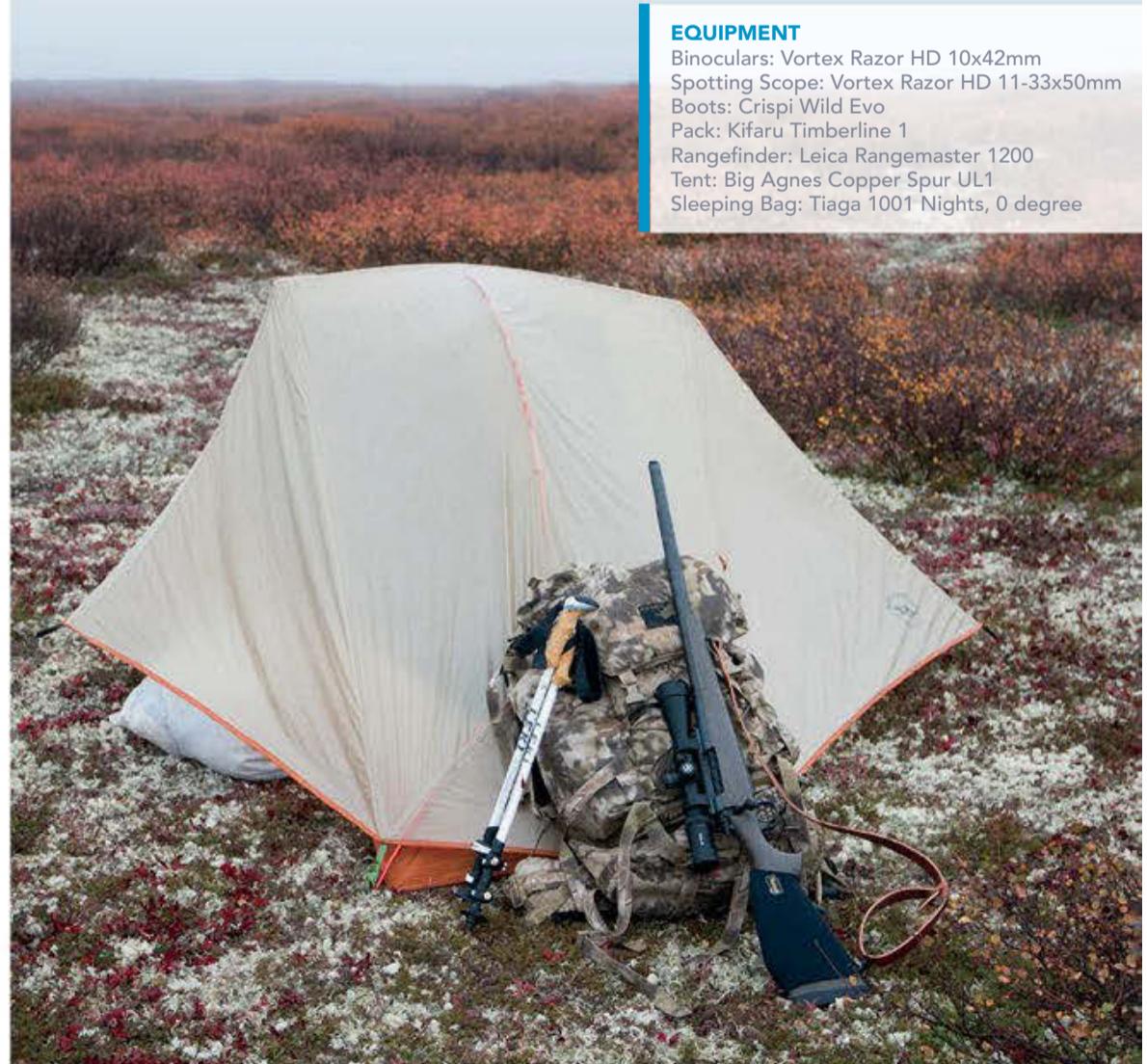
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chance, a meteor shower started at the same time, and the flashing tails of countless falling stars shot through the faded radiance, adding even more wonder to the experience. I watched the lights for more than an hour, and the gently twisting glow took my mind off moose hunting just enough to allow short but restful sleep.

The next morning, the air was clear and cold. A light dusting of frost lay on every surface, including the inside of my tent, and the temperature quickened my pace in getting dressed. While Kevin prepared breakfast, I hiked to a vantage point near camp with my binoculars, and within minutes I had spotted 10 moose, including three young bulls, across the Kaleb Creek valley. None of the bulls were mature, but they were the first spotted on the hunt, and it was a good start to the day.

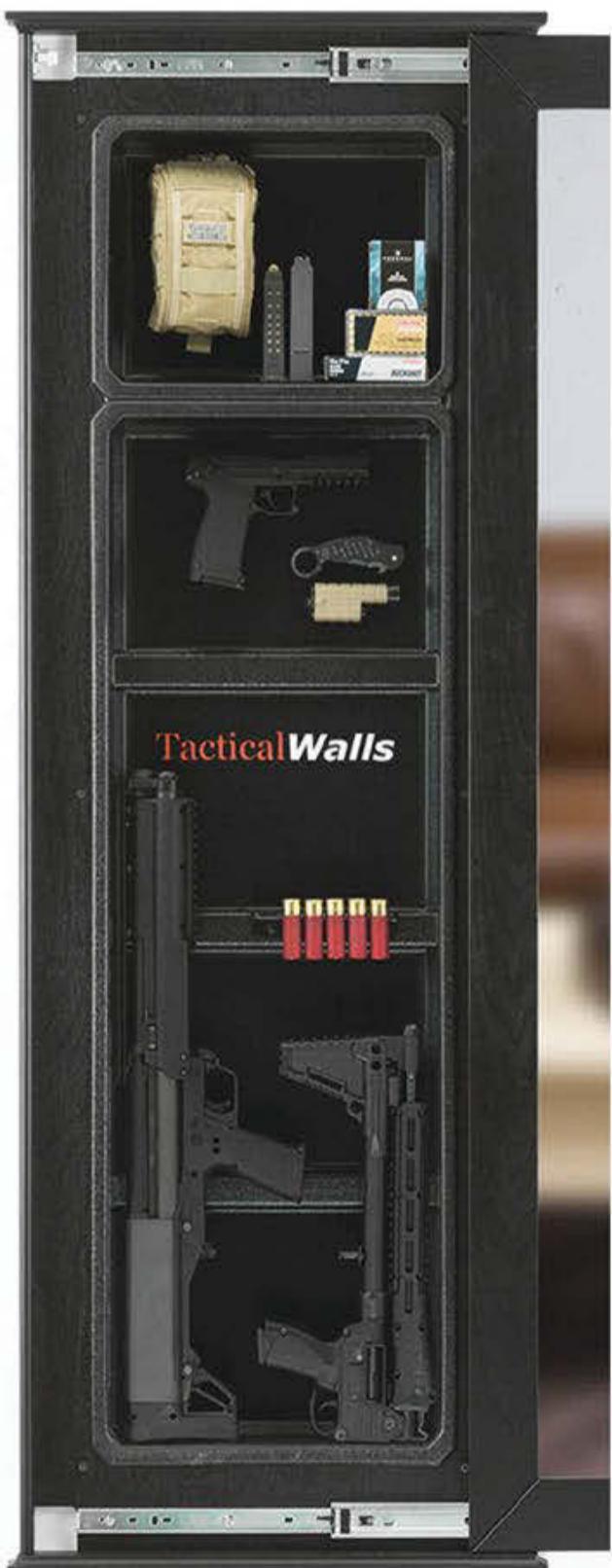
The majority of the moose were feeding about 3 miles east of our camp and concentrated around a large willow flat near the entrance of a small canyon. This canyon in particular was a long, narrow cut about 400 yards wide that was choked with willows at the bottom. It extended about a mile to the east and connected our valley with a small basin honeycombed by shallow lakes. The narrow canyon had steep sides and was a naturally protected corridor for moose traveling between our valley and the far basin.

When I returned to camp, Kevin had prepared a breakfast of freeze-dried scrambled eggs and hot coffee. Sitting down to eat gave us a chance to discuss our plan for the day. With the moose activity generally focused in one area, we both thought that hunting in the direction of the narrow canyon was our best option. The only problem was getting there. We would have to break camp and descend from our high ridge toward the far side of Kaleb Creek. From there, we could find a new place to camp



EQUIPMENT

Binoculars: Vortex Razor HD 10x42mm
Spotting Scope: Vortex Razor HD 11-33x50mm
Boots: Crispi Wild Evo
Pack: Kifaru Timberline 1
Rangefinder: Leica Rangemaster 1200
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and continue the hunt with lighter packs across the valley.

"Well," said Kevin, "we won't get a bull from this ridge. Let's hit it." Within the hour, we were loaded and headed down a steep ridge toward Kaleb Creek.

At the creek crossing, we cinched our rain gear over our boots with short tie straps and charged across 20 yards of fast water. The slick rocks and rushing water up to my knees were welcome hazards compared with the certainty of wet boots if I stopped moving. Kevin crossed first, and by the time I arrived on the other side, he was waiting for me with a serious look on his face. Quietly, he whispered, "Cody, we're putting our camp in moose country today. We have to keep our profile and voices as low as possible."

I nodded and quietly responded, "OK, Kev. Are you telling me that when a grizzly is chewing on your foot, you're going to whisper at me to shoot it?"

"Well," he said, "there's always an exception."

It took us half the day to move our camp to a low ridge on the far side of Kaleb Creek. Even though we had hiked under the load of our camp gear for four hours, we wasted little time grabbing light gear and a few candy bars before heading off

across the remaining 2 miles between us and the narrow valley we had seen that morning.

Within a few hundred yards of the new camp, our ridge melt-

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ed to a long tundra flat, and I realized that the Mackenzie Mountains had played a cruel trick on us. The inviting valley floor we had looked over that morning turned out to be a maze of tussock grass. Knee-high grass clumps, randomly spaced over soft muskeg, extended in all directions. Similar to walking on a giant sponge covered with bowling balls, a few steps were solid, but the rest sank us in to the knee and burned our hip muscles with each pull. Add dense willow patches with flowing water in between, and the hike became more of an obstacle course than a hunt.

Luckily, we found solid footing on rocks and short caribou moss as we finally climbed the west rim of the narrow canyon. Now 3 miles from the tents and with a commanding view, Kevin stopped to scan the willow bottom to the north, and I eased past him for the first look into the canyon ahead. Immediately, my eyes caught the white glint of moose antlers more than a mile up the canyon, and I excitedly whispered, "Kev, there's a bull."



At first glance, we could see that this bull wasn't like the others I had spotted that morning. His massive body towered over willows that could swallow my 6-foot frame. Above his head, huge white antlers, freshly stripped of their velvet, reflected the afternoon sun and grabbed our attention. Without hesitation, Kevin whispered, "Yep, that's a big one!"

Seeing a big bull changed our demeanor from frustrated hikers to focused hunters, and we immediately started searching for stalking routes. The

bull was feeding in the bottom of the narrow valley, and the wind was cutting a sharp angle across the top. After a short discussion, we decided our best option was to wade through the swamp at the lower end of the cut and traverse the steep canyon wall on the far side. From there, we could use the rim of the canyon as cover to close the distance from the downwind side. "Time to go," said Kevin, and he quickly led the way off the west rim.

Our plan seemed simple, but the Mackenzie Mountains are much like an attractive woman. They're never as approachable

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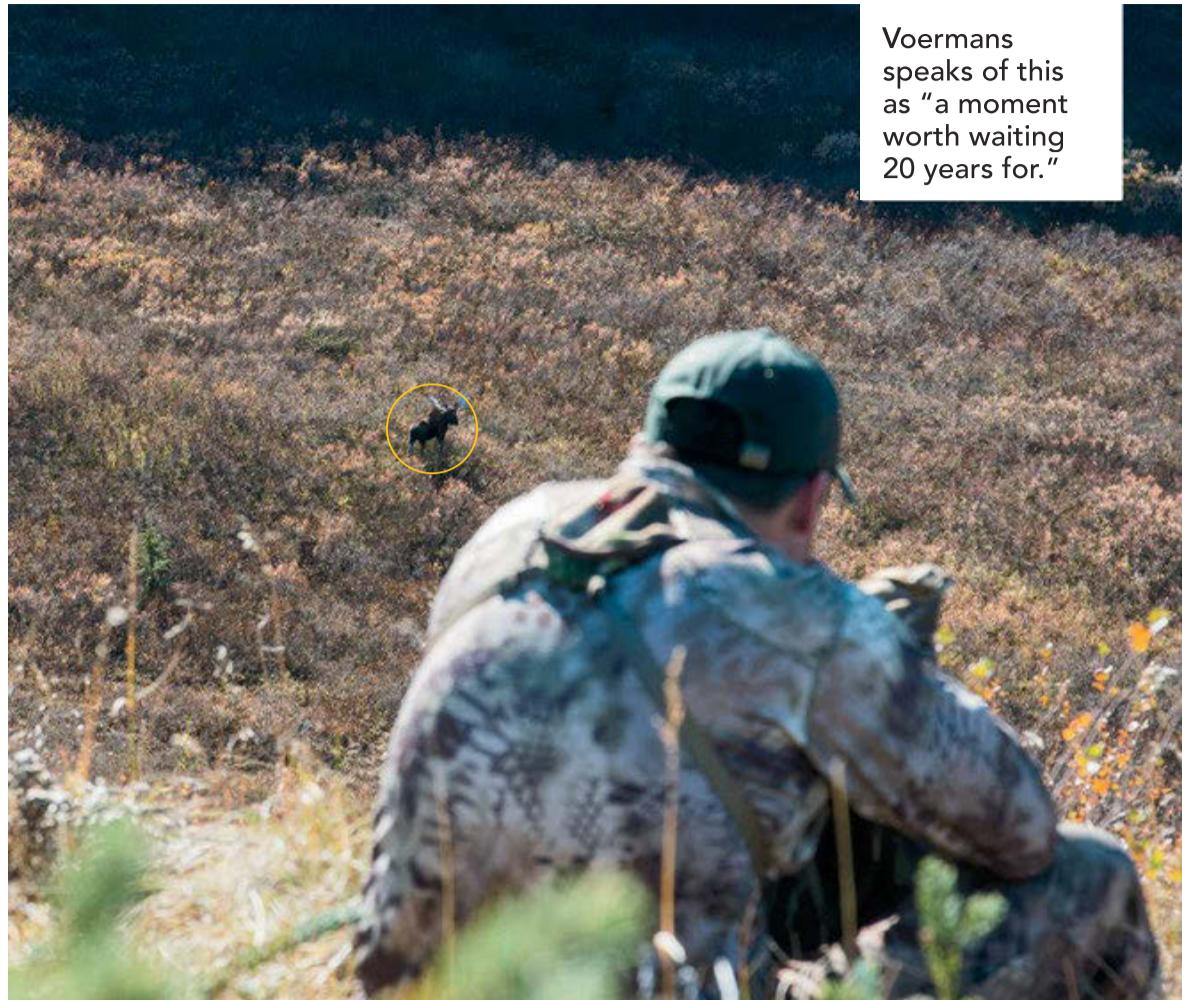
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Voermans
speaks of this
as "a moment
worth waiting
20 years for."

as they seem from a distance. When I reached the swamp at the bottom of the canyon, Kevin was already halfway across and struggling to get over a beaver dam. I saw him sink to his hip in a mud hole and thought to myself, *The best laid schemes o' Moose an' Men*

Fortunately for me, Kevin did a test run on every hazard in that swamp, which enabled me to avoid them when I crossed. I wasn't so lucky on the far side, however. The steep face of the opposite canyon wall was challenging for both of us. The soft, wet moss on the grade was poor footing, and each step slid us back more than half the distance it was intended to gain. Short willows provided some traction, but they were sparse over the slope.

Climbing up through the areas with few willows, I lost count of how many times my feet slipped and I fell against the hillside. Poor footing made our climb twice as difficult as I expected it to be, and halfway up, my quadriceps were shaking from the extra strain.

Reaching the top of the ridge, we eased through scattered spruce and more tussock grass, constantly checking the wind as we went. Two hours of careful progress along the rim passed before we slipped over the lip of the canyon and spotted the bull below. Our stalk had been perfect, and we found ourselves 200 yards above and downwind of the moose. During our approach, the bull had bedded down, and at that moment he was sound asleep at the bottom of the canyon.

"Lucky" is a good way to describe the bull's position when we

found him — lucky for the moose because he was lying with his head twisted back against the hillside and his right antler covering his chest like a bulletproof vest, and lucky for me because his position allowed me to slide down the hill unnoticed and find a clear shooting lane about 10 feet below Kevin. The steep hillside fell away from my feet, and from the sitting position I stood my pack up below me and rested the rifle over the top. A more stable rest couldn't be found at a shooting range. Quietly, I chambered a round and prepared for a shot opportunity. That particular cartridge was decorated with blue Magic Marker by my children and carried the words "Moose Magnet."

Kevin and I sat hidden by low willows on the ridgeline and waited more than 20 intense minutes for the bull to stand. In that time, we studied every inch of his antlers. Each of his wide palms, lined with tines, swept back past his shoulders and left no doubt that this was one of the mountain giants Tav had often spoken of. When the bull finally gained his feet, I was ready, but he quickly turned and started feeding away from us without presenting a decent shot angle.

Usually, feeding animals will present a broadside shot as they randomly turn to grab mouthfuls of what they are grazing on, but this bull was feeding on a strip of willows that led straight away from our position. There was no reason for him to turn as

he fed, and it quickly became apparent that the bull would show us nothing but his tail before moving out of rifle range. Kevin saw this, and when I started tracking the bull with my rifle, he asked if I was ready.

Before I could answer, he let out a long, guttural cow call, hoping the bull would respond and turn broadside.

The moose responded instantly. He stopped feeding and twisted his head around to look back in our direction. Most of his body was still facing straight away from us, and I didn't have a clear shot at his chest. He stood there motionless for a few seconds, and that gave me a chance to settle my breathing. When I saw his front leg step back slightly, I knew he was turning to the right, and I settled my cheek on the rifle stock. Through the scope, I watched the bull turn broadside into my sight picture, but before

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I could shoot, he continued to turn all the way around and began walking back toward us, grunting with each step. Now the bull was straight on, and once more I didn't have a good shot at his vitals.

The bull plowed through the tall willows straight toward us and closed about 50 yards before Kevin asked again if I was ready. This time I answered, "Yes," but the bull, now intent on our location, heard our words. Immediately, he stopped short, whirled and began trotting across the valley, angling away from our position. I wasn't interested in shooting at a running moose, especially not one moving through thick brush. So, I lifted my head off the rifle and waited. When the bull reached the middle of the valley floor about 250 yards away, he crossed an area covered with shorter willows that just reached his belly. With the bull in the open, Kevin let out another long *whaahh*, and this time the moose stopped quartering away just enough to expose a narrow section of his chest.

I knew the bull wouldn't pause long, maybe only a few



seconds, before realizing Kevin wasn't a cow moose and continuing his run. Quickly, I snugged the rifle against my cheek for the third time and concentrated on the narrow crease behind the bull's shoulder. At that sharp angle, the margin of error was small, but it was my only chance. I settled the crosshairs low in the crease over the bull's heart and gently squeezed the trigger.

Instantly, I heard the unmistakable *thump* of the bullet hitting home, and before I could reload, the bull was down in

the short willows. The entire sequence lasted only a few moments, but it was a roller coaster of patience and action that left me shaking with adrenaline. I reloaded the rifle and tried to stay calm for the few minutes necessary to make sure the bull was down for good, but it was a losing endeavor. With each passing second, the certainty of my shot grew, and so did the trembling in my hands. When I saw the bull move for the last time, euphoria overtook my composure, and I leaned back against a soft cushion of moss and willows, letting the hillside support my shaking arms.

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I lay there, silently watching orange willow leaves dance in the light breeze above my face, and felt cold tears welling up in the corners of my eyes. I thought back over the 20 years of dreaming and determination it took to get to this moment, not at all ashamed of my emotion. These weren't tears of sadness. They were pure respect for a great bull, the sheer wildness of his home and the struggle that embodies moose hunting.

"THE ENTIRE SEQUENCE LASTED ONLY A FEW MOMENTS, BUT IT WAS A **ROLLER COASTER** OF PATIENCE AND ACTION THAT LEFT ME SHAKING WITH ADRENALINE."

it just for the money. Like me, he carries a respect for the animals and an admiration for the experience of the hunt that overshadows the kill. Kevin let me have those moments to myself, and when my hands stopped shaking, the two of us gathered our gear and made our way down to one of the finest trophies I have ever taken.

In the bottom of the canyon, Kevin and I struggled to push through a tangle of willows that stood above our shoulders. These were the same willows the bull had towered above and charged through a few minutes earlier. The comparison left me

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wondering how big these animals really are. When I finally stood next to the moose, the sight of him lying there answered the question. This bull was huge, a trophy by any measure. His antlers stretched more than 60 inches wide, and each palm carried 16 points. I stood in awe of his massive body, which stretched 12 feet from nose to tail. His chest alone was 4 feet deep, and his long legs had helped him stand higher than 7 feet at the shoulder. I felt simply insignificant next to him.

Kevin and I spent a long time admiring the bull and taking pictures, but the reality of our situation was rapidly sinking in. In front of us was a 1,200-pound moose, and behind us lay a vast sea of tussock grass and thick willows. It was late in the afternoon, and the sun had just disappeared behind the mountains. We were facing a three-hour job cleaning the moose and then a three-hour hike back to camp. Neither of us needed to look at our watches. The lengthening shadows in the bottom of the canyon caused us to put down the camera and pick up our knives. We had to get the meat off the bull and our packs loaded in time to climb out of the canyon and get a line of sight on our camp before dark. There were no lights on our tents to guide us 3 miles across the valley.

Kevin started skinning the shoulders of the bull while I skinned the back half. I was surprised again at the size of his body and found it impossible to lift a hindquarter by myself. Kevin and I had to strip the meat off one side of the bull as it lay and then roll him over to continue on the other side.

It took us three hours to complete the job and secure all the

"OUR PATH TOOK US UP 300 YARDS OF UNFORGIVING CANYON WALL. THE GRADE WAS STEEP ENOUGH THAT I COULD STAND, REACH FORWARD AND TOUCH DIRT."

meat in game bags. We now faced the difficult decision of picking a route back to camp. The sun had already set, and the long shadows meant we didn't have time to travel down the gentle grade of the valley and climb out before dark. Our only option was to hike straight up the steep wall of the canyon toward the ridgeline above. I mentioned to Kevin that I wanted to pack the antlers out on the first trip and didn't finish the word "antlers" before he said, "You bet, man; they're all yours!" He was surprisingly willing to give me that job, and it didn't take me long to realize that moose antlers are terribly awkward on anything except a moose.

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Our path took us up 300 yards of unforgiving canyon wall. The grade was steep enough that I could stand, reach forward and touch dirt. For most of the climb, I had to crab walk up the slope on all fours and fight the swaying antlers to maintain my balance. Before I reached the ridgeline, my legs were cramping and my shoulders burned under the load. My body reminded me that I had already moved my camp off a high ridge, crossed a large stream and negotiated swamps and tussock grass, and now I faced the same all over again. It's times like this, forcing one foot in front of the other, that are often overlooked by those who merely dream of experiencing a northern moose hunt and are never forgotten by those who have done it.

We reached the rim of the canyon just in time to catch the last hint of alpenglow on the peaks. The Mackenzies rested in a purple hue that crept down the ridgelines and engulfed the fall colors on the tundra below. Standing on that ridge while feeling the weight of the antlers firmly on my shoulders and watching the last light



fade over the mountains was one of the most intimately powerful moments of my life. I looked 3 miles across the valley at two tiny orange dots that could only be our tents, and I was reminded of these words from Theodore Roosevelt: "The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena." While I may have been a tiny speck in the expanse of the mountains, right then, on that ridge, the credit belonged to me. Twenty years of dreaming and planning had culminated in the events of a single day, and I began to realize, as my grandfather had, that it's determination and the physical effort of a moose hunt rather than the kill that are at the heart of the adventure.

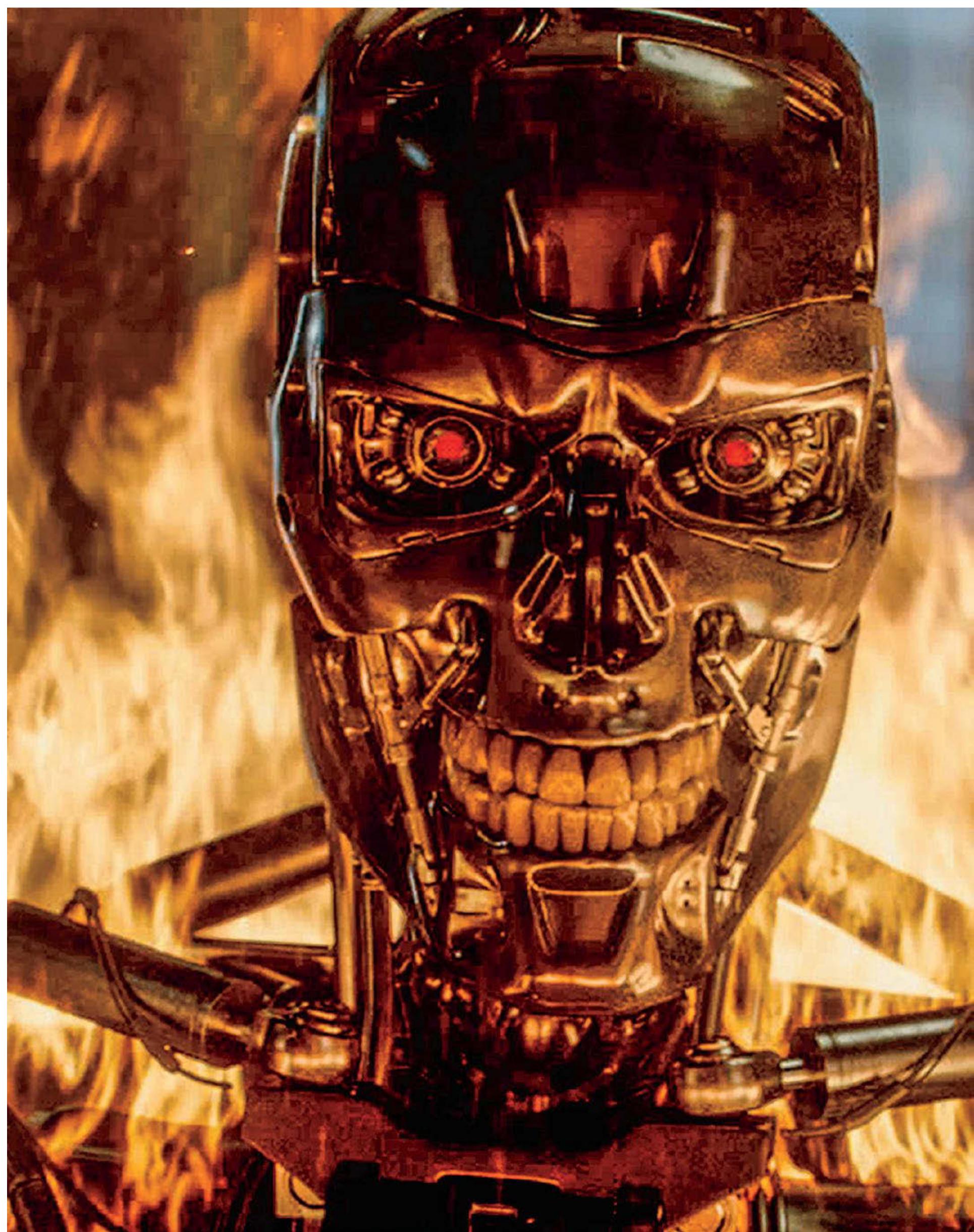
In total, Kevin and I made four trips over two days to that canyon. Together we hauled 800 pounds of moose meat, antlers and cape over 3 miles to a ridge long enough to accommodate landing the Super Cub airplane. Each load, significantly over 100 pounds for each of us, did more than strain my shoulders and bruise my hips. The weight pushed permanent boot tracks into my memory that will always remind me that I am alive. **QA**

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TERMINATOR GENISYS ... A GUN STORY

The "Terminator" movies have collectively entertained several generations of moviegoing gun enthusiasts, and the newest installment lives up to the original. G&A presents an exclusive behind-the-scenes look at its hardware.

WORDS BY JEREMY STAFFORD | PHOTOS BY ALFREDO RICO



Benelli in hand, an older T-850 stands ready. Shotguns are one of the go-to firearms when outfitting the Terminator because of the size and intimidation factor associated with the character as well as the size of the person playing the character.



Grenade launchers have also become a staple of the franchise, and, as evidenced here, ISS Armory is up to task with a large selection. Anything you need, it has.



IT WAS 1984, AND I WAS 12. My neighbor Bruce Characky and I snuck into the movie theater to see "The Terminator," a movie directed by at-the-time-unknown director James Cameron and starring a barely known actor/bodybuilder, Arnold Schwarzenegger. We had to sneak in because we were several years younger than the movie's "R" rating would allow, but we had heard through the neighborhood grapevine that anyone who hadn't seen this movie was a loser, and we couldn't let that happen. Like many 12-year-old boys, I was motivated by Arnold's physique to lift weights. Unlike most 12-year-old boys, the movie cemented me on the path to becoming a firearms enthusiast.

You see, I grew up in the shadow of Hollywood, and the iconic scene in the movie where the Terminator asks a gun shop owner for the ".45 long slide with laser sight" and inquires about "a phased plasma rifle in the 40-watt range" was filmed at a gun store down the block from my house. In the 1980s, there was the shop used in the movie (the Alamo Gun Store) as well as about a dozen other well-stocked firearms stores that a daydreaming kid

could pedal to in the span of a hot summer day. As politicians began to lean further to the left, the stores became fewer and farther between, and now the Alamo Gun Store is a used-car lot that specializes in selling barely running cars.

Despite what you may think, Southern California was once a mecca of firearms stores and training, and out of this booming firearms culture "The Terminator" was born. There are details in that first script that only a firearms enthusiast of the time would know about, including the Laser Products "laserlock" laser sight that was so primitive, it required a separate battery pack with power cables running through Arnold's field jacket to the switch located in the support-side pocket. It wasn't very practical, but it was cool. Also included were several other at-the-time esoteric firearms, such as the now-iconic Spas semiauto shotgun and an ArmaLite AR-180. Besides Director James Cameron, you can thank one other man for these iconic script additions, and that man is armorer and gunsmith Harry Lu.

An up-and-coming gunsmith in the inland area of Southern

"YOU CAN'T MISS."

The laser-sighted AMT Hardballer Longslide in .45 ACP used by actor Arnold Schwarzenegger in the first "Terminator" film was a combination of firearm and movie magic.

The prop house couldn't figure out an elegant way to attach a power supply to the 1911 frame, so Ed Reynolds, cofounder of Laser Products, came up with a two-part solution. He got a scope mount that replaced the left-side grip panel and made two lasers for the gun.

The first was a housing with no internals, a "beauty" version, and a second that was a fully functioning laser.

"Since there was no money for a custom power supply, we needed to connect the laser to an external power supply," Reynolds recalls. "I haywired it to a power supply that was attached to a cable that ran down [Arnold's] arm, under his jacket and across into the left jacket pocket. To fire the laser, Arnold had one hand in his other pocket and flipped the switch."

Laser Products later changed its name to SureFire and shifted focus to making lights before offering lasers, batteries and suppressors.



California, Harry was far enough away from the beaches and burnouts of 1970s and '80s Hollywood to provide realistic grounding for Cameron's more-futuristic firearms visions. Harry's influence can be seen in his work all the way through the most recent entry, "Terminator Genisys." I recently spent some time with the legendary Armourer (that's his official studio title, not my attempt at snobby English), and we discuss the roles that iconic guns have played throughout the "Terminator" franchise as well as how his experience as a firearms expert helped form the organic world of the "Terminator" movies. Standing in front of a table of firearms that reached through the "Terminator" history with the legendary ISS Armory as the backdrop, Harry takes me through three decades of being the silver screen's go-to gun guy.

Harry and I hit it off immediately, talking about the industry in general and friends we have in common, especially some of those no longer with us (R.I.P., John Fasano). Harry is an amazing storyteller, and most of the time I struggle to stay on topic simply because the man is such a font of knowledge and history. Finally,

and with much appreciation from G&A's friends at Paramount Pictures, we get down to the task at hand, the firearms of the "Terminator" movies.

Because the "Genisys" movie spans several decades, including the 1970s, '80s, present day and beyond, it was ripe for well-placed period-correct firearms, and because of his unique background, Harry was able to convincingly place these firearms throughout. It wasn't enough just to include a period-correct firearm, though; as Harry tells it, "The gun has to make sense for the Terminator." This is why you often see the T-800 series (portrayed by Schwarzenegger) with large shotguns. They make sense not only for his various missions but also for the actor himself. They look right in the hands of a 6-foot, 2-inch man.

I handle several of the firearms used in the movies and am amazed at the detail Harry put into the guns to make them "just right," from the gaudy scrollwork on the 1970s look of the sawed-off Remington 1100 that plays a role early in the film to the late-'80s appeal of the Benelli M3 with its prototypical



Needing the gun to not only convey power and look "right" for the movie, the gun choices also have to make tactical sense for the characters. When a young Sarah Connor needs to slow down an advancing Terminator, the Desert Eagle is the only way to go.

European lines. Harry also speaks about how he placed the guns for the other actors, including a Desert Eagle handgun and a Barrett M82A3 for Emilia Clarke's Sarah Connor character and several different pieces for Jai Courtney's Kyle Reese, including a Glock 21 and a Kel-Tec KSG shotgun, as well as several vintage LAPD firearms. "It's a tricky thing," he says. "The actors have to look natural with the guns, but [the guns] also have to be right for the job at hand. You wouldn't try to take down a Terminator with a .22."

I ask Harry about what he considers to be the most iconic of the Terminator "Hero" guns, and he has a tough choice coming up with one, answering, "Because we've always strived for such a realistic gunfight tone in the 'Terminator' movies, we often have the actors strip down firearms as the firefights progress. Arnold has always had such great small arms, from the longslide AMT .45 in the first movie to the M-79 grenade launcher in the second one, but it's hard to choose just one because the characters' movements are grounded in reality, and they just get rid of them as they run out of ammo or find a better, more useful option. This is by design; when we plan these



The Kel-Tec KSG shotgun was chosen because of its cutting-edge looks as well as its ability to slow down Terminators. The pump-action KSG has been featured in several recent movies, but it's all set to take its place among other iconic "Terminator" shotguns such as the Benelli and Winchester Model 1887.

gunfights out, we always ask, 'What would we do?' so that makes it difficult to choose just one or two."

I ask Harry how difficult it was to train the actors, and he replies that the difficulty was in "retraining" several of them. Because the action takes place over so many time periods, the actors had to learn the specific Tactics, Techniques and Procedures (TTPs) for the different time periods. Adding to that, the TTPs had to reflect correct organizational styles. As Harry tells it, "It would make no sense to see the LAPD officers from the '80s engaging in firefights using a Modern Isosceles stance. It would

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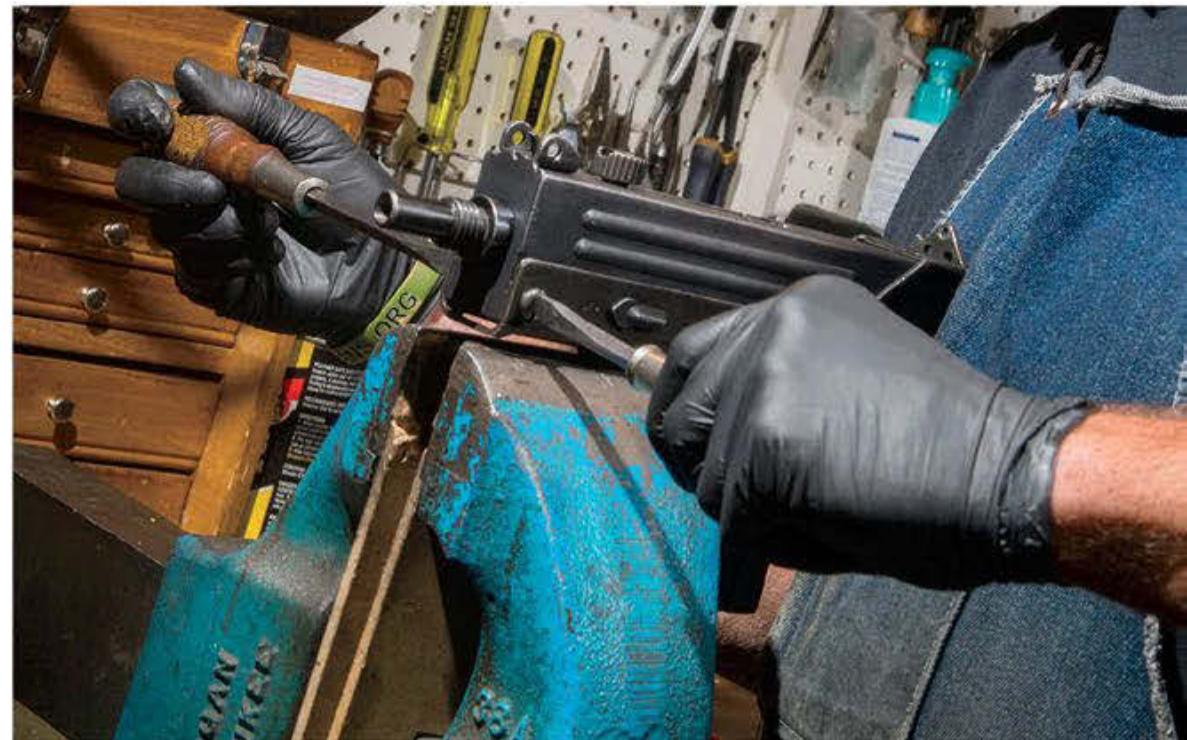
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ISS is not only a full-service prop warehouse, it's also a licensed firearms manufacturer that employs numerous full-time gunsmiths and machinists. Here, one of its talented staff inserts a proprietary BFA (Blank Firing Adapter). The staff can tune the BFAs and blank cartridges to give the exact effect a director wants for the film. ISS' BFAs are so good, ISS provides them for several high-end customers, including NSWC Crane.

look out of place." These little details are important not only to Harry but also to "Genisys" Director Alan Taylor, whom you may know from his work on the HBO series "Deadwood" and "Game of Thrones." With Taylor's blessing, Harry spent several days retraining the actors on how to be correct for each period.

The period correctness of the film goes way beyond TTPs, though. The movie was actually shot in several different fashions so that the scenes that take place in the '80s reflect the lighting and tone of the original "Terminator," while the later scenes were shot using different lights and filters to reproduce the tone of the later movies, especially the more industrial look of the groundbreaking "Terminator 2: Judgment Day." It's while talking about this training and retraining that I'm able to find out some behind-the-scenes "movie magic" techniques that Harry used based on what the director wanted.

For instance, each gun had to be modified to shoot several different types of blanks based on how much recoil and muzzle flash was needed and how close the actors were working to each other. Schwarzenegger's style of fighting is very linear, and the



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Armourer Harry Lu looks on as Stafford acts like a 12-year-old kid, examining a plasma rifle from the film. This is John Connor's plasma rifle; it was kind of a big deal!

actor often used his very Terminator-type presence to move toward his opponents while shooting. This means that the blanks in the magazine actually had to be tuned to each shot fired, as safety rules dictate that "full flash" blanks can't be used in close proximity to other actors. This is a delicate balancing act, since the blanks have to be loaded in sequence by Harry. The final product is worth it, though, because certain body reactions while shooting are difficult to replicate in post-production, which is why even the famous "phased plasma rifles in 40-watt range" are legitimate blank-firing guns.

Speaking of the famous plasma rifles, I finally get my hands on one of them — actually, two of them — and they are glorious. The 12-year-old in me is in full effect as I heft one from the table and admire it. The backstory and attention to detail that they put into these rifles is incredible. Harry tells me, "These guns are so iconic that we had to make sure we did it right. First off, what would the devastated remains of humanity, without access to advanced machining, have access to? The AK platform was the first thing we thought of. So, when it came time to modify the plasma cannons that they captured from destroyed Termina-



Short or collapsible shotguns are go-to defensive tools used by hero characters in the "Terminator" series, which include these three: Benelli M4 equipped with a magazine tube and adjustable stock (top), Benelli M3 pump-action with pistol grip only and a rare Remington 870 with factory law-enforcement-only (LEO) top-folding stock. Due to import restrictions, the M1014-configured semiautomatic shotgun is only available to military and LE, with the U.S. Marine Corps adopting it for issue in 1999.

tors and drones, how would they do this? That's how we ended up with plasma rifles built on AK chassis. It simply made the most sense for humans who were basically being beaten back to the Stone Age."

In looking at the difference between the two rifles, I notice

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Here they are, the phased plasma rifles in 40-watt range. The attention to detail and thought that went into these firearm props are amazing. Harry and his crew went past what we would normally expect, but that's because they know that they have a couple of generations of gun guys to keep happy.



that they are replete with unit markings and even some graffiti. I ask Harry how they kept track of the markings and wear on each of the actor's rifles in such a big production, and he replies, "Well, there were over 600 unique weapons to this film, so it was pretty tough. We assigned a specific weapon to each actor for the large scenes, and I would oversee a couple of the set armorers for handing them out and taking them back in." When I note that this seemed rather tedious, almost like drawing small arms from a military armory, he agrees, quipping, "It was not a quick or easy process," with a smile. "Our days started two hours before shooting and ended two hours after shooting. This made for some 16- to 18-hour days on set. We also had to reference dailies to track the wear on each gun, so there would be me and a couple of the guys doing some light painting and using silver wax to make it look like wear. Because the weapons



Here, John Connor (played by Jason Clarke) and Kyle Reese (played by Jai Courtney) have their AK-chassis plasma rifles at the ready. The actors were trained on actual AKs so their movements and firing stances would make the plasma rifles more believable.

are considered Class 3, we had to be with them all the time, so we couldn't just hand them off to the art department." I also notice a difference in size between the two rifles, with one of them appearing to be a carbine version of the other. Harry confirms this. "The resistance is just like real life. Officers and special people like John Connor get the cool carbines, and foot soldiers like Kyle Reese get the longer, heavier guns."

Upon reading this, it may seem a bit silly to keep hearing

Harry say "just like real life" when we're talking about a movie centered on a time-traveling robot, but that's the magic of it. Professionals such as Harry add just enough detail and reality to the movies so that even we, the firearms enthusiasts of the world, can suspend our disbelief just for a moment and enjoy the show. Politics of the Hollywood machine aside, this looks like one hell of a flick, and I can't wait. This time, I won't sneak in. **GA**



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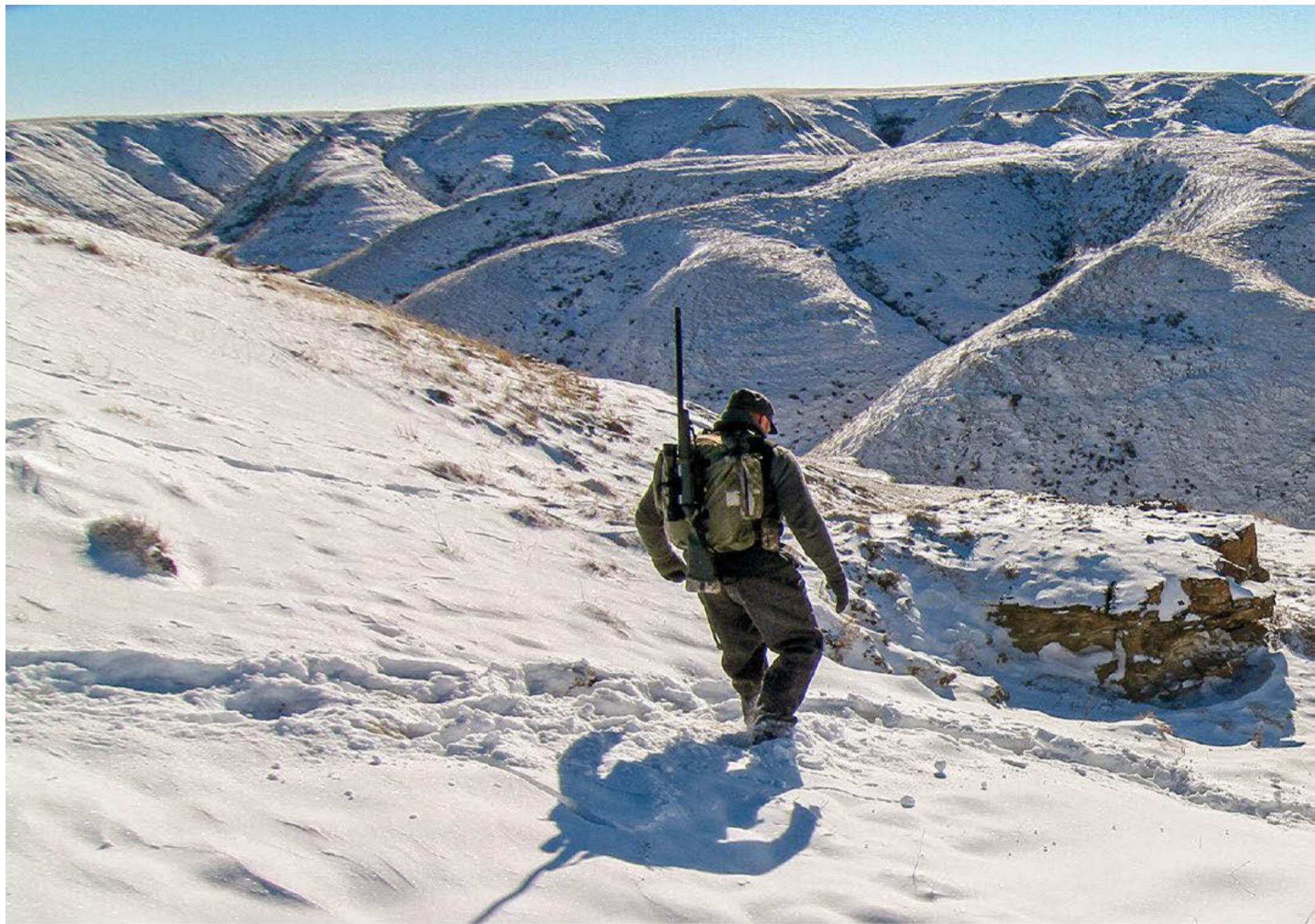
THE JACK O'CONNOR WAY

A .270-chambered CZ 557 in pursuit of Alberta's coldest mule deer.

WORDS BY SGM KYLE LAMB (RET.) | PHOTOS BY BROCK LESNAR & LUKAS LAMB



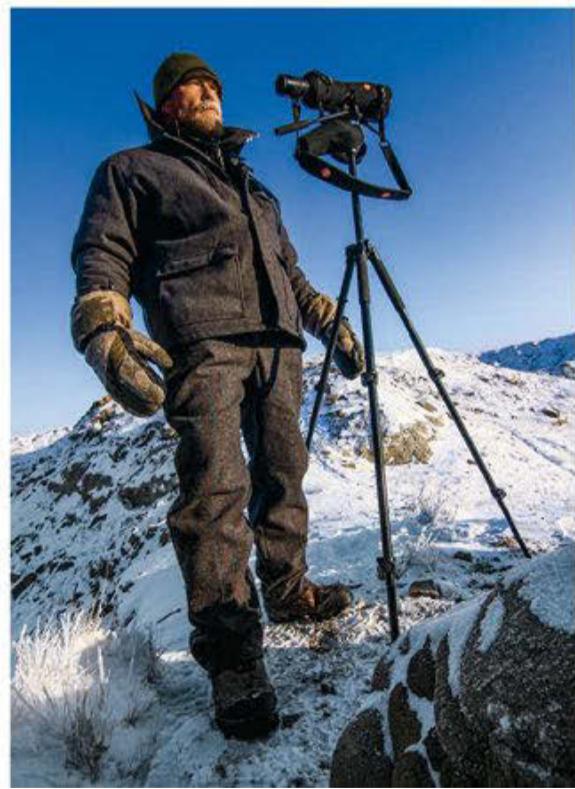




THIS WASN'T MY FIRST mule deer hunt, but it was my first into the Milk River country of Alberta, Canada. When hearing "Alberta," two things used to come to mind: big wolves and big mulies. Now I think of big mulies and a giant.

Brock Lesnar is a man among men. He and I grew up an hour apart on the prairies of South Dakota. Brock started life as a starving dairy-farm kid, I as a ganted-up cowboy who couldn't seem to drive a tractor in a straight line. After graduating high school, I headed to the Army, as did Brock. He joined the South Dakota Army National Guard, whereas I went active duty in the U.S. Army.

Brock later wrestled in college and was asked to join World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE). This didn't scratch his itch, so he went on to the Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC) as a mixed martial arts fighter. He quickly won a heavyweight championship title in 2008. After recovering from several injuries, he moved back into WWE, where he currently resides as the

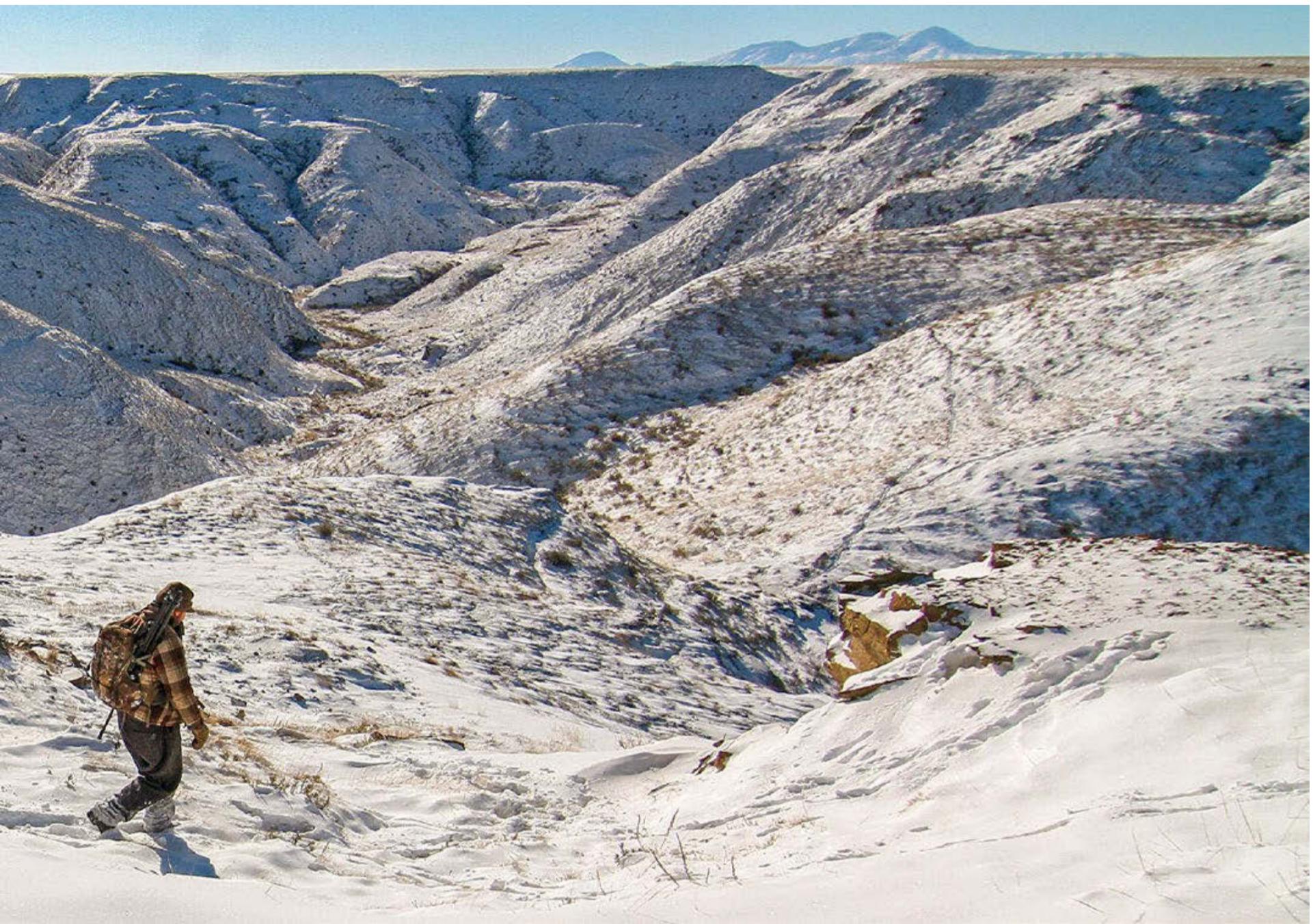


Heavyweight Champion of the World. My history was slightly shrouded in secrecy until I finally retired from the Army in 2007, which led us to this point in time.

When Brock showed up at camp, we immediately hit it off. He had decided to hunt with his Christensen Arms .300 RUM, and I had selected the CZ 557 in .270 Win. Not only did Brock dwarf me in size, he also outgunned me, it would seem.

I had recently started to read more about the late Jack O'Connor. Jack was a longtime writer for *Outdoor Life* and championed the .270 Winchester as his caliber of choice. His forays into the northern lands of Alaska and B.C. to hunt sheep are world-renowned. I couldn't swing a Stone sheep hunt, so Alberta mulies it would be. Jack had continually

touted the .270 as the be-all caliber for most North American big game, with the exception of bears. His thought process was that you could have a caliber that was easy to shoot in lighter rifles with less recoil, and, probably most important, it would be



flat shooting. His focus was on shot placement. As a hunter, he could quickly decide what loading fit the game he was pursuing, usually 130- to 150-grain bullet weights, depending on the performance required.

I read through an article published in the December 1943 issue of *Outdoor Life* and found this tidbit interesting:

“If the hunter wants to turn his scope-sighted .270 into a real long-range rifle, let him sight in for 300 yards. In that case the bullet rises 1½ inches at 50 yards, 3 inches at 100, 4 inches at 150, 4 inches at 200 and 3 inches at 250. It’s at point of aim at 300, 4 inches low at 350, 10 inches low at 400 and 18 inches low at 500. All of which means that, so sighted, a .270 has a point-blank range of over 350 yards on even a small deer, a bighorn or an antelope, and that by holding high on the backbone, the hunter would not have to bother his pretty head unduly about trajectory even at 500 yards, which under most conditions is too far to shoot.”

—Jack O’Connor, 1943

This is mostly true, the only glitch being the 500-yard “figgers” (as per Jack O’Connor’s writing); they are off by about 10 inches, with trajectory actually being around 28 inches low at 500 yards.

Now, I am not getting nitpicky. We should all know the trajectory of our firearms, and I am absolutely sure that Jack did.

Keeping Mr. O’Connor in mind, I headed to the range with my newest acquisition, a CZ 557 wearing a tan-colored Manners stock. I had screwed a Zeiss 3-15X Conquest scope in place for this application. The Zeiss has a Rapid Z reticle, but if I were to follow Jack’s guidance, it wouldn’t be needed. All I had to do was get a good zero at 300.

After arriving at hunting camp in Foremost, Alberta, I was met by my guide, Rylan King. He and his partner, Chad Stryker, run an outfit called Open Range Outfitting. Top-notch mule deer hunting is their primary game. They also offer whitetail hunts, and if you are into coyote hunting, they can hook you up with that as well.

Day one was a bust; no joy. We marched about 10 miles through the snow, and there were tons of deer, but not the one we were looking for. After a long slug back to the truck at sunset, we were all ready for chow, a shower, then hitting the hay.

Day two was not a long-walk day. We wanted to glass more and get right on the Milk River. As the sun illuminated the frost in the air, the valley floor came to life with sunshine dancing off the hoar frost that covered all of the buck brush and sage. We could immediately see plenty of activity on the river bottom from our hilltop glassing point. All of the conditions were good, but once



again we just couldn't seem to find Mr. Right. Chad and Brock were delayed getting to camp. Several hours later, we saw them marching into camp with smiles all around. Brock had shot a very nice mulie.

Day three was still cold, and the wind wasn't doing us any favors. As we stood on the edge of a cliff band glassing the coulee below, our eyelids kept freezing as we looked into the wind. After glassing for 30 minutes, I caught movement. Two kilometers from our position in the brush was a pretty decent buck. As he fed across from left to right, he seemed to get better and better. Soon he was only a mile away and bedded behind a large tree. With the buck bedded and us freezing, we headed back to the truck just a short walk away.

At the truck, Chad and Brock arrived to check our progress. We pointed out the buck through my glass, and Brock dialed in his Leica spotter to take a look. Chad has looked at a lot of deer. He and Rylan talked back and forth as the wind continued to whistle across the snow. Chad's comment was, "The more I look at him, the better he gets; that isn't how it normally goes." His comment hit home. We had all noticed the in-line, which made the deer that much more interesting.

We had to climb down the cliffs to our front, drop into a 12-foot-deep gully, close the distance, crawl over snow-covered cactus thorns to get out of the gulley, then shimmy behind a small knoll. At last we eased our heads over the top of the small



protuberance to see if the deer was still there. Of course, he was gone. We had missed him as he moved from his bed. We decided to move back down our small hill and sneak to another hill a couple of hundred yards closer. We found ourselves on an even smaller hill, but the ranges were more realistic if the buck would ever show himself again.

As we continued to glass where the deer was last seen, he walked out on our left, completely catching me off guard. As he moved through the brush, he occasionally let us look at his rack. Sure enough, it was the same deer. I grabbed the CZ and my Kifaru pack. After easing up behind a large rock, I took my time and laid the pack across the top of the rock. Stacking the rifle on top of the almost-empty pack made a perfect field-shooting platform. I decided to dial the scope to 15X, which would later be classified as a blunder. First, the temperatures were so low

that I really had to struggle to get the scope dialed and was forced to remove a glove to get it done. That was a mistake. With temperatures far below zero, my shooting hand was immediately useless. Second, 15X is a lot of power to get back on a deer after you shoot. Unless the ranges are extremely distant, the power should be

kept a little lower.

Rylan continued to feed me intel about the range from his Leica 10X rangefinding binos. Having the ability to glass and get ranges to the target at the same time is priceless for a guide. It eliminates a piece of gear and allows the guide to continually view what the animal is doing while updating his hunter.

I couldn't believe what I was seeing; the huge buck was steadily coming our way. He kept coming and coming. Just when it was the perfect timing, with nothing covering his vitals, he stopped in a quartering stance. Rylan gave me the range of 260 yards, and I squeezed the trigger. As the rifle kicked, I knew I had done what I could. Did the bullet and rifle perform? The deer had hunched his back and made a small jump, acting as though I had gut-shot him. I immediately told Rylan I felt good about the shot, but I noticed the telltale sign of a bad shot. Rylan had seen the same thing and continued to watch as the deer disappeared over a steep bank. I wanted to shoot again, but I just wasn't fast enough. The fact that I was on 15X held me back.

Fortunately, we located the buck, and he was dead as a ham-

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mer. The 140-grainer had done the trick. I should have held a little farther forward since the deer was quartering toward us. The round had hit good lung but went through the diaphragm and came to rest in his hide on the far side. Unlike Jack O'Connor, I don't carry a metal tape in my pack, but one gander at this old fella and I knew I had made the right call.

We had seen hundreds of deer, elk, coyote, even some whitetails on this trip. This is one hunt definitely worth checking into. I appreciate the fact that you don't

have to draw. Simply call Open Range Outfitting (403-666-2500), and it can get the tag and book the hunt; you only have to show up.

The gear suggested by Jack O'Connor had met my needs; it only took 70 years for him to get my attention and steer me in the right direction. Thanks, Jack. I never met you, but I appreciate all you did for the hunting community. **GW**



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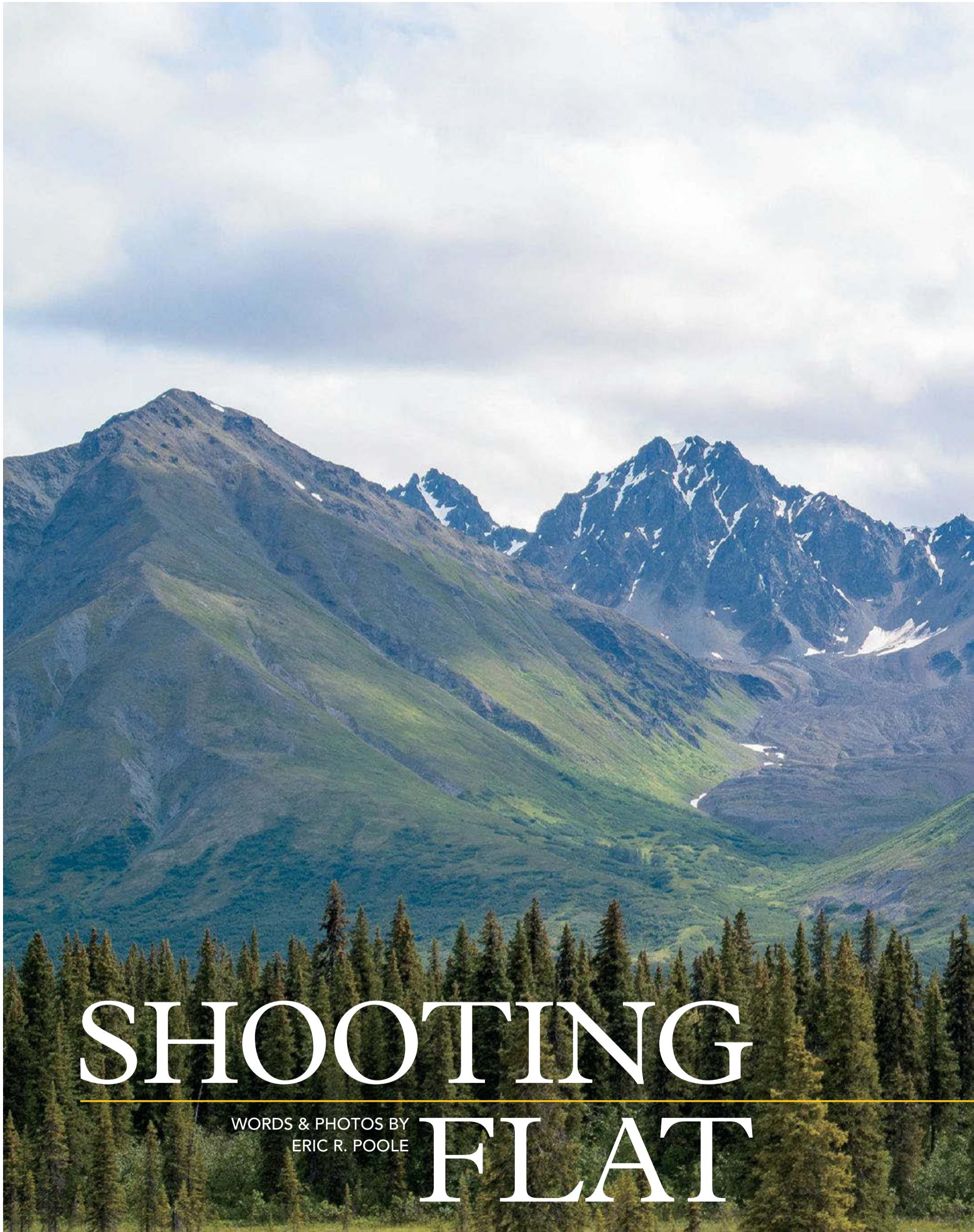
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SHOOTING FLAT

WORDS & PHOTOS BY
ERIC R. POOLE





THE EXPERIENCE WAS ALREADY BUILDING up to be an incredible adventure for someone's first trip to Alaska — mine. The hunting party spent the night in Anchorage after flying in. The next morning, we rode first class on the northbound Alaskan Railroad and stood for the majority of the eight-hour train ride on the car's open deck imagining Alaska's true wild beyond the sights seen by tourists.

On arrival at Denali, we were met by Midnight Sun Safari Outfitter and Master Guide Coke Wallace. We would spend one more night in the town before heading toward tundra, which gave us the chance to see Coke at his finest. Every local seemed to know him as a hero who championed the area's political causes. He is perhaps the most well-known man of that region.

That time of year, Alaska's sun only sets for a few hours after 2 a.m., and it didn't seem long before the night was over and we were being taxied to Denali's regional airport by pickup truck to meet our bush pilot. "Wing Air" seemed to be an appropriate name for Robert Wing and his aerial transport service. He had restored his thin-skinned two-passenger Cub himself and painted it a rusty red because "no one else has an aircraft that color." As Robert shared his story with me over the intercom, I learned he had already accomplished so much while living as a free spirit on his own terms. He carried his own guide license; had summited Mount McKinley, aka Denali, solo the previous year; and had harvested several 9-foot bears as well as goats and sheep on his own effort. After getting to know Coke's family and staff over the next two weeks, I eventually left Alaska wondering if the state was simply a home to interesting vagabonds.

Behind my seat were enough supplies to get me through a 10-day Dall sheep hunt. I considered this a once-in-a-lifetime trip, so I hedged my bets and chose to carry a Sitka pack loaded with premium Sitka gear and a Galco canvas case protecting my .257 Weatherby Magnum for any eventuality. We were on a 30-minute flight east of Denali en route to Coke's Moody River valley basecamp, and seeing Alaska's glacial-capped mountain peaks and colorful foliage from above instilled memories I'll never forget.

I was privileged to share this hunt with another Marine, Jacob Labrizzi, who is a recently separated veteran of Afghanistan working with a few bum body parts for war souvenirs. We had met after he was hired by Trijicon, and in some ways, Jake reminded me of my former self, but he still shouldered a combat-hardened and unimpressed attitude toward life. He had

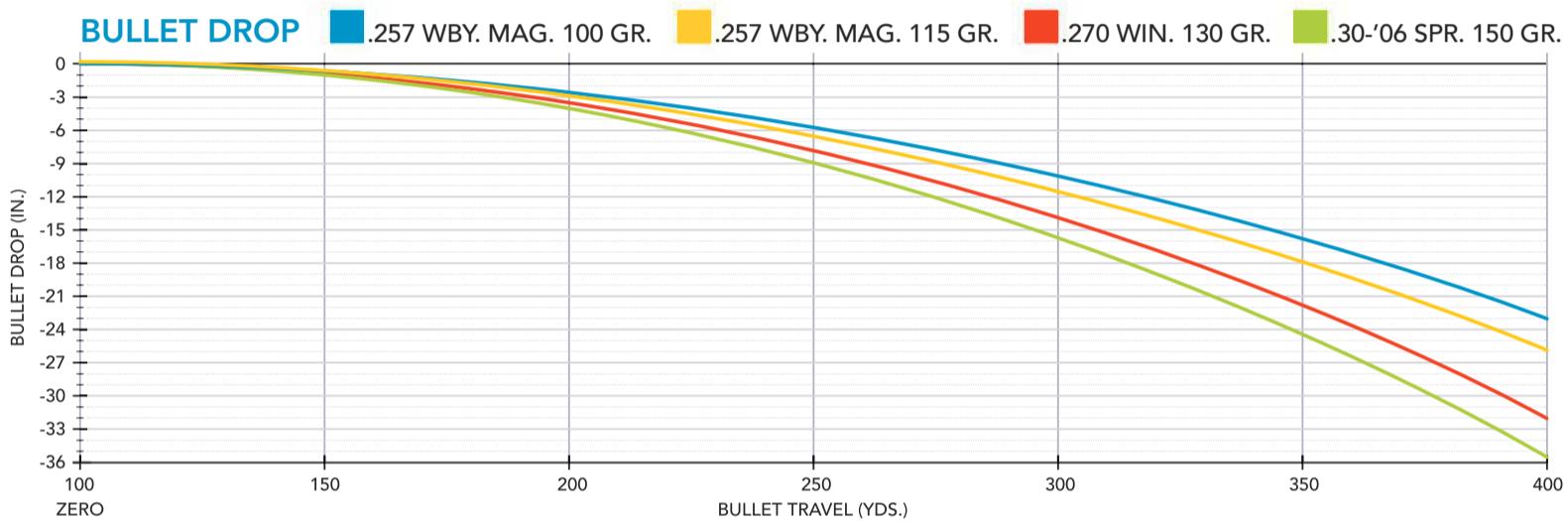


never hunted anything but man before this trip and wasn't sure of himself on this one. However, it was obvious that he retained a determined, never-quit, mission-focused outlook even though he would soon be riding horseback and climbing on a bad knee.

We would both be carrying Weatherby Mark V rifles scoped with Trijicon's 3-9x40mm AccuPoint with a green Mil-Dot crosshair. The Mark V was first introduced in 1957 on an action intended to harness the high pressures of Roy Weatherby's line of super-velocity cartridges. However, Roy wanted to increase the pressure capacity of his rifles and developed a bolt to support the case head with vent holes on the side to redirect gases if a case were to rupture. The bolt also features nine locking lugs in three rows of three where the diameter of the locking lugs were the same as the bolt body to ensure a safe, strong, smooth action

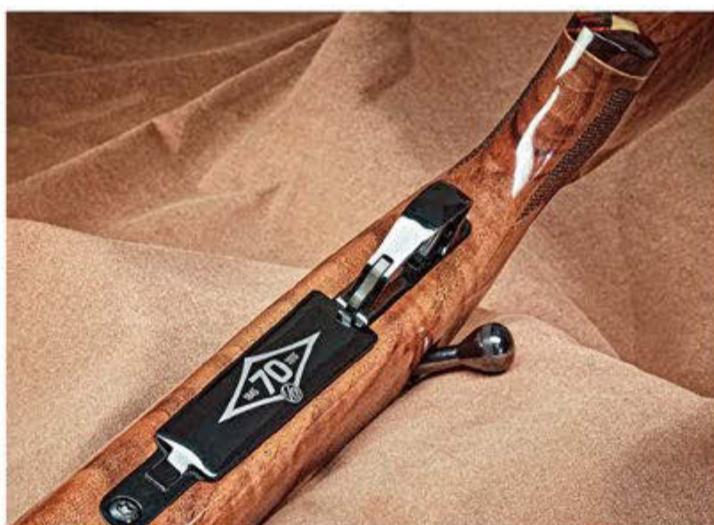
Weatherby Mark V Deluxe

Type:	Bolt action
Caliber:	.257 Weatherby Magnum
Capacity:	3+1 rds.
Barrel:	26 in., 1:10-in. twist
Overall Length:	46.63 in.
Weight:	8 lbs.
Stock:	Monte Carlo, AA-grade claro walnut, rosewood forend/grip cap, maplewood spacers
Grips:	Skipline checkering, fine
Length of Pull:	13.63 in.
Finish:	Blued, high luster
Trigger:	3.5 lbs.
Sights:	None
MSRP:	\$2,400
Manufacturer:	Weatherby Inc., 800-227-2016 weatherby.com



during cycling. After two years of development with the help of engineer Fred Jennie, the action was optimized for manufacturing and selected. Elgin Gates goes down in Weatherby history as suggesting to Roy that the fifth prototype be named the Mark V. It remains a flagship model and is considered by any rifleshooter to be a prestigious rifle to own.

Though I've softened more than Jake since my separation from the Corps, he and I were only different in subtle ways. He arrived with a composite-stocked Accumark chambered for .300 Wby. Mag., and I showed up with a more romantic Deluxe model in Roy's favorite .257 Wby. Mag. To me, the quintessential Weatherby rifle carries the original high-luster blue finish and lavish stock. My friend Justin Moore at



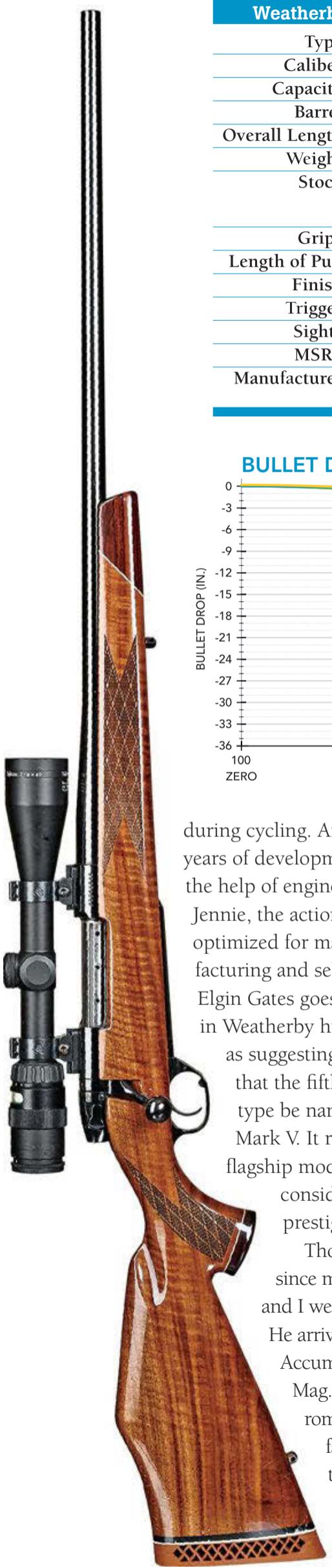
Weatherby knew my desires to take a special rifle such as this to Alaska and sent me a prototype of the company's 70th Anniversary Mark V Deluxe for evaluation on this trip, one of only 70 to be made.

These anniversary rifles feature an AA-grade claro walnut stock with a beautiful rosewood forend and grip cap. They are complete with a specially engraved magazine

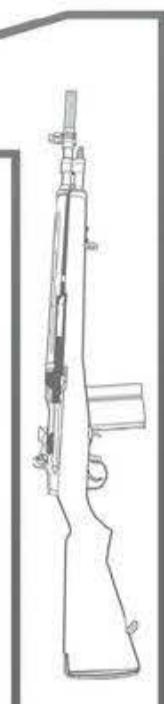
floorplate. The difference in my prototype and the 70 production rifles would be the serial number, special case, knife handcrafted by Dan Weatherby and accouterments that accompany these very collectible long guns.

The .300 Weatherby Magnum used in Jake's rifle was the first cartridge developed by Roy Weatherby and remains a popular round for the company. However, I hypothesize that .257 Wby. Mag. should be better suited for sheep hunting. After reading several books, including a few by Jack O'Connor, and talking with several successful sheep hunters, I'd like to suggest that the ballistics of a good bullet loaded in .257 Wby. Mag. are ideal.

I learned that most sheep encounters in the Central Alaska Range usually occur in one of two ways: either by circling around just beneath the backside of a ridge, cresting its summit and



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shooting down from above, or by shooting from rim to opposite rim at the top edge of a mountain's cirques. Only full-curl or "broomed" rams are legal to shoot, which means that a sheep hunter is pursuing at least an eight-year-old mature animal that has learned to snack on rock minerals during the day and live at higher elevations than its natural predators, the wolves.

To reach a sheep requires hours of glassing high rocks from miles away locating white spots sometimes hidden by terrain depressions, spending as much as six to 12 hours hiking to close the distance without alarming the wildlife, and usually circling around by summiting tall, prehistoric mountain ridges to get a closer look at the horns through a high-powered spotting scope. Once the guide identifies a legal ram, chances are you may be looking down at it from anywhere between 50 to 400 yards or observing ridge to ridge from a slightly elevated up or down angle. The shot across the basins is usually no less than 200 yards, with a few extremely long-range shots I've heard made out to 600 yards. My goal on this trip was to get within 400 yards, and a flat-shooting cartridge such as Weatherby's .257 was my ticket for not having to hold over for bullet-drop compensation.

At the range, I clocked my 100-grain Spitzer averaging 2,983 feet-per-second out of the 24-inch barrel. The bullet had a ballistic coefficient of .447. I calculated that, at the region's elevation between 2,500 feet up to 6,000 feet, I'd need a bullet that acted like a laser beam. When compared with the 150-grain .30-'06,



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which drops as much as 35 inches at 400 yards, and O'Connor's beloved .270, which drops 30 inches, the 100-grain .257 Wby. Mag. shoots flat. Knowing that there was a strong possibility that I might crest a ridge and surprise a sheep within 150 yards, I decided to zero my rifle for 100 yards, which means I'd only need to consider that my vertical correction would be .9 inch at 200 yards, 8.33 inches at 300 yards and 22.3 inches at 400 yards.

Though I had long practiced and sighted in the AccuPoint before arriving to Alaska, the first order of business for Jake and me was to confirm that our rifles were zeroed at 100 yards. We would have to demonstrate our level of proficiency by first printing a three-shot group for our designated sheep guide, Kirk O'Donnell. Kirk is from Wanganui, New Zealand, on the north island. When Alaska is subject to winter, he's guiding hunters for Shane Quinn's Alpine Hunting in New Zealand, usually for tarr and chamois. Kirk started working with Coke in 2007 upon a referral from one of his friends. He's no stranger to the expansive wilderness populated by caribou, grizzly, sheep and wolves, and I would soon discover that he's a mountain climber equipped with unequalled lung capacity, stamina and patience.

In getting physically ready for this hunt, I did little more than hike around my neighborhood with a backpack on a few days. It wasn't that I didn't expect a challenge, but my excuse was that I was working harder in my job to afford the two weeks I'd need to be off grid. Big mistake. The Healy River bottom is about 2,900 feet, while the tops of the mountains (where the sheep live) can rise more than 3,000 feet above that. Coke Wallace's outfit uses mountain horses to cover 10 to 20 miles a day, but when sheep are located you park them safely tied to willow and spruce trees at the bottom, then hike up with your gear.

Leaving the Moody camp, we headed west on horseback, covering nearly 40 miles in two days and spotting only one group of sheep. Though we were well within a mile of that herd on day two, hours of observing them until dark only led Kirk to wonder if one of the sheep was at full curl. The penalties for harvesting a ram that's too young or not at full curl are severe, so Coke's guides have to be absolutely sure before they'll let clients attempt a shot. We descended out of sight and set up camp in the valley to rest until morning.

Kirk was already glassing the sheep when Jake and I crawled out of the awkwardly tight three-man tent early the next morning to the smell of coffee and cocoa warmed by Jetboil. Our bodies ached from the new experience of riding and hiking so many miles, but we were eager to join Kirk and see the elusive Dall



MICHAEL ANSCHUETZ

TRIJICON ACCUPOINT

The AccuPoint is a variable-powered riflescope aimed at the commercial sporting market. It is unique in that it utilizes a fiber optic illuminated reticle. The intensity of this natural-light illumination can be adjusted by twisting a hood that then covers the fiber optic band. Additional illumination comes from tritium that helps brighten the reticle when little to no ambient light is available. Unlike many available scopes that rely on battery-powered illumination, it is important to note that the AccuPoint's illumination is daytime visible.

The reticle is on the second focal plane (SFP), which means that, like traditional hunting scopes, the reticle size does not change when dialing magnification. As magnification increases, the relationship of the reticle to the target gets smaller and provides a more exact aiming point at higher powers.

Three reticles are currently offered in AccuPoint models including a Triangle Post with red, amber or green triangle (TR20); a standard duplex crosshair with amber or green dot center (TR20-1); and a Mil-Dot crosshair with amber or green dot center (TR20-2). Visit trijicon.com for more information. **\$975 – \$1,025**



MICHAEL ANSCHUETZ

LOWA BIGHORN HUNTER G3 GTX

Unfortunately, Poole wore a different pair of famed German boots to Alaska, but after a few days riding through the Central Range on horseback and hiking up jagged rock, he experienced boot failure that was made apparent during a river crossing. In contrast, his sheep guide had more than nine months on Lowa's Bighorn Hunters with no damage worse than worn soles. Lesson learned; it will be Lowa boots the next time around. **\$460**



By the late afternoon of day three, we had trekked through dense forest; across deep, rushing glacial rivers; and across miles of unforgiving rock. On a watering break for the horses, Kirk keenly spotted small dots of sheep through a spotting scope roughly 6 miles away according to his map. "It could be a six-hour hike once we get to the base," he said, but he thought the bodies looked mature and worth pursuing. So we did.

Tying up our horses at the base of a mountain where two mountain creeks fork together with the Healy river, we three



sheep. We didn't spend much time observing before Kirk said he couldn't be absolutely sure of the ram's age, so we packed up camp, saddled the horses, sheathed our Weatherby rifles and moved on.

At one point, the surrounding mountains opened up and revealed a treasure landscape. I couldn't help but think that, had I not known what year it was, we could have been hunters in the 1800s — or any century, for that matter. It hit me that there were no signs of human spoilage anywhere; no sounds of distant airplanes flying overhead, cars or trains; no traffic; no stress; no reason to be anywhere else; no wars to think about ... nothing. Moments like this redefine an outdoorsman, and it took me decades to get here. We didn't have a mission to accomplish, and there were no deadlines to meet. The trip for Jake and me took on an unexpected meaning that reached deep in our core: We found peace. I attempted to take a photograph that captured the environment around me, but I learned that no rectangular image can truly capture the expansive grandeur in Alaska within its frame. It can only be experienced.

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packed our gear and began the ascent. Hours later, we reached the rim and observed that the sheep had moved toward the snow-capped peak of the 6,000-foot shale slide. Kirk wanted to crest over its back-side, and I was near physical exhaustion. Jake's knee was beginning to swell up, so we talked. "Whoever makes it to the top first with Kirk gets first right of refusal," we agreed. Two more slow, arduous climbing hours later, Jake had made it. Out of water, he had beaten me on pure determination.

Jake and Kirk descended from the mountain summit roughly 50 yards until they reached a rock formation that provided cover and a platform for Jake to shoot from. Kirk was right. A ram with mature curls was down the shale 150 yards below according to his rangefinder. Kirk looked over and saw Jake already set up to shoot. The light was disappearing fast, and the sheep were in the mountain's dark shadow. Trijicon's fiber optic illuminated reticle was providing him an aiming point at the perfect setting. Chambering a round of .300 Wby. Mag., he pushed off the safety and pulled the



trigger within a breath of Kirk saying, "You can take him." The round hit high but effectively struck the sheep's lungs. Jake quickly chambered another and fired a second shot, preventing his sheep from descending farther down the steep, sloping vertical slide.

Though Jake's knee was severely ailing him, he proudly helped Kirk pack out his own ram and descended through thick brush into the darkness of camp. He wasn't the type of hunter who chases a record

book, and he didn't care to measure the curls. We built a fire, relived the moment and ate meat until dawn.

We packed up and rode seven hours to a newer cabin Coke built on the Wood River. Though it had a one-hole outhouse, a soft-sided tent for clients warmed by a barrel drum converted into a stove, its onsite cook and caretaker, Jane Smith, and her dog, Turtle, made it feel like a resort. Kirk had built his own sleeping tower with nearby timber as well as a wood-stove sauna and bathhouse. After five days of hard riding and hunting, it provided the most refreshment a wilderness hunter could ask for.

LEGAL NOTICE OF SETTLEMENT

If you own certain Remington firearms, you may be eligible for benefits from a class action settlement.

A proposed nationwide Settlement has been preliminarily approved in a class action lawsuit involving certain Remington firearms. The class action lawsuit claims that trigger mechanisms with a component part known as a trigger connector are defectively designed and can result in accidental discharges without the trigger being pulled. The lawsuit further claims that from May 1, 2006 to April 9, 2014, the X-Mark Pro® trigger mechanism assembly process created the potential for the application of an excess amount of bonding agent, which could cause Model 700 or Seven bolt-action rifles containing such trigger mechanisms to discharge without a trigger pull under certain limited conditions. The lawsuit contends that the value and utility of these firearms have been diminished as a result of these alleged defects. Defendants deny any wrongdoing.

Who's included?

The Settlement provides benefits to:

- (1) Current owners of Remington Model 700, Seven, Sportsman 78, 673, 710, 715, 770, 600, 660, XP-100, 721, 722, and 725 firearms containing a Remington trigger mechanism that utilizes a trigger connector;
- (2) Current owners of Remington Model 700 and Model Seven rifles containing an X-Mark Pro trigger mechanism manufactured from May 1, 2006 to April 9, 2014 who did not participate in the voluntary X-Mark Pro product recall prior to April 14, 2015; and
- (3) Current and former owners of Remington Model 700 and Model Seven rifles who replaced their rifle's original Walker trigger mechanism with an X-Mark Pro trigger mechanism.

What does the Settlement provide?

Settlement Class Members may be entitled to: (1) have their trigger mechanism retrofitted with a new X-Mark Pro or other connectorless trigger mechanism at no cost to the class members; (2) receive a voucher code for

Remington products redeemable at Remington's online store; and/or (3) be refunded the money they spent to replace their Model 700 or Seven's original Walker trigger mechanism with an X-Mark Pro trigger mechanism.

How can I obtain benefits?

Submit a Claim Form. Claim Forms can be found at www.remingtonfirearmsclassactionsettlement.com or by calling 1-800-876-5940.

What are my legal rights?

Even if you do nothing you will be bound by the Court's decisions. If you want to keep your right to sue the Defendants yourself, you must exclude yourself from the Settlement Class by **October 5, 2015**. If you stay in the Settlement Class, you may object to the Settlement by **October 5, 2015**.

The Court will hold a hearing on **December 14, 2015**, to consider whether to approve the Settlement and a request for attorneys' fees of up to \$12.5 million, plus a payment of \$2,500 for each named Plaintiff. You or your own lawyer may appear at the hearing at your own expense.

For more information or a Claim Form:

1-800-876-5940 or www.remingtonfirearmsclassactionsettlement.com

We returned to the wild a day and a half later, climbed a prehistoric mountain and found the perfect full-curl ram. For the next two days, he stayed ethically unreachable — more than 600 yards away — with two guarding ewes on the other side of a basin. Kirk and I patiently waited for him to descend, but he never did. Atop the mountain we exchanged naps on the unsettled rocks, and as cold, wet weather rolled in from the east, I felt forced down the mountain. Kirk advised against it citing my future regret, but all I could think about was that I was out of dry clothes, lacking nourishment in my pack and losing heat in my core. The day-long horseback ride back to Jane and the Wood River was tormenting. I was *not* in sheep shape, and the perfect ram outlasted my effort.

It wasn't without excitement, however, as our ride back to Wood River interrupted a sleeping grizzly in a dense spruce forest. Kirk's horse reared up and threw him off, galloping off with our three pack horses in tow carrying our supplies with them as the griz ran off toward the mountains. We were now two horses,



two rifles, three men and bitter frustration roughly 40 miles apart from the Moody camp these horses were trained to return to. Just that fast, our hunting trip had turned into a survivor's tale. Incredibly, though, a few miles through the trees, we found the horses, still tied together, tangled in the thick spruce.

We finished a full day's ride to Jane's camp, ate sheep stew and played cribbage on a moose shed. Then, it was our time to leave.

Robert landed along the pebble-beach runway along the Wood River on the 10th day and picked us up individually. After a short takeoff, the climb above the mountain peaks gave me time to reflect on the last two weeks. It was an honor to hunt with Jake and witness his success. Most visitors to Alaska never see the state in this way, and only a determined few find their way back to pursue sheep more than once. I hope to be one of them with a Trijicon-scoped .257 Weatherby in my horse's scabbard. I now understand why they call this "hunting" and not "killing." **QA**

A man wearing a black baseball cap with a 3M logo, a black t-shirt with an American flag patch, and a black vest is aiming a rifle with a scope. He is wearing ear protection and has a determined expression. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

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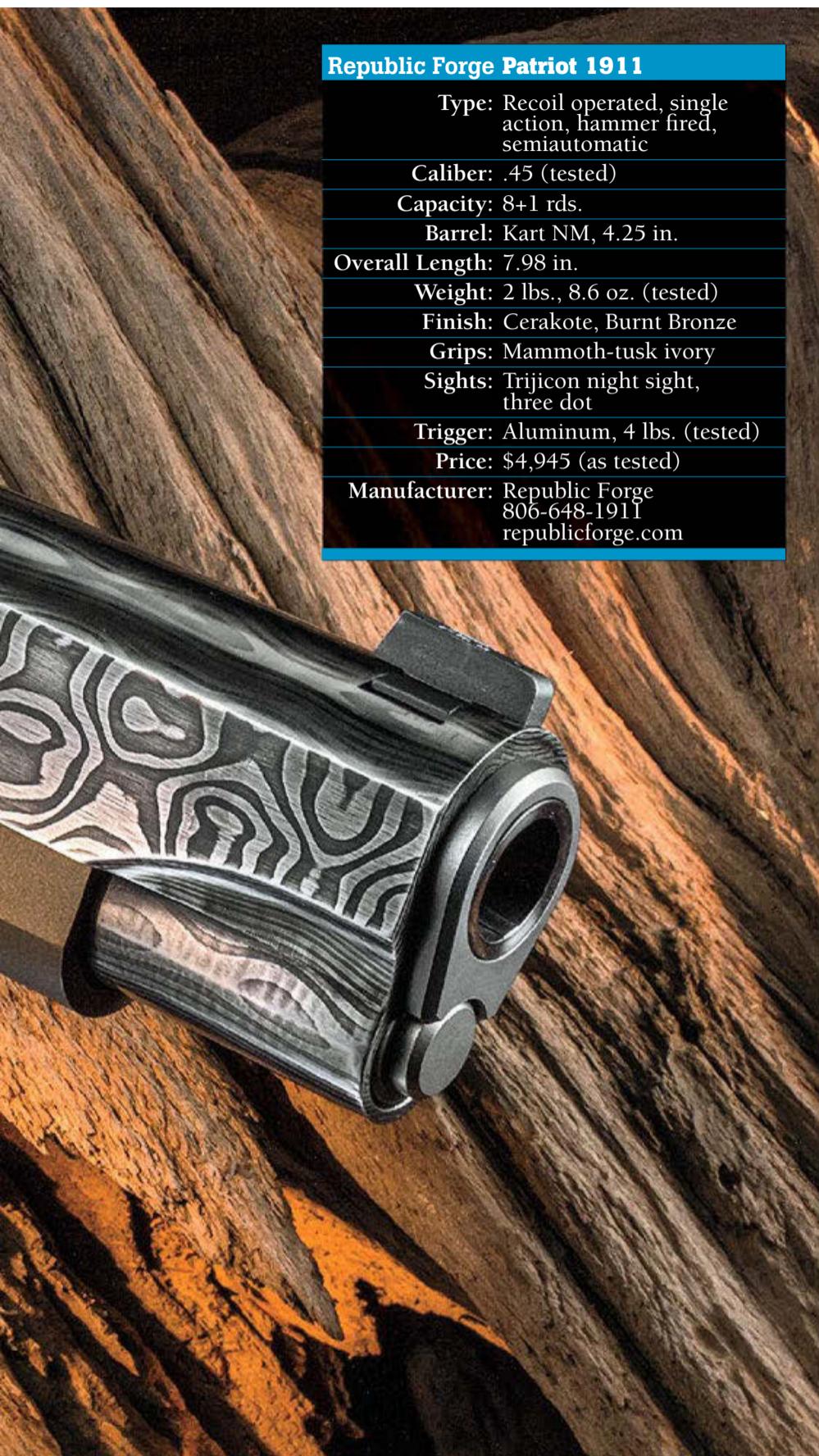
MODERN AGED

WOOLLY MAMMOTHS are thought to have gone extinct more than 10,000 years ago in what is now modern Alaska and the Yukon. In certain parts of Siberia and Asia, it's likely that mammoths lived on until 6,000 years ago, and scientist estimate that 10 million mammoths remain frozen. Since the days they walked the earth, woolly mammoths have been hunted, but in the 21st century, mammoth ivory is growing as a popular substitute for elephant ivory. Mammoth ivory differs in appearance from elephant ivory in

that it is browner and the Schreger lines, or crosshatchings, are coarser, giving it a distinctive aged appearance.

Mammoth tusks have been reemerging more frequently from the deep permafrost in Alaska and Siberia as well as from eroding creek beds and changing river bends. Intrigue with fossilized ivory combined with its availability at about \$75 per pound make it a lucrative medium for artisans.

In some cases, guns serve as functional forms of art, and you don't have to look beyond Republic Forge to find the artists. Republic Forge is a small builder of custom Model 1911s in Perryton, Texas, where three gunsmiths allow you to build your own interpretation of a 1911.



Republic Forge Patriot 1911

Type: Recoil operated, single action, hammer fired, semiautomatic

Caliber: .45 (tested)

Capacity: 8+1 rds.

Barrel: Kart NM, 4.25 in.

Overall Length: 7.98 in.

Weight: 2 lbs., 8.6 oz. (tested)

Finish: Cerakote, Burnt Bronze

Grips: Mammoth-tusk ivory

Sights: Trijicon night sight, three dot

Trigger: Aluminum, 4 lbs. (tested)

Price: \$4,945 (as tested)

Manufacturer: Republic Forge
806-648-1911
republicforge.com



Kart National Match (NM) barrels are forged from 4150 ordnance steel to strict NM specs and rifled by a proprietary technique.



Kart NM barrels are oversize for final fitting. Professional pistol-smithing is required to minimize tolerances for best accuracy.



A departure from triggers that feature round holes, this superb blackened aluminum trigger was designed by Nighthawk Custom.

Each Republic Forge 1911 is a one-of-a-kind investment where every detail is optional. If you build one using the company's drop-down menu at its website, you'll find model names for longslides, full-size and Commander variants as well as caliber options including .38 Super, 9mm, .40, 10mm and .45. Carry cuts, sights, hammer, double stack, single stack, mag-well type, safety, serrations, finish and custom grips are among the decisions you'll get to make. Custom isn't cheap, but the results are absolutely incredible.

G&A Editor Eric Poole owns this particular Republic Forge 1911. Enough readers wrote in after seeing it in a "Carry Rig" column that he assigned a "Proofhouse" testfire for

this issue. This pistol's features are not all-inclusive, but they highlight the unique options Republic Forge offers.

The Patriot The pistol tested here is Republic Forge's Patriot, and the frame has been finished in a Burnt Bronze Cerakote. Because Poole ordered a set of mammoth-tusk ivory stocks, this color was chosen to complement the aged character the grips possess. The Cerakote process is a ceramic-based finish that is much more durable than bluing and stainless steel, and it works well to resist abrasion, corrosion and chemicals the pistol might encounter during its life of carry. Republic Forge offers a long list of earth-

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tone color options, and the Cerakote process is done on the company's premises.

The Damascus slide was a \$1,300 upcharge. Like the organic nature of the mammoth grips, these stainless slides offer a unique appearance with contrasting patterns. No two slides are alike. Imported from Damasteel in Sweden, Damascus slides usually require 10 to 12 months of patience to ship from the parent company. Due to warnings about shooting modern-pressure shells through 19th century shotguns with Damascus barrels, some shooters fear that Damascus steel is weak. Traditionally, welding two types of steel, usually in seven layers, produces Damascus steel. The one forge is then folded repeatedly until more than 100 layers are observed. For the last 20 years, Damasteel has been manufacturing its Damascus differently using modern gas-atomizing powder metallurgy. The process results in clean, tempered steel with very few inclusions and impurities.

Inside the Commander-length slide with a lowered and flared ejection port is a standard .45-caliber National Match barrel from Kart. Poole usually loathes the term "National Match"

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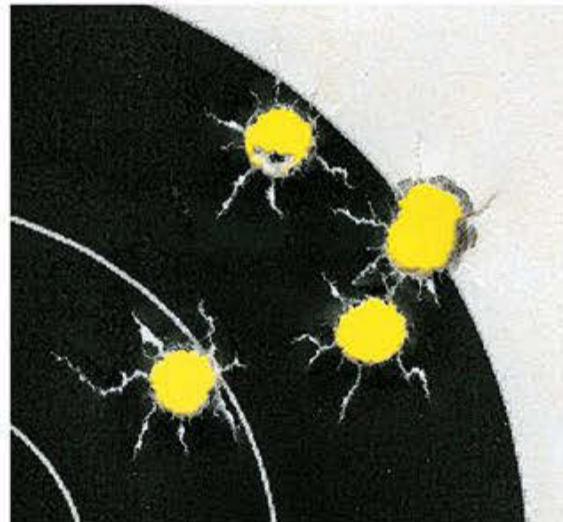
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Hornady 185-gr. Critical Defense	946	58	25	2.08	2.89
HPR 230-gr. JHP	787	53	20	1.17	1.43
Winchester 1911 230-gr. FMJ	828	13	5	2.04	3.56

Notes: Velocity is the average in feet-per-second (FPS) of five shots fired across a ProChrono chronograph at a distance of approximately 6 feet from the muzzle. Average group size measured in inches (IN.) is the average of five five-shot groups fired at 25 yards from a benchrest. Grains (GR.); Extreme Spread (ES); Standard Deviation (SD)

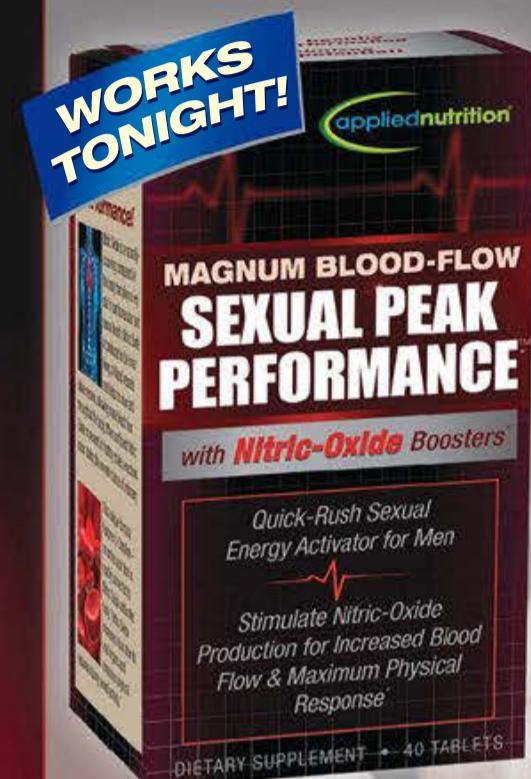
because he feels it is often perverted for marketing purposes, whereas pistol-smiths regard it as a description of unfinished parts that must be fitted by hand. (There's no such thing as a "drop-in National Match part.") This Kart barrel has been fitted masterfully by Republic Forge's gunsmith Jeff Meister. Meister has been customizing and repairing 1911s since 1983, and he is a 2009 graduate of Bill Laughridge's Cylinder & Slide Custom 1911 and Match Grade Barrel Fitting classes. As Poole is a 2005 alumnus of Laughridge's training, he more than appreciates the level of detail Meister applies.

Poole doesn't use forward cocking serrations, so this pistol lacks them. The slide, however, is expertly fitted with Trijicon's Novak-type tritium night sights, and it reciprocates using a standard guide rod and 18-pound recoil spring.

Controls on this pistol were spec'd in black for contrast and in modern format with extended ledges for the slide-lock lever and ambidextrous thumb safety. For tactile familiarity, the aforementioned controls as well as the combat hammer spur, trigger and magazine release all feature serrations for texture rather than a checkered pattern. The frontstrap and mainspring housing have both been given a fine 25-lines-per-inch checkering for control, which overcomes the fact that the mammoth ivory grips are smooth and do little more than fill the hand in aiding control of the pistol grip.



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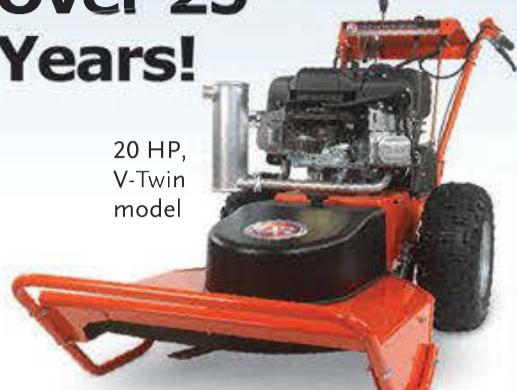
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Traditional flathead screws give way to hex-head screws on this 1911, and a quick inventory of the overtravel screw, mag-catch screw, grip screws and Novak rear sight screw reinforces that this pistol is a modern piece of work of an otherwise vintage design. Everything about the gun fits together and works flawlessly.

Range Day This pistol had been carried for a year and fired throughout by Poole, and for this assignment G&A staff assembled to evaluate it using two loads of defensive-minded ammo and one 1911-specific range load developed by Winchester. Surprisingly, there have only been three malfunctions experienced with this tight-fit custom pistol, and they were with Winchester's new Win1911 load, producing three failures to feed. After careful analysis, it was our conclusion that this was attributed to a combination of the wide feed lips of Metalform magazines, which allowed the back of the cartridge to slide down vertically into the mag body before the flatnose bullet could properly navigate into the chamber. Otherwise, no malfunction has been observed in firing more than 500 rounds or with other aftermarket magazines.

After this test, G&A reached out to Jeff Meister about this concern and learned that Republic Forge, too, had experienced similar issues with Metalform magazines in its pistols. It has since switched over to shipping its 1911s with Cobra magazines from Tripp Research.

Hornady's faster 185-grain Critical Defense and HPR's heavier-jacketed 230-grain hollowpoint produced the tightest five-shot groups at the bench from 25 yards, with the HPR load resulting in this test's single best target, with five shots measuring just 1.17 inches center to center. These results were not all that typical, as this pistol favors certain loads over others. G&A recommends that if you come to own and carry one of these heirloom-quality 1911s, you consider an assortment of ammunition and evaluate them to determine which load works best for you. **GA**

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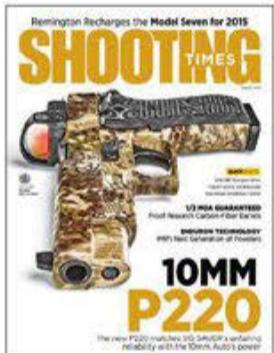


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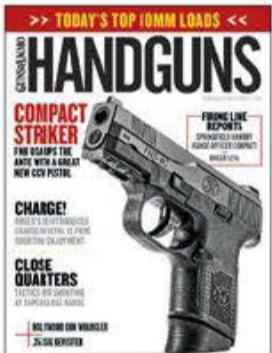
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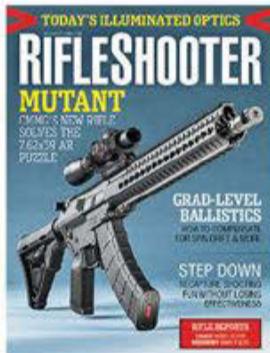
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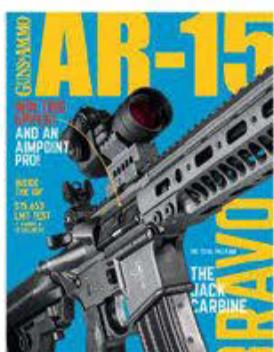
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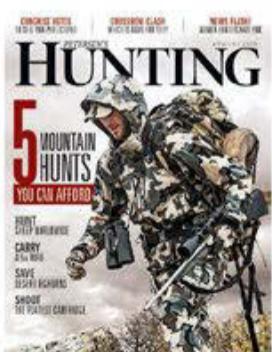
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Patrick Sweeney and Tom Beckstrand shoot automatic small arms including a Marlin 1917.

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Tom Beckstrand and Patrick Sweeney test Ruger's new Lightweight Commander .45.

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G&A handles a few updated Desert Eagles in .44 Mag. and .50 AE. They are impressed.

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Craig Boddington and James Tarr review Springfield Armory's latest M1A Scout Squad.

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Kyle Lamb and Richard Nance in our "Tactical Training" segment with shotguns on the move.

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THE DEAN OF OUTDOOR WRITERS

JACK O'CONNOR WAS A PROFESSOR before making a career as a writer and editor. His first published outdoor features were meant to augment his income during the Depression while teaching at Northern Arizona University and, soon after, the University of Arizona. There he taught English and became the university's first journalism professor, all this while hunting and studying the history of game animals and firearms.

Within a few years, O'Connor had built a respected reputation as an outdoor writer covering firearms and hunting. By 1939, he had an exclusive contract with *Outdoor Life* magazine, ultimately resigning from academia to be a full-time field editor in 1945.

Besides hunting Arizona's first antelope season in 1941, O'Connor was also known for sheep hunting. His first ram was a desert bighorn he took in 1935 in Sonora, Mexico.

By 1946, it was reported that he had harvested three or more of each of the four wild sheep species in North America, only the fourth man at the time to do so.

O'Connor was also known for championing the .270 Winchester cartridge — perhaps the chambering of the Winchester Model 54 he is holding in this pre-World War II photograph from the Petersen's Hunting archives. The Model 54 was an open-sight bolt action that was introduced in 1925 prior to the popularity of attaching scopes. It was supplanted by the famous Winchester Model 70. This particular rifle was fitted with a Weaver Model 330 featuring 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ magnification and a three-quarter-inch tube.

After spending 31 years at *Outdoor Life* magazine, O'Connor was hired by *Guns & Ammo*'s founder Robert Petersen to lead the first two years of Petersen's Hunting magazine as its executive editor in November 1973. **GA**

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