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MAGAZINE

NOVEMBER 2001

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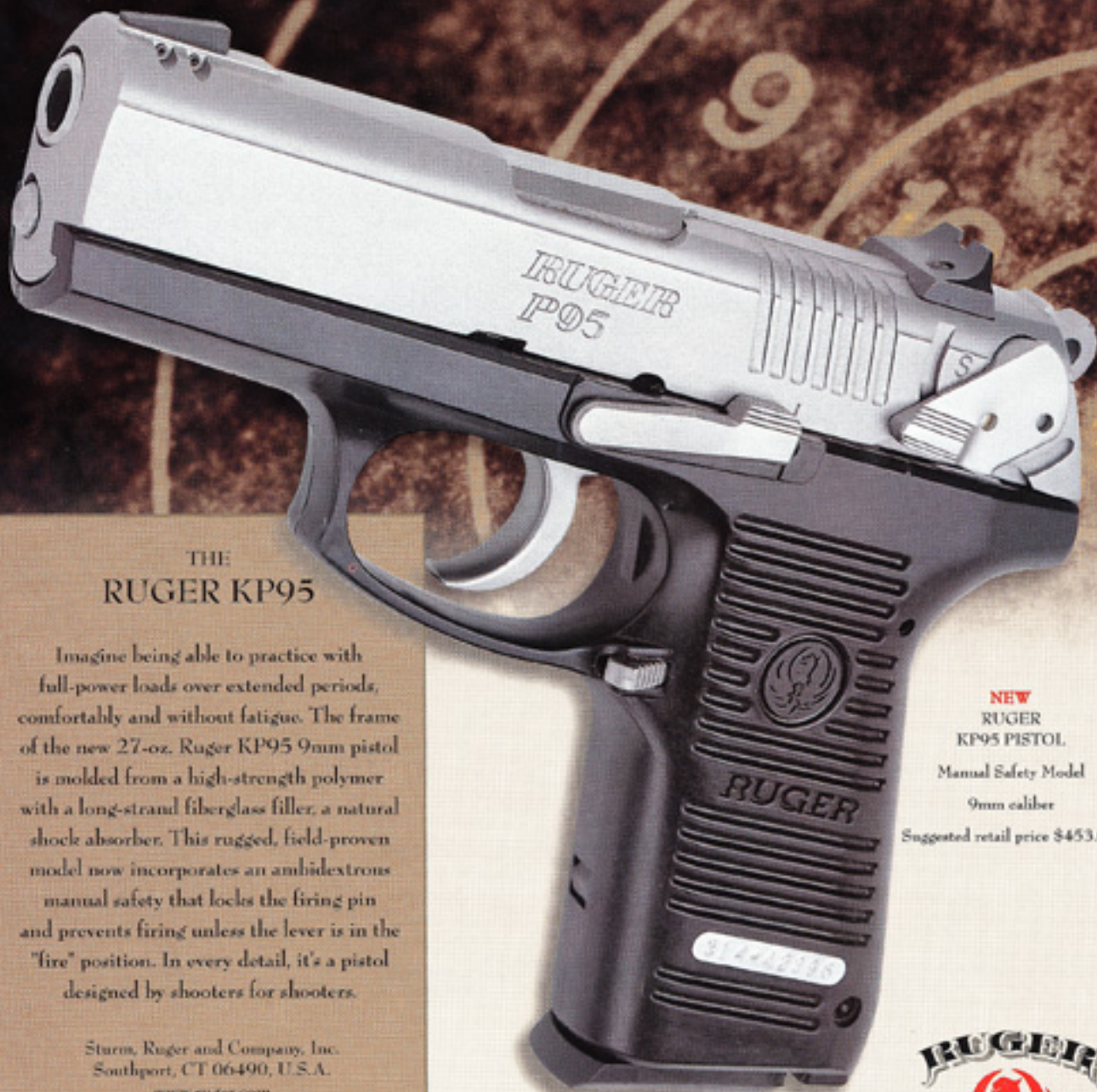
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# GUNS

MAGAZINE

NOVEMBER 2001 Vol. 47, Number 11-563

## On The Cover:

Ronnie Barrett's  
.50 BMG Rifles  
By Charles Cutshaw

Photos by Ichiro Nagata



## DEPARTMENTS

- 8 **Crossfire Letters to GUNS**
- 12 **Quartermaster** Cameron Hopkins
- 16 **Rifleman** Dave Anderson
- 18 **Handguns** Massad Ayoob
- 22 **Shotgunner** Holt Bodinson
- 24 **Handloader** Charles E. Petty
- 74 **New Products**
- 78 **Guns Classifieds**
- 80 **Advertiser Index**
- 82 **Campfire Tales** John Taffin **NEW DEPARTMENT**

## FEATURES

- 20 **Bullets By Request**  
BY JOHN TAFFIN In response to requests, Taffin reveals his best cast bullet sources.
- 28 **Lessons From The Ancients**  
BY STEVE TARANI Centuries old tactics still apply to the modern armed citizen or peace officer.
- 30 **America's Rifle Cartridge: .30-'06**  
BY DAVE ANDERSON This sentimental favorite performs as well as ever.
- 34 **The M1014 Combat Shotgun**  
BY ROBERT BRUCE Benelli produces a new design to Uncle Sam's specifications.
- 40 **Barrett's .50 BMG Rifles**  
BY CHARLES CUTSHAW American ingenuity sets the standard for very high power rifles.
- 48 **Elk Cartridges**  
BY HOLT BODINSON Selecting a caliber can be a lot easier than finding a bull.
- 50 **It's The Bullet**  
BY HOLT BODINSON Decades of refinement have produced the finest hunting bullets ever known.
- 58 **The Forty-Five Auto On The Trail**  
BY SAM FADALA Selecting a compact companion for the lonely places.
- 68 **Gun Of The Month**  
You can win an ArmaLite AR-10A2 in Realtree Hardwoods finish.
- 70 **Meet The Gunsmith: Glenrock Blue**  
BY DICK WILLIAMS Firearms refinishing is all they do — and they do it right.





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## GUNS Magazine Announces NEW EDITOR

**H**ello, fellow shooters! Beginning with the November issue, it will be my privilege to serve as the editor of *GUNS* Magazine. I cannot begin to convey how excited I am by this opportunity!

In a way, my association with *GUNS* goes back to the mid-'60s. As a youngster, while others my age were reading comic books, I was driven to read *GUNS* magazine and related shooting and hunting books. Those were great days, and *GUNS* fired my imagination with wonderful, informative and entertaining stories by some of the greatest of American gun writers. As pleasant as such nostalgic recollections can be, *these* are the good-old-days for shooters!

Never has there existed such an abundance of new and exciting firearms! For those who enjoy being on the cutting edge, we have seen fantastic new advances in materials for rifle and handgun construction, new components for handloaders, new methods of manufacture, and even new ignition systems. Shotgunners now have radical new lead shot alternatives for waterfowling, and new-generation slugs that make the old Foster-type slug seem positively primitive.

So high-tech is not your thing? It is amazing to realize that you can stroll down to your local gun shop and purchase beautiful, brand-new versions of such classics as the 1873 Winchester, the S&W Russian revolver, and the Colt 1872 Open Top.

Do you enjoy firearms as fine works of art? With due respect to the great names of the past, the finest custom gunmakers the world has ever seen are working in America today. Truly friend, *these are* the good-old-days!

So, perhaps you can tell that I am passionate about firearms. What are you passionate about in the world of sporting arms? *GUNS* is your magazine, and we want to hear from you. Tell us what you enjoy, what you don't care for, and what you would like to see more of. We are extremely interested in your opinions.

Finally, I would like to thank Scott Farrell for the great job he did as the previous editor of *GUNS*. Scott has left to pursue the completion of a book that he has in the works, and we wish him all possible success.

Yours for better shooting-  
Jim Gardner

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# GUNS

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THE FINEST IN THE FIREARMS FIELD SINCE 1955

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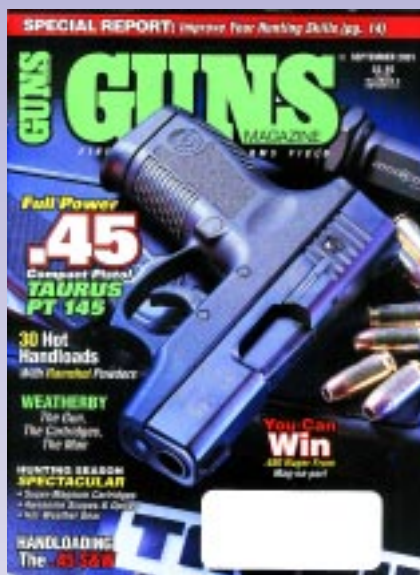


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## LETTER OF THE MONTH



GUNS MAGAZINE SEPTEMBER 2001

**"The Duke"**

Just a quick note to tell you how much I enjoyed Dave Anderson's retrospective on Roy Weatherby and his rifles. While I was of course aware of the Weatherby rifles and cartridges, I had no idea of just how extensive Roy Weatherby's early experiments were. I have to say that the Weatherby style of stock design has not always appealed to me, but I can certainly admire someone who honestly believes that he has a better design, and then goes out to prove it.

The entire story was great, but it was the photo of "The Duke" — John Wayne — that brought a smile to my face. How wonderful to be reminded that this American icon was not embarrassed to be seen with a fine firearm, even when not on the soundstage.

Thanks for another great issue!  
Don Cooper  
Denver, Colo.

**.30 Carbine Booster**

I really enjoyed Chuck Karwan's article on the .30 Carbine and agree with him wholeheartedly that the M1 Carbine should be integrated into law enforcement to supplement the pump-action shotgun. As a weapons training instructor and 23-year veteran of the largest Sheriff's department in the United States, I have seen countless deputies fail an easy shotgun run-and-shoot qualification due to the psychological and physiological fear of the shotgun's recoil.

The .30 Carbine, on the other hand, is virtually recoilless when compared to the 12-gauge shotgun and delivers 2/3 more energy than the .45 ACP pistol. Since it provides more power than the 9mm NATO Carabines but less than the .223 Carabines, the .30 Carbine seems just right for police work.

Regarding G.I. tales from World War II, I must rely on my late father, who as a farm lad learned to shoot a rifle accurately at a very young age. Although he rarely spoke of the war, and never watched war movies, his personal experience with the M1 .30 Carbine through the Solomon Island campaign and the liberation of the Philippines must be acknowledged. He told me that the Carbine always did what it was supposed to, and that on Bougainville and New Georgia, the only complaints he heard about the Carbine were from people who couldn't hit anything with it! 'Nuff said on that.

H.R. Flynt  
Monrovia, Calif.

**Too Good To Lose**

John Taffin's July 2001 article on the .45 Colt is the best on the subject I have ever read. I have made copies and stashed them in strategic places in my reloading manuals in case I ever lose the original magazine, heaven forbid.

Fritz R. Dixon  
Meridian, Idaho

**Now That's Customer Service!**

Tasco's service is outstanding! I recently purchased two of the Tasco Optima 2000 red dot sights. One of the sights worked perfectly. The other developed an intermittent problem. I returned the sight to Tasco's service department.

However, after sending it, I realized I forgot to include the invoice from the vendor I purchased it from. Ten days after sending it, I received a postcard from Tasco's service department in Miramar, Fla., acknowledging receipt of the defective unit. The same day, I received a new Optima 2000 sight from Tasco. That's outstanding service! I will buy Tasco again and again!

Peter Adams  
Palm Beach, Fla.

**Cowboy Handloader**

I would like to respond to your Handloader Column in the September Issue of GUNS Magazine "Loading the .45 S&W."

In your article you claim there was no loading data for 250 grain bullets. I beg to differ with you. I am a Cowboy Action shooter and a diehard user of Hodgdon's Titegroup powder. In their Cowboy Action Load Manual they have data for 250 grain bullets not only for Titegroup but for most of their pistol powders as well. I specifically shoot the .45 S&W rounds out of all of my Single Action revolvers using 250 grain RNLFP over 4.6 grains of Titegroup. I have found this to be a very accurate and light recoiling load.

Anthony Calabria  
Staten Island, N.Y.

**CORRECTION**

The September issue of GUNS, page 55, stated that the Taurus PT145 was furnished with three magazines. This is not correct. The PT145 is furnished with one magazine. Additional magazines are available for \$34.







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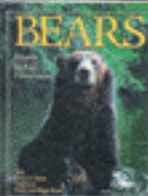
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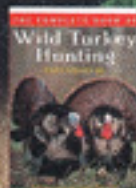
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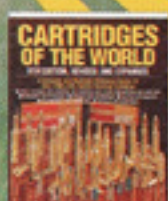
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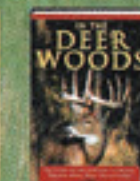
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## Bore Stay

Former Marine Master Sgt. Jon Morgan mustered out of the Corps with a better idea. After years of cleaning his M16 rifle without the aid of a tool to keep solvent from running all over his starched BDUs, Morgan invented the Bore Stay.

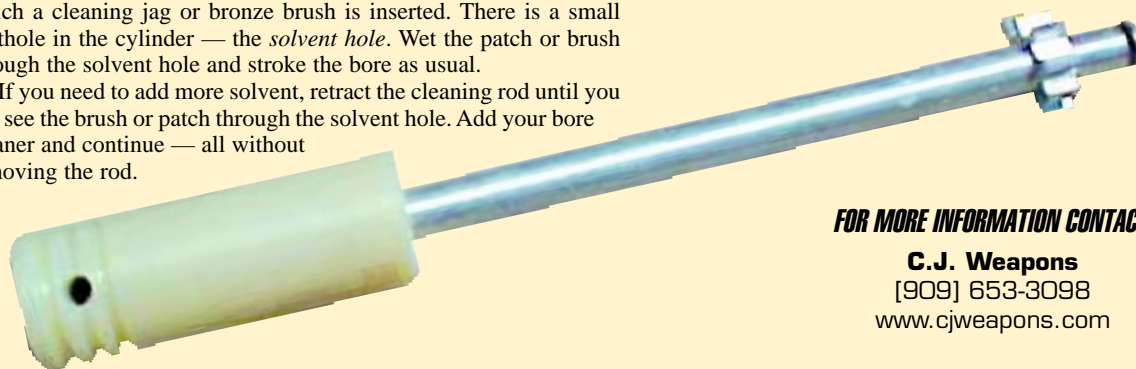
With a patent pending on the clever cleaning accessory, Morgan manufactures the Bore Stay from aluminum alloy. The Bore Stay has a rotary locking guide on one end that fits into the locking lugs of an M16. Simply twist and the Bore Stay is securely attached to the upper receiver.

On the other end of the Bore Stay is a polymer cylinder into which a cleaning jag or bronze brush is inserted. There is a small porthole in the cylinder — the *solvent hole*. Wet the patch or brush through the solvent hole and stroke the bore as usual.

If you need to add more solvent, retract the cleaning rod until you can see the brush or patch through the solvent hole. Add your bore cleaner and continue — all without removing the rod.

Because the Bore Stay is locked into the receiver, it will not come loose even as you work the cleaning rod back and forth. The polymer cylinder prevents solvent from running into the trigger group or, worse yet, spilling onto your dress blues.

Morgan's clever invention retails for \$24.95. The former Marine markets his product primarily at gun shows, so you probably won't find one at your local gunshop. Buy direct from him. We know him personally and can vouch that he ships the Bore Stay within 24 hours of receiving an order. Semper Fi.



**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**

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## Winchester. Short. Magnum.



What more do you need in a rifle? The Winchester Model 70 Featherweight (pictured) in the hot new 300 WSM caliber has all three. It's a Winchester. That means it has the quality and features you've grown to trust. Like its massive claw extractor and controlled round feed and its three position safety that lets you open the action in the safe, middle position. The new 300 WSM is a short action caliber. That means your rifle is compact and light. Perfect for those hardcore hunts when you have to cover a lot of ground.



## Sinclair Cleaning Stand

**S**inclair is to shooters what Craftsman is to mechanics — the one brand you can count on for quality, value and selection. We have long been an adherent of Sinclair International since we have used and abused many of their fine products in the course of pursuing our dubious hobbies of reloading and shooting.

Sinclair International is a mail-order business specializing in high-end tools and accessories for serious handloaders and competition shooters. They sell other brands of gear as well as their own designs. It is the latter we are testing here, the Sinclair cleaning rest for AR-15 rifles.

The cleaning rest is a take-down affair consisting of two horizontal legs, two round crossmembers and two upright cradles, padded to protect the rifle's finish. The whole thing assembles with nothing more complicated than one Allen wrench. Construction is aluminum.

The dimensions of the cradles in the rest are perfect for the "back rifle" with enough distance to allow the pistol grip clearance

from the bench surface. The cradles themselves are spacious enough to accommodate the popular round-style forends on many of the target-version ARs.

Easily taken apart and stored, the Sinclair AR cleaning rest can be transported to the range and set up with minimal fuss. This is where the product truly shines for it is a definite hassle to pack up our usual "cleaning rest," a 50-pound bench vise with rubber-padded jaws.

We found it a help to C-clamp the rest to the shooting bench to keep the whole thing from moving while pushing a tightly fitted brush or patch down the bore.

The Sinclair AR cleaning rest retails for \$44.95.




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at 1-800-945-6427 or learn more right now at: [winchester-guns.com](http://winchester-guns.com). Winchester is a registered trademark licensed from Olin Corporation.

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## Leupold Mark 4 Rings

**B**eef and brawn are “out” now that ultra-lightweight mountain rifles are “in.” But that doesn’t mean there isn’t still a place for a rock-solid scope mount carved from a chunk of all-American steel. Leupold’s Mark 4 scope mount consists of an integral ring and base, machined from a single piece of steel. The Mark 4 mount is the very antithesis of feather-weight; these mounts are the Suburbans of scope rings.

Available in 30mm and 1-inch sizes, the Mark 4 mounts are made to fit on a Picatinny rail. More and more tactical rifles are coming with Picatinny sight rails, such as all the flat-top ARs, Springfield Armory MIAs and the new DSA scope covers for FALs. Additionally, Leupold makes Picatinny bases to fit most bolt-action rifles. (A Picatinny is basically a military-spec Weaver base.)

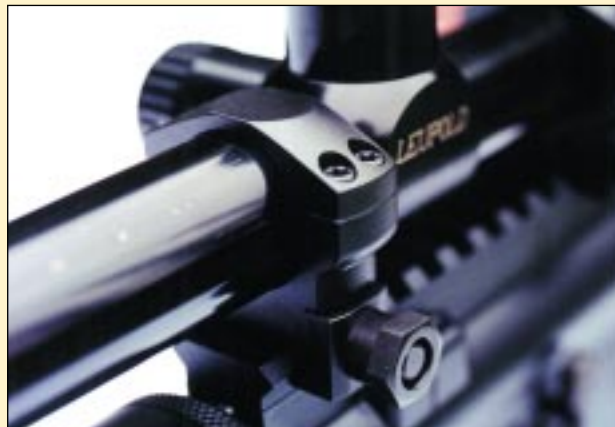
The Mark 4 base is made to hold heavy-duty scopes and prevent loss of zero from the inevitable jarring and bumping that a tactical rifle receives. Talk about strong — the

Mark 4 mount attaches to its rail with a hex nut crosspiece. No pansy screws here; you need a 1/2-inch socket to mount a Mark 4.

Measuring .630-inch wide and .110-inch thick, the Mark 4 mount comes in low, medium and tall heights. A pair of 30mm mounts tipped the scales at 7 ounces, almost a half-pound of Leupold steel!

We use Mark 4 mounts exclusively on our tactical rifles. We have a set on our Remington 700P and another on our Les Baer AR. Frankly, we would not even consider anything but Leupold’s heavy-duty Mark 4 mounts for any hard-use rifle.

One caution — go easy on that socket wrench when you install a Mark 4. It may be as strong as a lugnut, but over-torquing could damage the base. See your nearest Leupold dealer. Suggested retail is \$206.20.



### FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

**Leupold & Stevens**

P.O. Box 688  
Beaverton, Ore. 97075  
[503] 526-5195  
[www.leupold.com](http://www.leupold.com)

*continued on page 72*

## KEL-TEC SUB-2000



The SUB Rifle 2000 is a self-loading carbine for pistol cartridges. Different versions of the SUB-2000 will accept most modern handgun magazines, e.g. S&W, Glock or Beretta. By rotating the barrel upwards and back, the SUB-2000 can be reduced to a size of 16" x 7" to facilitate secure storage. The SUB-2000 also features an internal keyed deployment lock.

#### Technical specifications

Weight unloaded	4 lbs	1.8 kg
Length open	30"	762 mm
Length closed	16"	406 mm
Barrel length	16.1"	409 mm
Practical range	150 yd	150 m
Safety:	Recessed push-bolt Lock-back operating handle Keyed deployment lock	

### OTHER KEL-TEC PRODUCTS



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## Good Things Come In SMALL PACKAGES

The .300 Winchester Short Magnum (WSM) is a nonbelted case that is shorter and larger in diameter than the current .300 Winchester Magnum. Theoretically, this short, fat case should burn powder more efficiently, allowing comparable velocities with smaller powder charges, which results in less recoil. Short cases also allow the use of short actions. And benchrest competitors have proven that such short, fat cases are inherently accurate.

From a 24-inch barrel, the factory 180-grain loads clocked at 2,970 fps, and 150-grain loads at 3,300 fps. As the chart below shows, chronographed velocities supported the factory's claims.

CARTRIDGE	VELOCITY	EXTREME SPREAD	STANDARD DEVIATION
<i>W-W 180-grain Power Point</i>	2,941	21	8.8
<i>W-W 180-grain Fail Safe</i>	2,978	48	18.6
<i>W-W 150-grain Ballistic Silver Tip</i>	3,262	44	17.6

*Velocities were measured 10 feet from the muzzle of a Winchester model 70 Featherweight rifle with a 24-inch barrel.*

## TALE OF THE TAPE

.300 WINCHESTER SHORT MAGNUM CASE DIMENSIONS			
MEASURED DIMENSIONS			
	SAAMI MAXIMUM	UNFIRED CASE	FIRED CASE
<i>Rim Diameter</i>	0.535 inch	0.535 inch	0.535 inch
<i>Base Diameter</i>	0.555 inch	0.546 inch	0.558 inch
<i>Shoulder Diameter</i>	0.538 inch	0.535 inch	0.540 inch
<i>Neck Diameter</i>	0.344 inch	0.336 inch	0.340 inch
<i>Case Mouth Diameter</i>	0.344 inch	0.336 inch	0.340 inch
<i>Cartridge Overall Length</i>	2.56 to 2.86 inches	2.825 inches	—

The case capacity of unfired cases, filled to their brims, was 79 grains. The capacity of fired cases was 84 grains.

The rifle on loan from Winchester was a standard model 70 Featherweight, with that attractive stock design used ever since the Featherweight was reintroduced a couple of decades ago. The barrel has a slightly heavier contour than that seen on Featherweights chambered in standard cartridges. At 7.5 pounds, it is approximately a quarter pound heavier than standard Featherweights. The 24-inch barrel has a 1-in-10-inch rate of twist. It appeared that this rifle was a pre-production model, as the only markings on the barrel were the caliber and the usual Winchester proof-mark. I fitted a Leupold 2.5-8X Vari-X III scope for testing.

Functioning of the .300 WSM in the Winchester rifle was flawless. With the rifle loaded to capacity (three cartridges in the magazine, one in the chamber), I worked the action slowly, then normally, then as hard and fast as it could be worked. In all cases, cartridges fed, chambered, extracted and ejected perfectly. Feeding of cartridges from magazine to chamber was smooth and required little effort.

The only fault with the rifle was the heavy 6- to 7-pound trigger pull, typical of most current factory rifles. Fortunately, the model 70 trigger is one of the best. It can be readily

adjusted by a knowledgeable gunsmith.

Gunsmith Ed Brown has experimented with the .300 WSM chambered in his custom M702 action. With a 24-inch barrel, Brown has chronographed velocities over 3,000 fps with factory 180-grain ammunition, and over 3,300 fps with the 150-grain factory loads. On average, he has been getting about 40 to 50 fps more velocity than I have observed with my current test rifle. Rifles vary in the velocities produced for a number of reasons. It's possible that lower resistance to bullet travel from the very smooth, hand-lapped barrels on Brown's rifles is a factor here.

## RELOADING FOR THE .300 WSM

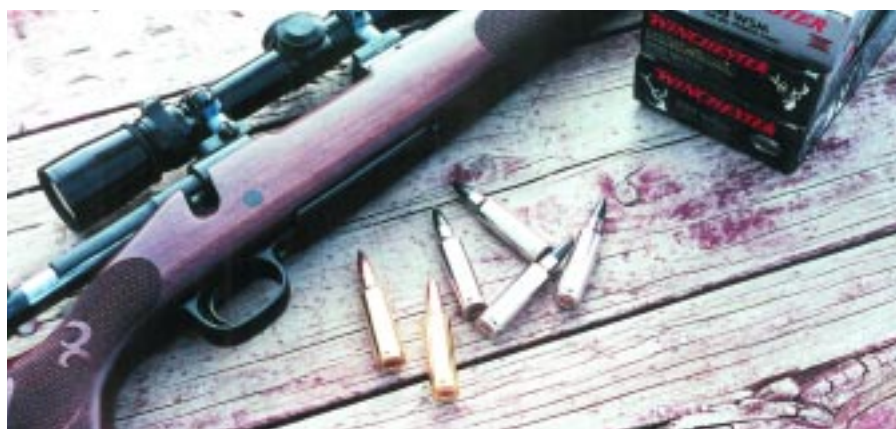
The loading dies I used were made by Redding. And, as with all Redding products, their quality is first rate in every respect. Loading data for the .300 WSM is just starting to be published. Initial testing suggests that factory ballistics can be achieved with several moderately slow-burning powders, including W-W 760 and IMR-4350.

Data from the Olin Corporation's Winchester Division Ballistic Services shows a load of 68.0 grains of WC760 powder with WLR primers, and the 180-grain Fail Safe bullet seated to give a cartridge overall length of 2.825 inches. Resulting velocities averaged 2,940 fps at 60,200 psi.

In the test rifle, I wasn't able to utilize this much powder. I was able to duplicate factory velocities with 64.0 grains of Winchester 760 powder, W-W large rifle magnum primers and 180-grain Nosler Ballistic Tip bullets seated to give an overall cartridge length of 2.825 inches. With 66.0 grains of 760, velocities averaged 3,046 fps. But bolt lift was noticeably sticky, suggesting pressures on the high side.

Accuracy proved very good with all loads tested. Three-shot spreads with the 180-grain Power Points ranged from 1.5 to 1.75 inches. The 150-grain Ballistic Silvertips and 180-grain Fail Safe loads both shot into around 1.25 inches, while the reloads with Nosler Ballistic Tips produced nice round three-shot groups in the 1-inch range.

To achieve a cartridge overall length of 2.825 inches, the 180-grain bullets must be seated with their bases well into the case body. The .300 WSM does not appear well adapted for heavier bullets. However, a premium 180-grain bullet at 3,000 fps is a most effective combination. Premium 165-grain bullets such as the Barnes X at 3,150 fps to 3,200 fps may prove to be the best all-purpose load in this cartridge.





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## Sometimes, CHEAP IS GOOD

Finding a good bargain is one of the small joys of life. A firearm that performs like one twice or more its price gives double satisfaction as well as value. First, there is the high performance that makes us feel better about ourselves for using it. Then, there is the sense of having done the smart thing in purchasing it, which makes us feel good about ourselves, too.

A good example is the Ruger .45 auto. Ruger's "P" series guns, their center-fire semiautomatics, are model-numbered for the year their design was finalized. Their first, the 9mm P85, didn't actually become available until a year or two after its announcement. And the early ones were a disappointment, the only really flawed auto pistols Ruger has ever produced. Their accuracy was mediocre, and in many specimens, so was reliability. In addition, the safety/decock lever was too tiny to manipulate.

Bill Ruger, Sr. was not happy. He ordered a sweeping redesign. Feedback from shooters across the country soon revealed the problem areas. A lot of the problem was in the barrel. I had my P85 done over by Irv Stone (barrel) and Nolan Santy (safety lever).

The redesigned P85 Mark II soon appeared, and then the P89. 100-percent function and acceptable accuracy had been restored. Then — finalized on the drawing board in 1990 and shipped in 1991 — came the long awaited Ruger .45 automatic.

## A WINNER FROM THE BEGINNING

The first Ruger .45 auto, the P90, was a success. Designed to take a lifetime of full power 10mm Auto at nearly 40,000 psi pressure (it had looked at the time as if the Ten was the coming thing), it was over-engineered for the .45 ACP cartridge and laughed at +P pressures. It fed everything from those 10mm equivalent rounds (185 grain JHP at 1150 fps) to feeble "softball" target loads, the same weight bullet in the 700 foot second range. The latter would dribble its spent casings onto your shoes, but it would cycle every time. It fed every hollow point known to man, including the dreaded "flying ashtray."

I had approved it as soon as I tested it as an optional gun for the officers on my department, which issued .357 Ruger revolvers but allowed double-action .45 autos. It was later decided to issue everyone a DA .45. I had a part in the testing. The Ruger beat every other double action .45 auto of the period, and in 1993 the P90 became standard issue for my PD. We've been carrying it ever since.

## RUGGED RELIABILITY

In the roughly eight years since, a whole lot of ammo has gone through those guns. We've replaced a couple of magazine release springs and trigger springs. We now have three variations of Ruger .45s in the field.

A couple of our people carry the P97 DC, the lightweight polymer-frame version introduced a couple of years ago. It has the same high order of reliability (though it doesn't tolerate light target loads, which for us is irrelevant), and some find it to simply fit the hand better.

A couple of officers who choose to carry off-safe have been encouraged to carry the P90 DC, whose de-cocking lever is spring-loaded as on the P97, which means it can never be accidentally engaged. Most carry the standard P90, whose de-cocking lever also functions as a manual safety.

The frame of the Ruger is either polymer

or aluminum depending on the model, and the slide is made of the aptly named Terhune Anticorro stainless. We get a lot of rain and snow. Our guns don't rust. They also have to be absolutely filthy and dry to malfunction, conditions we don't allow to happen. To help that high level of reliability along, we had our guns treated with Sentry Solutions, a long-term dry lube, by Tarnhelm Supply ([www.tarnhelm.com](http://www.tarnhelm.com)).

Each weapon is fitted with PT night sights by IWI, advertised in these pages. Black Hills ammunition supplies premium-quality duty loads, 230-grain Gold Dot bullets rated for 850 fps out of our 4-inch barrels, and a remanufactured training load of identical specifications. Duty holster is the superb high-security Safariland 070, originally designed by Bill Rogers as the SS-III.

## SURPRISING ACCURACY

Anyone who has seriously shot a P90 or P97 has been startled by its accuracy. My department issue service pistol recently put five out of five shots in 1.25 inches at 25 yards from a hand-held bench rest, using generic Rem-UMC 230 grain ball. Last year, I won the police officer's association shoot for my state with this gun using Winchester USA generic hardball. Good cheap gun plus good cheap ammo equals damn good performance.

Yes, I said cheap! At my local gun shop, you can buy a new P97 or good used P90 for under \$400. Compare that pricing to other double action .45 autos, and you see why these guns are "best buys."

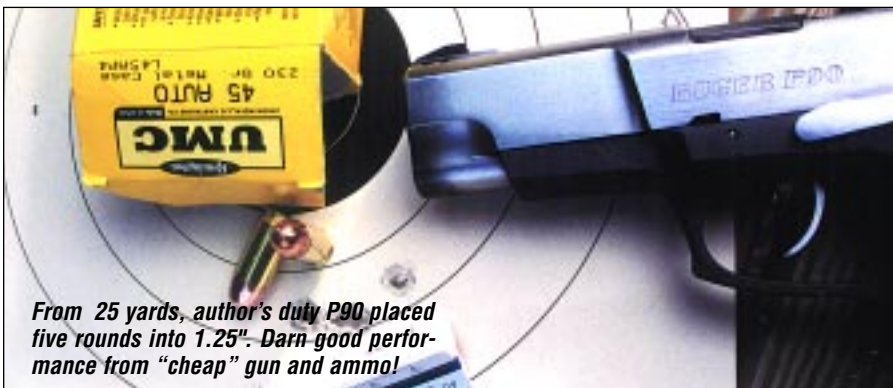
My department is a small one. A big one, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (some 7,000 deputies) recently authorized .45 autos from an approved list. The Ruger P90, I'm told, is the single most popular among the LASD personnel.

I'm not surprised. That department issues a top quality 9mm, the Beretta 92. When you

pay out of your own pocket for .45 ACP potency on a cop's salary, you want value. And, if you want value — whether for police service or home defense — the Ruger .45 auto pistol delivers. Sometimes, "cheap" is really good.



*Just another day on the job for Ayoob means the Ruger P-90 carried in the Strong Piece-Keeper concealable security holster.*



*From 25 yards, author's duty P90 placed five rounds into 1.25". Darn good performance from "cheap" gun and ammo!*



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**HK**

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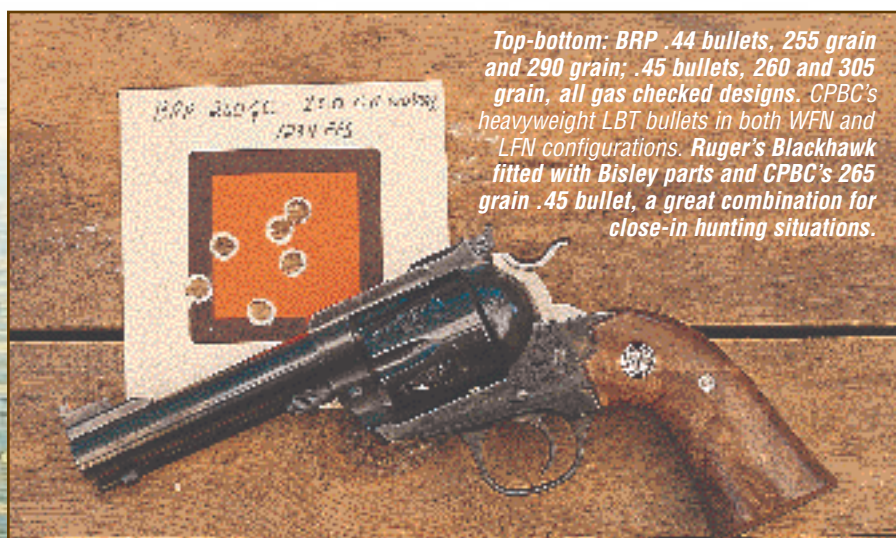
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# BULLETS BY REQUEST

BY JOHN TAFFIN

GUNS MAGAZINE HAS HAD MANY REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION ON THE COMMERCIAL CAST BULLET SUPPLIERS MENTIONED IN JOHN TAFFIN'S ARTICLES. TAFFIN REVEALS THAT INFORMATION HERE AND CAN'T HELP BUT SHARE A COUPLE OF GOOD LOADS ALONG THE WAY.



CPBC BULLETS	
<b>.41 Caliber:</b>	250, 255 and 265 grain with plain-based or gas-checked versions
<b>.44 Caliber:</b>	255 grain, as well as heavyweights in 275, 320 and 325 grain
<b>.45 Caliber:</b>	265 to 325, 335, 360, and even 370 and 395 grain
<b>.475 Linebaugh:</b>	370, 390 and 425 grain
<b>.500 Linebaugh:</b>	410 grain
<b>.357 Magnum:</b>	160, 180 and 187 grain LBT gas check-design that is the penetration champion in this chambering.

*Cast Performance Bullet Co. is cutting mold blocks right now for the new .480 Ruger, and I would expect these bullets to be in the 350- to 400-grain range.*

*Some sample test results from the use of CPBC heavy-weight bullets in the .45 Colt give a good picture of both their accuracy and power potential.*

*Using Ruger's 7 1/2 inch Redhawk .45 Colt, Starline brass, Winchester's WW296 powder and CCI #350 Magnum Pistol primers, the following results were achieved. All four loads are right at one inch for five shots at 25 yards.*

<b>CPBC 265 LBTGC:</b>	26.0 grains, 1,465 fps
<b>CPBC 325 LBTGC:</b>	21.0 grains, 1,235 fps
<b>CPBC 335 LBTGC:</b>	21.0 grains, 1,275 fps
<b>CPBC 360 LBTGC:</b>	19.5 grains, 1,180 fps

*Top-bottom: BRP .44 bullets, 255 grain and 290 grain; .45 bullets, 260 and 305 grain, all gas checked designs. CPBC's heavyweight LBT bullets in both WFN and LFN configurations. Ruger's Blackhawk fitted with Bisley parts and CPBC's 265 grain .45 bullet, a great combination for close-in hunting situations.*

Not too many years ago, if a sixgunner wanted premium bullets he had to cast his own. Back then, very little was available commercially, and the bullets that were offered weren't always of the best quality. Much has changed, and a veritable super market of bullets now exists. The bullets fall into two categories: Bevel-based with hard lube, which handles about 90 percent of six-gunning chores quite well and is the standard for cowboy shooters and plinkers as well as being useful for some hunting applications; and premium-cast, which is primarily used in

special applications, usually hunting. The bevel-based, hard-lubed bullets are the common type which can be readily purchased just about anywhere that reloading components are sold. True premium quality hard-cast bullets — in designs that are idealized for their intended applications and not just for easy mechanized casting — are something else, and are not always easy to find. Let me share with you two of my favorite sources for this latter type.

## BRP Cast Bullets

After Roger Barnes of Colorado Springs retired from teaching in the 1980s, he decided to go into something simple. Bullet casting! From the very beginning, he ensured that BRP offered only top-quality premium bullets, with his wife as the quality engineer. After his wife passed away, he decided to sell the business. My first concern was that it



would end up in the hands of someone who shared Roger's enthusiasm for quality.

The business went to Jay Sanders in Tulsa, Okla. I was quite amused as Roger Barnes introduced Jay to us writer types at the 2000 SHOT Show. Without any collusion on our part, we all immediately jumped him, making it plain how important it was for him to maintain Roger's level of quality. Although Jay was probably punch drunk by the end of the show, he certainly got the message and has followed through.

I have been testing several samples of the "new" bullets out of Oklahoma and can testify without reservation that they measure up to BRP's standards. In .44 Magnum, both the 255-grain SWC gas check and the 290-grain SWC gas check — loaded over one of my favorite standard .44 Magnum loadings of 10.0 grains of Unique — shoot superbly from my Ruger Super Blackhawk. The 255-grain bullet does 1,230 fps, the 290-grain version goes out at 1,165, and both put five shots into 7/8 inch at 25 yards with my eyes and iron sights. It hardly ever gets any better than this!

In .45 caliber, one of my all-time favorite bullets is BRP's 305-grain FNGC (flat-nosed gas check). Loaded in Starline .45 Colt brass over 18.5 grains of Accurate Arms AA No. 9 and ignited by CCI #350 Magnum Pistol primers, the muzzle velocity from a 7½-inch Ruger Redhawk is 1,290 fps and a most gratifying 25-yard group of 3/4

inch. Now I definitely know it doesn't get any better than this!

BRP bullets are cast of linotype and offered in nearly 40 variations for everything from .32 Magnum up through the .357 — all the standard big bores, as well as the .50 AE and the .475 and .500 Linebaugh chamberings.

### Cast Performance Bullet Co.

Kelly and Renae Brost head up this premium-quality bullet company, which emphasizes hunting with heavyweight LBT-style bullets. Both of the Brosts are hunters, and they routinely test their bullets in the field — Renae just took a big bull-bison this winter with a handload using Cast Performance bullets.

CPBC offers a complete line of the LBT-style bullets, which feature most of their weight in the nose. This accomplishes two things: More powder capacity is made available in the cartridge case, and the forward weight increases penetration. Not only is there a wide range of LBT bullets to choose from, CPBC also offers sensible-starting reloading data for each bullet's many applications. For example, when you purchase .45 caliber bullets, the loading data covers Colt Single Action, Ruger and Freedom Arms sixguns. LBT bullets come in both plain-based and gas-checked versions, as well as LFN (Long Flat Nose) and WFN

(Wide Flat Nose) configurations. The LFN is usually the most accurate of the two designs at long range, while the WFN offers greater shocking power. (See sidebar for a complete rundown of CPBC bullets and sample test results.)

Having shot too many BRP and CPBC Bullets to count, and also having shot sixguns side-by-side with Jay Sanders, and Kelly and Renae Brost, I can highly recommend their bullets and testify to the fact that these are all straight shooters in more ways than one!



#### FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

##### BRP Bullets

P.O. Box 9220, Dept. AH  
Tulsa, Okla. 74157-9220  
Phone: [918] 445-3200;

##### Cast Performance Bullet Co.

P.O. Box 153, Dept. AH  
Riverton, Wyo. 82501  
Phone: [307] 857-2940.  
[www.castperformance.com](http://www.castperformance.com)

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## The Return Of The SIXTEEN

**H**ave you ever hunted with a Sixteen? After a 50-year decline in popularity, the Sixteen is making a well-deserved comeback. And in a number of production lines, too.

When I began hunting, there were a lot of 16-gauge shotguns around. Winchester Model 12s, Ithaca pumps, and Browning Sweet Sixteen A-5s dominated the market, alongside a scattering of Fox, Parker and L.C. Smith doubles.

Many a young hunter were started afield with a single-barreled 16 gauge. In the late 1950s and early 1960s, the 20 gauge, and later the 20-gauge 3-inch magnum, simply buried the Sixteen, although the 16 gauge continued to be the dominant all-around chambering in Europe.

The sterling quality of the 16 gauge is that it can be built on a 20-gauge size frame. Even the much-loved 16-gauge Model 12 was constructed on Winchester's trim 20-gauge frame. And the result is that a 16 gauge is a joy to carry afield. They mount as fast as a 20 gauge, aren't punishing in the recoil department, and throw the same-weight — or heavier-weight — shot charges faster and, typically, more evenly from a standard 2¾-inch hull.

The only downside to the 16-gauge shotgun is the lack of selection of factory loads. Yet even this situation has improved in the last few years with the excellent steel, slug and buckshot loads offered in addition to standard and high-velocity lead loadings from all major manufacturers.

And if you handload, a variety of 3/4- to 1¼-ounce loads can be concocted, with the 1-ounce loads at 1,300 fps probably being the most popular and well balanced.

Where do you find a sixteen? There are a lot of fine used guns on the market. Ithaca

has reintroduced its Classic and Deerslayer models for 2001. Browning has just made a special run of Citori for the wholesale distributor Bill Hicks & Company. Bill Hanus Birdguns heavily promotes its 16-gauge guns and is importing handsome and reasonably priced doubles from Italy. In fact, all of the importers of fine double shotguns offer Sixteens, which makes for a wide variety to choose from.

In short, the light-framed Sixteen may be as close to the ideal, all-around upland-game gun as we're likely to see.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

**Ithaca Gun Company**

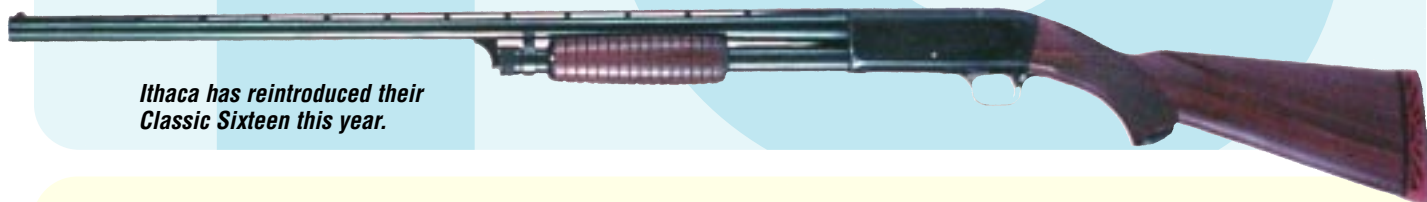
[315] 364-7171

[www.ithacagun.com](http://www.ithacagun.com)

**Bill Hanus Birdguns**

[541] 265-7433

[www.billhanusbirdguns.com](http://www.billhanusbirdguns.com)



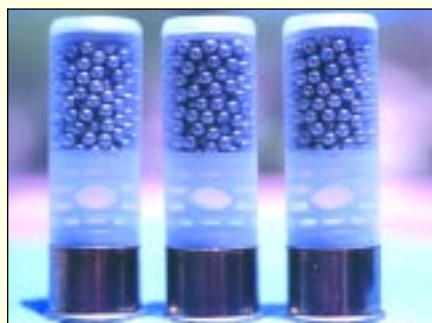
*Ithaca has reintroduced their Classic Sixteen this year.*

## A CASE FOR PLATED-LEAD SHOT

**A**s the upland game season stretches into late fall and game begins flushing wilder, it's time to consider plated-lead shot — the most lethal shot we have for long range gunning results.

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But where do you buy it?



*Nickel-plated shot, like that seen here in the MPB 60x shell, offers superior down-range performance.*

Both Winchester (Supreme High Velocity Field Load) and Remington (Express High Velocity) offer a terrific upland copper-plated shot loading for the 12 and 20 gauge 2¾-inch shell, in shot sizes 4, 6 and 7 1/2. The 12-gauge loads push 1¼ ounce at 1,400 fps. The 20 gauge pushes 1 ounce at 1,300 fps. Both are fast, high impact, long-ranging loads.

Winchester also loads a buffered, copper-plated shot line for 12 and 20 gauge under the Supreme Double X Magnum Game Load label, which features heavier charges of shot at slightly less velocity for both the 2¾-inch and 3-inch shells.

Somewhat less generally available, but no less sensational, are the nickel-plated upland loads from Fiocchi, Baschieri & Pellagri (B&P), and MPB (Polywad).

Fiocchi's 12-gauge loads under the Golden Pheasant and Hi-Velocity Nickel labels feature 1¼ ounces of number 4,5 or 6 shot at 1,250 fps, and 1¼ ounces of number 4,5,6 or 7 1/2 shot at 1,330 fps, respectively. Under the Golden Pheasant label in the 20 gauge, 3 inch, Fiocchi offers 1¼ ounces of shot sized 4,5 or 6 at 1,200 fps.

B&P nickel-plated loads for the 12 and 20 gauges are featured under their Long Range label, and in 12 gauge under the

Magnum and live pigeon Super Star names. MPB offers their Polymag 60x load in the 12 gauge 2¾-inch case, featuring 1½ ounces of nickel-plated number 4 shot.

If you handload, you'll find a full selection of nickel- and copper-plated shot at Ballistic Products, Inc. [888] 273-5623 [www.ballisticproducts.com](http://www.ballisticproducts.com).



### FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

**Winchester**

[www.winchester.com](http://www.winchester.com)

[800] 888-3253

**Remington**

[www.remington.com](http://www.remington.com)

[800] 243-9700

**MPB(Polywad)**

[800] 913-9310

[www.polywad.com](http://www.polywad.com)

**Fiocchi**

[800] 721-AMMO

[www.fiocchiusa.com](http://www.fiocchiusa.com)

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[www.baschieri-pellagri.com](http://www.baschieri-pellagri.com)

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## Choosing The ULTIMATE HUNTING BULLET

Hunting season is upon us, and some of you may want to work up a new load to take afield this fall. And when you visit the gun shop or browse through a catalog, you're bound to be overrun by advertisements telling you that brand A is absolutely, positively, without a doubt, the greatest, bestest deer-slayer ever. But look just a little further, and you'll probably find someone saying exactly the same thing about brand B... then C, and D, and on and on.

English majors might tell you something is wrong with that word — *best*. There can only be one, right? In order to claim that something is the *best*, there must be an objective way to evaluate it — and that is where the wheels fall off of those *best-bullet* claims. The guy telling you of how swiftly and irrevocably his deer died has no reason to lie, but neither does the other guy telling you a similar story about a different bullet.

The truth of it all is that the actual bullet used is far down on the list of important factors on a game shot. *Where* the bullet goes is much more important. A well-placed shot with a bad bullet will probably still result in a humane kill. But a gut shot with the finest bullet known to man will no doubt end badly.

So what is the *best* bullet? As always, we need to begin the selection process by going with what we know. Many of us can call on first-hand experience. And if you are completely satisfied with the performance of your existing hunting bullet, perhaps there is no need to change.

When premium game bullets became a big thing, I wrote about them with some enthusiasm based on my own hunting expe-

rience. I was surprised when I got letters from readers who were offended. Somehow they thought I was putting down the load that they were using. For example, a guy wrote me that he had been using a Winchester Silvertip for years, and that it had always killed his deer. Another said essentially the same thing about a Remington Core-Lokt. Both saw no reason to change — well, neither do I, and I wasn't telling them that they *had* to.

But reloaders want to try different things. We like to work up loads with new bullets and check for both accuracy and velocity. Now that doesn't necessarily mean trying to make them achieve warp speed. But a good goal is to duplicate the velocity of a factory load with the same weight bullet.

### Too Many Good Choices

Nor is accuracy a compelling issue with game bullets. I'm no different than most other shooters and want that minute-of-angle load for my hunting rifle. Is the ability to shoot a 1-inch group going to make a better hunting rifle? No. That level of accuracy is rarely *needed* by the average hunter, but that doesn't mean that we don't want it.

One general truth about game bullets is that accuracy may not be stellar. One of the reasons is that good match bullets often have thin jackets which can be more uniform and concentric. Game bullets need thicker jackets so that they will hold together during penetration. Still, by working with the load in terms of powder selection and velocity, we can help our chosen bullet group to its fullest potential.

Bullet weight is also a factor that we

need to consider — and surely you've noticed how there seem to be more weights around than ever before. When looking at .30-caliber bullets, for example, it's almost as if we could select from 110 to 200 grains, in 10-grain increments. That is not much of an exaggeration. Does the deer know whether it's being hit with a 150-grain or a 165-grain bullet? Of course not. And for the hunter, it probably doesn't matter either, unless, of course, he knows that his rifle likes 165s and shoots them better — then it's an easy call.

A look at the weights used in factory loads will indicate traditional favorites, and we will also hear what has worked the best from fellow hunters. It's generally true that bullet weight should increase with animal weight, although there is probably not one big-game animal in North America that hasn't been taken by a 180-grain .30 caliber. Sometimes, however, heavy bullets are chosen for the wrong reason.

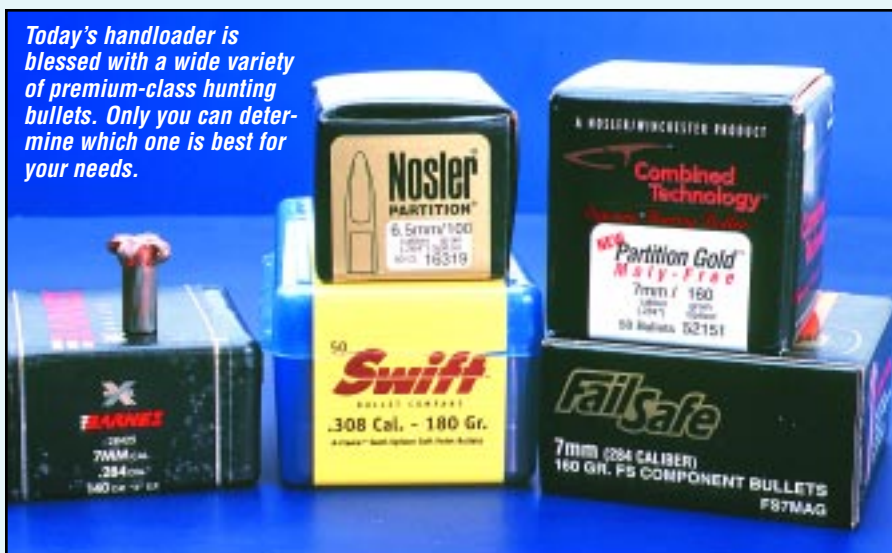
One theory behind this reasoning is that some shooters think heavier bullets will be less affected by wind. Actually, that's backward. Heavy bullets retain momentum better than light ones, but since they go slower, the wind has more time to push on them and drift will be greater.

In preparation for a hunting trip, handloaders like to test their loads for group size, velocity, and sometimes for expansion and weight retention using various means.

The makers of those premium bullets do a lot of testing too. I had the opportunity to observe this when Winchester was developing the Fail Safe bullet. And I was amazed as it penetrated a block of gelatin when viewed at 20,000 to 30,000 frames per second. Winchester used a high speed camera — a 600-foot roll of film was good for only one shot — so they could study the bullet's performance. The gelatin block was covered by hides, and bones were cast into the block to simulate, as well as possible, conditions that the bullet would have to face in the hunting field. These bullets were then tested in real hunting trials.

This combination of objective and subjective information was used to refine the design, and it went through many iterations to reach the product that is available today. This was one I was privileged enough to see, but such testing is a common practice throughout the industry.

So the question now is, why should we buy these more expensive projectiles? Well, of course we don't *have* to, but there is something reassuring about knowing that a lot of work has gone into developing a superior product. And if you're taking that once-in-a-lifetime hunt, don't you want the very best bullet available?



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# LESSONS FROM THE ANCIENTS

Being well armed and even well practiced is not the full answer to unexpected peril. Centuries-old tactics still apply to the modern man.

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BY STEVE TARANI

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Webster's dictionary defines the word Shock a couple of ways: It is a state of profound depression of the vital processes of the body. Shock disorganizes, or causes one to waver, through sudden attack. It is also the violent, clamorous impact of armed and armored individuals or groups commencing to battle.

Powerful armies like the ancient Greeks, Romans and Persians specifically trained their warriors for that critical moment when they would eventually meet their enemies face-to-face. For those guys, charging into battle — hearts pumping, breathing heavily, weapons raised, ready to slam into opponents — was just another day at the office. Despite their training and experience, these warriors were faced with the debilitating effects of shock each time they went into action. Just try to imagine what ran through their minds as they impaled themselves, one atop of another, in brutal hand-to-hand edged-weapon combat.

## Shock Today

What is our modern-day equivalent? After a long day, you decide to stop by the grocery store on your way home. You step out of your car. It's raining. As you walk toward the entrance, you feel something puncture your jacket and touch your skin. The next thing you hear is, "OK Pal, gimme your cash or I'll stick you like a pig." Shock, 21st century style.

"Hell, I'll just reach into my fanny pack and give him a few hollow-points to worry about..." you may think after overcoming the initial surprise. But with that knife already in your back, he can step forward and nail your kidneys three times while you're busy fidgeting with your zipper.

Being caught in a knife fight and not having the time to access your concealed firearm is a street-scenario nightmare. Though you may

*continued on page 76*





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The new Beretta 87 pistol was expressly created for 22LR practical shooting — designed to remain upright on a flat surface, ready to be quickly gripped, loaded and raised to the target.

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*The extraordinary new Beretta 87 Target pistol packages balance, accuracy, reliability — the hallmarks of serious action shooting performance — into a streamlined, sturdy design, shaping a new class of target pistols. See it at your Beretta dealer today.*



Although the Beretta Cheetah is known for its excellent handling characteristics and design, the new 87 Target incorporates added features required for competitive target shooting. The rear sight is fully adjustable, while the front sight is replaceable (two blade widths included). A lightweight alloy sleeve covering the 6" long barrel features an integral scope base. The barrel weight incorporates an accessory rail. Two 10-round magazines are included.

Beretta also offers a full line of pistol cases, holsters, eye and ear protection, and cleaning supplies.

Every detail of the 22LR Beretta 87 Target is made to meet the demands of the rapid fire pace of practical pistol shooting competition.



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WWW.BERETTA.COM



By Dave Anderson

# AMERICA'S RIFLE CARTRIDGE —The Classic .30-'06

*The venerable .30-'06 has taken every species of big game, and is one of the few cartridges that can be found at any crossroads trading post. Bottom-left: Choices for handloaders are nearly endless, and this is just a miniscule sampling.*

*Nearly a century old, the .30-'06 shows no sign of losing its popularity with hunters and shooters around the globe.*

**W**ithout a doubt, the .30-'06 is the most successful rifle-cartridge ever developed in the United States. It successfully served the military for over half a century and through three wars. And as a target cartridge it has performed with distinction, often winning over cartridges that were ballistically superior. But it is the .30-'06's performance as a hunting cartridge that keeps it near the top of the charts year after year, decade after decade.

One of the few true world cartridges, the .30-'06 has no doubt taken every species of game in every corner of the world. And it is available wherever rifles and cartridges are sold.

The .30-'06 inspires both sincere loyalty and intense disdain: For some, it is the perfect hunting cartridge. And to hint that it might be anything less is akin to disrespecting the flag. Others see it as a great general-purpose cartridge and, therefore, have scant interest in it. These shooters enjoy assembling a stable of different rifles in different calibers, each ideally suited for some specific task.

I would probably identify with the latter group. That being the case, how come my old pre-'64 Winchester model 70 Featherweight .30-'06 is one of the rifles I've owned the longest, and the one that serves as my backup on most trips — even when something newer and more glamorous

gets the starting assignment? How come my once-in-a-lifetime, costs-be-damned custom rifle is also a .30-'06? And why is it that if things ever really got rocky, my .30-'06 rifles would be the last ones to go? Because, as the saying goes — I ain't no genius, but I got eyes to see. I can recognize cold fact when it's right in front of me.

## Development Of The .30-'06

The .30-'06 got its start as a U.S. military cartridge. And it — as well as the 1903 Springfield rifle for which it was designed — drew heavy influence from the Mauser rifle.

The U.S. military received its first experience with Mauser rifles and ammunition during the Spanish-American War. And it was a painful lesson. The military was forced to update its armory and forced to acknowledge one of the deep-seated beliefs of soldiering — that the enemy's weapons are always superior. There's no faster way of earning respect for a weapon system than by being shot at with it.

U.S. military planners, in designing their new service rifle, were influenced by the Mauser rifle's fast reloading (with stripper clips), high rate of fire, flat trajectory, deep penetration, and smokeless powder of the 7x57mm cartridge. Even though the military







had barely finished converting from the .45-70 single shot to the Krag rifle and its rimmed .30-40 cartridge, they decided that the troops needed a better weapon. And the '03 Springfield was intended to be an improved version of the Mauser 98.

As originally loaded, the new .30-'03 U.S. cartridge matched the ballistics of the service rounds of other nations.

Circa 1900, the British service load for the .303 British was a 215-grain bullet at about 1,950 fps. Germany loaded its 8mm Mauser with 227-grain bullets at 2,200 fps. The U.S. military settled on a 220-grain bullet at 2,200 fps and adopted it in 1903 as the U.S. Government cartridge, caliber .30 model of 1903, or .30-'03. All of the above employed round-nosed bullets.

In 1905, Germany redesigned its service cartridge by changing the diameter from .318 inch to .323 inch, changing bullet profile from round-nose to spitzer, lightening the bullet from 227 grains to 154 grains, and boosting velocity to over 2,800 fps.

Other major powers soon followed suit: Russia in 1908, with the 7.62x54 Russian (150 grain spitzer at 2,800 fps), and Britain in 1910 (174 grain spitzer at 2,440 fps).

The U.S. military responded as well. They shortened the neck of the .30-'03 case by about .10 inch and loaded a 150-grain

spitzer bullet to 2,700 fps. All 1903 rifles in service were recalled and their barrels cut back one thread and rechambered. If you measure a nominally 24-inch Springfield barrel and find that it comes up a couple of tenths of an inch short, that's the reason. The new cartridge was adopted in 1906 as U.S. Cartridge, Caliber .30, Model of 1906 — or the 30-'06.

### Civilian Acceptance

In the early part of the 20th century, American hunting rifles were primarily lever-actions. The bolt-action Remington-Lee sold poorly and had been discontinued. The first successful sporting rifle for the .30-'06 cartridge was the lever-action Winchester 95. Actually, it was available in both .30-'03 and .30-'06; sporting ammunition was loaded in both calibers. The 95 sold fairly well, but it was never an inexpensive rifle and, thus, not as popular as the much less potent model 94.

A few individuals managed to obtain 1903 Springfield actions and had sporting rifles built on them. Perhaps the most notable example is Theodore Roosevelt, who took a splendid Springfield sporter on his 1909 African expedition.

For the most part, though, if you wanted a bolt-action in pre-war America, it had to be imported from Europe from such firms as

Mauser and Mannlicher. In the years following World War I, all that changed. The bolt-action rifle, though it would soon decline as a military weapon, began its rise to prominence for sporting use.

Thousands of young men became familiar with both the bolt-action and the .30-'06 cartridge during their military service. And from about 1914 on, servicemen and NRA members could order '03 Springfields (and later on Krags and 1917 Enfields) through the Director of Civilian Marksmanship at a moderate price.

During the 1920s, remodeling '03 Springfields for sporting use became a thriving industry (similar to many of today's gunsmiths who specialize in turning AR-15s and Ruger 10-22s into tack-driving target and varmint rifles).

Though they were generally stocked to suit iron sights rather than scopes, and thus seem a bit odd by today's standards, Springfield sporters from masters such as August Pachmayr, R.F. Sedgley and Griffin & Howe were beautifully made and remain highly collectible. The Springfield sporters were famous among rifle enthusiasts everywhere.

In the 1920s, the .30-'06 truly established itself as America's preeminent hunting cartridge. At the time, it had little competition. Its power and trajectory outclassed old stan



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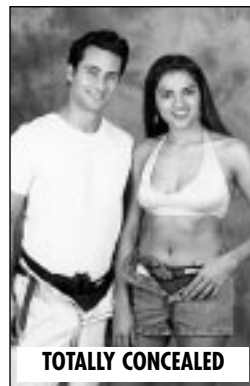


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dards such as the .30-30 Win. and .303 Savage. And military surplus rifles and ammunition were readily available at a modest cost. Almost no one would say a bad word about the .30-'06 (Elmer Keith excepted). One writer expressed a popular view when he wrote that "it is every American's right to select a rifle in a caliber other than .30-'06, but it is no great credit to his intelligence."

Major gunmakers naturally wanted a share of the bolt-action market. Remington was first off the mark. Having made thousands of 1917 Enfields for the Allies during the great war, Remington utilized the same tooling to produce the commercial Model 30. Winchester brought out the sleek M-54 in 1925. Savage brought out the M-40 and the fancier Model 45 in 1928.

### Evolving Ballistics

Those familiar with its current ballistics will note that the velocity of the original service load (150 grain at 2,700 fps from a 24-inch barrel) is considerably less than today's loads. That is one of the reasons why the .30-'06 has retained its popularity so well and has lasted so long. The .30-'06 of today is not the same cartridge it was in 1906.

Improvements in powders, loading techniques and firearms have made higher velocities possible. Current factory loads with 150-grain and 180-grain bullets produce velocities from 200 fps to as much as 400 fps

faster than the original loads. That is a substantial improvement. By contrast, the difference between the .308 and the .300 Win. Mag. with 180-grain bullets is only about 340 fps.

In the mid-1920s, advancement in powder development increased factory-cartridge velocities. Factory .30-'06 loads for the 150-grain bullet were boosted from 2,700 fps to over 2,900 fps, and loads for the 180-grain bullet were boosted from 2,500 fps to 2,700 fps. These remained standard factory velocities for many decades.

After velocities were increased in the 1920s, bullet technology lagged behind. Manufacturers hadn't figured out how to make bullets that would stand up to high velocities and yet still provide reliable expansion. Many bullets had jackets that were too thin and cores which were too soft.

On light game, such loads often produced spectacular results. But on heavy game, they often blew up without penetrating sufficiently. By the 1930s, Remington and Winchester had begun producing bullets better suited to the higher .30-'06 velocities.

One of the few critics of the .30-'06 in the early years was Elmer Keith, who in his book "*Keith's Rifles for Large Game*" wrote, "I have seen more .30-'06 rifles in use than any other caliber during my guiding operations." Keith further observed, "For that reason, I have also seen more failures with the cartridge... but in all fairness, I must say nearly all of those failures were due to some patent-point spitzer bullet that did not per-

form as it should." This criticism, however, never affected the .30-'06's popularity.

### Ever Popular

As the luster of newness began to wear off of the .30-'06, some people felt that the veteran cartridge must be modernized. In the post-World War II years, improving cartridges by blowing them out to straighter form, moving shoulders forward, and shortening necks in order to increase capacity became a popular pastime. And the '06 case, being cheap and readily available, was a prime candidate. The poor old '06 was manipulated, tortured, reshaped and blown out by various experimenters, all claiming higher velocities.

The .30-'06 was not, however, the only case used by experimenters. The .300 H&H was the basis for several improved .30-cal. magnums, the most famous being the .300 Weatherby. The Weatherby, along with the 7mm Rem. Mag. and .300 Win. Mag. (which appeared in the early 1960s), gave shooters popular options to the .30-'06.

Pundits have been predicting the imminent demise of the '06 ever since. In 1950, Roy Weatherby wrote, "I feel sure that some day, not too far distant, our present .30-'06... and our other modern cartridges will be obsolete." (Gun Digest, 5th Edition).

It hasn't happened. In 1962, *Field & Stream* did a survey of 500 mule-deer hunters

*continued on page 65*



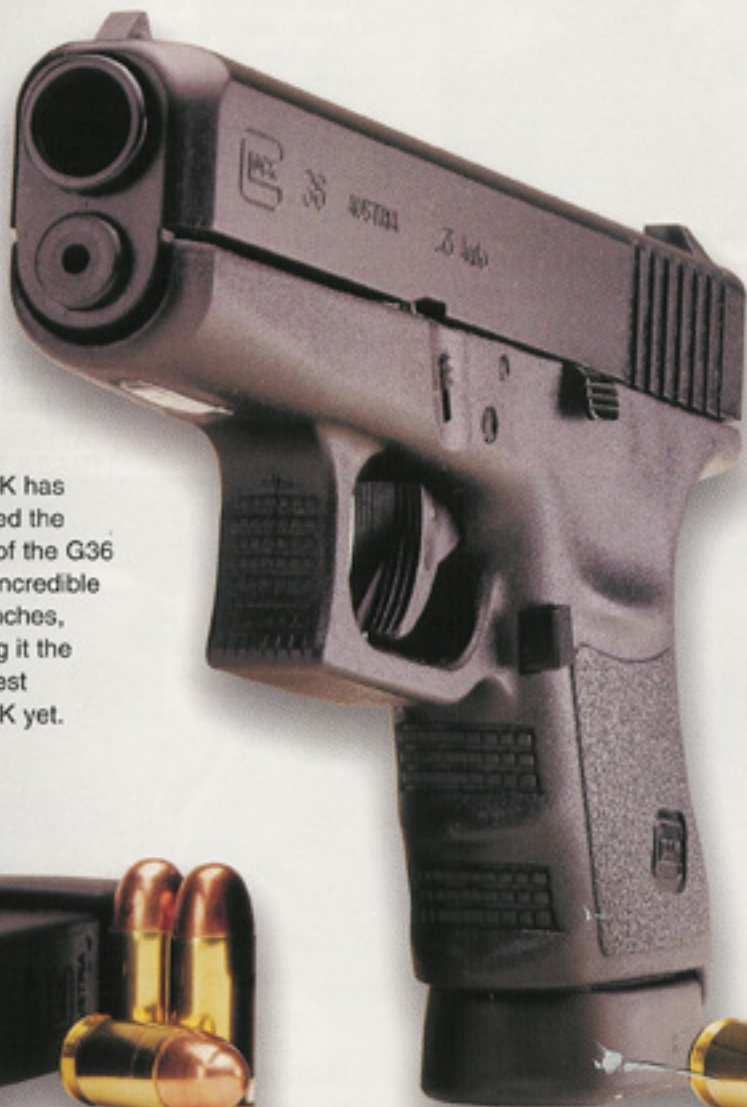
# Slim is in!

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A close-up photograph of a Marine in camouflage gear aiming an M1014 shotgun. The Marine is wearing a helmet and a watch. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with trees.

*Marine Sgt. John Engle described the M1014 as "An awesome weapon."*

## M1014: TECHNICAL SPECS

<b>CALIBER:</b>	12 gauge, accepts 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ " and 3" standard and magnum loads
<b>OVERALL LENGTH:</b>	39.8" w/stock extended, 34.9" collapsed
<b>BARREL:</b>	Smoothbore, 18.5" with fixed modified choke Optional length 14"
<b>WEIGHT:</b>	8.44 lbs. empty
<b>METHOD OF OPERATION:</b>	semi-automatic
<b>OPERATING SYSTEM:</b>	Auto Regulating Gas Operated
<b>LOCKING:</b>	Rotating bolt in carrier, dual lugs lock in barrel extension
<b>SAFETY:</b>	Ambidextrous manual cross bolt plus mechanical safeties inherent in design
<b>MAGAZINE CAPACITY:</b>	Six 3" shells, seven 2 $\frac{1}{4}$ ", plus one chambered round Can be unloaded without cycling through the action
<b>TRIGGER PULL:</b>	5.5 to 7.28 lbs.
<b>BUTTSTOCK:</b>	Modular telescopic with removable pistol grip
<b>SIGHTS:</b>	Adjustable aperture rear and fixed post front, radius 23.7"
<b>MOUNTING RAIL:</b>	MIL STD 1913 (Picatinny Rail) on top of receiver
<b>SLING ATTACHMENT:</b>	Ambidextrous, up to 1.25" width
<b>FIELD STRIP:</b>	36 seconds, 10 minutes to clean and lube
<b>ENDURANCE:</b>	Exceeds 10,000 rounds before overhaul
<b>EXTERNAL FINISH:</b>	Matte black phosphate on steel, hard anodized aluminum





Story And Photos By **Robert Bruce**

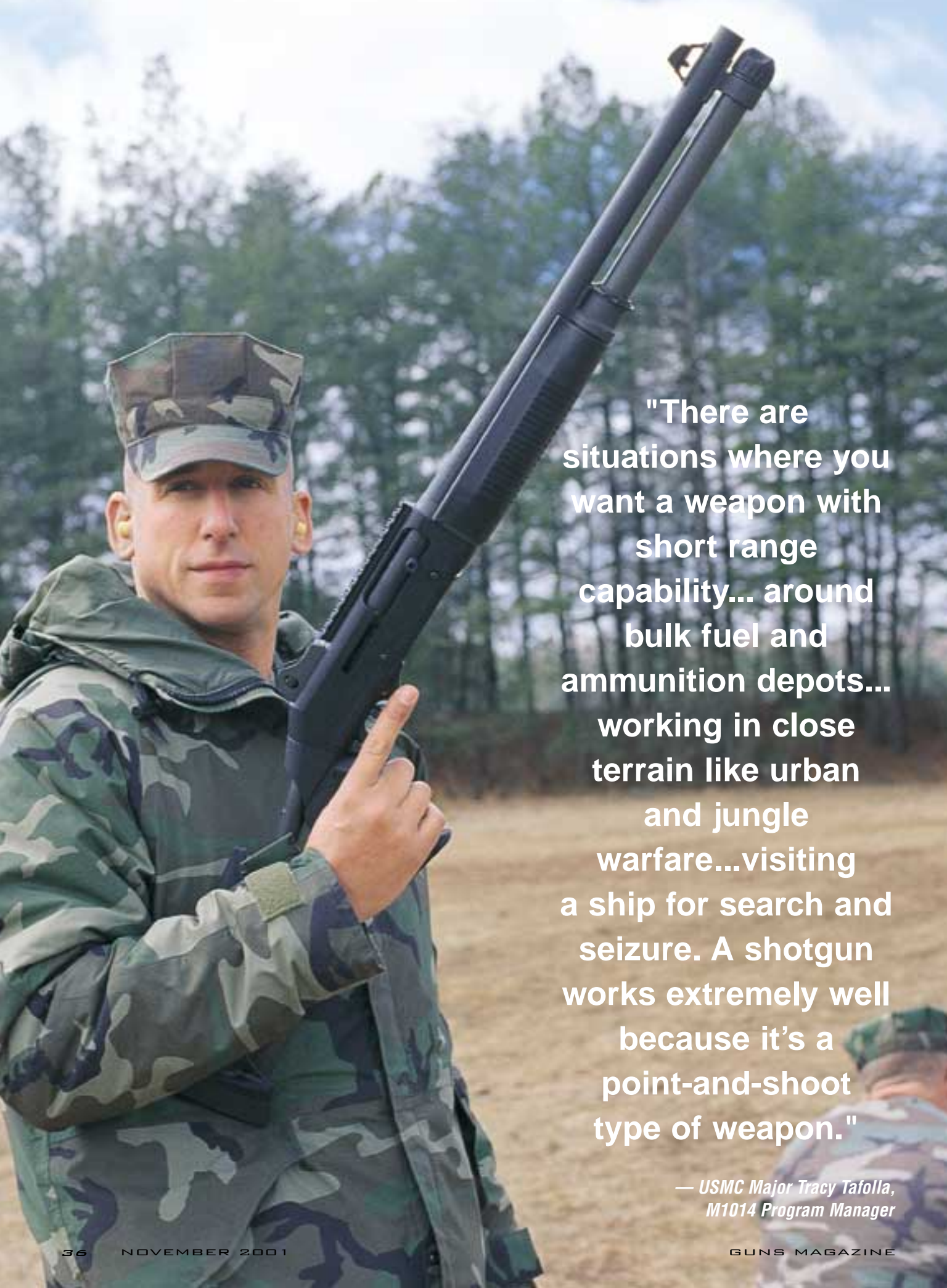
**M**arine Corps Systems Command recently received the first batches of the brand-new M1014 Joint Service Combat Shotgun. MCSC is leading the formidable task of smoothly introducing the M1014 throughout the U.S. Armed Forces. The M1014 is a compact and fast-firing 12-gauge semiautomatic scattergun manufactured by the Italian firm of Benelli Armi, and marketed in partnership with Heckler & Koch's American operation. The new 12-gauge will replace a hodgepodge of older, less effective models, which have become increasingly difficult to sustain in first-line service.

Maj. Tracy J. Tafolla, MCSC's lead project officer for the M1014, points out that the Marines have long been the driving force behind the Joint Service Small Arms Program's efforts to find and field a suitable replacement for the Corps' existing inventories of Remingtons,

# The **M1014** COMBAT SHOTGUN

*U.S. Marines see the first  
deployment of Uncle Sam's  
new and advanced  
self-loading shotgun*





**"There are situations where you want a weapon with short range capability... around bulk fuel and ammunition depots... working in close terrain like urban and jungle warfare...visiting a ship for search and seizure. A shotgun works extremely well because it's a point-and-shoot type of weapon."**

**— USMC Major Tracy Tafolla,  
M1014 Program Manager**



Winchesters and Mossbergs — some of which have been around for 40 years.

"We decided early on that our guns are old and pretty well shot out. We just need to replace them from the life cycle standpoint and also to ease our maintenance program — so we're not stocking parts and trying to train to several different weapons," Tafolla told *GUNS* in a recent interview at his office in Quantico, Va.

## Semper Fidelis

The United States Marines Corps — known for their insistence on providing amphibious warriors with tough, simple and highly lethal small arms — continued that well-deserved reputation by fielding the M1014.

This is the first large-scale procurement of anything other than slide-action scatterguns since the U.S. military was pulled out of Vietnam more than 25 years ago. What's interesting is not just that the Corps has what promises to be a damn-good new tool for specific situations, but that this new gun is so conventional. Conspicuously absent are computer fire control, smart projectiles, backpack ammo chute, or pop-out lipstick tube, which could have been loaded on by clueless bureaucrats along the way.

Semiautomatic function has been a design requirement from early on. While there has been much heated debate about the wisdom of this stipulation, the fact remains that it has been an essential element in JSSAP specifications. The challenge has been to find a more or less off-the-shelf, self-loading shotgun that would meet stringent standards for effectiveness, reliability and maintainability at a reasonable price.

Agonizingly, this process has taken nearly a decade before the dust cleared to reveal the Benelli M4 Super 90 as the winner in February 1999 of the Joint Service Combat Shotgun XM1014 trials. Then, after 15 more months of preproduction tests and other wrangling, Benelli's American partner, Heckler & Koch, got a \$2.8 million production contract to deliver nearly 4,000 guns to the Marine Corps. The first of these were put into the hands of a deploying Marine unit, MSSG 24, on April 5, 2001. This milestone event took place at Camp Lejune.

## Theory Of Evolution

Aside from its distinctive pistol grip and sliding skeletonized buttstock, the M1014's appearance and weight is very similar to those tubular-magazine, pump-action shotguns that have been in Marine service for more than 80 years. There is no provision for full-auto fire, so each pull of the trigger results in firing one conventional 12-gauge shell containing a slug or a load of buckshot. Finally, despite advances in metal finishes and use of synthetics, regular cleaning and lubrication continue to be needed for reliability. So, what's the big deal?

There are a number of reasons why the





# American Combat Shotguns: **A HISTORY**

**C**ombat shotgunning, which can be traced back to the origin of gunpowder, began with the use of multiple projectile loads in crude hand cannons and continued along with the evolution of other shoulder weapons.

According to Bruce Canfield, in his authoritative book *A Collector's Guide to United States Combat Shotguns* (Andrew Mowbray Inc., 1992), the first repeating shotgun officially procured by the U.S. military for combat use was the classic Winchester Model 1897. These 12-gauge tubular magazine pump-action repeaters entered U.S. Army service around 1900 during the protracted Philippine Insurrection.

In 1918, when American soldiers and Marines joined French and British allies in trench warfare against Germany, many carried a modified version of the Model 1897 adapted to mount the formidable M1917 rifle bayonet. This combination proved so intimidating and lethal that the Kaiser — the first to employ poison gas and flamethrowers — formally accused the Doughboys of violating the laws of warfare!

America's entry into World War II at the end of 1941 brought with it an immediate and critical need for countless numbers of shotguns. Existing stocks of Winchester Model 97 and Model 12 as well as Remington Model 10 trench guns were grossly inadequate, so the military scrambled to buy similar pump guns from Savage and Ithaca. Interestingly, some semi-auto guns were also drafted, including the Remington 11 and Savage 720.

Not surprisingly, GIs challenged with close-range jungle combat in the Pacific found shotguns to be highly effective against the wily and often fanatical Japanese. Elite Marine Raiders particularly valued their trench pumps for patrolling, ambushes and assaults, as did their comrades in regular infantry units.

Plenty of leftover trench guns carried the Army and Marine Corps more or less comfortably through the Korean War and various smaller actions. But by the mid-1960s, Uncle Sam was up to his bushy eyebrows in Vietnam. Notably, Army Rangers, Marine Recon and Navy SEAL units found lots of good uses for 12 gauge pumps as well as a devastating 27 pellet buckshot load for the acclaimed M79 Thumper grenade launcher.

Although there were some combat trials with semi and full-auto versions as well as box magazine feed and ammunition enhancements, the vastly more numerous pump shotguns in Vietnam were scarcely different from those used a half century before to clear Huns from their trenches.

The only radical improvement within grasp — Navy engineer Carroll Childers' selective fire, improved ammo Special Operations Weapon — died a quiet death from financial strangulation.

Around 1980 the Joint Service Small Arms Program was established in an attempt to streamline weapons experimentation for all of the Armed Forces. One of its first projects was the Close Assault Weapon System, envisioned as a sort of super shotgun. Final candidate weapons from AAI and H&K/Olin demonstrated improvements in accuracy, range and lethality, but neither of these beefed-up assault rifle-type, selective-fire smoothbores got a production contract.

Finally, the special operations community has periodically tested some other really interesting full auto scatter-guns such as the Pancor Jackhammer, Atchisson Assault 12 and the Gilbert USAS-12. None of these are known to have been procured in quantity.



M1014 looks much like its predecessors. Mostly because it's hard to beat the efficient layout of a seven-round capacity tubular magazine slung directly underneath the 18.5-inch barrel. This is, of course, open to debate. But there is an official justification based on trials of both tube and box- or drum-type magazines. Unlike a detachable box mag that has to be removed in order to top it off, the fixed tube can be replenished at will. And it doesn't protrude downward to get in the way when moving or taking a prone position.

The alloy receiver also offers no surprises. It is cast, then machined, in the traditional manner for strength, durability and reliable operation of internal parts. This gives the weapon a satisfying heft and rigidity that can't be matched by "new generation" receivers formed from sheet metal or polymer. A long, horizontal, fixed forearm made from tough synthetic material accommodates shooters of widely varying arm length and hand size and can be instinctively found and grasped in the dark or under high stress.

## **Change Is Good**

Yes, the striking profile of the new gun with its sliding buttstock and pistol grip is a departure from previous military classics like the Winchester Model 1897 trench gun and the sleek Remington 870. But this is more than just eye





**Life as a USMC shotgun is not for creampuffs. These battle scarred veterans are from top: Remington 870, Winchester 1200 and the Mossberg 500. The M1014 is a significant technological advancement over these earlier designs. Inset: Rounds on target is the Marine way to solve problems, and the M1014 can solve a lot of problems with a full load of Federal slugs.**

candy. The science and art of ergonomics dictates the use of the pistol grip for assault-style shooting, and closing the stock reduces its carrying length in tight places. In keeping with the gun's modular component design, other types of buttstocks and grips can be attached if desired.

Other external departures from tradition include an aperture sight as standard, with the provision for readily

mounting other sights and devices topside. Anyone who has successfully trained on any weapon with military-style aperture rear and post front sights can effortlessly transition to aiming the M1014.

The thin-rimmed, large-diameter rear sight aperture (popularly named "Ghost Ring" because it fades to near

*continued on page 53*



**Marines of MSSG 24 engage in live-fire training with the newly issued shotguns.**



**AN AMERICAN SUCCESS STORY:**

# **BARRETT'S .50 BMG Rifles**

*IN A PERFECT EXAMPLE OF AMERICAN INGENUITY,  
RONNIE BARRETT'S HOME-GROWN DESIGN HAS SET THE  
STANDARD FOR MILITARY GRADE .50-CALIBER RIFLES.*

**BY CHARLES CUTSHAW**

**PHOTOS BY ICHIRO NAGATA**





**S**uperlatives come very easily to those of us who are captivated by fine firearms. Seems that every time many of us meet a new gun, we immediately fall in love with it. On the other hand, there are those firearms of which legends are made and for which superlatives are inadequate. Ronnie Barrett's legendary rifles chambered for the .50 Browning Machine Gun cartridge fall into this category.

The big "fifties" of Barrett dominate the large caliber rifle market, not only in the United States, but worldwide. Other manufacturers of .50-caliber rifles claim superiority in one respect or another, but in the real world of military and law enforcement, Barrett is the standard by which all others are compared. Just how overwhelming is Barrett's dominance in the world of very high-power shooting? Consider that 35 nations worldwide use Barrett's rifles, most of them the M82A1, or its latest iteration, the M82A1M. What makes these rifles so popular? In short, proven accuracy and reliability. How accurate can the Barrett M82A1 be?

Flashback to 1994. The place is Marine Corps Base Quantico. I was enjoying a rare opportunity to be on this range, shooting all types of Marine Corps small arms, up to and including the M82A1. These M82A1s were the very same guns that had performed so admirably in Desert Storm. When my

***The Barrett M82A1M has been adopted by the USMC as the M82A3. Note the rear monopod, spiked bipod feet, and Picatinny rail.***





# BARRETT'S .50 BMG Rifles







# GUNS

MAGAZINE



# BARRETT .50-CALIBER RIFLES

## SPECIFICATIONS

**M82A1\***

**M95\*\***

**M99**

## OPERATION

*Semiautomatic, short recoil*

*Manual, bolt action*

*Manual, bolt action*

## FEED

*Detachable box magazine, 10 rds*

*Detachable box magazine, 5 rds*

*Single shot*

## OVERALL LENGTH

*57 in*

*45 in*

*50.4 in*

## BARREL LENGTH

*29 in*

*29 in*

*33 in*

## WEIGHT

*32.4 lb*

*22.5 lb*

*25 lb*

## DISASSEMBLED LENGTH

*38 in*

*NA\*\**

*NA*

*\*M82A1M/M82A3 have the following features that are not available on the M82A1: Modified rear sight, MIL-STD-1913 rail system, rear grip, monopod, spiked bipod feet and detachable muzzle brake.*

*\*\*M95M/XM107 have the following features that are not available on the M95: front and rear open sights, extended upper receiver with MIL-STD-1913 rail system, quick detachable bipod with spiked feet and detachable muzzle brake. The M95M also disassembles for transport to a shortened length of 34 inches.*







turn came, I dropped down prone behind the Barrett and was handed a magazine of five rounds of armor-piercing incendiary ammo. After assuring himself that I did, indeed, know how to operate the big rifle, the Marine “gunny” explained that the rifle was zeroed on an old AMTRAC hull waaaay downrange. I noted the hull and confirmed its location with the gunny. He affirmed that I had the right target and gave permission to lock, load and commence firing.

I inserted the magazine, racked the bolt and responded that my point of aim was the small 3x4-foot access door which was standing open on the AMTRAC’s rear. Carefully, the first shot was squeezed off. A few moments later, a fireball produced by the impact of the API bullet appeared on the AMTRAC hull just above the top-left corner of the small access door. I moved the scope’s cross hairs down to the lower-right corner of the door and squeezed off the next shot. HIT! Then the next. HIT! Then the next. Again, HIT! The final shot was also a solid center hit. As I arose with a satisfied grin, I asked the gunny how far away that AMTRAC hull was.

“Sir, that damn thing was 2,000 yards out. Good shooting!” he responded.

Given that one mile equates to 1,760 yards, that AMTRAC hull was well over a mile distant, and yet the semi-automatic Barrett put every shot essentially where it was aimed! The semi-automatic Barrett is not a “match” rifle intended for artificial and highly structured competitions where the rifles are fired off a concrete bench using a machine rest. On the contrary, all Barrett rifles are built for the real world, whether it is military, law enforcement, or very long distance field shooting. That said, Barrett’s rifles, especially the bolt action Model 95 and single shot Model 99, have established an enviable reputation for accuracy.

The Marines are replacing their old Barretts with some 400 of the latest version of the M82A1, the M82A1M, designated M82A3 by the Marine Corps. I maintain a very close scrutiny of military weapon purchases worldwide, and I have not heard of a single instance of a dissatisfied military Barrett customer. In

***The real deal — a Barrett M82A1 and Unertl scope which saw service in the Persian Gulf.***





point of fact, I have spoken with several civilian Barrett owners, and all have been enthusiastic in stating their pleasure not only with their rifles, but also with the consideration that Barrett's has extended to them. Barrett rifles carry an unconditional warranty on parts and labor for a year, but if older rifles need repair that is attributable to a factory defect, the company will usually repair the gun at no cost. Although no product is perfect and there is no such thing as 100-percent customer satisfaction, Barrett rifles have earned a reputation for quality and reliability.

### **A Humble Beginning**

These renowned rifles have their genesis in Ronnie Barrett's love of firearms. He grew up in middle Tennessee, where shooting was and remains a way of life for many inhabitants. In Barrett's case, however, his love of shooting

went beyond simply running to the range on Saturday and Sunday afternoons. Barrett is one of those rare individuals who not only enjoyed shooting, but carried his passion into competition and then into improving the guns that he used.

Once he got this far, Barrett began to think of designing a firearm of his own, but not just any firearm — Barrett wanted to take on the challenge of designing a self-loading .50 BMG caliber rifle. In 1981, this was unheard of, but he approached a major firearm manufacturer who stated that they would consider producing such a rifle, if Barrett could design it.

Barrett worked on his pet project in his garage, sometimes until midnight. Because his only real design experience was in cabinetmaking, Barrett designed his original parts using fractional dimensions rather than the more precise decimal equivalents. These, of course, could not be used, and the entire package had to be redrawn. During this time, Barrett supported himself as a professional photogra-





pher. The earliest Barrett M82s cost approximately \$6,500 each to build. Because he had no way of determining actual production costs, Barrett sold them for \$3,700 apiece. Needless to say, this was not good business practice and the company nearly failed before things were finally sorted out.

Even though Barrett had a good product, he still lacked military sales. Early civilian sales were also disappointing. McDonnell Douglas offered to buy the fledgling firearm company, but the deal was never consummated. FN Herstal also considered purchasing Barrett, but it was at about this time when local financing was obtained and Barrett was able to stay afloat.

By the late 1980s, civilian sales had picked up, and there were a few military sales. The first break came in 1989 with the sale of 100 M82A1 rifles to Sweden. The big break for Barrett's U.S. military sales came in 1990 to 1991 with Desert Shield/Desert Storm.

*continued on page 63*



## *The Cult Of The **Half-Inch Bullet***

*By Edward Carlson*

If shooting is a religion then .50 caliber enthusiasts are shooting's most misunderstood sect. Slandered by politicians who brand .50 caliber weapons "sniper guns," though any rifle is capable of sniping. Rumored to destroy tanks, which was true prior to World War I. Who would believe that .50 BMG shooters are predominantly sportsmen pushing the limits of accuracy and performance?

Anyone with two eyes and the ability to reason.

More concerned with hitting six-foot targets positioned 1,000 yards downrange than downing black helicopters, John Robertson, treasurer and secretary of the Fifty Caliber Shooting Association, estimates there are 30,000 .50 caliber shooters in this country. And though his organization has a membership list one-tenth this long, .50 caliber competitions attract folks who want to fire their .50 caliber machines. And nothing else.

"The appeal of .50 caliber shooting is being able to do something that is very difficult, such as long range shooting with a high degree of accuracy," Robertson said from his organization's office located in Monroe, Utah. "Shooting for the world record of 2.6 inches for five shots at 1,000 yards. Having a rifle that can punch a can sitting one mile away. That is the appeal."

In 1984, the year the .50 Caliber Shooting Association was created, Robertson said shooters were content just hitting their targets five times in a row. Now competitions produce at least one shooter sinking five shots into three inches. In their quest for greater accuracy, competitors manufacture their own bullets and experiment with firing positions.

"I even saw one guy pulling the trigger without holding the gun and when I asked him what he was doing he said he didn't want to mess up the rifle's accuracy by holding it.

"Well he didn't shoot too well. So I guess you have to hold it somewhat," Robertson said.

The organization shares what it learns about the rifle's capabilities with the military via a liaison. Robertson said that his organization is responsible for both the military and law enforcement knowing more about the weapon today than either entity did 20 years ago.

"We're under the microscope right now. We're a small organization, a small group of shooters on the fringe," Robertson said. "Senator Feinstein introduced legislation to outlaw .50 caliber rifles, which she said are sniper rifles. But even the range of a .50 caliber bullet is not much greater than that of a .308."

As for the ferocity of the weapon, don't let its size intimidate you. With those big cartridges and that tactical-looking muzzle, according to Robertson the .50 caliber throws a surprisingly tame kick. And he has a teenage daughter to support his claim.

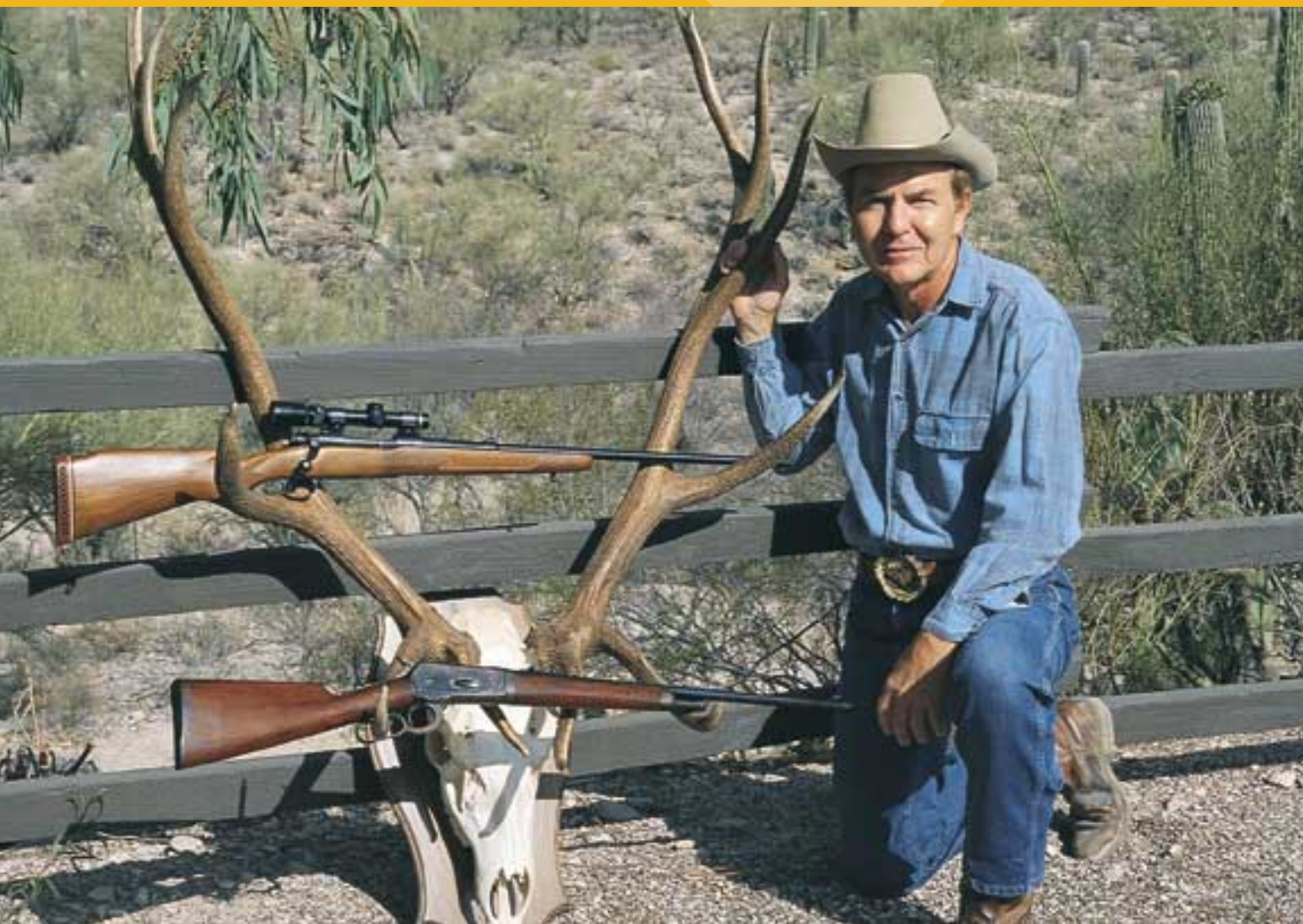
"I have an 18-year old daughter who weighs 119 pounds and she was convinced that that gun was going to turn her black and blue. Well she just won a novice competition. And it didn't bruise her at all."





# **ELK** **CARTRIDGES** **YESTERDAY AND TODAY**

*The rifles and cartridges used by elk hunters a century ago still suffice, but there are better and more modern choices.*







## By Holt Bodinson

**A**s one of North America's premier trophy animals, the elk (or wapiti) can stir up more lively discussion about suitable calibers than any other species. In fact, looking back over many elk seasons, I find it interesting to see how cartridge trends have changed.

One of my childhood heroes while growing up in the late '50s was a young man who worked every fall as an elk guide in Wyoming. His elk rifle was a Winchester Model 70 Super Grade in .257 Roberts, and he used to chuckle when telling me about clients who would stare at him, not believing that anyone would put such a beautiful rifle through the rigors of a season in elk camp. Nor that anyone would hunt elk with a .257 Roberts.

**Left: The old and the new of rifles and cartridges for elk; a Winchester Model 1886 chambered in .33WCF, and a Winchester M-70 in the popular .338 Win. Mag. Above: Many elk taken today are yearling bulls or cows. A .300 Wthby. Mag. loaded with 180-grain Nosler Partitions accounted for this spike bull. Right: Today's elk hunters have no shortage of suitable cartridges from which to choose: (l-r) .270 Win., .284 Win., 7mm Rem. Mag., .308 Win., .30-'06, .300 WSM, .300 Win Mag., .300 Wthby. Mag., .308 Warbird, .338 Win. Mag., .350 Rem. Mag., .375 H&H, and .416 Rem. Mag.**

The outfitter he worked for, as well as the outfitter's wife, both carried standard Model 70s in .270 Win. mounted with 4x glass. The couple shot factory 130-grain loads and were competent elk hunters out to 400 yards.

One of the more popular saddle guns for elk in Wyoming during the '50s was the fast handling Savage Model 99 in .300 Savage, and there were still a lot of lever-action .30-30s riding the elk trails. But the bolt gun had made its inroads in elk camps. And from a caliber point of view, it became a toss up between the .30-'06 and the .270 Win. as the most popular choice. When the various 6mm cartridges came along, a lot of locals tried them on elk. The fact is that the 6mm worked just fine. The fad ran its course, however, and the 6mm now tends to be reserved more for deer and antelope.


*continued on page 55*





# It's The

**Today's hunters have access to a variety of outstanding premium game-bullets, and the knowledgeable hunter will take advantage of the enhanced performance that they offer.**



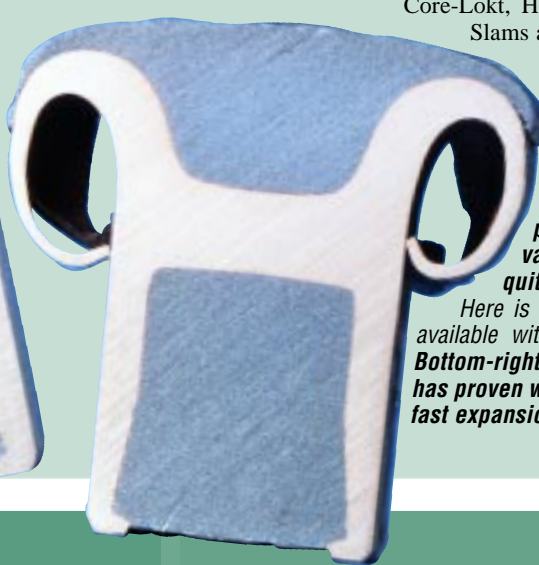
**E**ven the finest gun in the world — with the best optics, a perfect stalk, a precise hold, and a perfect let-off — must still rely on the placement and performance of the most important link in the chain... the bullet. That little projectile — hammered by 50,000 psi plus, squeezed down a rifled bore, and then slammed into the atmosphere — is a marvel of functional design.

Ever since the dawn of firearms, there has been a constant and continuing search for a superior projectile. And when it comes to big game, the essential qualities of the ideal bullet are deep penetration, reliable expansion and maximum weight retention. Whatever the angle of the shot — regardless of bone and heavy muscle encountered — the bullet must successfully penetrate and disrupt vital organs in order to deliver a quick and humane kill.

Until the widespread adoption of high-velocity magnum-type cartridges by the hunting fraternity, bullet structure was not particularly critical. At modest muzzle velocities below 3000 fps, a simple soft-point jacketed bullet performed quite well. Many design techniques have been applied to the jacketed soft point to increase its effectiveness.

Jackets are generally drawn to be thin at the nose (to initiate expansion) and thick at the base (in order to support the core and ensure weight retention). Jackets can be mechanically locked into the lead core, and the Remington Core-Lokt, Hornady InterLock and Speer African Grand Slams are classic examples of this design.

The development of what we term premium bullets today has been the result of a long progression of interesting attempts to improve the hunting bullet.



**Left: The Nosler Partition bullet. A proven performer, Holt says that if limited to one variety of premium projectile he could be quite happy with the Nosler Partition. Center: Here is a view of the Barnes X-bullet, which is now available with the XLC coating to reduce bore fouling. Bottom-right: Another Nosler bullet, the Ballistic Tip has proven wildly popular for its excellent accuracy and fast expansion.**



BY HOLT BODINSON

# Bullet!

To achieve controlled expansion, the Germans developed the RWS H-Mantle bullet in which a two-piece core is separated by a portion of the folded jacket in between the two cores — a precursor of the Nosler Partition. Another early design was the Peters Belted soft point in which a separate band (belt) of gilding metal was positioned around and swaged into the shank of the bullet to stiffen it at mid-section. Remington introduced their famous Bronze Point, a true hollowpointed soft point, capped with a bronze wedge that initiated core expansion upon contact — a concept that is more often seen today in the Nosler Ballistic Tip, Hornady A-Max and V-Max, and the Swift Scirocco. Winchester developed its own capped, expansion-controlled, hollowpoint hunting bullet — the famous aluminum-nosed Silvertip.

Another parallel line of hunting-bullet development has been the expanding solid, which is composed entirely of a copper or bronze alloy. One of the first commercial hunting bullets offered along these lines was made in the '60s by renowned gunsmith and experimenter, P.O. Ackley. The Ackley-controlled expansion bullet was composed of solid copper with a tiny lead core inserted in the tip. At the time, I was shooting the .257 Ackley Improved cartridge. I obtained a supply of Ackley's 100-grain, solid-copper bullets believing that they would be ideal for black bear and mule deer. Unfortunately, they proved to be inaccurate in my rifle and were never used on game. Today, the excellent Barnes X-Bullet line dominates the solid-alloy bullet market.

When Winchester and Remington introduced the benefits of the .264, 7mm and .300 Magnums to thousands of everyday hunters, the push began for better game bullets that could perform at velocities in excess of 3,000 fps, and

## FACTORY LOADS FEATURING PREMIUM BULLETS

**W**inchester and Nosler, working together under the Combined Technology label, have developed the Ballistic Silvertip, the Partition Gold and Fail Safe designs, which Winchester loads across its lines, including Partition Gold 12-gauge and 20-gauge slugs.

Federal is loading the Trophy-Bonded Sledgehammer and Bear Claw; Woodleigh Weldcore; Nosler Partition and Ballistic Tip; Sierra GameKing; and the Barnes XLC coated X-Bullet.

Remington is loading the Swift A-Frame and Scirocco; Hornady V-Max and HP; and Nosler Partition and Ballistic Tip.

PMC is employing the Barnes-X; Sierra BlitzKing and GameKing; and its own Starfire, a hollow point, solid copper alloy bullet similar to the Barnes-X.

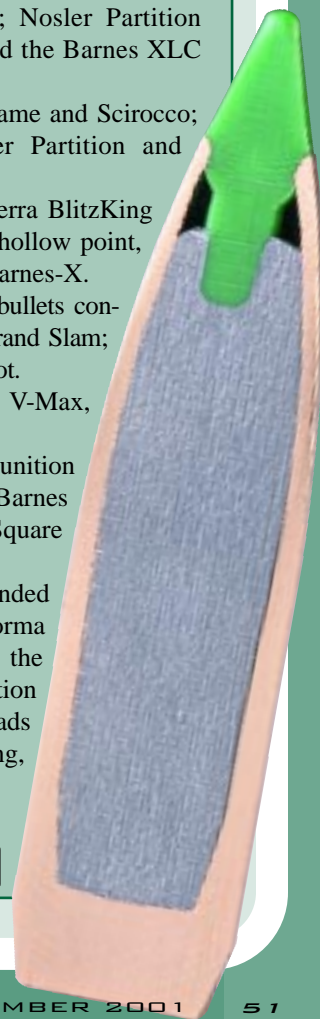
Speer loads its own line of premium bullets consisting of the Grand Slam; the African Grand Slam; the Big Game Tungsten Solid and Gold Dot.

Hornady is loading its own A-Max, V-Max, InterLock, SST and XTP bullets.

Weatherby supplies its premium ammunition with Nosler Partition and Ballistic Tip; Barnes X-Bullet; Hornady Interlock; and A-Square Monolithic Solids.

CorBon offers a complete line of bonded core handgun and rifle ammunition. Norma loads a bonded-core rifle bullet called the Oryx. Lazzeroni loads the Nosler Partition and the Barnes X-Bullet. Black Hills loads the Nosler Ballistic Tip, Sierra MatchKing, and Hornady A- and V-Max

And the list goes on and on.





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at hunting distances ranging from point-blank to in excess of 300 yards. Handloaders using premium bullets from independent bullet makers lead the way. It took time for the ammunition industry to embrace the premium-class hunting bullets and make them available to the general shooting public.

Currently, the most successful premium hunting bullets that provide deep penetration, reliable expansion, and maximum weight retention can be categorized into four groups: the Partition, the Bonded Core, the Expanding Solid, and the Polymer-Tipped Hollow Point.

### The Partition

The legendary Nosler Partition is the standard by which all premium bullets are judged. It's been around the longest and taken the most game. Wonderfully accurate, widely available and economical, it does everything a premium bullet should. Whether the game is at 30 or 500 yards, the Partition never fails to create an ample entry wound and penetrate bone, muscle and hide. If I were limited to one bullet for all hunting, the Nosler Partition would be my choice.

Under the Combined Technology program of Nosler and Winchester, a steel reinforcing cup and stronger heel crimp have been added to the rear core of the standard Partition to eliminate any possibility of core slippage and deformation, and to increase penetration. The result is the Partition Gold bullet loaded by Winchester.

Another product of this cooperative arrangement is the Winchester Fail Safe bullet, which features a homogenous hollow-point nose and a rear core that is encased in two steel cups and sealed with a heel closure disk. The Fail Safe is a very tough bullet that exhibits tremendous penetration and is best reserved for large big game — elk, moose, grizzly, and African-plains game. On smaller bodied game species, it doesn't expand quickly or violently enough compared to a standard Partition.

The Swift A-Frame shares the same basic design of the Partition with the addition of a bonded core, resulting in maximum weight retention and expansion.

### The Bonded Core

Fusing the lead core to the bullet jacket has proved to be an ideal method of insuring weight retention and deep penetration. The Bitterroot Bullet Company of Lewiston, Idaho, did much of the pioneer work on this design, which is now common in the Swift, Trophy Bonded, Woodleigh Weldcore, CorBon, Norma Oryx, Northern Precision and North Fork Technologies brands. Because of the production techniques involved in their manufacture, bonded-core bullets are the most expensive of all premium bullets. They tend to be favored by hunters pursuing

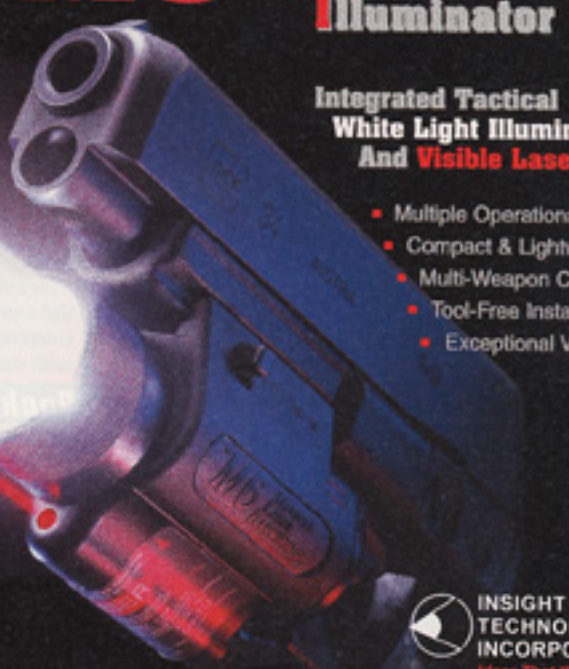
*continued on page 62*

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transparency when the dominant eye focuses on the target) is fully adjustable for windage and elevation, and safe inside protective steel walls.

Concerned that enemy nightvision equipment accentuates glow-in-the-dark sight enhancements, the new shotgun's low-light capability is simply and effectively boosted with ordinary white paint dots. A Picatinny rail atop the receiver can be used to clamp on a variety of electro-optical devices for precision shooting, day or night.

Operator controls are one area of slight departure from previous U.S. military designs. And these can take some time and repetition before their manipulation becomes instinctive. The crossbolt-style safety button is positioned at the rear of the trigger guard where it meets the receiver. It is reversible for left- or right-handed shooters. The bolt release is a knurled button on the right side of the receiver that is readily accessible by the non-firing hand.

The shell-release lever is also found on the right side of the receiver (above the forward edge of the trigger guard). In addition to allowing rounds in the magazine to be freed for lift and feeding, the lever is used to manually lock the bolt open. The bolt assembly is cycled by pulling back on the bolt handle, which, theoretically, can also be smacked forward to assist locking in the event of a badly fouled chamber.

## A New Operating System

While pump shotguns are well recognized for reliability under the worst conditions, the Marine Corps saw some deficiencies that could be overcome with the right semiauto design. In particular, a pump is relatively slow in getting off the second shot due to the need for manually cycling the action; the result is a break in target acquisition.

Also, even though it is politically incorrect to say it aloud, the upper body strength necessary to do this consistently and flawlessly is not there in many females (and all too many MTV-generation males) who, astonishingly, are allowed assignment to military police and security units. On the other hand, fast firing semiauto designs have not distinguished themselves by mechanical simplicity and unerring reliability. What to do?

In an interesting rejection of the theoretical and practical advantages of combination pump/semiauto shotguns — like the Franchi SPAS, the Bernadelli B4 and Benelli's own M3 — JSSAP's industry solicitation specified pure semiautomatic operation. This could have been a big problem in reliability, but appears to be well under control in the M1014.

Benelli engineers recognized that the Montefeltro designed inertia (recoil) operating system of its then current Super-90 series was prone to short stroking when the

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added weight of a nightvision scope or other heavy accessory was clamped on. To resolve this, the engineers created the M1014 with a distinctive Adjustable Regulating Gas Operating system.

The heart of the ARGO system is its twin piston rods. The rods use gas impulse from ports in the barrel. And as the rods sharply extend on firing, they impinge against both sides of the bolt carrier, kicking it rearward. This provides positive action for reliable cycling, regardless of the combat shotshell powder or pellet load. This system is said to be virtually immune to problems from fouling.

Low-powered, less-than-lethal ammo such as beanbags, rubber fins and marking rounds — which are so much in vogue these days with our kinder, gentler military — can be manually cycled in the M1014 by simply grabbing the bolt handle and racking it back.

### If It Ain't Broke

A number of the internal components of the M1014 would look familiar to any experienced user of the Benelli semi-auto shotgun series. The action uses the rugged and well-proven Benelli system of a bolt carrier and cam that locks and unlocks the twin-lug bolt into a barrel extension. Inside, the weight of the floating firing pin and its coil spring tension has been carefully calculated for reliable operation while minimizing possibility of accidental discharge if dropped during rough handling.

Feeding is very positive. The lever-type shell carrier lifts each new round that pops out of the magazine up into alignment with the chamber. The bolt assembly is powered by the stout recoil spring housed inside the guide tube at the rear of the receiver. This tube also acts as a mounting point for the telescoping buttstock.

### More to Come

According to information supplied by the Marine Corps and H&K, M1014 shotgun deliveries from Benelli are right on track. Batches of 500 are arriving each month toward the first production year contract total of 3,977. Tafolla hopes to have the gun in service throughout the Marine Corps by October 2001.

Insiders predict the Army, Navy and Coast Guard will soon begin ordering the Benelli blasters, with estimates running to as many as 25,000 over the next several years. While federal law enforcement agencies seem to be taking a wait-and-see attitude right now, according to Tafolla, there is interest from the FBI, DEA and others in the short 14-inch barrel version.



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## ELK CARTRIDGES

continued from page 49

What really caught fire in a lot of elk camps was the appearance of the standard length magnum — the 7mm Rem. Mag., the .300 and .338 Win. Mags., and to a lesser degree the .264 Win. Mag. The trend toward using bigger and faster magnums for hunting elk continues to this day. I now have friends who are routinely toting .375 H&H and .416 Rem. Mag. rifles into the mountains.

So what's the truth?

Elk aren't getting any bigger or tougher. More wary? Maybe. More tenacious of life? No.

Look at the animal. Elk are large-boned, heavy-muscled deer. A mature Rocky Mountain bull elk measures roughly 8 feet long, stands 5 feet at the shoulder and averages 700 pounds. The mature Roosevelt bull elk of the Pacific Northwest is somewhat larger with an average weight of 700 to 1,100 pounds. On the other hand, most of the elk being taken today are yearling bulls and cows that will average 300 to 500 pounds.

What can make elk hunting demanding on your rifle and cartridge is the variety of habitat in which elk can be found. Ideally, one wants to shoot a load that will soundly anchor a big bull on a close-in shot in thick timber or the rain-soaked jungles of the Pacific Northwest, and yet be capable of reaching out to 400 yards across open meadows, mountain parks and wide canyons if the opportunity presents itself.

Today's elk are under such pressure that once the season opens they tend to hole up in the thickest cover they can find and expose themselves in the open only at night or when spooked by other hunters. Shots tend to be under 150 yards, and the elk are usually moving through the timber — often very rapidly.

For example, during the '99 elk season I shot a custom Model 7 Remington in .284 Win. loaded with 160-grain Nosler Partitions at 2,725 fps to take an elk walking through the timber at 80 yards. During the 2000 elk season, I put three shots into the chest cavity of a running elk at 30 to 50 yards with a Savage 16LZ chambered for Lazzeroni's short .308 magnum the Patriot, loaded with 180-grain Nosler Partitions to 3,065 fps.

That's typical elk hunting today.

Is there a single ideal cartridge for elk? No.

Given the quality of today's ammunition and the premium bullets being loaded by the factories and handloaders, there are many perfectly adequate elk cartridges available. You probably already own more than one caliber that is perfectly suitable if the right bullet is selected.

While many elk are successfully taken every year with plain soft-point bullets, there is no excuse for not using a premium bullet when hunting this magnificent animal. The essential qualities we're looking for in



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an elk bullet are deep penetration, reliable expansion and maximum weight retention. We need a bullet that will smash through big bones and muscle to reach vital organs from any angle. Fortunately, there are a lot of premium bullets and factory loads that you can choose from.

Whether you shoot factory ammunition or handload, the most available premium bullets are the Nosler Partition; Winchester Partition Gold and Fail Safe; Federal Trophy-Bonded; Barnes X-Bullet; Swift A-Frame and Scirocco; Hornady InterLock; Speer Grand Slam; and Sierra GameKing.

An elk bullet having a high sectional density is also a plus in terms of retaining energy and ensuring deep penetration. I tend to favor bullets that are at the upper-weight end of the caliber being used for elk.

For example:

.264: 140-160 grain  
.270: 140-150 grain  
7mm: 160-175 grain  
.308: 180-200 grain  
.338: 225-250 grain

The depth of a mature bull elk's chest cavity, which contains the lungs and heart with the liver nearby, will measure between 24 to 34 inches. Like the traditional ideal deer shot, I would like to place the bullet one-third to one-half up from the bottom of the chest cavity and just behind the foreleg. That's a large target area, and it allows for a margin of error when a shot must be taken from odd angles. The front shoulder or angling off-shoulder shot is another favorite of mine, as is a frontal chest shot.


So what are the most popular elk calibers being carried afield today? Without a doubt, they're the .270 Win.; .30-'06; 7mm Rem. Mag.; .300 Win. Mag.; and the .338 Win. Mag. With proper shot placement and premium bullets, all are capable of taking elk out to 400 yards. And most hunters are quite comfortable with the recoil levels generated by these proven cartridges. You would be well served by any of them, although I would lean toward the .300 and .338 short magnums for their additional velocity and energy.

With that said, there's no reason not to carry a .375 H&H or a .416 Rem. Mag. if you enjoy using them. Looking forward a few years, I certainly expect to see more of the super magnums afield such as the Lazzeroni .308 Warbird and .338 Titan; the Remington .300 and .338 Ultramag's; Weatherby's .30-378 and .338-378; as well as an increasing selection of the new short-action magnums introduced recently by Lazzeroni, Winchester and Remington.

We've basically licked the elk-caliber debate today with the advent of better loads and premium bullets. The real challenge is getting drawn for the privilege of hunting the magnificent wapiti!







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# The Forty-five Auto ON THE TRAIL

An experienced outdoorsman  
tells of how and why he  
selected a semi-auto companion.

By Sam Fadala

**N**ot long ago in this country, a sportsman who voiced concerns about getting “et up” on the trail was considered to be a desk-

bound dude. Today, that same person is seen

as a sharp thinker who knows the score.

Wild animals may not have changed, but factors such as shrinking habitat and restrictions on predator hunting have caused an alarming increase in aggressive animal encounters. As a result, listing 100 close encounters of the worst kind would be no challenge. Examples range from *Arizona Boy Dragged from Back Yard by Coyote* to *Mother Dies from Cougar Attack Following Defense of Her Child*. And while the odds of an animal attack remain minuscule today, they aren’t as remote as they were a decade ago.

On a dense western Wyoming mountain-side a light bulb flicked on over my head after my bowhunting partner and I caught sight of a coyote. Wait a second, two. Four. Six. There were eight, maybe more. We never got an accurate count, but those wild dogs were working together.

“Is the hair crawling on your arms?” Mike asked me.

## Walk Softly, And Carry A .45

This doesn’t mean that you should start shooting at the sight of a threatening animal. If faced with a mountain lion in the path, don’t turn or run. Look big, avoid direct eye contact, and don’t cower. If a bear crosses your path, stop dead in your tracks and make noise. If it comes any closer, shoot pepper spray — not bullets. But when a wild animal continues to behave aggressively — and escape is not an option — you must be ready with firepower.

Carrying a handgun on the trail has nothing to do with offense and everything to do with defense. The handgun you would choose to hunt with, despite its great power and accuracy, may not be the best choice for an unexpected defensive need. In such instances, no handgun will seem powerful enough. But to be of any value, your trailgun must be with you. The problem with packing a sidearm is its bulk and weight, and that too heavy .454 whopper that you left at camp will not do you much good on the trail when seconds count.





For me, the solution is the .45 auto. It is flat and compact, and I can carry it all day. It may not be a powerhouse — but it's big enough to do the job.

I have lived in Grizzly Country and still walk where Old Ephraim roams. On the Alaskan Peninsula, my size-12 bootprint looked baby-like next to fresh bear tracks. If I knew that an altercation with a bear was around the corner, a pistol would not be my choice of armament. A .45 ACP bullet is a pesky gnat on the hide of a big bear. I know that. I also know myself. Chances are that I wouldn't tolerate the bother of carrying a rifle or a heavy-magnum handgun while fishing or hiking.

But my flat-sided .45 will always be with me. With luck, a shot into a nearby tree might convince a bear to play somewhere else. If that fails, however, I'd much rather tackle that bruin with a puny .45 than fight him off with a fly rod.

A friend had a run-in with a coastal grizzly a year ago, the species we used to call brown bear and still should. George survived, although it took a few hundred stitches to repair the damage. He had left his big handgun back at the camp. I bet he would have welcomed an easily carried little .45 ACP with a full magazine!

Of course, there are less hair-raising uses for a compact .45-caliber companion. The hunter knows that an opportunity to collect tender delicacies for the cooking

fire may arise at any time — a quiet pistol shot saves expensive rifle ammo and does not make a mess of small game. A hiker or fisherman knows that a pistol can be carefully used as a signaling device in the event of severe injury.

### .45 Ammo From A Trail Perspective

So, having settled on a trim .45 auto as our trail-gun, what type of ammunition should be selected? Today's factory ammo is the best the world has ever known, not only in quality but also in the variety of loadings available. The .45 ACP is a great example of this. Federal, Winchester, Remington, Speer Lawman, Cor-Bon, CCI Blazer — you name it — all are excellent and offer a wide choice of ballistics. Select from FMJ hardball, light hollow-point, heavy hollow-point for deeper penetration, or target wadcutter for mountain grouse and cottontails.

For proof of this abundance, a quick look through the current Shooter's Bible shows seven loads from Hornady ranging from the 185-grain JHP to the 230-grain FMJ. Magtech offers three, all with 230-grain bullets. Federal also has three, including the highly regarded 230-grain Hydra-Shock. Remington and Winchester were well represented with a variety of loads. I found no .45 ACP shot cartridges listed. For the record, however,

Remington has offered shot loads carrying number 12 shot, the same shot size found in .22 rimfire shot cartridges, while CCI's .45 ACP shot cartridge is loaded with number 9s. I've never tried .45 ACP shot cartridges, but there are those who have found them useful.

Good handloads are another option for the trail-gun, although each should be checked in the sportsman's personal .45 to ensure perfect feeding. The selection of bullets and powders suitable for handloading the .45 ACP is incredibly vast, and it would take volumes to list the various possible combinations. I can, however, report good results with the 200-grain Hornady XTP JHP, driven by 9.0 grains of SR 4756. This load is good for approximately 1,000 fps from a 5-inch barrel. The heavier 230-grain XTP hollow-point will clock right at 900 fps with 8.0 grains of the same propellant.

Nosler's 230-grain FMJ, another good bullet, is propelled to well over 800 fps with 8.5 grains of AA number 5 powder. I'm also fond of Oregon Trail's 225-grain truncated-cone Laser-Cast bullet. This bullet has provided top accuracy with a variety of loads found in the Laser-Cast reloading manual. All of the above loads are listed as maximum.

*continued on page 60*

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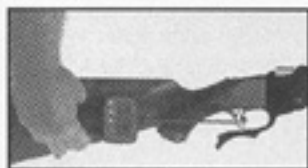
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## THE FORTY-FIVE AUTO *continued from page 59*

### If The Moment Comes

On the trail, I load my .45 magazines with any one of the excellent hollow-point bullets first, followed by two rounds of hardball, and the remainder of the cargo heavy hollow-points. For the latter, I like Cor-Bon's 230-grain +P JHP, which promises 950 fps from a 5-inch barrel.

In the hopes of avoiding the necessity of having to shoot an aggressive animal, I'm willing to sacrifice the first round fired as a warning shot.

My theory behind this mixed load is that if noise-making and pepper spray (used with the off-hand) haven't solved the problem, then the bruin, cougar or coyote will probably only be a few feet away. If the warning shot doesn't work, a hollow-point bullet will deliver a heavy initial blow, followed by two FMJs for maximum penetration, and with additional expanding projectiles in reserve.

This barrage may not instantly stop a dedicated bear in its tracks, but such bullets, if well-placed, should do the job. A cat or coyote won't make it beyond a couple of well-placed rounds. It's simply a matter of the portable gun in your hand being worth a lot more than the big gun back at camp — no matter the size of the beast encountered.

Just as loaded ammunition and compo-

nents for the .45 ACP are plentiful, so are the pistols themselves. After considering the staggering array of makes and models available, I selected two .45 trail guns: a Ruger P90DC, because of its rugged and reliable nature, and a Kimber Ultra Carry, for compactness and flawless function.

How to carry your .45 is important. It must be out of the way but easy to get to. I tried several shoulder holsters and belt holsters before settling on a simple hip holster with a retention strap, plus two extra loaded magazines, one with a strap and the other open.

### Now It's Up To You

No pistol, even a carefully chosen one, will suffice for the trail if it is not used with practiced skill. I enlisted the help of Ron Cox, a former SWAT Team officer, to help me brush up on my pistol skills. And I was soon shooting better than I had thought possible.

The first, and perhaps most important, lesson Cox imparted was astonishingly simple and effective: "Concentrate on the front sight," he said.

By strictly adhering to this instruction, I began hitting 25-yard targets that I had normally missed. While easy enough to do on the practice range, it will take a supreme effort of will to focus on the front sight rather than the target in a life-threatening encounter. After a simple reminder from Cox to concentrate on trigger

squeeze, my practice program left me confident that my .45 caliber pistol would do the job in my hands.

I embarrassed myself when Cox advised that I carry the Kimber in "condition one," with hammer fully cocked and the thumb safety engaged.

"Is that really safe?" I blurted out.

He assured me that it was and reminded me that most common sporting guns are carried in just that way — cocked. The only difference is that you don't see the hammer eared back and ready.

Examples? How about a Remington Model 870 shotgun; if a round has been chambered, the hammer is cocked. The same can be said for any bolt-action rifle, along with a host of other familiar firearms. For additional peace of mind, the Kimber has two external safeties. Squeeze the grip to kick one off. Flick a lever to turn off the second.

Familiar now with my two trail-guns, I was confident that whether wandering the back country, sitting in a tree stand (several bears have climbed stands to get hunters), or fishing some lonely trout stream, that the .45 auto-pistol at my side would be up to all tasks. While I'm counting on it for that one-in-a-million grim encounter with an aggravated wild animal on the trail, I know that I will appreciate the company of the flat-sided little pistol — even if all I ever call upon it for is to add a little food to the camp pot.





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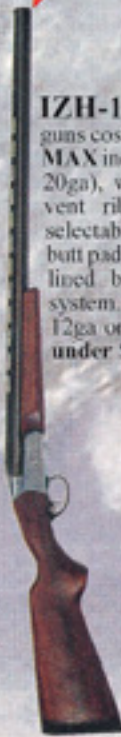
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## IT'S THE BULLET!

continued from page 52

large-boned and heavy-muscle big game. I've used a number of bonded-core designs made by Northern Precision and featuring their J4 jackets with complete success on deer and elk.

### The Expanding Solid

Barnes has perfected this design over the last decade, and the quality of their X-Bullets keeps getting better. The new XLC dry film lubricated X-Bullets considerably reduced complaints of copper fouling. What I like about the X-Bullet is that it's possible to slightly reduce normal-grain weights in any caliber, and thus provide increased velocity without sacrificing premium-bullet performance. For example, the typical big-game load in the .338 Win Mag. features a 225- to 250-grain bullet at velocities between 2,700 to 2,800 fps. With the X-Bullet, it's entirely possible to drop the bullet weight down to 175 to 185 grain and achieve velocities between 3,000 to 3,200 fps. The only caveat I would offer about the X-Bullet is that some barrels shoot it well and some don't. The homogenous bullet does not have the elasticity of a lead-core bullet and, as a result, is less forgiving if the diameter of the bullet and the internal dimensions of the bore are not an ideal match. Having said that, the X-Bullet is a real performer, especially when driven at top velocities. Similar in concept to the X-Bullet is a new line of expanding solids marketed by Lost River Ballistic Technologies.

### The Polymer-Tipped Hollow Point

Pioneered by Nosler as the Ballistic Tip — and introduced later by Hornady as the A-Max, V-Max and SST; by Sierra as the BlitzKing; and by Winchester as the Ballistic Silvertip — the polymer-tipped hollow-point has established itself as one of the most accurate and aerodynamic bullet designs ever created. Providing target grade accuracy, the design is ideal for long range varminting and for light to medium big-game species. While the original designs were somewhat too fragile on big-game, this is no longer true with excellent big-game bullets being offered across the board from 6mm through 9.3mm. I've used the 200-grain Ballistic Tip in a .338 Win. Mag. on elk with complete success, although I do feel more confident shooting the 210-grain and 250-grain Partitions.

### Why use premium bullets?

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## BARRETT'S .50 BMG

continued from page 47

### Blooded In Combat

The military had developed an emergency requirement for what later came to be popularly called an "anti-material rifle." The Marine Corps, first to adopt the M82A1, designated it as "Special Applications Scoped Rifle" and deployed 125 units to Saudi Arabia where the rifle proved itself in combat. Orders from the Army and Air Force soon followed. Today, Barrett rifles are found in military forces throughout the world, and the company is one of the firearm industry's true success stories.

Contrary to popular belief, the military does not use the Barrett as a sniper rifle. The anti-material rifle designation accurately describes the role of the .50-caliber rifle. The Barrett .50-caliber rifles are used for the safe disposal of unexploded bombs and artillery shells, for destroying mines that have anti-lift devices, and for knocking out critical targets such as radar equipment, parked aircraft, missiles, vehicles, and other material targets that are critical to the enemy's combat mission. The Barrett .50 BMG rifles are not specifically employed as anti-personnel rifles.

Law enforcement agencies use Barrett rifles similarly to the military. Suitable applications for the Barrett rifles are safely rendering bombs inert, stopping vehicles and rendering them inoperable, and barricade situations in which a criminal is behind cover that is too heavy to be pierced by smaller caliber firearms. Usually, a single shot from a .50-caliber Barrett is sufficient to convince barricaded criminals that their best option is to simply raise their hands and surrender.

Barrett rifles are also used by civilians for long-range competition and recreational shooting at distances of 500 to 1,000 yards and beyond.

Some legislators have made loud noises about the potential for criminal misuse of these potent rifles. However, as of this writing, there has never been a documented crime committed with a .50-caliber rifle of any maker. The guns are simply too large, heavy and expensive for criminal use.


### A Model For Every Use

Currently, Barrett manufactures six .50-caliber rifles: The original semiautomatic M82A1, the upgraded M82A1M, the M95, the M95M, the M99 Heavy Barrel, and the M99-1 with fluted lightweight barrel. The M82A1M rifle has been adopted by the U.S. Marine Corps in slightly modified form with the official designation of M82A3. There are differences between the military and civilian models, and military M82A3s are not available commercially. A full description of the differences between models can be found in the specifications.

The M82A2 rifle, a bullpup-configured variant of the M82A1, was designed to be

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fired from the shoulder. Although the rifle was functionally successful, it did not sell well and is no longer in production.

The M95 was Barrett's first bolt-action rifle. It feeds from a detachable five-round box magazine. The M95 was originally developed and marketed as the M90 but was later significantly upgraded and re-designated as the M95. The most recent version of this rifle is designated the M95M. But this version is available only to military and law-enforcement customers. The M95M was adopted by the Army as the XM107. Shortly after the rifle was type classified, however, the Army reconsidered and decided to opt for a semi-automatic rifle rather than a bolt action. Currently, the Army's choice is unknown, but it is likely to be Barrett's M82A3.

The single shot M99 is Barrett's entry-level rifle. Although, like all Barrett rifles, the M99 is a high-quality product that is somewhat more expensive than its competitors. For most law enforcement uses, the M99 is probably the best-suited rifle, as it is the most accurate and least expensive of Barrett's firearms. Unlike the military, which requires quick follow-up shots in fast-moving combat situations, police will rarely need this capacity in a .50-caliber rifle. However, follow-up shots with the M99 are surprisingly quick, as the cartridge is simply dropped or literally tossed into the receiver and the bolt closed on it. As long as the cartridge is inserted in the M99's receiver with the projectile forward, the smooth-feeding action will chamber it as the bolt is pressed forward.

Barrett Manufacturing is the world's oldest and, arguably, most respected producer of .50-caliber rifles. Although these rifles are Barrett's only firearms at the moment, the company is not resting on its laurels and is looking to the future with a number of advanced projects for different types of firearms.

For example, a gas-operated .338 Lapua Magnum rifle is in the final stages of prototype development and will soon enter production. Barrett is also negotiating with inventors and developers for production of new and innovative firearm designs that fit within the company's vision of producing special purpose firearms of all types. Needless to say, the company's developmental projects are confidential. But Barrett and his staff are not simply focused on producing .50-caliber rifles, though the worldwide demand for Barrett's Big Bores continues unabated. Despite this, should the demand for .50-caliber rifles eventually slow, Barrett will be ready with innovative new products that should make the company a force to be reckoned with well into the 21st century.



**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**

**Barrett Firearms Mfg. Inc.**

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## AMERICA'S CARTRIDGE

continued from page 32

who had submitted forms for Honor Badges, a promotional feature that the magazine had at the time. Of the 500, 166 (33.2 percent) used rifles chambered in .30-'06; the .270 Win. rated second, followed by the .308.

Nearly four decades later, RCBS published its list of most popular reloading dies. The .223 (primarily a varmint and target cartridge) was number one. The .30-'06 was number two. And the .308 and .270 Win. followed in third and fourth, respectively. One can hardly say that the popularity of the .30-'06 has declined.

### The .30-'06 Today

The selection of factory rifles has never been greater. While you may select from semi-auto, pump and lever-action rifles, the bolt-action is still far and away the most popular form. Even in turn-bolt guns, great variety exists. And hunters may choose anything from an ultra-light, composite-stocked stainless-steel rifle, to a classically styled model featuring blued steel and well-figured walnut.

Most hunters choose optical sights for their rifles. And to match .30-'06 ballistics, you really don't need one of those 16- to 20-ounce superscopes which are so popular these days. On my two pre-'64 Winchester 70s, the scopes are a 2-7X Pentax and a 2.5-8X Leupold Vari-X III. My old Ruger 77 has an equally old scope, a steel-tubed Weaver K4. These compact versatile scopes are an excellent match for the .30-'06.

Ammunition choices have also been expanded. Hornady shook up the industry a few years ago with its Light Magnum series. Choices in .30-'06 include the 150-grain SST bullet at 3,100 fps, the 165-grain SP at 3,015 fps, and the 180-grain BTSP at 2,900 fps. Other major ammunition manufacturers have added new premium loads as well.

Winchester's Supreme .30-'06 line includes a 150-grain Power-Point Plus at 3,050 fps, 168-grain Ballistic Silvertip at 2,790 fps, 180-grain Power-Point Plus at 2,770 fps, and Partition Gold at 2,750 fps. The tough Fail Safe bullet is offered in choices of 150 grain at 2,920 fps, 165 grain at 2,800 fps, and 180 grain at 2,700 fps.

The Speer Nitrex line has the premium Speer Grand Slam bullets in several loads: 150-grain at 3,000 fps, 165-grain at 2,810 fps, and 180-grain at 2,790 fps. Federal loads a wide range of premium bullets in its factory .30-'06 ammunition. The Trophy Bonded Bear Claw, Sierra Game-King, Barnes XLC, Nosler Partition and Nosler Ballistic Tip are all offered in standard velocity loads.

In addition, Federal loads some of these premium bullets in its High Energy loads at higher velocities. These include the Nosler Partition (180 grain at 2,880 fps), the Sierra Game-King (165 grain at 3,000 fps) and the Trophy Bonded Bear Claw (150 grain at 3,000 fps, 180 grain at 2,880 fps).

Remington is also loading some pre-

mium bullets at standard velocities: the 180-grain Nosler Partition, Swift A-Frame and Swift Scirocco, all at 2,700 fps; the 150-grain Nosler Ballistic Tip and Swift Scirocco at 2,910 fps; and the 165-grain Nosler Ballistic Tip at 2,800 fps. Remington still holds the record for the fastest .30-'06 load, the 55-grain Accelerator at 4,080 fps.

The lightest factory load currently available from major manufacturers is the 125 grain at 3,140 fps. The heaviest bullet loaded by Winchester at present is the 180-grain. Remington, and Federal still offer 220-grain bullets at 2,410 fps.

### An Ideal Reloader's Cartridge

The .30-'06, with its medium case capacity and long neck, is one of the easiest and most pleasant cartridges to reload. There is a wealth of load data available — literally dozens of powders and hundreds of bullets that will work. Personally, I have no need for bullets under 150 grain or over 180 grain in the .30-'06. The loads I've used for years in my working '06 rifles are so routine, I'm almost embarrassed to mention them.

For deer and antelope, my load was any standard, fast-expanding 150-grain bullet from Hornady, Speer, Sierra or Nosler (the older style Solid Base and later the Ballistic Tip), with 59.0 grain of IMR-4350. For anything bigger, it was the 180 Nosler Partition with 56.0 grain of IMR-4350. The rifles vary a bit, but typically the 150-grain muzzle velocity is 2,925 fps to 2,950 fps. The 180-grain Partitions average about 200 fps slower.

As I started using my '06 rifles more and more as spares, I realized that fiddling with two loads was a nuisance. When Winchester



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Fail Safe ammunition came along, I decided to settle on it as my one load. Factory ammunition is very accurate, and matches claimed ballistics almost exactly (180 grain at 2,700 fps).

On light game such as deer, these first Fail Safes proved a bit tough. For example: A couple of Whitetails fell quickly enough after being shot through the shoulders, but a good-sized mule deer gave no sign of a hit after being shot through the lungs at about 150 yards. A second shot with the same hold caused the buck to trot off nonchalantly into heavy brush, leaving me convinced that the scope was off. The buck ran about 400 yards before it died. I eventually found it, more by good luck than good management. Results on a mule-deer doe during a later antlerless season were similar.

Now I reserve my remaining supply of Fail Safes in .30-'06 for bigger game. The all-purpose load for the three rifles is the 180-grain Nosler Partition with either 60.0 or 61.0 grains of Reloder 22, depending on the rifle. Velocities run just under 2,800 fps. Reloder 19 does almost as well, but at slightly higher pressures.

Reloading components have kept pace with the development of improved factory ammo. Bullets are better than ever. High velocities place extreme demands on bullets. The .30-'06, with its middle-of-the-road velocities, seems to do well with most bullet styles.

A supplier of bullets for handloaders, for example, doesn't know whether its 180-grain spitzers will be loaded in a .300 Savage at 2,400 fps or in a hot .30-cal. magnum at 3,400 fps. The bullet might not expand enough in the first instance, and it might expand too much in the second.

For example, I've been very pleased with the performance of Nosler Ballistic Tip bullets for lighter game — although some have complained about bullet blowup or extensive meat damage with these bullets. Generally, though, it turns out that these complainers were using magnums with velocities in the 3,100-fps to 3,200-fps range. Maybe the reason I've had good luck is that in the various calibers in which I've used Ballistic Tip bullets, muzzle velocities have generally been in the 2,900-fps range.

There have never been so many powder choices. In addition to the standards from Hodgdon, IMR, Hercules and Winchester, there are newer brands such as Accurate Arms, Vihtavouri and Ramshot. Some of these powders have the potential for increased velocities, and they give the reloader more opportunities to find an accurate load. Actually, there are dozens of powders that work well in the .30-'06. Because of its medium capacity, it will work with many of the medium to medium-slow burning powders.

Medium, for many that describes the .30-'06. Average. Middle of the road...

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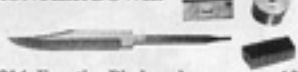
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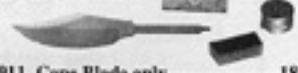
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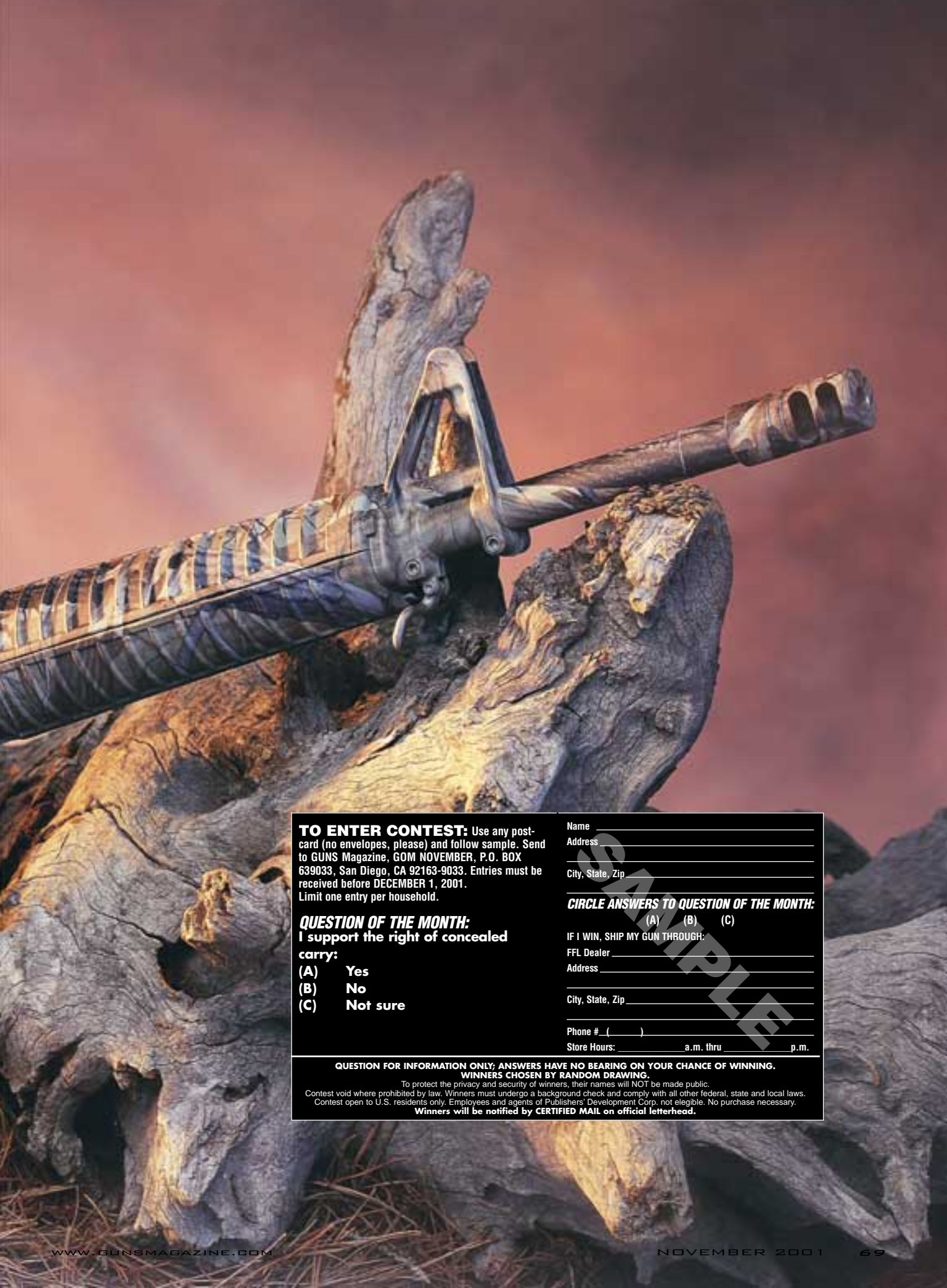
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# BLUE

BY DICK WILLIAMS

**G**lenrock, Wyoming, is a bit easier to find than the lost city of Atlantis, primarily because it's located off Interstate 25 about halfway between Casper and Douglas, just about centered in the eastern half of the state. For those of you who don't know where Casper or Douglas are, or perhaps even where Wyoming is, no worries, mate! If you're a firearms enthusiast, all you need to know is the name and address of Glenrock Blue, where some of the finest wood- and metal-restoration work in the country is performed. At Glenrock, the husband-and-wife team of Phil and Di Filing limit their efforts specifically to metal and wood refinishing; no general gunsmithing tasks are accepted. Ah, but what wondrous work they do!

Glenrock uses a 10-tank blueing system rather than the more traditional three-tank system. Custom gun finishes include baked-on Teflon/moly coat, rust blue, Belgian blue, parkerizing and gold plating. Glenrock believes that bead blasting with aluminum oxide gives a finer finished product than glass bead. Based upon the project done for me, I can vouch for the fact that they take special care with the polishing process to ensure that holes and lettering do not get washed out. No less painstaking is the stock finishing process. The stock is first stripped and cleaned to remove old grime. It is then repaired (as necessary), sanded, steamed, and treated with a clear filler. Finally, the stock is finished with many coats of hand-rubbed oil in a temperature-controlled environment. Needless to say, this is a very involved and painstaking process.

Before choosing Glenrock as his permanent base of operations, Filing did his time in the city, which included graduating from the Colorado School of Trades and several years as the gunsmith for a major sporting-goods chain. His qualifications and credentials are in good order.

Phil does all the metal work, along with cutting stocks and fitting any missing pieces. Di handles all the wood clean up and finishing, including the careful recutting of old checkering patterns. Although a small shop, Glenrock Blue has customers in 48 states. And most of them have been acquired through word-of-mouth referrals. They also have dealers who will handle all the logistics and administrative requirements in those states.

I heard about Phil from Bob Robertson, Alaskan guide and owner of Bear Track cases. A while back, Robertson and I spent many hours together in a small tent hunting bear and moose in Alaska. Actually, we left the tent for most of our hunting but ended up spending a lot of time in the tent due to bad weather. As often happens with hunters and shooters, our conversation quickly turned to distinctive firearms, owned or desired. I mentioned a Model 1897 shotgun handed down to

*continued on page 73*

***Opposite: Before and after photos of the Winchester M-97 show the magnificent transformation that Glenrock Blue accomplished. What is more difficult to see is the flawless polishing of the metal surfaces. No washed-out lettering or egg-shaped screw holes here! Phil Filing is shown polishing a barrel. This seemingly simple task is the foundation of a quality finishing job, and must be done correctly.***





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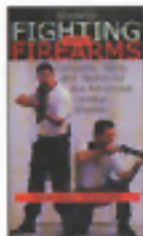
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## QUARTERMASTER

continued from page 14

BY CAMERON HOPKINS

### Ahrends Thin Stocks

Gripmaker Kim Ahrends continues to raise the bar in custom 1911 aftermarket grips. First he pioneered a new style of checkering, known as "Tactical Stocks," which leaves the upper portion of the panel unchecked to facilitate a fast purchase on the pistol while leaving the bottom section textured with perfectly pointed diamonds for a rock-solid grip.

Now the affable Iowan is out with "Thin Stocks," a slimmed-down version of his classic 1911 stock. The thin grips are nearly half the thickness of full-size stocks — .172 inch compared to .269 inch. In fact, Thin Stocks are so emaciated that Ahrends supplies modified grip screws and escutcheons because the standard ones are too fat. For the time being, blue is the only finish available.

In the hand, Thin Stocks feel, well, thin. The overall circumference of a 1911 is reduced about a quarter inch, which doesn't sound like much, but it is definitely "feelable."

Thin Stocks are cut with striations instead of checkering, again to allow a fast purchase as you whip your concealed Kimber or Springfield from under a jacket.

Like all of Ahrends grips, Thin Stocks are made from exotic hardwood. Ahrends offers three choices: traditional Cocobolo, and the more exotic Cordia and Moradillo. All are relieved with a Swenson cut on the starboard panel to accommodate a southpaw thumb safety.

If you are looking to minimize the profile of a 1911 for concealed carry, or if you simply have small hands and want a grip reduction, Thin Stocks are the answer. The retail price is \$50 in any of the three woods. Dymondwood laminates are \$60.



**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**

**Kim Ahrends Custom Firearms**

P.O. Box 203

Clarion, Iowa 50525

[515] 532-3449



## GLENROCK BLUE

continued from page 71

my brother-in-law from his father. It's the special Black Diamond Trap model with a 30-inch barrel. While the gun is still incredibly tight mechanically, both the metal and wood have taken a beating since leaving the Winchester factory in the early part of the 20th century. One of the black-diamond inserts was missing, and the toe of the stock had been broken off and lost, leaving the buttplate shattered. The gun had been hiding in my brother-in-law's closet for almost four decades, not usable and too embarrassed for any public appearances. Robertson suggested I contact Filing. And the following summer, I sent the shotgun to Glenrock Blue.

Knowing that the minimum turnaround time for complete blueing and stock refinishing is at least 16 weeks, I was not surprised when the Model 97 was gone for over 20. What did surprise me, upon the gun's return, was the incredible restoration process that had taken place. I was looking at what appeared to be a brand-new Winchester Model 97 shotgun that had been made in 1897! Metal that had been covered with rust and pitting had the old-time blued look with all lettering still readable — even the smaller print. I could not even distinguish between the original black diamond and its replacement. And it took a careful search to find the joining line where the broken toe of the buttstock had been replaced. Filing had been unable to find a replacement butt plate for the Model 97, so he made a new one and fitted it

to the repaired stock. It looked great! All the grime and filth from the wood had been removed, and the beauty of the original stock restored. The checkering had been recut and was immaculate, but still looked totally proper for a gun almost a century old. Even the dings and scars around the muzzle had been repaired. Nothing was overlooked, either in the wood or in the metal. Robertson had told me that the gun would be repaired by a true craftsman, but he hadn't mentioned the artistry and care that accompany the technical skill of Glenrock Blue restoration.

It is redundant to say that the Winchester is once again a work of art. Even I, with my unmitigated gall and total lack of shame, was unable to ask my brother-in-law if I could borrow the gun for a cowboy match. Someday, after he has had some time to reminisce about his youth and take the gun bird hunting, I will try to borrow it. And while I can't change his Last Will and Testament in terms of who will ultimately own that beautiful Winchester Model 97, I am drafting an amendment stating that if he goes first, the gun stays with me until my demise.



### FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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## New lightweight Blind

*From Paha Que*

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## Tactical Lightweight Rifle

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## THE ANCIENTS

*continued from page 28*

carry a handgun and be highly skilled — able to engage a target under extreme pressure, from concealed carry, in under 2 seconds — the attacker can slash you, hack you, or run straight through your middle long before you can bring your muzzle to bear.

Fortunately, there are a couple of aces you can keep up your sleeve if you ever find yourself caught between a blade and a hard place. But you have to remember, any engagement with an edged weapon presents two essential elements that need to be overcome before you can point your muzzle on target. You must overcome shock, and you must break the contact connection.

### Overcoming Shock

Finding a class that teaches how to deal with shock is difficult, if not impossible. But some golden nuggets of wisdom do exist — preserved from the battlefields of yesteryear — that we can use in our daily, modern lives.

Humans anatomically freeze when threatened with an edged weapon. The thought of losing life or limb stuns us into shock, and as a result we stop breathing. Ancient studies of shock illustrate that the average male will slightly inhale and momentarily freeze his breath when threatened (as documented by Procopius, the military historian of the 6th Century Byzantine Count General Belisarius who rid Rome of the Ostrogoths in 536 A.D.).

Our body activates its primal response mechanism, and we remain motionless for some time before the fight-or-flight mechanism kicks in. The length of time varies from person to person, but the common denominator remains consistent: Our bodies freeze for a measurable amount of time. We give our enemy the classic advantage of surprise attack and put ourselves on the reactive side of the fence.

The masters of old admonish us to this very day that: "Reaction is always slower than action." Our only hope is to minimize our reaction time and attempt to convert precious seconds into action as quickly as possible.

So what's the best way to turn reaction into action and decrease the amount of freeze-time caused by shock? The famous Japanese swordsman Miyamoto Musashi offers this sage advice: "The body and breath can be frozen, but the mind cannot." Standard operating procedure, should you be confronted by shock, is to free your mind and then free your breath. The body will naturally follow. Breathe. Focus on the situation at hand and simply breathe.

Try this the next time you avoid an accident on the freeway or a loud noise startles you at night. Once alarmed, focus your mind and then free your breath. Later, try and analyze the phenomenon of shock and how you reacted to it. How long were you frozen? Were you immediately able to free

your mind and your breath and effectively react to the situation at hand by turning your reaction time into action?

Practice managing shock during dicey situations, and you will significantly prepare yourself for thinking and acting fast should you ever need to protect yourself.

### Contact Connection

Contact Connection is the physical connection between the opponent, his weapon and any part of your body.

Unlike firearms, edged weapons are contact weapons. In order for contact weapons to be effective, they must make the connection from attacker to would-be victim. In other words, his hand must be on the knife, screwdriver, razor blade or whatever else he's holding; and the sharp edge or point must contact some part of your body.

No contact connection renders an edged-weapon useless. Therein lies the age old secret — break the contact connection and you break the weapon's effectiveness. If your attacker loses his grip, or the knife's edge and tip do not touch you, no physical harm can result.

You can employ several methods to break the contact connection: First, use an obstacle to break the connection. Put something between yourself and the edge. This can be distance, your briefcase, your coat, a trash can or car door — anything will do if placed between yourself and the threat.

Second, don't allow the connection to be made. Move to the outside. Simply get your body away from the edge or tip. Jump, roll, run, duck or move — just get out of there. Break the connection by not being there for him to make any contact.

Third, push his hand or arm down and away from your body and then move away. A bit more risky than the first two — but if you don't have a better option, then you must act on this means of breaking the connection.

By taking action to break the contact connection, you will have seized the initiative and will have placed him in the position of reacting to you. One more nugget from the ancient masters: "He who takes action creates reaction and thus controls the fight."

Don't try to beat him at his own game, by matching his moves speed for speed. You will fail. When the attacker possesses the element of surprise, you are behind the power curve. He is active. You are reactive. Heed the words of the master: "Reaction is always slower than action." No matter how fast you pick up the phone, the person calling you will be there first.

### About The Author

Steve Tarani is a full-time law enforcement defensive tactics instructor specializing in edged and impact weapons. For more information: [949] 515-0905 steve-tarani@earthlink.net





## CAMPFIRE TALES

continued from page 82

I don't know them, and they certainly don't know me. After all this time, we are still only acquaintances.

Those of us involved with firearms and hunting have a great advantage over other folks because true friendships seem easier to form in these situations. There is something about shooting and hunting, and just being outside with other men, that seems to break down the barriers that we build around ourselves. It's a lot easier to be genuine, honest and open with one another around a campfire than in almost any other situation. A wise man soon realizes that the success of a hunting trip is not measured by the size of the trophy, but by the quality of time spent with friends — true friends.

I was six years old when my step-dad came home from World War II and taught me one of the most important lessons that I've ever learned about real friendship. He related to me how a young man in his outfit had thrown himself on a grenade — sacrificing himself so his friends could live.

There it is! The true meaning of friendship. The willingness to die for a friend. I have friends who would die for me should the occasion arise, and more importantly, I would do the same for them.

I have a dear friend who, while in college, was paralyzed from the neck down. At the time, the doctor told him that he would never walk again. But thanks to his sheer dogged determination, today he can out walk me, albeit with a decided limp.

I was on a hunting trip with my friend some time ago. He was going to take a buffalo with a sixgun, and the guide told him that before he shot to find a tree to climb, just in case anything went wrong.

"If he doesn't go down and comes for you, run for that tree. How fast can you run?"

My friend began to laugh.

"How fast? I can't run at all!" he said.

"But what if everything goes wrong?" the worried guide said.

"Don't worry. John will keep him off me."

Unlike the guide, my friend was not worried in the least because he knew I would protect him, or die trying, for one simple reason: He is my friend.

We live in such a world today. Honesty, Integrity, Honor, Loyalty, True Friendship: Our future survival as a nation depends upon these values, which seem to be forgotten by so many people today.

We not only need to pass the shooting sports on to younger generations, we need to pass on the most important things in life. All of us have probably gathered firearms, ammunition and supplies just in case society unravels someday. If everything ever really does come apart, we would be much better off with a stockpile of friends than alone with an arsenal of weapons.



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continued on page 80



### ADVERTISER'S INDEX

ADVERTISER	PAGE	ADVERTISER	PAGE
American Sales & Mfg. ....	55	Franklin Mint .....	17
Auto-Ordnance .....	55,75	Ft. Knox Security .....	55
Bagmaster .....	75	Glock Inc. ....	33
Baird Co. ....	53	Groves Edge .....	77
Beretta USA .....	29	GSI-Merkel .....	57,73
Birchwood Casey .....	59	Gun Parts Corp. ....	53
Bond Arms .....	63	Heckler & Koch .....	19
Ed Brown Custom .....	6	Henry Repeating Arms .....	7
Cannon Safe .....	65	Heritage Building Systems .....	64
J.A. Ciener .....	15	Hogue Grips .....	56
Clark Custom Guns .....	66	HydraStorm .....	03
Colorado School of Trades .....	56	Insight Technology .....	52
Compassecos .....	65	Jantz Suply .....	67
Crimson Trace .....	15	Kel-Tec .....	14
DCG Inc. ....	66	Knife Outlet .....	64
Defense Security Products .....	32	Law Concealment .....	53
Dixie Gun Works .....	60	Lee Precision .....	21
A.G. English .....	64	Legendary Arms .....	65
EAA .....	61	Lyman Products .....	60
Flash Dist .....	62	Mag-na-port Int'l .....	63
Fobus USA .....	54	Magnum Research .....	04
Franchi .....	15	Marlin .....	23
		Meopta .....	55
		Millett .....	56
		Mitchell's Mausers .....	76
		MPS Co. ....	65
		MTM Molded .....	64
		Nil Grips .....	75
		Otis .....	05
		Outdoorsman's Edge .....	10-11
		Pearce Grip .....	63
		S & K Scope Mounts .....	64
		Savage Arms .....	9
		Shoot Magazine .....	63
		Shooter's Online Service .....	55
		SigArms .....	72
		Springfield Inc. ....	77
		Stoeger Industries .....	54
		Sturm Ruger & Sons .....	C2
		Taurus .....	C3
		Thunder Ranch .....	52
		Winchester/U.S. ....	
		Repeating Arms .....	12-13

### Classifieds Continued

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### ADVERTISER PAGE

Meopta .....	55
Millett .....	56
Mitchell's Mausers .....	76
MPS Co. ....	65
MTM Molded .....	64
Nil Grips .....	75
Otis .....	05
Outdoorsman's Edge .....	10-11
Pearce Grip .....	63
S & K Scope Mounts .....	64
Savage Arms .....	9
Shoot Magazine .....	63
Shooter's Online Service .....	55
SigArms .....	72
Springfield Inc. ....	77
Stoeger Industries .....	54
Sturm Ruger & Sons .....	C2
Taurus .....	C3
Thunder Ranch .....	52
Winchester/U.S. ....	
Repeating Arms .....	12-13

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## THE TRUE SURVIVALISTS STOCKPILE



BY JOHN TAFFIN

Moments like this one can't be planned. Late spring, the three of us had been traveling together for about 800 miles, and we were ascending the last mountain pass en route to our final destination in Colorado. The old Bronco purred like some proverbial cat as we climbed past the 10,000-foot mark, heading toward 12,000. Willie Nelson was plugged into the tape deck singing, "*Precious Memories*." A truckload of guns and ammunition, two great friends, and wonderful music... at just about the time we hit the summit. Snow was still piled on both sides of the road, and the green-and-white landscape stretched endlessly in every direction. I was breathless — and almost speechless.

"Boys! It just doesn't get any better than this!" I said.

As we traveled over the top of the pass and down the far side, Willie Nelson began singing, "*Ain't it Funny how Time Slips Away*?" Time certainly does slip away, but it ain't all that funny!

When we were kids, the future seemed so far away, so distant, so unreachable — and then suddenly, almost without warning, it was here.

I spend as much time looking backward these days as I do looking forward, and I think a lot about what's really important in life. I've narrowed it down to five things — the only things that are really important, and certainly the only things worth fighting for: Faith, Family, Friends, Firearms, and what makes these four of these possible — Freedom.

I would guess that most of these things are also extremely important to you. But how seriously have you considered their true meaning? The next time you're at a meeting — whether it's the gun club, a church group, or any gathering of right-minded individuals — look around the room and count the number of friends you have. Is the number remarkably high? If so, you're probably mistaken. What you have just counted are not friends, but rather acquaintances. There is a vast difference between the two.

For 29 years, I taught in the same building and saw the same men everyday. We had some great times together, but they never knew me, and I never knew them. For an even longer period of time, 35 years, I have attended the same church nearly every Sunday. I have pleasant visits with several men every time — but again,

*continued on page 77*



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