



NSSF

DAY 4, JANUARY 23, 2015

SHOT DAILY

NEW PRODUCT REPORTS

SHOT Daily hits the floor to find what's new in the world of airguns P. 14. and airsoft P. 22



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THE DAILY NEWS OF THE 2015 LAS VEGAS SHOT SHOW BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE BONNIER CORPORATION AND THE NSSF



A New Force

Given the growth of participation by women in the shooting sports recently, it should come as no surprise that this group represents a lucrative new market for gun sales—and a study undertaken last year by NSSF confirms that belief. The study focused on women ages 18 to 65 who own at least one firearm. More than a third of women in the study were new gun owners, having purchased their first firearm within the last three years.

“The women’s market is a force in our industry, and manufacturers, retailers, and shooting ranges are making changes to their products and services to satisfy women’s tastes and needs. This report will assist anyone interested in knowing more about women’s enthusiasm for and attitudes toward firearms,” said Jim Curcuruto, NSSF director of industry research and analysis, at a seminar at SHOT where these trends were discussed.

Placing a premium on safety, women say the single most important reason they decided to purchase or own a firearm is protection—both personal and home protection. Learning to hunt and going shooting with friends and family were also cited. The report shows women are attracted to shooting activities such as practical pistol, clay target shooting, long-range shooting, and plinking. In NSSF’s Annual Retailer Survey, more than 74 percent of retailers reported an increase in women customers in their stores in 2013 over 2012.



SUPPORT FOR FIRST SHOTS

FMG Publications presented NSSF with a check for \$281,000 during the SHOT Show State of the Industry Dinner. The money was raised during FMG’s Shooting Industry Masters and is designated to help fund NSSF’s First Shots Program.

“We’re all aware of the vital role First Shots plays in ensuring new shooters get started correctly and safely, and fully understand the responsibility of owning a gun. First Shots also helps us infuse and grow our ranks and build our businesses,” said Randy Molde, FMG Publications vice president of business development.

Steve Sanetti, president of NSSF, praised FMG Publications for its support of First Shots. “It’s safe to say no other group has invested as much capital to make First Shots the success it’s been over the last decade than FMG Publications.”



Bushnell Makes Donation

Founded by Major Dan Rooney in 2007, Folds of Honor provides educational scholarships to the spouses and children of service members killed or disabled during U.S. military service. According to the foundation, more than 1.4 million dependents have been affected by the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq alone, with 85 percent of those not qualifying for federal educational assistance. Without the help of

civilian organizations like Folds of Honor, many of these families would not receive aid.

Bushnell was an early supporter of Folds of Honor, and at the 2015 SHOT Show, the manufacturer presented a check for \$364,500 to further the important work of the foundation. Since establishing a partnership in 2010, the optics leader has donated more than \$1 million to Folds of Honor.





Jim Curcuruto, NSSF director of research and analysis, led the discussion.

SHOT Show Educational Seminar

With a keen interest in how to introduce the shooting sports to more diverse groups of new shooters, the National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) presented “Increase Your Sales to a Diverse Customer Base” to a receptive and willing-to-engage audience during its educational seminar program at the 2015 SHOT Show. Four panelists, who are leading by example, joined NSSF moderator Jim Curcuruto, in an hour-long discussion. Panelists included Donny Adair, president of the African American Hunting Club, Portland, Oregon; Mariley Haley, range manager of Shoot Smart Range in Grand Prairie, Texas; and Libby Gibbs and Frank Manuel, owners of Montgomery Indoor Shooting Complex, Montgomery, Alabama.

Curcuruto added that it's prudent for gun ranges and stores to check with the U.S. Census report for their locales to learn the breakdown of ethnic groups in the area. “It can be as simple as adding, ‘Se habla Español,’” added Adair.

Manuel described a new approach—the “10-4-10” promotion—that he recently employed at his range. “A new shooter can shoot 10 rounds of .22-caliber ammo out of rental gun at the range for \$10,” he said. When one woman asked if she could bring 12 friends and shoot 12 rounds, he expanded the program.

Haley said that Groupon coupons have attracted many new customers to her range. Shoot Smart Range also offers Happy Hour, sans booze, from Mondays through Thursdays, from 2 to 4 p.m., for \$5. Haley said the range now sees plenty of action during a formerly unused time of day. Gibbs and Haley emphasized the importance of understanding what your clientele wants to see at the range, such as women's leagues, Boy Scout training, birthday parties, and social events that provide them opportunities to socialize while shooting.—*Barbara Baird*

BARKER IS 2015 CROSMAN CHAMPION OF YOUTH WINNER



Major Bill Barker was named 2015 Champion of Youth Winner by Crosman Corporation Wednesday night at the 2015 Crosman Corporation International Reception at SHOT Show. The annual award was created to recognize those who have enriched the shooting sports through their dedication to youth shooter education.

Barker, of Albuquerque, New Mexico, was raised by a Marine and served in the Marines until 1990. The steadfast determination developed during those years served him for the next 20 as he led teams of young men and women to more than 30 state and regional championships while becoming a leader in JROTC airgun competitions.

“Major Barker's leadership in youth marksmanship goes far beyond coaching kids in the skills and discipline necessary to win championships,” said Phil Dolci, CEO of Crosman. “He grew the program at La Cueva High School into a national title contender by teaching the value of perseverance and what it means to truly focus on a goal. And because Major Barker relies on the precept that ‘you don't get better until someone else does’, he shared his knowledge with other programs and provided more young people an opportunity to excel.”

During Barker's 13 years of coaching his teams recorded 13 consecutive New Mexico State Sporter Class Championships.



Golden Moose Awards Presented

Outdoor Channel announced the winners of its 15th Annual Golden Moose Awards (GMA) last night. Hosted by Michael Waddell, the ceremony included memorable performances by Ted Nugent, Nate Hosie, and Kari & Billy. Special presenters for the evening included Sarah Palin, former governor of Alaska and star of Sportsman Channel's *Amazing America With Sarah Palin*, and Joe Mantegna of Outdoor Channel's *MidWayUSA's*

Gun Stories.

A total of 17 GMAs were presented. Among the 17 is the Fan Favorite Award for Best Host/s, which was awarded to Ted Nugent. Outdoor Channel also presented a Lifetime Achievement Award to Harold Knight and David Hale for their unparalleled contributions to the outdoor community. Other winners included *Crush With Lee and Tiffany*, *Drury's Thirteen*, and *Driven With Pat and Nicole*.



NSSF

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James A. Walsh, Art Director
Margaret M. Nussey, Managing Editor
David E. Petzal, Shooting Editor
Judith Weber, Production Manager
Kurt Schultz, Online Producer
Maribel Martin, Senior Administrative Assistant

CONTRIBUTORS

Larry Ahlman, Justin Appenzeller, Barbara Baird, Scott Bestul, Philip Bourjaily, Christopher Cogley, David Draper, Jock Elliott, William F. Kendy, Mark Kayser, Peter B. Mathiesen, Brian McCombie, Richard Mann, Tom Mohrhauser, Robert Sadowski, Robert F. Staeger, Peter Suci, Wayne Van Zwoil

Eric Zinczenko, Executive Vice President**ADVERTISING: 212-779-5316**

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Simply Amazing

Don't mess with the Second Amendment

Best known as the 2008 Republican vice presidential candidate, this former governor of Alaska is set to open the second season of the Sportsman Channel's *Amazing America with Sarah Palin*.

Q Your political career, as well as being host of Sportsman Channel's *Amazing America with Sarah Palin*, provides you with the rare opportunity to visit with outdoor enthusiasts from across the country. What would you say is the biggest misconception about gun owners today?

A The mainstream media and even our President would have you believe gun owners irresponsibly "cling to our guns" when in reality we proudly cling to our guns and our Constitution. Anti-Second Amendment ideologues should appreciate law-abiding gun owners as the most responsible among us because we take responsibility for protecting life and prop-

erty and don't put the burden solely on others. These yahoos should realize we'd be the ones to feed a starving liberal out in the wilderness if forced to hunt for sustenance, and though it may be tempting to allow them their feasts of bark and mud puddles, we'd probably help them out with a meal that came wrapped in fur.

Q When you wake up in the morning, what gets you excited about your life?

A Overall, it's knowing we have the choice to live life vibrantly. I love simple things like waking up to grab my coffee and take my Lab outside where it's crisp and quiet, then heading inside to start the day with more dogs and kids and lots of chores in front of me. Because I travel a lot and am pretty busy with political issues in the public eye, it's pure joy to just be home, putzing around the kitchen, baking too many sweet carbs, cleaning the house, bugging Todd in his shop, and chauffeuring kids around Wasilla. That's an exciting agenda because it's refreshing and energizing and private. It gets me ready to charge ahead with whatever next needs tackling.

Q Describe your earliest memory of hunting with your father and the first time he taught you how to shoot.

A As a little girl, it was ptarmigan hunting on cross-country skis on Sunday afternoons and early-morning moose hunts just 3 miles from our house before getting ready for school. We grew up thinking all that was commonplace across the country, but I did question some 4 a.m. duck hunts once I hit high school. My dad was our high-school cross-country running coach, and he had us running two-a-days all fall. I'd sit there in the freezing cold canoe with Dad, peering through the fog, wondering how I'd squeeze in a run after paddling to shore and before the school bell rang. I would think, "Okay, now I'm not sure if this is a normal consideration of other high school runners."

Q What are you looking most forward to during Season Two of *Amazing America with Sarah Palin* on Sportsman Channel?

A Getting out in the field. Hoping we'll film in warm locales, to be honest. You know what a luxury it is to hunt and fish and generally be active in warm temperatures? I pretty much don't. I crave that and hope outdoorsmen in the Lower 48 don't take above-freezing temperatures for granted.

Q Where is your favorite place to hunt?

A It's secret and only accessible by our Cessna 185 on floats. In fact, it's so secret I don't even know the game unit's number off the top of my head. I just load up in the plane, snooze while Todd's at the controls, wake up when we get through a mountainous pass that's to our east, and pretend like I had a lot to do with getting there.

Q What's the most important action the average citizen can take to support the Second Amendment?

A Never elect anti-Second Amendment politicians. Never. They don't get it. Their anti-gun stance reflects their distrust of the people, meaning these politicians think they know better than you do and that obviously applies to their thinking about our family decisions, our private property rights, the way we choose to run our businesses, and every God-given freedom Americans should enjoy under the protections of our Constitution. They mess with the Second Amendment and they mess with all our Charters of Liberty. Americans deserve better than that.

Q What can the industry do to welcome more women into the fold?

A Show them not only how important gun safety is so we can take responsibility for protecting ourselves, but also how much fun shooting sports are. From the competition with one's self to the confidence built with every shot. I also like the connection shooting gives you with America's bold pioneers who forged a nation out of the wilderness. For those concerned about such a thing, the apparel nowadays is flattering, comfortable, pro-outdoorsy woman chic. And really, the sport is a healthy, helpful distraction from a lot of crap going on in



Palin says she likes to "live life vibrantly," whether that involves being outside with her dogs, spending time with her family, or going on the road wherever her multi-faceted career takes her.



The Alaska resident, who is all-too-familiar with the winters in her state, says that hunting in warm climates is a real luxury for her.

the world today. It's better than lazing around on the couch eating bon-bons, whining, and worrying about what's in the news. Pick up an exciting shooting sport, and we can eat bon-bons in the truck on the way home. I do. Sincerely, it's fun. My baby shower was held at Grouse Ridge Shooting Range. We had a blast.

Q What should people know about you that they may not know?

A If I had to do it all over again, I'd have been a cowboy. I've always wanted a big ranch in the warmest spot I could afford where I'd raise and consume the best beef in America. I'd have huge, fertile fields to grow something unique and marketable so I'd never be bored and could always employ my kids. Like grapes to rival Champagne, France. Yep, maybe I'd snowbird from Alaska down to our little sister state of Texas and I'd thaw out on my farm. Or ranch.

Q Your social-media constituency constantly asks, so we'd be remiss if we didn't: Will you make a run for the White House in 2016 or any time in the future?

A America would benefit from an unpretentious, down-to-earth, active outdoors-woman who loves this country as much as life itself. Someone who knows how to utilize God-given natural resources for our nation's prosperity and security, someone who would surround herself with common-sense conservatives who know how to fight to defend our Republic and won't put up with crony capitalism and corruption, someone who doesn't necessarily like politics or politicians but is willing to offer herself up in the name of service to this most exceptional nation, someone proudly clinging to her guns, our God, our Constitution. I'm patiently waiting for that willing and able American woman to step forward, and I'm running out of patience. 🍷



Federal Premium's new full-power 10mm Auto cartridge is now a legitimate big-game round.

Semi-Auto Salvation

A new full-power load is resurrecting the 10mm Auto and transforming it into a potent big-game platform

Whatever the target—deer, bear, or hogs—most handgun hunters have traditionally opted for stout revolvers chambered in .44 Rem. Magnum, .41 Rem. Magnum, .357 Magnum, and the like. Semi-automatic handgun options have been slim. But that's changing with ammunition such as the new Vital-Shok Trophy Bonded Jacketed Soft Point in 10mm Auto. The accurate, powerful new round from Federal Premium gives hunters who have always wanted to use a semi-automatic handgun a serious big-game option.

Full-Power, Finally

As a cartridge, the 10mm Auto has experienced an unusual ride. When first developed, it was envisioned as a high-power round for law enforcement. In its original form, the cartridge delivered more foot-pounds of energy than most other available personal defense and law-enforcement cartridges. And yet, it didn't really take off.

"Although it performed well, unfortunately the FBI considered the recoil too heavy," says ammunition product line manager Mike Holm. "In addition, some of the guns available at the time were not robust enough to handle the recoil, so most manufacturers watered down their 10mm Auto offerings in order to deliver ballistics nearly identical to the .40 S&W."

Which raises the question: If the 10mm Auto fell out of favor because of harsh recoil, why develop the new Vital-Shok Trophy Bonded Jacketed Soft Point load?

"Because there's a dedicated group of shooters who love the original, full-power 10mm Auto," Holm says. "They know and accept the recoil. In fact, they want it because it means they're using the platform to its full potential. The new Vital-Shok load takes complete advantage of the caliber's true capability and offers the muscle needed for big game."

At the same time, Holm points out that the new load differs in key areas from the original offering. "Unlike its more recent predecessors, this is a full-power cartridge that takes complete advantage of the caliber's true capability. The 180-grain bullet leaves the muzzle at 1,275 fps—compared to the usual 1,030 fps—with 650 foot-

pounds of energy. That's an increase of more than 50 percent from typical commercial loads. This performance—which falls roughly between the .357 Magnum and .41 Magnum—is impressive, yet it's still probably selling the load short, because these numbers were generated through testing with a 5-inch barrel. Handgun hunters using 6-inch barrels should experience better velocity and energy in real-world conditions."

Better Ballistics, Better Bullet

► The new Vital-Shok Trophy Bonded Jacketed Soft Point bullet design makes the cartridge even more effective. "We basically took our Trophy Bonded Bear Claw rifle bullet design and converted the appropriate elements and features from it to a handgun equivalent," says senior product development engineer John Swenson. "Its heavy jacket features a formed inner profile that pre-programs and controls expansion to penetrate deep, open up consistently, and maximize its retained weight. When you combine that with the full-power ballistics, you get knockdown power that's never been seen in 10mm Auto loads."

Though Federal Premium is emphasizing the round's hunting performance, Holm notes that it is also a good choice for personal defense. "Although the penetration achieved with this round is on the high end of what is required for personal defense, its expansion and terminal performance would certainly do the job in a personal defense situation." SRP: \$39.95. Booth #14551. (federalpremium.com) 🍷



The Steyr Scout was made to Col. Jeff Cooper's exacting demands, down to the bipod incorporated on the forend.

The Best for Less

Col. Jeff Cooper's Steyr Scout gets a makeover, and becomes more affordable in the bargain

By Richard Mann

In 1966, Col. Jeff Cooper wrote an article for *Guns & Ammo* magazine titled "The Carbine Compromise." That article laid the foundation for a rifle that would start a worldwide trend, the scout rifle. Cooper continued to experiment with various rifles, customized to his specifications, for the rest of his life. Ultimately, due to the popularity of his concept, Steyr collaborated with Cooper, and in 1997 the Steyr Scout was born.

Meeting Cooper's specifications was not easy, and the proof is in the fact that no other manufacturer has been able to do it. What were those specifications? The magazine-fed bolt-action rifle could not be longer than 1 meter, with a field-ready weight of no more than 7.7 pounds. It should have a low-powered extended-eye-relief scope with reserve backup sights, and it should be rigged for a shooting sling. Cooper considered the .308 Winchester cartridge ideal and also liked the idea of a built-in bipod, a magazine cutoff, and the ability for the rifle to carry a second, fully loaded magazine. He stipulated an accuracy requirement of 2 MOA or less for three shots.

Cooper envisioned the scout as a "...general-purpose rifle [that] will do equally well for all but specialized hunting, as well as for fighting." In essence, Cooper felt that if you really needed one rifle, then that rifle should be a Steyr Scout. Was he right?

The more experience I gain, the more I realize how often Cooper was right. After finally giving the Steyr Scout an honest try, I learned it is incredibly handy and astoundingly accurate, providing near-MOA precision with most loads.

The extended eye-relief scope has its advantages, too; it makes target acquisition incredibly fast and doesn't destroy your peripheral vision. The integral bipod is convenient in the field; so is the spare magazine housed in the buttstock. And, if you wish to change loads, the magazine cut-off lets you single-feed them right through the ejection port. Finally, the backup open sights, the ability to mount a conventional riflescope, and the multiple sling attachment points place the Steyr Scout in the unmatched category when it comes to versatility.

Cooper once compared the Steyr Scout to a Porsche, saying that not everyone can afford the finer things. Steyr USA is working to change that. For 2015, the suggested retail of the Steyr Scout has been reduced by 15 percent, from \$2,099 to \$1,799. And it will be available with either a mud (tan), green, or black stock. (A gray stock will be available by special order.) Cooper's idea of a general-purpose rifle is now less expensive and available with a new look. Nearly 50 years after its initial conception, it remains a great, and relevant, design. Booth #10246. (205-417-8644; steyrarms.com)

A BIG STEP

SHOT Show Industry Day at the Range is celebrating its 10th year of operation in 2015. Its purpose is to let members of the media sample a wide range of shooting-sports products the day before the SHOT Show officially opens.

One of the hot topics in the shooting-sports world these days is the importance of social media. Increasingly, participants want to document every phase of their activities, and digital cameras, such as Go Pro, seem to be everywhere.

The importance of these cameras is not lost to the folks at Winchester Repeating Arms, which took a big step forward at Range Day by setting aside an SXP shotgun for GoPro's Ryan Chuckel. He used the opportunity to show off the company's Sportsman Mount by attaching a Hero4 to the shotgun at the clay range.

Since a GoPro setup is a significant financial investment, many shooters might worry about hooking it up to a bucking firearm, and for good reason. But they need not worry. The mount clamps to a gun barrel much like the company's other mounts attach to mountain bike handlebars. However rough a bike ride can get in the wilderness, it's not the same as the sharp, sudden forces exerted by shotgun recoil.

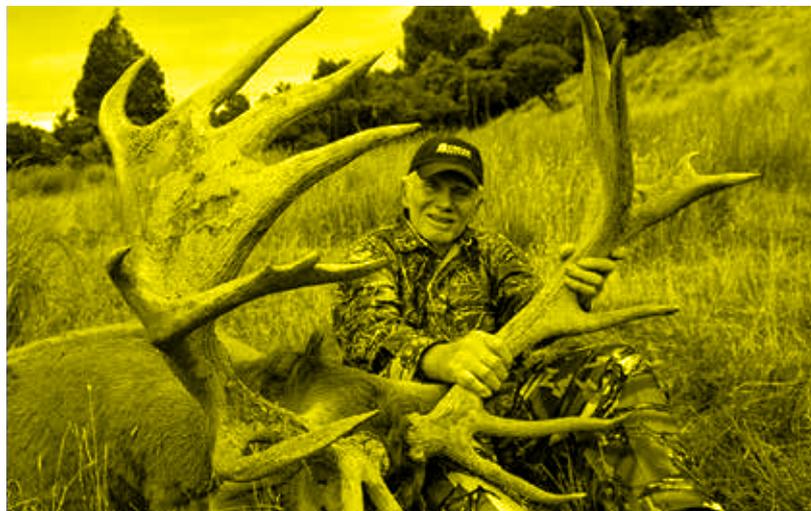
Chuckel says they initially had some problems with the mount's clamp sliding a little after several shots, especially on barrels with a pronounced taper, but a new locking mechanism has solved that problem. The mount is now also configured to stabilize the image.

Shooting the gun with the GoPro attached presents no problems or awkwardness, as the mount and camera are extremely light. You can mount the camera facing the shooter, down the barrel, or mount two cameras in both directions.

Chuckel says they recorded footage of every shooter with GoPro's smartphone app, "so they can go shoot the gun and we can take their content and email it to them."

—David Maccar





Walt Berger's tireless efforts to achieve the perfect match-grade load built Berger Bullets—a company that unexpectedly changed what hunting rounds could be.

The Bullet Man

Walt Berger's quest for match-grade perfection revolutionized big-game hunting **By Richard Mann**

A

few years ago, back before folks realized that Berger's VLD bullet was suitable for hunting, Walt Berger gave me a tour of the Berger Bullets factory. Then we flew to New Zealand to hunt. During those 10 days he told me his story.

Walt's story is legendary, but it's not one of fighting demons or overcoming all odds. Rather, it's the story of a shooter's quest for perfection, the story of a hunter crossing new mountains. It's the story of a man realizing the American dream.

Walt was born in Easton, Ohio, in 1928. He was one year old when the stock market crashed. Times were tough, but when he was five he scrounged up a BB gun and, like Roosevelt, it promised a "New Deal." Walt's dad liked to hunt. He enjoyed chasing raccoons, rabbits, and fox with scent hounds. It's a pursuit as infectious as the flu. I know; I grew up with a father who had the same passion.

The outdoors became Walt's playground. He was a product of the Depression, a time when you made your own way, created your own entertainment, or lived an unhappy existence. Walt's way was found in the wild, and he funded his adventures by selling coon hides and collecting a 25-cent bounty on groundhogs he shot with an Iver Johnson .22. So pas-

sionate was Walt about hunting that he and a friend rode with their .22 rifles from Easton, Ohio, to Fort Knox, Kentucky, in the trunk of a friend's '39 Plymouth just so they could hunt.

And then there was another crash. War took Walt's brother and best friend away to fly B-17s and assault beaches. Walt, too young to go,

stayed at home and continued to hunt. Walt coon-hunted with his .22 rifle and a lantern. One night while hunting, as he was crossing property he did not have permission to hunt, the owners saw his lantern from their house. They started shooting. Walt hastily blew out his lantern and got behind a tree.

"I remember thinking, 'My

brother is off in the war and I'm at home hunting his dog, and damned if I'm the one going to get shot.' I learned then and there that sometimes being in the dark could be a good thing!"

Walt eventually registered for the draft but was never called. A high school basketball and baseball player and a track star, Walt most likely had a 1A rating with no exemptions. Walt later learned that no one in his home county who registered during the month of November 1946 got called up. The courthouse lost all the draft registrations from that month.

“
Fellow competitors were not happy when Walt and his bullets showed up.

First Steps

Out of school, he went to work for a box factory. With the promise of a supervisory position, he passed

on college. In 1949 Walt became a husband and, inspired by the writings of Jack O'Connor, bought a life insurance policy to later finance a sheep hunt. At a gun shop in Akron, he also bought his first centerfire rifle for \$198. It was a Winchester Model 70 Featherweight in .257 Roberts.

Walt and a friend practiced religiously in preparation for a hunt in Pennsylvania, even shooting a target inside a tire they rolled down the hill. On the first day of the hunt, Walt jumped a buck. He shot it as it ran. It disappeared and another hunter shot at it. After a short argument, Walt walked away from the second deer he had lost to a bullet that failed him. The first was a whitetail he dropped with a 16-gauge slug a few years before. When Walt walked up to that deer and pulled out his trench knife, it got up and ran away. The deer crossed a ridge and there was another shot and another argument about whose deer it was. Walt lost that argument, too.

A few years later, while returning from a Western hunt with some friends, the car broke down near Buffalo, Wyoming. In the process of getting it fixed they learned about a benchrest shooting match near town. They fixed the car, stopped by the range—and saw the future.

At Walt's first benchrest match, he didn't have enough cash to meet the entry fee so they let him compete, ineligible for prize money. It was there he learned that to be competitive, he would have to make his own bullets. He took a second job, carrying blocks and cement, to pay for the dies. Two-hundred-and-seventy-five dollars later he owned a set of .224 bullet dies, which enabled him to win a few matches. He even sold a few bullets.

Walt continued to perfect his bullet-making skills. This required lots of testing and the investment of a substantial amount of cash—just so he could shoot smaller groups. It wasn't long before Walt earned a reputation, and fellow competitors were not happy when Walt and his bullets showed up.

In 1963, Spiveco Inc. began making the J4 bullet jacket; these were bullet jackets with a total indicated run-out (TIR) of 3/10,000 or less at the base and 5/10,000 or less at the mouth. The jackets changed the landscape as far as benchrest shooting was concerned, and Walt and almost everyone else began using them.

Walt continued to shoot with perfection and win awards. He became a benchrest Hall of Fame member, and he cashed in his

insurance policy and went on that sheep hunt. And, in 1989, Berger Bullets, a garage operation, became Walt's full-time job.

In 1985 Louis Palmisano, one of the originators of the .22 PPC cartridge, approached Walt about making a new, game-changing bullet called the VLD (Very Low Drag). The major difference in the VLD was its incorporation of a secant as opposed to the common tangent

ogive and the inclusion of a long, 90-degree boattail. This high-caliber secant ogive and steep angle boattail drastically increased the ballistic coefficient of the bullet, which gave it a flatter trajectory and better wind resistance.

Walt agreed, and his bullet-building success continued. But, unlike many who dream of turning a passion into a profitable business, Walt did not borrow money to fund his company. Up until 1997, everything Walt had ever purchased, he'd paid for with cash, in the process instilling in his kids and grandchildren the concept of saving to buy what you want instead of borrowing.

"When I was still young I once hid some money under a bridge in a jar," he told me. "A flood came and I lost it all. It was about \$14. After that, I was always careful what I did with my money."

Driving Force

Berger Bullets did not go in debt until 1997, when the company purchased a bullet-making machine. They had to do it to meet demand. Prior to 1997, every Berger bullet was made by hand. Berger Bullets became, and remains to this day, the premier manufacturer of match-grade bullets, which still use



The VLD's groundbreaking construction gives it a flat trajectory and minimal wind resistance.

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Desert Eagle 1911G Stainless	Desert Eagle 1911C Stainless	Desert Eagle 1911U Stainless	Desert Eagle 1911C	Desert Eagle 1911U
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5" Barrel, Stainless Steel	4.33" Bushingless Barrel, Stainless Steel	3" Bushingless Barrel, Aluminum Anodized Frame and Stainless steel	4.33" Bushingless Barrel, Carbon Steel Frame and Slide, Black	3" Bushingless Barrel, Aluminum Frame, Carbon Steel Slide, Black



DESERT EAGLE
1911



Visit Kahr Firearms Group booth, #15949



Designed for precision benchrest shooting, Berger Bullets' VLD rounds excel for big game as well, thanks to a construction that offers extremely flat trajectories and delays expansion until the bullet reaches the vital organs.

J4 jackets. In fact, at the turn of the last century, Berger Bullets merged with Spiveco and became the sole manufacturer of J4 jackets.

Surprisingly, through customer feedback, Walt learned that his VLD bullets were also amazingly effective on big-game animals. Their lethality is a combination of how their construction delays expansion until the bullet is at vital-organ depth. Combine this with their almost grenade-like eruptive deformation and the flat trajectories possible with the high

ballistic coefficients of the VLD design, and you have a premium big-game bullet like no other.

On a cloudy New Zealand day in early 2007, Walt Berger—the hunter—would take another .257 Roberts and put down a red stag, with one shot, using a 115-grain Berger VLD bullet. The stag did not get up and run away. Like so many times before, Walt Berger calculated the proper hold, placed the reticle in the right spot, controlled his breathing, and pulled the trigger with the same precision and atten-

tion to detail that has guided his entire shooting and bullet-making career. This time there was no question, no argument, and no confusion about who shot the animal. And, there was no question who built the bullet or if it worked.

Walt Berger was the driving force behind the organization of the World Bench Rest Shooting Match. He developed a standard for the manufacture of bullets now revered by bullet smiths worldwide. He distinguished himself as a world-class benchrest shooter,

and he has set an example of leadership and character for his family, friends, and associates to follow.

Shooters owe Walt Berger a heartfelt thank-you for being a shooter, a hunter, and an excellent ambassador for the shooting community. Stop by the Berger Bullets booth and thank Walt personally. You may have to speak loudly; these days, Walt is a little hard of hearing. Not from shooting—it was all those years working in a box factory without ear protection.

Some shooters think of Walt Berger when they seat a streamlined, precision-engineered bullet into a brass case. Some think about him when they see that single hole made in a target by 10 successive shots. And others think of him every time they see a rifle thrown over some sandbags. When I think of Walt Berger, I think about a young boy like me, following coonhounds and stalking groundhogs with a .22 rifle. I think of a man, like my father, who through hard work, dedication, and a relentless quest for perfection managed to make the most out of the American dream. And I think of the irony of how his motivation to build the best match bullet ever also produced one of the deadliest hunting bullets of all time. Booth #1405. (714-441-7200; bergerbullets.com)

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Weatherby's Orion I over/under is returning for 2015. The list price will be slightly over \$1,000, which means that savvy customers should find it more affordable than other over/unders on the market.

Welcome Back

Weatherby recommits to shotgunners **By Slaton L. White**

The Weatherby Orion I over/under is coming back in 2015. It will be limited to a single model—a 3-inch 12-gauge in either 26- or 28-inch barrels.

“The old gun belonged to a category in which we made a tactful retreat,” says Jason Evans, Weatherby’s vice president of sales and product development. The last Orion shotguns, the Orion D’Italia, were manufactured in Italy between 2008 and 2011. Between 1982 and 2007, Orions were sourced from a Japanese manufacturer. “Now, after doing a lot of work to develop a new gun, we felt it was time to bring the name back.”

Many consumers will see the new gun as a reboot of the line, and it does look a lot like the old Orion. Yet the action is entirely different;

a shallower and narrower receiver gives it a low profile.

That initiates the inevitable comparison to the Browning Cynergy. Evans acknowledges this, but adds, “The Browning has a lug underneath the bottom barrel. This product doesn’t have that. Instead, we use two pistons in the receiver that lock to the monobloc. We believe it’s a much more efficient design.”

Evans also says that the Weatherby configuration “lowers the barrels, giving the shooter more control over recoil, and it reduces muzzle flip as well. All in all, it’s a compact, better-performing receiver design.”

Evans says the steel receiver “can easily handle 3-inch magnum loads. We even used Hypersonic steel loads while testing.” Other features

include a Grade A walnut stock, Prince of Wales grip, a high-gloss finish, a Pachmayr Decelerator recoil pad, and three Weatherby IMC chokes—IC, Mod, and Full. SRP: \$1,099.

Though the list price is just north of \$1,000, Adam Weatherby, Weatherby’s executive vice president and chief operating officer, says, “the real-world price will be in the \$900 range. We wanted to create a more affordable over/under. It took a long time to develop because it’s hard to do.”

Evans is cautious about future iterations of the Orion. “In the past, we had five levels of over/unders, but we suffered from supplier issues. The idea right now is to get this one back to the market and get people reintroduced to the

name. Going forward we have a lot of opportunity to expand in grades, trim levels, and gauges.”

Weatherby intends for the Orion I to be a big part of its 2015 catalog. “We’re going to utilize our sales force, all 52 of them in the U.S., to let retailers know the Orion is back,” says Evans. “We have a very good dealer network, but we need to make sure that they are educated in regard to this product so they can explain the story to potential customers. We can’t just assume that if we build a new product and put it in the catalog it will succeed.”

Utilizing the entire sales force is critical not only for the success of the Orion I, but for the new turkey and waterfowl guns that are launching in 2015. “We want to get back into upland and waterfowl in a big way,” Evans says.

Key products here include the 12-gauge SA-08 Waterfowler in Realtree Max-5 camo (\$799), the pistol-gripped 12- and 20-gauge SA-459 Turkey in Realtree Xtra Green camo (\$799), and a pair of 20-gauge 24-inch barrel youth models—the SA-08 Kryptek Compact (\$799) and SA-08 Volt Compact (\$699), both of which feature a 12½-inch length of pull. Four pump models also join the line. Booth #12729. **(805-227-2600; weatherby.com)**



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NEWS



The redesigned R-25 is lighter, which should broaden the appeal of the platform among big-game hunters.

Second Generation

Remington's redesigned R-25 GII is made for bigger game **By Brian McCombie**

For those of us who like to hunt with modern sporting rifles (MSRs) in calibers above .223/5.56mm, there's been one stumbling block with many of the models on the market: weight. It's common for many .223/5.56mm MSRs to come in at 6.5 or 7 pounds, yet quite a few of the larger caliber MSRs weigh 8 to 8.5 pounds or even more. Add an optic and mounting hardware, a sling, and a full magazine, and you can be lugging 10 or even 11 pounds into the field.

That kind of bulk can be a real burden, especially if your hunting days include a lot of hiking.

Remington Arms heard these concerns from hunters, and, together with DPMS (another Remington Outdoors Company), created the R-25 GII, the second generation of Remington's R-25 line of MSRs for the hunter. I recently had a chance to shoot the new GII in .308. Upon picking up the rifle, I immediately noticed it has shed weight. At 7.5 pounds, the GII is a full pound lighter than the original version. It points easily and swings fast to target when needed.

After a quick sight-in at 30 yards, I lined up on the 100-yard target and began adjusting elevation and windage until I was getting steady hits on the bull's-eye. I was soon grouping three-shot strings (with 150- and 168-grain bullets) at 1.5 to 1 inch, which is plenty good enough for most deer hunters.

Despite its reduced weight, the GII actually recoils less than the heavier first-generation models. That does seem rather counter-intuitive—until you discover that the internal workings of the upper receiver have been significantly redesigned. (Actually, this is the same redesign that DPMS introduced last year on the GII .308 series of MSRs.)

Much of that weight reduction comes from improved machining operations on the receivers that allows them to be smaller, lighter, yet stronger than the originals. DPMS also improved the bolt geometry to relieve stress lines, crafting a monolithic bolt carrier with dual extractors.

Adam Ballard, senior product manager for Remington Outdoor Company's modern sporting rifle lines, says the lighter bolt and receiver configuration actually means less weight is being driven back toward the shooter, and that reduces the felt recoil. "The new Remington carbon-fiber handguard and skeletonized stock with our Supercell recoil pad, along with the reduced size and weight of the GII platform, are designed for maximum comfort, weight reduction, and balance," he says.

My GII had a smooth, two-stage trigger, housed in an integral trigger guard, and a Hogue pistol grip. The carbon handguard fit my hand nicely and stayed cool even after multiple, fast-paced shot strings had been fired. The rifles come camouflaged in the Mossy Oak Infinity pattern. The 20-inch stainless-steel barrels are fluted and finished with Teflon. Steel feed-ramp inserts are standard.

"Functionally, we think the GII surpasses other MSRs in terms of reliability and accuracy," Ballard says. "For example, the steel feed-ramp insert improves feeding with more types of soft-nose hunting ammunition. Dual ejectors and a newly improved extractor and elastomer extractor spring virtually eliminate the possibility of a failure to extract or eject, too."

Available in .243 Win., .260 Rem., 7mm-08 Rem., and .308 Win., the R-15 GII is now ready to ship. The .308 Win. GII can also be had in a model that incorporates a "bullet button," making the rifle California compliant. SRP: \$1,696. Booth #15427. remington.com



The Stainless-Steel Solution

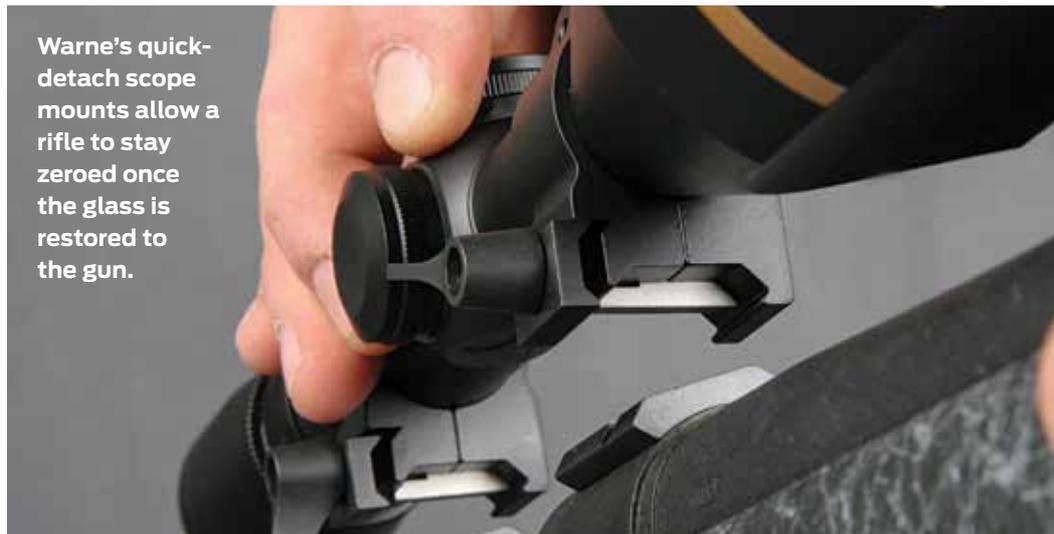
Warne's quick-detach mounts are built to assure shooting accuracy **By Joe Keller**

Removable scope mounts are nothing new. But producing a quality quick-detach system that always returns to zero and doesn't cost a fistful of dollars has been a Holy Grail in the industry. Warne Mounts is betting large that its QD design is the answer. Machined of stainless steel, each features adjustable levers and is tightened with a square recoil lug rather than a round crossbolt so it fits solidly into rails.

"We are all avid shooters here, and we know what shooters want," says Randy Parks, sales and marketing director. According to Parks, the prime market "isn't tactical shooters or benchrest guys; it's bolt-action .30/06 and .270 hunters."

Parks says there are three main reasons this is so. "First, if they are traveling,

Warne's quick-detach scope mounts allow a rifle to stay zeroed once the glass is restored to the gun.



hunters can sight in a gun at home, and then remove the scope—still attached to the mounts—and pack the gun in a case for travel. For safe-keeping, they can carry the scope aboard the plane. At their destination, they can re-attach the scope, and it will still be zeroed. Second, they can bring several guns but only one scope on a

trip. Finally, still others like the option of going from a scope to iron sights and then back to a scope. Say, you're in Africa hunting a variety of game. You might choose to set up on plains game with a scope but take it off the next day and opt for iron sights for warthogs. Then, you attach the scope again for a waterhole hunt."

Warne is also selling to 3-Gun competitors, and the company has been a big supporter of the sport. One of their sponsored shooters, Keith Garcia, won the 3-Gun Nation champion title last year, which gave the company a nice boost in that segment.

Though sales were off a bit last year, Parks says

Warne it is still poised for growth. "We were down 1 percent last year compared to a very strong 2013. We were pretty happy about that, especially because industry growth was flat to negative." Its diversified market is one reason Warne is bullish on the future. Although it's headquartered in a suburb of Portland, Oregon, it does business in 27 countries.

Parks says he believes Warne benefits from a quality product that is guaranteed to return to zero when remounted on a rifle. Roger Cox, a California hunter who often hunts in Africa, saw that firsthand. "My friend brought along Warne QD mounts," Cox says. "I had mounts from another manufacturer."

When they remounted their scopes and fired a few rounds to check the zero, Cox noted his friend's rifle was dead-on. His wasn't, and he had to spend time and ammo re-sighting in.

"I have Warne QD mounts now," says Cox. Booth #16344. (warnescopemounts.com)

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SOG UNVEILS A GAME-CHANGER

It's hard to say something is new when it comes to multitools. One of the most common accessories found in the kit of hunters, soldiers, and law enforcement seems to have gone through every iteration possible. But then again, there's always a tweak on an established design that can be a game-changer.

SOG, known for its patented assisted opening technology (in which the blade opens quickly with a simple push of your thumb on the thumb stud), has adapted that technology to the multitool category. The Switchplier sports beefy spring-loaded pliers with a wire cutter that pops open at the push of a button for lightning-fast one-handed operation. With 12 tools in total, a closed length of 4.3 inches, and weighing just over 6 ounces, this is a solid, versatile multitool that can go anywhere. And one of the best features is that all the tools lock in place when opened. SRP: \$60. Booth #425. (sogknives.com)

—David Maccar



Competitive shooter Lena Miculek says she “never really gets out of competition mode.” That may be due to the nature of her chosen profession—the Miculek family competed in 28 3-Gun matches last year.

Life on the Road

Competitive shooter Lena Miculek explains what it's like to “grow up Miculek” **By Barbara Baird**

Lena Miculek, the daughter of shooting legend Jerry Miculek and top shooting competitor Kay Clark Miculek, devotes her lifework to zip-ping among stages at prestigious 3-Gun competitions. When asked to describe in three words what it was like to “grow up Miculek,” Lena said, “Close-knit, traveling, shooting.”

Close-Knit

➤ Although Miculek traveled extensively with her parents as a child, being homeschooled in the process, she really did not warm up to the idea of following in their footsteps as competitive shooters until she was 16. It was then that she discovered the world of 3-Gun competitions. Now, she fires away alongside her parents at the various prestigious 3-Gun competitions around the world. She also competes in USPSA handgun matches when she gets a chance.

She trains at her parents' range weekly when at home in her new house in Louisiana. She lives about five miles away, with her husband, Brock. Miculek says Brock is warming to the idea of shooting 3-Gun, and is trying to find time to practice and shoot more.

“I never really get out of competition mode,” says Miculek. “When I'm home, I try to spend time with family and friends that I don't get to see, along with practicing and working on gear. But recently, Brock and I got a pet Toco toucan. She is currently nameless, but quite loving and entertaining.”

Traveling

➤ When not traveling to compete in 3-Gun matches, Miculek might still be found on the road, instructing at events. She taught techniques at last year's Crimson Trace Midnight 3-Gun Invitational and occasionally can be found on the line as an instructor at Babes with Bullets classes. She may even be enticed to teach a private lesson or two.

As of last fall, she already had booked to attend the USPSA Multi-Gun Nationals, Superstition Mystery Mountain 3-Gun, and all

the 3-Gun Nation Pro Series matches in 2015. Last year, the Miculeks packed their schedule with 28 3-Gun matches.

Shooting

➤ “3-Gun—just hearing the name stirs up feeling and emotions for me,” says Miculek. “I do truly enjoy it, more than any other shooting sport I've tried.

“I love that there is no perfect score, no standard, and no set guidelines as for what to expect when you walk on to the range at a major match,” she says. “The stage designers are not restricted, and it gives the sport something that I find missing at other competitions.”

Her choices for 3-Gun include the following guns. Rifle: Smith and Wesson PC15 with a 16-inch barrel, Barnes precision 14-inch hand-guard, JM compensator, Hogue stock, a Vortex 1-6X scope, and a Hiperfire trigger. Handgun: Smith and Wesson M&P Pro 9mm with Magwell, tungsten guide rod, HiViz front and rear sights, and a snazzy trigger job done by “the one and only dad.” Shotgun: Mossberg JM 930 with Nordic Components 13-shot mag tube, HiViz front bead, and recoil pad.

“What I find to be one of the best things about the shooting sports is that you can do it as a family,” Miculek says. “I would really encourage parents to get involved in something that the whole family can share.”

SHOT Show exhibitors that currently sponsor Lena Miculek include Smith and Wesson (Booth #13729), Mossberg (Booth #12734), Vortex Optics (Booth #20439), Focchi (Booth #15942), and Hogue (Booth #15545). ■

From One to Four

At last year's SHOT Show, IWI showed tactical rifle shooters and MSR fans something they didn't know they wanted—until they fired it. The Tavor SAR took the rifle world by storm, selling more than 20,000 units. In addition, it was adopted by several law enforcement agencies in the U.S.

This year, the U.S. subsidiary of the Israeli arms manufacturer went from a one-gun company to a four-gun company with the introduction of the Galil ACE rifle and pistol, the Jericho pistol (formerly the Baby Eagle imported by Magnum Research), and a new take on the UZI pistol.

The Galil rifle was originally adopted by the Israeli Defense Force in 1974. Now, the heavily AK-influenced rifle is finally being imported for sale in the U.S. The Galil ACE is a semi-auto long-stroke gas-piston rifle and pistol chambered in 7.62x39mm. The use of polymer components helps reduce the overall weight to just over 8 pounds without the magazine. The rifle's 16-inch chrome-lined cold-hammer-forged barrel includes a removable five-port flash hider. There's plenty of room to

mount optics on two sections of aluminum Picatinny rail totalling 14.5 inches running over the gas tube and the receiver. The forend is separated into three parts that can each be removed to reveal another 4.25 inches of accessory rails.

The charging handle is mounted horizontally on the left side of the receiver, replacing the original Galil's right-side vertical charging handle. One of the most interesting features is a spring-loaded dust cover on the left side of the receiver that pivots up and down as the charging handle moves back and forth, protecting the action. The ACE accepts standard AK magazines and shoots like the battle-proven rifle that it is. (SRP: \$2,099)

The pistol version has an 8.3-inch barrel and an overall length of 18 inches. The pistol also accepts standard AK magazines. (SRP: \$1,749)

IWI's new semi-auto UZI PRO, like its SMG ancestor, is chambered in 9mm Luger Parabellum. The new model features a polymer grip with an integrated magazine-release button. The cocking handle has been moved from the top of the receiver to the left side, allowing for a full-length Picatinny top rail for



The Galil ACE rifle from IWI US is a battle-proven beast of durability with a butter-smooth action chambered in 7.62 for a big punch.

optics. A short rail is mounted below the barrel for additional accessories. The PRO has an overall length of 9.5 inches with a 4.5-inch barrel, weighs 3.66 pounds unloaded, and comes with a 20- and 25-round magazine. (SRP: \$1,099)

And finally, IWI US has relaunched the Jericho series of pistols with both steel and polymer-framed models in 9mm, .40 S&W, and .45 ACP.

The Jericho, based on the CZ-75 pistol, has had a presence in the U.S. under several names, including the UZI Eagle when imported by

Mossberg and Magnum Research's Baby Eagle. The big innovation on the new Jericho is the frame-mounted safety, which replaces the slide-mounted safety/decocker on the Baby Eagle.

Nine models of the Jericho 941 will be available: four polymer models and five steel guns. The polymer models will come with a 4.4-inch or 3.8-inch barrel in 9mm and .40 S&W; the steel guns will also be chambered in .45 ACP. (SRP: polymer, \$559; steel frame, \$655). Booth #15238. (iwi.us)

—David Maccar

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SHOT SHOW



Savage Arms is adding the .338 Federal cartridge to six of its rifle platforms in 2015, including the Model 16 Bear Hunter (top) and the Model 16 FCSS Weather Warrior (below).



Rising Tide

.338 Federal gains ground

After scoring high marks from critics and drawing legions of loyal fans since its debut in 2006, the .338 Federal continues to gain widespread favor among big-game hunters across the continent. Savage Arms is further fueling this rising tide by chambering six of its most popular rifles to fire the high-performance yet low-recoil cartridge.

None of which surprises Mike Holm, ammunition product line manager for Federal Premium Ammunition, which developed the round in conjunction with Sako. “The .338 Federal may be the perfect big-game cartridge,” he says. “It fits in short-action, lightweight rifles and delivers the range and terminal energy to take down any North American big-game animal. I have also seen it perform on plains game in Africa.”

A Star Is Born

► Built on the .308 case and necked-up to hold a .338-diameter bullet, the load offers hunters a faster muzzle velocity than traditional favorites such as the .308 Win., and with a heavier bullet to boot. But the true beauty of the .338 Federal, Holm says, is that you get near-.338 Win. Mag. performance out to 400 yards—without the brutal recoil of magnum rounds.

Ballistics data bears this out. For example, the 200-grain Vital-Shok Trophy Bonded Tip .338 Federal packs a punishing 1,891 foot-pounds of punch at 300 yards, yielding an only slightly lighter sting than the 2,213 foot-pounds delivered by a 210-grain .338 Win. Mag. Nosler Partition. On the flip side, the .338 Federal produces just 23.9 foot-pounds of recoil, compared to a shoulder-smashing 36.1 for the Win. Mag. At the same time the .338 Federal zips along at 2,064 feet per second at 300 yards, virtually tailgating the magnum cartridge, which

clocks a cruising speed of 2,180. And trajectory is nearly a dead heat, with the .338 Federal dropping 9.1 inches at 300 yards, compared to 8 inches for the Win. Mag.

“Short-action rifles are lighter and easier to carry in the field, making that shot on a trophy animal that much better,” Holm adds. “There is also a wide selection of .338-caliber bullets to choose from, which only adds to your performance options.”

Indeed, the company offers seven .338 Federal products, ranging from 185-grain American Eagle softpoint target loads and Fusion MSR's up to 210-grain Nosler Partitions. Heavy hitters in the family are housed in the Premium brand's Vital-Shok lineup, which includes the Trophy Copper and Trophy Bonded Tip options.

Trophy Copper inflicts devastating downrange damage, thanks to an all-copper bullet that features a tipped cavity for seamless expansion across the velocity spectrum. As a bonus, the bullet's grooved shank engenders accuracy in a variety of firearms while the copper-alloy design yields up to 99 percent weight retention for the deepest possible penetration in an expanding bullet. Trophy Bonded Tips, meanwhile, blend stellar weight retention and penetration with impressive ballistics. They also boast a bone-crushing solid copper shank and expansion-boosting exterior skiving.

“Another benefit of the .338 Federal is that it not only works great out of bolt-actions, but it makes a fantastic hunting cartridge

for modern sporting rifles as well,” Holm notes. “Whether you're hunting deer, elk, moose, bear, caribou, and even African plains game, it offers real advantages. In fact, we liked it so much, we chose the .338 Federal to be the first centerfire cartridge to bear the Federal name.”

Savage Embrace

► Iconic American gunmaker Savage Arms agrees with Holm's assessment, adding the .338 Federal to six of its flagship big-game rifle platforms for 2015, including the Model 11 Hog Hunter, Model 11 Long Range Hunter, Model 16 FCSS Weather Warrior, Model 16 Bear Hunter, the Model 11, and Model 16 Trophy Hunter XP.

“As you can see, we've added this caliber to a wide variety of products,



The .338 Federal offers a faster velocity than a .308 Win. without the brutal recoil of a .338 Win. Mag.

from key niche guns to higher-volume general-purpose models,” says marketing director Bill Dermody. “The .338 Federal is a great caliber with a lot of potential that fills somewhat of a hole in our lineup. It provides great energy with heavier bullets, but without the magnum recoil. While it's a great all-around cartridge, it's a particularly good fit in the Model 16 Bear Hunter and the Model 11 Hog Hunter.”

Both the Bear Hunter and Hog Hunter—along with Model 11 Long Range Hunter—are members of Savage's Specialty Series, which is geared for specific applications. All six feature Savage's ingenious AccuTrigger system, which allows the shooter to dial in the perfect trigger pull to fit their personal preference. The Hog Hunter features a green synthetic stock, carbon-steel barrel with black matte finish, adjustable iron sights, a medium-contour, threaded barrel, and an internal box magazine.

Designed to tag a variety of big game, the Long Range Hunter features the AccuStock bedding system, which cradles the action in a rigid shooting platform. It also features a black carbon-steel barrel and matching synthetic stock, a hinged floorplate magazine, an adjustable comb, and a muzzle brake. The Bear Hunter also offers AccuStock, along with a synthetic camo stock, a stainless barrel, an adjustable muzzle brake, and a hinged floorplate magazine. Built for the harshest conditions, the Model 16 FCSS Weather Warrior sports a stainless-steel action and barrel to banish corrosion, plus a lightweight synthetic stock impervious to moisture. The Model 11 and Model 16 Trophy Hunter XP belong to the Package Series, which offers tack-driving performance out of the box. Both feature AccuTrigger, factory-mounted 3x9 Nikon optics, detachable box magazines, and synthetic stocks. The Model 11 has a black matte carbon-steel barrel while the Model 16 sports stainless steel. ■



Galco is growing, adding a distribution center and freeing up space for manufacturing and an expanded machine shop at its Arizona plant.

Galco Gunleather Branches Out

Along with the boom in firearms sales in the past few years comes an accompanying need for holsters. Galco Gunleather responded to its increase in orders by planning for an expansion of its current plant in Scottsdale, Arizona.

"It's actually part of a five-year-master expansion plan that was approved in 2011," says Scott Feck, vice president, operations. "First, we added manufacturing and raw material space onto our primary building, which was completed in

January 2013. Then, last spring, we broke ground on our new building."

Galco chose to work with the same architectural firm responsible for the primary building in 1989 and the 2012 extension. The new building will serve as Galco's distribution center, freeing up space in its primary building for additional manufacturing and an expansion of the machine shop and engineering department.

"There are many pros and cons to having everything under one roof versus another building, and

we could have easily added to our existing building again," Feck says. "Ultimately, the decision was made to build a separate distribution-center building. This will force us to perfect our systems in such a way that opening distribution centers, which also contain dealer sales offices, in other states would be a natural evolution in future years."

At present, Galco makes more than 2,000 SKUs. "Galco's roots are in concealed carry. With the steady increase in states enacting 'shall issue' concealed-carry permit

legislation, our business has grown," Feck says. "In addition, we experienced an even greater demand for our products since the post-9/11 security buildup of our armed forces, first responders, and responsible citizens. The final demand push contributing to our expansion was the election—and actions thereafter—of our 45th President."

Feck listed several reasons why people like working for Galco. "I recently read an article in *Forbes* that said the number-one thing employees look for in a new job is stability. I believe that's one of the things that makes Galco an attractive place to work. We don't have to look very far to see companies that try to reinvent themselves every few years, turn over their management regularly, or have sweeping changes to their sales approach—for example, in-house versus outside sales reps. Galco's employees enjoy a stable work life.

"Add to that sense of stability the fact that the process of filling open positions is heavily weighted to qualified current employees, our employees' pride in creating best-quality products, and a full benefits package. The end result is a loyal, congenial team," he says. Booth #11924. (800-874-2526; galco-gunleather.com) —Barbara Baird



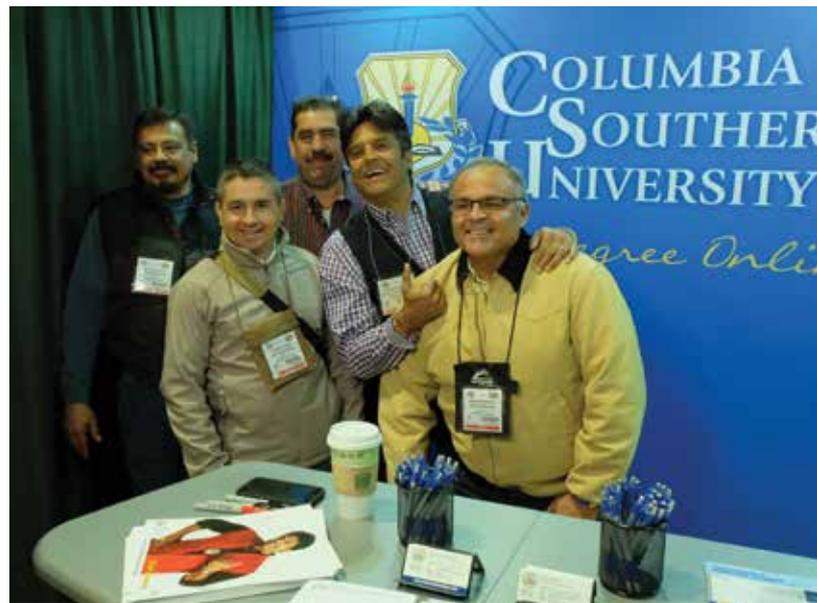
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SHOW SCENES



WHAT A SHOW!

Retailer education seminars, on-the-floor product demonstrations, various fundraisers for veteran's organizations, and celebrity appearances were just a few of the highlights of the 2015 SHOT Show. The shoulder-to-shoulder crowds that walked the miles of aisles are testimony to the enduring strength and determination of the shooting-sports industry. See you next year!

