

PRO TIP CASSEROLE

SHOT SHOW 2013 VIDEOS

GETTING ALL CHOKED UP

SQUEEZING OFF ACCURACY

JAN 2013

3★ GUN NATION

M A G A Z I N E

KEITH GARCIA
2012/2013 3-GUN NATION
CHAMPION

RUMBLE ON THE RANGE!



IN THIS ISSUE

- AIRSOFT TRAINING
- PERFECT PRACTICE
- SHOT SHOW 2013



Entering the 2013 Rumble on the Range, Keith Garcia had proven he was the toughest 3-gun shoot-off competitor yet to win a 3GN Championship.

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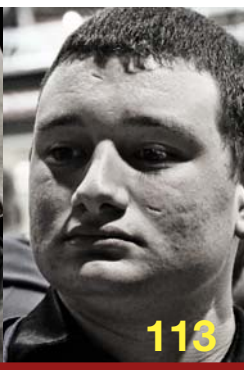
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Warren Becker defeated U.S. AMU's Joel Turner in the finals of the 3-Gun Nation Semi-Pro Championship Shoot-Off here Jan. 16, claiming the inaugural title of 3GN Semi-Pro Champion and winning \$5,000 from DoubleStar Corporation.

Mark Wills is a multi-platinum country music singer with eight top-10 hits to his name. He's played to millions of people across the globe. And best of all, he shoots 3-Gun.

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The 3GN Ladies Championship turned out to be a family affair—just another day on the range like down on Louisiana’s famous Shootout Lane.

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Get the most out of your shotgun game with the right choke and load combination.

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DINNER IS SERVED - Bryce Towsley throws the best recipes for competition success in a blender - and after some time in the oven - has made the ultimate Pro Tip Casserole for you.



GETTING SPONSORED - PART 2 of 2

These are the things sponsors are looking for and want out of their shooters.

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Check out the new ARFCOM 3-Gun Shotgun



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What is airsoft, and how can it help you improve your 3-Gun Game. Keith Garcia consults those who know best, in addition to offering some affordable training options.

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So, you couldn't make it to SHOT Show? That's a bummer, but have no fear - we brought the best of what we found at SHOT to you. Check out our video coverage of what's new and interesting for 3-Gun this year.

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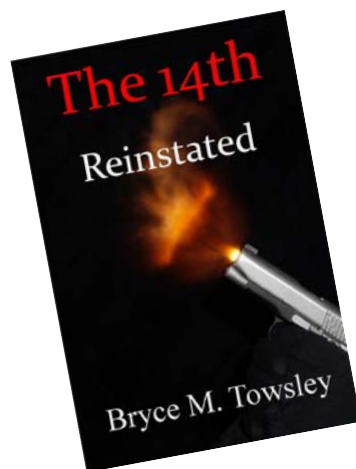
Bad habits are hard to break. Learn the basics first, learn to shoot accurately and speed will come at a pace that you will be able to control.

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Regardless of whether that comes from a good finish at a local match or a stage win at a major. A structured, big picture approach to your practice sessions will ensure that you get there faster!

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Few contemporary gun writers have been as prolific, over as wide a spectrum of firearm topics, as our own Bryce Towsley.

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This Issue's Featured Authors



CHRIS ANDERSEN

Chris Andersen, a lifelong shooter and sportsman, has been competing professionally since 2010. Andersen, a 3GN Pro Series competitor with several top major match finishes in multiple divisions, is also a USPSA Pistol Grand Master.

KEITH GARCIA

Keith Garcia is a 20-year veteran law enforcement officer from California, with stints as a field officer, firearms instructor and SWAT Team Leader. Garcia has won 3GN Shoot-Offs and one 3GN Pro Series match over the last two seasons. He is the 2012-2013 3GN Champion

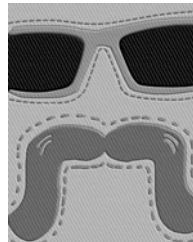


PATRICK KELLEY

As a competitor, instructor, writer and photographer, Patrick E. Kelley's passion for the shooting sports runs deep. Having won his first match in the 1980's he continues to win on the field and in promoting 3-Gun.

TRAVIS GIBSON

Travis Gibson is the Vice President of MGM Targets, one of the leading supporters of juniors and competitions in all of practical shooting. Gibson has become a top 3-gun competitor in his own right over the last few seasons, picking up his first major 3-gun win last season at Ironman.



BRUCE PIATT

Bruce Piatt is a career Police Officer with the heart and soul of a full time shooter. He is a seasoned World Champion competitor with over 30 years of competitive shooting experience in multiple disciplines.

BRYCE M. TOWSLEY

Bryce Towsley is an award-winning writer and photographer whose work covers a wide diversity of subjects, including hunting and firearms. Towsley is on of the most accomplished gun writers of his era and actively competes in 3-gun competitions nationwide.



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James P. Mason



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FROM THE EDITOR

WE'RE ITCHING TO SHOW YOU WHAT WE BROUGHT BACK FROM VEGAS

I've never felt the need to attempt to validate the Second Amendment by showing the "Sporting Purpose" of specific firearm platforms. In a sense, to follow that logic of argument is but to chase your own tail when fighting against gun control. Yet the debate persists, and now more than ever it's in all our best interests to show responsible firearm use in the best light possible.

Well that light shown down brightly against the Las Vegas desert night recently at the NRA Sports Rumble on the Range, presented by Brownells. From my view, standing just to the left of the start box at Clark County Range, I witnessed a shining example of law abiding citizens enjoying their Second Amendment rights.

On the sport's biggest stage, in front of more than a thousand spectators from our industry, uncommon athleticism and skill was commonly displayed time and again as 3GN competitors—juniors, ladies, and top pros—competed at the highest level. Sure, they were battling each other for the highest cash prizes in the sport. But it was something more than that as well. These athletes were competing for the moment, a moment that transcends politics and party lines, one that is purely driven by the spirit of competition and sport.

Of course 3GN cameras were there to

capture those moments, and more, to broadcast to the masses. And if we tell the story of 3-gun as well as our competitors displayed it in Las Vegas, then what a show we'll have.

But we need your help. Share your sport. Forward our videos and stories

to spread the word on 3-gun. Post your own videos to show how much fun a day on the range can be. And by all means, introduce someone new to shooting.

While much of our coverage this issue centers on the 3GN Championships, there's much more as well. We've got videos from SHOT Show, highlighting the latest guns and gear headed to market this year.

But this is 3GN Magazine, so again we've enlisted the writing of some of the game's best to help you improve your 3-gun skills for the coming season. Bianchi Cup champion Bruce Piatt on pistol accuracy; Patrick E. Kelley on shotgun chokes and loads, Chris Andersen on efficient practice; 3GN Champion Keith Garcia on airsoft training and much, much more.

So in these troubling times we press on. But remember, whether you're a hunter, a plinker, die-hard competitor, or carry only for defense—a house divided cannot stand. Join the NRA!

-Semper,

Chad



MARK WILLS

LOOKING FOR AMERICA



Mark Wills is a multi-platinum country music singer with eight top-10 hits to his name. He was once named ACM's (Academy of Country Music) top new male vocalist. He's played to millions of people across the globe. And best of all, he shoots 3-Gun.

"I like the people of 3-Gun" said Wills. "The shooters are all great people, everyone is competitive but it's not just about one person. Everyone helps each other out. The camaraderie is unlike any other sports profession out there. Whether it's Bianchi, or another event, the shooting sports people are always willing to lend a helping hand. The music I make is often about helping your fellow man, and that's what draws me to 3-Gun."

Wills has also enjoyed a bit of the 3GN spotlight serving as host and lead voice over talent for the "3-Gun Nation" television program.

"The first two seasons were really a huge learning curve, not just shooting, but learning about the sport and how it works," Wills said. "Now I have a much better grip on the sport as a whole. I am a good TV host, now I have to get my shooting as good! I travel so much, it's hard to practice so I'm really limited on how good I can get. Plus all the matches are on the weekends when I work."

Not only does Mark enjoy 3-Gun shooting and hosting "3-Gun Nation," but he also has recently joined the FNH USA 3-Gun team.

"My role on team FNH USA is to be a face that people can approach and be an ambassador for the sport and the team," Wills said. "People know me for the music, I feel like I'm a good representative because I'm not a pro level shooter, I'm just an average guy on the range like



I AM A
GOOD TV HOST
NOW I HAVE TO GET
MY SHOOTING AS GOOD

most people. People can see me shoot and have fun and they can feel comfortable getting involved. It's intimidating to see the pro's tear up the courses, and I can represent the guys that do it for fun."

If you know anything about Wills, you know that he is a huge supporter of the U.S. Military. With more than 10 trips to Afghanistan, Iraq and other countries, Wills puts his money where his mouth is. Wills has logged hundreds of thousands of miles entertaining the troops and credits his father for inspiring him.

"Listening to my dad talk about Viet Nam was really what drove me to get involved," Wills said. "He saw a USO show once and always talked about it. I got a call in 2003 and got a chance to go and I fell in love with it. The first

time I went was asked to go, the rest of the times I asked them to let me go."

When Mark Wills isn't busy being a devoted family man, military supporter, a 3-Gun shooter or 3GN TV host, Mark certainly hasn't quit his day job. This past year he released a heartfelt single, "Looking for America," which touches on the state of this country we all adore.

*I'm chasing down a memory
Of the way that things used to be
Kids playing underneath an old street light
Knowing they were safe when they laid down
at night
I'm looking for something I ain't seen in a while*



“I love that song and its one of my favorites to play,” Wills said. “We didn’t have many of the problems we Americans face each and every day. It seems so fitting for the times we live in today.”

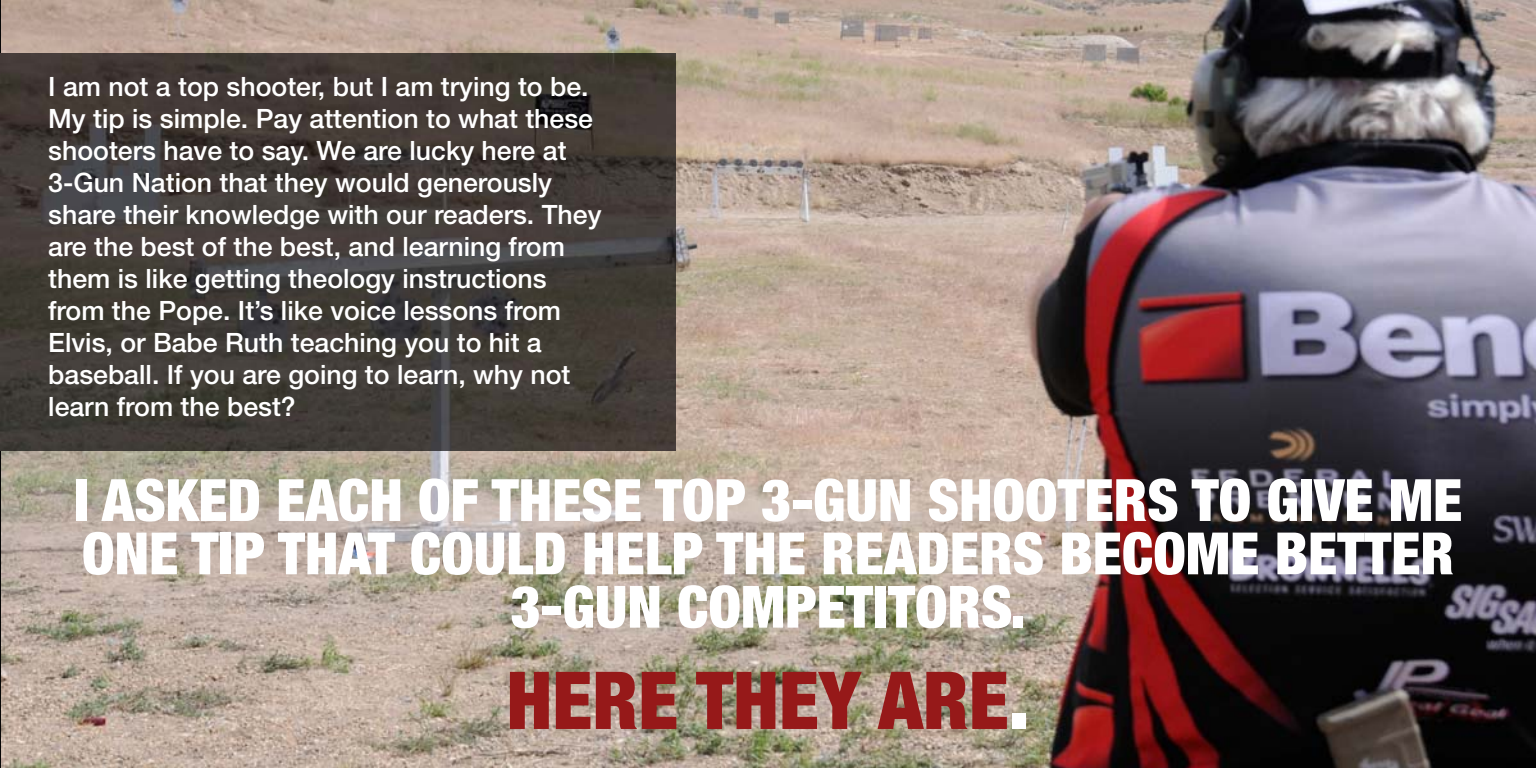
The words of Marks song ring true. And he seems to be living proof good Americans are out there. You just have to look.





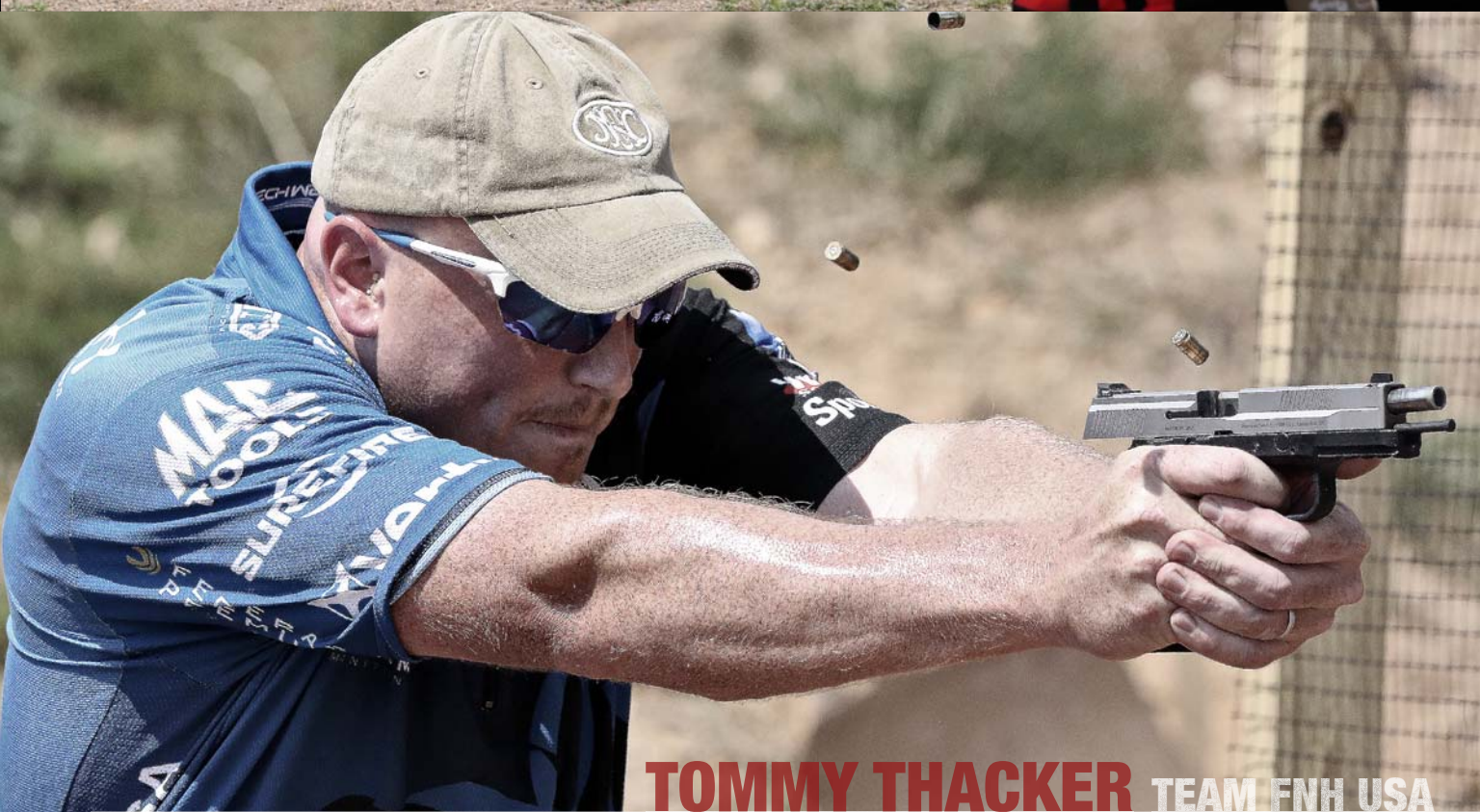
Cooked up and
served by
Bryce Towsley

A PRO TIP CASSEROLE TO START OFF THE NEW YEAR



I am not a top shooter, but I am trying to be. My tip is simple. Pay attention to what these shooters have to say. We are lucky here at 3-Gun Nation that they would generously share their knowledge with our readers. They are the best of the best, and learning from them is like getting theology instructions from the Pope. It's like voice lessons from Elvis, or Babe Ruth teaching you to hit a baseball. If you are going to learn, why not learn from the best?

I ASKED EACH OF THESE TOP 3-GUN SHOOTERS TO GIVE ME ONE TIP THAT COULD HELP THE READERS BECOME BETTER 3-GUN COMPETITORS. HERE THEY ARE.



TOMMY THACKER TEAM FNH USA

“When shooting at long-range rifle targets do not get stuck on shooting at the same spot over and over. If you break the shot well and the shot misses, you might try one more, but if that misses too, don’t keep doing the same thing. You missed high, low, left or right, so adjust your hold. The first thing I do is go high. If that still misses I go to left or right depending on the wind. I work my way around the clock if necessary. That assumes, of course, that you know your

hold for that distance, so the miss has to be by a fairly small margin. If you are two feet low, you have bigger problems. But if you use a known hold and miss low you probably only missed by a little, so hold a little high for the next shot. The point is, don’t get stuck shooting again and again at the same spot. If it’s not working, move your aiming point before you discover that you are out of time and out of ammo.”



My advice to women interested in 3-gun is pretty much the same as I would give to anyone ... show up and take notes! If you are confident in your safety with all three platforms, show up with your gear! Take notes on all the details. The guns, the scopes, the gear, the belts, the ammo, the bags. Ask questions. Three-gunners are a wonderful family and will help you out with any way they can. Woman specific, make

sure you get with someone to show you the proper fit for your long guns. Our faces are smaller and we have to build up the comb in order for us to get a good fit to our cheek. If you aren't familiar with your long-rifle game, get with someone and spend the time learning what ammo your rifle likes to eat and your holds (scope). The long game separates the men from the boys ... or girls, in this case!

DIANNA LIEDORFF TEAM FNH USA



“Every 3-gun stage is different and you need to figure out how to shoot each one according to your own abilities. A lot of shooters watch somebody else shoot and try to do what they did. Or they watch the super squad and try to emulate them. But, a lot of times, that will not work because you are not them. You need to plan each stage according to your strengths and weaknesses so you shoot the best that you can.

“For example, on a run-and-gun stage most competitors will shoot on the run. But if shooting on the move is not your strength it can lead to misses, dropped points and other problems. So it might be

better to pick places where you can stop and engage multiple targets from a stationary position. Then move to the next position and shoot more targets and so on. The extra second or two you spend doing this is more than paid for by the higher hit factors. When you do poorly on a stage, go home and practice the thing that gave you trouble. As a result, your skills will change and your strategy will continually evolve. At the beginning of the season you may need to use one strategy, but as you practice you will adjust the strategy with your emerging skills and do something different for matches later in the season.”

BRUCE PIATT CASPIAN ARMS



“Master your guns. With the rifle you need to master all the positions, including those unique to 3-gun shooting like reverse kneeling. No other marksmanship discipline uses reverse kneeling, but it’s critical for 3-gun. That is where the fore-end is supported by a barricade or prop of some kind and you raise your strong side knee to support the arm on the trigger-hand side. With the shotgun, you need to master the shooting skills, but it is loading that wins matches. You must master reloading the shotgun

fast. (Note: Loading the shotgun is another one of those topics that came up again and again.) With the handgun, practice fast, precision, distance shooting. It’s easy to hose down the close targets, but some matches have some pretty small targets at relatively long range. You need to be able to hit them fast. I like to use the Bianchi Cup plate lay out for practice. Rob Leatham calls that the “test” and I think it helps focus on accurate pistol shooting.”

KELLY NEAL TEAM DSA

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“This is simple. Have fun. When you start putting too much pressure on yourself you lose all the fun and mess yourself up mentally.

“I learned that years ago after I picked up my first two sponsors. I was trying desperately hard to win the match and it wasn't going well. I put so much pressure on myself that I was messing it all up, tanking stages and missing targets that were my forte, like long rifle shots. An old-timer looked at me and said, ‘what's the matter with you?’ I told him, ‘I don't know, I am just

trying so hard, but I am messing everything up.’ He said, ‘You are not having fun. You are not shooting your match.’ He was absolutely right, I was trying so hard I was making myself miserable. Now I just go to the match to have fun and to shoot my match. By doing that I started winning a lot of big matches. When you go to a match saying I gotta beat this guy or outshoot that guy, you put too much pressure on yourself. Just have fun and shoot and you will be surprised how well you do.”

TATE MOOTS TEAM DPMS



“Organize your gear. Of course, all your gear must be proven to be 100-percent reliable, but you need to keep it organized as well. Three-gun shooting involves a lot of gear and things often happen fast at a match. You need to be able to find anything you need without wasting time looking. For example, if you are the last shooter on a stage, you will probably be the first shooter on the next stage. That means you don't have much time to recharge your magazines and switch

out any gear you may need to shoot the next stage. If you are not organized you will not only waste time looking for ammo or gear, it will make you frustrated and stressed out. That will carry over mentally to your shooting on the next stage and probably cost you some points. When everything is organized and it all runs smoothly, you stay calm, and relaxed and focused on the task at hand, which is shooting that next stage the best you can.”

JERRY MICULEK SMITH & WESSON/CHEAPER THAN DIRT



RANDY LUTH FOUNDER OF DPMS

“For me, it’s basically, ‘you gotta train the brain.’ I’ll walk through a stage and I figure out how I am going to shoot it and I’ll formulate a plan. The key is then to stick with the plan. A lot of times guys will try to talk you into doing something different. The plan is in your head, but then one of the guys on your squad will start talking about doing something different and you start having second thoughts.

Second thoughts can kill a good plan. Stick with the plan. There might be a better way to shoot it, but I don’t want to change my game plan once I have it committed to memory. Also, don’t go bonkers when something goes wrong, like an equipment failure. You have to prepare mentally for the unpredictable as well and not let it mess up your game plan.”

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PATRICK E. KELLEY CHEAPER THAN DIRT

“Don’t get hung up on your gear. You need guns that are absolutely reliable, but that’s it. Back when I started shooting, if you finished a match and your gun didn’t malfunction, you were automatically in the top five. Today, most of this stuff works very well. You don’t need the latest whiz-bang gizmo; use your

money to buy ammo. The match is won with skill, not gadgets. The shooter that can apply the fundamentals of shooting, on time and at speed will win, not the guy that dragged his gun through the gadget catalog. If you want to win, immerse your gun in ammo, don’t dip it in accessories.”



DANIEL HORNER U.S. ARMY MARKSMANSHIP UNIT

“Pick a specific skill set you need to work on and bring that to your practice sessions. Don’t just shoot what you are good at; make sure you practice what you are not good at. You can take note of what causes problems at a match without letting them affect your mental game for the rest of your match, but do allow them to run your practice regimen.

“If you miss a target, that’s not the problem, that’s a symptom. The problem is you didn’t prepare mentally or you didn’t know your zero for that range, or whatever. Don’t confuse the problem with the symptoms. When you practice, identify the problem and work on that.”

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“Dry Fire.”

“I highly recommend dry firing with your guns. Anything you do in a match you can practice at home. When I first joined the AMU 3-gun team I dry fired for at least an hour every night while my wife timed me. In fact, I use a timer for much of my dry fire drills. I also use video tape of my dry fire practice to help identify what I am doing right or wrong.

“Some dry fire examples would be with a rifle, start from port arms or low ready and practice acquiring the target and getting off the shot. Or use multiple targets to practice transitions in acquiring the targets. Also, I practice switching the power on my scope. I might move from one location to another while practicing switching the power, making sure I turn it the right way. You would be surprised how easy it is to mess this up in the heat of a match.

With a shotgun, I do some of the same rapid target acquisition skills, but I also practice loading the shotgun using dummy loads. I keep a shotgun and a bunch of dummy loads by my desk and anytime I take a break during the day I spend a few seconds practicing loading. I also practice doing mag changes with my pistols and rifles. I use the par time function on my timer for many of these drills. Another thing I practice a lot with empty guns is transitions. I practice dumping one gun in a safe area, then running to the next table, pick up another gun, rack the bolt just as you would in competition and then dry fire the first shot on the target. This kind of firearms handling practice develops skills that you need in a match.”

ROBBY JOHNSON
REMINGTON DEFENSE



TRAVIS GIBSON MGM TARGETS

"A lot of matches are won or lost with the long-range rifle. When I practice, 30-percent of my shooting time goes into shooting long range, 30-percent into loading the shotgun and the remaining time spread out over everything else. Long range is anything past 300 yards. You need to know your holds at every distance

and learn to read the wind. You need to learn to do this fast. Some shooters like Daniel Horner read their shots so well that they are often on to the next target before you hear the ding of the bullet hitting the one before. That's why he wins and it's what you should strive to accomplish."



"It seems like more and more courses are requiring that you fire your rifle from very odd positions and from strange angles. You need to practice this to learn how to deal with the positions and to be sure of where the gun will hit. Some of these stages will have you twist the gun to severe angles, and the gun will not shoot to the same point of impact if it is tilted

to the left or right. You need to know where to hold to compensate, and you need to know that hold for every distance. Also, you need to be able to shoot under barricades, lying face down with the rifle turned sideways. It's important to practice these things so the first time you encounter them is not during a match."

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TARAN BUTLER TEAM BENELLI

“One thing that costs a lot of matches is the guys who don’t have their slug guns sighted in correctly. I deal with a lot of new shotguns and find that they are often as much as 15-inches off the point of aim at 25 yards when shooting slugs.”

You can’t win a match with a shotgun you need to hold off the target to hit anything. Either install some adjustable sights or bend the barrel, but get the slugs hitting where you are aiming.”

EDITOR’S NOTE: Almost every single shooter brought this up, it’s just that James did it first. It is so important.



“It is absolutely critical to know where your rifle hits at any distance. So many guys zero their gun at 50 or 100 yards and think they can rely on a computer program or ballistic chart or what their buddies tell them for the rest. But that will not work. You must absolutely know where your rifle will strike at any distance from five yards to 500 yards. It’s not just the long shots

where this is important. With the offset on the optics a lot of shooters try head shots at ten yards and are surprised to find they hit the hostage target below. You must shoot your rifle at every distance and know, with the certainty that only bullet holes in the target can provide, where you will hit at any given distance.”

JAMES DARST TEAM DPMS



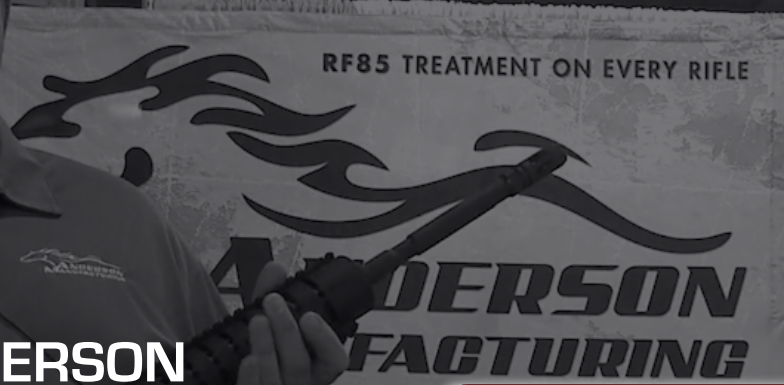
AIM SPORTS



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**ANDERSON
MANUFACTURING**



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SHOT SHOW 2013

Every aisle was packed full at the Sands Convention Center in Las Vegas, Nevada for SHOT Show 2013, and 3-Gun Nation was there, navigating through guns and gear to provide you with 3-gun specific news and product updates.

Enjoy!



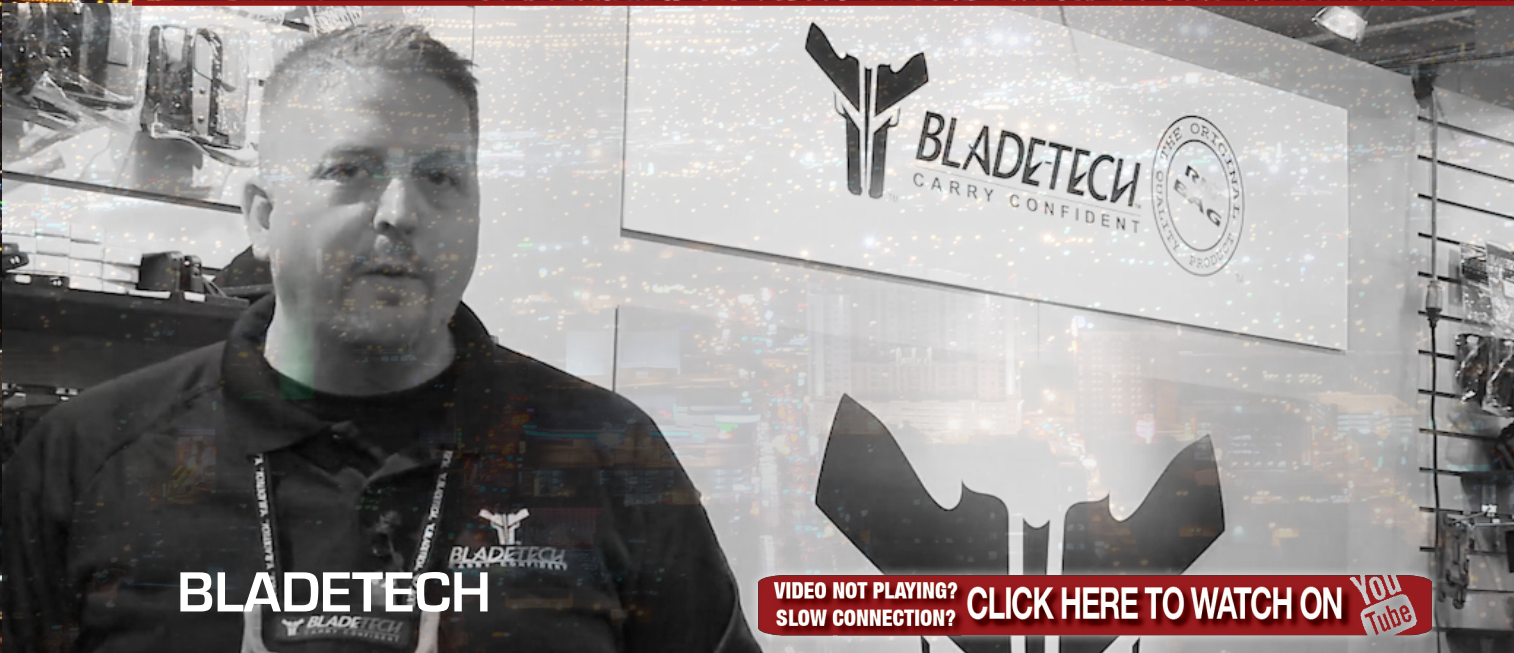
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BLACK RAIN ORDNANCE

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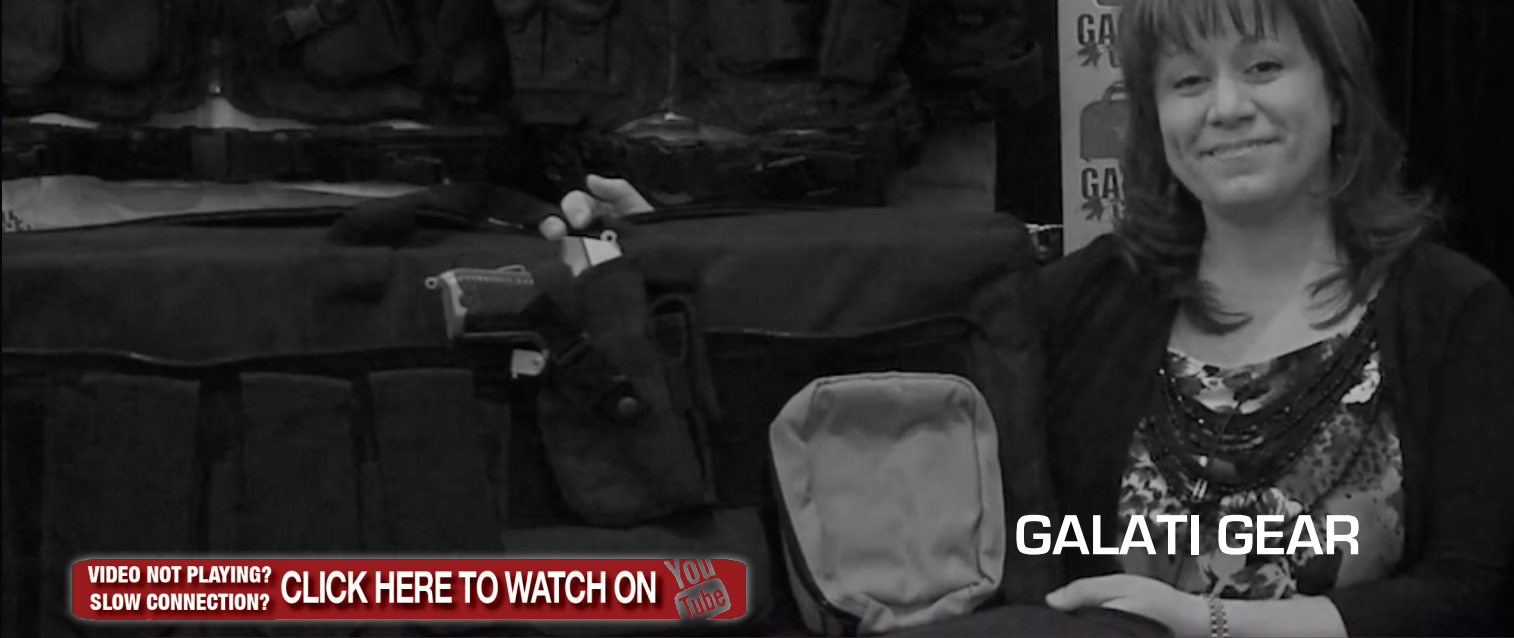
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MGM TARGETS



MGM TARGETS

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RUGER

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STAG ARMS

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AIM SPORTS



**ANDERSON
MANUFACTURING**



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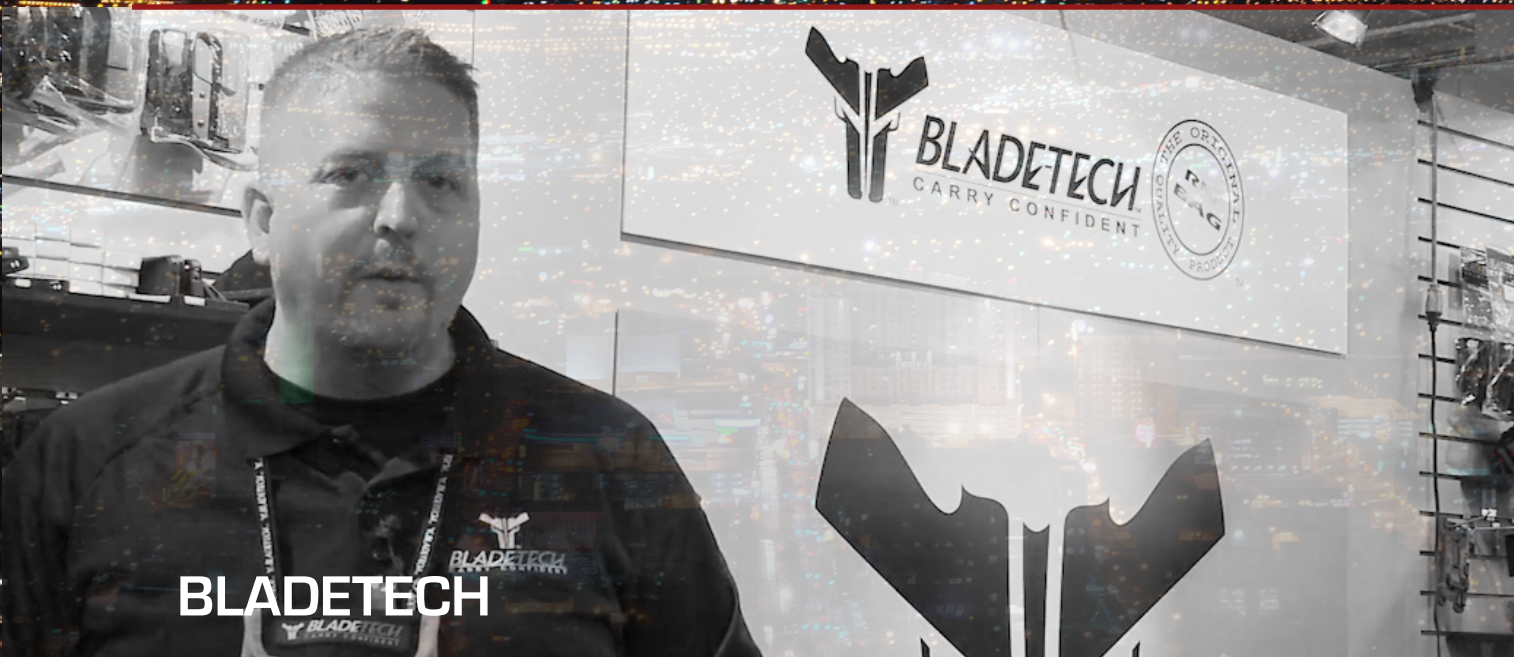
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**PALMETTO STATE
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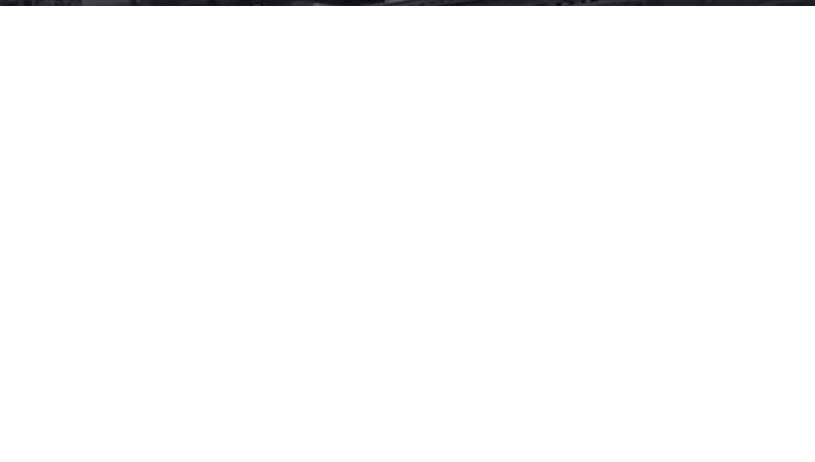
SHOT SHOW 2013

Every aisle was packed full at the Sands Convention Center in Las Vegas, Nevada for SHOT Show 2013, and 3-Gun Nation was there, navigating through guns and gear to provide you with 3-gun specific news and product updates.

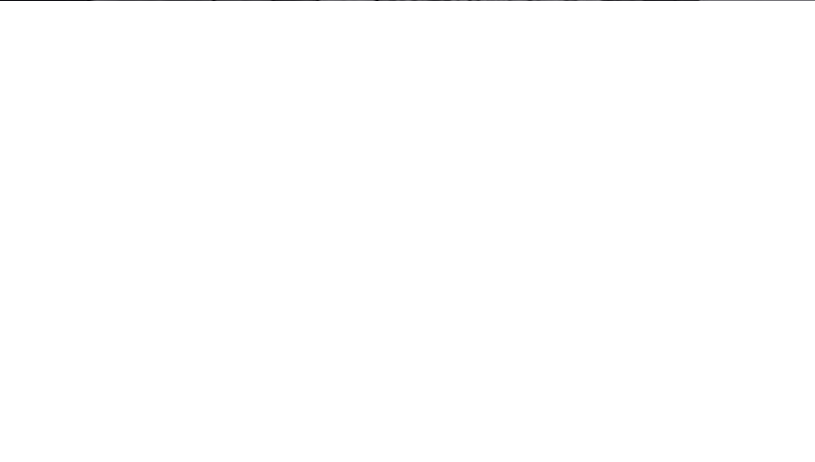
Enjoy!



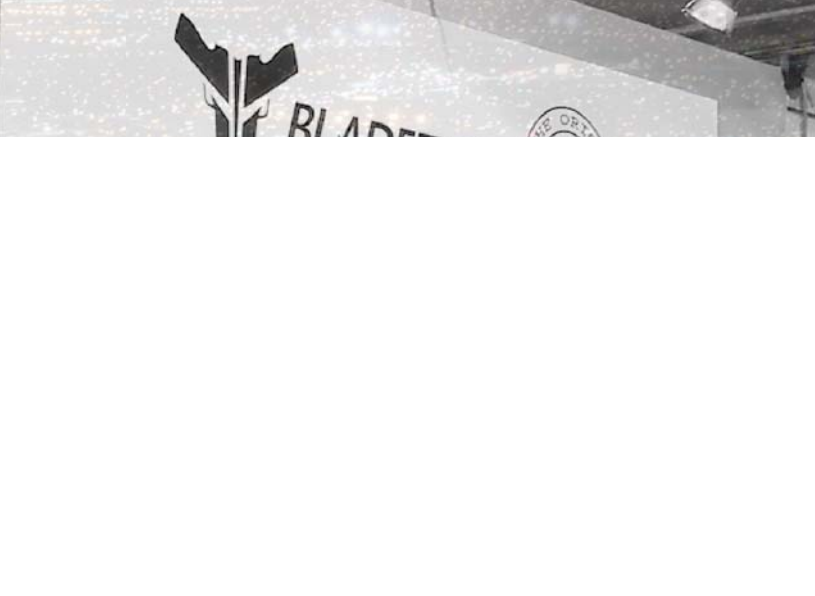
BARRETT FIREARMS

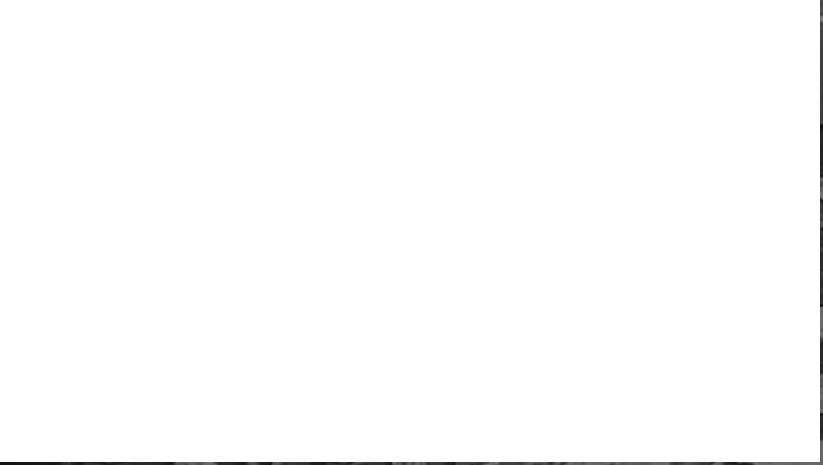


**BLACK RAIN
ORDNANCE**



BLADETECH

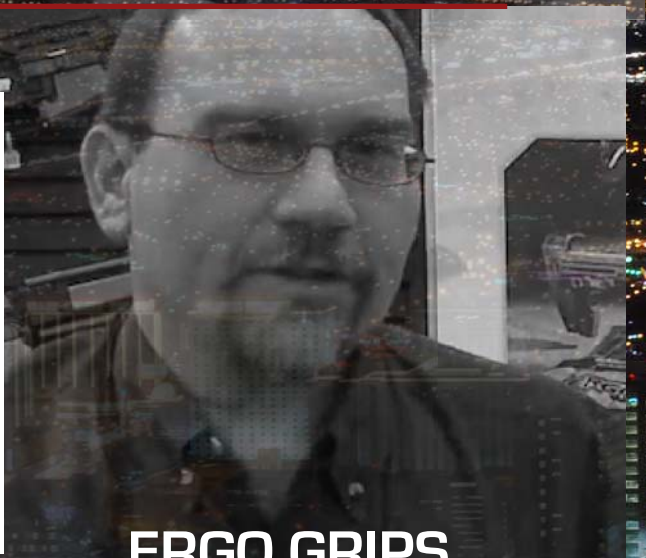
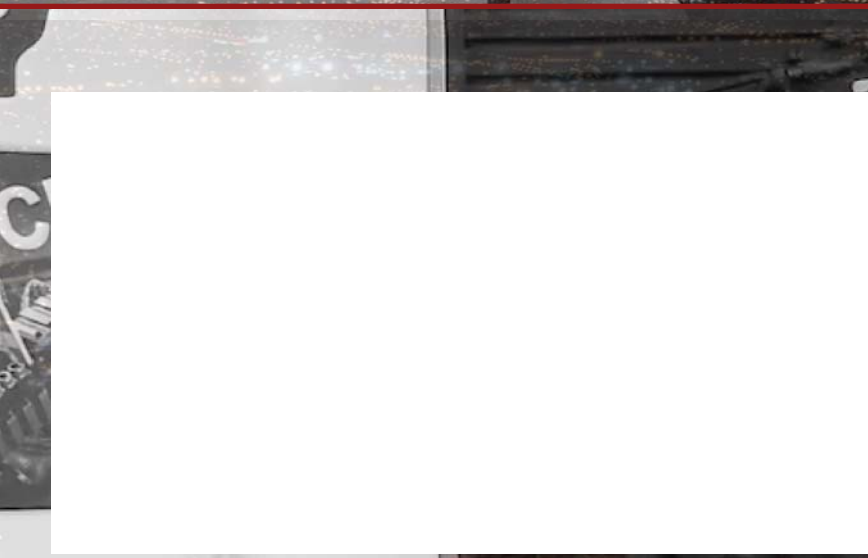




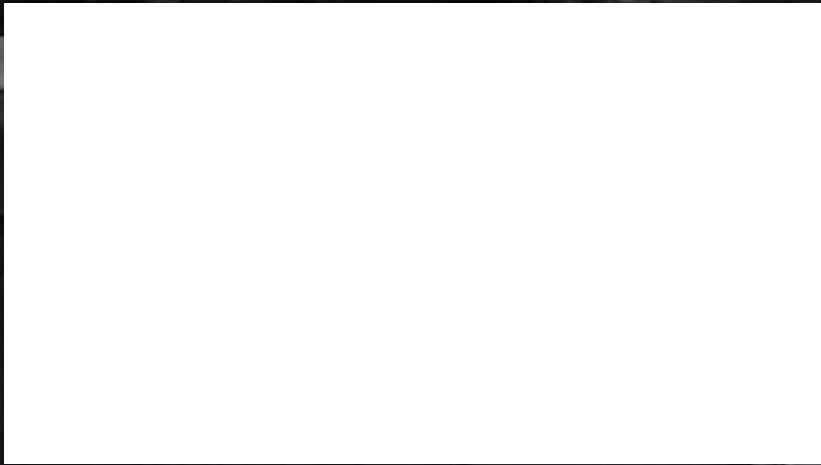
CAMMO BROTHERS



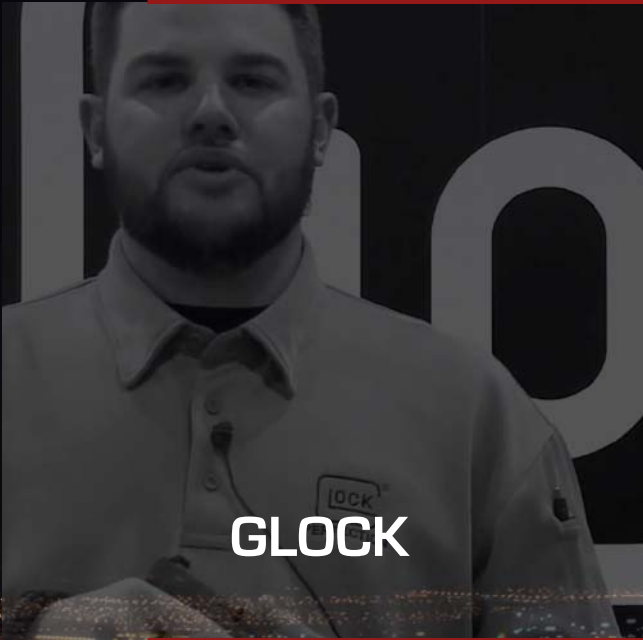
DOUBLESTAR



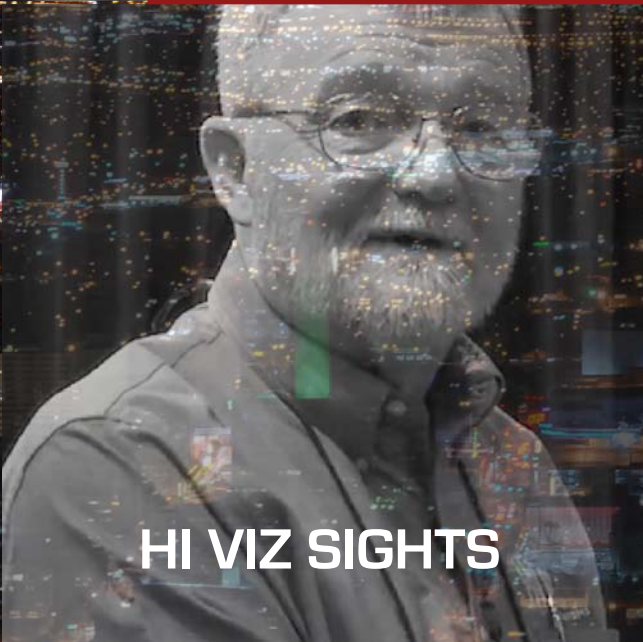
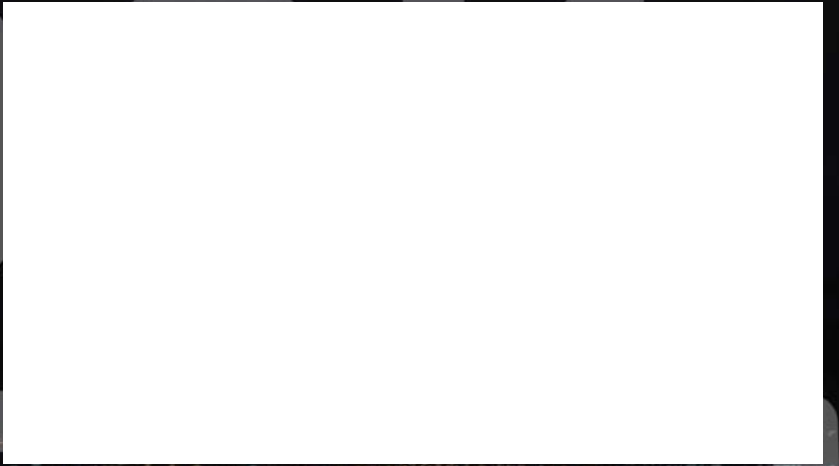
ERGO GRIPS



GALATI GEAR



GLOCK



HI VIZ SIGHTS



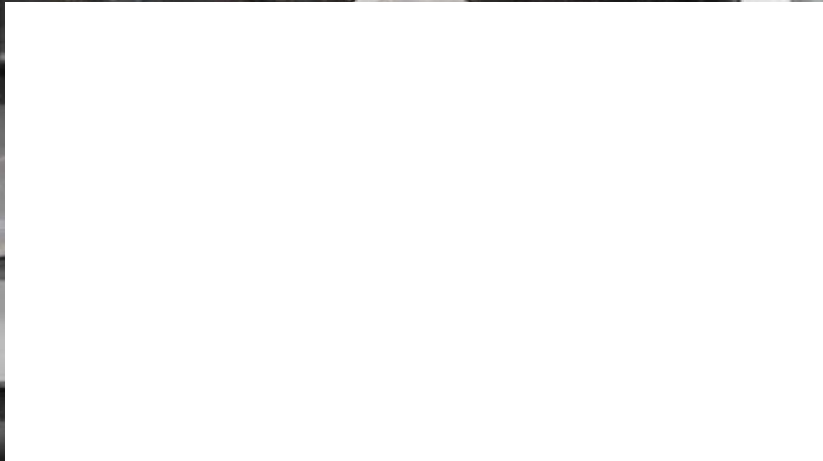
MGM
TARGETS



MGM TARGETS



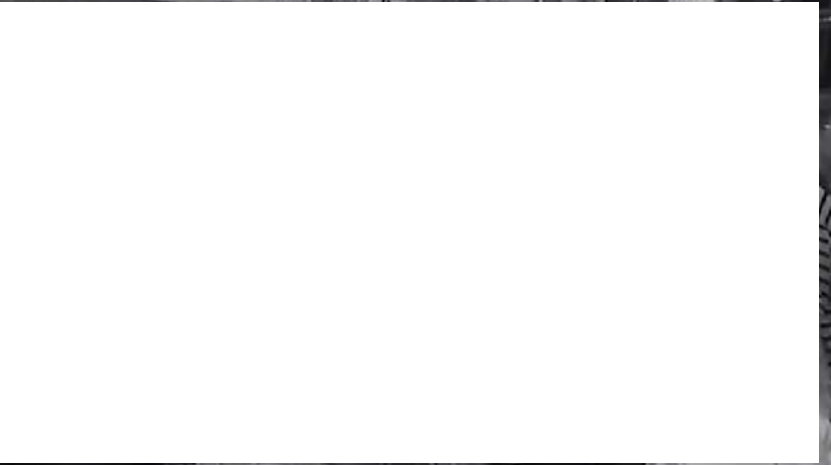
NIGHTFORCE OPTICS



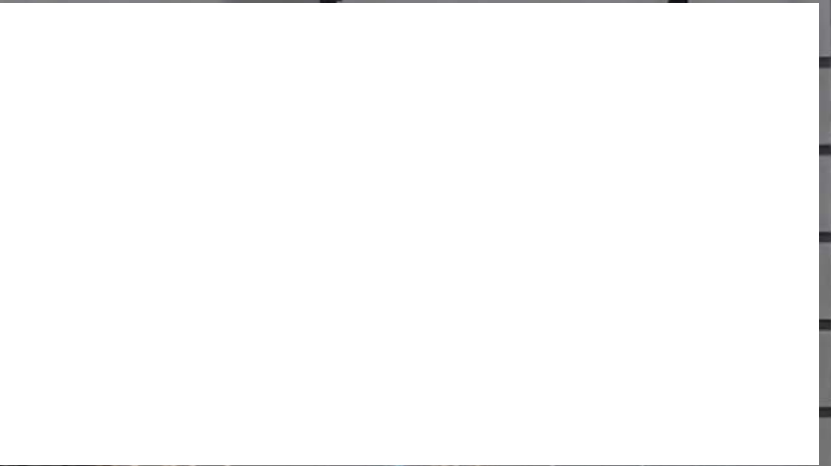
**PALMETTO STATE
ARMORY**



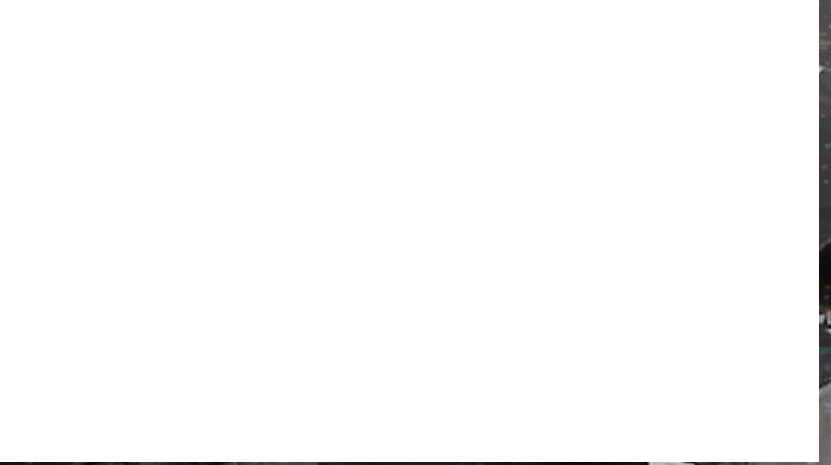
RUGER



SAMSON



STAG ARMS



Written by
Travis Gibson

GETTING SPONSORED

PART 2 OF 2

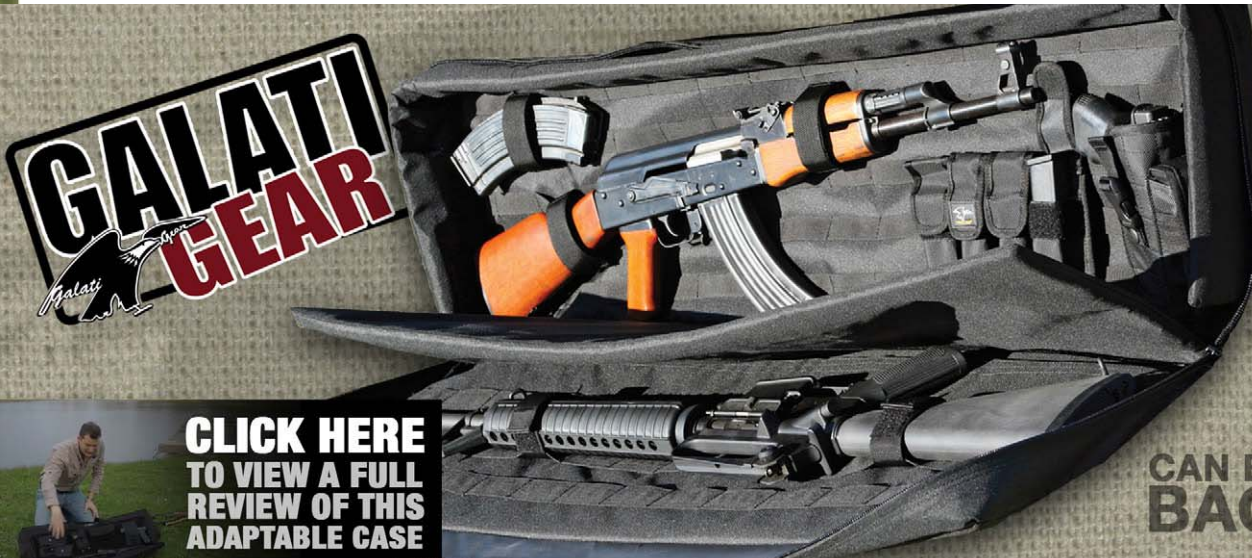


What makes a good sponsored shooter? The funny thing about this is you're going to get two COMPLETELY different answers from the shooter and the sponsor. Having been looking for sponsorships for one thing or another since I was 15 years old, I think I have a pretty good grasp on the situation ... being part of a company that is constantly bombarded with sponsorship requests gives me some good insight too.



THESE ARE THE THINGS SPONSORS WANT OUT OF THEIR SHOOTERS

When I started to put this article together, I actually hit up a couple of companies who are huge supporters of 3-gun matches, as well as having a pretty good sized group of sponsored shooters on their team. I got some outstanding responses ... honestly it was way more than I figured I'd get considering who I asked and how busy they all are. I guess that means this is something that's important to them!



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3-GUN GEAR IN ONE BAG!

Scott Carnahan from Safariland could quite possibly be referred to as the “godfather” of sponsored shooting teams. The first BIG team to hit the action shooting scene was put together by Scott and Bill Rogers in 1985. When I asked Scott what he looked for in a sponsored shooter, this is what he sent back:

“Top-level shooter and well respected in his or her local area, someone people look up to and willing to help up-and-coming shooters. If they are a trainer, especially in Law Enforcement or military, that is a plus and part of our core business. Someone that can be a part of our R&D team and provide constructive feedback. Our team is an extension of R&D and test new products and materials for us.”

Another one of the first companies to have a formal shooting team was DPMS. Randy Luth sent me back some great thoughts on sponsored shooters and what characteristics he looks for in his team members:

“A sponsored shooter does not have to be a world class shooter, but needs to have some connection to exposure through our industry. A business owner, a writer, an instructor, etc., a person that spectators and shooters will notice what equipment they choose. Character is paramount. Honest, engaging, fair, integrity, not boisterous ... attributes that will not embarrass the sponsor or create negative thoughts about the sponsor’s brand.”

Hornady has come onto the scene in a BIG way over the last three or four years. They have a ton of sponsored shooters in several different disciplines, and continue to support matches in a monstrous capacity. When I asked Neal Emery what characteristics/attributes he liked his shooters to have, he sent me the note below:

“They need to be approachable. Of course there are times right before (and sometimes after) a stage where a shooter needs to concentrate and plan (or sob). But in general, they need to know that being sponsored means they are there to work – in spite of how their match is going. Even if they DQ, they need to realize they are there to promote their sponsors and should continue to do so.”

The last three people I asked for insight in regards to sponsored shooters were Dave Wilcox with Warne Scope Mounts, May (Lansigan) Schlatter with Surefire, and Matt Foster with Ergo Grips. They

INTEGRITY
GOOD ATTITUDE
VISIBILITY
PRODUCT KNOWLEDGE
BRAND LOYALTY



all had very similar answers to all of my questions. Matt stated that winning was NOT the most important thing when choosing a sponsored shooter. He stated that while a shooter needs to be competent (talk the talk, and walk the walk), being a good ambassador of the sport and the company were more important. A good attitude, willing to talk with other competitors (i.e. potential customers), and a calm temper were attributes he looks for in potential sponsored shooters. He also mentioned being active on social media such as Facebook, was a good quality.

May also noted that being responsible on social media was important to her. Brand knowledge and loyalty were also specific items she mentioned. When asked why she picked the sponsored shooters she currently has, her answers were very similar to Dave Wilcox's from Warne Scope Mounts: product knowledge, good attitudes, recognizable personalities, and company history were a few of the top reasons.

Out of all the responses I got, my favorite had to be from Dave. I asked him, what sorts of attributes or characteristics do you like your sponsored shooters to have?

"They all have the heart to win but accept their shortcomings that may keep them from it. ALL my sponsored shooters are well respected in the 3-gun competition field. Individualism and personal charisma attracted them to me; uniqueness and the ability and willingness to be different. For instance, someone who does the absolute worst attempt at a cartwheel because they made it to the Shoot-Off." That's money baby! (Editor's Note: That would be one Travis Gibson!)

So, does your list line up with what some of the biggest names in 3-gun sponsorship think? I took the liberty of condensing and prioritizing their answers.

1. **Integrity**
2. **Good attitude/Outgoing**
3. **Top level competitor/visibility**
4. **Product knowledge/brand loyalty**





A SHOOTER NEEDS
TO BE COMPETENT
TALK THE TALK
WALK THE WALK

Is that the same list you came up with? How about the order? Did you think having a shooter that won every match he went to would be more or less important than a guy with a good personality and an outgoing demeanor? Don't feel bad. Most shooters didn't prioritize them like the sponsors did either.

Something shooters have to get through their heads is that companies sponsor people for one reason and one reason only, and it isn't because you're a good shooter. IT'S TO SELL PRODUCT!

A shooter that finishes well is a good thing, don't get me wrong. Here's why. Spectators see that guy finishing well and they want to know what gear he's using because everyone knows shooting well has EVERYTHING to do with the gear and very little to do with practice right? For those of you that don't get my sarcastic humor, that was a joke.

So at this point, the guy who finished well needs to be able to talk to the spectators. THE SHOOTER NEEDS TO START THE CONVERSATION. Something I often forget is people that have seen 3GN on television view

the shooters in the Pro Series just like Tony Stewart or LeBron James or James "Bubba" Stewart or any other professional athlete. They don't expect you to come and talk with them. When you do, they feel like they just met someone famous, and they'll remember that when it comes time to buy the gear you spoke with them about.

The long and short of it is being a top competitor is obviously a good thing, but it isn't the most important. Getting logos on national television is going to get the companies more exposure, but as new as our sport is, we (pro shooters) should take the time to talk with new shooters and spectators to help grow the sport. Consider this a grass roots effort. When we're all making tens of thousands of dollars for our wins at the Pro Series matches, then we can start acting like a bunch of divas. Until then, introduce people to the sport. Talk with a spectator. Help a new shooter. Take a junior shooter under your wing. Give back a little.

These are the things sponsors want out of their shooters.



FIGHT TO WIN
SMALLER, LIGHTER, FASTER... MORE POWER

ARFCOM 3-GUN SHOTGUN

Written by Edward Avila

The 3-Gun shotgun is where most people would agree you either make it or break it in our sport. There is more disparity between the fastest and the slowest shooters in shotgun than rifle or pistol, and in general most people practice and train with their shotgun less than any other firearm they own.

How it came about - We have all been shooting Benelli M1 Super 90s for the last few years, and in doing so have done all of the mandatory 3-Gun modifications. These are the modifications that take what was designed as a hunting firearm to a competition-ready instrument, and these modified Benellis rule the sport.

Traditionally though, most of the M1S90s out there had the longer hunting barrels in 26 inches or more, or the “tactical” 18-inch, neither of which are ideal for 3-gun.

When it came time to upgrade our team’s guns, the Benelli M2 was the logical step. There are a number of excellent gunsmiths out there that will help you take your M1/M2 to 3-gun-ready status, and certainly enough info out there to do it yourself as many competitors have done.

Goals - What we wanted to do was sell a race-ready M2 out of the box with all of the modifications a shooter might need, and most importantly to do so at a price that most could afford.

For this task, we explored all of the options and came up with what we think is the perfect 3-gun shotgun, whether you’re just starting out or already an experienced competitor.

We selected Nordic Components for most of the add-on parts, as their products are well tested and they provide a large variety so that no matter what you shoot and how you want to upgrade, they probably have all the go-fast parts you need.

FEATURES

Base Guns - First let me say that we are targeting the “practical” or tactical (Limited) divisions- where a shotgun is typically 12-gauge and features no porting, comps, optics or speed loaders.

There is a compromise between barrel length and magazine capacity, and 21 and 24 are about the ideal lengths when paired with flush-fitting magazine extensions. These allow for 8 and 9 rounds in the magazine respectively while maintaining maneuverability around barricades and obstacles, so we start all our builds on new 21” and 24” M2 field guns.

Bolt Features - Bolts are modified to enable both ghost and out-of-battery loading. While these are not must-have modifications, they are nice to have and do not in any way negatively affect your gun if you do not use them.

A ghost load allows you to have a round on the lifter and under the bolt in addition to a fully loaded magazine so rather than an 8+1 capacity, you have an 8+1+1. In matches where it’s allowed, this gives you an extra round ready to go.

The out-of-battery loading mod prevents the situation where you have a handful of shells and the bolt has not locked all the way forward, preventing you from loading the magazine.

Other than adding a Nordic Components extended charging handle, we chose not to lighten or otherwise reshape or refinish the bolts. Many folks do this, but other than looking cool we didn’t feel it was a needed modification as we build and test all our guns to cycle 1-ounce loads already.

Loading Port - Machining the receiver to open up the loading port is perhaps the most critical operation in these conversions. Some like a funnel versus opening access to the magazine as much as possible.

We chose to do a bit of both—we open the mag well as high and as long as we can as well as put in a 45-degree taper to the sides to funnel rounds in. Combined with the shell catch and lifter mods below, the result is a gun that’s much easier to fill than stock.

Shell Catch / Lifter - Whether learning from others or by personal experience, every 3-gunner knows that the first change you need to make to your shotgun is extending



For more information and availability check out the AR15.com store at <http://store.ar15.com>.

the lifter and getting rid of the nasty prongs at the end.

Also, the shell catch which is extremely stiff on a new M2 needs to be polished, modified, and tuned to make your gun easier to feed. The catch, the lifter, and the new follower/magazine spring all work together to make sure rounds go in quickly and easily, and stay in the magazine. Drilling and tapping to add an extended bolt release button from Nordic Components is the final step in its modification.

Magazine - The 5- or 6-round magazine extensions from Nordic Components ensure that you minimize the need to reload. They provide 8 and 9 rounds as mentioned above with a flush fit, and are fitted with a new NC follower as well as a new and trimmed magazine spring.

Barrel - Adding a Nordic Components barrel clamp as well as a Hi-Viz Tri-Comp sight completes the front-end additions to the gun. We supply all of the optional (8 total) replacement fiber-optic elements so a user can customize their front sight.

Finishing - Finally, actions are further smoothed and polished, all guns receive laser engraving on the side, and a grip-tape on the fore-end for improved grip. We felt this was a better looking alternative to the stippling that some folks asked for, and was replaceable or removable if desired.

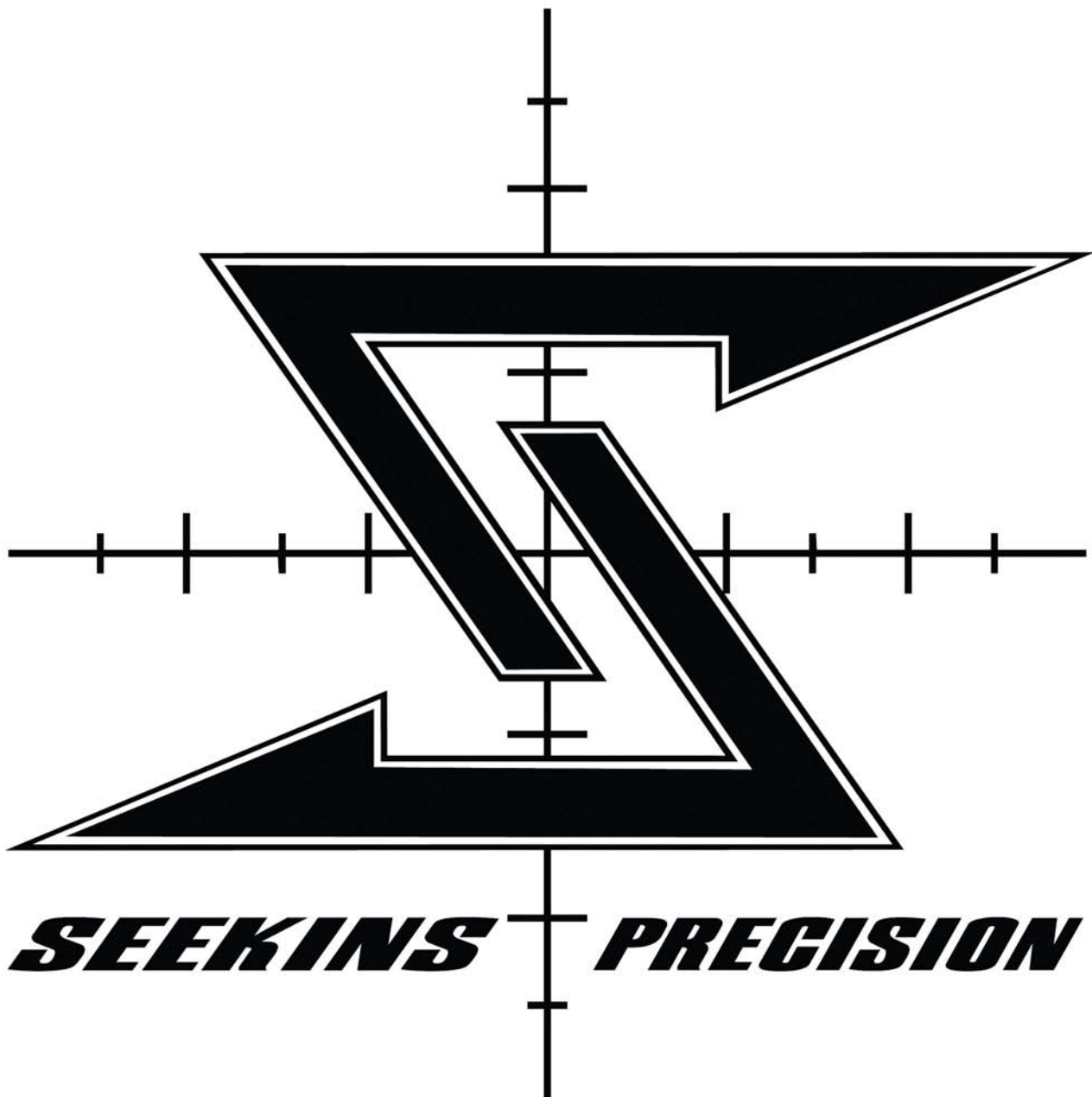
All guns are test-fired at the range using the 1-ounce loads, and then packaged back up in the original hard case along with all the original parts. These guns already come with 5 interchangeable chokes, a choke tool, oil,

shims for fitting the stock, and all the parts we take off it are included.

Availability

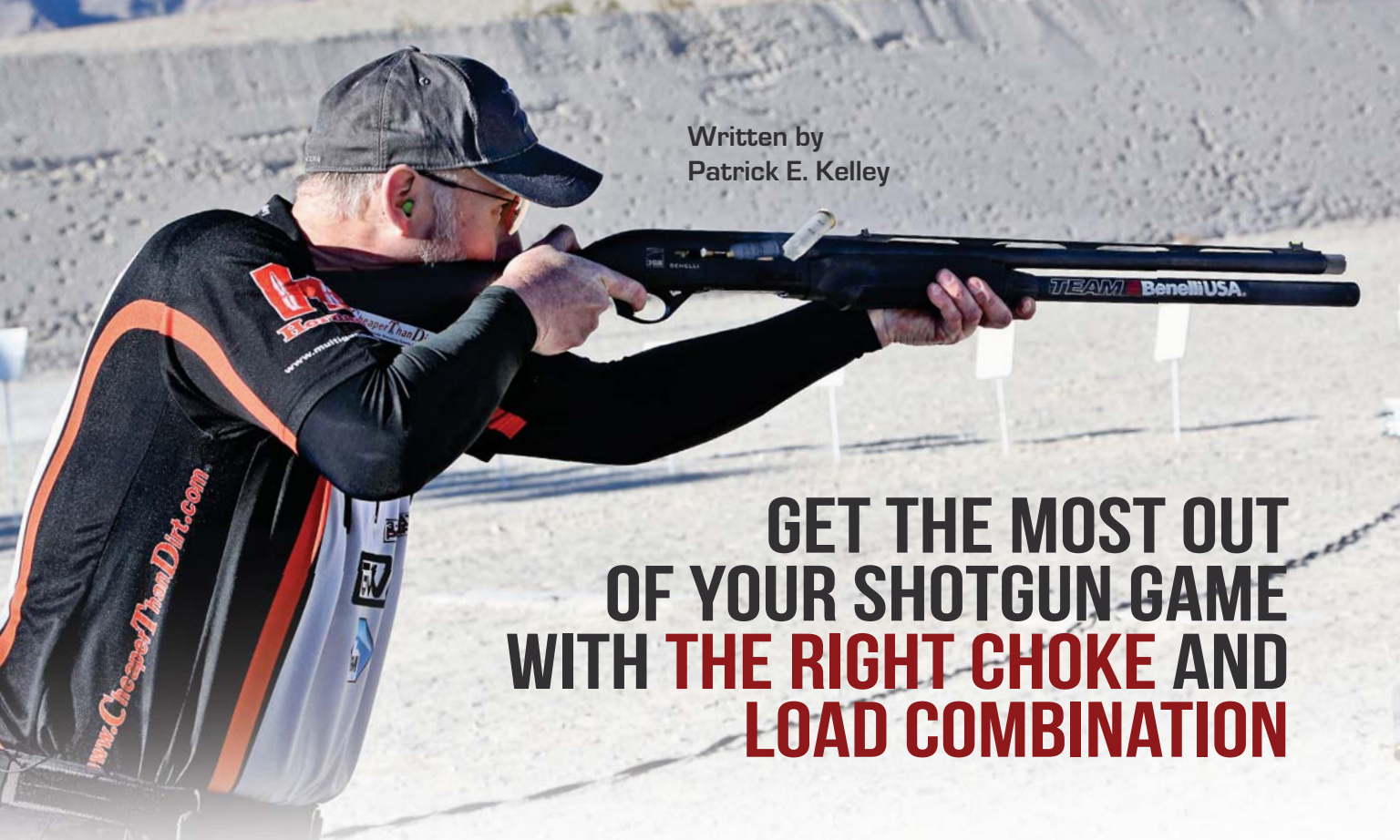
The first batch of guns was sold before they were even ready, and with this first batch having gone out the door, we are currently working on getting additional production underway in order to fill the backorders and have more guns in stock.





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Written by
Patrick E. Kelley

GET THE MOST OUT OF YOUR SHOTGUN GAME WITH **THE RIGHT CHOKE AND LOAD COMBINATION**

The 3-Gun shotgun is a versatile beast. Stationary steel and flying clays are no match for this Power Tool with the right load and choke. Distant targets can be bested with slugs. Given a good understanding of choke and pattern, birdshot can be used with precision on closely spaced shoot/no-shoot targets. Unfortunately much of what makes the shotgun so flexible leads to one of the reasons we fail to knock down targets we actually hit! I am talking about interchangeable choke tubes!

You will generally find me running a Light Modified choke unless I see an advantage to something else.

Similarly my AR's optic is on one power until there is a need for a change. But much like my optics, the benefit of variable chokes is in changing them to fit the target.

The ability to instantly change your pellet spreader's shot pattern has been around for better than 40 years. Screw-in choke tubes are now factory standard on all but the most basic models of shotgun. The fact that we have them, however, doesn't equate to knowing how to use them. Read along and we will discuss how to harness the versatility and avoid the pitfalls of choke selection.

ALL **CHOKED** UP

CAUTION: RESTRICTED AREA

Let's start with the most open choke pattern and move to the least or tightest pattern. We'll cover the common units and some "specialty chokes" at the end. You'll find the designations are for the most part self-explanatory.

Cylinder Bore (CYL)

This choke is just a continuation of the barrel's nominal bore diameter and is bored as a straight tube with parallel walls for the entire length. Makes sense right? From Cylinder Bore each successive choke tube "restricts" the barrel's exit diameter to some degree. While each choke can be expressed numerically as .010-inch or .020-inch or .030-inch restriction from Cylinder Bore, those numbers are verbalized as 10-, 20- and 30-point chokes. I actually like using the Point System as it is an accurate description of what the heck you are screwing into the end of your shotgun. The English might use terms such as 1/4, 1/2 and 3/4 choke, but generally we former colonists use names.

Skeet (SK)

The first step in from Cylinder Bore at .005-inch restriction.

Improved Cylinder (IC)

A 10-point choke or .010-inch tighter than Cylinder Bore. This is one of the most widely used chokes in 3-Gun.

Light Modified (LM)

Adds another .005-inch of restriction for a total of .015-inch from the straight walled Cylinder Bore. If you aren't sure what choke to use, or you don't want to be bothered to change chokes, "Lt. Mod" is a great default choke. It works well in most any application.



Modified (Mod)

This choke will have your pellets flowing through an exit hole .020-inch smaller in diameter than Cylinder Bore.

Improved Modified (IM)

I bet you are seeing a pattern (gun pun intended) here. Yup, "I-Mod" will close the muzzle I.D. down another .005-inch for a total of .025-inch restriction.

Full (F)

Is the tightest constriction among the standard chokes and is a full .035-inch narrower than Cylinder Bore. This is one I have yet to use at any 3-Gun event and hope to never feel the need to. If the target is that far away or that tough to put down, somebody hand me a carbine!

Beyond these, some aftermarket manufacturers have created chokes more "open" than Cylinder Bore, such as Diffusers and Spreader chokes; and chokes that are fuller than Full, with names like XtraFull, Turkey Full and Super Full (sounds like me after Thanksgiving dinner). With the possible exception of a Diffuser, we don't have any real need for most of the other "specialty chokes" within the sport of 3-Gun, so I'll not go into them.





MGM STEEL POPPER TARGET

CHOKE / LOAD COMPARISON SPECS

CHOKE	FIOCCHI 7.5 SHOT 1 1/8 OZ @ 1200 FPS (3 DRAM)	WINCHESTER #5 SHOT 1 1/4 OZ @ 1250 FPS (3.75 DRAM)	FEDERAL #7.5 SHOT 1 1/8 OZ @ 900 FPS (1.6 DRAM)
CYLINDER BORE (CYL)	25 YARDS	25 YARDS	20 YARDS
IMPROVED CYLINDER (IC)	25 YARDS	25 YARDS	20 YARDS
LIGHT MODIFIED (LM)	27 YARDS	27 YARDS	25 YARDS
MODIFIED (M)	30 YARDS	35 YARDS	30 YARDS
IMPROVED MODIFIED (IM)	35 YARDS	35 YARDS	35 YARDS

HIT AND MISS

While you can find some nice choke selection information for shooting clays, it does not translate very well when the target is made of steel. So let's create our own.

The standard load in 3-Gunning is a 1 1/8-ounce of shot at 1,200 feet-per-second (f.p.s.) (3 dram). I used those made by Fiocchi loaded with 7.5 shot on three types of MGM steel targets: full size Poppers, 6-inch rounds and a Whirly Gig. In each case a perfect center shot was made and repeated several times to confirm the data. Other loads were tested and will be discussed later.

Cylinder choke was reliable to 25 yards on the Popper, and to 20 yards on the 6-inch plate. The Whirly Gig shortened the effective distance even further to just 15 yards.

Improved Cylinder was not able to improve the results of those shown by Cylinder.

Light Modified was able to improve the distance on Popper to 27 yards and the 6-inch plate to 25 yards. The Whirly's plates gave up at 20 yards.

Modified put the Popper and the 6-inch plate down out to 30 yards. While the Whirly Gig gave up its targets out to 25 yards, it did so reluctantly.

Improved Modified was able to stretch out the Popper to 35 yards. The 6-inch plate found the dirt at 30 yards, but the Whirly held fast at that distance. Twenty-five yards is as far as one should go on the Whirly Gig to get solid drops.





MGM 6" STEEL PLATE TARGET

CHOKE / LOAD COMPARISON SPECS

CHOKE	FIOCCHI 7.5 SHOT 1 1/8 OZ @ 1200 FPS (3 DRAM)	WINCHESTER #5 SHOT 1 1/4 OZ @ 1250 FPS (3.75 DRAM)	FEDERAL #7.5 SHOT 1 1/8 OZ @ 900 FPS (1.6 DRAM)
CYLINDER BORE (CYL)	20 YARDS	20 YARDS	20 YARDS
IMPROVED CYLINDER (IC)	20 YARDS	20 YARDS	20 YARDS
LIGHT MODIFIED (LM)	25 YARDS	25 YARDS	25 YARDS
MODIFIED (M)	25 YARDS	25 YARDS	25 YARDS
IMPROVED MODIFIED (IM)	30 YARDS	25 YARDS	30 YARDS



HEAVY LOADS

I know a number of competitors that bring a box or handful of “High Brass” loads in case stubborn or distant targets are encountered. Do they work? Does the increase in recoil and the resultant increase in recovery time pay off? I got a surprise for you. Not only did I test some Heavy Field ammo, but I also got some great results with loads on the opposite end of the power curve! The short of it is—you are welcome to go heavy, I will just change chokes.

In testing, the heavy loads duplicated the results with the standard 3-gun load to about 25 yards. Modified choke was necessary to see any “real” difference beyond that. So that’s where we will start.

The Heavy Field load was a Winchester 1 ¼-ounce #5 shot at 1,250 f.p.s. (3 3/4 dram).

Modified popped Poppers at 30 and 35 yards, but wouldn’t drop the little 6-inch plate beyond 25 yards, and the Whirly Gig was not always compliant at 25 yards.

Improved Modified did the same with the Popper at 35, but still could not drop the 6-inch plate past 25. I did get a reliable release of the Whirly’s plates out to 25 yards.

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THE HOODIE

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3GN TEES

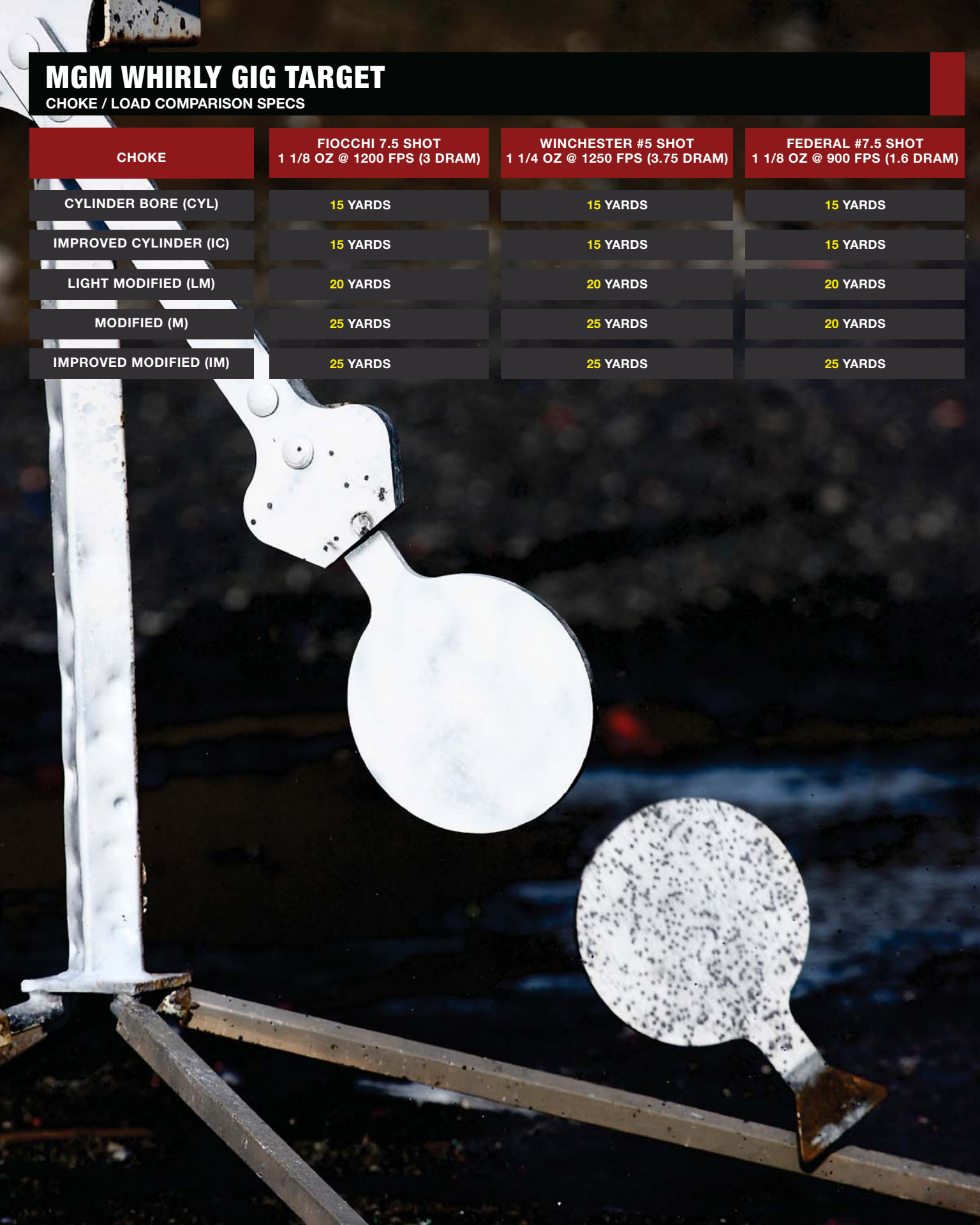
Pre-shrunk 4.5 oz 100% combed ring spun cotton jersey. The chicks will love you. \$19.99



MGM WHIRLY GIG TARGET

CHOKE / LOAD COMPARISON SPECS

CHOKE	FIOCCHI 7.5 SHOT 1 1/8 OZ @ 1200 FPS (3 DRAM)	WINCHESTER #5 SHOT 1 1/4 OZ @ 1250 FPS (3.75 DRAM)	FEDERAL #7.5 SHOT 1 1/8 OZ @ 900 FPS (1.6 DRAM)
CYLINDER BORE (CYL)	15 YARDS	15 YARDS	15 YARDS
IMPROVED CYLINDER (IC)	15 YARDS	15 YARDS	15 YARDS
LIGHT MODIFIED (LM)	20 YARDS	20 YARDS	20 YARDS
MODIFIED (M)	25 YARDS	25 YARDS	20 YARDS
IMPROVED MODIFIED (IM)	25 YARDS	25 YARDS	25 YARDS



LIGHT IS RIGHT

After abusing my shoulder with the heavy stuff, I did some testing with some uber-light loads. I found some Federal subsonic 1 1/8-ounce #7.5 shot 900 fps loads and ran the full test again.

Cylinder had the Popper and 6-inch plate falling to 20 yards and the Whirly at 15 yards.

Improved Cylinder provided no improvement.

Light Modified sacked the Popper and Plate out to 25 yards and was OK but not great on the Whirly at 20.

Modified showed the Popper the way down to 30 yards, and the 6-inch plate at 25 yards, and was solid on the

Whirly at 20.

Improved Modified put the Popper away at 35 yards, the 6-inch plate fell well at 30 and the Whirly gave up its plates, albeit reluctantly, to 25.

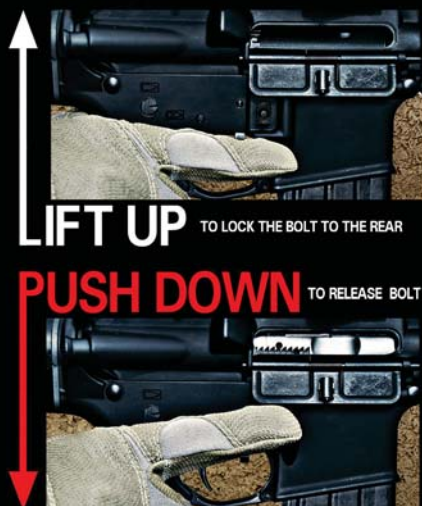
There is a lot to like about these subsonic loads. They are easy on the shoulder, create less muzzle rise and very close in performance to the 3-Gun “standard” (1 1/8 @ 1,200) loads. While I don’t think many self-loading shotguns will run them reliably, the pumpgunner in me loves them!

NICE SPREAD

With rifle and pistol we are firing a single projectile no larger than half an inch in diameter. Our aiming error is limited to the size of the target plus half the diameter of the bullet. It works the same way for shotgun but our projectile is much bigger! These power tools are effectively sending a 10- to 20-inch flying “Lead Net” downrange. The idea is to select a choke and a load that will effectively put the target down with something less than the center of the pattern. This greater margin of error allows you to shoot faster, knocking down steel and breaking clays with your sights off the target! The

reason we use a pellet-spreader is to use that pellet spread!

You know I love to shoot fast. I mean who doesn’t like the feeling (and the sound) of blowing steel into the weeds. Or finishing up a “strafing run” across a set of stationary clays, each one giving up in a cloud of smoke! So go ahead, let-the-choke-out and you just might find that the shotgun is the most fun gun in the game!



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HOW TO UPSET



**YOUR
MOM**

**AND MAKE HER PROUD
AT THE SAME TIME**

Written by Chad Adams

LENA MICULEK WINS 3GN LADY CHAMPIONSHIP \$5,000 FROM HORNADY

LAS VEGAS – The 3GN Ladies Championship turned out to be a family affair—just another day on the range like down on Louisiana’s famous Shootout Lane.

Lena Miculek defeated Kay Miculek in the finals of the 3GN Lady Shoot-Off, the daughter topping her mother, and defending champ, to become the 2012-2013 3GN Lady Champion, winning \$5,000 from Hornady. The event was part of the NRA Sports Rumble on the Range, presented by Brownells.

The Miculeks are, of course, the first family of competitive shooting. Jerry, the most famous, is arguably the greatest all around shooter to ever live. His wife, Kay, has been equally as dominant over her career in practical pistol and 3-gun. Kay, a Clark by birth, is of the Jim Clark shooting tree. Her father, Jim, Sr., was a Bullseye champion and gunsmith, while Jim, Jr., is one of the original 3-gunners, a five-time winner of the famed Soldier of Fortune Match. Clark sons Logan and Jec are champion shooters in their own right. So on this night, it was the newest prodigy versus the matriarch, the continuing legacy of the Clark-Miculek competitive shooting dynasty.

The 17-year-old Lena, in only her first year of competitive 3-gun, qualified for the Shoot-Off as the number four seed, drawing the fastest rising female in the sport over the last two years, fellow junior shooter Katie Harris. In a competitive bout, Lena was solid with the rifle and outlasted Harris to the stop plate, pulling off the upset.

“It was awesome,” Lena said. “Katie is an amazing shooter, and I was excited to even be in the Shoot-Off, much less beat the current (USPSA) Nationals 3-Gun Champion. The win is only as good as the person you beat—in this case I beat the best.”

“Once Lena got past Katie, I couldn’t lose no matter what the outcome of my bout with Di!,” Kay said. “Lena was shooting some phenomenal times in practice, especially with the long guns. I knew going into the Shoot-Off that





she was perfectly capable of hanging with Katie. This time around Lena came out on top. I look forward to watching many more battles between these two young ladies for years to come.”


Kay, meanwhile, entering the tournament as the number two seed, drew third-seeded Dianna Liedorff from Team FNH USA, who Kay beat in the finals last season to claim the inaugural 3GN Lady Championship. And just

like last season, it was Kay that was able to capitalize on a Liedorff mistake in order to pick up the win.

“Di keeps coming up with and new and inventive ways to let me beat her,” Kay said. “Last year she was winning the bout, but faulted by downing the stop plate with one handgun target still standing. This year she loaded her tube but failed to chamber a round in her shotgun. Once she got her shotgun loaded she







**ALL I NEEDED TO DO TO BEAT HER
WAS TO HAVE A GOOD
RUN LIKE THE ONES
I WAS HAVING IN PRACTICE
AND ALSO MAKE SURE I GOT
TO HANDGUN
BEFORE HER!**

shot a beautiful run and very nearly caught up to me. Di will be a force to be reckoned with next year, as I'm sure she will be back with a vengeance."

As Kay knocked down the stop plate and advanced to the final, Lena, who only moments before rode the wave of emotion of her own win, now celebrated her mom's victory over Liedorff.

"Very! (excited)," said Lena, of her reaction to Kay's win. "Because that meant that it would be an all-Miculek final. And also it was really relaxing for me because it also meant that it would be just like it was at home. It really changed the whole mood of the Shoot-Off from being pretty stressful to just having fun!"

With the finals set, the two Miculek women staged their guns, targets were readied, and they were all smiles as they shared a hug at the start box. Then predictably, each lady turned serious. At the start the younger Lena was a touch quicker to the shotgun, as each competitor ran their array in short order. Then the game changed dramatically when Lena picked up her rifle and rattled off one of the most impressive plate racks of the night—women or men.

"I knew all I needed to do to beat her was to have a good run like the ones I was having in practice," Lena said. "And also make sure I got to handgun before her!"

Lena enjoyed a big lead going into pistol, one she would need against Kay, who desperately tried to run Lena down with the pistol. But ultimately Lena had built a lead she would not give up, as she held off her mom, finished her pistol array and was first to the stop plate.



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“You’re darn right I wanted to beat her,” Kay said. “I knew Lena was going to have the lead after the long guns. My plan was to shoot clean with the shotgun and rifle so that I wouldn’t be drastically behind, then run her down on the handgun. Evidently Lena’s plan was to thrash her mom with all three guns. Lena’s plan worked far better than mine. Her run was beautiful. I’ve been beaten by some of the best shooter’s in the world. I’m very proud to add my daughter to that list.”

Also added to the list, another championship that will now reside alongside so many others back home in Louisiana—the latest, by the youngest of the famous shooting clan. One that probably won’t be the last title to fall to the hands of the young Lena Miculek.

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BECKER CAPS 3GN SER CHAMPION



Written by Chad Adams

SEASON WITH
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SOUTH AFRICAN NATIVE WINS \$5,000 FROM DOUBLESTAR CORPORATION

LAS VEGAS—It's the little things that get ya. On three consecutive runs, shotgun problems—the supposed easiest of the three arrays in this Shoot-Off—played a deciding role in each match-up, and in the end, the winner was the competitor who shot the cleanest of them all.

Warren Becker defeated U.S. AMU's Joel Turner in the finals of the 3-Gun Nation Semi-Pro Championship Shoot-Off here Jan. 16, claiming the inaugural title of 3GN Semi-Pro Champion and winning \$5,000 from DoubleStar Corporation. The event was part of the NRA Sports Rumble on the Range, presented by Brownells, the second annual 3GN Championship event held during SHOT Show.

"I had said to myself beforehand that all I had to do is my best," Becker said. "I had put in training time and was confident with my skill set, but no matter how much training you put in, you need to mentally keep it together on the day. All that was going through my mind was that I was going to call every shot and if I get beaten by a better shooter on the day, I would be perfectly happy with my performance."

Becker entered the Shoot-Off as the division overall points leader, earning



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the number one seed and winning a Stag Arms 3G Competition rifle for his efforts which were highlighted by a win at MGM Ironman and Northwest Multigun. His first-round opponent, Detroit native Rick Birdsall, was the Indiana Multigun Limited Champion and his second place finish in Tactical Iron at Blue Ridge Mountain 3-Gun helped earn him the number four seed in the tournament.

At the start, the two reached the shotgun positions in step; however, Birdsall faltered first when a couple of shotgun misses required him to execute a port load, costing precious time. That miscue helped Becker build a strong lead out of the shotgun array, one he increased with strong rifle shooting, building a four-plate lead heading into the final pistol array.

But Birdsall hung tough, and when Becker struggled to find the stop plate on successive shots, the gap did shrink considerably. But Becker's lead proved too large as he was first to the stop plate to advance to the finals.

In the opposing first round match-up, Kyle O'Glee, who earned a Tactical Iron victory at Midwest 3-Gun on his

way to a number two seed, squared off against U.S. AMU's Joel Turner, the newest AMU team member, a four-time combat deployment veteran as an Army Ranger. Turner earned the three seed in his first season of competitive 3-gun.

At the horn, the two competitors reached the shotgun arrays in step, but the bout turned when after his third shot, Kyle O'Glee's shotgun jammed, costing him roughly 3.5 seconds to clear it. The malfunction translated to a four-plate lead for Turner on the rifle rack by the time O'Glee reached the second position. From there, Turner remained smooth and cruised through his pistol array to the stop plate to advance to the finals.

With a massive crowd and in front of television cameras, it was clear some of the competitors were fighting their nerves. A very fast course of fire left little room for error for those hoping to advance.

"I am glad that I was not the only one that felt like a deer in the headlights," Becker said. "It was a very overwhelming experience, and I would be lying if I



said that I was not a bit nervous. I tried to go with the flow and take in as much of it as I could.” At this point, taking it in meant feeling the eyes and hearing the cheers of a crowd of more than a thousand spectators. Add in television cameras in every direction, not to mention several photographers from the firearm industry press, and the Rumble on the Range was a scene very different from the average 3-gun match.

But with the stage reset Becker and Turner stepped to the line for their title run. Yet it would be the shotgun, once again, that turned the bout. At the horn, the competitors reached the shotgun arrays evenly, but Turner had a major problem getting his shotgun to function, attempting to fire before racking out what appeared to be a live round. When he finally broke his first shot, Becker was already well on his way to the rifle position.

Then Becker laid down a measured, accurate rifle run, and though Turner gave good chase, the lead was now too much to overcome. Becker cruised through the pistol, was first to



the stop plate, and claimed the inaugural 3GN Semi-Pro Division Championship.

“This is definitely the highlight of my shooting accomplishments,” said Becker, who shot IPSC production pistol in his native South Africa before moving to the U.S. “It has been a dream of mine to be able to compete on the 3-gun circuit and to be able to get to the final Shoot-Offs and win is the icing on the cake.”

As such, Becker becomes 3-Gun Nation’s first international champion, and his route to a 3GN title is obviously different than most. Formally of the South African State Conservation Agency, where he worked in the Law Enforcement firearms training division, Becker met his future wife on a game reserve while she was finishing her PHD there. They now reside in Washington, where Becker is a resident and applying for U.S. citizenship. He does seasonal work as a

biologist for the Washington State Department of Game & Fish, where his wife is a research scientist.

In Washington, among others, Becker found a couple of shooting buddies in 3GN Pro Series competitors Patrick Kelley and Carl Carbon—both of which qualified for this year’s Rumble on the Range! And like all shooters, the entire story completes itself in Becker’s take on the moment, competing with the other top Semi-Pro competitors at this year’s Championship, alongside the Pro Series’ best.

“Winning the final run will definitely be a memorable moment, but that was a bonus,” Becker said. “The thing that I will remember the most was meeting and shooting amongst the best 3-gun shooters in the world—it was a very humbling experience. The three other Semi-Pro shooters—Rick, Joel and Kyle—are great guys and we got along really well. Rick said before the Shoot-Off ‘one of us is going to be smiling this evening,’ and I am very fortunate that it was me.”



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Written by Chad Adams



Entering the 2013 Rumble on the Range, Keith Garcia had proven he was the toughest 3-gun shoot-off competitor yet to win a 3GN Championship. The statistics just don't lie. Aside from Daniel Horner, no other competitor had the type of winning percentage as did Garcia. If he gets in a 3GN Shoot-Off, he wins it—as he did in 2010 and 2011 at 3GN Tour events.

The 3GN Championship has been a different story though. And to win 3-gun's biggest crown this year would prove more difficult than ever before—Garcia would have to navigate a minefield of top 3-gunners, as the 28 best the Pro Series had to offer all converged on Vegas with one goal in their sights—a 3-Gun Nation Championship.

But that's just what Garcia would do.

Garcia defeated SureFire's Barry Dueck two bouts to none in a finals showdown to claim

the 2012-2013 3-Gun Nation Championship, winning \$50,000 from Leupold Tactical Optics and NRA Sports. Before a crowd of more than a thousand spectators from the firearm industry's SHOT Show, on the sport's biggest stage, Garcia was simply on fire throughout two sessions of competition—a full day of nail-biting, gut-wrenching 3GN Shoot-Off madness.

“I was on a mission to get to the finals this year,” Garcia said. “It was a very talented field. I'm proud of the effort. It took everything I had to beat these guys.”

While Garcia excels in the format, the 3GN Championship has not been so kind the past two seasons. Last year, 16 competitors qualified for the Shoot-Off bracket at the 3GN Championship in West Virginia, but Garcia missed the cut. In 2010, Garcia suffered a tough first-round defeat in the inaugural 3GN Championship Shoot-Off.



ARRIVING AT THE RANGE ON WEDNESDAY THE ATMOSPHERE WAS INTENSE

“In 2010 we shot the four-stage match in the heat and wind, and it was a long day,” Garcia said. “By the time we got around to the Shoot-Off I was very tired and mentally I did not have my normal focus. I was beat by Barry Dueck—I swore that day to have my revenge!”

This year’s Rumble on the Range upped the ante considerably, as 28 Pro Series competitors entered the seeded, bracketed tournament. The first two rounds saw best-out-of-three match-ups; four competitors—Daniel Horner, Taran Butler, Keith Garcia, and Greg Jordan—earned first-round byes with their Pro Series Score.

Jesse Tischauser, Adam Popplewell, Patrick Kelley, Rustin Bernskoetter, Michael Voigt, Tyler Payne, James Casanova, West Chandler, Clint Upchurch and Burton Thompson all defended their seeding and picked up first-round wins. Tony Holmes, a 21 seed, knocked off 12th-seeded Matt Burkett. But the shocker of the first round, which went to a tie-breaking third bout, was undoubtedly ninth-seeded Barry Dueck over Jerry Miculek, the ninth seed in the tournament.

“The Shoot-Off started and I didn’t get word that the order had changed until I was staging my guns and

looked over and saw the legend himself, Jerry Miculek, on the other end,” Dueck said. “We ran our first run and I tried to shoot fast—I was shooting against Miculek after all. I lost the first run. When I restaged my guns for run two I told myself to focus on the fundamentals. Only fire when I see what I need to see to make the shot. Forget about speed; just do what you train to do. I won the next two runs. I was in my zone. I had no thought going through my mind other than my performance. It didn’t matter who I was shooting against, I was only thinking about what I was doing. The other competitor was not a factor.”

Second-round action featured wins by Horner, Jordan, Bernskoetter, Butler, Garcia and Thompson, top seeds all advancing; meanwhile tenth-seeded Payne knocked off seventh-seeded Casanova. In all, the first two rounds nearly four hours to complete—a stressful and tenuous day for the competitors.

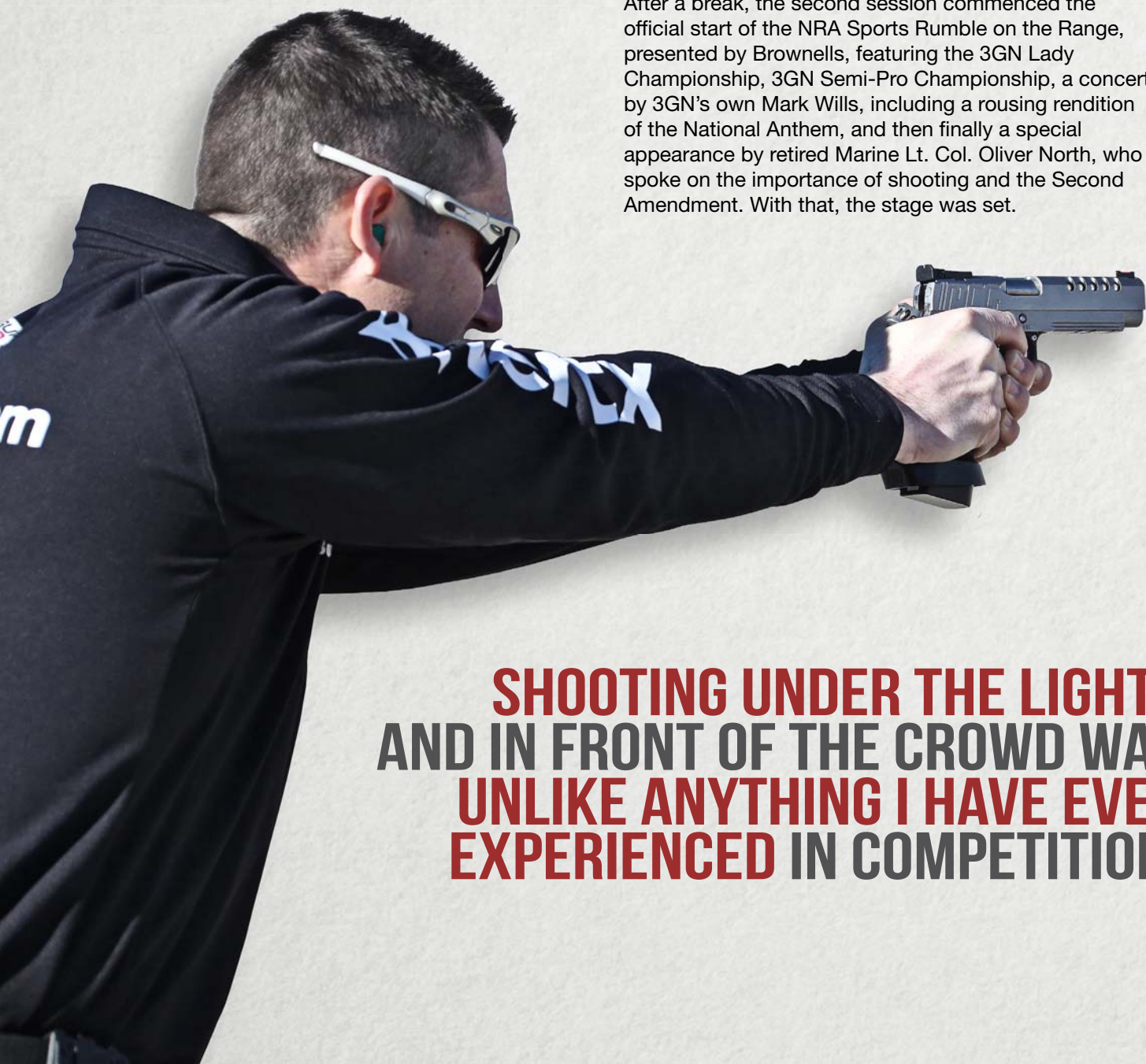
“Arriving at the range on Wednesday, the atmosphere was intense,” Jordan said. “This was the ‘Big Money,’ the day we have all trained so hard all year to get to. For me the early round was the worst. I had watched the entire first round, seeing good runs and bad. The pressure was building as we neared the second round

and I knew I was going to face Pat Kelley. Pat is a fierce competitor and I knew that he was now warmed up after three tough runs against Travis. Walking to the line against Pat I felt the most pressure I have ever felt in a match! All the hours of training had come down to this moment. I had to win to move on. The fact that Shoot-Offs are so unforgiving, you can never guarantee an outcome.”

For Garcia, the last of the four shooters with a first-round bye to see action, the second-round match-up was long overdue.

“I waited four hours for my first match and was ready to shoot,” Garcia said. “I had certain things I wanted to get done and moving to the top eight was first on my list. Once I beat West and knew I was in the final, it totally relaxed me. I left the range and ate some dinner. My wife and I discussed how things would happen in the finals. When I got back to the range I felt no stress and I knew I would not make any mistakes. If someone was going to beat me they would have to shoot very well.” While Garcia was expected to advance, the talk of the first session of competition centered on Barry Dueck. After his upset of Miculek, Dueck remained a giant killer, as the 24-seed took down Popplewell, an 8 seed, to advance to the quarterfinals.

After a break, the second session commenced the official start of the NRA Sports Rumble on the Range, presented by Brownells, featuring the 3GN Lady Championship, 3GN Semi-Pro Championship, a concert by 3GN’s own Mark Wills, including a rousing rendition of the National Anthem, and then finally a special appearance by retired Marine Lt. Col. Oliver North, who spoke on the importance of shooting and the Second Amendment. With that, the stage was set.



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“When Oliver North took the microphone and addressed the crowd I started feeling like it was a special night,” Garcia said. “Most of the top seeds had made it to the top eight and it looked like a great match with a big crowd building. I told my wife that everyone in the finals had a chance to win. Everyone was shooting well and it would come down to who blinked first.”

With the crowd now swelled beyond capacity, an absolute stacked Final 8 assembled to settle the matter. Seeds 1-6—Horner, Butler, Garcia, Jordan, Bernskoetter, and Thompson—were all still alive. The 10th seeded Tyler Payne was clearly as good as anyone still playing. And who could argue that Barry Dueck was not laying down fire in the early session, besting Miculek

and Popplewell through three bouts each.

But in the round of eight Dueck would face the ultimate test in the sport’s most dominant competitor and all-time 3GN money leader, the top-seeded Horner. At the horn, the two were fairly even through shotgun array, and Dueck kept it close through rifle. Horner maintained a slight lead through the pistol plates, transitioned to the stop plate and missed. As Horner struggled to find the stop plate, Dueck hit his last two pistol plates, transitioned to the stop plate, hitting it just before Horner’s for a dramatic upset win.

The next match-up featured two of the young guns many had penciled on their watch list for this year’s



title. The fourth-seeded Greg Jordan, who won his first 3GN Shoot-Off earlier this year following the ARFCOM-Rockcastle Pro-Am, versus Rustin Bernskoetter, who won his first major match this season. In a tight bout, Jordan pulled ahead on the rifle, maintained the slight lead through pistol, and was first to the stop plate to advance.

“Even though I was in the Final 8 Shoot-Off last year, this year was truly surreal,” Bernskoetter said. “All of us had battled it out just a few hours earlier that day to earn our exclusive spots. From Mark Wills singing to Col. Oliver North giving an intro, it was an experience I will always remember.”

Midway through the round of eight, one fact was becoming clear—these competitors were on their game. The match-up between Butler and Payne further reinforced that point as each competitor went shot-for-

shot, plate-for-plate through the arrays. Butler was first to the stop plate to advance, while Payne turned in a run that would have beaten nearly every other in the early session. The bar had been officially raised.

And nowhere was that more evident in the final match-up of the quarterfinal round, Garcia versus Thompson. Shot-for-shot through shotgun, on to the rifle, plate-for-plate again they went. Finally, on the last plate of the rifle rack, Thompson flinched first, and hung up for an extra shot, as Garcia pulled a slight one-plate lead. But that was all the cushion he would need. The competitors tore through the pistol plates, as Garcia just outlasted Thompson to the stop plate to advance. The crowd erupted in sound at the tight finish.

“Shooting under the lights and in front of the crowd was unlike anything I have ever experienced in competition,” Thompson said. “You could feel the energy and



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anticipation in the air. The whole season had finally come down to this one incredible moment."

"Having a crowd gets my adrenaline pumping and makes me focus even more than normal," Garcia said. "I like the format and challenge of facing off against another shooter—it brings out the best in me." The final four were set: Dueck vs. Jordan; Garcia vs. Butler—winners guaranteed huge cash payouts—the intensity level was about to ratchet up once again.

In the first semi-final match-up Dueck and Jordan burst out of the start box at the horn. The younger Jordan was quicker, pulling a slight lead heading into rifle. There Dueck continued his red-hot rifle shooting, as the pace from both shooters was intense. Now even going into the final pistol array, the run would come down to the final shots, the most exciting finish of the night.

"As I finished shooting my array and swung back to the left to engage the stop plate, I remember the sights being blurry and I broke the shot anyway," Jordan said. This resulted in a miss and a follow-up shot that hit the plate the exact same time as Barry's shot. I remember watching the plates fall together and turning to ask the R.O. who won. Once the smoke cleared it was evident that Barry's plate was on the bottom." Yet another remarkable finish on Dueck's wild ride through the 3GN Tournament—Dueck's run included wins over a nine, eight, one and four seed, before squaring off against the three seed in the finals.

Even more impressive were their names—Miculek, Popplewell, Horner, Jordan and Garcia.
"Every shooter invited to the 3-Gun Nation



Rumble at the Range has the skill to walk away with the prize,” Dueck said. “But the list of shooters I pulled for the night was like the list of everyone you want on your team in a team event, but the toughest shooters you’ll ever be matched up against one-on-one.”

With Dueck now in the finals, the opposing semi-final match-up loomed large—Garcia versus Butler, the

winner, like Dueck, assured of at least a \$10,000 prize from SureFire, and a shot at the title. It was Butler that was one shot faster through the shotgun array, while Garcia was cleaner through the rifle, making it a dead heat going into the pistol position. Both competitors fiercely hammered through the pistol array, until Butler hung up on his last plate, and Garcia didn’t. With Butler’s one plate standing, Garcia knocked over his stop plate





to advance to the finals.

“Burton and Taran both took me to the wire,” Garcia said. “Each was shooting very well, and I needed to perform well. Taran and I got to the pistol at the same time and I had a make-up shot on the third target. I did my best shooting of the match for the last eight targets, hitting the stop plate just before Taran.”

Before the finals, Butler and Jordan stepped to the line once more for the honor of third place. Jordan was solid throughout and was first to the stop plate, taking third place for the tournament and winning \$5,000 from Timney Triggers.

“After such a close loss, I now had to face Taran

for the battle for third place,” Jordan said. “This requires a shooter to immediately forget the prior round and move on. If you let the last round haunt you then you are doomed. Again, I felt no pressure stepping to the line. I just concentrated on being smooth and finishing strong.”

Ultimately though, the night belonged to Garcia, who showed fierce determination and focus, especially in the final round when the competitors switched over to sponsor gear, an FN SCAR 16, fitted with Leupold Tactical Optics scope and SureFire suppressor, SLP shotgun and FNS-9 pistol.

After an initial sighting in period with Federal Premium Ammunition products, Garcia cruised to the win in straight bouts, winning his first 3GN Championship.



**IN THE ROUND OF 8, DUECK WOULD
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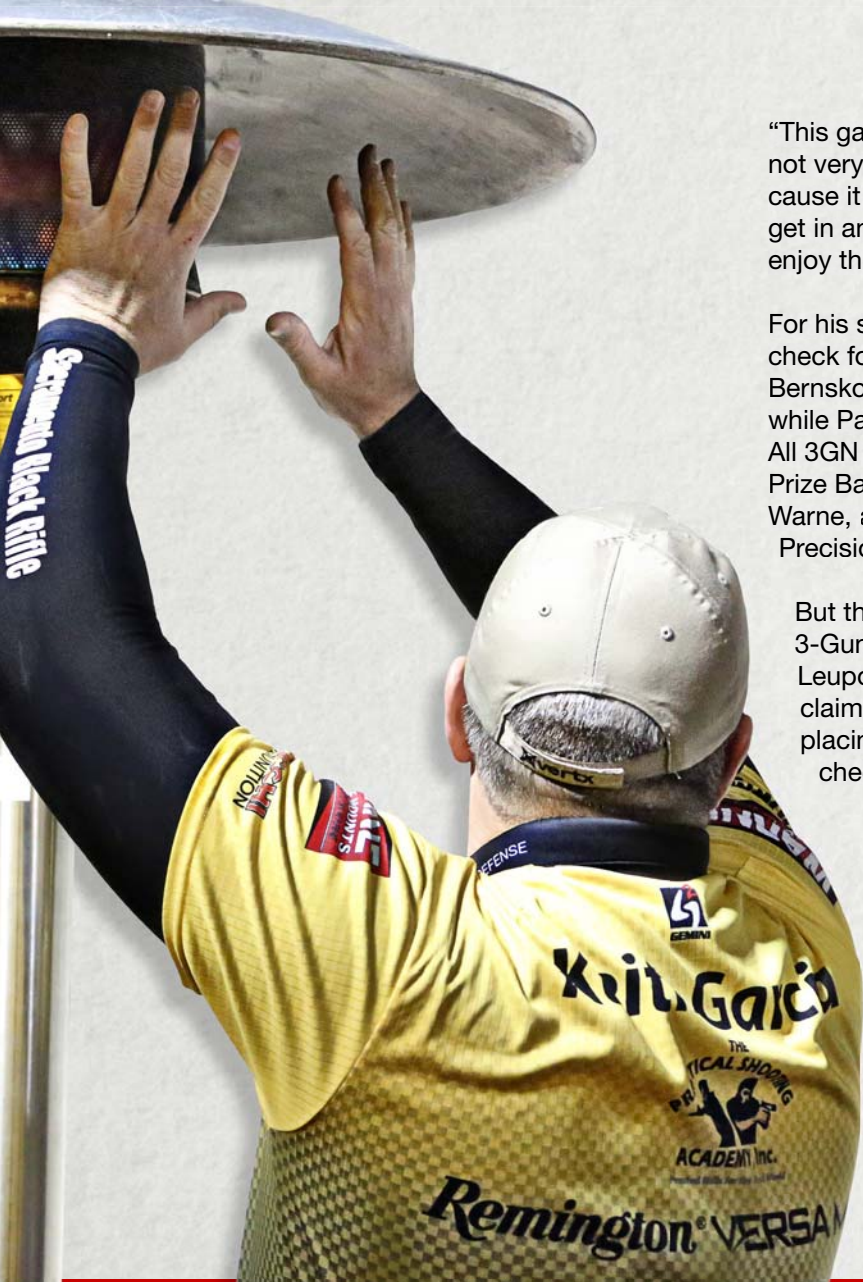


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“This game is all mental,” Garcia said. “The shooting is not very hard, shooters place stress on themselves and cause it to be much harder than it really is. I don’t try to get in anyone’s head, I just try to keep loose, relax and enjoy the ride.”

For his second place finish, Barry Dueck earned a check for \$10,000 from SureFire. Butler, Horner and Bernskoetter each picked up a Colt Competition Rifle, while Payne and Thompson each won a DoubleStar 3GR. All 3GN Championship competitors took home a 3GN Prize Bag, featuring gift certificates from Brownells and Warne, as well as products from Hogue and Seekins Precision.

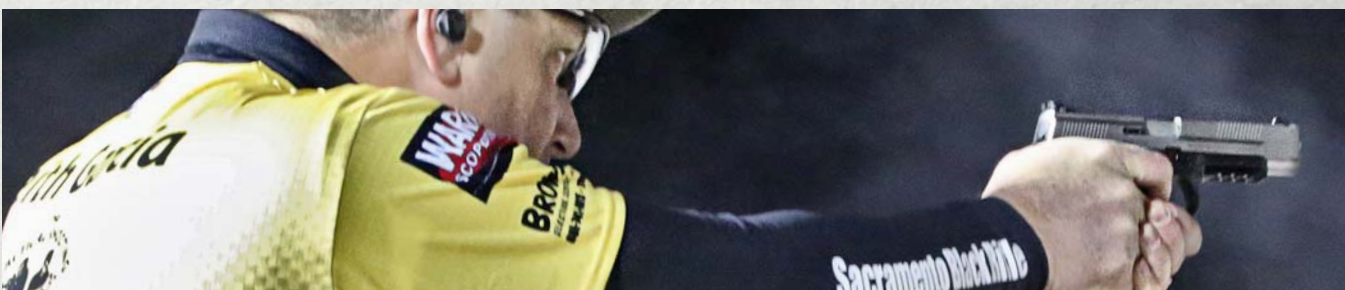
But the big prize, of course, went to the 2012-2013 3-Gun Nation Champion, Keith Garcia—\$50,000 from Leupold Tactical Optics and NRA Sports. Garcia also claimed the Vertx Contingency Award for the highest placing active duty military or law enforcement—a check for \$5,000.

“This season was by far my best to date,” Garcia said. “Winning the 3GN Championship really capped off the year in style. The best part of the whole deal is that for the first time ever my two daughters think I’m cool!”

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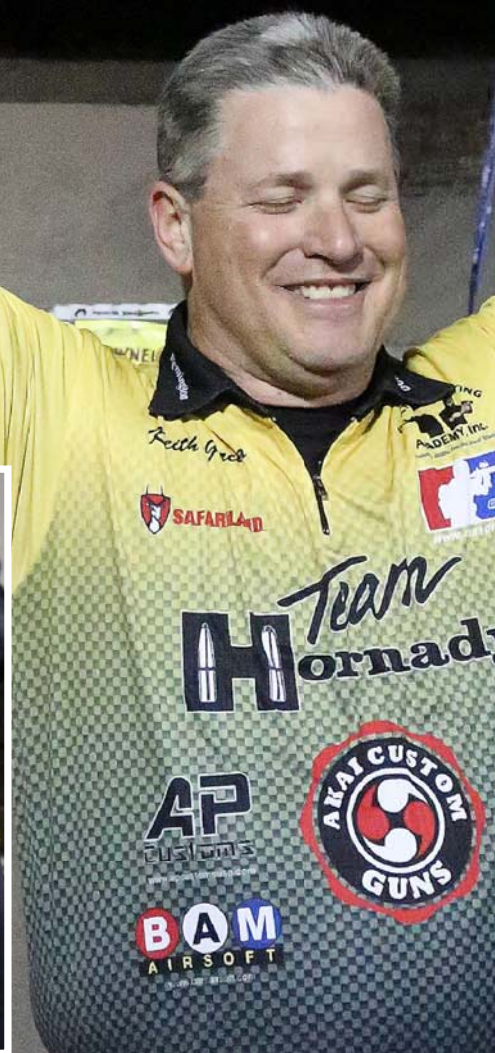
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AND IT WOULD COME DOWN TO
WHO BLINKED FIRST



000
N CHAMPION



THE BEST PART OF THE WHOLE DEAL
IS THAT FOR THE
FIRST TIME EVER
MY TWO DAUGHTERS
THINK I'M COOL!



KEITH G. JORDAN

2013 3-GUN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

RUN ON THE RANGE



GARCIA

ATION CHAMPION

**IBLE
NGE!**

K. GARCIA



T. BUTLER 2

T. BUTLER

M. VOIGT

M. HANISH 16

M. VOIGT 19

T. BUTLER

T. PAYNE 11

T. PAYNE

T. PAYNE

A. DAUN 24

J. CASANOVA

J. CASANOVA 8

S. WIGGINS 27

K. GARCIA 3

K. GARCIA

W. CHANDLER

W. CHANDLER 15

C. ANDERSEN 20

K. GARCIA

C. UPCHURCH 12

B. THOMPSON

C. UPCHURCH

J. TIELKE 23

B. THOMPSON

B. THOMPSON 7

J. PARKER 28



THANK YOU

TO THE VOLUNTEERS THAT MADE RUMBLE ON THE RANGE POSSIBLE

Nikki Brown
 Tennille Gibson-Chidester
 Joe Debergalis
 Mike Harris
 YT Lechner
 Valerie McCauley
 True Pearce
 EJ Redding

Pete Rensing
 Dave Seely
 Charles Sole
 Lisa Supernaugh
 Sarah Wood
 Nicholas Zachman
 Mark Ziebart

Cheaper Than Dirt Resumes Online Firearm Sales

FORT WORTH, Texas—Consumer reaction to the political rhetoric after the shooting in Connecticut caused a rush of online orders at Cheaper Than Dirt!, which led to the largest backlog in the company's history.

Cheaper Than Dirt! management had no choice but to suspend firearm sales while examining ways to meet customer demand and maintain the careful and lawful processes established.

Firearm sales require a significant amount of individual attention compared to the automated system for non-firearm products. Firearm orders were being placed faster than the inventory system could update, potentially leading to an overselling situation and cancellation of orders on a very large scale.

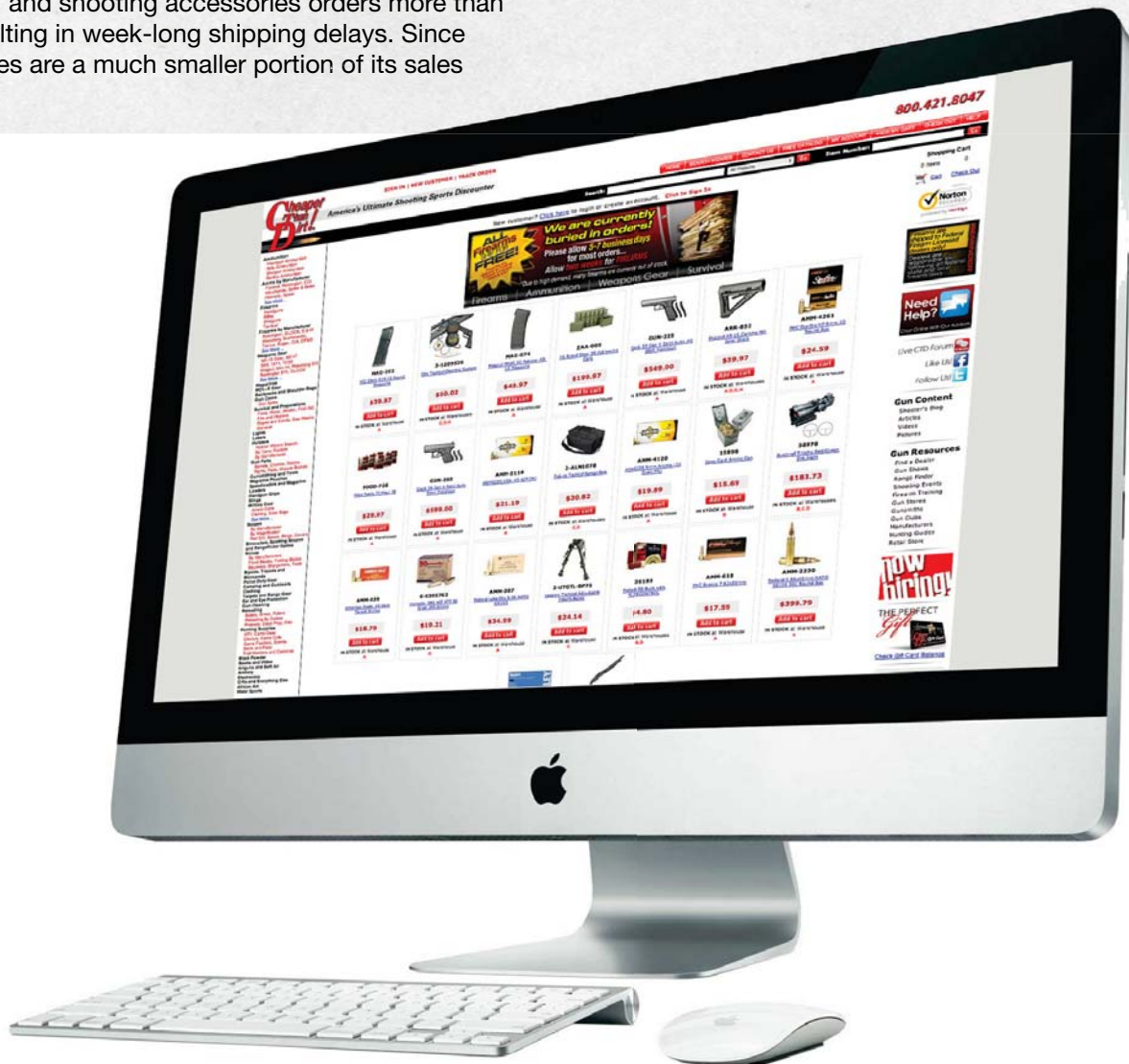
Ammunition and shooting accessories orders more than tripled, resulting in week-long shipping delays. Since firearms sales are a much smaller portion of its sales

and require more resources, the decision was made to utilize personnel in areas that would make the most impact servicing customers.

The past three weeks have been spent catching up on the tremendous backlog of orders, training additional staff and increasing inventory back to acceptable levels.

Firearm sales resumed on a limited basis beginning Tuesday, January 8, based on available inventory. The selection will increase as more firearms become available. Specifically, firearms that are in high demand are not currently available from manufacturers due to the lack of inventory. This includes most modern sporting rifles.

Cheaper Than Dirt!'s goal is to maintain the level of service customers have come to expect.





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PAY TO THE ORDER OF *Kuan Watson*

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1ST PLACE 3-GUN NATION HEAVY METAL DIVISION

Kuan Watson cruised to division wins in four 3GN partner matches in 2012, running away with the 2012 3GN Heavy Metal Division Championship. This year marked Watson's first season of shooting an expanded national 3-gun schedule of matches.

"Winning the 3GN Heavy Metal Championship is a milestone achievement to me; 2012 is the first year that I have been able to travel and compete in more than a couple of matches," Watson said. "... I have had the opportunity to chase after the undeniable King of Heavy Metal, Patrick Kelley, but he was absent from the division this season. My division championship tells me that I can be competitive and hold my own at any match that I attend."





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Jerry Miculek, who has won every title imaginable in practical shooting, claimed his first 3-Gun Nation award this year by winning the 3GN Open Division, with a prize of \$5,000 from Hornady. Miculek finished third in the division last season, a tightly fought three-way race between Miculek, Mike Voigt and eventual champion Clint Upchurch. But this year the race turned out to be all Miculek, as he posted four major 3GN Open wins in 2012.

“I’m shooting better than I ever have,” Miculek said. “I’m starting to get the feel for the tempo it takes to run a good match. It’s a pretty good feeling.”



Written by
Bruce Piatt

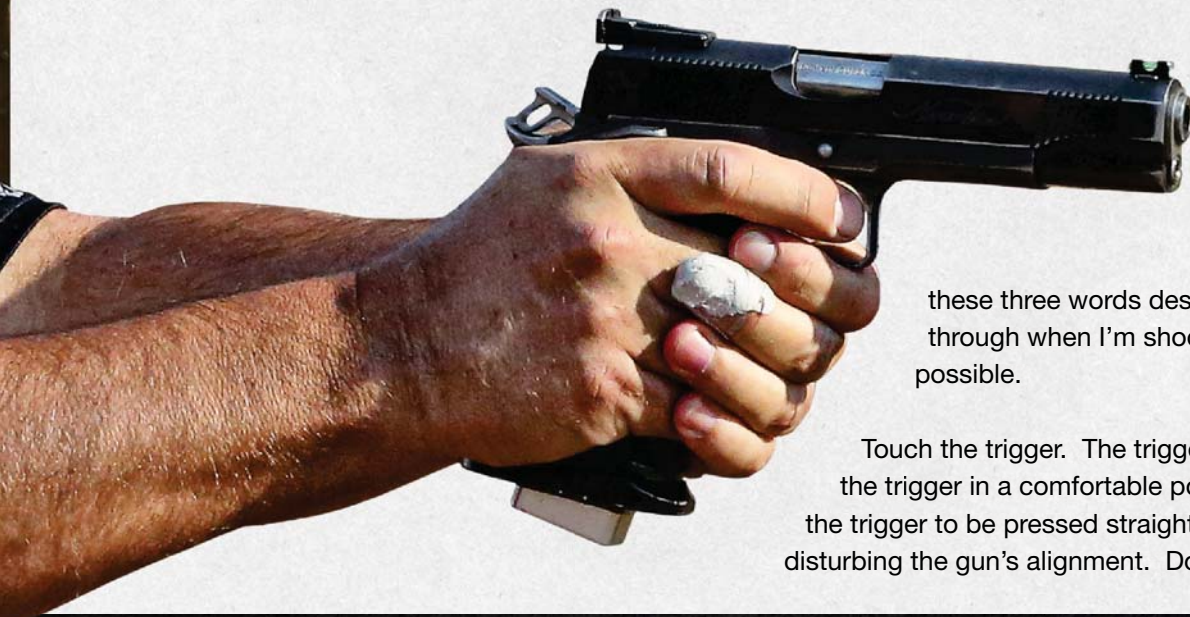
SQUEEZING ACCURACY

OUT OF YOUR 3-GUN PISTOL

From the very beginning of my shooting career, pistol accuracy has been my strong point. In the 80's and 90's I was active in IPSC/USPSA shooting. The combination of finishing many of the Nationals "clean," without penalties, combined with either winning or placing in the top three in the 50-yard standards, usually guaranteed my place in the Top 16 Shoot-off every year. The Masters International Pistol Championship held at PASA Park each year had us shooting 4" targets at 50 meters, one handed. Many of the SOF World 3-Gun Tactical Matches had tight pistol shots with severe penalties for misses or no-shoot hits. After winning five Bianchi Cups, a World Bianchi Cup and almost every Bianchi Cup Open/Metallic Aggregate title, it makes sense that people come to me for pistol shooting tips.

Reflecting on how I shoot my pistol accurately, I've come to learn that my success lies primarily in my ability to have good trigger control. How many times can you hear, from countless articles, videos, and coaches, the repetitive "Squeeze the trigger smoothly, straight to the back until the gun goes off"? As much as I want to tell you something you haven't heard, this is the golden rule of accurate shooting that can't be broken. Pistol or rifle, the facts don't change. If you want to shoot accurately, you have to squeeze the trigger correctly.

While I can show you first hand and allow you to feel my trigger press during my one on one lessons, I'll try to describe in this article how it's done and some of the other factors that you can work on at home to improve your pistol accuracy.



Touch Prep Squeeze

To put it in a nut shell, these three words describe the process I go through when I'm shooting as accurately as possible.

Touch the trigger. The trigger finger touches the trigger in a comfortable position that allows the trigger to be pressed straight to the rear, without disturbing the gun's alignment. Don't get stuck on the

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idea that you have to use the tip of the finger or the middle of the first pad. The exact placement depends entirely on your hand size, gun size, and trigger length.

Prep the trigger. This is where you put pressure on the trigger so that any slack or freeplay in the trigger is removed. If you have a good quality trigger where there is little to no movement, then the Prep phase should be placing pressure on the trigger about $\frac{3}{4}$ of the weight needed to make the gun fire.

Squeeze the trigger. This phase is the actual movement of the trigger just before it fires. Every trigger will have movement and it is your goal to feel every bit of that movement. Some people say “my trigger breaks like a glass rod,” implying that you can’t feel any movement. The laws of physics apply to every gun and every finger, if you can’t feel the sear tripping, then you should be focusing on the crushing of your finger on the face of the trigger. Either way, the finger will feel movement.

Besides the “Touch – Prep – Squeeze” process, there are many other factors that are at play when working on your accuracy. **Let’s just name a few, shall we?**

First we have movement:

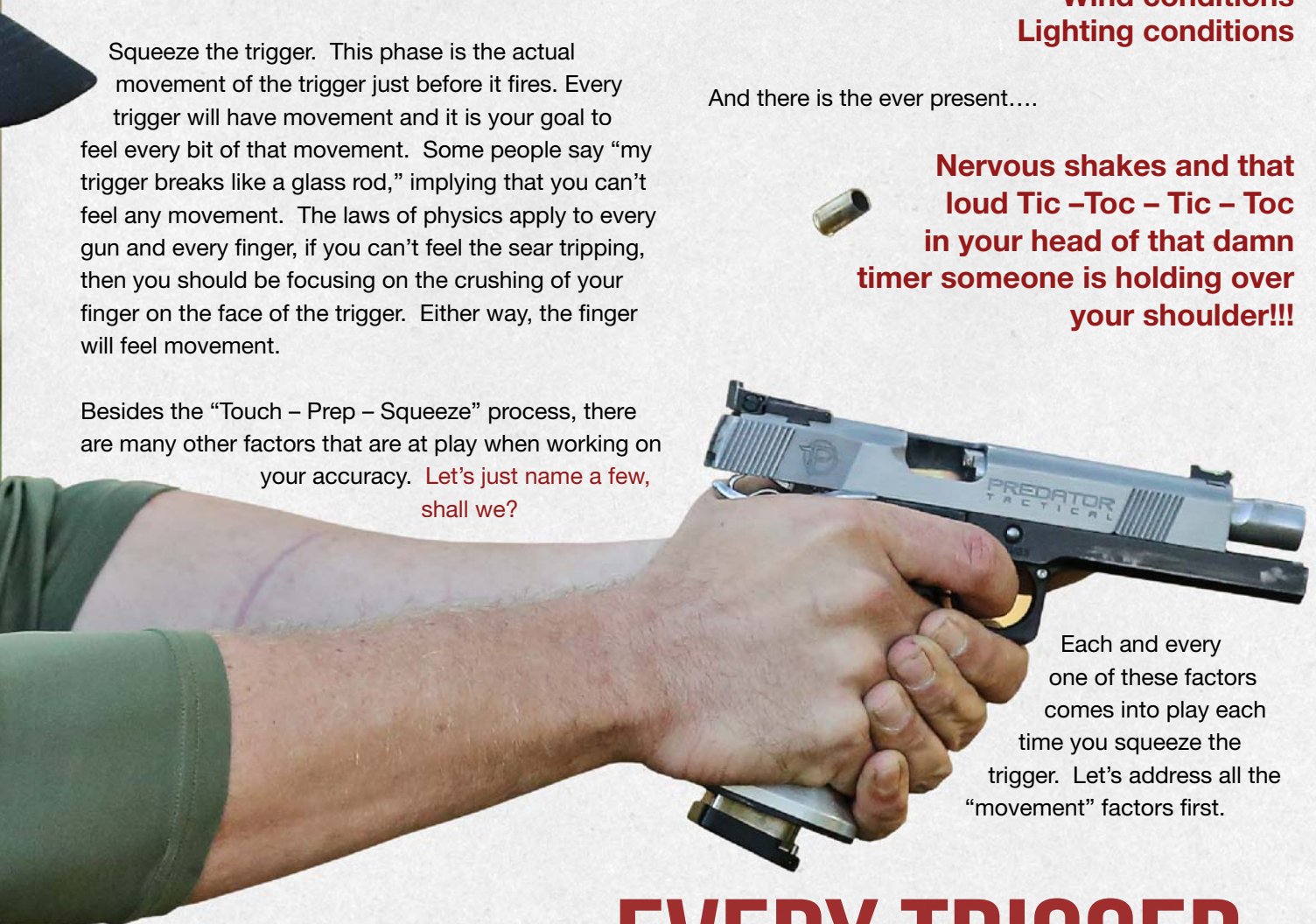
**Sight movement
Gun movement
Your body movement
Target movement**

Then we have:

**Wind conditions
Lighting conditions**

And there is the ever present....

**Nervous shakes and that
loud Tic – Toc – Tic – Toc
in your head of that damn
timer someone is holding over
your shoulder!!!**



Each and every one of these factors comes into play each time you squeeze the trigger. Let’s address all the “movement” factors first.

**EVERY TRIGGER
WILL HAVE MOVEMENT
AND IT IS YOUR GOAL
TO FEEL THAT MOVEMENT**

Unless you're shooting Benchrest, it's safe to say that **NOBODY** holds a gun perfectly still. You may see fleeting glimpse of a perfect sight picture but I'll guarantee that's all you're going to see... a glimpse. Now if you try to press that trigger at the same time you see a perfect sight picture... you are going to loose. I have a neat little demonstration during my classes I do with a laser attached to a pistol.

First I'll hold that laser dot dead center on a target with as little movement as I can muster and slap that trigger like I'm trying to time the perfect sight picture. The laser darts off that target and naturally, I have a miss. Then I'll make my hands shake like I just had 3 cups of coffee and a 20 oz. energy drink. I make that laser dot dance all over that target while I press the trigger correctly and low and behold, what to I have.... A good hit. The point being, movement happens to everyone... movement is to be expected, and movement is not as critical as many shooters believe.

Movement is often called your "wobble zone." The trick is to keep the wobble zone as small as possible while at the same time press the trigger correctly. Your wobble zone is on the target more than it's off the target. Have the courage to press the trigger and more than not, you'll make a good hit.

Let's address the issue of nerves and the pressure that comes to shooting under the clock. Timing comes into

play whether you are using a timer or just shooting at distance. Let's consider that a proper trigger squeeze takes a set amount of time. For a large, relatively close target, that time is going to be relatively short. The smaller we make that target or the further away it is, the time it takes to press that trigger correctly enough to make a hit will increase. Knowing how long that takes is entirely up to you. It depends on the quality of the gun's trigger, your ability to Touch - Prep - Press the trigger correctly, and your ability to be patient enough to wait until the trigger is pressed correctly, despite that incredible urge to shoot faster, as many of these shooting sports reward us to do.

The one thing I am absolutely certain of, when it comes to shooting accurately is this... The amount of homework you do, the hours of dry fire and the amount of rounds put down range is in direct correlation to the amount of success you will have on the range. These are the dues that have to be paid to be a good shooter.



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For a beginning shooter, I'll leave you with this thought. I've always said that it's better to be an accurate shooter that needs to learn to go faster, than a fast shooter that needs to learn accuracy.

Bad habits are hard to break. Learn the basics first, learn to shoot accurately and speed will come at a pace that you will be able to control. You'll thank me in the long run.

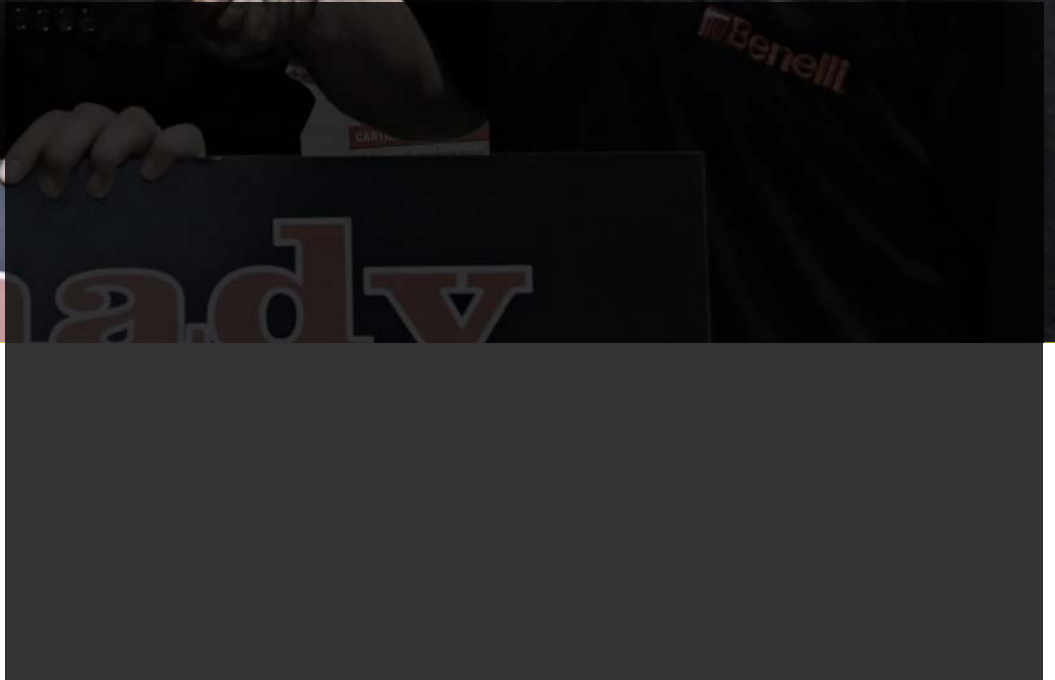


For the seasoned 3-gunner, spend some time on accuracy drills. Lay down and shoot groups from the prone, concentrating on

Touch – Prep –Press.

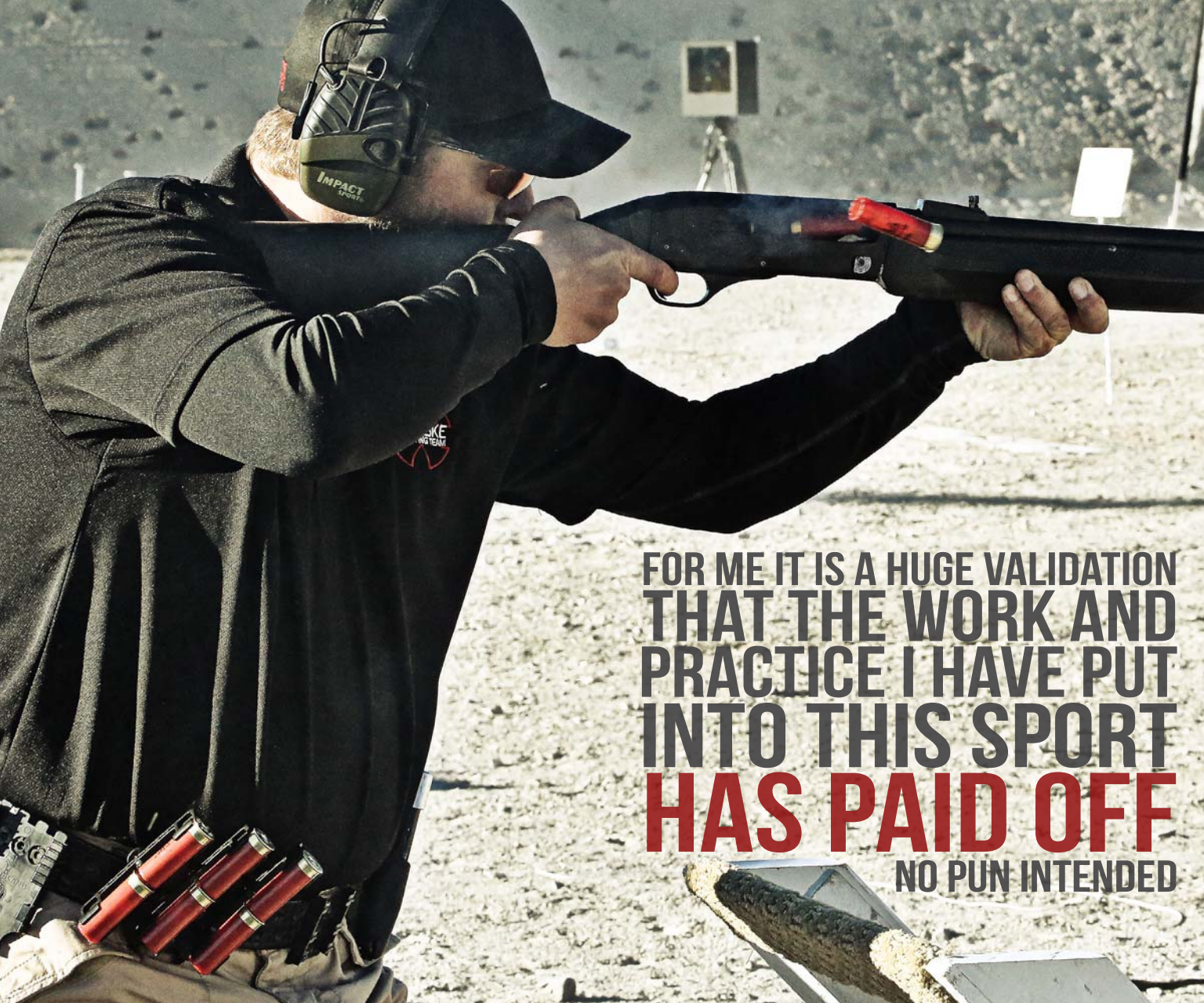
See how small of a group you can shoot. Then put yourself under a time limit and see how that affects your results.

I promise, this will be time well spent and you will soon reap the rewards at the prize table.



James Casanova posted three division wins at 3GN partner matches, including a head-to-head match-up with Kelly Neal at Fallen Brethren 3-Gun, to take the 2012 3GN Tactical Iron Division Championship. Casanova, a year removed from an incredible breakout season last year, followed up a stellar 2011 campaign with his first 3GN crown along with a top 10 finish on the elite 3GN Pro Series Tour.

“For me it is a huge validation that the work and practice I have put into this sport has paid off, no pun intended,” Casanova said. “The \$5K is great, thank you VERY much Hornady, but the accomplishment is even better.”



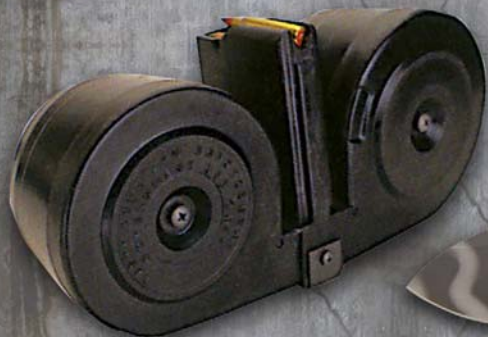
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Clackamas mall shooter faced man with concealed weapon

Nick Meli is emotionally drained. The 22-year-old was at Clackamas town Center with a friend and her baby when a masked man opened fire.

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Burglary suspect calls 911 after Springtown homeowner holds him at gunpoint

In a strange flip of events, a burglary suspect called 911 to report that he was being held at gunpoint by a Springtown homeowner and his son.

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Homeowner halts break-in, chases burglar from her home

Ocala police said a would-be intruder was no match for a homeowner Wednesday after the burglar was cussed at, chased and roughed up by the woman, who also alerted her neighbors by firing shots in the air.

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)



East Ridge home intruder stopped by armed residents

An East Ridge family catches an intruder in the act and held him for police. A 22-year-old Hixson man is behind bars after police say he repeatedly tried to force his way into a home.

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THE ONLY THING THAT STOPS A BAD GUY WITH A GUN
**IS A GOOD GUY
WITH A GUN**



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PERFECT PRACTICE

SMART, EFFICIENT TRAINING WILL BRING THE MOST OUT OF YOUR 3-GUN GAME



This issue of 3-Gun Nation Magazine is going to be filled to the brim with lots of great drills and training ideas from some of the best shooters in the game. When asked to contribute, I decided not to address any one specific drill or training routine, but instead talk about training efficiency and structure, and how it can help you be a better shooter while you put those ideas to work.

Virtually every element of shooting, loading, and manipulation of all three different firearm platforms is used in each match you shoot. The idea of preparing for all of it can be daunting, especially for a newer shooter or someone who finds themselves in a rut. Effective time management in practice is the key to success in a sport like this. Since most people have limited practice time available to them, getting the most bang for your buck at the range means you will have the most to show for it on match day. It can also mean a lot less impact on family time and work.

You will find that efficient practice is one of the biggest keys to success in 3-gun. Because this sport encompasses such a large variety of challenges, how you manage your time in practice can affect improvement just as much as the practice itself. Use this basic framework to structure your training time for maximum impact:

Get Organized

A shooter's training log or journal is an invaluable tool in a sport like 3-gun. I try to keep an ever-changing list of skills I want to improve, or elements that I need to practice in mine, as well as set drills and practice session times for comparison throughout the season. A season calendar allows me to plug in practice sessions and track progress leading up to each match. This log also travels with me to matches, and I make notes in it on the flight home about how things went, what caught me off guard, and which elements need to be improved. I recommend writing down as much information as possible in your training log, and refer to it frequently. This will help you stay focused on your improvement.

Set Goals

The first page of your training log should be an ever-changing list of all of your strengths and weaknesses. Then at

the bottom of that same page, write down five or six overall goals that you would like to accomplish for the upcoming season. I would recommend writing those goals on every page of your training log, so that you constantly reinforce the big picture. Always having them there will help you stay focused on them when you are planning practice sessions and tracking progress. Develop a practice priority list based on your strengths and weaknesses that specifically push you towards those goals.

Be Honest With Yourself

Everyone has a drill or element of their shooting that they dislike practicing. Typically, you hate that element because you are not very good at it. If you are honest with yourself you will realize that the biggest improvements are made if you move problem areas like that to the top of your practice priority list. Trips to the range to repeatedly do something that you are already good at, repeating a tired drill over and over can actually result in



backpedaling in terms of your match finishes and overall ability level.

Keep your list of strengths and weaknesses in your training log arranged in terms of skill level and priority throughout the season. I recommend compiling this list from three places. Your own personal experiences, match video review, and constructive criticism from skilled shooters. Multiple sources will help keep you

honest, and that honesty will keep training on track.

The skills that are most lacking should stay at the highest practice priority level, with the items you are best lowest. Items on the list will frequently change in level of priority throughout the season. This big picture approach will keep your overall skill level improving.

Make Every Shot Count

The more seriously you take practice, the better your results will be, period. Go to the range with a pre-determined plan and stay on track. Avoid just spraying rounds at a target if things go off track during a drill. Stop. Reset. And do it again correctly to avoid reinforcing negative techniques and mindset. Every shot you send downrange should be taken seriously,

performed with good fundamentals, and according to a plan. If you get off track, it is important to take a step back and figure out why it happened, so you can avoid it next time. That directly translates to the mindset you should have when you shoot a stage in a match, and ensures time well-spent in your practice session.

Accept Setbacks

Things won't always go your way. That is just the reality of this sport ... accept the fact that you will experience setbacks and will have to adjust for them. You are going to eventually make mistakes in your training methods that cost you positions in a match. Regular checkups with your established drills and match performance tracking will tell you what needs to change. If you keep your eyes on the ball though,



GO TO THE RANGE WITH A
PRE-DETERMINED PLAN
AND STAY ON TRACK



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you can make these adjustments and minimize the missteps, then correct them as quickly as possible when they do happen. This will ensure your big picture continues to improve.

Track Your Progress

Establish some basic skill drills to do on a fairly regular basis and write down completion times to set baselines and track progress. Regular check-ups in practice will make sure that you don't find out that a particular skill has slipped on the clock in a match. Also log match performances for comparison to make sure you aren't making the same mistakes over and over again. Training logs ensure that your skill level continues to move forward.

Prepare Properly

Depending on the part of the shooting season you are in, your practices will be different. You should tailor your range sessions to maximize success based on what is

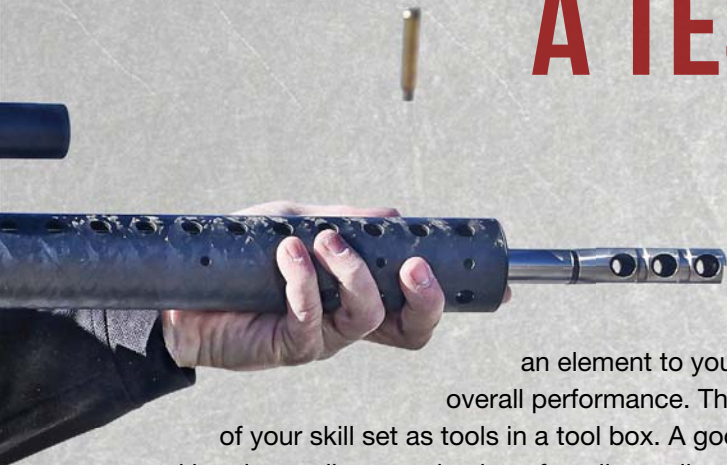
available. Typically during the 3-gun season, most of my time is spent preparing for specific challenges I expect to see at the next major match. Map out your season and take a long look at the time available to prepare for each match. Then take that available time and plug in the elements needed for that specific match into your practice schedule in order of priority.

Also, remember that the offseason is where the big improvements are made. Avoid the temptation to sit around. You will likely have more time to practice because there are fewer matches going on, and those who take advantage of it will reap the benefits when the season starts.

Stay Out of Ruts

Be sure you are prioritizing properly. Keep a close eye on the big picture, meaning your OVERALL skill level. Each small aspect of your abilities adds

CRAMMING RIGHT BEFORE A TEST NEVER WORKS



an element to your overall performance. Think of your skill set as tools in a tool box. A good tool box has a diverse selection of quality, well maintained tools in it. Continually keeping each one of those tools finely tuned means that skill set improves as a whole.

Know When to Quit

Some days things just don't go your way at the range. You've had a bad day at work, things are hectic at home, or you didn't get a good night's sleep, and you find yourself struggling to stay focused at practice when your mind is elsewhere. Sometimes it is better to simply walk away and come back another time. Improper technique or half hearted practice won't yield good results. Take the time you need to get your mind/body right and return for practice when you are there. Rest and relaxation can be just as important to match performance as sending rounds downrange.

Apply that same approach to match preparation. Cramming right before a test never works. Make sure that you allow time in the run-up to a match for rest and recovery so that you arrive fresh and ready to perform.

Have fun!

The science of improvement in sport has always fascinated me. I personally enjoy practicing, but not everyone does. Practice sessions can really be work, especially if you don't start see results right away. It is really no different than starting a

new diet or workout routine. That makes it important to inject elements in your practice that you enjoy to keep it fun and fresh. If you practice with a training partner, finish each session with a challenge you can compete at. If you are alone, pick the drill you enjoy most to end on. And don't be afraid to take a break if things are getting difficult and regroup later to make sure you stay on track. Remember, your big picture is not likely to improve if you are not having fun.

One of my favorite things about this sport is that it can be whatever you want it to be: Anything from an occasional local match for fun, to a season of competition against the best shooters in the world. The one constant at all levels, is that good performances yield more personal satisfaction. Regardless of whether that comes from a good finish at a local match or a stage win at a major. A structured, big picture approach to your practice sessions will ensure that you get there faster!

NEW FEBRUARY 2013 ISSUES

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**\$5,000 REALLY SOLIDIFIES ALL
THE GOOD THINGS I HAVE BEEN
TELLING SHOOTERS
ABOUT THE SERIES**



Stag Arms' Jesse Tischauer picked up division wins at three 3GN partner matches this season, edging out defending division champ Barry Dueck, to win the 2012 3GN Heavy Metal Optics Division.

"I have been a huge proponent of 3-Gun Nation from the start," Tischauer said. "So to come out and win a Division title and \$5,000 really solidifies all of the good things I have been telling shooters about the series. It means a lot to all of us to have great companies like Hornady putting up these big cash payouts. Five thousand dollars is the most money I have ever won, and I need every bit of it to pay for all of the extra guns and gear I had to buy for this division race."



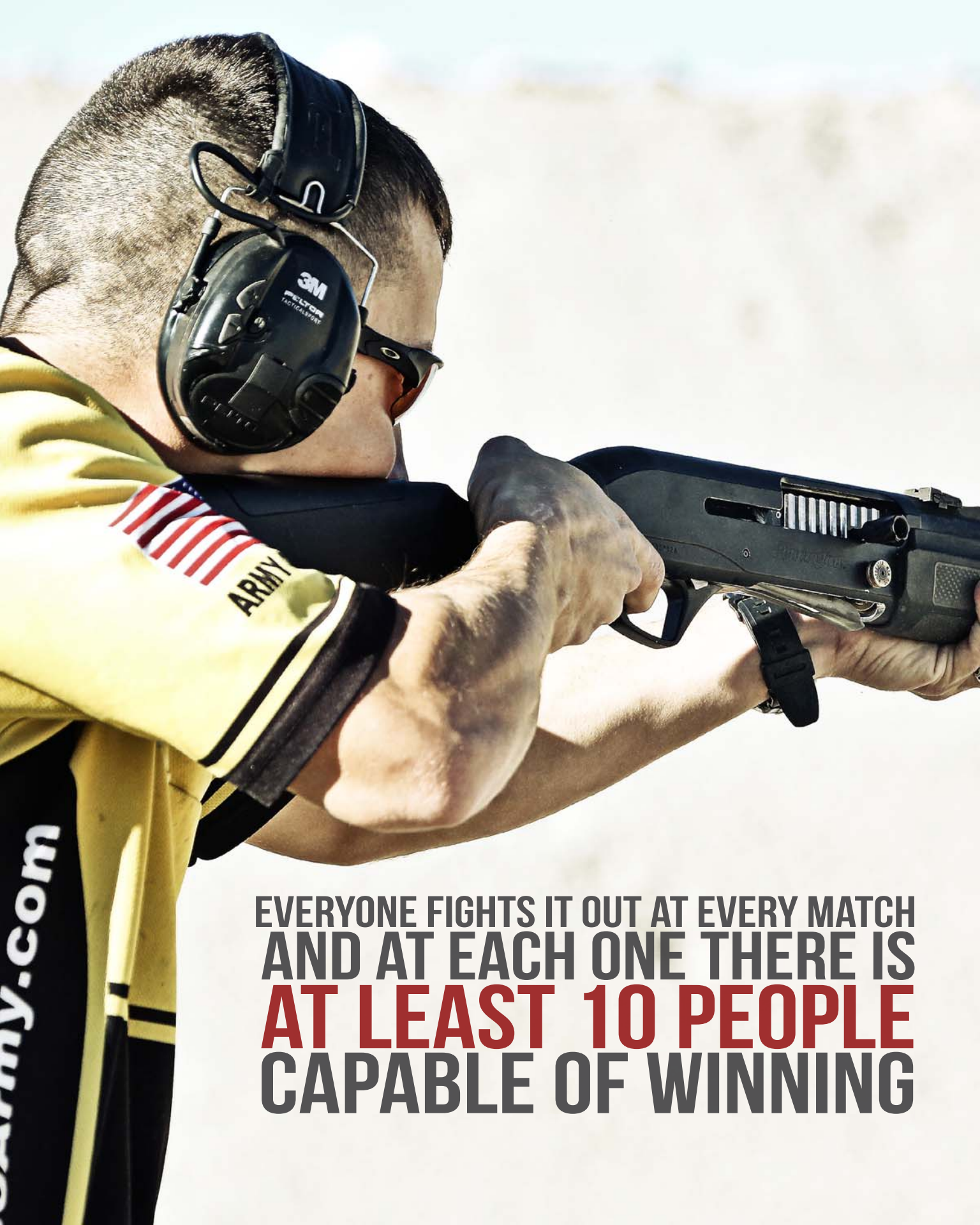


U.S. AMU's Daniel Horner became the first 3GN competitor to repeat in the Divisional Championships, winning the highly competitive Tactical Optics division and cashing his second straight check for \$5,000 from Hornady.

"I had some good matches this year, but the competition is getting more and more fierce," Horner said. "I think next year all the series will be extremely close due to the number of matches available. I think you will see people shooting multiple divisions next year.

"I'm proud of winning the TO division because of the level of competition," Horner continued. "Everyone fights it out at every match, and at each one there are at least 10 people capable of winning."





EVERYONE FIGHTS IT OUT AT EVERY MATCH
AND AT EACH ONE THERE IS
AT LEAST 10 PEOPLE
CAPABLE OF WINNING

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3-GUN TRAINING

WRITTEN BY **KEITH GARCIA**

THE AIRSOFT OPTION

So you made the jump from pistol matches into the world of 3-Gun. You want to improve but how do you do it? Unless you have a range behind the house and an unlimited amount of ammunition, this sport will be a costly adventure. If you're looking for ways to improve that don't include shooting until you're ankle deep in brass, then airsoft may be right for you.

What is airsoft and what can it offer you?

Most of the rifles and pistols used in the 3-Gun world have an airsoft replica. Airsoft guns are replica firearms that fire plastic pellets by way of compressed gas or electric and/or spring-driven pistons. These guns are designed to be non-lethal and to provide realistic replicas. Depending on the mechanism driving the pellet, an airsoft gun can be operated manually or cycled by either compressed gas such as Green Gas (propane and silicone mix) or CO2, or by compressed air via a spring or an electric motor pulling a piston. The airsoft industry is larger than you might think. For this article I wanted to find out more about the airsoft community so I talked to one of the key players. I interviewed Tim Seargeant, the marketing manager for Airsoft G.I., a retail company that proudly advertises itself as the "The #1 Airsoft Retail Store in America." I asked Tim for some background on the company and the community they serve:

KG: What is Airsoft G.I.?

TS: Airsoft G.I. has been in business since 2003 and has grown from a one-man operation to a work force of over 60 employees. We have over 11,000 product SKU numbers for airsoft guns, tactical gear and shooting accessories.

KG: What is the primary use of your airsoft products?

TS: A vast majority of airsoft users are involved in recreational airsoft play. The most primitive form of airsoft is a force-on-force battle where two evenly sized and gunned teams start on opposite ends of the field and shoot at each other until one team is eliminated. Another more advanced form of airsoft is called MILSIM, or military simulation. These games are typically played on a much larger playing field and incorporate objectives for each team to complete. MILSIM games will usually draw a larger, more dedicated, airsoft crowd. MILSIM games can range from 100-1,000 participants depending on the venue, the game organizers, and the number of teams, while force-on-force games usually range from 10-150 players depending on venue and game organizers. Another small sect of airsoft users are military and law enforcement officers looking for training tools.

KG: Who is your typical customer?

TS: Our typical customer is an American male between the ages of 13 and 35. However airsoft has become much more popular over the past ten years, and the demographic of players has changed slightly. More parents are discovering that airsoft is a great way to bond with their kids.

KG: Where do you see Airsoft in 10 years?

TS: If airsoft continues to grow the way it has been then there is no doubt in my mind that airsoft will surpass paintball in popularity within 10 years. There are organizations popping up now to make airsoft a competitive sport, and if that movement gains ground then it could easily grow in a similar fashion that other professional sports have in the past. In 10 years I

definitely see airsoft moving from a recreational game to a competitive sport.

Airsoft Gear

I will focus on airsoft rifles and pistols in this section. Airsoft shotguns are available, but I do use one and do not see the training benefit for 3-Gunners. In my opinion, for successful training you need a good quality gas-powered airsoft pistol and rifle; additionally, some reactive targets will enhance the training experience.

Airsoft Pistols

The first thing you will notice when handling an airsoft pistol is the light trigger pull. Many of the airsoft

pistols will have better triggers than their center-fire counterparts. I have owned airsoft replica Glocks and STI/SVI's; both guns have performed very well in both accuracy and reliability. A good quality airsoft pistol will usually shoot a 1-inch group out to 8-10 yards. Since most of my airsoft training takes place inside my garage this type of accuracy is sufficient. My current training gun is a Tokyo Marui "High Capa 5.1," which is a replica modeled after a double-stack 2011. Apparently airsoft participants are no different from competition shooters when it comes to a love of accessories. All the upgrades on my Custom 2011 for 3-Gun are on my airsoft trainer, including adjustable rear sight, fiber-optic front sight, grip tape and a magazine well.

WHAT IS AIRSOFT AND WHAT CAN IT OFFER YOU



Airsoft Rifles

In the past airsoft rifles have been primarily driven by electric motors. The rifles would hold huge amounts of BBs and run for a long period of time on one charge. The BIG drawback to realistic training was the trigger pull. The triggers were basically an electric switch activating a motor that would drive a BB down the barrel. The problem was that it took a long time for the motor to spit out a BB. If you are used to shooting an AR-15 that responds immediately, the electric triggers on an airsoft rifle was like shooting in slow motion; follow-up shots had slow splits, so you were hard pressed to do realistic training.

In 2012 gas-powered rifles hit the market. Similar in design to airsoft pistols, the rifles are powered by gas stored in the magazine. The result is a rifle that has a very nice trigger capable of matching any center-fire gun shot-for-shot. The addition of the gas also

increased the speed of the BB and the accuracy of the rifles. The result is a great training tool for 3-Gun. My current airsoft rifle is a KWA Full Metal GBBR. I had the rifle configured to match my JP competition .223 caliber rifle. As with the airsoft pistols, there is no end to the accessories you can hang on your airsoft rifle. An added bonus with the gas-powered rifles, they function just as good using low-cost propane and do not require the “Green” gas sold for the pistols. Using a “propane adapter” and a couple drops of oil lowers the cost of gas by 75-percent.

Since I shoot in the Tactical Optics division I topped my rifle with a scope. There are a number of companies that make cheap scopes for use with airsoft rifles. The key to productive training is to build and reinforce the correct technique. If you can find a cheap scope that has the same eye relief and field of view as your



game gun more power to you. There may be a replica of your actual scope, but all things being equal I prefer to use the real thing. I set up a Swarovski Z6i 1-6X power scope in a Warne RAMP mount and I use it on my airsoft gun and my .22 caliber conversion. The Swarovski matches my current set up for 3-Gun, so I like the consistent sight picture and head position it offers between the different platforms. With a little added work you can simply move the optic from your 3-Gun rifle to your airsoft gun on training days; this will require changing the elevation adjustment a good deal for most guns. If you are diligent about returning the scope back to the original settings and sighting it back in before a match, there will not be a problem. Do not be the guy who shows up to the first stage of a match with 20 minutes of extra elevation in his scope ... really, true story.

Airsoft Targets

I prefer metal reactive targets when training. These can be knock down targets that fall when hit or simply ring when struck with a BB. I recommend targets from BAM Airsoft (www.bamairsoft.com). They make a wide variety of targets—everything from plate racks to an airsoft version of a Texas Star can be found there. My favorite training target is the Steel Challenge set; the

set consists of reactive steel plates that ping when hit. I prefer this style target because it can be hit multiple times without having to stop in order to reset the target.

Airsoft Training

I use a CED7000A Airsoft Timer from Competitive Edge Dynamics when I train. The CED timer is more sensitive than a standard shot timer, allowing it to register reports from gas-powered airsoft guns. I like training with airsoft indoors so I can do it in any weather or lighting conditions. I set up my airsoft range in the garage. I recommend using a large nylon or cloth tarp as a backstop for you BBs. The BBs will tear up your walls and bounce all over the garage if not given a soft place to land.

I do not recommend practicing magazine reloads with you airsoft guns that require you to drop the magazine. Airsoft magazines are heavy, fragile and expensive. The magazine feed lips will bend or crack if dropped wrong, and there is no way to repair them. A good way to practice with airsoft is to start with an empty gun and load from you belt or off a table, eliminating the dropping of a magazine. I use a coupler with my rifle magazines so I can do a mag change without dropping a magazine.



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Extended use and rapid fire from gas-powered airsoft magazines will cause them to start to freeze and function slower or stop altogether. I recommend using a small electric heating pad to warm the magazines after you fill them. I keep one in the garage and set my magazines on it when they are not in the gun. The heat from the pad will warm the magazine up after you fill it and keep your guns running longer.

Airsoft training is only limited by your imagination. If you can identify problems in your match performance there is probably a way to adapt airsoft to help you train. The one thing airsoft will not do is help you learn to manage recoil. I do not shoot multiple rounds on one target in my normal airsoft training. Since recoil is not a factor, shooting multiple shots on one target is not very challenging. Shooting one shot, calling the shot, driving the gun to another target and firing one shot is challenging and is really no different than shooting a center-fire gun; all the same basics of marksmanship apply. Airsoft is great for working on your draw, target-to-target transitions and learning how to shoot on the move.

For 3-Gun training I prefer to work on my transitions from target to target and from one gun to another.

Transitioning from gun to gun is overlooked by many 3-Gunners. Lots of time is lost in matches from slow or botched transitions between guns. The beauty of airsoft is that it allows you to work on these transitions and practice some shooting as well.

Here is a sample training exercise I like to run with my airsoft rifle and pistol and my 3-Gun shotgun. My handgun starts in the holster unloaded with the hammer down. I have a loaded pistol magazine and rifle magazine on my belt along with eight 12-gauge shotgun dummy rounds. My shotgun and rifle are on a table in front of me. The shotgun is empty with the bolt locked open; the rifle is unloaded, bolt forward. I have six steel plates set out along the wall, three high and three low.



On the start signal, I move to the table while drawing and loading my pistol, I need one hit on each piece of steel before grounding my pistol on the table (paying close attention to the safety). Next I pick up my shotgun while drawing four rounds from my belt. I load four rounds and then take a sight picture on each steel target before grounding the shotgun (paying close attention to the safety).

Next I pick up my rifle and load it with the magazine from my belt and hit each steel once before grounding the rifle (paying close attention to the

safety). I go back to the loaded pistol and repeat each step only this time I am picking up a loaded gun and taking the safety off before shooting.

This is one of my favorite drills as it covers a lot of different skills and requires you to think through each problem.



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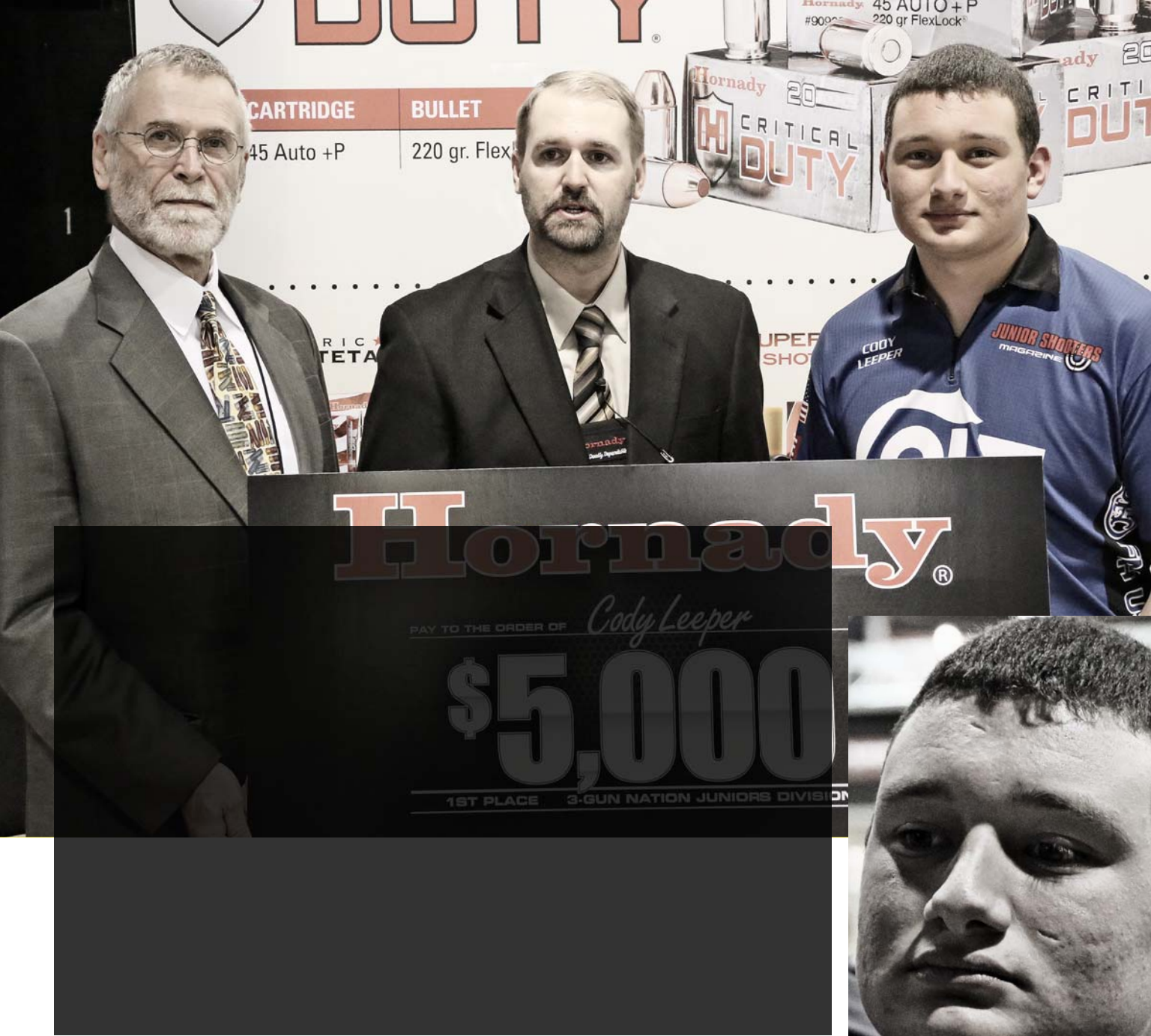


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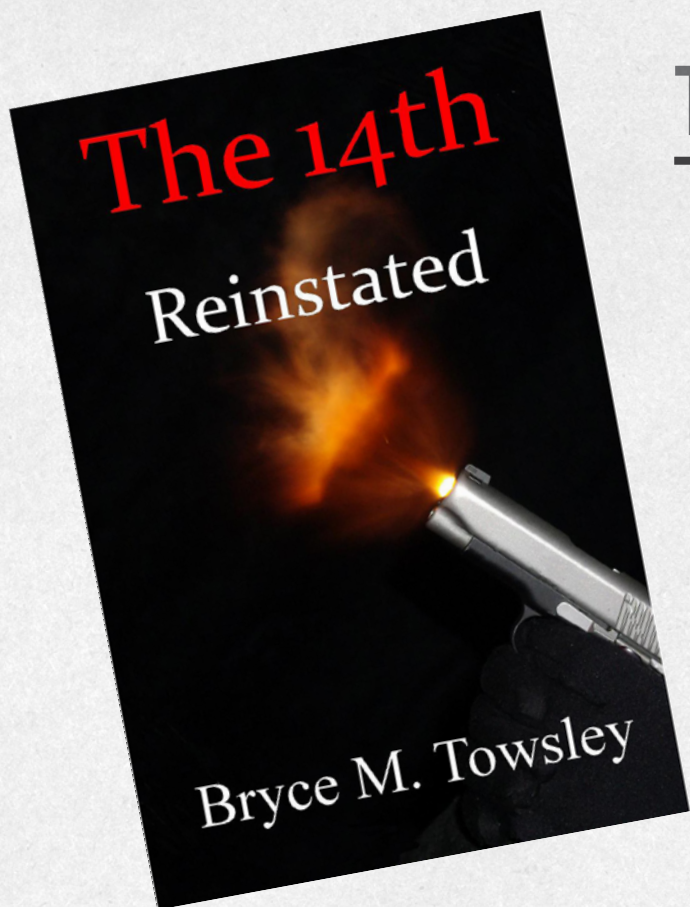
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Cody Leeper, like Daniel Horner in Tactical Optics, repeated to win his second straight 3GN Junior Division Championship. Leeper, who won a Shoot-Off in West Virginia at the end of last season to take the crown, did it by winning an all-out points race in 2012.

“It was a very satisfying win,” Leeper said. “I was really challenged by Jake Denno this year and had to fight to overcome his scores and get on top in the beginning. Even then he is a strong competitor and was an ever-present threat to the title. Although winning the division outright through matches might not have been as suspenseful and exciting as the Shoot-Off last year, it was still a pleasing win.”





THE BOOKSHELF

gunfights, knife play, brawling—but a story that carries a warning of the potential downfall of America based on the politics of today.

Towsley's first novel, "The 14th Reinstated," takes place in a post-economically and socially collapsed America, where guns are banned, gangs rule, and the common man is looking to make a stand. That's where the protagonist, an unnamed character loosely based on Towsley's own life as a gun writer, hunter and shooter, emerges as an important figure in the peoples' struggle against evil interests looking to make a power grab over the disenfranchised.

For shooters, Towsley's book serves as a breath of fresh air, as the plot not only captures, but at times hinges on firearms minutia such as magazine changes, ballistic knowledge as specific as drops at extended range to mechanical offset, recoil management, and more. Ultimately, many of the scenes that drive this novel are teeming with firearms, shooting, botanical acumen and a keen understanding of both wildlife and man—the kind of detail that could only be weaved into prose by an outdoorsman.

This is not the type of book you will find right now on the New York Times' Bestseller List. Instead, it is a work that captures the true spirit of the importance of the Second Amendment, and it couldn't be timelier.

The 14th Reinstated is available now at Amazon in hard copy and Kindle versions. It's also available in most other E-Reader formats.

Reviewed by Chad Adams

Few contemporary gun writers have been as prolific, over as wide a spectrum of firearm topics, as our own Bryce Towsley. I began working with Bryce more than 10 years ago as an editor with NRA's Shooting Illustrated, and later with American Rifleman. In that time, I've followed Towsley's interesting path, from one of the top hunting writers in America, to gunsmithing expert, action and defensive pistol shooting proponent, to Cowboy Action Shooting addict, and finally in recent years to his newest passion of 3-gun.

Though it all, Bryce's work has burned with an unapologetic distaste for leftist politics and an unyielding support for total protection of the Second Amendment. Now Bryce has taken that message, and more, to the world of fiction, in an action-filled mystery full of

Signed copies are available now at
www.brycetowsley.com.

A person wearing a black baseball cap with a red 'CTC' logo, a grey and brown tactical jacket, and tan cargo pants is kneeling in a desert environment. They are wearing black and grey work gloves and holding a white rectangular object, possibly a piece of equipment or a sample, which is mounted on a metal rod. The background is a bright, sandy desert landscape.

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IS COLD.**

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