





LOAD UP



If you've been a Ballistic mag reader for long, then you get it, we often take paths less traveled when it comes to our eclectic editorial mix. And when it comes to mag cover hardware, rarely will you see a plain Jane, stock production firearm. Sorry, Jane, not sorry.

We're featuring an outof-this-world pair of custom pew-pews (insert the sound effects of blasters going off in every Star Wars movie) on this issue's national newsstand cover-Mandalorian Bravo 5.56s. What's that, you've been living under a boulder your whole life and don't know that Mandalorians are fearsome warrior people who live and fight by the creed "This is the Way" and that Jon Favreau has created the best space Western television series, ever?

We're gonna cheat-sheet you up with this bit from StarsWars.Fandom.com:

The Way of the Mandalore was a religion followed by orthodox Mandalorians. The Children of the Watch were a Mandalorian group (cult) who followed the Way and sought to reestablish the religion, which had since fallen out of mainstream Mandalorian society and become considered ancient by the time of the New Republic Era.

The faith (the Way of the Mandalore) practiced by some members of Mandalorian

society involved protecting fellow Mandalorians but also wearing a helmet at all times. Mandalorians who did not follow the Way also went out of their way to help fellow Mandalorians. A major difference between the two groups was that the Way stated that, if a Mandalorian removed their helmet in front of another living being, they were no longer permitted to wear it.

Mandalorians who adhered to the Way would state, "This is the Way" when following its ideals. Mandalorians not of that creed would treat followers of the Way with scorn. In turn, the followers saw those individuals as not being true Mandalorians.

Got it? Well, get it or not, watch The Mandalorian or not, these two predator-hunting rigs (page 30) are worth your full attention.

This mag "is the way" in many other ways, too. I mean, what other publisher is giving away a \$3,500 custom Model 70 Series Colt? Next to said

ballistic

Visit outdoorgroupstore. com to subscribe to Ballistic and order print and digital copies. Subscribe for a year and you'll save money to spend on things like guns.

Custom Challenge giveaway gun on our secondary cover is Canik's latest Mete SF that comes fully loaded with all manner of extras.

There's plenty more otherworldly editorial ahead, but we'd like to share some of our favorite Mandalorian quotes to further prime your reading engines.

"I can bring you in warm, or I can bring you in cold." That's a classic quote from Mando the bounty hunter in season one.

"I like those odds." That's what Mando said after a stormtrooper told him that they had him outnumbered four-to-one.

"This is the way." This no-nonsense, steely mantra can be applied to anything in life that one is highly passionate about. In Ballistic magazine's case, it's all about loading up entertaining, gun-and-gear-centric content. Enjoy your flight. -The Editors

Correction: On page 28 of Ballistic A/M '21, we stated John Wayne carried a .357 Diamondback when in fact it was a .38.

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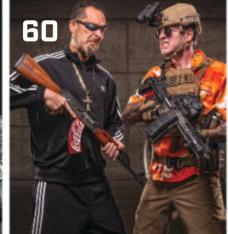


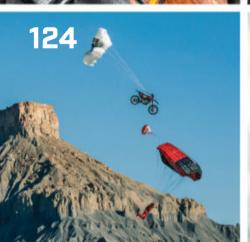
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THE PREMIER FIREARMS & SURVIVAL MAGAZINE

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rewhaha MEANDERINGS OF A MODERN CAVALLER BY FRANCIS MACOMBER



We all love firepower and the quest for more gives me a reason to get up each morning. In that vein, would you rather own one fully-loaded F-15 (including a pilot under your command for one year) or a lifetime of ARs and ammo? I'm all about that F-15 because I'm pretty sure I could conquer a few small countries and then set up a factory to build AR's for the army I would compile on the quest for world domination. Looks like I'm in the minority, though. Final tally was 34 to 14 in favor of unlimited AR rifles. Best quotes:

Dane Becker: Does the F-15 have nukes?

Stephen Graham: The ARs and ammo. They leave more usable meat. The F-15 has the advantage of killing, cleaning and cooking all in one stroke.

And my favorite:

Ryan Shovar: F-15 hands down. This would be how I commute to work and take vacations. Possibly we could find somewhere to eat or a grocery store that had a large enough parking lot. I'd like to park it in my driveway and give it a wash on the nice summer days. It would really show up my neighbors who have boats and large RVs



GIMME THAT GADGET

About six or seven years ago I had enough time and money to move from road hunting ("Hold my beer!") to getting a decent rifle and scope and starting to push out my shots to hundreds of yards instead of dozens of feet. I took a weeklong class on how to use the mil-dot system to estimate range, left the class and threw away my notes on the way to buy a decent rangefinder. Math to me is only useful when figuring the ratio of gin to vermouth. My laser rangefinder found a home on my bino harness, and I spent many a blissful hour walking the woods and switching back and forth between the two. Laser rangefinding binos certainly aren't new, but they are new to me. Bushnell just released their Fusion X 10x42 Rangefinding Binoculars and I plan to make them my most coveted gear for this year's hunting season. They range out to 1 mile and claim +/- 1-yard accuracy. MSRP is \$700.



- Drinking beer at breakfast.
- The feeling of accomplishment from my once-a-week shower.
- Working on this column while getting paid for another job.
- Netflix.
- Dressing for work means clean boxers and an almost clean T-shirt.
- Naps.

- Ogling my wife running around the house in even less clothes than me.
- Sending the kids to school while I stay home.
- Using a "mouse jiggler" that kept my laptop on even though I hadn't touched it in hours.
- Streaming porn 24/7.



ADDITIONAL FEATURES:
EASY IN / EASY OUT PUSH PINS AND MODULAR DISASSEMBLY
ACCEPTS TRIJICON RMRCC TO MICRO OPTICS
LOW PROFILE SLIDE STOP LEVER
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Drewhaha MEANDERINGS OF A MODERN CAVALIER

Crafty Brews

COVID, WHAT COVID?

The country fully reopened and everyone outside of airports has returned to some version of normal. I recently dug through three months of dirty clothes to find my face mask and hopped a flight to Dulles to see if there was anyone left in Foggy Bottom that had a clue what was going on outside of their ivory tower. But facing the dismay of an empire in its demise calls for liquid fortification, so I headed for one of the nearest breweries as soon as I landed. The Lost Rhino Brewing Company felt like a San Diego beach bar dropped into the heart of our nation's capital. The signature symbol of a rhino carrying a surfboard (I'm still scratching my head about that one) and the long wood shared tables made me think Jeff Spicoli might walk through the door at any moment. The bartender told me this was a great place to meet up with friends. I didn't bother to explain I was only



there for the beer. I ordered a
New River Pale Ale and found a
seat inside to avoid the humidity
and glaring sun. The beer was
good: a little nutty and not too
hoppy with a full body from start
to finish. It matched well with the
warm but not sweltering heat.
While half of their beers are
seasonal, the New River Pale Ale
is there year-round. I recommend
you stop in and check it out at
the Lost Rhino the next time you
trudge through the D.C. swamp.

a love of superheroes and sci-fi indicates a lack of maturity, it is probably time for me to repeat the fourth grade. Fortunately, Mrs. Hester thought she had suffered enough and passed me to the fifth, but I digress. Jupiter's Legacy came out on Netflix several months ago and has already been cancelled after one season. Kind of like Star Trek in the '60s, they thought this is a show that won't catch on. Maybe I should compare it to *Firefly* since it only lasted one season and Star Trek lasted three. Jupiter's Legacy has

multiple timelines, a deep backstory, moral quandaries about how our protectors should be judged, heavy drug use, and a lot of strong, sexy female characters that look good in tight outfits. (There are an equal number of dudes in tight outfits but I won't comment on their attractiveness because judging people by their looks is shallow and wrong.) Even knowing they won't finish the entire story, the first season is worthy of a one-night binge session. If you want to make it a drinking party, do a shot each time they say, "the code."





latest get-rich-fast scheme involves the plot line from almost every great Hollywood block-buster: killer for hire. You know, a mercenary. Wet work. Assassin. Hit man. Hired Gun. Sicario. Liquidator. What I need: Basic firearms skills. Check! Lack

of a strong moral compass. Check! Somebody willing to pay me millions of dollars to fly somewhere exotic and then give me a super high-dollar weapon that is perfectly sighted in to take out a much hated, evil bad guy. Hmmmmm. I don't know anyone with that kind of budget or altruism. I could try my skills at home but the last time I checked, \$50 bucks was the going rate for one

gang member whacking another gang member in the inner city. With the price of ammo these days, that is far from lucrative. Maybe I could set up a school for "would-be assassins" that taught skill sets like how to wear a tux, drink martinis and get with hot chicks. Oh, yeah, and shoot bad people. If I get a few former Navy SEALs to help teach it, I'm sure to make millions.

10

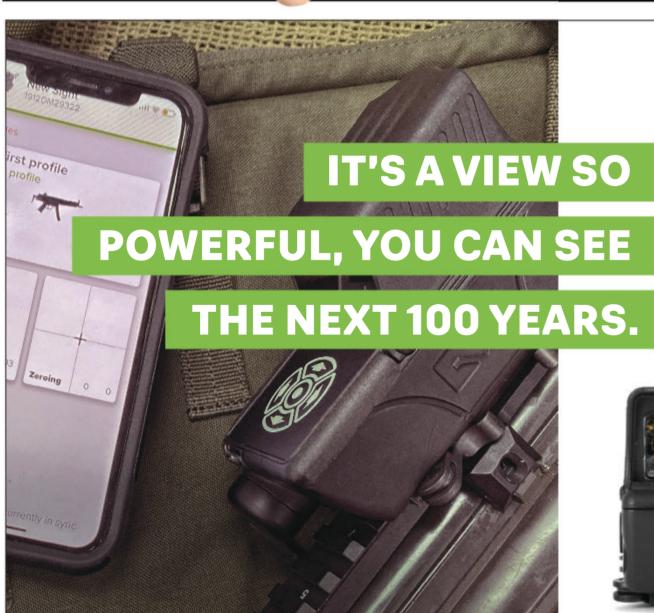


SHIT BOYS, Nana Plaza in the heart of Bangkok. The government used to send me to Thailand a lot. When you're in Bangkok, there are three areas of ill repute that most of us foreigners frequent: Soi Cowboy, Nana Plaza and Patpong. Cowboy is full of hot chicks that turn out to be hot dudes and Patpong was too far from my hotel. So, I stuck with Nana Plaza. It was like an amphitheater of depravity. One night I found myself on the top level with a few mates in a bar that had a mechanical bull, which the mostly

naked girls seemed to ride with ease. Now I'm not one to be outdone by some 90-pound girl in a G-string so I soon found myself perched atop the bull. And then off the bull. Violently. I vaguely recall the crashing sound as my incredibly thick skull broke a set of stairs. Next thing I know, I was back in the bathroom, sitting on a stool with a half dozen bare-chested beauties cooing over me as they tried to staunch the blood flow with a towel and ice. My face was about chest height, so I was enjoying the view, and I had been drinking since noon so I was feeling no pain. A

couple of my boys came to check on my wellbeing and bring me my beer but they were laughing so hard they never got past the door. I finally turned around to see what was so funny. I was sitting in the bathroom and the ice they were rubbing on my head was being pulled out of the urinals behind me. But I'm told urine is sterile, so whatever.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Join in on more Ballistic "Brew Ha Ha" fun online at ballisticmag.com.



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meprolight.com

EVERYTHING YOU AIM FOR"

STOCKPILE

NEW AND NOTEWORTHY EDITORS' GUNS AND GEAR PICKS



HOLOSUN AEMS

The AEMS (Advanced Enclosed Micro Sight) from Holosun measures just 54mm long, 36mm wide and 43mm tall, which is 11 percent shorter in length than the standard 20mm micro-style optics while offering twice the lens surface area for a wider field of view. The housing of the AEMS is made of 7075 aluminum. The sight's 2023 battery can be easily removed without removing the sight, and the unit features up to 50,000 hours of operation on a battery thanks to its shake-awake system. [holosun.com]

BERETTA ENHANCED 1301 TACTICAL

Beretta's enhanced new 1301 Tactical shotgun is the latest iteration of the storied company's premier law enforcement and home-defense semi-automatic shotgun series. Engineered to be ultra-reliable and easy to use, this shotgun features enlarged controls, a cold hammer-forged, back-bored barrel, and Beretta's ultrafast BLINK gas operating system with a cross tube gas piston. The gun is available in a 12 gauge with black synthetic finish and the option of a standard or a Mesa Tactical Urbino pistol grip stock. [beretta.com]

DEAD AIR PRIMAL

Dead Air Armament's new Primal is a multi-purpose, .46-caliber "rifle-centric" suppressor that is optimized for cartridges like the .458 SOCOM, .45-70 and .450 Bushmaster, yet versatile enough to be effective on sub-caliber handguns. The Primal is constructed with 17-4 stainless steel for a high strength-to-weight ratio, low maintenance and a stress-free experience. The suppressor's body is coated with a high-heat Cerakote with nitride treated mount/end cap for lifelong durability. Overall length is 7.9 inches, diameter is 1.618 inches and total weight is 16.5 ounces. [deadairsilencers.com]

CZ P-10 F COMPETITION-READY

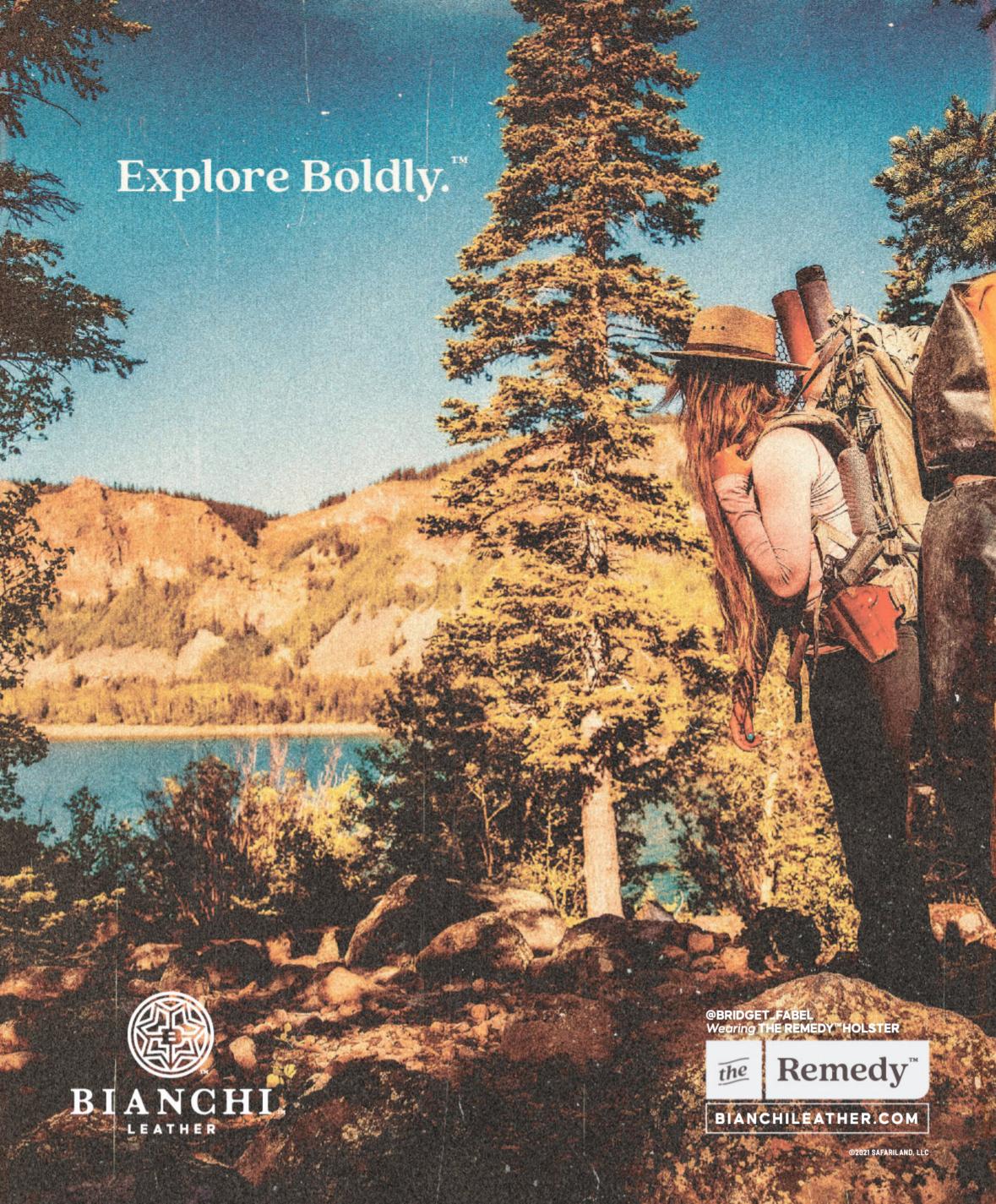
The new P-10 F Competition-Ready model from CZ offers all of the popular striker-fired pistol line's features in an enhanced package. The new model has a barrel and slide that are a half-inch longer than the full-size model, providing a longer sight radius for the included fiber-optic front sight and fixed serrated rear sight, resulting in increased accuracy. Also, the slide is milled to accept mounting plates for the most popular micro red-dot optics. Overall length is 8.5 inches, and the pistol weighs 30.1 ounces empty. [cz-usa.com]

MOSSBERG MVP PATROL IN 300 BLK

Mossberg has expanded its MVP Patrol bolt-action rifle series to include a brand new 300 BLK offering. The rifle features a 16.25-inch medium bull, button-rifled and threaded barrel with A2-style muzzle brake. Designed to be a versatile, all-purpose platform, the MVP Patrol 300 BLK is a great choice at the range or in the field, delivering greater penetration, better terminal performance and a wider choice of bullet types (.30-caliber) than the 5.56mm NATO/223 Rem. The ability to use regular AR-style magazines makes it even more versatile. [mossberg.com]



M



STOCKPILE

FN SCAR NON-RECIPROCATING

EAA GIRSAN PISTOL

Referencing the ultra popular
Browning Hi-Power semi-auto
pistol design, the new Girsan
MC P35 single-action 9mm brings all of the
expected performance, reliability and accuracy
of the original while being priced for today's
shooter. Built on a steel frame and slide in a

shooter. Built on a steel frame and slide in a black matte finish, the MC P35 boasts a 15+1 capacity. The short-recoil 9mm, 4.625-inch barrel, along with the slide, allow for quick second-shot resets. The rear sight is windage drift adjustable, and the front is a dovetail. [eaacorp.com]





AUBREY D.'S GOURMET CONDIMENTS

Each item in the extensive gourmet Aubrey D.'s line incorporates the intense and lingering bite of the jalapeño pepper, along with ingredients such as ripe, juicy farm-fresh tomatoes; fresh, perfectly-ripened cucumbers; and its own special blend of mustard seed, spices and top-quality vinegars. For a delectable taste treat, choose from the company's Jalapeño Ketchup, Jalapeño Relish, Jalapeño Mustard, Jalapeño Honey Mustard and Real Chipotle Mayo. Parent company Gourmet Chips and Sauces also offers a full line of Aubrey D. Rebel Hot Sauces. **[gourmetchip.com]**



PULSAR TRIONYX MULTI-SPECTRAL BINOS

Pulsar's latest high-tech innovation—the Trionyx Multispectral Binoculars—combines imaging technologies in a single unit to provide users with a seamless transition between thermal and digital night vision. Combining the 1,000-yard-plus scanning range of a fixed-focus 384x288 thermal sensor with the target-identification capability of focusable digital night vision, very little can escape the Trionyx's detection. With the included IR illuminator, Trionyx Binoculars are the complete package for nighttime activities. Plus, the built-in video recording will let you capture and save all your exciting memories. **[pulsarnv.com]**

CHARGING HANDLES EN's long-awaited non-reciproca

FN's long-awaited non-reciprocating charging handle assembly features dual, ambidextrous charging handles that enable users to shoot from any position or use any grip style. The assembly, consisting of a new charging handle sled and two ambidextrous, reversible charging handles that lock forward on bolt-close and remain static during fire, provides superior forward assist capabilities. The two charging handles—one at a 30-degree cant specifically designed to reduce interference with low-mount optics and one low-profile—are user-swappable in the field. [fnamerica.com]

SAR USA PREMIUM AMMUNITION

SAR USA by Sarsilmaz is now offering their NATO-inspired 9mm pistol ammunition to the U.S. market. SAR 9mm NATO full metal jacket ammunition is made in Turkey to the highest quality standards and the tightest tolerances. This premium ammunition features brass casings and military-grade sealed primers. Made from the finest components, the manufacturer says this ammo delivers incredible accuracy and outstanding downrange performance. It's available in 50-round boxes in either 115-grain FMJ or 124-grain FMJ. [sarusa.com]



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BERSHERKEN MC™ JACKET MULTICAM® & MULTICAM® BLACK

\$200

The mission doesn't stop when the weather turns cold. It is for these times that we created the Bersherken™ MC Jacket. The relaxed-fit men's chassis is comprised of a 3-layer waterproof/breathable outer shell with a thick sherpa-fleece inner facing. The reinforced MultiCam arms are a perfect visual accomplice for modern plate carriers while providing enhanced durability.



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WINGMAN™ // PLATE CARRIER ACCESSIBLE UPPER CHEST POCKETS



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RANGER CAMO, GREYMAN CAMO & BLACK

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Lightweight and mobile, the AlphaDawn™ jacket packs all the tactical acumen you've come to expect from Viktos. Highly compressible with the 120gm core insulation and a water-resistant coating, it will keep you warm and prepared.



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WINGMAN™ // PLATE CARRIER ACCESSIBLE UPPER CHEST POCKETS





CUSTOM CHALLENGE

HERE'S YOUR
CHANCE TO WIN
A ONE-OF-A-KIND
FROM TWO OF
THE BEST



BY MIKE DETTY . ALEX LANDEEN PHOTOS





ynergism can be defined as an interaction between two entities that creates a greater benefit than the sum of their individual selves. I had the opportunity to observe this recently in the firearms community with partnership between two well-established gunsmiths.

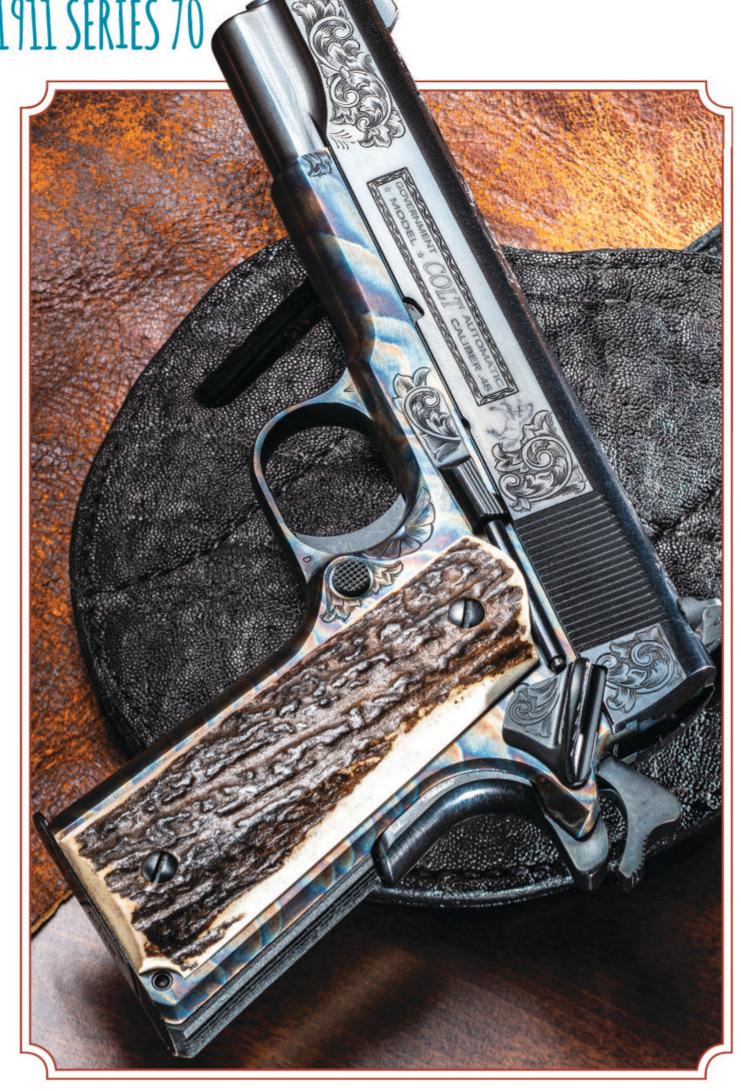
The first week of April I was invited to a small media gathering at Gunsite for the announcement of the new Gunsmithy concession. Ken Campbell, Gunsite's Chief Executive Officer, started by saying, "We're the best in the business in firearms training, and Dave Fink and Bobby Tyler are the two best gunsmiths we know. So, we're happy to announce that Fink and Bobby's company, Tyler Gun Works, will be taking over the gunsmithing concession at Gunsite. The Modern Technique has evolved and so has gunsmithing, and we think this collaboration will prove to be a valuable asset to the students we serve and the general shooting community as well. Gunsite has 45-plus years of success because of great instructors, and we wanted a Gunsmithy who shares our vision of excellence!"

Gunsite is the nation's oldest and largest facility dedicated to training responsibly armed citizens and I have met some of the finest people I know on their ranges. There's a long list of industry people I've been introduced to at Gunsite and now share a great working relationship with, but I've also developed deep and lasting friendships with those who share my values and ethos. Gunsite seems to be a great facilitator of introducing like-minded folks, and this was certainly the case with Bobby Tyler and Dave Fink.

THE TWO SMITHS

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Tyler, of Tyler Gun Works (tylergunworks. com), attended an event at Gunsite hosted by Rob Leahy and his company Simply Rugged Leather (simplyrugged.com). Among other invitees was a local gunsmith who had just



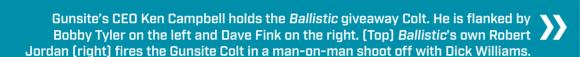
"GUNSITE HAS 45 PLUS YEARS OF SUCCESS
BECAUSE OF GREAT INSTRUCTORS, AND WE
WANTED A GUNSMITHY WHO SHARES OUR
VISION OF EXCELLENCE!" — Ken Campbell, Gunsite's CEO

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CUSTOM COLT 1911 SERIES 70





hung out his shingle. Dave Fink is a Navy veteran who attended Yavapai College to learn the gunsmithing trade and then apprenticed at a shop specializing in bluing. Fink had just opened his own shop when he met Tyler. Reflecting on that first meeting, Tyler said, "I saw an opportunity where Dave did not because I saw an opportunity in Dave! The potential of what Dave could bring to this venture on a long-term scale is tremendous. You can teach people how to do things, but

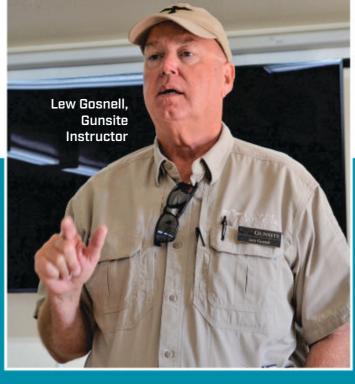
you can't teach character. Without character you have nothing!"

Acknowledging the compliment with a nod

goal is to support the students here at Gunsite. Our Gunsmithy shop is right on Gunsite's campus and easily accessible to students. Down the road the customer whose extractor we fixed may be the one

and a bit of a blush, Fink said, "Our main





who we build a custom 1911 for with color casing by Tyler Gun Works. Our strong suit is our machining capability, and it will also be a great asset for Bobby. We're bringing in our mill and lathe to the new location here at Gunsite. It's not so much what the machines are capable of as what the machinists are capable of. Lately, we've been doing loads of RMR slide cuts manually; we must have already done 50 of those for Gunsite, between the students and instructors."

EXPANSION

Three days before this mini event Tyler had brought a four-man work crew from his headquarters in Friona, Texas, to completely gut, rewire and paint the shop and help move in Fink's machinery. The collaboration between Fink and Tyler is more than just an endorsement, it's a healthy business decision. Having a second machine shop will certainly expand Tyler Gun Work's capacity while also growing Fink's Custom Gunsmithing.

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HOME COMMUNITY PROTECT COUNTRY CONSERVATION





The Gunsite Colt giveaway gun is a joint collaboration between Tyler Gun Works and Finks Custom Gun-

Stag grips contrast beautifully with the Colt's color casing and attractive engraving.



Fink already has two highly trained machinists on staff and will add others as necessary. The layout of his shop can easily be expanded. While the Gunsmithy shop is located on Gunsite's grounds it is independently owned and operated. Fink will maintain his original trade name, Fink's Custom Gunsmithing, and website (finksguns.com).

"The potential for growth here at Gunsite is tremendous," said Tyler. "I see Gunsite as an opportunity to reach a different clientele. We've built custom guns for just about all of Gunsite's instructors and staff. It's fun playing the gentlemen's game with other gentlemen and, when you look at it like that, you just can't go wrong!"

THE GUNS

It has been my privilege to examine guns customized by both Tyler and Fink. Ken Campbell and Gunsite instructors Ed Head and Lew Gosnell have all had custom guns made by both smiths. In fact, for this event I brought along five different revolvers for show-and-tell. Last year Tyler took an old 3-screw Ruger and did a Number 5 conversion on it. New grip



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frame, sights and color casing make this old gun a thing of beauty, and the .44 Special shoots like a house-a-fire! Fink's first work for me involved taking an old, pitted Colt Officers Match revolver with a 7.5-inch barrel and cutting it down to 3.5 inches, fabricating a new rear sight and Parkerizing the gun. I was so delighted with the finished revolver that I gave him two S&W M19s and a M13 for my next

project. The two M19s were fitted with 3-inch Python barrels cut from a single 8-inch Python barrel. Fink then fit the M13 with a M19 barrel, cut to 3 inches also. You'd swear that all three guns left the factory in those configurations. Fink was able to look at my rough drawings and notes and create my dream guns, which had previously only existed in the dark corners of my mind.

I first met Bobby Tyler three years ago at a Shootist Holiday and was immediately impressed with his work. He's a great gunsmith, but he's an even better person. In fact, in a box that contains my will and other legal documents is a Tyler Gun Works business card along with instructions to call Bobby upon my demise and allow him to liquidate my collection. There are few people in this world



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CUSTOM COLT 1911 SERIES 70

who have earned that type of trust from me. Fink is another. I met him at the same time Bobby Tyler did, again, at Gunsite. He's as unassuming as they come and lets his work speak for itself. He's unafraid and unashamed to speak of his faith and looks with adoration at his wife, Rachel, and darling little girl, Abigail. Like Tyler, his handshake seals a deal better than any \$300-an-hour lawyer. These are the kind of folks I prefer to do business with, and it thrilled me to no end when I heard they'd be working together!

WIN THIS 1911

To commemorate this happy business venture, Fink and Tyler both worked on a Colt 1911 Series 70 pistol to give away to one lucky Ballistic reader. Using the pistol as a blank canvas, the two smiths created a unique masterpiece that is bound to be the centerpiece of any collection. But it's not just a one-of-a kind work of art, it is a completely reliable gun worthy of the Gunsite Raven! Media members at this event were treated to a modified Gunsite 150, two-day class, which focuses on the fundamentals of weapon presentation, speed and tactical reloads and clearing malfunctions. We shot on the square ranges as well as the shoot houses and Scrambler field course. The giveaway Colt was passed between writers along with the Simply Rugged holster and it was run hard with DoubleTap's 230-grain

range ammunition as well as frangible ammo for the shoot houses. In two days of hard use without cleaning, the Colt never bobbled.

"We didn't do any modifications to the gun that will prevent it from being shipped to any of the 50 states," Tyler said. "We left it pretty much stock, but you know us. We went through it thoroughly and removed the small burs and made some corrections where needed. Ken Campbell gave us permission to include the Gunsite Raven logo, and our engraver also embellished it with some tasteful scroll work. Our calling card is our color case work and I'm very happy with the way the frame turned out. We used our Colt-style deep blue for the slide, and it complements the frame nicely, as do the stag grips!"

I asked Rob Leahy of Simply Rugged holsters to build us something appropriate to carry the Colt in and he didn't disappoint us. The winner of this gun will also receive the beautiful Simply Rugged elephant-hide holster, as well as a Gunsite challenge coin. Total value of this package is \$3,500. If you

> have a family heirloom that needs restoration or if you'd like to create something special to pass on to your heirs, Tyler Gun Works and Finks Custom Gunsmithing should be at the top of your list!

Bobby Tyler (left) and

Dave Fink take a break after moving Fink's machinery into the freshly remodeled **Gunsmithy concession** at Gunsite Academy.

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CARRY THE FUTURE

BLASTERS

PREDATOR RIGS

INSPIRED BY
WARRIORS FROM
RICHARY FAR
FAR AWAY

BY ALEX LANDEEN





like the Star Wars movies about as much as any hobby-level cinephile, but my data point would barely escape the x-axis on a graph of franchise-related nerdiness. Before late 2019, any conversation about Mandalorians would have left me scratching my head in confusion. If not for the recent Disney series by the same name, this warrior/bounty hunter clan of characters would most likely still remain in relative obscurity.

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*Gun shown with accessories not inc

4





BCM rifles are known for reliability and performance, and these two custom builds definitely didn't disappoint. We're still not sure whether they shoot better or look better.

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Most people who are familiar with the original *Star Wars* trilogy should remember Boba Fett. He was the helmeted bounty hunter with that sweet rocket-launching jetpack. He captured Han Solo for Jabba the Hutt, then later died a goofy death by falling into the mouth of the Sarlacc in *Return of the Jedi*. (Apparently the creator of *The Mandalorian* took umbrage with this, because he brought him back to life in 2020 during the second season of the Disney show.)

Anyways, Boba Fett is a Mandolorian...sort of. Diehards on the *Star Wars* fandom page know that in *Attack of the Clones*, Boba Fett was actually a direct clone of his Mandalorian father, Jango Fett. Their backstory is a little convoluted, but from what I gather they are a clan of warrior/hunters who like to settle disputes with violence and occasionally scrap it out with the Jedi. They live by a code of honor that isn't really explored much in the show but seems to surround strength, honor and death. That makes sense for a culture centered on armor, weapons and war.

Why does all this matter? Because if *Star Wars* had no Boba, Jon Favreau would not have created *The Mandalorian* 40 years later,

and I would not be writing about these two awesome rifles. I consider this a win for all involved, especially because I would most likely be sitting on the couch eating Cheetos and watching YouTube videos if not for this task.

For the sake of brevity, I will henceforth refer to these rifles individually as the Mando (green one with the big Burris optic), and the Fett (brown one with the EOTech and magnifier).

MODERN BLASTERS

They might have had laser guns a long time ago in a galaxy far far away, but here on Earth we are made to settle for chemical reactions and ballistic projectiles. But just because the discovery of gunpowder is over a thousand years old doesn't mean companies like Bravo Company Manufacturing aren't taking full advantage of modern technologies to harness that ancient power.

The BCM Recce-18 MCMR Precision rifles were the perfect platform for these custom hunting builds. BCM rifles have become known for extreme reliability and accuracy, and the Recce-18 is no exception. I have witnessed the rigorous testing and inspection process

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9MM MICRO-COMPACT

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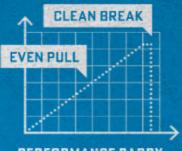
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R7 MAKE

WHAT ALL GUNS SHOULD BE"

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BRAVO BLASTERS



subjected to every part of a BCM rifle, and it's no wonder they stand up in the field.

The Fett rifle is our long-range shooter. The 4-16x50mm Burris Eliminator IV LaserScope has rangefinding capabilities out to 2,000 yards and an enhanced ballistic calculator for aiming solutions. Just input your cartridge ballistics and the scope illuminates your perfect hold.

The Mando is built for stealth and speed. The EOTech HWS EXPS3 gets on target fast and is NV compatible. With a flip, the G43 Magnifier can get you a quick 3x magnification, and the Umarex Axeon Second Zero 11.5 bullet drop compensator takes you from a 100-yard zero to 500 in an instant. The

Sig Sauer SRD556-QD Inconel Suppressor keeps the whole affair nice and civilized.

Both rifles are equipped with Magpul M-LOK rails, PMag D-60 magazines and bipods. The triggers are Rise Armament RA-535 Advanced-Performance with a lightning fast reset, little overtravel and a tight, crispy break.

Both rifles are equipped with a Steiner DBAL-I2 (Dual Beam Aiming Laser) to round out the build and provide accuracy in low-light and no-light situations. I mean, we had to have some kind of lasers involved, right?

For stability in the field, we have mounted a pair of Kopfjager carbon fiber tripods with Reaper Grips.

PAINTS AND LASERS AND OVENS, OH MY!

For years the creativity of Blowndeadline Custom Cerakote has been gracing the pages of Ballistic. They are some of the best in the business, not only in the spraying and finishing process, but in the design process as well.

Doing a Mandalorian-themed paint job on a rifle was not our idea. In fact, the gentleman responsible for spearheading this project has not even seen Star Wars, let alone any of The Mandalorian series. He saw a Mando-themed rifle on the Blowndeadline website and decided that he needed two of them. I mean, he's not wrong. It is an awesome theme, but I found it amusing that he had no idea what all

Once the paint colors and design aspects have been finalized, the rifles are disassembled and sand blasted. The iconography is fed to the lasers and engraved. In this



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BRAVO BLASTERS





{{ The Rise Armament RA-535 Advanced Performance trigger is not only a breeze to install, but it also looks great and has the extremely smooth performance to back it up.

if your new hunting rifle is already "worn," you won't notice so much when it takes a tumble. And even with such a unique theme, most of the colors are muted, earthy. They do have a pattern-breaking effect, essentially giving them a degree of camouflage. (Okay, maybe not so much that mirror of an EOTech, but some sacrifices have to be made in the name of looking cool.)

> Not that all this means much to the hunted. Nobody was too impressed

> > he was shooting rockets at their face. A coyote has no opinions on the custom theme of the rifle that sent him to the afterlife.

But these personalizations are not for the hunted. They are for the hunter. Standing out in a crowd has some benefits, and I have to believe that no one at the range or in the field will ever misidentify one of these rifles as their own. And in the case they do, they can expect to quickly find themselves on a bounty hunter's short list.

CUSTOMS IN THE WILD

I have to admit that I generally view custom-painted guns more as showpieces than workhorses, but after seeing these rifles out in the wild, it changed my opinion slightly. If my grandfather was alive today to see these guns he would say something like "What the hell is that nonsense?" while wearing red flannel and loading his .270 Weatherby Magnum into the back of a 1978 Bronco.

A ceramic coating does impart benefits to a gun, especially one that will see hunting conditions: abrasion and chemical resistance, increased durability and scratch resistance. Plus,

case the Mandalorian symbols on the mag wells, as well as other stylized elements over the receivers. One thing that really stood out to me is the topographic-like lines on the EOTech, which was left bare metal and clear coated. That's a great touch and plays on the silver-colored, virtually indestructible Beskar armor worn in The Mandalorian. With these rifles, the crew at Blowndead-

line really nailed it. I can't say they outdid themselves, because everything we send their way turns out fantastic...especially with the insane deadlines we always seem to give them. Maybe someday we will give them a nice couple months for a project, really see where their creativity goes. Yeah, and maybe pole dancing will become an Olympic sport.

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and the same



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EVOLUTION OF A MODERN CLASSIC

THE BERETTA 92X RDO features the reliable mechanisms of the venerable 90 series family. Proudly built in the USA, the 92X RDO continues the evolution of an iconic series that delivers the unmatched performance modern shooters demand.





THE UNKNOWNS



GET TO KNOW TWO SMALL COMPANIES WITH SOME BIG OUTDOOR PRODUCTS

BY FRANK MELLONI

FORE RUNNER BLINDS

Building permanent hunting blinds on your property can be a pain. Each year they require some degree of maintenance and are prone to becoming a home to bees, snakes and other critters that make lousy roommates. After it is all said and done that permanent blind is, well, permanent and you are stuck with where it is all season long. Of course, these are luxury problems, as the preceding hinges on if you are fortunate enough to have a spot where you can even build a permanent blind in the first place. If you are an everyday schmuck (like myself) you are stuck with popup blinds that are noisy and flimsy, making their portability less than practical.

What's the happy medium you ask?
Fore Runner blinds. Lifelong hunter Daryn
Yoder took the skills he had in engineering and welding to create the first
retractable-wheel, hitch-incorporated,
portable soft-sided blind of its kind in
the hunting industry. These blinds are
built on a powder-coated aluminum frame
and can be wheeled around by hand or
even hooked up to anything with a 2-inch
ball hitch such as an ATV or even the
increasingly popular electric bikes that

have been finding their way into hunting camps lately. Between the metallic frame and the 600D poly cover, these blinds can be set out all season long and withstand whatever mother nature throws at them. As these blinds don't rely on fiberglass rods for structural

support, not only do they hold up to harsh late-season elements but they don't need to be fought open or closed, either. Fore Runner Blinds are more than just portable, they also leave you with the largest windows in the industry for the best shot possible in a variety



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BELOW:
CWD-Free attractant from Inventive Outdoors can get the job done and is legal in many states that have banned use of urinebased attractants.

of shooting positions—even standing since the interior height is greater than 76 inches. For more information, visit **forerunnerblinds.com.**

INVENTIVE OUTDOORS

To be inventive in any industry it helps if you are familiar with the patent process and have a rough idea of what patents already exist before you get started on your creation. With 32 years of patent industry experience, it was only a matter of time before Deane Elliott introduced a pair of truly unique hunting products for the sportsman that is looking to hold on to classic hunting tools in this ever-changing world.

First is the GutCheck. Hunting with a bow nearly always involves more tracking than hunting with a firearm. Sure, if we follow through we should be able to tell which direction the animal ran, but the question has always been "how far?" Well, the answer to that question starts with figuring out how well the animal was hit. GutCheck is a unique formula that reacts with stomach acid to indicate if you placed a clean hit through the vitals or if you pulled your shot and put it through the digestive









tract. Animals struck in the vitals typically don't get too far, but those that weren't can run pretty far away, and GutCheck lets you know that you have some work ahead of you. GutCheck comes in a wrap or a wipe, giving you the choice to dress up your arrows ahead of time or to leave them unaltered and keep a means of testing them in your pocket.

Now, getting that shot off in the first place means that you got something to cross your path. For centuries hunters have been using doe urine to attract bucks to their hunting spot with great success. However, with CWD emerging, many states have banned

these attractants—at least until they learn more about the disease. Many hunters have turned to synthetic urine, but for an animal that can smell you over a quarter mile away and identify up to six scents at once, you ain't fooling him with your plastic piss. CWD Free attractants are different by being the same. Instead of improving synthetics, Inventive Outdoors took a different route. By using non-cervid urine and converting it to a formula that drives whitetail wild, this attractant does the job and is legal in many areas that have urine-based scent bans (check local laws first). For more information, visit inventiveoutdoors.com.

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There's a true score to be had with Canik's new CCW series

BY SEAN UTLEY

We all have stories about the "one that got away." This phrase is generally reserved for some fishing or hunting excursion that we are describing to a particular audience.

The story might include a little embellishment here and there, the level of which increases with how much we're trying to captivate our audience. While I don't have many, if any, such stories in this vein, I do recall some firearms that I wish I had pursued, one of those being the Canik TP9.

The TP9 isn't rare, and it's not like I can't just go buy one. But it's more than that. I enjoy, just like many others, the initial introduction to a platform and going through the discovery process it affords. There are the

inevitable comparisons
to other platforms, on top
of learning where the new
platform excels or not so.
This didn't happen with the
TP9 for me.

Canik recently released
the Mete series, and tags it as "The Evolution
Of Superiority." It's obviously an offshoot of
the TP series but with enhancements and
refinements to improve the entire system. It
looks to be an exciting pistol series with much
to offer both now and in the future.

HOMAGE

The name Mete will likely garner some amount of wasteful attention. It's pronounced Met-Ay, which is simple enough. According to Canik, this name pays homage to a legendary Turkish general. Once you can move past the pronunciation challenge you can then move on





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METE MEANS BUSINESS







"It's obviously an off shoot of the TP series but with enhancements and refinements to improve the entire system."



to the challenge of wrapping your mind around the awesomeness of this pistol series and how it will benefit you.

The Mete has been released in two versions as of now, the Mete SFT and the SFx. These pistols are, for all intents and purposes, the same, differing only by slide/barrel length and the offerings/accessories for them based on that difference.

BIG BROTHER, LITTLE BROTHER

I love big 9mm pistols. Always have and always will, and the Canik SFx is just that. The SFx features a 5.2-inch, precision-machined barrel and a 8.2-inch slide. If you're an iron sight type of shooter this means you get a nice long sight radius, but now that we're using optics, and the SFx is optics ready, that doesn't matter. The longer barrel will get you a bit more velocity, if you care, and an optional threaded 5.74-inch barrel is available, too.

The shorter SFT has a 4.47-inch barrel, combined with a 7.56-inch overall length and an optional 5-inch threaded barrel. All of these barrels are match grade with polished feeding ramps for unquestionable feeding reliability. The high-quality barrel grade steel gets a Tenifer finish inside and out, and Caniks' own literature clearly states 50,000 rounds worth of barrel life under normal use conditions. That's a lot of rounds, I guess, but I never heard of pistol barrels burning out.

These length/barrel length differences are the only things that separate the SFx and SFT

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METE MEANS BUSINESS

"Everything seems simplified with the SF pistols. Draw, aim and press out a couple of rounds, then repeat."



models. Beyond this they are both fine auto pistols that any serious shooter would want to own-at least in my opinion.

FRAME WORK

I don't know if I've ever said this about a pistol, but I love the frame of the SF series. It's right. A number of great and helpful features are included. It's ergonomically excellent. I never did understand the 2x4 feeling of other pistols that are popular. Those types of grips never really "fit" the hand, instead we make the hand accommodate the poor design of the grip. But for the Canik SF series that is not the case. It's shaped and formed for the human hand.

The Mete features an ergonomically redesigned beavertail. Not knowing what the former version was like, I can't make a comparison but this redesign seems appropriate. The backstrap has a comfy curve with three different interchangeable sizes. The front strap features just enough stippling to keep everything tacky without being too aggressive.

The texturing makes its way to either side of the grip, while the backstrap has a knobby type of finish.

In an excellent move, Canik added just a pinch of texturing to the frame just above the forward area of the triggerguard. I wouldn't call it a throttle, as there

is no change in the shape of the frame here. To me it's an index point for my trigger finger as I've long used the high-C method of keeping my switch flicker off the switch. That said, on the support side of the pistol, it's an index for the thumb. Nice touch. Just behind this area you'll find a notch for their Holster Fit-And-Lock system (HFL). The HFL enhances the pistol's engagement with available holsters for the Mete.

The triggerguard is double undercut to allow maximum "highness" of the shooter's grip. The front of the triggerguard has horizontal grooves cut into it. A wonderfully large (but not too) magazine release button resides just above the rear undercut. It's got a knobby texture as well. This magazine release is well placed and reversible to the other side. And when you press it, the magazine immediately gets out of the way with little more than a slight audible click. Shoving the magazine back home is as easy as it can get with a wellflared aluminum magazine well. Canik says

BALLISTIC 10•11 2021 Ballisticmag.com it's "integrated," but to me that means it's part of the frame, when in actuality it's removable for those who don't want to run it. It comes uninstalled and all you need to do is slide it on the bottom of the grip from front to back, and tighten the provided screw. Nice and slick.

The slide release is long and provides solid leverage without technically having to move your hand to complete the task. It's also not in the way when you're doing other work with the Canik. And as you might expect, a Pic rail is provided upfront for the pistol-mounted-light dedicated.

The Canik is striker-fired and thus has an appropriate trigger feel for such operation. I'm not a pistol trigger snob. I think most factory triggers on any good pistol are adequate. But most people don't take the time to learn them and just dump them for something that is more likely to get them into trouble as opposed to helping them. With that off my chest, I can say the Canik has quite a bit of take-up before hitting the wall and at that point not much is needed to make it go boom.

SPECIFICATIONS

CANIK METE SFX, SFT

CALIBER:	9mm	
BARREL:	5.2 inches, 4.47 inches	
OA LENGTH:	8.29 inches, 7.56 inches	
WEIGHT:	30.10 ounces (empty), 27.90 ounces (empty)	
GRIPS:	Polymer	
SIGHTS:	3-dot, optics ready	
ACTION:	Striker-fired	
FINISH:	Tungsten gray	
CAPACITY:	18+1, 20+1	
MSRP:	\$574.99, \$519.99	
**The Shield Optic is NOT included.		

The final break is crisp with a little vagueness before that if you press it uber slowly. The reset is short, though.

On the top the Canik has some cool detailed features that I always like. One is a loaded chamber indicator that protrudes from the top, just behind the barrel hood. It's easy to check this or press check before putting in work. The other feature is the striker status indicator. A little metal nub protrudes from the rear of the slide when the striker is cocked. It also has a little red dot on it for visual inspection.

The slide is quite handsome with attractive lines and angled cuts. The SFx gets a few lightening cuts on the 10 and 2 o'clock angles of the slide. The SFT has none. Excellent front and rear sights with easy to see white dots are installed. The rear is notched for ripping the slide over whatever you need to. While it's well notched, it isn't sharp on the edges. As mentioned earlier, it is optics ready for Trijicon RMRcc or other popular micro-optics. Once installed the dot co-witnesses with the sights.



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METE MEANS BUSINESS



The author found much to love with either model of the Mete, as each offers its own unique benefits.

KIT UP

The Mete comes with a hard case, 18- and 20-round mags, speed loader, extra backstraps, mag well, tool kit and punch, cleaning kit and two optics plates. The tool kit should not be overlooked since disassembly of the pistol has been simplified with easy in/out push pins for this modular system.

There is also a reversible IWB/OWB holster included, and it's actually a very nice and usable kydex holster. I used it at the range and would only change it out for something dropped and offset—which is what I plan to do. All in all, the Canik SFx and SFT come with a serious bit of goodies, making its purchase all the more exciting.

Other options include an Olight tactical light, holster for weapon-mounted light/pistol combo, threaded barrels and mag pouch.

SHOOTING THE LEGEND

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I was way excited to get to the range with the SFx. I met up with my buddy, Kendl Wong, and handed the SFT off to her to get her opinion of it. As a Glock owner, she loved the way

the Canik fit her hand, taking up "all of the real estate of her hand," in her words. During a brief shooting session, we both found the Caniks to be easy to shoot, pointing well and making it easy to pick up the Shield sight.

Everything seems simplified with the SF pistols. Draw, aim and press out a couple of rounds, then repeat. When the mag runs dry, slam in a new mag effortlessly and keep shooting. Even the Shield optics were on zero after simply attaching them to the slide. Recoil on the SFx was minimal and smooth, and the SFT had just a bit more recoil, which you'd expect from the shorter version. Again, both were easy to shoot.



PERFORMANCE

CANIK METE SFX, SFT

LOAD	VELOCITY	ACCURACY
Hornady 115 FTX	1,185	2.25
Sig 124 V Crown	1,244	1.50
Winchester USA 115	1,286	1.25

Bullet weight measured in grains, velocity in feet per second (fps) by chronograph and accuracy in inches for best five-shot groups from 15 yards.

We must bring a little attention to the Shield RMSc. This micro-dot is perfect on the Mete, and Canik knows it. The footprint is right, the sight is durable and the way the RMSc sets the perfect brightness for the dot amazes me every time. From inside the house looking out at a bright white wall, lit by the more than ample Arizona sun, the dot was bright and easy to see. The RMSc uses a variable-density drive circuit that senses the light at the target and adjusts the LED dot accordingly.

Accuracy was impressive, and group sizes are in the attached chart. I must point out that while the Hornady Critical Defense 115-grain FTX looks to have had the worst group, it put four of the five rounds into 0.5 inches at 15 yards. I threw one shot. That said, the Hornady and the Canik would be my bet for personal defense.

The Canik SFx and SFT are incredible pistols. They are appropriately named after the legendary warrior before them, and destined to become legendary in their own right. For more information, visit canikusa.com.

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HEATSEE

An innovative, affordable and lightweight chassis for the

Ruger American.

Upgrade your Ruger American to look like this!

The Sharps Bros. Heatseeker for the Ruger American Short Action (calibers: 308 WIN, 6.5 Creedmoor) allows you to easily upgrade the traditional factory rifle stock for improved versatility and a sleek, modern appearance.

This 1lb, 3-ounce chassis is machined from billet (solid block) high-strength 6061-T6 aluminum and includes a 10 ounce, 14" handguard cut from a unique extrusion shape exclusive to Sharps Bros. Both the chassis body and handguard are finished in a matte black Cerakote. The handguard features MLOK slots on 4 sides for various attachment options (light, bipod, night vision, ARCA rail) and two quick disconnect fittings per side for sling attachments. Heatseeker's standard AR15 grip interface is compatible with AR15 pistol grips, and the AR buffer interface allows you to further customize your rifle with your preferred AR15 type stock. Heatseeker is compatible with AICS short action magazines from Magpul and Accuracy International.

STRIKING RECEIVERS

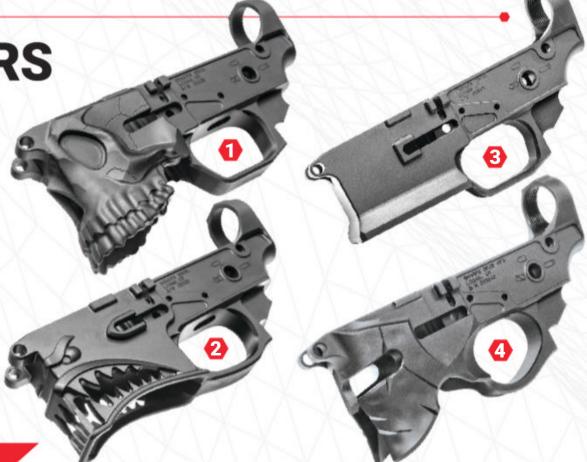
The ultimate in custom AR receivers: Sharps Bros.

Featured here are the The Jack, Hellbreaker, Livewire and Overthrow from Sharps Bros. All four receivers have aggressive looks, incredible craftsmanship, and details only found on high-end receivers.

- Oversized integral trigger guards and beveled magazine flares
- A hard coat anodize finish per MIL-A-8625, the anodizing model for most military and aerospace products
- Full compatibility with all mil-spec internal parts, aftermarket mil-spec upper receivers, PMags, Hexmag and other standard capacity magazines
- Multi-caliber mark

ES INCLUDE:

FEATUR



1. The Jack 2. Hellbreaker 3. Livewire 4. Overthrow

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Two years later Sig debuted the P365XL. This variant used the same interchangeable fire control module of the P365 now set into a longer frame underneath a stretched slide and barrel. The innate modularity of the design was custom crafted for upgrades. Nowadays the tactical landscape is littered with cool-guy stuff that makes this great gun even greater.

Grip modules swap easily while offering the option of a manual safety if desired. Ingenious aftermarket American tinkerers developed threaded barrels, light modules, electronic red-dot sights

ALEX LANDEEN PHOTOS

SUPER SIG



ABOVE RIGHT: My secret agent spy gun began life as a hybrid Sig P365XL. The most modular concealed carry handgun on the planet, the P365XL provides fertile ground for this transformation.

RIGHT: The beating heart of the excellent P365 series of handguns is this drop-in serialized trigger module.

and properly-scaled sound suppressors. The end result is the absolute perfect spy gun.

A BLOODY NIGHT

Napoleon Solo stood motionless in the rain, the cold water running over him as though he were part of the inert landscape. He remained in the shadows, invisible from the entrance to the Uzbek embassy. His training and experience as an U.N.C.L.E. operator had transformed him into one of the most lethal human beings on the planet. Underneath his dark gray Burberry trench coat his hand encompassed the grip of his highly-customized Sig Sauer P365 micro-compact handgun.

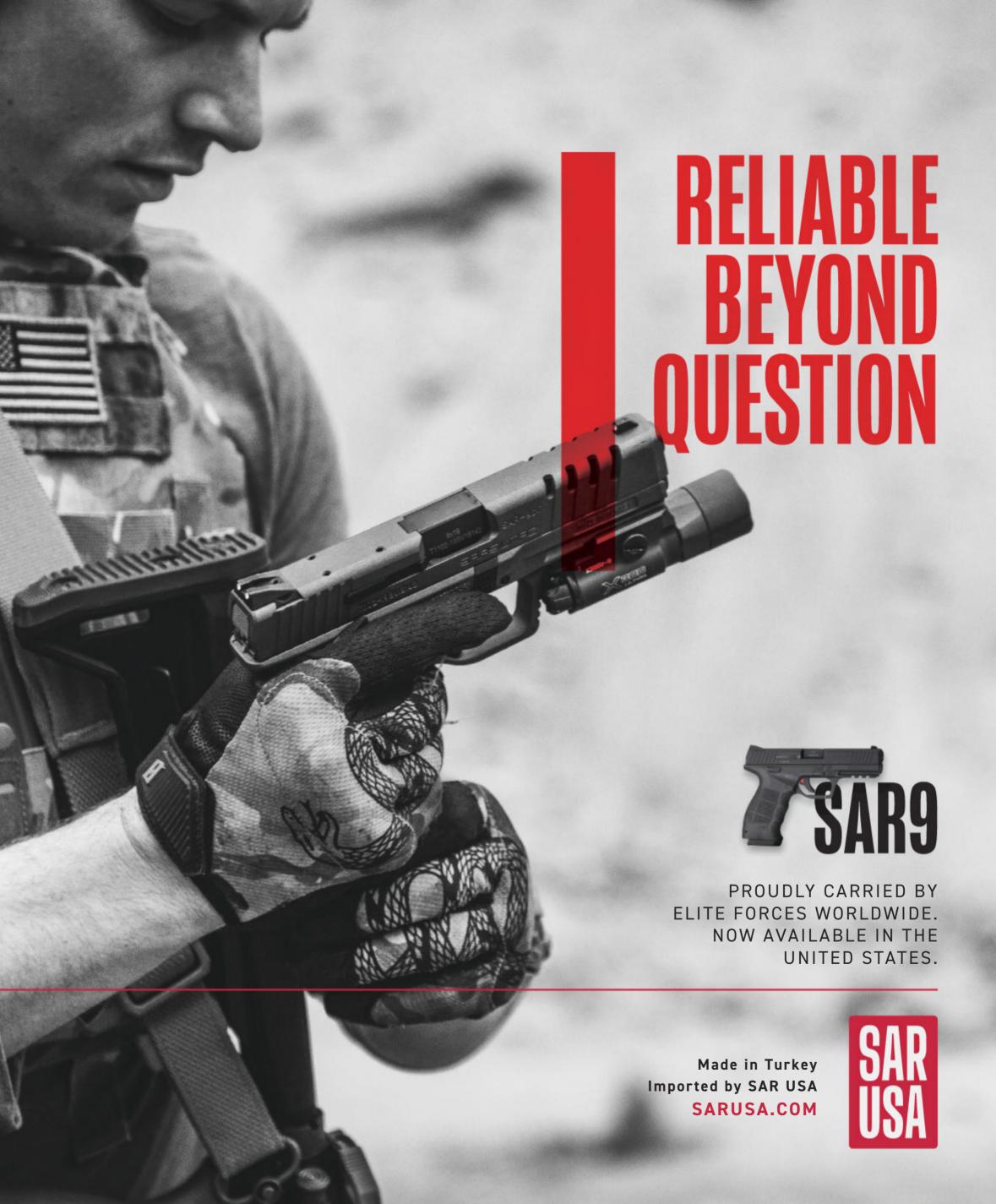
Solo personally had little use for Karachi, though he had spent enough time there to feel at home. An hour prior he had been alone in his expansive suite in the Mövenpick Hotel, the sundry components of his primary tactical weapon laid out meticulously on the bed. With a familiarity borne of literally countless repetitions he assembled the various pieces, transforming the stubby little concealed carry tool into a full-capacity precision carbine. Now that same customized weapon hung at his side ready to rock.











SUPER SIG

The little suppressed Sig pistol coughed out four rounds in quick succession, catching Ibn Taymiyyah center of mass. The unrepentant killer of children flew backward, his machine pistol skittering unfettered across the wet macadam. Solo jogged over to the man and dispensed a security shot before glancing around to ensure that they were still alone.

The man from U.N.C.L.E. drew his Microtech Troodon automatic knife and relieved the cooling terrorist of his right thumb, dropping the severed digit into a plastic bag he had brought along for that purpose. Half an hour later he was back at the Mövenpick. Twelve hours after that he was in London. Though it sometimes felt as though he were pushing against the tides, now the world was just a tiny bit safer. Napoleon Solo slept soundly that night.

THRUSH was an international criminal terrorist conglomerate bent on global domination.

U.N.C.L.E. was left intentionally enigmatic. The show's writers eventually reluctantly assigned "United Network Command for Law and Enforcement" to the acronym. The term was originally a veiled reference to the United Nations or Uncle Sam. The premise was that the threat from THRUSH was so existential as to demand cooperation between the U.S. and the USSR, mortal Cold War enemies at

> the time. lan Fleming, the originator of the James Bond series, was an early contributor. The original working title for the show was lan Fleming's Solo.

The real star of the show was the U.N.C.L.E. gun. A

custom prop built around a heavily modified P38 pistol chassis, this modular carbine was the very embodiment of 1960s-era spy chic. The original U.N.C.L.E. gun was built atop an M1934 Mauser pistol. However, this gun seemed dwarfed by its accessories and jammed frequently. The producers therefore appropriated a Walther P38 from the nearby set of the TV series Combat! and went to work modifying it.

The new U.N.C.L.E. gun included a removable birdcage flash suppressor, a detachable skeletonized buttstock, an optical sight and a stylized barrel extension/sound suppressor. The prop masters created six copies at a cost of around \$1,500 apiece (\$12,644 today), though only two were complete kits. A U.S. Army Ordnance General approached the show's producers asking to borrow one for evaluation and testing.

They converted one gun to full auto. However, once it appeared on screen that illegal machine gun earned the producers a visit from U.S. Treasury agents, the predecessors to today's BATF. There resulted a \$2,000 fine, and the matter was quietly resolved.

We thought it might be a fun exercise to build up an Information Age rendition of the original Man from U.N.C.L.E. gun. As the Sig Sauer P365 is arguably the most modular handgun on the planet, that seemed a

great place to start. The end result just drips cool.

BACKGROUND

The Man from U.N.C.L.E. ran on American TV for four seasons beginning in 1964. The show followed the exploits of American agent Napoleon Solo and his Russian partner Ilya Kuryakin as they battled the shadowy evil entity THRUSH.

> The original Man from U.N.C.L.E. spy gun was a modular tactical carbine built around a WWIIvintage Walther P38.

Nicely accessorized, the author's Sig P365XL transforms into a covert. directaction, spy-grade,

56



b

SUPER SIG



SilencerCo is at the top of the heap in sound suppressor technology these days. Their Omega 45K is versatile, effective and quite rugged.





COMPONENTS

The SilencerCo Omega 45K suppressor can be used on either 9mm or .45 ACP platforms simply by swapping out the mounting piston. It is also delightfully compact while remaining exceptionally effective. The Omega 45K includes a built-in Linear Inertial Decoupler for uber-reliable operation.

The Streamlight TLR7 Sub tactical weapon light packs big light performance into a package not much larger than your thumb. The TLR7 Sub feeds off of a single CR123A battery and puts out 500 lumens of blistering white light. The ambidextrous tailcap switch is easily managed, and the thing is as rugged as Margaret Thatcher's corset.

The Trijicon RMRcc is a miniaturized version of their GI-issue RMR micro red-dot sight optimized and scaled for micro carry guns. The sight is powered by a standard 2032 battery that will yield up to four years of constant-on operation. The RMRcc sets its own brightness automatically. Fast in action and nearly indestructible, the Trijicon RMRcc is combat-grade glass.

The Sig P365 can be had with a variety of stick magazines. However, for this project we wanted something a bit manlier. Promag makes two different drum magazines for

this stubby little concealed carry gun. One packs 30 rounds, while the other carries 50. Constructed of rugged proprietary DuPont Zytel polymer, these drums feature full-length stamped and welded steel inserts for strength and durability. An ample loading wheel built into the front of the magazine makes it easy to charge to full capacity.

Grayguns offers a wide array of top-quality Sig accessories to include custom laser engraved polymer grip modules in gray or black featuring deep "Grayscale" texturing. This treatment not only looks freaking awesome, it also substantially enhances your grip on the gun, particularly when sweaty or terrified. They also offer a drop-in manual safety for the P365. Use it if you want, ignore it if you don't. I like the option.

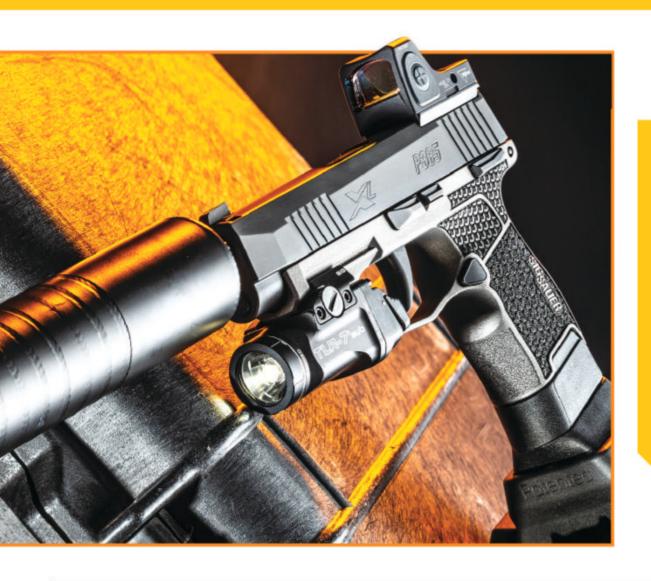
True Precision builds the custom threaded barrel. Available in nine different finishes and rocking some seriously rarefied aesthetics, True Precision barrels are match-grade accurate and dead nuts reliable. True Precision tubes are a drop-in fit and run like a lawyer after money.



The end result remains bulky but svelte and looks almost too cool for words. This modular spy gun was utterly reliable with everything we fed it. It also moved fast and shot straight. With



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FOR MORE INFORMATION

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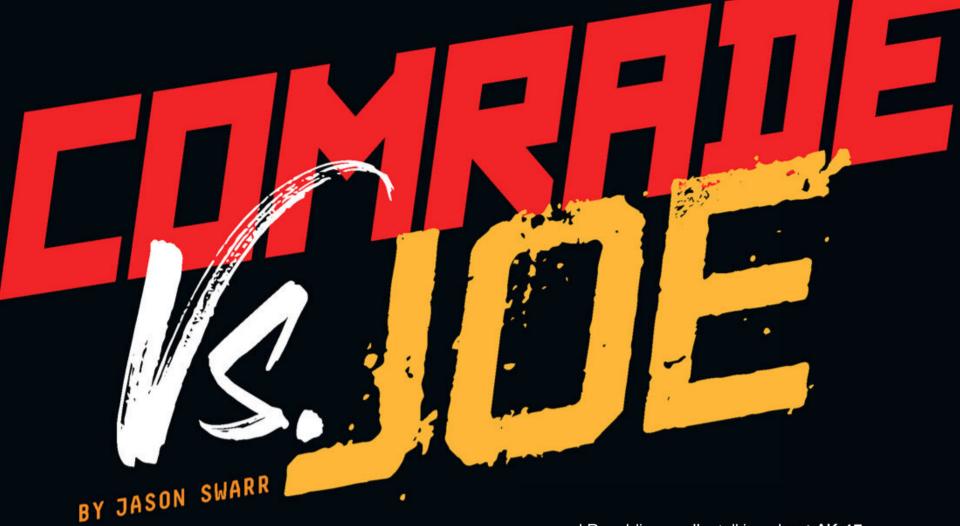
50 rounds on tap you'll get tired of stroking the trigger before the gun runs dry.

The Omega 45K excises most of the gun's snap, though you'll still want some plugs, particularly up close. The end result remains nonetheless usable within enclosed spaces without totally trashing your tactical awareness, which is the point. Combined, the Trijicon RMRcc red-dot and Streamlight TLR7 Sub are the next best thing to night vision.

You need to make a sober assessment of how awesome you are before trying to build up your own *Man from U.N.C.L.E.* gun. Not just everybody can handle this much raw, unfiltered cool. Running such a beast will reliably get you dates with supermodels, cure male-pattern baldness and make even the dumpiest Midwestern accountant look just a little bit like a suave international superspy. After a little trigger time with the pistol, I'm feeling kind of extra amazing myself.







ello again, *Ballistic* readers!

We are back for another Skillset Comms, and today I've brought some special guests to the table. As you know, our country is more divided than it has ever been. Everywhere you go, you see a 50-50 split among American ideologies. Social media platforms are constant battlegrounds for these two sides, and no matter how many facts are presented, no one ever wants to give ground. These parties have their heels dug in so deep, in fact, it feels as if we are living our own internal Cold War. No, wait! I'm not talking about Democrats

and Republicans—I'm talking about AK-47 owners versus AR-15 owners.

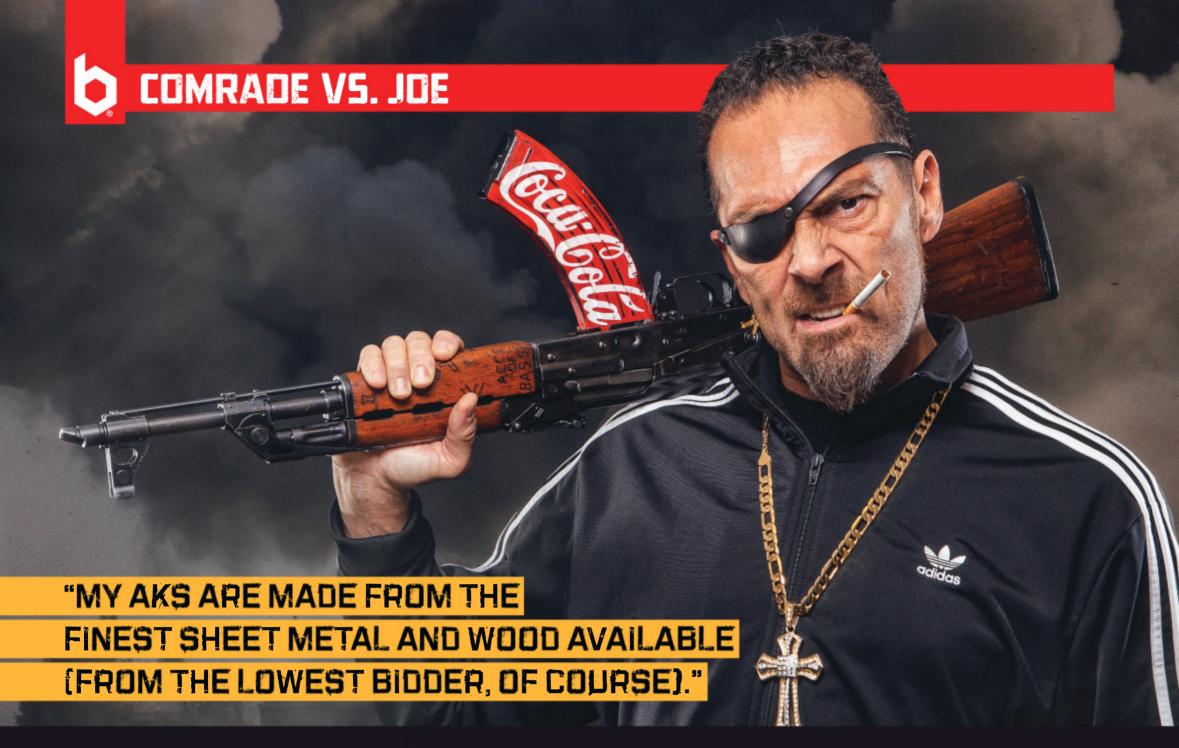
Channeling my own inner Gandhi, I have arranged for two pivotal leaders in these movements to come together to peacefully air their differences. Will we find common ground or will this summit end like an alcohol-fueled Raiders game on a seven-week losing streak? Let's hope I can keep the violence to a tolerable minimum.

First off, I would like to introduce Kyle "BCG" McGee, a die-hard American patriot, military veteran and current owner of over 36 AR-15s. He spends most of his time dialing in red-dots and exposing people online for improper trigger discipline.





ATTO AR-15 OWNERS RAGES ON



Good afternoon, Kyle! Welcome to *Ballistic*. It says here that you served with Delta while you were in the military. That is amazing!

KYLE: Oh, umm...is that what my bio said? To clarify, I sat next to a few operators on Delta Airlines on my way to deployment. Pretty intense three hours, bro...

Ahh, got it. Well, thank you for your service, anyway. At the time, were you heading to Iraq? Afghanistan?

KYLE: Fort Polk, Louisiana—411th Civil Affairs Battalion. One of the most intense drill weekends ever. A lot of stuff I don't want to talk about, man.

Next, I want to bring in Kyle's AK adversary, Mitch "Blyatman" Novak. Four years ago, his 23andMe DNA test results said that he is 1/64th Croatian, and he has donned the Adidas tracksuit ever since. He calls all his AKs "The Choppa," and he admits to building a Jim Fuller shrine in his studio apartment. Welcome, Mitch! It's a pleasure to have you here.

ELYATMAN: "Heels to the sky means Western spy, comrade!"

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"Okay, sure...let's just get started, gents." **BLYATMAN:** *Mудак!*

LET THE GAMES BEGIN

The first topic of this debate is caliber. While ARs have more options than almost anything else, its flagship is the 5.56x45mm cartridge. On the other hand, the AK is mainly chambered in 7.62x39mm and 5.45x...

BLYATMAN: Nyet! Only 7.62 was accepted by General Kalashnikov. Please do not speak of any other imposter calibers.

Got it, Mitch. Anyway, my question is this: Which bullet is more suitable in an urban environment?

KYLE: Is there really any question? The accuracy of the 5.56 has proven to reduce civilian casualties while still racking up dope-ass body counts, bro! Plus, don't get me started on the over-penetration of the AK round. At least my AR won't kill grandma next door.

ELYATMAN: Then maybe your grandma shouldn't be hanging out in combat zones, da?

You see, your skinny bullet may be fast and accurate, but if it can't penetrate an HOA wall, is it really made for urban warfare? 7.62 is a battle round! Sure, most AKs hover around the 10-MOA mark, but who needs to do pinpoint room clearing when I can shoot through three houses at once? Plus, there will be plenty of ammo lying around when the enemy invaders start dropping.

Dawn for the rest of us. Plus, you assume the "enemy" is coming from an overseas communist country. The commies we will be facing will most likely be shooting the same 5.56 as my AR, if you get my drift.

BLYATMAN: Wait, what? Only the Feds use 5.56 in Amer—oh, damn. Point taken.

Eeesh, let's not go there, fellas. The last thing I need right now is a three-letter agency labeling me as a domestic terrorist, okay? **BLYATMAN:** (Smirks.) First time?

KYLE: Molon labe, motherf@#%ers!

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THE RIGHT TO HEAR FOR YEARS TO COME

Left: SilencerCo Sparrow 22 patented in 2010

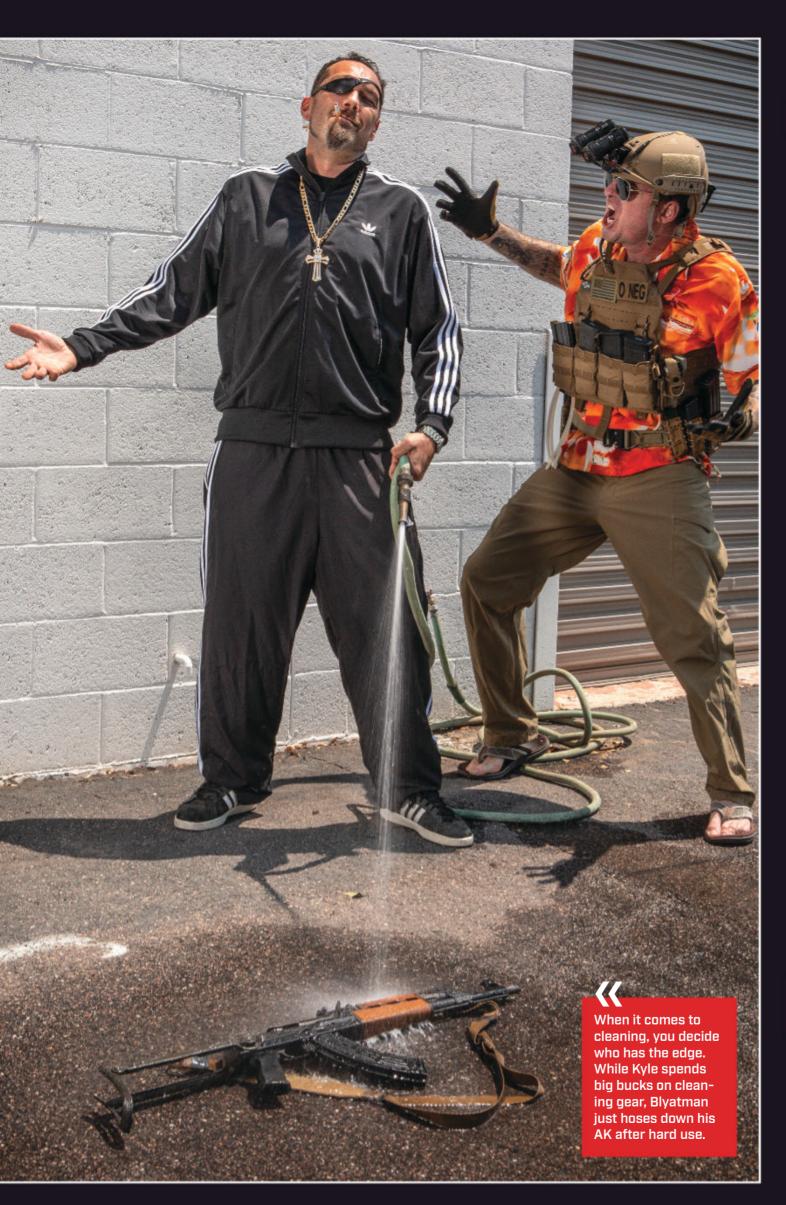
Right: Original Maxim silencer

patented in 1909



COMRADE VS. JOE

64



(Nervously.) Okay, let's move on before I make a no-fly list...

TIME TO ACCESSORIZE

With thousands of add-ons available, AR-15s have become known to many as "Legos for adults," but the only accessory AKs normally carry is a rusty bayonet. What gives?

an AR! Just because you spent \$1,500 on a rifle doesn't make it complete! You still need optics, backup sights, flashlights, magnifiers, infrared lasers, custom BCG dust covers, a new ambidextrous charging handle and at least 16 M-LOK attachments to start.

Wow, that seems excessive.

KYLE: Pffftt ... please. That's before my custom Cerakote paint job from Blown Deadline! If you haven't put \$3,500 into an \$800 AR-15, are you really an American?

you speak of? My AKs are made from the finest sheet metal and wood available (from the lowest bidder, of course). And who needs red-dots when you are shooting from the hip?

But wouldn't an AK benefit from a skeletonized stock or a Picatinny rail?

BLYATMAN: (Laughs in Slavic.) That's for weak girly men who want to make their rifles lighter and way more functional. If you take away my wood buttstock, where else am I going to carve in old girlfriend names or put fictional tick marks to show off my airsoft kills?

I see your point. Actually, I don't. Nothing either of you have said makes any sense, but we'll continue that conversation another day. Next question ...

CLEATLINESS IS NEXT TO GODLINESS

Let's talk about the most dreaded part of owning a rifle: maintenance. Kyle, we can start with you. ARs have been known to be rather fickle when they get dirty. In fact, the number one complaint among servicemen in the Vietnam War was how quickly the Stoner rifle would jam when subjected to harsh

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Selected by the NRA's Shooting Illustrated as the 2020 Rifle of the Year, the MPR's folding stock and carbon fiber handguard create a sleek compact design to make sure that every shot counts on your next backcountry adventure.





COMRADE VS. JOE



environments. How much time do you spend cleaning your guns?

KYLE: Bro, I don't think I like your tone. Besides the occasional failure to feed, failure to eject, failure to fire, bolt override, double feed and stovepipe malfunction, the AR-15 is as reliable as they come!

Thanks for helping to make my point.

KYLE: No problem, bruh! Anywho...the maintenance part of owning an AR is very minuscule.

I hit the range at least once a week and spend the other six days cleaning these bad boys. The key is buying your CLP and Q-tips in bulk. I get a truck load delivered to my house twice a month.

I save tons of cash that way. (Winks at me.)

Secret of the pros.

BLYATMAN: Wait, you guys clean weapons?

KYLE: Yeah, you moron. Believe it or not, there is actually more to a cleaning kit than a garden hose.

BLYATMAN: (Stares in confusion.)

ON THAT NOTE

I decided to wrap up the conversation before more brain cells were lost. And as much as I would love to present a conclusion regarding which platform is best, just like in the age-old quandary of boobs vs. butts, we will probably never get a definitive answer.

I personally carried an AR-15 for 20 years in the Marines, and it served me well in multiple combat zones. I have also witnessed a 13-year-old, flip-flop-wearing Somali youth with a pre-K education reassemble a rusty AKM and throw rounds downrange at me in under 15 seconds. That said, both weapons systems seem pretty damn effective in my opinion.

Therefore, we here at *Ballistic* believe that the best option is for you to go out and decide which you prefer for yourself! Flip through the pages of this stellar magazine, visit some of the fine AR and AK manufacturers out there, and give their systems your own once over. At the end of the day, unless you have walked a mile in a pair of 5.11 boots or Adidas sneakers, you really cannot make a snap judgment call on this question. And after all, diversifying your gun safe is the most American thing a person can do!

Friends to the end, but the discussion over which is best—the AR or AK—will probably last however long the governnmet continues to allow us to own firearms.

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Red Dot Ergonomics



Performance Duty Grip Texture



Red Dot Ready



SuperTerrain Serrations



Modularity



Performance Duty Trigger



What does it mean to be ready? waltherarms.com

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BIG THINGS COME IN SMALL PACKAGES



INSTR-KLASSIC KALASHNIKOV



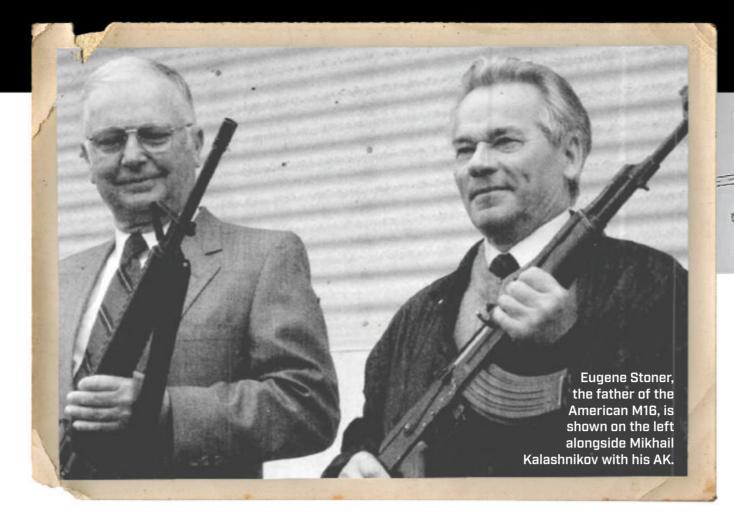
him right before he unleashes his DIY tool on

Subsequently wounded in 1941 while serving as a T-34 tank commander, Kalashnikov is haunted by a comrade killed when his PPSh submachine gun jams at a critical moment. Toiling in a locomotive depot, the wounded Kalashnikov begins work on a submachine gun of his own design. The Soviets sponsored grand competitions to select new Infantry weapons, and Kalashnikov's gun went head to head against offerings from such familiar names as Sudayev and Degtyaryov. His hand-

Kalashnikov then designs a light machine gun that fails to make the cut as well. Heartbroken, he requests transfer back to the front but is denied due to his injury. Despite setbacks and disappointments aplenty, Kalashnikov eventually prevails and designs the familiar AK-47. Along the way he falls in love with a girl assigned to him as a draftsman

AK-47 Kalashnikov they consulted the Military Historical Museum of Artillery, Engineers and Signal Corps in St. Petersburg. The prop guys bent over backward to get the guns right, particularly those weird early stamped-receiver versions made before the milled Type 2's that we rather spuriously call AK-47s over here. The extraordinary attention to technical detail will warm the heart of any gun nerd properly committed to his craft.

Throughout it all, Mikhail Kalashnikov is depicted as some kind of gun-bodging super-



hero. An Infantry battalion packing spanking new AK rifles enthusiastically applauds the bleary-eyed young designer for giving them the tools they need to defend the Motherland. Fade to black.

PHILOSOPHY

Kalashnikov's rifle is undeniably significant. The postscript to the film claims there have been more than 200 million copies. There's literally no telling how much blood has been spilt by this curious little machine in the hands of soldiers, freedom fighters, terrorists and lunatics around the globe. The AK rifle is arguably the single most influential mechanical contrivance ever conceived.

The entire tale is likely a steaming pile of poop. We maintained our own stable of pilfered German rocket scientists after the war. Heck, Werner von Braun was an SS officer, yet there are roads and buildings bearing his name in Huntsville, Alabama, today.

Rumor has it the Russian small arms bureau at Izhevsk hosted some kidnapped Germans who had worked on both the MG42 and the Sturmgewehr projects. Having those guys handy likely helped out a lot.

The point, however, is that AK-47 Kalashnikov was quite the popular movie in Russia. The production value rivals any typical big-budget Hollywood offering. The dialogue is dubbed in English, but it is done very well.

The very existence of this movie speaks volumes about the profound differences between U.S. and Russian culture. Where black rifles are vilified by the intelligentsia in the U.S., Comrade Kalashnikov is deified in Russia today. What might that say about our two disparate societies?

GULF MOST BROAD

Vladimir Putin is not a good guy. A former KGB agent who has served as Russian dictator in residence on and off since 1999, Putin almost assuredly had his primary

political rival, Alexei Navalny, poisoned with the military-grade nerve agent Novichok. The story goes that it was rubbed into the poor guy's underwear. Navalny subsequently spent an extended period in a German hospital recovering only to be immediately imprisoned upon his return home. He was not the first of Putin's enemies to fall afoul of Novichok.

For all his simply spectacular moral failings, however, Vladimir Putin is an undeniable stud. The guy started studying the martial arts at age 11 and holds an eighth dan black belt in sambo. He has authored two books on judo. Putin has been seen firing prototype weapons, hunting, fishing shirtless and tranquilizing wild tigers. He once subdued a polar bear and attached a tracking collar around its neck. Putin is an accomplished pianist and trained to fly a motorized hang glider while the head of state. This is our competition.

By contrast, on our side of the pond we are quite literally making a federal case over what pronouns to use when. Obama never rode a bike without one of those goofy androgenous helmets. He once shot trap with an over-and-under shotgun at Camp David, but it didn't look like his heart was in it. And don't get me started on the current resident of 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue and what avoidable tragic events have taken place—namely in Kabul, Afghanistan during the month of August, 2021.

> Certain aspects of the Kalashnikov design were directly pirated from other guns. The underfolding AK stock was clearly taken from that of the German MP40 submachine gun shown here.

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INSTR-KLRSSIC KALASHNIKOV



REALITY CHECKS

The Russians, Chinese and Iranians treat lying like a superpower.
Putin swears he's never poisoned anyone with Novichok. This might be even scarier as it implies that there is military-grade nerve agent floating around Russia just waiting to get into people's underpants.

The Chinese claim that

the Uighur concentration camps are actually educational facilities, like giant public schools that just happen to be cocooned in razor wire. The Iranians would publicly claim the sky is green if they felt this would further their geopolitical goals. The wise diplomat wouldn't pee on them if they were on fire, yet nowadays we seem in an awful rush to be friends.

Our opponents lack the Judeo-Christian ethic that still drives American society to a certain degree. In America unless you are a



politician or a lawyer it is assumed that lying is bad. That makes for a profoundly uneven playing field.

Tomorrow's radical jihadists will not be terribly verklempt over gender-neutral pronoun usage while trying to obtain an airplane adequate to carry a proper bomb. As I was typing this article, 11 Iranian nationals were apprehended attempting to cross the Southern border from Mexico. I somehow doubt they just wanted to visit Disneyland.

WHY IT ALL MATTERS

AK-47 Kalashnikov can tell us quite a lot about the sad state of modern geopolitics. While we suffer the gyrating fantods over carbon credits and LGBTTTQQIAA (an actual real designation) inclusivity our enemies are laughing at us. Putin is out flying his own ultralight airplanes and catching wild tigers. Chinese President Xi is crushing dissent, building islands de novo to house fresh strategic air bases in the South China Sea and planning his new vacation villa in Taiwan. Meanwhile, the lunatics in Iran are cutting off people's hands for stealing, putting women in jail for walking outside without a head covering and slathering the final coat of paint on their own homegrown atomic bombs.

The entirety of the AK-47 Kalashnikov film is one protracted homage to idolized heroic Russian gun designers. The soundtrack behind the opening credits is the sound of an AK being stripped and reassembled (trust me, you'll recognize it). There are dramatic closeups of these guns spewing full-auto chaos. Throughout it all is this pervasive surreal Disney-esque "Believe in Yourself" message. In one particularly moving scene an admirer describes Kalashnikov as having been, "touched by the veritable hand of God."

Wow. I just can't see Hollywood venerating gun designers in quite the same way. Over here, the powers that be would sooner celebrate institutional weakness.

DENOUEMENT

You can learn a lot about a culture by its entertainment. Ours is revisionist Leftist bilge. By contrast, films glorifying the sacrifices made during their Great Patriotic War remain reliably popular in Russia today. You can find scads of such stuff on YouTube. Much of it is actually quite good.

American society descends to ever-deeper levels of political correctness, depravity and self-absorption. At the same time our enemies are these Spartans who idolize their weapons designers and still value patriotism, sacrifice and the manly arts. How long can we prevail in the face of such? *AK-47 Kalashnikov* is available on DVD from Amazon.



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Sunday night ratings. This well-budgeted TV show focuses on an alternative history where the United States has grain embargo against the Soviet Union and Russian leaders decide to send in a crack Spetsnaz platoon into the USA to seize a large Alaskan oil well pumping station where the U.S. gets the lion's share of its oil in an attempt to hold Uncle Sam hostage economically. Luckily for the United States' good guys, there is a brilliant colonel played by actor David Soul

even look at one notable film that originally

aired on network TV that is now accessible,

and that every warm-blooded American

Let's rank these six gems in order of cultural importance, body count, anti-com-

mie theme and cool factor in no specific

scientific order. At the time of this writing,

notable made-for-TV one that you will read about) are still available on streaming, DVD,

all movie productions (even the cool,

should watch once a year.



DIE, COMMIE, DIE





IN VIETNAM THE WIND DOESN'T BLOW IT SUCKS



FULL METAL JACKET

STANDEY KUBRICKS FULL METAL JACKET
MATTHEW MODINE ADAM BALDWIN VINCENT DUNOFINO LEE ERNEY DOFIAN HAREWOOD ARLISS HOWARD
KEYYN MAJOR HOWARD ED DROSS DOMERTY STANLEY KUBRICK MICHAEL HERF GUSTAY HASFORD
MASSANTANISSE GUSTAY HASFORD ANDROSE PHILIP HOBBS SANGERS JAN HABLAN "PRANCE AS STANLEY KUBRICK

that is in charge of a United States National Guard unit that is tasked with discovering and defending the oil pumping station and stopping the commies.

The mini-series goes back and forth between major gun battles between the under-gunned National Guard and the Russian forces in the arctic frozen tundra battlefield and then focuses on a stressed-out U.S. President of the United States, played by Rock Hudson, in the White House trying to buy time politically and quietly without alerting the media to avoid a nuclear conflict. The show has plenty of excitement and things going boom, and the commie body count is quite high where Russian soldiers on Alaskan soil get killed off in scores. The TV movie cov-



ers some of the moral and ethical challenges that soldiers and politicians face in conflict on both sides and revisits some good old Cold War brinkmanship.

#5> FULL METAL JACKET

What else is there to say about the most awesomely fantastic Marine boot camp and war film on the Vietnam war ever made.

Stanley Kubrick's 1987 masterpiece really has a tremendous amount of raw dialogue, and the lower key battle scenes are pretty mesmerizing, especially based on the unique approach of filmmaking that he takes. There are so many great lines in this movie that I'm sure are repeated while every good red-blooded Amer-

ican is drinking with his friends, such as, "Me luv you long time." I believe also this is one of the first movies of its era that covered the topic of the Tet offensive in somewhat dramatic and sudden detail.

The highlight of the film, of course, is its first hour, which covers basic Marine boot camp training and its memorable vulgar and tough drill instructor portrayed by legendary actor R. Lee Ermey. Ironically, he was a real former drill instructor before he got into acting. His role is so raw and memorable that it is burned in the mind of every person that has ever watched this film. This movie has a modest kill count disposing of many commies and is just one of those unique film productions that it will be impossible to duplicate.

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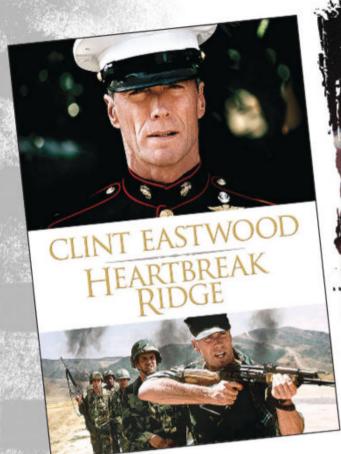


Nighthawk Custom is home to the finest firearms in the industry. The Chairman is a 6" long slide designed to be the ultimate competition pistol while the 6" Korth NXR .44 Mag is a powerhouse of a revolver. Our "One Gun, One Gunsmith" philosophy sees that every pistol we produce is built by a single gunsmith from start to finish. Contact your local Nighthawk Custom dealer to learn all about the complete line of 1911s and Korth revolvers.



DIE, COMMIE, DIE







From Gunny Highway to Rocky Balboa's beatdown of a commie opponent, the 1980s brought some of the best Cold War-era films to the silver screen.

#4> HEARTBREAK RIDGE

This film, which was very unique in its production, covers the very little-covered topic of the Grenada campaign that was launched on the tiny Caribbean island by U.S. forces in 1983. The film follows Gunny Highway portrayed by Clint Eastwood—a battle-hardened Vietnam Marine veteran who has been tasked to whip a less-than-disciplined Marine recon platoon into fighting condition. As luck would have it, the platoon gets their act

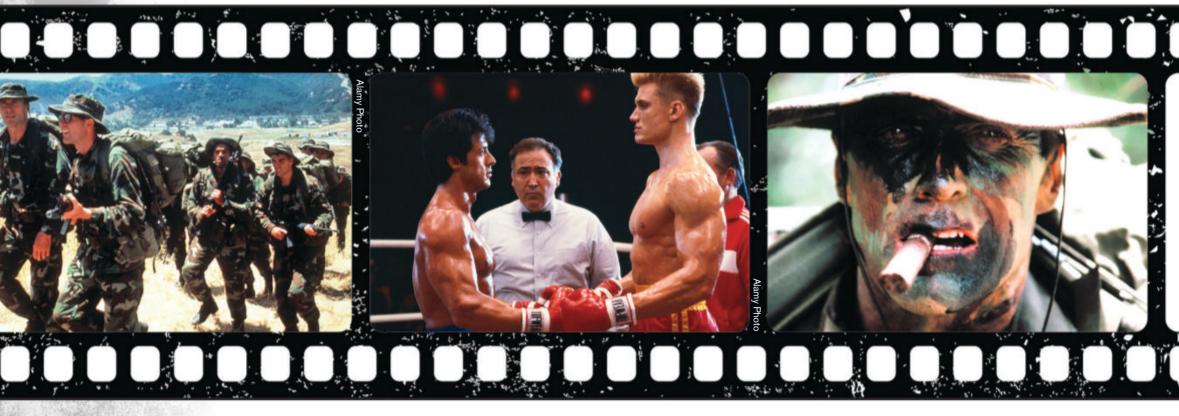
together just in time to go into battle under Eastwood's command.

This movie, released in 1986, also has some fantastic memorable lines and a very funny jail scene where an intoxicated and annoyed Gunny Highway decides to take on a guy four times his size in a quick fight. Once we get into the latter part of the movie, it covers the invasion where the recon unit engages in a couple of battles with Cuban army regulars and, of course, they rescue the American medical students who were being held against

their will, which followed the real-life occurrence during the conflict. Although this movie has a fairly lower level communist kill count, it really makes up for that with a very patriotic and proud message of the United States Marine Corps and their first-into battle recon units.

#3> KOCKA IA

Although this legendary boxing movie did not have any type of body count (except for one, if you count Apollo Creed beat to death in



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1

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"No take up, great reset. Extremely accurate, much more than I am."

"The trigger breaks right where I like it (not too light, just hard enough to keep me honest)."

"A high quality, precision part that will make me a much better shoot."

6

MORE TRIGGER FOR THE MONEY

"I've amazed several trigger snobs with the candy cane break and lightning fast reset. They're crushed when I tell them the cost."

"By far the best triggers and at an amazing price. I have 4 of them!"

"Hands-down the best triggers on the market at the best price."

"My only problem is deciding how many more I need!"





DIE, COMMIE, DIE



the beginning by the bad Soviet), we felt it was an obligation to have this film on this list. The movie doesn't really have anything going boom, but rates very high on its patriotism scale. In fact, the movie was considered to be the highest-grossing sports movie ever made for over two decades until it was unseated by the *Million Dollar Baby*. The film, of course, focuses on everyone's favorite American boxer, Rocky Balboa, who takes on a mean Russian communist in the ring to avenge his best friend's death. The movie certainly capitalizes on its anti-communists theme

by portraying all of the Russian characters involved as evil and diabolical.

Some great scenes show the Soviet boxer training with all sorts of state-of-the-art equipment, and then cuts to our modest hero, Rocky, training in the frozen tundra lifting logs in preparation for the big fight. The movie has some fast-paced fun music and is certainly worthy for its anti-communist theme. The ending has a very nice touch with our American hero speaking about unity to a crowd, and even the Russians stand up and clap. If you haven't seen this movie in a very long time, you will

appreciate the period writing and production value—especially with a lot of the film garbage that is streaming out there right now.

#2>FIREFOX

This 1982 movie, which not only stars but was also directed by Clint Eastwood, follows a very enjoyable Cold War anti-communist theme. Even though this movie is close to 30 years old, it is still very believable and has the recipe of a great air-combat film, along with a cool James Bond spy feel to it. Not only does Clint Eastwood have two talk his way past KGB agents, avoid being followed and hook up with spies helping him behind enemy lines, he then has to actually steal an aircraft in Russia and fly it home.

The lion's share of this film's budget was used on some very groundbreaking special effects at the time and, of course, the anti-communist theme is carried throughout the picture. One of the best moments of the film is when Eastwood's character's stolen jet is running out of gas in the grim frozen arctic, he discovers the secret refueling station is a U.S. submarine, and he and the ship's captain exchange some great dialogue moments before he takes off. The film recognizes America's submarine service as additional heroes and is a great Saturday afternoon feature to watch.

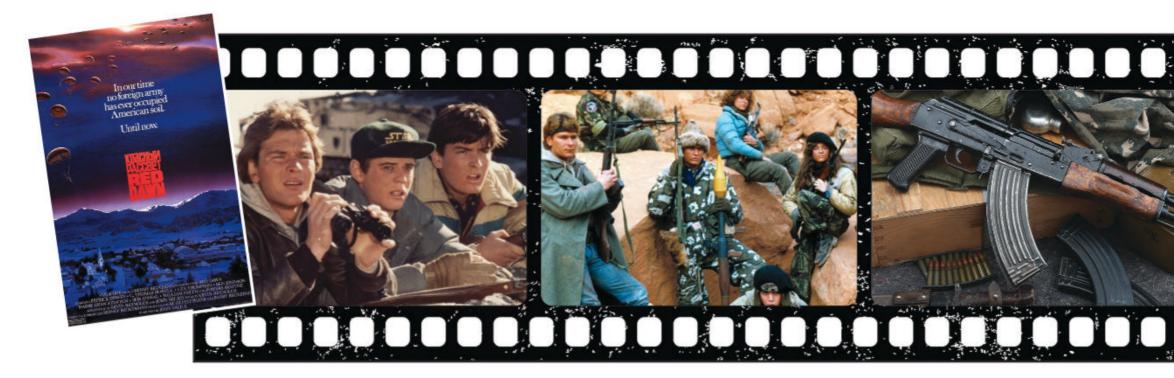
#1> RED DAWT

Well, what else can be said of the granddaddy of all anti-communist movies that hasn't been mentioned in a bar or around a campfire with



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your buddies. This 1984 movie covers a group of young teenage partisans caught behind enemy lines in the now-occupied America after an invasion by communist armies. The film actually made the *Guinness Book of World Records* for the most acts of violence of any movie at that time. It was also the first movie that earned the PG-13 film rating, which

allowed scores of young teenage boys to storm the movie theaters.

Of course, commies are killed in just about every scene in the film with very little remorse, which was really a dream come true for bloodthirsty audiences back then. On the updated Blu-Ray and DVD version of the movie, there is a fantastic "making of" feature that would make any fan excited to rewatch. It's also rumored that this movie really started the mid-1980's high school camouflage and parachute pants fashion craze. Perhaps in this case, however, as far as fashion is concerned it's best to leave the past in the past if you expect any second glance from the honeys while you are out and about. Wolverines!



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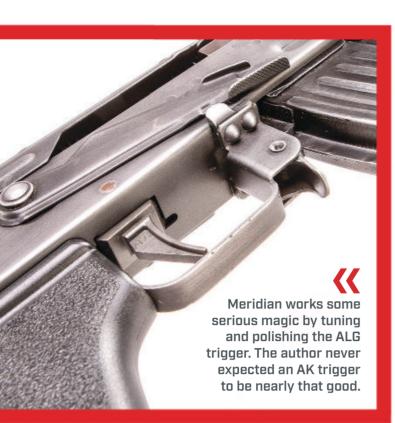




5 SPIRI

SPIRIT OF '76 AK





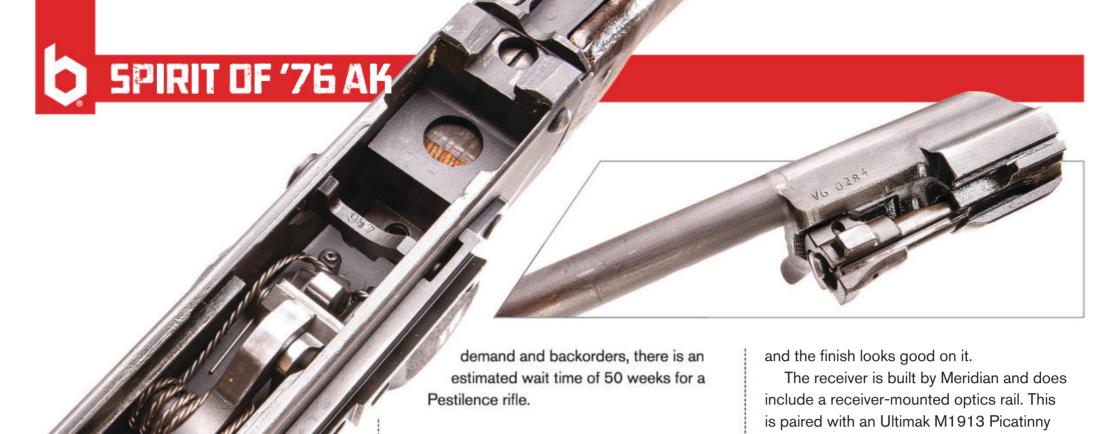
unfortunately lives in California, wanted to buy an AK for himself but the company he wanted to buy from wouldn't sell to him because of where he lived. So, he did the most American thing he could, he built himself one...and then started a business building them. Free-market capitalism works, and I hope Stalin is spinning in his grave.

Tony suggested I go for the 7.62x39mm Pestilence rifle that is part of their Apocalypse Series. The Apocalypse Series is a limited run of four rifles based on the four horsemen of the apocalypse. These rifles "have an end of the world apocalypse feel and looks, but without sacrificing Meridian's build quality and precision parts..." The Pestilence is available now for pre-orders, while the other three are sold out. "Death" is based on an AK-74 with Bulgarian military parts kit, "Famine" is an AK-47 pistol with Romanian military parts kit and "War" is built with original Yugo M72 RPK military parts kit.

While talking with Tony about the Pestilence rifle (which by the way, seemed really fitting for 2021) he asked what number I would like painted on the side of the stock. I told him "76" for my birth year. Tony responded that if he had the parts, he would use original Romanian military parts from that year. If not, they would paint another number that corresponds with the original parts kit's year. All and all, everything went along smoothly, except for the worst part—waiting. By the way, due to current



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PESTILENCE ARRIVAL

TOP RIGHT AND ABOVE:

The masters at Meridian

build every rifle as it's

their own-no cutting

best AK platforms money can buy.

corners, no half-ass BS.

Their goal is to build the

I have shot more than my fair share of AKs in my lifetime and I was not expecting how much I would actually love it. Yes, I know, that's a strong four-letter word, but it's the truth. Before we get into the particulars, I need to say something. First, handling the rifle and pulling back on the bolt...oh man, it was butter! So smooth. And do yourself a favor and get the upgraded ALG trigger, which Meridian tunes and polishes. I never knew AKs could even have this fantastic of a trigger pull.

Meridian refinishes the entire rifle and then they hand work a Battleworn finish. There are no sharp edges anywhere on this rifle. The wood is stripped and refinished in their "Apocalypse" style stain. Overall, the Pestilence does have that "end of the world" look and feel to it, The receiver is built by Meridian and does include a receiver-mounted optics rail. This is paired with an Ultimak M1913 Picatinny gas tube upfront. They use Romanian military parts kit in their builds but use American-made 4150 CMV black nitride barrels. The barrel is 14.5 inches long with a pinned muzzle brake to achieve that overall length of 16 inches. You have eight choices of muzzle brakes or you can even request one if it's not listed. I asked Tony to recommend a muzzle for me and he went with Meridian's BD2-51T. You also have an option to request for a KNS adjustable gas system. This Pestilence will rarely be suppressed, so I didn't see a need for one.

For the grip they used the Tango Down AK grip, and the rifle comes with one Battleworn-finished AK magazine. Meridian also laser engraved on the rear sight block "Special Project Division," along with their octopus logo. The fit, finish and attention to details on this AK are just insane.



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DESIGNED TO ADAPT

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SPIRIT OF '76 AK

All original Romanian military parts from 1976, the same year the author was born, were used in this special build, hence the "76" painted on the Apocalypse-style stained stock.



RAINING LEAD

Due to time constraints, I didn't have a chance to shoot the Pestilence for accuracy. But from what I can tell from doing a little shooting with it, it will shoot sub-MOA. AKs are never really known for their accuracy, but Meridian is changing that. The ALG trigger definitely helps in that department, and it will be a must-have for all future AKs for me.

I don't know what sort of Capitalist magic Meridian does to their AKs, but the Pestilence shoots flat. Recoil felt no worse than a 5.56mm AR. Magazine changes took a little practice; I kept knocking the magazine into the wooden foregrip. I know I am not the only one to do that since there is an indent in the wood from countless times it has been dinged by a magazine.

I fed the Pestilence a diet of Century's Red Army 122-grain FMJ and HSM 123-grain Hornady SST. It ate everything with aplomb and cycled flawlessly every time. It was really a joy to shoot it. In fact, I haven't had this much fun on the range in a long time.

PARTING SHOTS

All this goodness that the Pestilence brings

PICKING AK BANANAS

For a limited time, US Palm is offering their AK 30 Banana Special Edition magazine. The sealed, one-piece polymer design is built to last. A low-friction self-cleaning polymer follower keeps performing while the stainless steel latch cage ensures positive loading that won't give way when you need it the most. The unique waffle and tread design provides a solid grip for the shooter during loading and unloading while providing rigid reinforcement. It comes in a bright yellow color with a light blue base. The mag also comes with a special patch. If you miss out on the Banana magazine, make sure you check out US Palm's other awesome AK30 magazines at uspalm.com. -Linas Cernauskas

and starting my love affair with the Kalashnikov. It looks awesome, shoots awesome and just feels awesome.

So, what's next for Tony and the Meridian crew? Well, they just started a new, unique series titled "Seven Sins." "Lust" is already sold out but there will be six more limited edition runs of different rifles, and trust me, you'll want to keep your eyes open for those. We'll have a look into Meridian's "Seven Sins" in a future edition of Ballistic. Check out what the dark side can offer at meridiandefensecorp.com.





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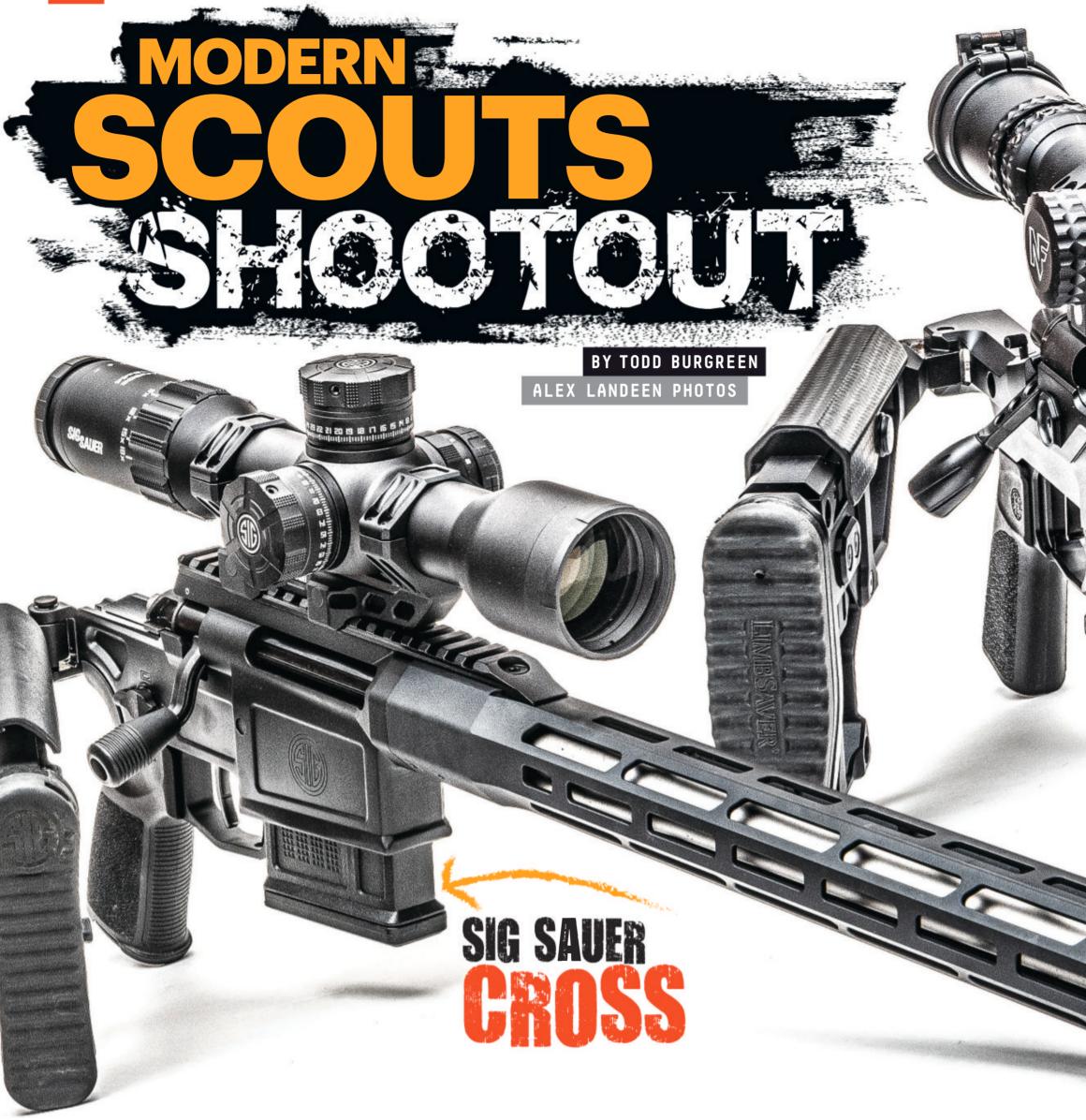
10MM AUTO





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TALE OF THE TAPE





You want to start a fight within the gun community? Start bandying around the term Scout rifle when discussing a rifle. The number

of articles and books written on the subject weighing in on Lt. Col. Jeff Cooper's concept of a general purpose rifle is both flattering and staggering.

Why broach the Scout rifle topic? We wanted to set the stage for the new breed of general purpose rifles as exemplified by the Sig Sauer Cross and Christensen Arms MPR (Modern Precision Rifle), both chambered in .308 Win. To be clear, we're not representing that these two rifles are Scout rifles—though it would be hard not to appreciate each when viewed by the parameters set forth by Cooper.

The underlying component in the scout rifle concept as defined by Cooper starting in the 1980s is versatility. A quick review of Cooper's scout rifle tenants is in order. "A general purpose rifle...conveniently portable, individually operated firearm, capable of striking a single decisive blow, on a live target..." Cooper specified overall length of 39 inches and weight of 6.6

"scout" intermediate-eye-relief, low-powered scope mounted in front of the action. The

rifle also must

pounds as ideal with the signature

have provision for ammunition capacity with efficient reloading offering a modicum of firepower. Finally, the rifle's chambering must be powerful enough to anchor a quarry weighing up to 1,000 pounds while still lending itself to other criteria such as capacity and size of rifle. The .308 Win. has come to be accepted as the most natural cartridge.

Both the Sig Sauer Cross and Christensen MPR have additional features that could be considered viable pluses to Cooper's original thought chain. The folding stocks found on the Cross and MPR ease transport, with each still offering multiple adjustments for comb, length of pull and cant. Threaded barrels offer users the ability to suppress if desired. Detachable magazines offering five- or 10-round capacity are a positive compared to feeding from the top of the action. Today's optic choices blow away 1980s scopes. Current options of illuminated red-dots with magnification ranges of 1-8x, 1-10x, 2-12x would be serious considerations in lieu of forward-mounted optic.

CROSS CREDENTIALS

Sig Sauer certainly surprised many at the 2020 SHOT Show with its Cross bolt-action rifle. Significantly, the Cross is not intended for the tactical/sniper role; hunting and PRS competition is its main realm. The Cross's action is incredibly rigid—but also light thanks to a one-piece receiver eliminating the need for bedding and action screws. The Cross one-piece receiver interacts directly with the trigger, bolt, AICS magazine and barrel mounting; think AR without upper and lower distinctions. The

Sig Cross in .308 Win. with a 16-inch barrel weighs a mere 6.5 pounds and measures 36.5 inches.

With any rifle desiring accuracy, the trigger is a crucial part of the equation. Sig created a fully housed two-stage match trigger with

adjustment between 2.5 and 4.5 pounds with no creep. The other noteworthy feature of the Cross, both in terms of aesthetics and performance enhancement, is the fully

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MODERN SCOUTS SHOOTOUT



adjustable folding stock. Comb height, pad height, cant, a reversible comb and length of pull are all easily adjustable and locked in place with the Sig Cross. This allows a user to "fit." Its adjustability mimics what is possible only with a custom stock.

The Cross feeds from standard AICS-pattern magazines, with a Magpul five-rounder arriving with the rifle. The magazine provided by Sig has a proprietary sled follower for optimized single-round loading through the ejection port.

The single-stack profile of the AICS lends itself to a thinner overall width for the Cross and stiffer action due to less material needing to be removed from the bottom of the receiver.



rail for scope mounting.

long-range accuracy due to extremely stiff/rigid

design and the degree of quality control during

manufacturing. The bolt is nitride coated at 70

HRC for extreme wear protection. The MPR receiver has an integrated 20-MOA Picatinny

MODERN PRECISION RIFLE PARTICULARS

The Christensen MPR's distinctive aesthetics immediately puts one on notice that this is not an ordinary rifle. The Christensen bolt action is constructed of high strength 17-4 stainless steel. Extraction is accomplished by a M16-style extractor. This is superior to the typical steel clip that sits inside the bolt

The Christensen chassis combines carbon fiber in the right places with a rigid hard coat anodized 7075 billet aluminum frame. The whole chassis weighs only 3.5 pounds. The Christensen chassis features a multi-adjustable side-folding buttstock for ease of transport. The stock is held in place when

> SPECIFICATIONS **SIG SAUER CROSS**

CALIBER:	.308 Win.
BARREL:	16 inches
DA LENGTH:	36.5 inches
WEIGHT:	6.5 pounds (empty)
STOCK:	Chassis
SIGHTS:	None
ACTION:	Bolt
FINISH:	Black anodized
CAPACITY:	5+1, 10+1
MSRP:	\$1,799

TOP: The finely tuned two-stage nose of most non-Mauser match trigger on the Sig Cross is adjustable from 2.5 to 4.5 pounds. style bolt actions. The Christensen **ABOVE:** The Cross is fed by bolt is conducive to AICS-pattern magazines, lending to the rifle's thinner overall width.

The Sig Cross features a one-piece receiver, alleviating the need for bedding

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and action screws. The result is an incredibly rigid action, which is conducive to accuracy.



GALIL ACE GENII PISTOL



The Galil ACE GEN II Pistol in either 5.56 NATO or 7.62x39 caliber is a continuation of the fan-favorite Galil ACE, created using real feedback from real customers using our gun in the field. Modeled after the legendary AK-47 and Valmet RK 62, the Galil family never stops improving. The new Galil ACE GEN II Pistol is 7lbs 5oz, with a shorter safety profile and throw, Free Float MLOK rail forearm, 30 round capacity, and an updated trigger profile. The GEN II also has a barrel length of 8.3" and an overall length of 27 5/8 with the brace collapsed.

IWI.US
*OPTIC NOT INCLUDED



MODERN SCOUTS SHOOTOUT



TOP: The MPR's flat-faced trigger lends itself to a precise rearward press, keeping the gun on target.

ABOVE: Like the Cross, the MPR uses AICS-style detachable magazines, making quick, easy reloads a snap.

folded via well placed magnets, eliminating the need for hooks or other snag-inducing devices. The chassis offers a rock-solid backbone to the MPR conducive to long-range shooting. The flat carbon-fiber fore end handles bipods or sandbags with equal aplomb. However, it is not exclusively designed for shooting from the supported prone or bench position. The MPR allows for offhand and other types of supported fire if needed.

The ergonomics of the stock allows for a comfortable, repeatable cheek weld combined with hand placement conducive to pulling the Match-Grade Trigger Tech "flat" trigger precisely rearward. The MPR uses AICS-style detachable magazines. All these elements contribute to the ruggedness of the MPR, ensuring constant and repeatable accuracy no matter the conditions. A Picatinny rail section is found under the MPR's fore end for mounting of a bipod or other accessories. The carbon-fiber-wrapped 16-inch 416R stainless steel aero grade barrel is integral to the sub-MOA-guaranteed MPR rifle. A radial stainless steel muzzle brake is threaded on the barrel via 5/8x28 threads. The MPR chambered in .308 Win. weighs only 6.9 pounds

and measures 36.75 inches.

Everyone who goes to pick

up the MPR makes the

same surprised face when



first handling it, expecting a much heavier rifle based on aesthetics and prior experiences.

DO ALL, BE ALL

Key ancillary items such as optics and .308 Win. chambering enhances inherent features of the Cross and MPR. The .308 Win./7.62 NATO was developed over a half century ago. To this day, it is one of the most widely used hunting and military rounds in the world. The .308 Win. combines velocity, bullet weight and moderate recoil in a deadly .30-caliber

SPECIFICATIONS

CHRISTENSEN ARMS MPR

CALIBER:	.308 Win.
BARREL:	16 inches
OA LENGTH:	36.75 inches
WEIGHT:	6.9 pounds (empty)
STOCK:	Chassis
SIGHTS:	None
ACTION:	Bolt
FINISH:	Hard coat anodized
CAPACITY:	5+1, 10+1
MSRP:	\$2,295

The flat, carbon-fiber fore end is great for resting on sandbags, and a small piece of Picatinny rail makes mounting a bipod easy.

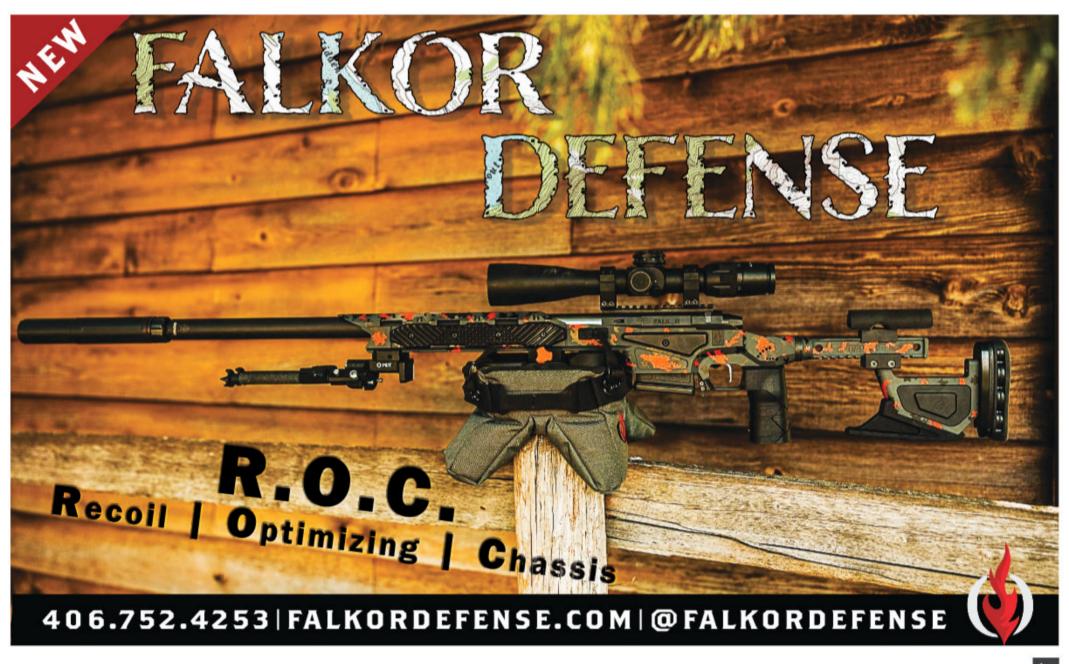
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chambering. Its popularity is enhanced by its reduced case length, enabling use in short-action bolt actions versus the venerable 30-06. In short, the .308 Win. is no slouch and should not be discounted/displaced by new offerings—especially ones starting with 6.5mm.

A Sig Sauer Tango 6 3-18x44 optic was mounted to the Cross. Sig Sauer's versatile 6x zoom system provides a larger field of view at close ranges and better target acquisition at long ranges. The Sig Sauer Tango 6 features ED (Extra Low Dispersion) glass. The ED glass is further enhanced with the proprietary Sig SpectraCoat broadband anti-reflective finish that virtually eliminates glare and loss of light. The Tango 6 features variable intensity settings for the red illuminated reticle. The Tango 6 is evolving into Sig Sauer's flagship variable-power optic featuring a 34mm tube

The recently introduced Nightforce ATACR 4-20x50MM F1 was chosen for the Christensen MPR. Equally at home atop a bolt-action or a semi-automatic rifle, the 4-20x50 F1 is smaller and lighter than the ATACR 5-25x56 F1 while offering a 25-percent improvement in



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MODERN SCOUTS SHOOTOUT



PERFORMANCE

SIG SAUER CROSS

LOAD	VELOCITY	ACCURACY
Black Hills 180 AccuBond	2,479	1.00
Sig Sauer 165 CET	2,670	0.66
Hornady 168 TAP	2,645	1.33
Federal 168 Match	2,615	0.63
Sig Sauer 150 HT	2,733	0.75

CHRISTENSEN ARMS MPR

LOAD	VELOCITY	ACCURACY
Black Hills 180 AccuBond	2,462	0.75
Sig Sauer 165 CET	2,692	0.66
Hornady 168 TAP	2,671	0.88
Federal 168 Match	2,578	0.50
Sig Sauer 150 HT	2,779	0.75

Bullet weight measured in grains, velocity in feet per **second** (fps) by chronograph and accuracy in inches for **best five-**shot group at 100 yards.

magnification over the 4-16x42 F1. The Nightforce ATACR optic's versatile 5x zoom system provides a larger field of view at close ranges and better target acquisition at long ranges. With Digillum illuminated reticle, a ZeroStop turret, power throw lever, ED lenses and 20x max magnification, the ATACR 4-20x50 F1 is Nightforce's apex mid-power scope.

TALE OF TWO RIFLES

The Sig Cross and Christensen MPR were initially sighted in at Echo Valley Training Center's (EVTC) Range #2. Different .308 Win. loads were fired from the bench to determine base accuracy levels. Various hunting and match loads from Sig Sauer, Black Hills, Hornady and Federal were utilized to illustrate ballistic flexibility. Overall, accuracy was impressive with no load producing groups over 1.5 MOA at 100 yards for the Cross or over 1 MOA with the MPR. Further accuracy testing was conducted on EVTC's Known Distance Range. Steel targets were smacked with ease out to 550 yards, thanks to inherent accuracy, premium ammunition and excellent optics.

My guiding thought for evaluation was to create scenarios that put both rifles to

96

the test in terms of handling and ability to send rounds downrange effectively. Working through EVTC's Jungle Walk Range provides this type of realistic feedback. A number of 8-inch diameter steel targets were placed from 110 to 330 yards. Different shooting positions were necessary at the various stations-prone, sitting, kneeling or standing. Clay pigeons were sniped with regularity at 475 yards from the supported prone position. Felt recoil was minimal—a credit to overall design concept and well-thought-out combining of components.

Each rifle being fed via detachable magazine allowed for simple reloading. Bolts manipulated smoothly with empties shucked well clear of the action. Pistol grips found on each rifle offer superior carry qualities. The natural to the shoulder attributes of each rifle are conducive

to quick, well-placed shots. This stems from the custom fitting made possible by the multiadjustable rear stocks.

Lightweight is a valued attribute for any weapon carried, especially as terrain

steepens and length of time afield increases. Gravity never rests. However, accuracy is also important for success. The Sig Cross and Christensen MPR offer both. Thanks to a savvy mating of components, the Cross and MPR balance near the front of their receivers. Carrying in the hand is comfortable when scouting or moving around with the chance of jumping game.

FINAL THOUGHTS

The Sig Cross and Christensen Arms MPR will appeal to rifle lovers for their no-nonsense efficiency. Both the Cross and MPR are designed to appeal to the rifle shooter who is not tied to tradition and who appreciates the nuances offered by high-end production rifles.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

SIG SAUER sigsauer.com

CHRISTENSEN ARMS christensenarms.com

BLACK HILLS AMMUNITION black-hills.com

FEDERAL CARTRIDGE COMPANY federalpremium.com

NIGHTFORCE OPTIC nightforceoptics.com

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- 300 Norma Magnum
- 6.5 Creedmoor
- 338 Lapua Magnum



SHOOT BETTER



MODERN GUNS & GEAR

Hunting has changed forever with these four important innovations

BY JON R. SUNDRA

here have been four seminal developments that have changed the world of guns and hunting forever, and none of them existed when I started my gun writing career in 1966. That's when I sold my first article, but I was already a rifle weenie and hunter a decade before that when the bolt action was just beginning its ascendency and the lever action was still the most popular hunting rifle. Let's take a look.

AGE OF THE AR

Most non-gun people still believe "AR" stands for Assault Rifle, but from the very start when this semi-auto version of the military M-16 first became available to civilians in 1973 it was the acronym for Armalite Rifle. It was hardly an overnight success, however. In fact, it took a couple of decades before it achieved traction with America's hunters and shooters.



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TOP: The AR has truly changed the world of hunting and the kind of rifle thought suitable. It is slowly earning the designation "Modern Sporting Rifle."

ABOVE: On deer-size game, cartridges like the .30 AR bestow 300-yard capability to the AR-15 platform.

Today, of course, more ARs are sold than all other forms of sporting rifles combined. The gun's ingenious modularity and interchangeability of parts allows virtually unlimited customization. Today there are more than 60 recognized commercial and wildcat cartridges designed for the AR-15 platform, and almost as many for its big brother, the AR-10. Cartridges like the 6.5 Grendel, .30 AR and .300 HMR give the former true 300-yard capability for deer-size game. And with an AR-10 chambered in .308 Win., for example—a cartridge that comes within 5 percent of matching .30-06 ballisticallythere's just a handful of animals on earth that you'd be considered under-gunned. Thanks to advances in bullet design and specialty cartridges, both guns are highly competitive in 1,000-plus-yard events.

Though it is hard to change perceptions, there is a movement to use MSR instead of AR to designate Modern Sporting Rifle, and there's another to simply change the meaning of AR to America's Rifle. Either is fine by me!

LASER RANGEFINDEI

Ever since the first round ball was fired from the first cannon (which predated hand-held firearms by a couple centuries), gravity and wind have been the factors determining effective range. Though I can't see any practical solution for accurately determining wind deflection, that's certainly not the case with bullet drop thanks to laser rangefinders. Where hunting is concerned these optomechanical marvels have totally changed the definition of "long range." The way I see it, that could be both good and bad.

Even with today's flattest-shooting cartridges, once you get beyond 350 yards or so, gravity gets serious. Consequently, misjudging distance by 50 yards on a deersize animal at that range will result in a clean miss at best, or at worst a wounded animal. If memory serves, the results of exhaustive research conducted by various branches of our military has determined that at distances beyond 350 to 400 yards the average guesstimate by untrained eyes in unfamiliar terrain was in error by more than 50 yards.

The laser rangefinder changes all that. All that's required to place a bullet accu-



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4 GAME CHANGERS



ABOVE: The dial-in approach allows a traditional cross-hair-type reticle to be used for a dead-on hold.

ABOVE RIGHT: Reticles with multiple aiming points in conjunction with computer trajectory inputs give precise yardage values for each reticle hashmark. There's no need to touch the elevation adjustment.

rately on the vertical axis is to know the impact points of a given load at various distances downrange. I stress "vertical axis" because the effect of wind on a bullet—which is the other half of the equation—is a whole 'nother animal and is always a guesstimate at best. Even a 10 mph crosswind can nudge a 150-grain .30-caliber bullet out of a .308 Win. 15 inches off target at 400 yards. Nevertheless, knowing the distance to target and drop figures at that range solves one of the two biggest problems of long-range shooting.

As for the bad aspects I alluded to, I'm afraid laser rangefinders can encourage taking shots at game at unethical distances. As to what distance constitutes "unethical," that's something each of us must decide for ourselves.

BDC RETICLES & TURRETS

These developments go hand in hand with laser rangefinders in that they take more of the guesswork out of long-range shooting. With a scope having a conventional reticle, i.e., a single intersection of the horizontal and vertical crosshairs, targets beyond the zeroed-in range require a guess as to the amount of hold-over required. But with a scope having an elevation turret calibrated to a specific trajectory, you can dial the distance and hold dead-on at any range.

With BDC reticles, you essentially have multiple reticles in the form of hash marks on the lower reticle arm representing various impact points downrange. Knowing the distance each

EACH HASH MARK
REPRESENTS, WE AGAIN
CAN HOLD DEAD-ON.

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hash mark represents, we again can hold dead-on. Though they differ in the way they address the problem, the end result is the same in that both systems take the guesswork out of hold-over. And both extend the range at which the average hunter can take a shot with a high degree of confidence.

TRAIL CAMERAS

Many of the hundreds of hours I've wasted in treestands around the world were spent musing about how great it would be to have a big camera in the sky that could tell me if there was a big buck, bull or boar in the area. Fantasy? Sure, but modern trail cameras come awfully close to fulfilling that fantasy.

For as long as man has hunted, luck has played a major role. It was always about being in the right place at the right time. If you're lucky enough to be hunting locally, you could do some pre-season scouting looking for trails,



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scrapes, rubs and tracks—any sign indicating there might be a worthwhile buck in the area. But knowing for sure removes the "being in the right place" part of the equation, and a trail camera can do that.

A well-placed trail camera can tell you what critters are in the area 24/7. Any good

bucks? How many points? What time of day or night does he come by? All of those questions can be answered and sent to your mobile phone in real time. You can even score a buck to within a few points if that's important to you. As hunters, how could we ask for more?

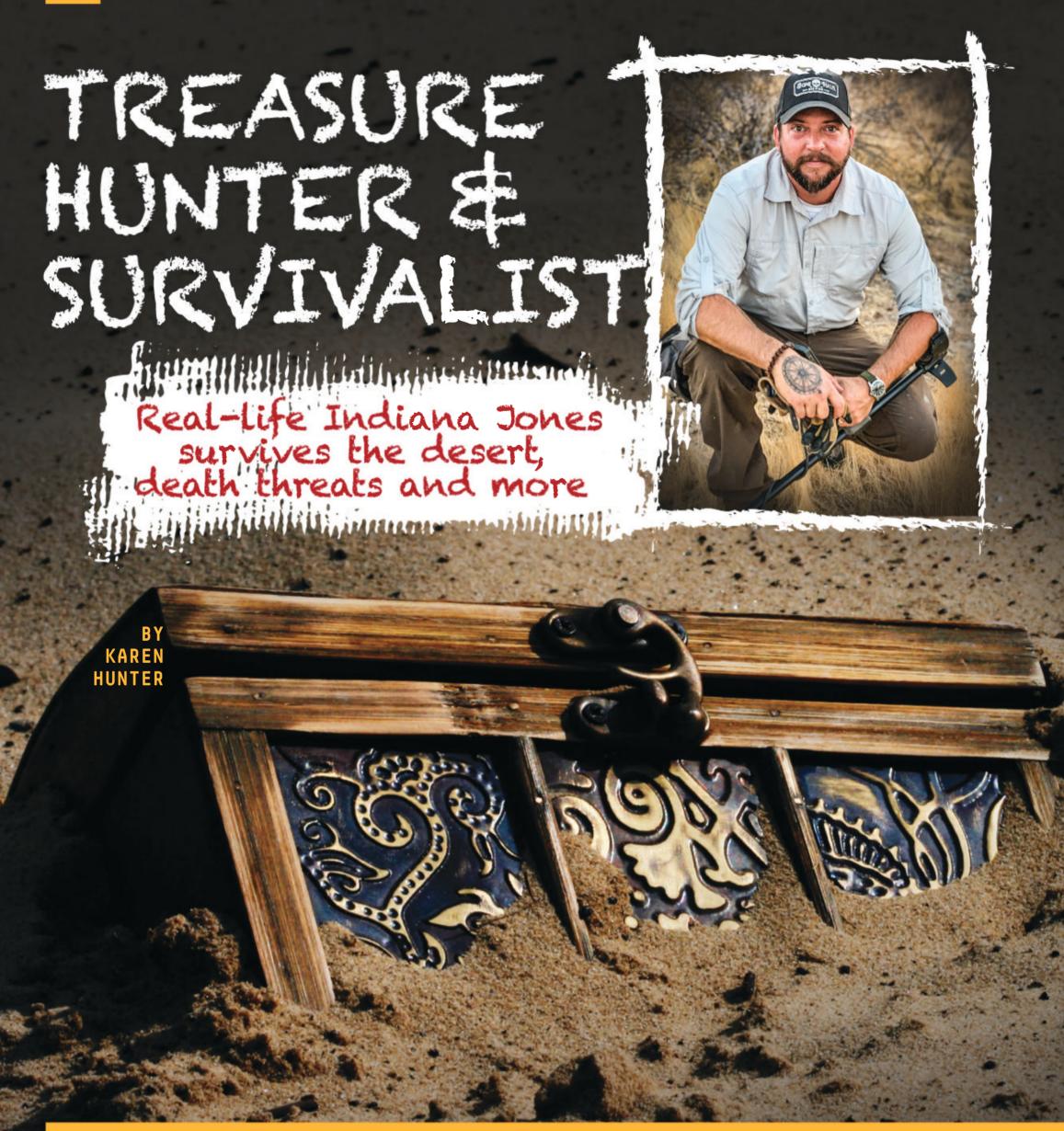
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ADVENTURE PROFILE



DDY DRAKE could feel the sweat evaporating from his skin as the afternoon sun intensified. The dark words from his most recent death threat played through his mind as he methodi-

threat played through his mind as he methodically sifted through the sand. His resolve proved to be stronger than any fear and nothing, not even another death threat, could pull him out of the Arizona desert.

Drake had just begun the most significant and incredible discovery of his treasure hunting career. He had already uncovered actual gold and knew there was so much more to be discovered, as if the past were calling to him from underneath the sand. Greed was not the driving force keeping him there, instead it was the love of history. To Drake, everything he unearthed told a story and connected him with the past. The very moment he pulls an artifact from the earth he is linked to the last person to have ever touched it. That almost supernatural connection—being able to tell the untold stories—was the force keeping him there. It was a force so strong that Drake had endured 57 nights and 58 days in the desert, alone with nothing to rely on other than his survival skills and his gun.

It might sound like you have stumbled into a fictional "Indiana Jones" type of story with death threats, treasure hunting, gold and guns—everything found in fiction books or movies. For Cody Drake, however, this is the reality of his career as a treasure hunter and desert survival expert.

Meet The Man

Cody Drake, also known as the Arizona Treasure Hunter, is formally educated in anthropology and has extensive exposure and experience in the fields of archaeology and paleontology, as well. Through years of research, exploration and hard-won field experience, he has become a professional treasure hunter, a gold and mineral wealth prospector, and a desert survivalist.





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TREASURE HUNTER & SURVIVALIST



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TREASURE HUNTER & SURVIVALIST

the menu were rattlesnakes, kangaroo mice, jack rabbits, prickly pear cactus and scorpions. The treasure found during this 58-day quest was quite remarkable. From historic mining tools to time-period military artifacts, Drake could hardly believe the amazing pieces he was uncovering. Just when he thought it couldn't get any better, it did... Drake found gold. He caught a glimpse of one piece that led to another until he had over 1,000 historic Spanish coins in gold and silver. Additional artifacts included muskets, broken swords, horse tack and much more.

Reading about Drake online is nothing compared to experiencing him in person. For his interview we spent the day in the Arizona desert where I received a crash course in both treasure hunting and desert survival skills. The amount of knowledge that Drake possesses is beyond impressive. From historic facts, knowledge of time periods and culture, to

surviving in some of the harshest conditions,
Drake is a genuine subject matter expert. The
realization of his depth of knowledge sank in
as I stood looking at the vast desert space.
I wondered what I would do if I were stuck
there for any length of time without supplies.
I quickly concluded I would most likely die.
Where I only saw sand and prickly vegetation,
Drake saw ways to survive and knew exactly
how to do it.

Desert Survival

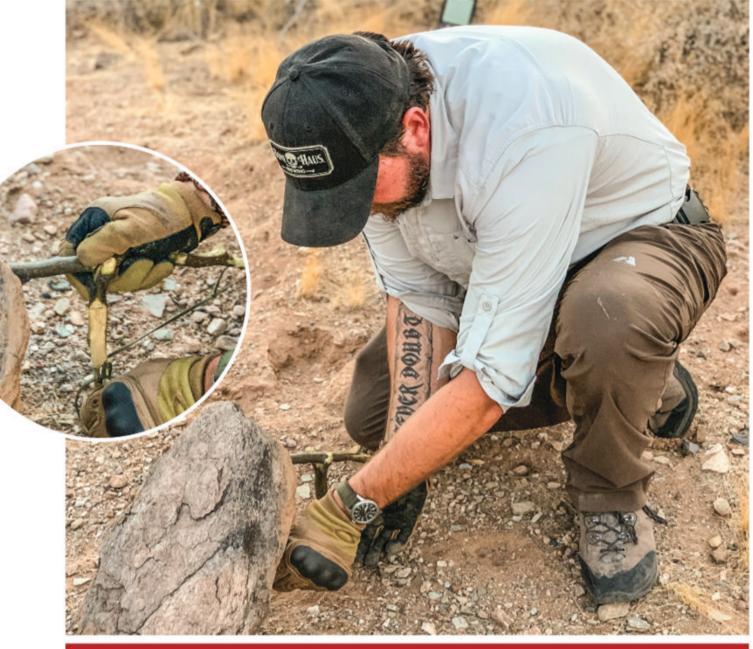
Drake covered a multitude of survival skills with me from how to find and purify water to what vegetation and animals to eat. One skill I found fascinating was the Paiute deadfall trap. Paiute is the name of a Native American tribe, but this trap was used by most of the Native Americans. Drake showed me how utilizing rocks of the right size, shape and weight in conjunction with the proper sticks could create the perfect trap to hunt for small animals. When set up properly with bait, the animal is lured in and trips the sticks propping up the larger rock, causing it to fall on the animal. Drake would set up several Paiute deadfall traps around his campsite prior to leaving for a day of treasure hunting. Upon his return, *viola...* dinner. I asked Drake what finally made him leave on the 58th day. His reply was both honest and comical. "I was sitting in the heat eating my 50th helping of homemade jackrabbit stew and thought to myself, 'Man, I really want ice cream!' So, I packed up and left."

Drake shared with me more useful intel than I could ever put into one article. My intrigue grew as he began talking about life with his colleagues. In the past eight months, Drake has received 39 death threats...not for his found treasure, but for his success. Drake is the only treasure hunter in Arizona and arguably the entire southwest that has actually found, recovered and reported treasure. There are many known treasure hunters, but none have accomplished what Drake has.

However, none of this causes him to live in fear. "I'm not afraid of these people, it just makes me sad," he said. "People become very jealous of the success of others, especially when their success is built on an inflated perception. Instead of trying to learn from someone else, they try to invoke fear and cast doubt—anything to protect the image they've built, even if it's false. Nothing could ever stop me from doing what I do, it's my passion and it defines who I am. I also make sure that I am protected. I don't live paranoid, but I am always prepared."

Given my background with firearms, I was thrilled to learn that Cody is a strong Second Amendment advocate who has trained with firearms for self-defense and carries daily.

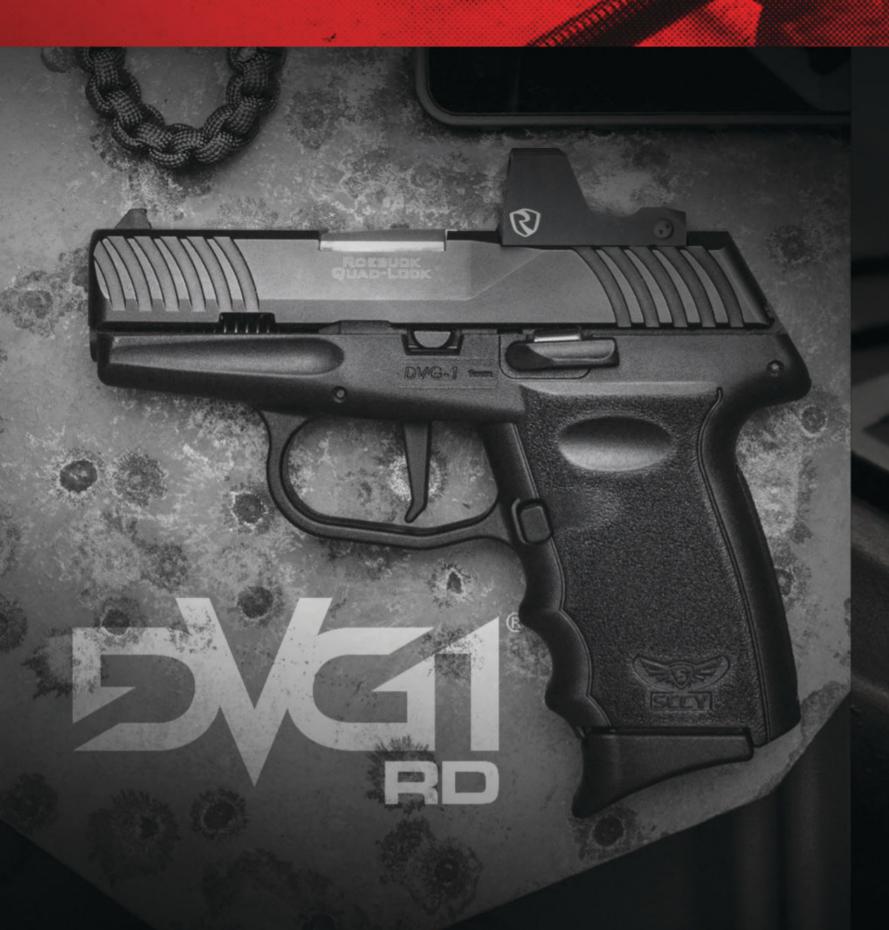
Drake allowed me to see some of the artifacts he found during his 58-day adventure, starting with the gold and silver coins. He carefully placed them in my hands, and I immediately sensed the history connected to them. My mind went to imagining the moment that they became one with the ground. How did they get there and who did they belong to? Drake, of course, had very logical theories for this, but it was surreal to hold something that connected me to the past. Each piece Drake showed me brought that same feeling



Drake builds and demonstrates the Paiute deadfall trap, highlighting one of the many desert survival skills he utilizes when undertaking his wild adventures and treasure hunts.

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TREASURE HUNTER & SURVIVALIST



Knowing he is the first person to physically touch and hold a piece of history instantly connects Drake to whomever held it last, as if bridging a gap in history. that drives him to live his passion.

Giving Back

What impressed me most about Drake was his heart to share. Drake prefers to share what he finds with others by donating his artifacts to places where people can become bridged with their history. One such place where you can see Drake's artifacts on display is the Bone Haus Brewery in Fountain Hills, Arizona. The Bone Haus Brewery produces quality craft beer, and the entire establishment has a theme based on the legend of the Lost Dutchman Mine. Drake also gives monthly presentations at the brewery, educating people on treasure hunting, survival skills and more.

Another location is the Salado Museum and College Park in Salado, Texas. This museum opened in 1959 to preserve and promote the pioneer history of Salado. Most of what the museum had on display had not even come from that exact area until Drake made discoveries in a local river. At the time Drake was in the Army and visited Salado as he heard it was a beautiful, historic area with much history behind it. He visited the river where he noticed hundreds of solution holes within the bedrock. Having the knowledge that gold is 19.3 times heavier than water, Drake knew these holes held something to be found.

BALLISTIC 10•11 2021 Ballisticmag.com Drake began searching the river after work four days a week for four years. He would spend anywhere from one to six hours discovering what these hundreds of bedrock pockets held. This was not a mission for just anyone to complete. Drake had spent years learning how to swim with snakes and alligators as well.

"I do a lot of free diving in rivers to search for things in addition to my desert adventures," he said. "Once you know how to find water moccasins, rattlesnakes—yes rattler's do swim—copperheads and alligators in the water, you know where they are and where they aren't. Learning their behavior and location allows you to safely treasure hunt without worry."

He related how he recovered more than 4,000 artifacts that were all originally from Salado and encompassed time from the paleolithic era to present day. Of the more interesting were two Spanish conquistador crossbows. Drake donated everything he found to the museum, which literally put the small town back on the map. Salado hosted a citywide event in Drake's name to thank him for his discoveries and willingness to leave them in their rightful place.



Ready To Hunt?

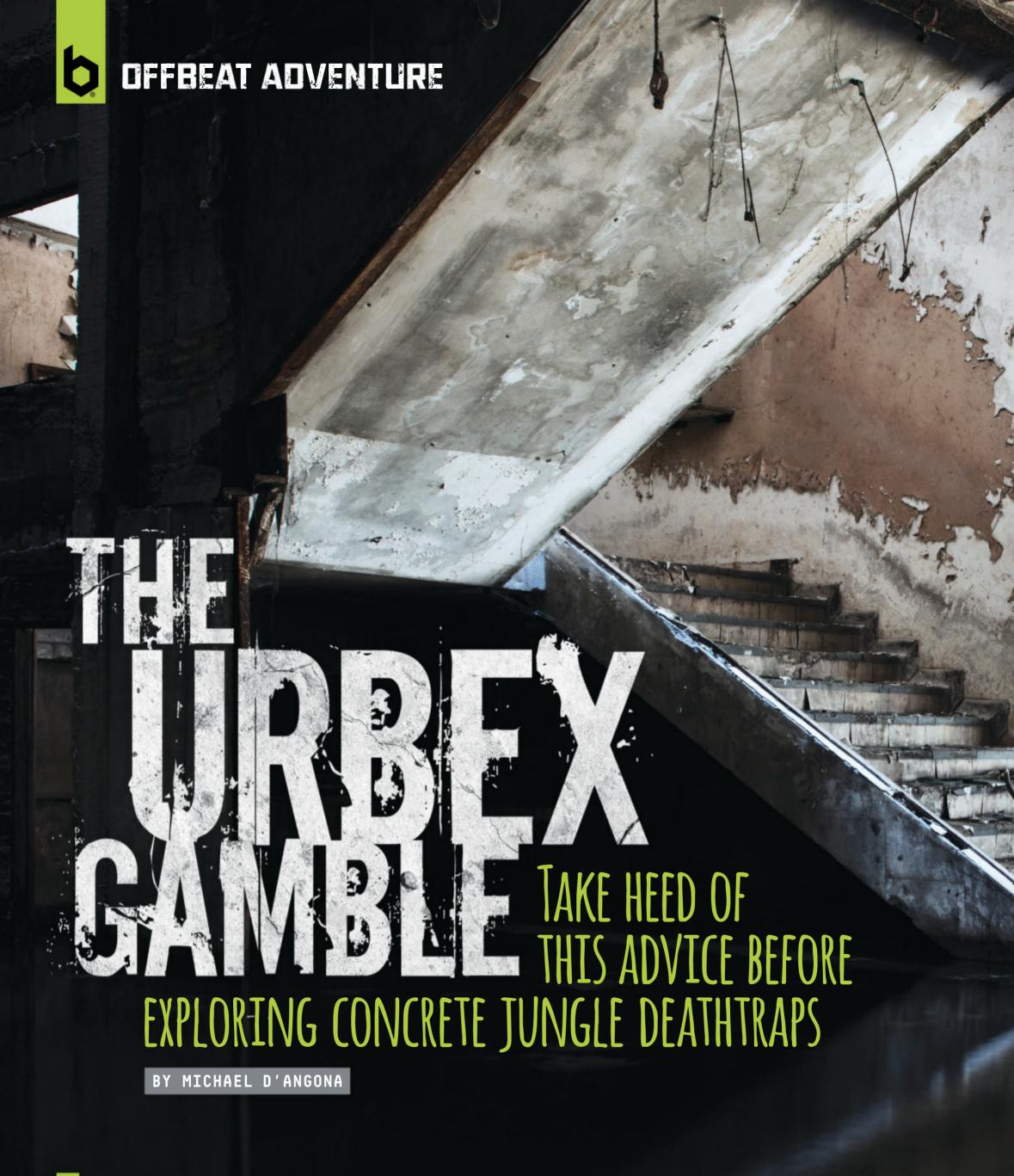
Cody Drake, "The Arizona Treasure Hunter," is a treasure himself. Within minutes of meeting him there is an instant comfort. He is genuine, kind and always eager to share his knowledge with others. He can be found all over the nation giving presentations, speaking on podcasts, and making guest appearances on the Discovery Channel. His most recent appearance was on *Global Investigator, The Mystery of the O.K. Corral*, as Rob Riggle's treasure-hunting and desert survival guide.

Drake shares his passion by making himself accessible to anyone who is willing to learn. Some of the services he provides include metal detecting for private land, metal detecting lessons, speaking engagements, gold-panning sessions, desert survival training, and skype sessions. Drake's world is not for the faint of heart, but definitely one that is worth experiencing or at least putting on your bucket list. For more information, visit treasureaz.com.



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eople are fascinated with history. So much so, it can literally kill them! Learning about old structures and locations throughout the country and across the globe is an interest for innumerable people. However, gathering their information from textbooks or videos offer them just a portion of the entire picture, and this is one of the reasons URBEX (urban exploration) prominently exists today.

The urban explorer is a curious and somewhat adrenaline-fueled individual who not only learns about old, abandoned places from afar, but takes the next step and heads out to visit these places on foot to get hands-on video to document their finds.

However, this niche hobby, or profession for some, doesn't come without its dangers. Death is a very real possibility from visiting dilapidated structures and it can come in a number of seen and unseen forms.

From crumbling timbers underfoot, to biological hazards, to the chance of drowning (yes, drowning), to run-ins with unsavory characters as well as the boys in blue, high risk goes hand-in-hand with absorbing, in-person, history all around you.

Here we ignore the positives of exploring—the likes on social media, the "coolness" of being an urban explorer—and offer a wake-up call for newbies who want the fame without the fear. That's not going to happen because accidents, injuries and death might lie just around the corner.

DANGERS EVERYWHERE

The first, most obvious danger is the state of the structure you're visiting. Urban explorers visit long-abandoned locations free from any scheduled maintenance or upkeep. As such, nearly every part of the structure is at risk of collapsing, from the ceiling and roof coming downward injuring your head and/or body, to the floor and stairways giving way and you falling one or perhaps more floors to the hard ground below.

Additionally, rusted metal gates, fixtures, handles and support rails might be extremely brittle from years of neglect and may fall apart in an explorer's hands as he grasps them, causing him to fall awkwardly or worse, tumble down stairs or elevated embankments.

Jagged metal frameworks, broken glass or mirrors, and sharp or pointed items littered across the floor all pose a puncture or laceration danger to the body. Some could be so severe that without a proper first-aid kit, a person could very well bleed until they pass out or even die from loss of blood.

Large drains are also an attraction and niche desire for the urban explorer, and these structures pose an incredible amount of risk in many different ways. First, the obvious danger is flooding. If a rainstorm hits unexpectedly, the chance of both flooding and an explorer drowning increase exponentially. Additionally, water drains may contain harmful gases like methane and hydrogen sulfide. Breathing in either may pose serious health problems. Finally, slipping while in the concrete structures may cause injury to a person's head or back and prevent him or her from making it back out to safety.

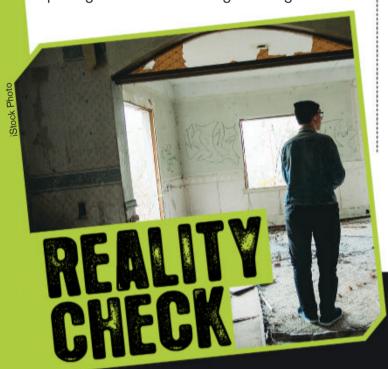
THE URBEX GAMBLE

BIOLOGICAL ATTACK

As if structural hazards weren't bad enough, there are less obvious dangers when exploring old, dilapidated structures including asbestos, mold, animal droppings and the chance of contracting a disease or virus from unseen needles scattered about.

Asbestos isn't an "instant kill" like falling from a structure or drowning in a flooded drainage tunnel. However, inhaling asbestos, over time, can cause cancer, mesothelioma and asbestosis. Given the fact that asbestos is found in numerous locations in a plethora of structures built prior to the 1980s, the odds of interacting with this extremely harmful substance are very high. Asbestos can be found in pipes, walls, floor tiles, ceilings, cement, sheetrock and other places where insulation may be needed.

Molds are most present where there's moisture or steady dampness, and when exploring homes and buildings with age-old



Death and injuries sustained by urban exploration is very real. The emphasis on safety while absorbing all that abandoned places have to offer should be the number one priority. Unfortunately for the following individuals, that type of thinking was not in their immediate mindset.

In 2017, Thomas Rhodes, just a teenager, fell to his death exploring an abandoned hotel.

A Memphis newspaper executive, Eric Janssen, died from a fall from



Bat droppings, along with bird, rat and other animals can pose serious health issues for the urban explorer.

FAR RIGHT:

Asbestos warning signs are put up for a reason. Be prepared with a respirator or face health problems down the line.





roof damage, this is a common occurrence. With moisture comes mold, and when exploring this mold can be inhaled and cause coughing, sneezing, chest or nasal congestion, watery eyes, headaches and fatigue. If an explorer has a sensitivity to mold, then their symptoms and physical reaction could be much worse.

Animal droppings from rats, pigeons, bats and larger mammals also pose a health risk if unprotected. Diseases, like Hantavirus and Histoplasmosis can cause such symptoms as fever, chills, headaches, cough and serious future respiratory problems. A building may appear abandoned, but don't be fooled: There are "residents" inside and their bathroom manners are not the best. You'll find droppings just about everywhere, so be alert.

the London House Hotel in Chicago while taking pictures on the dilapidated roof.

Fourteen-year-old Myles Johnstone died when he was playing on the roof of an abandoned home.

Adam Johnson, only 12 years old, was climbing on the roof of a factory when he fell and died.

No matter whether the victims were explorers or just youngsters playing on or around structures, fatal accidents occur more often than most people might think. Security quards, gates, cameras, signs and fences are there for one obvious reason—the structures are not safe. So, stay away.

Finally, leftover needles from junkies using a structure as a temporary home can still contain traces of bacteria and viruses. Accidentally pricking yourself with a discarded needle can bring all sorts of mental and physical grief.

The best measures to take to avoid all the aforementioned consequences of dealing with biological dangers include always wearing a respirator, gloves and protective clothing. However, make sure your respirator is a P100 (filters 100 percent of dangerous particles), is asbestos rated, and that you have plenty of replacement filters on hand. Additionally, gloves should be durable and waterproof, and your clothing should cover the majority of your skin to prevent exposure.

HUMANS & CRITTERS

What one might think is abandoned may not be so, and this could cause an entirely different set of problems for the urban explorer. Preliminary research might indicate that a building, factory or old house may not be cared for anymore, but that doesn't mean it's not occupied by specific individuals. These occupants could include homeless people who need a roof overhead (for those buildings that still have such a luxury), drug users who want to be left alone to fulfill their needs and dangerous people hiding from the law. Any one of these groups would not take kindly to a person entering their temporary haven and sporting a flashlight and, worse, a video camera.

As urban explorers attempt to be stealthy in general during their explorations, this could be detrimental if they happen to surprise

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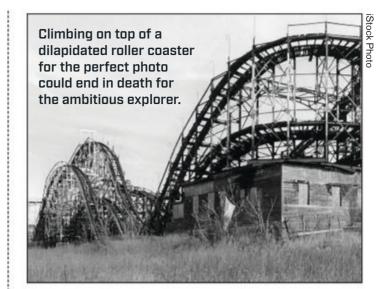
any of the aforementioned groups within the structure. Remember, these "residents" are not the most understanding of people and many would have very little to lose if they decided to get into a physical confrontation with an uninvited guest. This would be especially problematic if the explorer were traveling alone (a major no-no, by the way) and the number of squatters, for lack of a better term, outnumbered the explorer by a great amount.

As if two-legged creatures weren't bad enough, the chance that nature's citizens took refuge in the structure is also a very real possibility. Rats, raccoons, birds of all types, and insects (especially if the environment is constantly damp) may be hidden inside until they are spooked, and then their flight-or-fight response will be triggered. With all the clutter usually found within a structure, flight is usually not a choice, so fight becomes their primary response. As such, bites and scratches could be incurred, and rabies or

Tell Others Your Plan: Structures and locations can be dangerous. It's best to leave a basic itinerary of your journey with either family members or friends with instructions on what they should do if they don't hear from you by certain pre-planned times. You might have a GPS signaler and a cell phone, but a "Plan B" with actual people is the way to go.

Never Go Solo: Too many bad things can happen no matter how prepared you think you are. A second (or third) person can call or go for help if need be, carry extra safety gear or just be there to enjoy exploring with you if everything is going well.

carry The Proper Gear: Coinciding with doing your homework beforehand is being prepared by carrying the proper gear and supplies. Remember everything from a change of clothes in case weather conditions change to the necessary protective facemasks, to lighting, and finally carrying a snack or two for when hunger strikes. If you're on the fence about whether a certain piece of safety gear will truly be needed, don't second guess yourself—just take it.





The abandoned amusement park in Pripyat offers an added danger of radioactivity from the nearby Chernobyl power plant.

some other horrible disease could be a worstcase scenario.

FACING THE LAW

Bear in mind that just because an explorer wants to visit abandoned buildings, houses and factories, that doesn't mean that they are allowed to do so and welcomed with open arms—not by a long shot.

There are numerous reasons why locations are locked down to keep people out. First, as mentioned, they are structurally unsafe. By keeping people out they not only prevent possible injuries and death for history seekers, but also prevent legal liability if someone gets hurt while on the owner's property. Second, there may be construction—either demolition or renovation—moving forward on the property and large machinery, or ripped-up roads or walkways would be the possible danger areas for anyone not associated with the construction crew. Finally, more often than not, the location is simply someone's private

Accidents can happen no matter how ready you think you are. But you can greatly reduce your chances of incurring an injury or long-term hazard by following these important tips:

URBEX TO-DO LIST

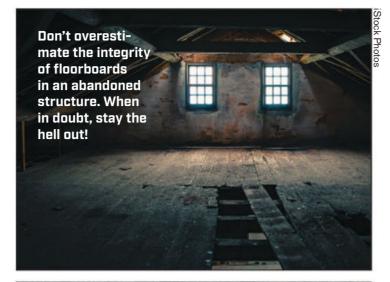
scout It Out: Do some preplanning with some old-fashioned investigational research. Check maps of the area, recent photos if available, nearby streets and roadways, as well as the history of the structure and location. Going in "blind" can only cause problems if something unexpected arises.

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property. You wouldn't like someone trampling through your backyard, and that's the same feeling the owners of the abandoned property have toward urban explorers, no matter their intentions.

There are several different levels of security that urban explorers may have to navigate. First, they could face a security guard with or without guard dogs. This guard usually is left at the structure for overnight security and would routinely make rounds throughout the surrounding land for anyone who wasn't supposed to be there. Having a dog at his side only makes the situation worse for the explorer. As a dog can hear, smell and sense an intruder far better than the human guard can, the odds that an interloper will be caught is fairly high. Additionally, advanced drones with day- and night-vision cameras have been used by guards to detect trespassers from overhead.

These guards would then call the police to take over, and if caught the explorers could face trespassing charges and possibly others. Furthermore, if the abandoned location is near residential areas, an urban explorer's move-





ments could be seen by passersby or nearby neighbors who also might alert the local police to investigate.

If the abandoned location is part of an operating business, like a theme park or entertainment area, in addition to charges being filed, the explorer could be permanently or partially banned from the business. This would include such theme parks, for example, as Disney and Universal Studios, as well as smaller local attractions.

SAFETY TAKES PRECEDENCE

Urban exploring is, no doubt, an adventurous hobby. It combines the thrill of exploring with the exhilaration of facing the unknown. However, no adrenalized excitement is worth losing your life (or perhaps a limb) over, and there's plenty of things during your travels that can go wrong. Always err on the side of caution, know when you should stop and turn back, and follow your safety protocols. Otherwise, the next photo you take on top of an abandoned structure might truly be your last.



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NOW THERE'S A
REAL-DEAL RC
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DRIVE YOURSELF

BY WILL DABBS, MD



Have you ever played with a radio-controlled car? These mesmerizing child's playthings are rugged, fast and powerful.

They can do stuff that might transform full-sized vehicles into garbage. Many's the prepubescent male who has whiled away a Saturday afternoon tearing up their backyard with such a nifty trinket.

Models let us live vicariously. By piloting a scale rendition of some larger, sexier thing we normal folk can live out our automotive fantasies

without breaking the budget or incurring undue risk to our persons. However, for the proper guy there is always the nagging what if. In our hearts, when given the option we'd always sooner be screaming about in the real thing. Enter the Tamiya Wild One MAX.

THEORY

I am 55 years old. Back when I came of age, telephones were the size of footballs and came tethered to the wall. Al Gore had not yet invented the Internet, so we kids had to make our own fun. The aggregate result was a markedly greater attention span than what



might typically be found in the youth of today. As a result, one of the more popular pastimes was building models.

They came in a bewildering array of flavors. I earned three bucks cutting my neighbor's grass. That was adequate to get me two 1/48th-scale WWII fighter planes from our local Fred's Dollar Store. I rode my bike to Fred's to resupply with glue and paint as well. My room was dirty with such stuff.

The apex predator was Tamiya. A Japanese concern birthed from the rubble of World War II in 1946, Tamiya developed a well-earned reputation for quality and exceptional detail.

Their first armored vehicle was a German Panther tank powered by a brace of small electric motors. The Tamiya engineers designed the model around the C batteries required to power the thing. The end result turned out to be 1/35th the size of the original, driven by the girth of those batteries. Thus was birthed the 1/35th scale now universally accepted as the ideal size for military vehicle modeling.

Over time Tamiya expanded into other areas of modeling, some more popular than others. Their wooden offerings failed to develop much of a following. Tamiya warships, armored vehicles, scale military figures and aircraft, however, set the international standard among the world's model makers.

In 1976 the Tamiya Corporation purchased a real Porsche 911, dismantled it entirely and used the parts to create the molds to produce its first radio-controlled model car. Since that time, their lineup has expanded to include racing trucks, supercars, and renditions of high-end on- and off-road vehicles from around the world. Their most modern versions are actually powered by hydrogen fuel cells. One of the most popular was the Wild One.

The Tamiya Wild One was a dune buggy/ sandrail hybrid designed for use in sandy environments. A 1/10th-scale model introduced in 1985, the car's minimalist architecture, rugged construction and blistering performance made it enduringly popular. The model sported a scale polycarbonate frame and genuine oil-filled shocks.

Countless kids, me included, have been smitten with this thing over the years. However, over time those kids grew up into adults. Like most kids, however, we always held a soft spot in our hearts for those carefree days tearing around the countryside with those little 1/10th-scale model cars. Now enter The Little Car Company.

THE NEXT LEVEL

I now feel a responsibility to warn you about something. Should you have a little spare cash lying around and suffer from poor impulse control, you need to turn the page and move on to something else. Read no further. The hallowed tome you are currently clutching is awash to its gunwales in cool content about guns, gear and the associated lifestyle. What you are about to read, however, is genuinely dangerous.

I've been writing Ballistic's "Wild Rides" for some time now. Most of our source material is exotic tracked all-terrain, end-of-the-world

supercars that cost as much as my neighborhood. However, The Little Car Company makes some stuff normal folks can afford. You've been forewarned.

These things are just too freaking awesome. The Little Car Company produces scale versions of classic automobiles that are small enough to be adorable yet large enough for grownups to actually drive. If you are a guy and you don't fall madly in love with these cool little cars, then something is seriously wrong with you. I would recommend aggressive psychotherapy.

OPTIONS

At present The Little Car Company offers three models. Their classic Bugatti Baby II racer is lifted straight out of the 1920s. Studying this car's austere yet elegant lines will transport you back to the days when state-of-the-art race cars tore around a dirt track at a heady 100 mph. If you opt for the Bugatti you'll need to budget for an English riding cap and pair of vintage goggles.

The silver Aston Martin DB5 Junior will be familiar to anyone who has ever watched a classic James Bond film. Arguably the sexiest car ever contrived, I am fairly certain my wife



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WILD RIDES



The drivable scale version of the Bugatti Baby II Racer from the Little Car Company is just adorable.

found me more attractive simply because I was reading about this thing. Cruising around in one for real would likely foment widespread civil unrest.

The Wild One MAX is an 8/10th-scale rendition of that classic Tamiya RC sand racer. Digital instrumentation, a racing steering wheel and multiple user-selectable driving modes

to suit different driving styles and personalities optimize it for the real world. The scaled-down size just amps up the awesome.

DETAILS

All three vehicles are electrically-powered. The Wild One MAX is rear-wheel drive and sports a top speed of 30 mph. However, keep in mind this is a scale car. Thirty miles per hour can feel pretty fast when you are seriously hugging the ground. The 15-inch off-road tires

offer proper traction, while

hydraulic Brembo brakes with regenerative braking keep things seriously responsive.

Peak power output is 4kW or 5.5 bhp. Max range on a charge is around 25 miles. The driver's seat is adjustable for drivers from 5 feet, 3 inches to 6 feet, 5 inches. The Wild One MAX is roughly 11.3 feet long and 6 feet wide and features a curb weight of 550 pounds. The overall effect just drips cool.

The Wild One MAX is available for pre-order and is due to ship in 2022. Options include a more powerful motor, faster top speeds and even the option of street legality. The vehicle will naturally be available as a turn-key car or a kit you build yourself at home. I'll give you one guess which one most appeals to me.

RUMINATIONS

A £100 deposit gets you on the waiting list. MSRP should be around £6,000. While hardly front pocket change, those numbers are not supercar-scary. The Aston Martin and Bugatti are lamentably more expensive.

At the end of the day, you need to ask yourself if you are cool enough to rock something this awesome. I suspect ownership of such a vehicle would knock 20 years off your age and boost your serum testosterone by at least 100 points. Get thee behind me, Satan. I'm being seriously tempted. For more information, visit wildonemax.com.

> Children in my day spent countless hours on tedious stuff like building plastic models. From the looks of this picture of me right after I finished the U.S. Army flight school, they apparently let children fly helicopters as well. I customized this 1/24th scale Huey to include battery-powered rotors and an illuminated instrument panel.



Plastic models like this 1/35th scale Tamiya T62 tank were integral components of my childhood. Nowadays there is a licensed copy of a Tamiva RC car that is quite a bit more capable.

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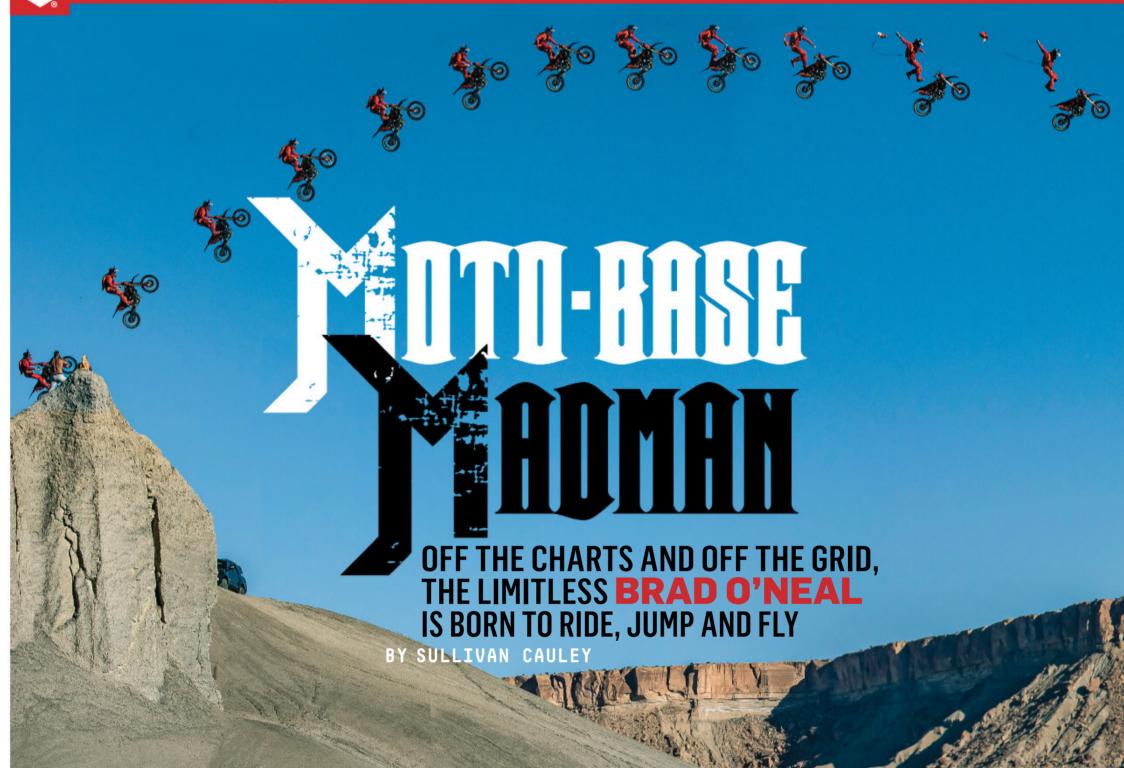


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BALLISTIC QEA



If the mass of men live lives of quiet desperation, Bradley O'Neal is not among them. This lifetime extreme sports athlete didn't see a career worth devoting his life to so he created his own by merging motocross and base jumping in the most jaw-dropping way. He travels around the country finding, building and imagining jumps that push the boundaries of what humans have done on a motorcycle.

Brad sat down for an interview with *Ballistic* magazine to discuss his motivation for risking life and limb, the skills and expertise that go into his work, and the long journey he took to set his life up the way he wanted

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it. Brad is an inspiration in that he lives a life that's uniquely his own. He has overcome not only the fear associated with base jumping or dirt biking, but 1,000 social fears and anxieties that tend to pigeon hole people into careers they don't love.

How do you describe what you do?

I basically call myself a freeride moto base jumper. So first of all, I'm a free ride dirt biker, which is kind of the equivalent of a back-country skier or snowboarder. I build and find jumps out in all kinds of different places and use that as my creative outlet. My favorite part is doing the moto-base stuff, which is where I combine my freeriding and base jumping

into what I call a moto-base. So basically, a moto-base is whenever you turn a dirt bike jump into a base jump.

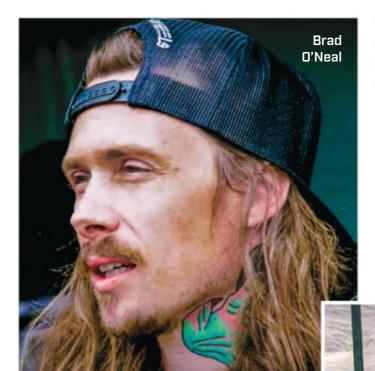
Did you invent moto-base jumping?

People have done dirt bike jumps with a parachute before but not with a parachute on the bike really. I'm the only one doing motobase jumping the way I describe it where you create a base jump out of a dirt bike jump safely and then you have a parachute on the motorcycle as well so it's more of like a repeatable deal. Most of the people who have done parachute jumps off a bike just launched the motorcycle off a cliff and smoked it so it's like a rare stunt.

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MOTO-BASE MADMAN



Tell me a little about your lifestyle. Where do you live? I know you travel a lot; who do you take with you?

For the past five years I lived out of a motovan where I kept my bike and all my gear and tools. I had a little fold-out bed and I traveled around working, riding and doing my moto-base stuff. I didn't have any overhead basically so I saved up all the money I made through my sponsors for five years and I just bought 35 acres in southern Colorado that I'm building an off-grid compound on right

now. That's what I'm doing right now actually. I'm in the tractor building jumps. I'm trying to build my own practice facility so that I can live off grid and train and practice out here in the middle of nowhere.

I do travel with my girlfriend, Clair; she's always with me. She does all my filming and photography and she runs my social

media pages because I hardly know where my phone is half the time. She's a huge reason why I have what I have and that I've gotten where I am right now. She's really good at that side of things and she's also a professional base jumper. So, we've just kind of worked on this goal together for a long time. When we're not working on moto-base Clair and I are both civilian contractors working with the military. We do parachute rigging, packing and repairs for the military.

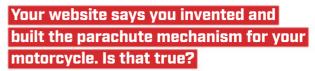
girlfriend

Clair

So, you got into motocross first and you got into base jumping separately.

Was that before you thought about meshing the two or did you get into base jumping thinking about what you do now?

I went into base jumping to do moto-base. I had always imagined it and I figured someone would be doing it by the time I got to the point where I could do it, but it seemed like no one really had the same idea I did. So, I started getting the base jumping experience needed and I just kind of slowly worked on it. Now 11 years later it's pretty dialed.



Yeah, I did. I'm a licensed (parachute) rigger through the FAA. So basically, what that means is I'm a parachute mechanic. I can fix, repair, make and pack parachutes legally. So, I designed the entire system and I built a lot of the parts myself or modified them from existing parts to make them work for the kind of utility I'm using them for. So yeah, I invented it and I've been working on it for about the last 11 years and it's gotten pretty dialed in over the last three or four years.

How does the motorcycle parachute work?

I have a system integrated to the seat. So, the seat is a parachute container; it holds the bike's parachute. And I have a system where I use military break cord that ties off to me. So, when my parachute pulls me off the bike it severs the break cord and initiates a sequence that opens the bike's parachute.

Do you think of yourself as a risk taker in all areas of life or just moto?

Not really, I'm always down to have fun and be outgoing but I'm not really ballsy in every area of life. I'm timid in some areas like I'm scared of deep water. I don't like the ocean. I'm just not really a water person, I'm more into dirt and sky. But when I was a little kid I was scared of doing big jumps on dirt bikes, even though I always wanted to.

Is this all building toward something? Are you trying to outdo yourself? What do you think the limit is of your lane of stunts?

Yeah, I have a couple big goals with this. It sucks because I can never tell people what they are because in this industry there are so many appropriation thieves. But yeah, there are about two to three really big purposes for this. Everything I do, all my jumps have been test jumps in preparation for this other thing. I'm just building that foundation for it and really I could do it tomorrow but it's the type of thing that's pretty big so you would need an event or something to get the type of support you would need to build the setup. That's partly why I bought the property so I can practice and get it dialed before I get a show for it.

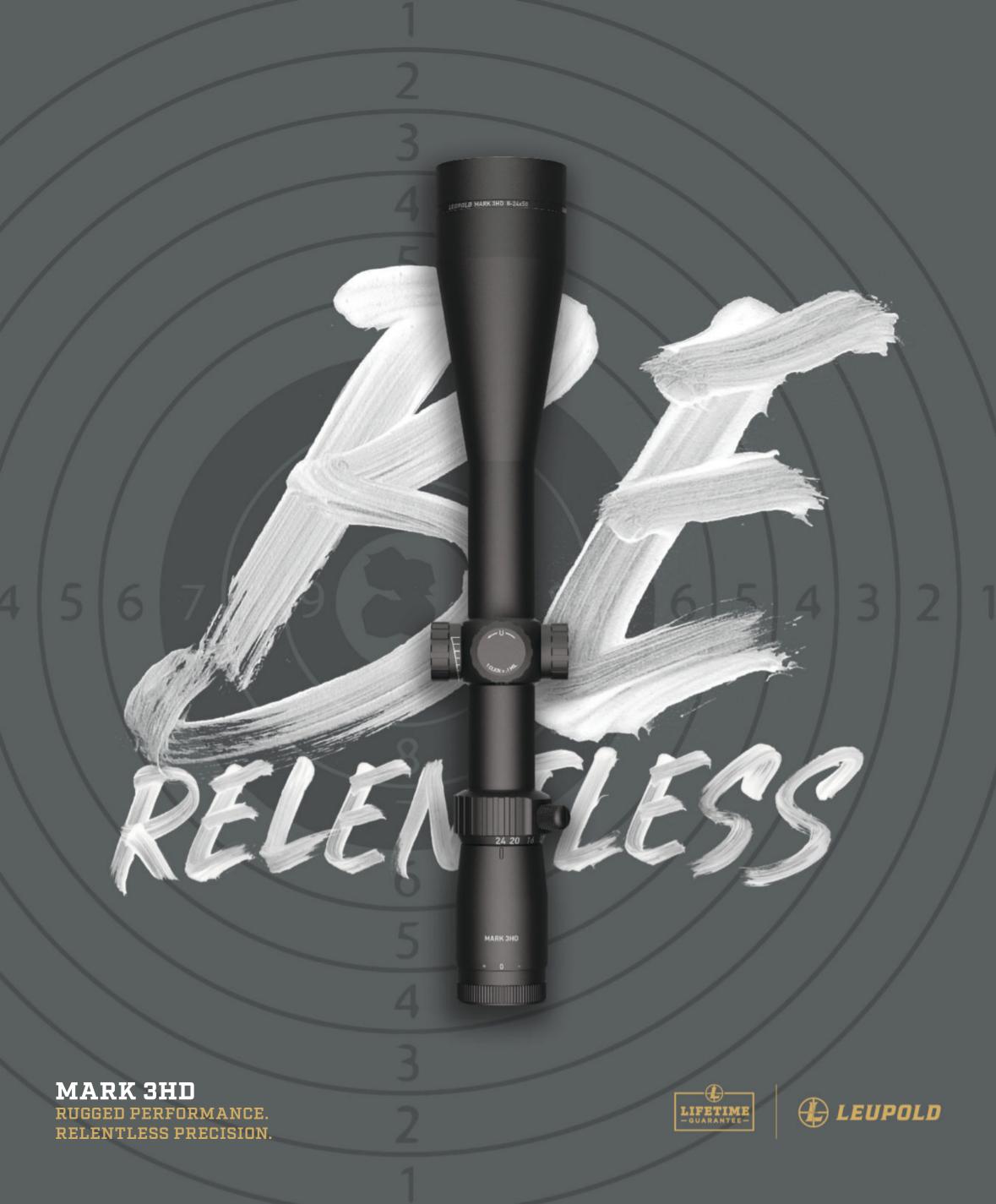


I STILL GET REALLY
NERVOUS BEFORE
HAND BUT IT'S NOT
AN UNCONTROLLABLE
NERVOUS STATE.



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MOTO-BASE MADMAN

Tell me why you do what you do. There are much easier, safer ways to make money, so why do you choose to risk your life doing this wild shit?

My whole life has been passion driven. If I didn't do this stuff I would be a piece of shit. I have to do something with my time that's exhilarating for me and seems worth it. I don't want to live a life that's been lived by millions of people before. I want to live a unique experience that's fulfilling to me and luckily or unfortunately for me these are the kinds of things that interest me, so I just don't really have a choice.

What do your mom and dad think of your career?

Mom is the most nervous about everything but we don't really talk about it, like she doesn't watch any of the stuff I do. She wants to hear when things are going well but I don't think she really quite comprehends what I do and she definitely doesn't want to think about it. My dad loves the stuff, he loves to skydive and used to jump with me a lot. He was a dirtbike rider as well so he gets it, but everybody gets scared. Really, there's not too much pressure

from the family. Everybody is chill with it and knows that this is how I've always been. It's not like I changed all of a sudden one day and started doing this stuff. I've just always kind of operated like this.

Was there ever a time when you thought you might have to give up and get a "real" job?

I've done everything. There have been tons of times where I was like, "Why can't you just be happy and have a regular job?" I just can't do that but I have always worked when I needed to. It hasn't always been like it is now where I have sponsors that pay me a salary and I just do what I'm doing and they pay for the content. Before I was living in my van traveling around doing the things I could while still working in my job as a skydiving instructor or a parachute rigger working for the military. So, I've always worked, I've always had a side hustle.

How do you manage the stress that comes along with what you do?

When I was 14 I went to a hypnotherapist and started doing hypnotherapy for fear. I

did it for about a year and a half, and it totally changed my life. I didn't want to be some reckless idiot just doing whatever, but I also didn't want to be held back from doing things that made me nervous but that I really wanted to do. So that definitely changed my perspective on things. I think that's the most important thing I've done in my life in terms of changing what my mental default is.

Do you do any meditation?

Yeah, I do some meditation. I struggle with it a little bit, but I do it. My girlfriend is always trying to get me to do it but hypnotherapy was probably the coolest thing for me just to calm my mind in certain ways and not overanalyze. Also, visualization is probably the most important technique I still use. I visualize every aspect of everything I'm trying to do. I think of it mechanically, physically, mentally and emotionally. I just kind of lay everything out for myself and I feel like that just kind of helps you live the moment beforehand and kind of get a handle on the feelings that are going to happen there including the fear or whatever is going on.



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BRAD'S EQUIPMENT

BIKE:	HYR Motorsports HUSQVARNA 450cc
TOP SPEED:	80 mph
PARACHUTE:	Squirrel-Hayduke 240
BIKE PARACHUTE:	Custom build by Squirrel and Brad O'Neal
SPONSORS:	K-Chill, Uncanna CBD, Shift mx, Hilx Optics, Squirrel wingsuits, Funordie country,

@dirtbikes_parachutes

With how experienced you are, how would you describe how you feel leading up to a jump?

Do you still get nervous?

Oh, for sure I do. I have done this a lot now and for a while, and have been pretty successful, but still 90 percent of the time when I'm doing one it's a world first. Like it's never been done here at this spot with this jump,

and you never get to practice these jumps. When I practice is when I'm actually doing them. There's training in the sense that you can become a good base jumper and learn how your equipment works and how to pack (a parachute) and deal with that and then you can be a good dirt bike rider, but merging them together there's no real training or testing. You just kind of do it or don't. So, I

still get really nervous beforehand but it's not an uncontrollable nervous state. I know what to expect and I'm confident in myself. The last one I was really scared of was a backflip moto-base I did, which I haven't even put out yet or shown anyone yet. That was scary.

What would you say to a kid or teenager reading this who looks up to you and might be thinking about doing something similar?

I would just say to follow your gut and your heart, honestly. If you feel excited about something, if you're passionate about it, just go for it. And know that things take time, you know? Nothing is going to happen overnight. You can absolutely do anything you want to do but you might not get there in the way that you imagined. Don't worry about what other people think and just do you.

For more information, visit Bradley's website bradleyslums.com and find him on Instagram @bradley_slums.



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The internet is littered with images and stories of bunker complexes scattered around the Midwest, mostly carved out of decommissioned missile silos for the ultra-wealthy, a respite from whatever apocalypse they are certain will befall society. Of course, that's if Pac-Man consoles, jacuzzis, mini-bars and Pelotons are necessary to stave off assured death in the aftermath.

Notwithstanding, an emergency shelter of any kind—one that fits your budget and needs—is easily recommended, as there are other tragedies always looming in the near future. Floods, earthquakes, tornadoes and debilitating winter storms are more likely than the zombie hoards, nuclear strikes or solar flares knocking out the electrical grid.

A LITTLE BACKGROUND

Since the beginning of the Cold War in the 1950s, the U.S. government has encouraged those with the means to construct fallout shelters, and there are dozens of designs and configurations to meet any goals. A well-thought-out design

is key to ensuring you have addressed all of the issues related to the scenario you are concerned about. For example, sturdy doors are an absolute necessity regardless of what threat scenario you are preparing for, but blast doors that are absolutely necessary for nuclear hazards are overkill if you are concerned about civil unrest. At the same time, the kind of air filtration system you put in place for a nuclear scenario will be very different from that for less critical applications.

As a minimum your bunker should have the following areas:

- A secure, defensible entrance.
- Sleeping quarters that provide separation for adults and children, and privacy.
- A great room area where people can gather during the day for meetings or for relaxation.
- An exercise area, because it is important for people to stay fit, both for physical well-being and for mental health and morale.
- Kitchen with ventilation and spaces for food preparation and cooking. This should include a sanitation area for cleaning dishes and clothing.
- An eating area that will accommodate the number of people you will have in your bunker.
- A utility room with controls for air conditioning and filtration, heating, and water purification and distribution.
- Communications systems for monitoring what is going on in the outside world (such as an AM/FM receiver and a short-wave radio) and Family Radio Service (FRS) hand-held

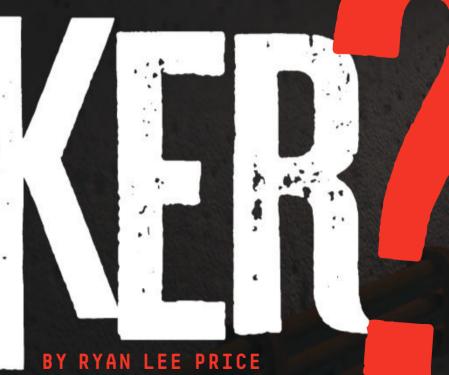
- radios for communicating inside of the bunker or with members who are outside of the bunker for perimeter patrols or doing repairs.
- Waste material management system.
- Multiple sources of power, air intake, waste removal.
- Shielding against radiation (if nuclear fallout is your concern).
- A secure, defensible emergency exit separate from the entrance.

If you have bought, built or DIY'd a structure in your basement to ward off impending doom, you obviously can't survive for any length of time in an empty chamber. Existing, surviving and thriving are distinct concepts; and since you'll want to lean more towards thriving during an economic collapse, natural disaster, war or civil unrest, you'll need to stock it with what you and your family find essential to keep body and mind healthy for at least a month or more. What do you need to stockpile, what should you bring before you close the door behind you and how much of everything do you really need?

CONSUMABLES

Food: Very likely the most important decision you will make in terms of what to stock in your bunker will be the food you will keep there. Changing dietary habits, like going from eating fresh and canned foods to a diet of freeze-dried or dehydrated foods, can cause digestive problems in both young and old. Variety is also important to keep in mind so don't plan on eating the same menu every







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WHAT'S IN YOUR BUNKER?







- 1. Don't fall into the trap of getting large amounts of the same foodstuffs. Your grocery store will have a wide variety of canned meats, rice or pasta dishes, and canned vegetables, so take advantage of them.
- **2.** How you handle waste, and the supplies you need to do so, will be one of your biggest challenges. This composting toilet solves a big problem while minimizing the amount of water you use.
- **3.** Your bunker should have specific areas for specific tasks, all separated as conveniently as possible, providing privacy and proper sanitation.

day or every week. Without food that people will enjoy eating, and without the energy and sense of well-being that comes with being well-fed, the morale of even your most hard-core bunker mate can take a header. You can keep your food familiar and palatable and still have a long shelf life by focusing on canned foods and staying away from things that need to be frozen or reconstituted, since you might not be able to keep a refrigerator running.

Water: Stock enough drinkable water in individual bottles or gallon or larger containers to have one gallon of water per person per day for drinking and cooking. Liter or quart containers are useful with drinking water since

it is easy to keep track of whether you have had your three bottles per day. Another half-gallon per person per day for personal washing or laundry should also be stored. Even if your bunker is connected to an outside water source, keep enough water handy to last the duration of your planned stay (and more). Water can easily be cut off, contaminated and/or otherwise non-drinkable. Without water, you don't have a chance down there, even for a few days.

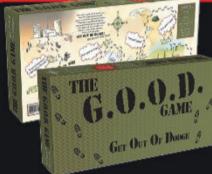
Energy/Fuel: A look at what you use for heating, cooking, communications and lighting will tell you what kind of energy source you will need. Stockpile batteries for every device that needs them in the size that they use. A

trick that backpackers use to simplify their lives is to try and pick devices that use the same kind of battery; this way you only need to stockpile one or two sizes of battery instead of six or more. Having a number of automotive or marine batteries on hand with a power inverter will provide you with a useful backup power supply should your primary go down. The prudent person will have a mixture of energy sources, especially if you don't want someone to know where you are. So, augment your battery or gas energy sources with solar, wind and water power systems as well.

Sanitation: To keep things clean, keep on hand laundry and dishwashing detergent, paper towels, toilet paper, hand soap, hand sanitizer and cleaning tools like plastic scrubbing pads. Keep the same amounts that you normally use at home for the month. To take care of human waste you will need to purchase a chemical and composting toilet since you may not be able to, or want to, go outside of the bunker. Make sure that you have room to store whatever containers your toilet uses once they are filled.

GET OUT OF DODGE-THE BOARD GAME

It's the Game of Life meets Candyland for preppers and survivalists. Beset with obstacles and sprinkled with gear rewards, the G.O.O.D. (Get Out of Dodge) board game by Killswitch Bunker Games challenges its players to escape the "Big Nasty City" on a 104-mile circuitous route to a "Super Cool Bug Out Cabin." The first to make it in one piece wins the game. Along the way, players can collect gear



cards to help survive the wrath of random complications, such as frostbite, meth heads and biker thieves. You can advance token to the nearest sporting goods store and loot it for gear, or you might

get stuck in a FIMA camp (Forced Incarceration Malicious Agency). Although chance plays an important role in G.O.O.D., skill and strategy will help you over the Butt Cold Mountains or defend against desert rats.

Entertaining and unique, G.O.O.D. is a great game to while away the hours in your emergency bunker, awaiting the end of nuclear winter. For more information, visit killswitchbunker games.com. —Ryan L. Price

NON-CONSUMABLES

Kitchen Gear: A full set of pots and pans is the first thing you will need in your bunker kitchen. Don't think that you can get away with just one of each. If you have a multi-burner stove and maybe an oven, which you should, then you will be using more than one pot and pan to make meals for your family and yourself.

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6

WHAT'S IN YOUR BUNKER?

Follow that with at least one of each utensil you use at home, like ladles, spatulas, knives, spoons for stirring and serving, and a cutting board. And of course, a manual can opener so you can get to the food you are going to prepare. A colander is also a useful item to include in your kitchen, as well as plastic containers for leftovers and other food you will want to store in your refrigerator once you get to your bunker.

Tools And Maintenance Gear: Since you are in your bunker for whatever reason, you can't depend on your local handyman to come and fix anything that breaks. You must have both the skills and the tools to address any problems that arise from a clogged drain, to a short in the wiring, to replacing stairs or cabinets, to metal working. The accompanying sidebar gives a list of basic tools you should consider and combination power tool packages you might want to pick up at your local home improvement store. All of this should be kept at your bunker as you may not have time to pick it up from home, nor will you want to waste space in your vehicles to carry it there.

Home & Self-Defense: If defending your bug out location is part of your plan then you will want to have whatever combination of



and non-lethal weapons on hand that will be needed. In addition to these, you will also want the equipment needed to maintain them and, of course, plenty of ammunition for each one.

First Aid: When planning for your first aid

long guns (rifles and shotguns), handguns

supplies you need to think about three general categories: basic first aid needs, medicines and drugs, and trauma needs. Basic first aid needs will include things to handle cuts and abrasions, heat and cold related injuries, and some first aid scissors. Medicines and drugs will include stockpiles of prescription drugs that you and your family need, as well as overthe-counter medications for allergy, pain, and bowel and stomach distress. Make sure that you rotate these out on a regular basis so that your stocks have not gone past their use-by dates. Trauma-related supplies—the part of planning that most people forget—include materials to handle broken bones, arterial bleeding, chest wounds and other breathing problems, and poisoning. Trauma kits with the right mix of materials are available from a number of vendors on the Internet.

thing that you will need to operate your bunker, you will need some kind of communication capability. Handheld Family Radio Service (FRS) radios will provide short-range communications with the people in your group if they are outside of the bunker. These typically have a range of 20 to 30 miles, but they are FM, or line of sight, devices so they can be blocked or limited by buildings, land masses or even forests. They have multiple channels that you can use, but no encryption. You will also want to be able to hear what is going on

with the outside world, and if you choose to, to communicate with them. For that you will want to have either a short-wave radio or the hand held VHF radios that are used on boats and other pleasure craft. With these you will be able to monitor news and weather reports.

HOW MUCH IS ENOUGH?

Determining how much you need to stockpile of each category will depend on you, your family and what you are used to. Having the right frame of mind and good morale is an often overlooked aspect of bug out living, so plan to make things as much like they are at home as possible.

Some general guidelines for food are:

- 1-2 gallons of water per person per day for drinking, cooking and sanitation. Include extra water in the event of emergencies or if you have to stay longer.
- Follow the serving sizes on cans of vegetables and grains. One can of vegetables has two servings in it so plan on two cans per lunch and dinner for a family of four.
- A spreadsheet showing what you plan to store will help you calculate how much of each one you need for different numbers of people and different numbers of days.

Some general guidelines for fuel are:

- Test your equipment at home to see how much fuel you use for the average breakfast, lunch and dinner. Then calculate how many fuel canisters you will need for your expected stay.
- Use clothing to adapt to the temperature in your bunker rather than running heating or air conditioning all of the time.
- Keep a 25 to 50 percent overage of fuel so that you will have enough in the event of a problem, leakage or if you have to stay longer than expected.

The key thing is that you should have everything you need in your regular home plus what emergency services would provide for you already in your bunker. You can't depend on bringing anything since you might not be able to get home before heading for your bunker. Make sure everything will stand on its own without access to public utilities. Make sure that what you were used to at home, like your normal laundry detergent or brand of toilet paper, are at the bunker to enjoy a seamless transition.

A basic toolkit for your home away from home should include a mix of hand tools and power tools that cross the spectrum of carpentry, plumbing and electrical.

- Multi-tool
- Claw hammer
- Screwdriver set
- Torx and hex wrench sets
- Power screwdriver
- Power drill
- Power saw
- Battery charger for power tools

- Saw for cutting wood and lumber
- Saw for cutting pipes (metal and PVC)
- Socket wrench set in metric and non-metric sizes
- Level, torpedo and three-foot long
- T-square
- Measuring tape
- Carpenters pencils
- Pliers, needle-nosed and flat nosed
- Pipe wrench

- Combination wrench set
- Adjustable wrenches
- A variety of wood and metal files
- Flashlight, headlamp and handheld
- Plumbers snake
- Toilet plunger

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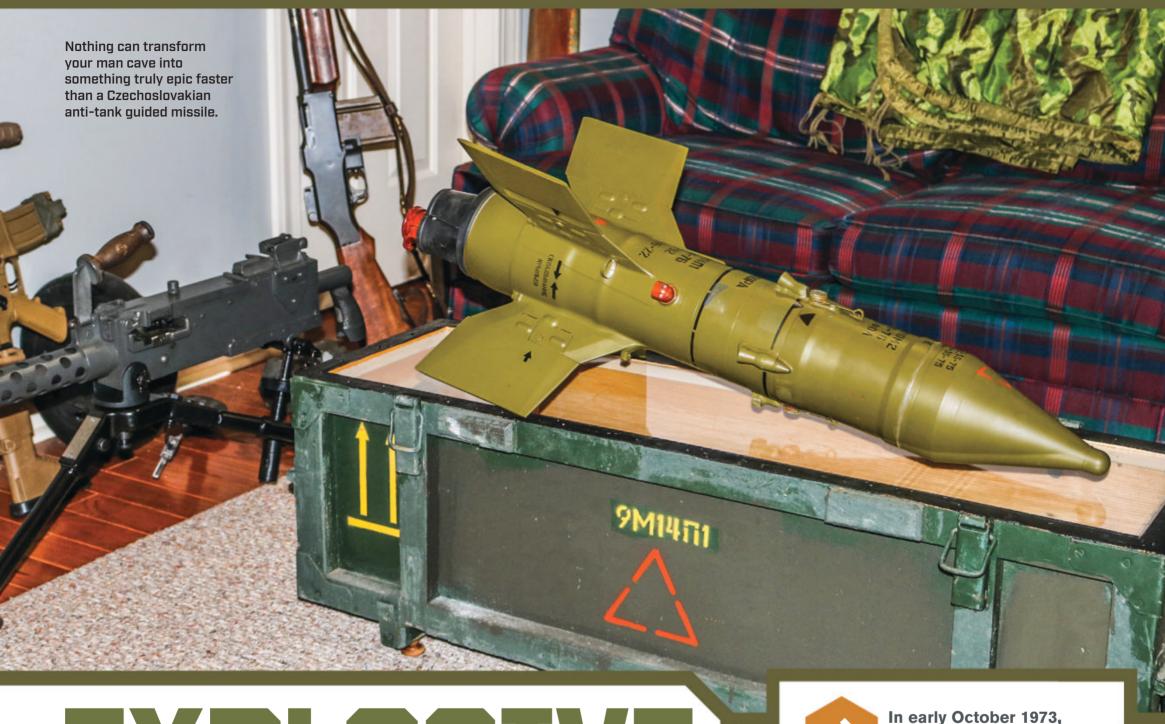
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EXPLOSIVE DIY DECOR

HONEY, I'M BRINGING AN ANTI-TANK GUIDED MISSILE HOME AND MAKING A LIVINGROOM TABLE

BY WILL DABBS, MD

In early October 1973,
Israeli intelligence reported
large concentrations of
Egyptian troops massing on the Suez
Canal opposite the Sinai Peninsula.
The Israelis had seized the Sinai in
1967 during what they called the SixDay War. The Arabs called that epic
butt-whooping The Setback.

In 1967, the Arab coalition lost 80 percent of its combat power to the IDF (Israel Defense Force) in less than a week. The humiliation they experienced at the hands of Israeli forces remains a suppurating wound even today. In 1973 they were ready for some payback.

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packing stuff like spare uniforms, socks

and underwear. The true purpose of these

Hind. It could also be managed from its

9P111 fiberglass suitcase launcher. In

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GUNROOM



this configuration the suitcase doubled as a launching platform.

The Sagger's guidance system seems primitive by today's standards, but it was earth-shattering back in 1973. At the moment of firing the Sagger climbs vertically before tracking a path toward the target. This helps keep the missile and its associated guidance wires clear of surrounding obstacles. A small onboard gyroscope orients the round, while a built-in cant to the guidance fins imparts a

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spin of 8.5 revolutions per second.

The operator guides the missile visually. For targets at more than 500 meters but less than a kilometer the operator can control the missile manually using the 9S415 joystick controller to fly it into the target. At ranges greater than 1,000 meters the 9Sh16 periscope sight offers a fixed 8X magnification and a 22.5-degree field of view.

In practice the Sagger was hard to use and required a skilled operator for effective

employment. Sagger teams frequently included an RPG-7 anti-tank rocket launcher to help cover the dead space closer than 500 meters. Additionally, the Sagger flew relatively slowly and produced a prodigious smoke and dust signature on firing. The operator could be remotely positioned from the launch point, but there was only about 15 meters' worth of cable connecting the launcher with the guidance unit. This facilitated effective countermeasures.



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Back when I first donned the uniform the Sagger was still a really big deal. We were trained to orient all available fires upon the launch point in an effort to disrupt the operator prior to missile impact. As it took a full 30 seconds for the Sagger to fly three kilometers that provided time to engage the firing point with organic .50-caliber and M60 machine guns. Israeli armored forces would also move erratically, speed up or slow down, deploy smoke, and even fire their weapons into the ground nearby to raise dust clouds when under Sagger attack.

INTERNET DEALS

When a dear friend dropped me an email reporting that he had found a Czech AT-3 Sagger for sale online I had one ordered before I replied to his note. This worthless trinket set me back about \$500, but it is NIB and comes with associated maintenance documents. It also ships in its original communist-issue crate. My Sagger rolled off the lines in 1976.

Some poor Commie dogface put a lot of effort into maintaining this thing. The missile is obviously an inert training version that lacks any propellant or explosive, but the associated logbook nonetheless contains extensive handwritten notes in Cyrillic script documenting something or other regularly over the past several decades. For all I know it might say, "Ronald Reagan wears women's undergarments." I don't personally read Czech.

The missile comes securely strapped inside the crate. The fins pop open and closed, and the missile itself disassembles. All the nozzles and electrical fittings are intact.

The shipping crate is simply epic. It is lined in plastic and contains the clamps that kept

the missile intact despite inevitable rough handling. There is a valve that lets the thing breathe when shipped in an unpressurized aircraft. There are steel handles on each end, and it is festooned with cool Combloc military stenciling. All up it weighs 85 pounds. The next challenge, however, was justifying such a frivolous purchase to my wife.

PRACTICAL TACTICAL

Texting, "Honey, I'm bringing a communist anti-tank guided missile home from the clinic" is not the sort of thing to earn the typical American husband a hot home-cooked meal with all the trimmings. I opted instead for, "Sweetheart, I bought a new coffee table for the gun room online." Amazingly, that actually worked.

The transformation from Combloc ordnance to furniture was surprisingly straightforward. I mounted stubby wooden pegs at
each corner to lift it off the floor a bit and cut
the plastic lining out with an X-Acto knife. I
cut thin strips of wood on my table saw and
glued them around the inside of the crate to
form a lip. Then a piece of thick Plexiglass cut
to shape or a custom piece of tempered glass
from your local glass place makes the top.
You can lift the transparent lid out with a paint
can opener if you want to drag your Sagger
out to play with it.

The Sagger also has a couple of grommets you can use to suspend it from the ceiling if desired. The end result is utterly worthless but will instantly triple the cool factor in any proper man cave. Packaging the expense as furniture rather than man crap can keep you in good graces with the wife as well. Everybody wins. To bring home your own missile, check it out at robertrtg.com



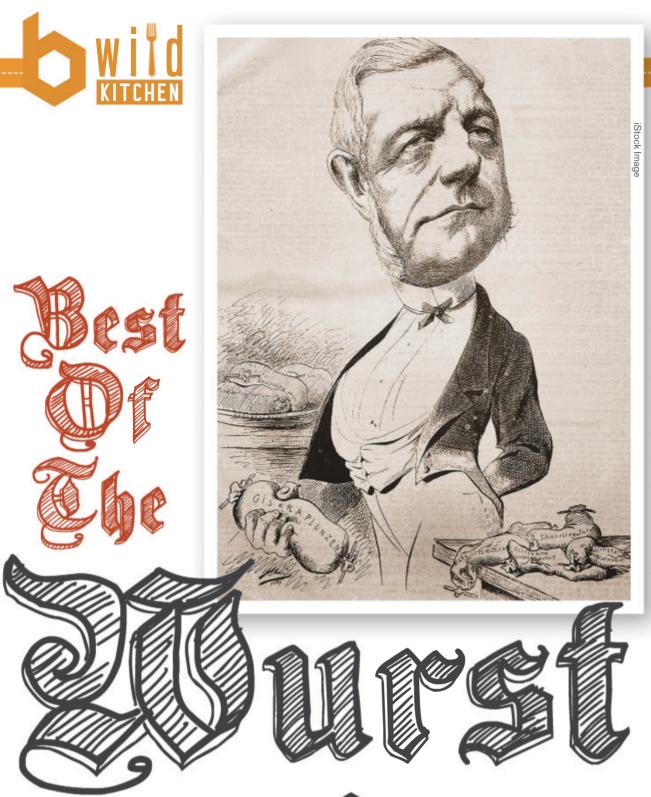


This Czech AT-3 Sagger disassembles just like the live originals. And Support stuff are intact on the author's Sagger.



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Four great sausage feasts from the other side of the pond

BY JON R. SUNDRA

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At a recent gathering with some of my foodie friends, one of them suggested we throw a wurst party. You know, sausages, as they're known in Germany. It took but a few seconds for us to come to a consensus that it was one helluva good idea—one that could be a lot of fun. Further fleshing out the concept we decided on those sausages associated with a European country.

I am indulging in a bit of editorial license here by using "wurst" as a generic term for all four of the sausages we'll be discussing here, but technically, any ground or minced meat extruded into a casing qualifies as a wurst. Besides, paired with the word "best," it makes for a catchy title!

Not all wursts come in links. Polish Kielbasa is a prime example; it qualifies as a sausage, but instead of links it's made in long lengths and cut into sections.

In Spain the generic term for sausage is Salchicha, and the most famous version there is Chorizo. This spicy wurst, if you will, is as much a snack/tapas food as the centerpiece of a complete meal.

In Italy sausage is Salchicia, but alas, there's no term for it here other than Italian sausage. It's quite versatile as it can be served as a link in a crusty bun, formed into a burger or star in a Bolognese ragu served over pasta.

There are literally hundreds of wursts recognized throughout Germany, and of those, Bratwurst is the most widely known here in the States. But because almost everyone has had a brat at one time or another, we chose to be a little more adventurous and go with the lesser known Weisswurst. It's a personal favorite of mine and whenever I'm in Germany I never fail to get my fill.

Kielbasa

This is the national sausage of Poland. In fact, it's the only sausage for which there is an "official" Polska Kielbasa recipe endorsed by the Polish government! That, of course, is laughable because for any sausage from any country there are hundreds of variations. The basics, though, consist of about 75 percent ground pork, 25 percent beef, seasoned with lots of garlic, plus Marjoram and Coriander in a hog casing. Here in the states, kielbasa is always smoked and ready to eat, but that's not always the case in Europe.

Kielbasa can be baked, grilled or fried to arrive at serving temperature, and eaten by itself, like a hot dog in a bun, or as a full dinner accompanied by innumerable side dishes.

One of the most traditional, and the one we'll do here, is braised in sauerkraut and onions accompanied by smashed fingerling potatoes.



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INGREDIENTS

- 1 lb. kielbasa
- 1 tsp. Caraway seed
- 1 lb. sauerkraut
- 2 tbs. brown sugar
- ½ lb. bacon cut into lardons
- salt and pepper to taste
- 1 large onion, coarsely diced
- 12 oz. beer
- 4 oz. applesauce
- 3/4 lb. fingerling potatoes
- 1 tbs. minced garlic
- ¼ cup freshly chopped Parsley
- 1 tsp. dried Rosemary
- 6 tbs. butter

This recipe starts with 1/2 lb. of bacon cut into lardons and brought to crispness in a skillet. Remove the lardons and set aside. Drain off the bacon fat and add to the skillet the kielbasa cut into bite-size pieces, and sauté over medium-high heat until nicely browned. Remove and set aside. Now add to the skillet 2 tbs. butter and sauté the sliced onion until softened. Empty the sauerkraut into a colander, rinse thoroughly under running water, drain, and add it to the onions, along with the salt, pepper, Caraway seed, brown sugar, applesauce and beer. Mix thoroughly, bring to a boil, cover, reduce heat to low and simmer for 60 minutes. After 60 minutes add the kielbasa and bacon and simmer uncovered for another 30 minutes. Mix in the parsley just before serving.

The potatoes are easy enough. Simply boil them until tender—about 16 to 18 minutes. In a second skillet over medium-low heat, melt 4 tbs. of butter, add the potatoes and mash each one with a fork or blunt object of your choice. Add the Rosemary,









garlic and Parsley and mix thoroughly. Beer is the most traditional beverage, but a nice Riesling ain't all that bad either!

Salchicha (Spanish)

There a two kinds of chorizo—the Spanish versions, most of which are cured, smoked, and ready to eat, and the Mexican chorizo, which is usually raw and requires cooking. We're going to go with the Spanish version as it is used in a classic one-dish meal popular in northern Spain: guiso de chorizo y patatas (chorizo and potato stew.) Spanish chorizo consists of coarsely-ground pork highly seasoned with Ancho chilies, coriander, cloves, cumin and lots of paprika, which gives it its dark red color.

INGREDIENTS

- 1 lb. Spanish chorizo
- 1 red bell pepper, diced
- 1 medium onion, diced
- 2 cups diced potatoes
- 1 can diced tomatoes with green chilies
- 1 cup medium Sherry
- ½ cup extra virgin olive oil
- 1 cup chicken stock
- 2 tbs. minced or chopped garlic
- 1 sprig rosemary or 1 tbs. dried
- 2 tbs. tomato paste
- salt and pepper to taste
- 1 tbs. paprika







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Start by sautéing the chorizo cut in half lengthwise in a little olive oil until nicely browned on both sides. Set aside. In a saucepan or Dutch oven, add the rest of the olive oil and sauté the onions and bell pepper until softened—about 15 minutes. Add the garlic and sauté for another 5 minutes. Drain the tomatoes and squeeze out as much liquid as you can, then add to the pot, along with the Chorizo cut into bite-size pieces and all the other ingredients. Bring to a boil, then reduce to a medium low heat and simmer, uncovered, for 45 minutes. By then the potatoes will be done and the sauce will have been reduced to a stew-like consistency.

This meal is generally served with nothing more than crusty bread. For the wine I'd go

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with a Rioja, but if you'd prefer a white, a Verdejo will do nicely.

Salchicha (Italian)

Although ground beef is most often used as the base of a Bolognese ragu, I think Italian sausage brings more flavor to the table. This is a basic pork sausage, but what makes it Italian is the addition of crushed red pepper and fennel seed (though I've never found packaged sausage that, to my palate, had enough of either.) Though sold mostly in link form, it's becoming more common to see it sold in bulk like ground beef. If in link form, simply remove the casing. For the tomatoes, try to find certified San Marzano.

INGREDIENTS

- 1 lb. Italian sausage
- 5 cloves garlic, diced or minced
- 1 medium onion, diced
- 1 tbs. dried oregano
- 128-oz. can of tomatoes
- crushed red pepper (optional)
- ¾ cup coarse grated carrot
- ¾ cup diced celery
- ¼ cup extra virgin olive oil
- 1 tsp. sugar +/- to taste
- 1 tsp. sugar +/ to taste1 cup dry white wine (or red)
- 1 tsp. fennel seeds (optional)

Start by mincing the sausage while it's sautéing in a skillet over medium high heat. When fully cooked, drain off the oil, remove the sausage and set aside. In a medium-size saucepan add the olive oil, onion, carrot and celery (this is called a battuto in Italian, mirepoix in French, safrito in Spanish) and sauté for 8 to 10 minutes over medium heat. Add the garlic and sauté for another two minutes. At this point add the tomatoes and break them up—I use a potato masher—then add all the other ingredients except seasonings. Most recipes call for red wine, but I prefer white; it makes for a lighter sauce. When the sauce starts to boil, lower to a slow simmer—the kind that just barely ripples the surface. After simmering uncovered for 45 minutes, add salt and pepper to taste, and add any CRP and fennel if you want these flavors to be more assertive. As for the sugar, every brand of canned or bottled tomatoes differs in acidity. If the sauce needs sugar, add a half teaspoon at a time, tasting as you go.

After simmering an hour or so uncovered, the sauce should be close to the right consistency, but it's a trial and error thing. If too thin, simmer longer; if too thick, add more wine. Forget what you've heard about how it takes several hours to make a great Bolognese sauce. That's true if you're using, say, pork neck bones because it does take hours of simmering to extract all the flavor bones are capable of imparting. But when using ground meat as the base you can have a great Bolognese ragu in an hour.

This is a very robust sauce so it pairs best with a meatier pasta like linguine or

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tagliatelle, or a short pasta like penne or ziti. Whatever your choice, a generous grating of Parmesan-Reggiano and fresh parsley before serving is de rigueur. For the wine pairing I like to go with a Chianti Classico from Tuscany, or a Barberesco from the Piedmonte. Godere!

Weisswurst

This tasty wurst is known throughout Germany, but is especially popular in Bavaria



where it's considered a breakfast sausage and not usually served in restaurants after noon. Weisswurst is distinguished from most other wursts in that it is grayish white in color, but like other German sausages it comes already fully cooked. The basic ingredients are finely ground pork, veal, bacon, lemon and parsley. Traditionally, Weisswurst is never grilled or fried; rather, it's brought to serving temperature by boiling, and in restaurants is brought to the table in the boiled water. It is also



customary to not eat the casing. The meat can be squeezed out like toothpaste, but the most common method is to partially slice through the link end to end and pull the casing off. Weisswurst is traditionally served with sweet mustard, a soft pretzel and, of course, beer. In other words, there's nothing to prepare; you just buy everything! If you don't have a local source of Weisswurst or soft pretzels—or buns made of pretzel dough-there's always the internet. Prost!



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here is an injustice in this land—an injustice that has burdened us since the early days of 1791 when the government saw a way to generate revenue. We still suffer

from the same tactic today. This revenue source would be a whiskey tax and would be imposed on any liquor made in the country. This was the first tax imposed on a domestic product by the newly formed federal government and was intended to generate revenue for the debt incurred during the Revolutionary War.

As you can imagine, this was not well received and for the next three years, distillers held off the tax collectors by less-than-legal means. This outright defiance eventually spurred the government to send a U.S. Marshal to Pennsylvania to collect the taxes owed. This was not taken well by the local residents, and they rose up. Over 500 men attacked the area's tax inspector general's home. The conflict stirred a protest of nearly 6,000 people, and troops were sent in to stop it. In the end, the protest ended before troops could arrive and a few years later the "whiskey tax" was repealed. Or was it?

BAD MOON RISING

Today the ATF—yes, that ATF—regulates alcohol manufacturing and sales. While there are some states that allow it, the personal production of spirits is still generally against federal law. Like the original restrictions on whiskey production, this modern version is based on a tax. To the average person this is head scratching because countless people home brew beer and wine with no restrictions. Spirits, though, are a very highly taxed item, and the government wants their cut. They are certain to have a litany of safety and consumer protection mantras, but it really comes down to money. Taxes range from \$1.07 to \$3.40 depending on alcohol content. The federal government collects about \$1 billion per month from excise alcohol taxes on spirits, beer and wine. The taxes on spirits are much higher than those on beer or wine. Therefore, well over half of that tax money comes from spirits consumers.

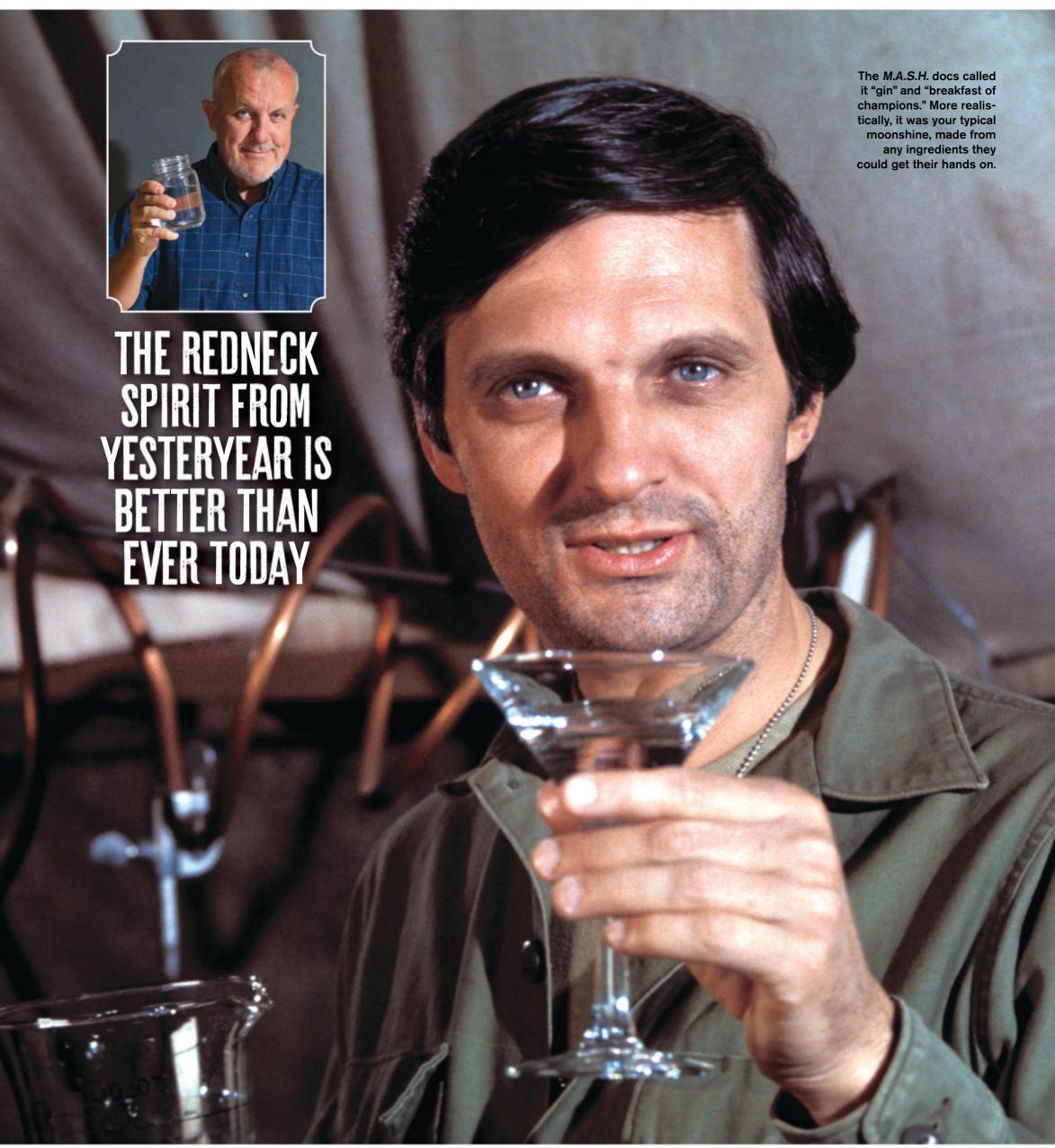
We all know the government never met a tax they did not love. To many, this is a direct challenge to the American individual spirit and our desire to do pretty much whatever we want. It is that spirit that has driven the DIY booze business for over

BY FRED MASTISON

230 years. The product of this ingenuity is moonshine. The term "moonshine" comes from the fact that illegal spirits were made under the light of the moon. In every part of America, early moonshiners worked their stills at night to avoid detection from authorities. In more technical terms, it is a homemade, unaged whiskey, recognized by its clear color. It is usually corn based and has a very high alcohol content that can peak as high as 190 proof. This magical elixir is cooked in homemade stills usually constructed of copper. These coil and pot configurations range from tabletop to massive booze producing contraptions. In all actuality, they are simply crude versions of the distilling equipment used by large manufacturers. One of the most notable stills of all time was the one that graced "the swamp" on the television show *M.A.S.H.* The two doctors carefully tended to their still as it became a social center for them and the camp.

GETTING IT DONE

Making moonshine revolves around two different processes: fermentation and distillation. Fermentation is a chemical reaction that occurs when the yeast breaks down the sugar. One result of that reaction is alcohol. Distillation is the process of evaporating the alcohol at 172 degrees and collecting the steam before



Alamy Photo

AFTER HOURS



condensing it back into liquid form. As a friend described it to me at one point, it's like baking a cake—a 180 proof cake.

Moonshine has suffered a sketchy reputation over the years. While the 'shiners will tell you it is manufactured propaganda, some moonshine would be better off removing paint than sitting in your glass. There are countless stories of poorly made moonshine that caused blindness, paralysis and even death. Those stories have become more cliché now as even rookie booze making has become safer. For those who have never had a taste of true moonshine, I can tell you that it is certainly an experience. Understand that true moonshine is not designed to be the center of an elegant cocktail or featured on a magazine cover. It is purely a life lubricant designed to ease pain both physically and mentally. At the hands of a master maker, moonshine can be a unique and exceptional experience. It is devoid of the oak barrels and aging that our regular whiskey gets, which makes it unique. My first taste of moonshine happened almost 40 years ago, and my left eye still twitches from time to time.

Today moonshine is still alive and kicking. In fact, it has developed a serious following that the liquor industry has taken notice of. Mainstream liquor companies are now reinventing the spirit, making their shine in distilleries and marketing it to the masses. Let's take a look at some of the more notable offerings.

BUFFALO TRACE WHITE DOG

The bourbon giant Buffalo Trace Distillery in Kentucky offers a new moonshine called White Dog. Like the original it is distilled clear using corn mash. Flavor-wise it is a winner. Buffalo Trace White Dog mash is rich and smooth,

and features flavors of bread dough, popcorn, toasted grains, apples and hints of tropical fruit. It has a syrupy taste with heavy spice midway through and a touch of barley. The best part about it is that you don't need to punch a hole in the wall to make it go down.

PIEDMONT'S MIDNIGHT MOON

Next up on our modern moonshine tour is called Midnight Moon from North Carolina's Piedmont Distillers. This is a unique make because it is inspired by the well-known moonshiner and NASCAR driver Junior Johnson. Here's a bit of trivia to enrich your day. While some people mix moonshiners with bootleggers, they were separate professions. While some bootleggers took part in the making of moonshine, they generally were in the business of transporting illegal booze during prohibition. Bootlegging required serious driving skills and in time they would end up racing each other on the weekends. Fast forward and we find that NASCAR was actually started by the bootleg racers of old. Midnight Moon 100 Proof is inspired by the legendary moonshine family recipe and is made from American corn to deliver an ultra-smooth and clean tasting, high-proof spirit. Welcome to the next level of sipping.

OLE SMOKY WHITE LIGHTNIN

Down in Tennessee we get to visit the state's first legal moonshine distiller, Ole Smoky. While they have a wide offering including flavored versions, their classic White Lightnin' is a solid choice. Made with spirits distilled from corn and intended to be highly mixable, White Lightnin' can spark up every cocktail. It adds a more striking shot than the ordinary



BIG PERFORMANCE IN A SMALL PACKAGE





options such as gin or vodka and gives your cocktail the spirit it deserves.

APPALACHIAN STRAIGHT

Our next stop is in West Virginia and Appalachian Distillery. This is a family-owned business making premium sour mash moonshine, whiskey and bourbon. From fermentation to distillation and bottling, it is all crafted on site. Of all their offerings I would suggest staying true to the shine and choosing their Appalachian Straight. This is an unaged sour mash corn whiskey distilled four times for a clean, extremely smooth flavor with a hint of barley sweetness. It is expertly hand-crafted from the heart of Appalachia, West (by God) Virginia.

DROPTINE PERSIMMON & APPLE MOONSHINE

With the popular resurgence of moonshine, many companies have jumped on the bandwagon. Most are simply throwing a liquid flavor syrup in and calling it something clever. There are a few, however, that have taken this new endeavor seriously. The best in my opinion is the good folks over at Droptine. They have released their Persimmon & Apple moonshine, and it is fantastic. While apples are not new to the moonshine world, the use of persimmons is. The persimmon, with its blaze orange appearance, is a fall fruit the Ancient Greeks referred to as the "Fruit of the Gods." It brings a crisp, unique flavor to the drink.

In the true spirit of the original moonshiners, Droptine distills American corn into grain neutral spirits, adds whiskey and mixes them. They then take this blended corn-spirit and infuse it with organic persimmon and real apples. Finally, they add a touch of cinnamon and a few other secret spices. The end product is a delicious moonshine. It's bottled at 50 proof (25 percent abv), which makes it very smooth. When you taste it, the flavors of persimmon and apple perfectly balance the corn whiskey. I recommend drinking it on the rocks, but it can also be enjoyed neat and warm. If you are looking for a moonshine that brings great flavor to the sip, then I highly encourage you to seek out a bottle of Droptine Persimmon & Apple Moonshine.

TIM SMITH'S CLIMAX MOONSHINE

It seems appropriate to wrap up our tour with Climax Moonshine from Tim Smith Spirits. The company describes itself perfectly by saying, "We've been doing what we love for generations... even when forced to do it on the wrong side of the law—we've never stopped. It is in our roots, engraved in our soul—it's our family history. Recipes crafted mountain deep, in the light of the moon, shared down by word of mouth, generation to generation. Making booze on the edge of legality." Now that is

what you want to hear from someone making your hooch. This original 'shine has been crafted the same way for generations, using just the right amount of corn, rye and barley malt mash. The result is a clean and natural taste with a subtle sweetness that boldly defies convention.

FINAL SWIG

In all honesty the first version of this article contained a "how-to" section regarding making moonshine. I painfully brought myself to an edit because I do not want to come across as encouraging you to break the law. As my daughter would say, "It's the man keepin' us down." With that in mind, though, I must tell you that if you are looking for detailed instructions, you should definitely not go to the good folks at Mile Hi Distilling. They have detailed explanations, and I know you certainly don't want that.

In days gone by, hunting down a good, smooth-drinking moonshine was a right of passage. That first sip and the subsequent hard exhalation was a bridge to a new level in life. While many will never take that journey, we can still enjoy the essence of moonshine in our modern times.

FOR MORE INFORMATION APPALACHIAN DISTILLERY appalachian-moonshine.com

BUFFALO TRACE DISTILLERY buffalotrace.com

DROPTINE SPIRITS droptine.com

MILE HI DISTILLING milehidistilling.com

OLE SMOKY olesmoky.com

PIEDMONT DISTILLERS piedmontdistillers.com

TIM SMITH SPIRITS timsmithspirits.com



SPOTLIGHT



BEHIND THE YOUNG BRAND THAT EXUDES ALL-DAY COMFORT AND TACTI-COOLNESS

BY PETER SUCIU

become something that isn't just worn on the battlefield these days. It is durable and ideally suited to carry all the necessary gear you're likely to need in the field. It has also proven to be a popular choice for wearing to the range or travel. Few shooters may be concerned with fashion, but there could be a reason the women in your life don't want to join you in a day out shooting followed by running errands. Simply put, a lot of tactical clothing on the market today looks out of place when there isn't an MRAP parked behind you.

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"There is a reason that first responders, law enforcement, and the military wear the clothing they do," said Viktos' Justin Fox. "But in our daily civilian life, we questioned why anyone else wants to wear it. The previous tactical clothing is bulky, isn't all that comfortable, often poorly crafted, and screams 'I am probably armed,' which goes against our greyman mindset."

The Wisconsin-based company sought to create a line of footwear and apparel that has legitimate tactical features but can still be worn daily—without looking like you're ready for deployment. Their fundamental belief is that the 'tactical' mindset is 24/7/365, and they sought to create a complete range of gear to address the whole black arms lifestyle.

"Since we introduced our first products, the response has been overwhelming," Fox told Ballistic. "We wanted to create gear that could still be comfortable and allow you to carry your daily EDC without being bulky or the overt 'gun guy.' We're not marketing our products as a tactical gear company; instead, we're more about creating gear that works, both functionally and aesthetically for pro-gun individuals."

GET WITH WHAT YOU KNOW

A forgotten aspect of tactical attire is that it wasn't just born out of military uniforms. And while the U.S. military's battledress that was first worn by paratroopers in World War II saw the introduction of extra pockets, many tactical clothing makers were just as influenced by clothing for rock climbing and for hunting. And this is where Viktos diverges from every other brand.

Viktos took its cues from a different segment of outdoor sports: the world of Motocross. The company was founded by Jeff Fox and his son, Justin Fox, in 2017 as a tactical lifestyle brand with "a deep Second Amendment ethos." The father and son duo had many decades of experience creating the highly technical gear required by pro motocross riders. Developing helmets, body armor, apparel, gloves and footwear are all categories they have perfected over the last 40 years. Combining this detailed product knowledge with their combined love for the pro-gun lifestyle would be their passion project.





While few might go hunting with a beltfed machine gun and tactical helmet, the Combonova softshell is a unique blend of combat shirt with an insulated men's jacket for the times when the temps drop.

The company's 31 Team Jacket and Operatus Gloves are ideal for winter shooting while still looking fashionable.





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SPOTLIGHT









Yet, instead of competing for the Department of Defense (DoD) request for proposals (RFPs) to develop gear for U.S. military or defense contractors, the company instead developed a line of products that could be embraced by active-duty military law enforcement veterans and patriots alike.

DRAWING THE LINE

Knowing what you want to make is only part of the battle to create a dynamically different brand. Finding a visionary design and development group with the experience to turn an idea into technical gear is mission-critical. To accomplish this, they turned to a Kurt Walter, a seasoned product designer and former U.S. Navy aircrewman, and his tight-knit crew of industry and military veterans.

"Whether deployed, on-duty, at the range, or just relaxing in the backyard, the fundamental tenets of 'tactical' never stop," explained Walter. "Viktos makes gear that promotes this belief, from hardcore technical outerwear down to sandals. As a result, every product has tactical acumen and functional credibility. Yes, even sandals."

Walter has more than 25 years of experience creating apparel, shoes and protective equipment for sportswear and lifestyle brands, and yes, he really likes sandals.

"Anyone who has ever deployed to an 'exotic' location and used barrack shower

"The company was founded by the late Jeff Fox and his son, Justin Fox, in 2017 as a tactical lifestyle brand with 'a deep Second Amendment ethos."

facilities knows how essential sandals are," Walter added. "Sometimes sandals are as crucial to survival as a gun—think Bruce Willis in *Die Hard*. Some of the shower floors I've seen would make you beg for a foot full of glass shards instead of what actually lurks beneath."

Jumping the gap from the motocross world to tactical was not without its challenges, Viktos' head of design admits. But there was a common ground to start with, which made it a bit easier.

"The reality is that motocross gear and tactical gear are quite similar," Walter said. "This is particularly evident in gloves and body armor, though pants and footwear share many of the same design attributes. Of course, the materials we use are different between the markets, and the aesthetics are overt for moto and subdued for tactical. But in the end, the construction techniques and functional needs are pretty much the same. Even the color

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The Combondva softshell jacket features Gunvent sidearm zippers for instant access to waist-holstered pistols, while an interior communication cord routing provides low-vis cable management.





palettes, though different in actual colors, are similarly limited in their scope. Swap Honda red for Coyote and Kawi green for Ranger, and you start to see how similar the markets are. Plus motorcycle guys are usually gun guys, and vice-versa, so the underlying mindset is the same."

BEYOND THE RANGE

The company's goal has always been to create comfortable gear, not just for the hour or two you're at the range but for the entire day—all while delivering the critical features necessary for a prepared pro-gun lifestyle.

"A lot of the gear in our space is great if you're at the shooting range or out in the backcountry, but you have to change outfits when you're returning to the world," Fox said.

Viktos sought to design a line of clothing that allows the wearer to walk out of the range or head "back to civilization" while not looking like they're returning from an operation. Yet, at the same time, it evokes a distinct military style that appeals to veterans and those who don't see history as something to erase or tear down. In Walter's case, it is the Vietnam War that heavily influences his designs.

"I grew up as a military brat in the '70s; as such, the Vietnam war was a very palpable influence in my house," Walter said. "Hueys, M16s, and triple-canopy held a mythical status of grand adventure in my naive boyish mind. Vietnam was my pirate ship, and my pirate outfit consisted of tiger stripe BDUs, jungle boots and webbed belts. Years later, I was issued flight gear in the Navy, and that set the hook for my passion for designing tactical gear."

The company's product line is undoubtedly military-themed, but it isn't mil-spec. Fox said that was never the point. "We're not chasing those RFPs. We believe that isn't the way to build our idea of a tactical brand."

Instead, by taking cues from military attire, Viktos can provide gear that is comfortable and functional. It certainly evokes a tactical vibe but avoids the overt Army surplus shop look. For more information, visit viktos.com.

AMENDED

PRODUCT WARNING AND RECALL NOTICE WINCHESTER® 9mm Luger 115 grain

Olin Winchester, LLC is recalling the following lots of 9mm Luger 115 grain Full Metal Jacket and 115 grain Jacketed Hollow Point pistol ammunition.

Symbols: Q4172, RED9, USA9JHP, USA9MMVP, USA9W, WW9B

Lot Numbers:

SCO3LD44, SCO3LD45, SCO3LD46, SCO3LD47, SC13LD1, SC13LD6, SC13LD18, SC13LD44, SC13LD45, SC13LD46, SC13LD47, SC52LD44, SC52LD45, SC52LD46, SC52LD47, SC62LD44, SC62LD45, SC62LD45, SC62LD46, SC62LD47, SC72LD44, SC72LD45, SC72LD46, SC72LD47, SC92LD44, SC92LD45, SC92LD46, SC92LD46, SC92LD47, SD10LD1, SD10LD3, SD10LD6, SD10LD12*, SD10LD18, SD10LD46, SD10LD47, SD50LD1, SD50LD3, SD50LD6, SD50LD11, SD50LD12, SD50LD18, SD50LD46, SD50LD47, SD60LD1, SD60LD3, SD60LD6, SD60LD11, SD60LD12, SD70LD1, SD70LD3, SD70LD6, SD70LD11, SD70LD12, SD70LD12, SD80LD18

* Note: Lot Number SC10LD12 has been corrected to Lot Number SD10LD12.

The Symbol designations and locations of the Lot Numbers are depicted in the photographs below.

<u>NOTE</u>: If ammunition of the above Symbols was purchased before March 25, 2021, it is NOT subject to the recall.

Winchester has determined the above lots of 9mm Luger 115 FMJ and JHP ammunition may contain propellant that does not properly ignite and burn when the cartridge is fired. Ammunition containing propellant that does not properly ignite and burn may result in a bullet remaining in the barrel (i.e., a bullet-in-bore obstruction). Firing a subsequent bullet into the bore obstruction could cause firearm damage, rendering the firearm inoperable and subjecting the shooter and bystanders to a risk of serious personal injury.

DO NOT USE WINCHESTER® 9MM LUGER 115 FMJ / JHP OF THE ABOVE SYMBOLS THAT HAS ANY OF THE ABOVE LOT NUMBERS. The ammunition Lot Number is stamped on the cartons of the Symbols involved as indicated here:















To determine if your ammunition is subject to this notice, review the Symbol and Lot Number. If it is any of the above Symbols and Lot Numbers, **immediately discontinue use** and contact Winchester toll-free at 844-653-8358 for free UPS pick-up of the recalled ammunition. Upon receipt of your recalled ammunition, Winchester will ship replacement ammunition directly to you or issue you a reimbursement check.

This notice applies only to the above 9mm Luger 115 FMJ and JHP Symbols with the above Lot Numbers. <u>Other Symbols</u> or Lot Numbers are not subject to this recall.

If you have any questions concerning this 9mm Luger 115 FMJ / JHP pistol ammunition recall please call toll-free 844-653-8358, write to Winchester (600 Powder Mill Road, East Alton, IL 62024 Attn: 9mm Luger Recall), or visit our website at www.winchester.com.

We apologize for this inconvenience.

WINCHESTER Revision 1 August 6, 2021



Fall might be here again, but that doesn't mean we have to start letting that summer body waste away. Not again, no sir! This time we are going to work hard right through the holidays. We are not going to let the extra helping of mac and cheese have it's way with us. We will stand firm against that inappropriately large piece of carrot cake! We shall conquer our desire!

Right. Or, more realistically, let's just try to keep the damage to a minimum, shall we? Either way you roll (no judgment), here are some of my favorite new things to help you keep you moving and functional this fall.

STUFF TO HELP YOU MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR RANGE AND TRAINING TIME

BY ALEX LANDEEN

PTXF Range Trainer

VIKT05

Putting in hard work with lame shoes is just a bummer. It's time to upgrade your footwear! Viktos Range Trainers are super-durable, lightweight and slipper comfortable. The micro-knit chassis promotes breathability when working in the heat. The Airprene collar fits tighter around your ankle than a traditional upper to help keep debris from getting in. The fine wash sand where I live gets in, regardless. The collar does give the upper shoe a tight supportive feel, like a second sock without any felt seams, which is what I love most about them. The full rubber outsole is great for traction and stability. They have a 11mm heel-to-toe drop, which seems about standard for a runner/trainer. The EVA foam midsole is comfortable without being too soft.

MSRP: \$115; viktos.com



LEO Duty Glove

The saying "fits like a glove" does not apply to all gloves, unfortunately, but these gloves are awesome. They are a great option if you are looking for a lightweight pair that offers minimum tactile reduction. The polyester mech backhand fits snug without being restrictive. The palms are made from AX suede Laredo fabric, which is a buffed and textured poly fiber that has the look and feel of leather but is stronger and softer with better abrasion resistance and breathability. They are touchscreen compatible across all the fingers, and the loop pull tabs allow them to be attached to a belt clip or vest.

MSRP: \$35; viktos.com



THYRM

Battery Storage Is there anything worse than running out of batteries? I had a dream once where I was on a job, all my camera batteries were dead, I couldn't find a place to charge them and the clients were pissed. Luckily for me, a photo shoot is generally not a life-or-death situation, as is the case for some professionals in the field. The Thyrm CellVault is a handy little safe haven for all the batteries that keep your gear functioning. The modular inserts can be arranged to fit whatever combination of batteries you need. The included inserts fit 18650, 18350 and CR123 batteries, and there are wells cut in the bottom to store four CR2032. The lid has a gasket for a waterproof seal; the integrated straps allow for attachment to MOLLE/webbing. So, stop digging around in your center console and get organized with a CellVault.

MSRP: \$55; thyrm.com

CellVault-5m Modular

BENCHMADE

9070 Claymore

How many knives must a man have? I mean, all of them, right? Hoarders collect trash. I am not a hoarder just because I have a separate safe for blades, right? I think not. Someone help me convince my girlfriend. Anyway, the new 9070 Claymore was designed to be Benchmade's strongest folder ever, and it's super awesome. Named after the notorious directional mine, the 9070 is definitely explosive, so make sure you have a good grip on it before pushing the release mechanism. The blade material is the heart of any work knife, and the CPM-D2 steel in the Claymore is manufactured using crucible particle metallurgy, which powders the molten steel before hot isostatically pressing it into form. What does all this mean? It means toughness and excellent edge retention. The textured handle has stainless steel liners and feels great in your hand in any grip. Weighing only 3.5 ounce, this strong, full-size

auto-folder won't let you down.

MSRP: \$230; benchmade.com



DDAM Med Kit + Video Training

Walther released their PDP pistol with the saying, "It's Your Duty To Be Ready." We need to be ready to protect, but also to help in a crisis. Having a med kit and basic training on its application is essential. That's why Walther put together the DDAM Kit. It's convenient to carry, and has the basics you need. The kit includes an Ankle Carrier made by Ryker Nylon, SOF Tourniquet, Celox Z-Fold Rapid Hemostatic Gauze, H&H mini compression bandage, Beacon chest seal (6 inches round), a pair of nitrile gloves and a set of Piranha trauma shears. The kit also includes a card with a scannable QR code that will take you to the Tactical Medical Solutions: Tac Med University website where you can assess the training series of videos and learn how to properly administer aid with the contents of the DDAM. Being prepared has never been so convenient! MSRP: \$180; waltherarms.com

5.11

PT-R Weight Kit

Sometimes we all feel like we are carrying the weight of the world on our shoulders.

Sometimes, it's just heavy bags of sand. Available in 50- or 100-pound versions, the

5.11 PT-R Weight Kits are made from 1050D Nylon and feature seven reinforced
non-slip handles. Each kit comes with two PT-R Liner bags that can be used
separately or combined inside the weight bag. The liner bags are filled with sand,
and have roll-tops and dual hook-and-loop seals to keep the sand where it
belongs. These are a great addition to a workout kit at home or at the range.
Hook a rope to the handles for drag exercise, use the liners for an adjustable
kettlebell routine... Be creative! (Tip: You can also use shredded rubber mulch as
a filler for a lighter weight while retaining a useful shape to the bags.)

MSRP: \$160 (100-pound), \$140 (50-pound); 511tactical.com .



A LEVEL OF DISTINCTION ALL ITS OWN.

With the introduction of our first-ever micro-compact 9mm, the all-new **Taurus GX4**™ boldly outclasses anything else in its class—reaching unprecedented new heights in concealed carry firearm engineering, ergonomics and innovation. On the outside, there can be no doubt that every streamlined inch of this rugged striker-fired semi-auto was meticulously crafted for EDC readiness and reliability. While a game-altering combination of full-sized capacity, accuracy and power resides within its ultra-concealable one-inch-wide reinforced frame. The exceptionally affordable **Taurus GX4**™ is backed by our Limited Lifetime Warranty and industry leading customer service for added peace of mind when it matters the most.





LAST BLAST

JLAZING

Rocking the double-barrel AR, Arizonan Bailey Crespo shoots straight for the 2A

No matter what you might hear in all the social and mainstream media banter, America is a great, great place full of opportunity for everyone. Not only is it full of opportunity, but thankfully it's full of smart, beautiful women who thrive on the Second Amendment. Bailey Crespo is one of those.

Born in Mesa, Arizona, Bailey grew up in a small southern Arizona town called Sonoita, where the landscape differs from much of the state, with rolling hills and lush green scenery—a country-like setting for a country kind of girl.

"I would say my parents instilled the country lifestyle into me at an early age," said the 25-year-old. "They did everything them-

selves through hard work and determination. I grew up riding horses, playing outside, and had just about every animal you could think of. To me, being out in the country is all about freedom, teamwork, family, love and grit. It's not for everyone, but it's definitely for me."

Bailey started shooting in 2019, venturing into the gun scene thanks to influence from her husband. That's right—she's taken, but you can admire from a distance. "My husband has

always been very into firearms and tactical gear, and exposed me to a whole new side of the 2A community that I wasn't really aware of before," she said. "It's become a hobby for both of us now and something we love to do together!"

Bailey's favorite gun is a Glock 19. "I love Glocks for their simplicity," Bailey said. And her favorite rifle is her 9-inch Sig MCX in 300 BLK. When I asked about her goals for her shooting skills, Bailey said she wants to compete in USPSA by next spring. Precision long range and

SPECIFICATIONS

GILBOA DBR SNAKE

CALIBER:	.223 Rem.
BARREL:	16 inches
OA LENGTH:	35.5 inche s
WEIGHT:	10.5 poun ds (empty)
STOCK:	Proprietar y, non-adjustable
SIGHTS:	Flip-up
ACTION:	Direct impingement semi-auto
FINISH:	Black
CAPACITY:	30+1 (x2)
MSRP:	\$2,600

cowboy mounted shooting are in her sights as well. "I found a real love for pistol shooting and I'm hungry to keep getting better at it."

Her shooting bucket list got a big check mark after spinning up a Dillon minigun during a recent photoshoot, and she told me she hopes to shoot a Barrett .50 someday.

Petite and quiet, Bailey is making huge impacts on and off the range. "One thing about me that I think most people don't expect is I work in the construction industry," she said. "Our company specializes in concrete construction for the federal and commercial markets. My favorite thing about work would be how rewarding it

is to help aid our military's operations through construction." She added, "I love how I have the right to defend and protect those around me, and myself. I am blessed to have been born in this country, and I think many people take that for granted these days."

Here, Bailey is seen holding a Gilboa DBR "Snake" carbine. It features two 16-inch, 1:7 twist barrels. The receiver is one piece with two magazine wells, one pistol grip and one charging handle. It sports two triggers in order to be a compliant firearm with the ATF. Look for more on the Snake in an upcoming issue of Ballistic magazine.

You can see Bailey getting it done on the range on her IG page @baileycrespo_.







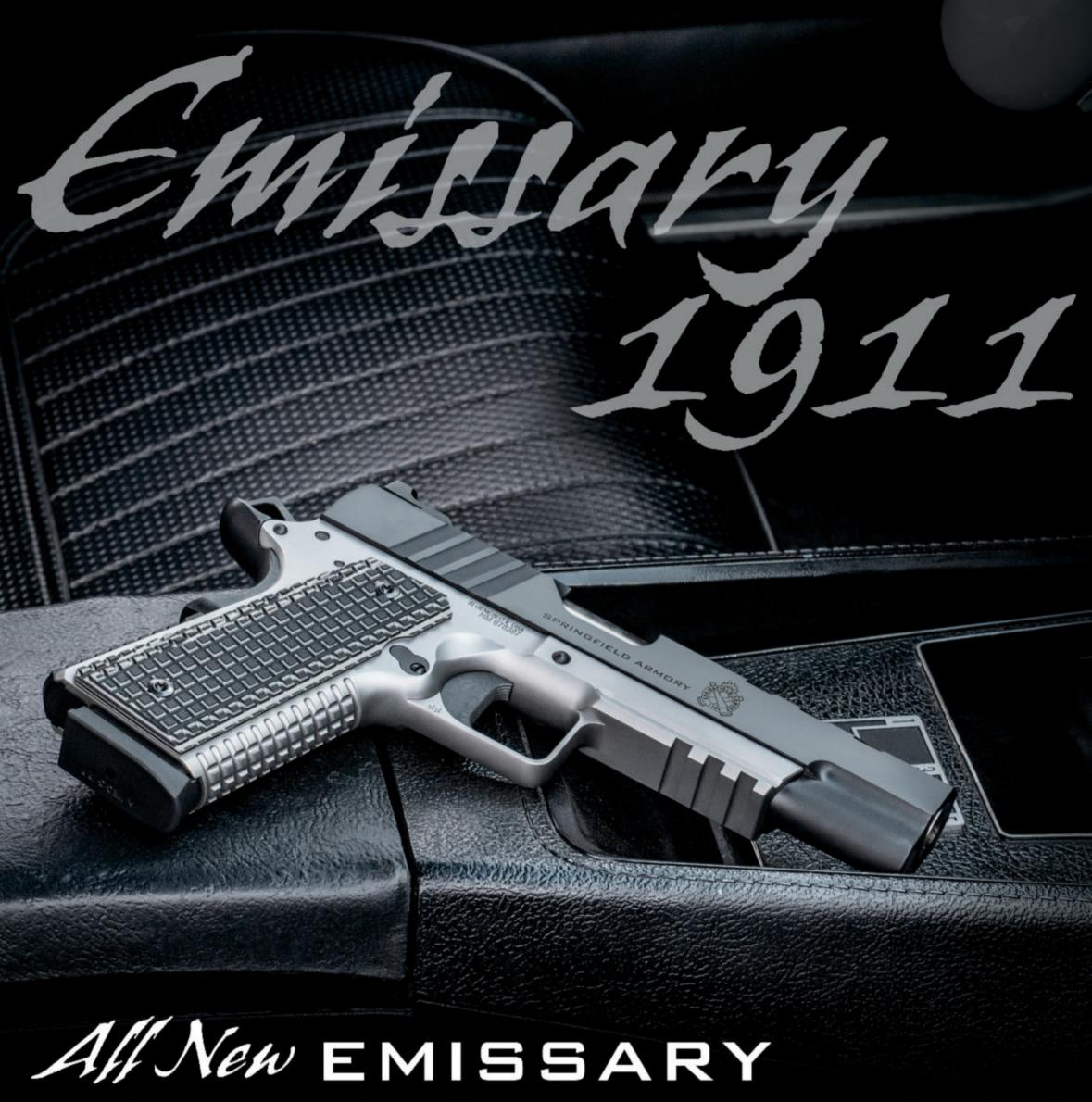


RUGER MAX-9 YOUR NEXT HANDGUN



The MAX-9™ is Your Next Handgun™ - slim, lightweight and compact for personal protection while still providing a capacity of up to 12+1 rounds of 9mm Luger ammunition.





The all new Emissary 1911 from Springfield Armory* blends form and function seamlessly in a firearm built for defense and loaded with custom-grade features. The Emissary's forged slide and frame is outfitted with a tritium luminescent front sight and an accessory rail for adaptability. A Tri-Top cut to the slide with 40 LPI serrations diffuses glare and a heavy-profile bull barrel ensures the Emissary stands ready to deliver.

