

IN PHOTOS: SOME OF OUR FAVORITE SHOOTING SPORTS

GUNUP

THE MAGAZINE

COMPETITION ISSUE

WHAT'S THE COLOR
OF THE BOATHOUSE
AT HEREFORD?

DISCOVER THE GUNS OF

RONIN

COMPETITION SHOTGUNS

ALSO:
LEARN HOW
TO BEAT
COMPETITION
STRESS

/// THE FUTURE OF
MIDNIGHT 3-GUN

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FEATURES

10 THE GUNS OF RONIN

All of us here at GunUp High Command expected that naming John Frankenheimer's 1998 masterpiece *Ronin* as "Best Gun Movie of All Time" in November's issue would generate more feedback and controversy than our usual movie article, but what took us by surprise was how many readers agreed with us! So this month, we decided to take a look at the guns used in our top movie.

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IMPROVE YOUR GAME

28 WINNING THE MENTAL GAME: HOW TO HANDLE COMPETITION STRESS

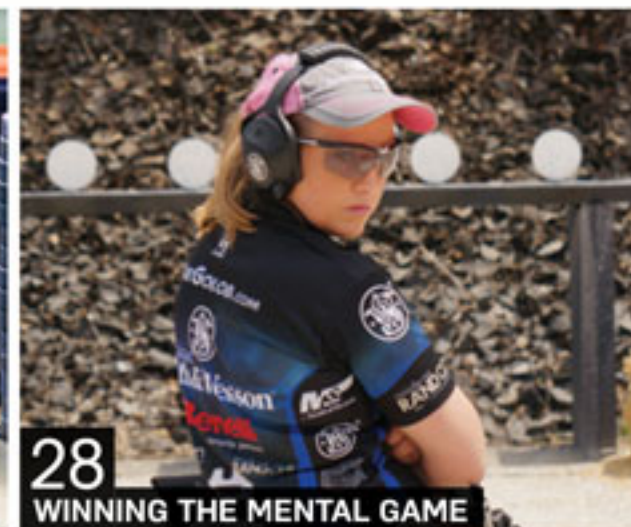
To help you master your mental game Contributing Editor **Rob Reed** interviewed a leading competition stress management trainer, a sports psychologist, and several top shooters to find techniques you can use to improve your performance.



10 THE GUNS OF RONIN



16 SPOTLIGHT: COMPETITION SHOTGUNS



28 WINNING THE MENTAL GAME

GUNUP ON FACEBOOK

WHAT'S GOING ON AROUND GUNUP?



■ GUNUP THE MAGAZINE ONLINE

We're getting ready for the 2015 SHOT Show. Each year, we travel to Las Vegas and put together an entire issue on the largest tradeshow in the firearms industry. There are going to be some cool new products coming out of the show this year, and we are going to have more coverage from more people than ever before.



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IMPROVE YOUR GAME

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A training class can be a major investment. They cost a lot of money and sometimes even require travel. So what should you look for? What should you bring? How can you get the most out of your class? Publisher **Caleb Giddings** gives us the answers.

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38 BOOT CAMP: 3-GUN AND HANDGUN COMPETITION SKILLS

Columnist **Anette Wachter** recently traveled to St. George, Utah to attend 3-Gun and Pistol Boot Camps at the Tactical Performance Center, run by Ken and Brian Nelson out of the Southern Utah Shooting Sports Park.

44 MIDNIGHT 3-GUN AND STARLIGHT 3-GUN

For the past couple years our editorial staff has spent a long weekend in Bend, Ore. At the Crimson Trace Midnight 3-Gun match. This match has been one of the highlights of our year, but in December Crimson Trace announced they would not be hosting the match in 2015. That's not the end of Midnight 3-Gun though, not by a long shot.

THE GREATEST GEAR

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BOOT CAMP: 3-GUN AND HANDGUN COMPETITION SKILLS



44

MIDNIGHT 3-GUN AND STARLIGHT 3-GUN

Photo by Uncage the Soul Productions, www.uncagethesoul.com.

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Peter Barrett has been a street sweep, a dishwasher, an underpaid computer geek, and he even owned a video game store, but he has always been a shooter. Active in USPSA, IDPA, multigun and also a collector of curios and relics, he has yet to find a shooting discipline that wasn't interesting to him. He lives in central North Carolina with his wife, two children, an elderly retriever and an uppity cat.

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NOTE FROM THE EDITOR



I've been with GunUp in an unofficial capacity for over four years now. I haven't always been directly involved, but I've been watching since the beginning. I've seen the blood, sweat, and tears poured into the company. I've watched it change and evolve, and I am proud of what it has become.

New Year's Eve two years ago I found myself on a plane to Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Everything I owned was on a moving truck or in my luggage, and I was finally leaving the Pacific Northwest home I'd known for 24 years.

Once I landed, we had a week to put together the first issue of *GunUp the Maga-*

zine and to get it printed for the 2013 SHOT Show. I met with our designer for the first time. I was literally living out of a suit case. And I was trying to make something new – something different.

It was one of the most exciting times of my life.

Two years later, I can't believe what we have accomplished. We have, in a very real way, built something out of nothing. There have been some long nights, some lean times, and some disappointments, but each and every one has been worth it, because of what we have created and how we have managed to change firearms publishing – to push the entire industry to look better,

to provide better content, and to treat their readers like people, not dollar signs.

So this is my promise to you: We're not going to stop. Even if it means more long nights and more disappointments, we will continue to push the envelope and bring you unique and valuable content so that we can all continue to grow.

2015 is going to be a **great year**, you'll see.

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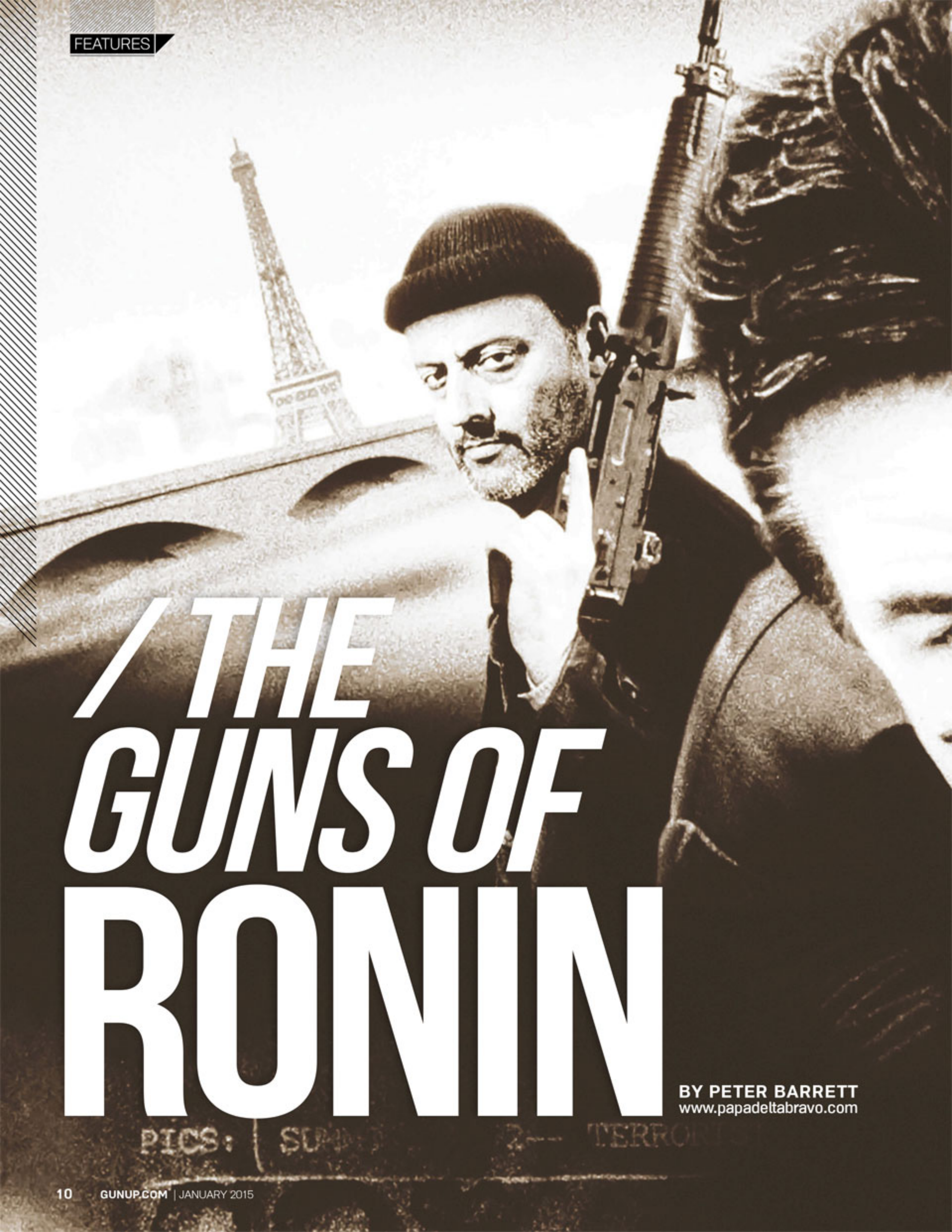


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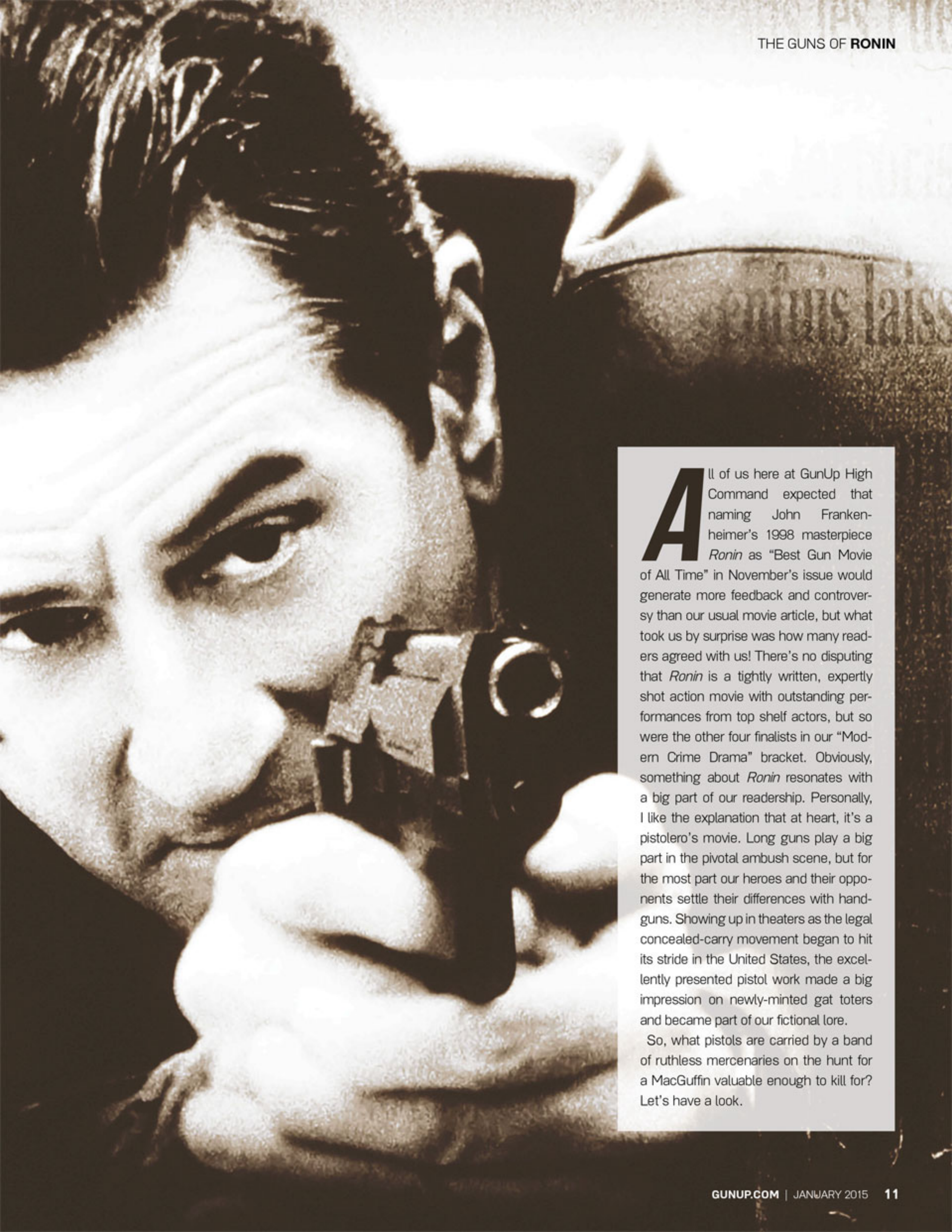
GUNUP
THE MAGAZINE



THE GUNS OF RONIN

BY PETER BARRETT
www.papadeltabravo.com

PICS: SUPPLIED BY THE FBI — TERRO



All of us here at GunUp High Command expected that naming John Frankenheimer's 1998 masterpiece *Ronin* as "Best Gun Movie of All Time" in November's issue would generate more feedback and controversy than our usual movie article, but what took us by surprise was how many readers agreed with us! There's no disputing that *Ronin* is a tightly written, expertly shot action movie with outstanding performances from top shelf actors, but so were the other four finalists in our "Modern Crime Drama" bracket. Obviously, something about *Ronin* resonates with a big part of our readership. Personally, I like the explanation that at heart, it's a pistolero's movie. Long guns play a big part in the pivotal ambush scene, but for the most part our heroes and their opponents settle their differences with handguns. Showing up in theaters as the legal concealed-carry movement began to hit its stride in the United States, the excellently presented pistol work made a big impression on newly-minted gat toters and became part of our fictional lore.

So, what pistols are carried by a band of ruthless mercenaries on the hunt for a MacGuffin valuable enough to kill for? Let's have a look.



Veteran former CIA operative Sam (Robert DeNiro) opens the movie by surreptitiously stashing his Colt Series-80 1991 variant of the evergreen 1911A1 pistol behind the French cafe where the caper kicks off. An old gun that served its country well, the late revision of John Browning's sidearm retained the general Government model dimensions, short safety and spur hammer, but is notable for its cost-cutting features. The 1991 is usually finished in a dark, flat Parkerizing and comes out of the box with black plastic grips, both of which are obvious in closeups on Sam's .45.

Sam immediately bonds with Vincent (Jean Reno), recognizing a kindred veteran among the brash young kids. Vincent is faithful to his Beretta 92FS Inox for the entire film, even during the convoy ambush when the rest of the team is deploying long arms. Introduced in 1990, the 92FS Inox offered a brushed stainless steel slide on top of a silver anodized aluminium frame, giving both a flashy appearance and improved corrosion resistance over the standard 92's "Bruniton" slide coating. Early, Italian-made 92FS Inox's are

identifiable by stainless steel controls matching the slide, while American-made models are often seen with contrasting black coated controls.

Sometime after the ambush and double-cross scene, Sam switches up his 1991 for a 9x19mm Para SIG 228. The 228 is a slightly shorter and cut down version of the SIG 226 that saw adoption by the U.S. military as the M11. The 228 was also popular with several police forces who felt the full sized 226 was too cumbersome for plain clothed or smaller statured officers.

The team's computer whiz Gregor (Stellan Skarsgard) is seen using a GLOCK 17L. Aimed at the action pistol competition market, the 17L offered a 6-inch long barrel, adjustable rear sights and a modified connector that gave a lighter trigger pull. Mostly displaced by the GLOCK 34 in this market niche, the 17L is still occasionally produced in short runs. Gregor's 17L appears first at the close of the ambush scene, and if you look closely enough, is missing the front and rear sights. The reason for this becomes obvious the next time we see him, when his GLOCK is



also sporting a slide-spanning scope mount, a sound suppressor, and a Bushnell HOLO-400 red-dot sight (an early forerunner of today's EOTech sights). Probably the most high-tech racegun on screen since the Terminator's laser-sighted long slide 1911, Gregor's GLOCK not only pushed the state of the art, but appeared to be eminently practical as well.

The heist organizer Deidre (Natascha McEl-





hone) carries, and is relieved of by Sam, an Israeli Military Industries Jericho 941 pistol. Developed from the Tanfoglio T95, itself developed from the Czech CZ-75, IMI's all-steel pistol has been bounced between various Stateside importers and won a few foreign military and police sales, but never attained the success of either of its progenitors. With angular lines and a frame mounted safety/decocker to set it apart from the CZ pattern guns, the 941 was marketed as the "Baby Desert Eagle" by IMI to cash in on the notoriety of the larger, gas-operated pistol that shared zero parts with its smaller namesake.

Deidre's handler and boss Seamus (Jonathan Pryce) uses a two-toned SIG 239 for the movie. Introduced in 1996, the slim single-column 9mm pistol became popular both with civilian carriers, and police officers looking for a backup piece that

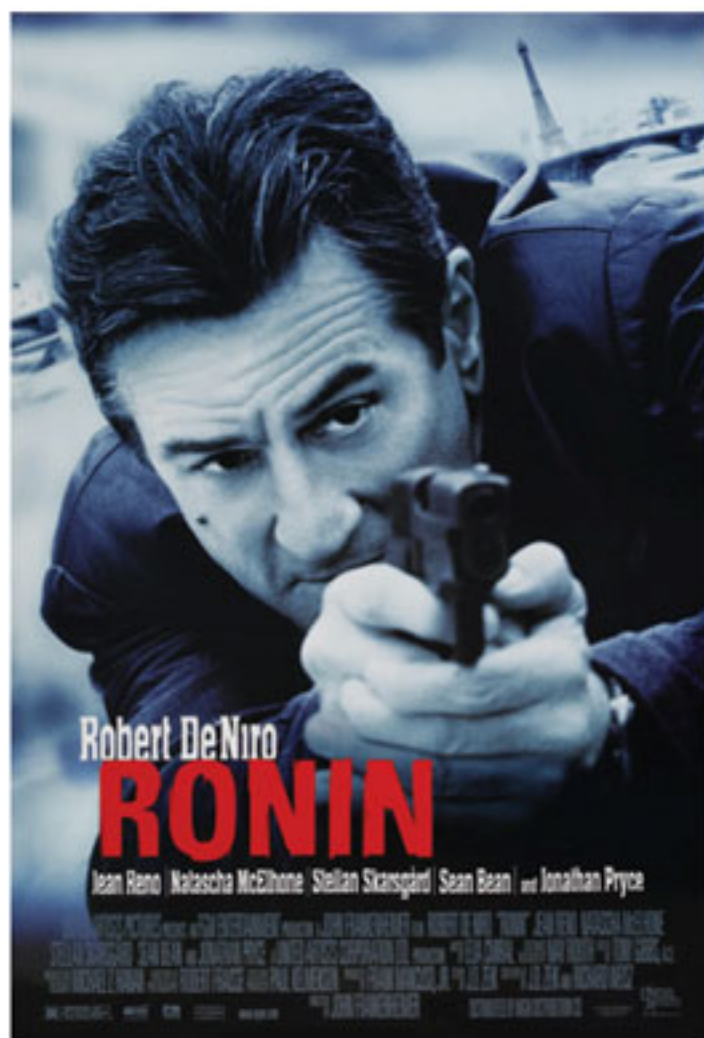
mimicked the operation of their larger double-stack SIG pistols.

Hotshoe wheelman Larry (Skip Sudduth) is initially seen selecting a Beretta Cougar Inox and later uses it in the ambush, but also has a cut down Mossberg 590 pistol-grip only

shotgun with hand retention loop on the slide. With a 13-inch long barrel flush with a five-round magazine tube; the Compact Cruiser is as small a 12-gauge shotgun you can get.

Two H&K MP5s feature in the film, the





MP5A3 with a collapsible stock that Deidre brings to the ambush, and the compact, stockless MP5k that Spence (Sean Bean) uses at the arms deal gone bad. Developed in the late 1960s using the stamped steel receiver construction techniques and delayed roller locking operation from the larger G3 7.62 NATO battle rifle, the MP5 brought a higher level of quality and sophistication to the submachinegun market than its more crude competitors offered at the time. The MP5 became popular with police forces and militaries across the globe, and achieved even greater fame as a movie prop, appearing in countless films. A subtle touch is Deidre performing a quick chamber check on her MP5A3 in the apartment, locking the action open, then slapping the cocking handle to release the bolt.

Sam opens the action against the target convoy with a single shot from a 40mm H&K HK69A1 grenade launcher, which of course absolutely wrecks the lead security car. Developed in the late 60s as an under-barrel accessory for the G3 battle rifle, it filled a similar role as the American M203 launcher and was also available in a stand-alone version.

Sam then switches up to a SIG SG 551 5.56 NATO assault rifle. A compact, folding-stock version of the Swiss Army's issue SG 550 rifle, the 551 is what you get when you ask Swiss Gun Elves to reimagine the



AK-47. Borrowing the AK's rotating bolt and heavy reciprocating carrier, gas system and paddle magazine release, the 550 series shows Western touches in the form of precise diopter iron sights, a crisp trigger, more ergonomic safety location and generally neater fit, finish and machine work.



For the final phase of the ambush, Sam lays down copious amounts of suppressive fire with a FN Minimi Para light machine gun. Most famous in U.S. military service M249 trim, the Minimi also won contracts to several dozen foreign militaries. Sam carries his into the fight slung from his shoulder, and feeding from a large box magazine, both indicative of the thoughtful and authentic touches that the armorer team brought to the gun props.

As additional leverage on a potential buyer of the mysterious case, Gregor enlists the help of an unnamed female sniper to threaten the life of his figure skater girlfriend (Katarina Witt). The sniper does this with a

Bushmaster V-Match AR-15 variant. One of the earliest off the shelf accurized ARs available on the market, the V-Match pioneered several features we currently take for granted, such as a flat-top receiver, free-floated handguard and match grade heavy contour barrel without a muzzle device. V-Match rifles were capable of superb accuracy with good ammunition, and became a common sight on varmint hunts alongside more traditional bolt action smallbore rifles, paving the way for the acceptance of the AR-15 as a hunting rifle.

Upon rewatching the film (again!), one thing I was struck by was how well the story, characters and details hold up. Sure, the cars are a little older and Gregor's computers use charmingly dated tube monitors instead of today's ubiquitous flat-screens, but the deceptively simple setup of the plot gives it youth, even sixteen years after it first hit theaters. John Frankenheimer's directorial career was as notable for its low points (the lackluster *Reindeer Games* and the utterly confused disaster *The Island of Dr. Moreau* bracketed the release of *Ronin*) as much as its peaks, but when you swing for the fences you risk striking out as often as you hit a home run. *Ronin* was one of those once in a lifetime moments when all the parts came together in perfect harmony, creating not just a damn good movie, but a big chunk of our culture as well. 🍷



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///SPOTLIGHT:
COMPETITION
SHOTGUNS

BY SHELLEY RAE

When I first started shooting, it was with shotguns. Every week I went out to the range with a group of my friends and we shot Skeet, Sporting Clays, or Five Stand. There was nothing quite as satisfying as blasting away at clays on the weekend to help me escape. At the beginning I was using the club's Berettas, usually a 20 gauge, semi-auto over under, to this day I couldn't tell you what model it was but I loved it. Eventually I decided it was time to buy my own, I was 20 so my budget was low and my options were slim, and after some research I decided on a CZ Mallard. It's a gun I have to this day.

As I developed in my shooting career, my taste for shotguns changed too. The next stage of my shotgun interest was home defense. I picked up a used Winchester 1300 cheap to keep around the house. This gun became my first 3-Gun shotgun a few years later.

When I started shooting 3-Gun my shotgun situation was a trainwreck. I had the 1300, a pump 12-gauge, which eventually was traded in for a SAIGA that broke on the very first stage of the very first match I brought it to. I borrowed a Mossberg 930 JM for the rest of the match, but I had no idea how to reload it.

Lessons hard learned.

Today, I own my own 930 and have learned how to reload it – even if I'm not good at it. Fortunately for all of us there are a lot of excellent competition shotguns out there, for both the 3-Gun circuit and the clay sports, that come in at varying price ranges depending on your budget and what you're looking for.



/// 3-GUN

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- B.J. NORRIS, 3-GUN COMPETITOR

The shotgun you choose for a 3-Gun match can make or break your competition. There is no right answer, though. There are a lot of factors that play into what makes the "right" shotgun, from what division you shoot to what your budget is to what length of pull your looking for.

I've chosen to focus on shotguns that would be used in the Tactical Optics or Tactical Irons divisions. Buying a shotgun for the Open Division is a completely different experience, since most of them need to have a significant aftermarket work done to them.

There are two big things that I

have heard 3-Gun shooters (and experienced myself) concern themselves with when it comes to shotguns: the reliability and the loading gate. Having a reliable shotgun is fairly self-explanatory, having to clear shotgun malfunctions costs valuable time and can really mess up a match. I experienced this at the Lady 3-Gun match earlier this year, where, between having to manually rack the bolt after shots and having extra reloads added to my run, I zeroed a couple stages. That was my fault for letting my shotgun get dirty, but it was a very clear lesson on the importance of having reliable and clean equipment.

The loading gate complaint is often related to a thumb bite that can occur on reloading. While, hypothetically, if you

are reloading properly (or at least the way Lena Miculek taught me at Crimson Trace's Midnight 3-Gun Invitational) you will completely avoid it, it's quite easy to get your thumb caught in the loading gate while you're trying to, if you're like me, uncoordinatedly jam shells into a shotgun and shuffle toward your next target at the same time. It hurts, and sometimes bleeds, a lot.

There are a lot of competition shotguns on the market, but I've chosen three that are favorites of mine and the pros that span a wide price range: from \$752 to \$2,499. Every single one is a great gun and a good option, but by looking at the statistics we can take an objective look at what you're getting for that extra money.



BENELLI M2 3-GUN EDITION

MSRP: \$2,499
Gauge: 12-Gauge
Chamber: 3"
Cycling System: Recoil operated
Barrel length: 21"
Overall Length: 42.5"
Weight: 7.3 lbs.
Capacity: 3+1
Length of Pull: 14-3/8"
Chokes: C, IC, M, IM, F

FEATURES:

- Oversized bolt handle
- Oversized bolt release
- Beveled loading gate



BERETTA 1301 COMPETITION

MSRP: \$1,255
Gauge: 12-Gauge
Chamber: 3"
Cycling System: Gas operated
Barrel length: 21"
Overall Length: 44"
Weight: 6.7 lbs.
Capacity: 5+1
Length of Pull: 13"
Chokes: IC

FEATURES:

- Oversized bolt handle
- Oversized bolt release
- Beveled loading gate



MOSSBERG 930 JM PRO

MSRP: \$752
Gauge: 12-Gauge
Chamber: 3"
Cycling System: Gas operated
Barrel length: 24"
Overall Length: 44.5"
Weight: 7.75 lbs.
Capacity: 9+1
Length of Pull: 14"
Chokes: IC, M, F

FEATURES:

- Oversized bolt handle
- Oversized bolt release
- Beveled loading gate

/// CLAY SHOOTING SPORTS

Choosing a shotgun for clay shooting is also a difficult process. There are a lot of different factors that go into a clay gun, and a lot of different choices many of which are based on personal preference.

I've seen people successfully shoot clays with 12-, 20-, 16-gauge shotguns, and even .410s. While it will be easier to hit clays with a larger spread pattern, smaller calibers are going to have less recoil. Another thing to consider is the ammunition: while 12, 20, and .410 ammunition is easy to find, 16-gauge is a more obscure caliber and you may have difficulty finding ammo.

Another thing people talk about when it comes to clay shooting guns is barrel length. Barrel length will affect both your shot pattern and your swing, many shooters prefer longer barrels, saying that they make it easier to track the pigeon and decrease the distance between when the shot starts spreading and when it hits the bird. Personally, I prefer a shorter barrel, since it makes the gun lighter and easier for me to hold and shoot throughout the day – swinging a 32-inch barrel around all day takes larger arm muscles than I've bothered to develop.



CZ MALLARD

MSRP: \$583

Gauge: 12-Gauge

Type: Over/Under

Barrel length: 28"

Overall Length: 45.1"

Weight: 7.4 lbs.

Capacity: 2

Length of Pull: 14.5"

Chokes: F, IM, M, IC, C



CZ MALLARD

When shopping for a clay sports shotgun there are more options as to what kind of gun you want too. Since, unlike 3-Gun, you're only taking up to two shots at once, over/under and side-by-side shotguns are popular, as well as semi-autos, in this arena. While I've always been a big believer in "the fewer moving parts, the less there is to break" the semi-autos tend to have less recoil and can certainly be just as reliable as an over/under or side-by-side.

For the sake of representation, I've chosen four guns in a wide variety of prices. From the \$583 MSRP Mallard that I bought new for \$400 six years ago, to Beretta's DT11, whose base models start at \$12,750. They're all beautiful guns, and they're all excellent guns, but I'll be honest – there's nothing I love more than drooling over a DT11, except maybe drooling over a custom Perazzi. 🍷



MOSSBERG SILVER RESERVE II SPORTING

MSRP: \$905
Gauge: 12-Gauge
Type: Over/Under
Barrel length: 28" / 30"
Overall Length: 45" / 47.5"
Weight: 7.5 lbs. / 8.5 lbs.
Capacity: 2
Length of Pull: 14" / 14.5"
Chokes: F, IM, M, IC, C



BENELLI SUPERSPORT

MSRP: \$2,199
Gauge: 12-Gauge
Type: Semi-Auto
Cycling System: Recoil operated
Barrel Length: 28" / 30"
Overall Length: 49.6" / 51.6"
Weight: 7.2 lbs. / 7.3 lbs.
Capacity: 4+1
Length of Pull: Adjustable
Chokes: F, IM, M, IC, C



BERETTA DT11 SPORTING

MSRP: \$12,750
Gauge: 12-Gauge
Type: Over/Under
Barrel length: 30"
Overall Length: 48" (approx.)
Weight: 9 lbs. (approx.)
Capacity: 2
Length of Pull: 14.5" (approx.)

Nano



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- ➔ NO EXTERNAL SLIDE LOCK
- ➔ SUB-CHASSIS
- ➔ TOUGH TECHNOPOLYMER FRAME

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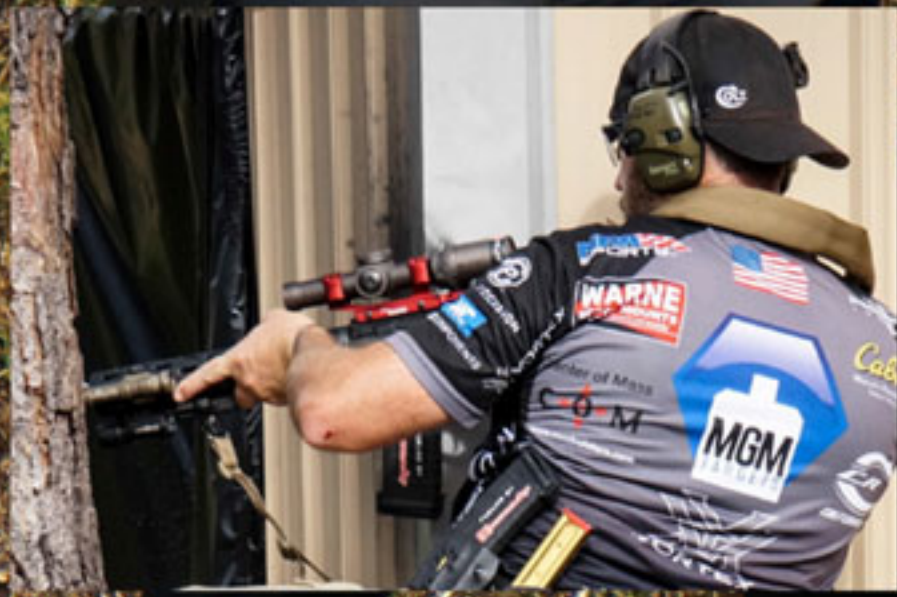
BERETTA
500 YEARS. ONE PASSION.

IN PHOTOS: SHOOTING SPORTS →

We've discussed the different shooting sports before, and we're going to do it again – for good reason. The shooting sports are a great learning experience, and one every enthusiast should try once. There are so many different options out there, too, that there's guaranteed to be one you'll like.

We don't cover all of them in this photo essay; in fact, you'll probably recognize a lot of these events if you're a dedicated reader. One thing we're determined to do in 2015 is get some coverage of different events. There are some sports we really enjoy, such as bullseye, high power, sporting clays, and cowboy action, which we just haven't gotten coverage from yet.

It's one among many growing pains of a new and growing magazine – we just can't get to everything we want to. That said though, every event displayed here, and every sport represented, is not only enjoyable, but a great way to practice, to train, and to spend more time on the range. You may even make some friends.



→ 3-GUN

3-Gun is a sport we have discussed quite a bit, after all it is currently incredibly popular. Between the 3-Gun Nation series and the number of outlaw matches that are available, there really is something for any competitor.

Pictured here is the Ladies' 3-Gun and some photos from the 2013 USCA Nationals. While USCA is technically only uses two guns, and is a different sport, it definitely still fits into this category.

The Ladies' 3-Gun followed 3-Gun Nation rules; with it's accessible course of fire it served as a great event for shooters with less experience, while providing a challenge for those with more experience. Crimson Trace's Midnight 3-Gun match is an incredibly difficult match, it is mentally and physically strenuous, and provides a very unique environment shooting after dark. Midnight 3-Gun is an outlaw match, meaning it doesn't follow any sanctioned rules but rather sets its own. This meant that shooters could use any equipment necessary to preform to the best of their ability in a difficult environment.

These represent two different ends of the 3-Gun spectrum. A 3-Gun match can be almost anything, including athletically strenuous, or not, or requiring long distance rifle shots, or not, or requiring difficult pistol shots, or not. This ever-adapting sport can provide a challenge for someone of any shooting experience level in any physical condition.

[Explore the 3-Gun Nation Club Series at 3GunNation.com.](http://3GunNation.com)



LOOK FOR **FUTURE** COVERAGE OF DIFFERENT SHOOTING SPORTS ONLINE AT GUNUPTHEMAGAZINE.COM.



➔ **IDPA**

IDPA is another sport that we've talked about a lot. Each year, someone (or someones) from GunUp attends the Indoor Nationals, their regular Nationals, and their Back Up Gun Nationals. The first is in February in Connecticut, the second in September in Oklahoma, and the third is in November, back in Connecticut.

The beauty of IDPA, though, is that it doesn't matter where these matches are. IDPA is probably the most accessible shooting sport. With 341 clubs in the United States (as of the writing of this article according to IDPA.com) and more than 70 clubs spread internationally, IDPA is locally accessible to thousands of people.

On top of the number of clubs, IDPA requires relatively little equipment to get started in. Where other sports will require five or six magazines, two or three guns, pillows, scopes, and many many other items, all you really need for IDPA is a handgun, a holster, two mag pouches, two extra magazines, and some kind of cover garment.

IDPA is a great way to get started in the shooting sports; most people who start as hardcore IDPA shooters eventually break off to try and excel in different sports as their dedication to shooting grows.

[Find an IDPA club near you at IDPA.com.](http://IDPA.com)





➔ PRECISION RIFLE

Precision Rifle is a rapidly growing sport, and one we haven't spent as much time talking about or shooting ourselves. The photos here are from the GAP Grind Pro/Am that our editor attended (and wrote about) earlier this year.

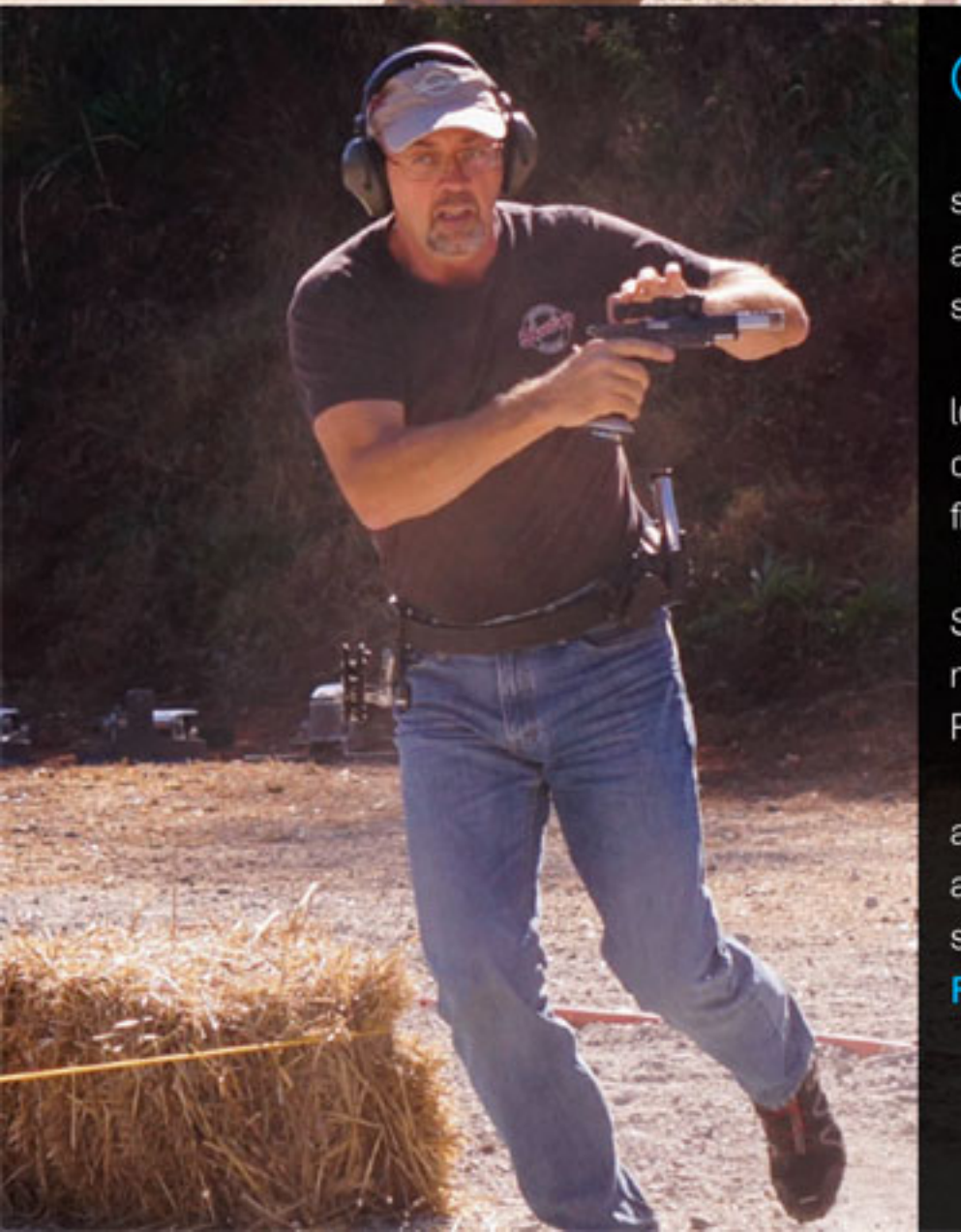
Precision Rifle, like 3-Gun, is more equipment-intensive and requires some more shooting knowledge to get started in. That being said, as with almost any sport, enthusiasts are excited to get more people involved and are happy to help new shooters whenever they show up at the range.

The Precision Rifle Series is a growing sanctioning body for Precision Rifle, recruiting clubs and creating a list of nation-wide standings. The Precision Rifle Series is one to watch; we're willing to bet that this particular sport is going to start growing quickly over the next few years.

In fact, *GunUp the Magazine* columnist Anette Wachter has been shooting more and more of this sport, and this probably won't be the last time you hear about it from us.

[Discover the Precision Rifle Series at PrecisionRifleSeries.com.](http://PrecisionRifleSeries.com)





➔ **PROAM**

ProAm is another a sport we'll be watching in the future. While the term "ProAm" is universally accepted as a match that has both Professionals and Amateurs competing, ProAm is a sport all its own. Using par times and steel plates, ProAm is not only fast-paced and fun to shoot, but is exciting to watch due to the simple scoring and audible feedback from the steel.

ProAm was recently sold, and is under new management. We expect the future holds a lot for this sport, and if the new management does the job, we'll see more and more ProAm clubs popping up across the country. We're not sure what they're planning, but we feel confident saying they have high hopes for the sport.

Currently, ProAm hosts a national match each year, usually around the same time as the Steel Challenge World Championship, although that may change under the new management. We also saw a regional match pop up in Georgia this year, the SouthEast Regional ProAm, which our editor was fortunate enough to attend.

It will be interesting to see how this sport spreads, and what rules the sanctioning body, if any, decides to impose. Currently, ProAm is set up with three divisions: Open, Production, and Limited. Equipment restrictions are not as tight as they are in many of the handgun sports. It definitely has potential to become a big deal.

[Follow ProAm at ProAmShooting.com.](http://ProAmShooting.com)



→ STEEL CHALLENGE

On the opposite end of the spectrum from ProAm and the Practical Rifle Series is the Steel Challenge, which has been struggling to past couple years. Originally the World Championship was held in Piru, Calif. In 2012, five years after Steel Challenge was purchased by the United States Practical Shooting Association, the World Championship was moved to Frostproof, Fla., and participation numbers began to drop drastically.

In 2011, the year before the move, there were 238 scores posted on the website, participation dropped to 105 in 2013, which is the year pictured here, just two years after moving to the new location. While not every score equals a shooter, since some shooters compete in both the Open and Iron Sight divisions, it does give us a good idea of how much participation in the match has decreased.

At the beginning of 2014 USPSA announced that the Steel Challenge World Championship location would be moved again, and this year it was hosted in St. George, Utah. The change in venue saw an increase from the previous year, up to 131 scores, and we hope that number will continue to climb.

Like ProAm, Steel Challenge is fun to both watch and participate in. Getting started requires relatively little equipment, and the courses of fire are very user-friendly. The World Championship uses the same eight stages every year and while it's incredibly difficult to achieve the blazing fast speed of the top professionals, it is an easy and comfortable sport to get started in.

[Learn more about Steel Challenge and SteelChallenge.com.](#)

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SMITH & WESSON TEAM
CAPTAIN JULIE GOLOB
PREPARING TO SHOOT
THE 2014 BIANCHI CUP.



BY ROB REED

IT'S BEEN A LONG day of competi-tion and you've been shooting well. As you prepare for the last course of fire you realize you're in the running to win the match.

Unfortunately, the more you think about it, the more nervous you get. This is the moment of truth: Have you mastered the mental game well enough to reach your peak performance or will you let the "match jitters" sabotage your efforts?

All competition shooters experience stress. The difference between those who perform at the height of their ability and those who don't hit their potential often comes down to

their mental preparation. To help you master your mental game I interviewed a leading competition stress management trainer, a sports psychologist, and several top shooters to find techniques you can use to improve your performance.

"There are a lot of misconceptions about stress," said Lanny Bassham, founder of the Mental Management System educational training company. "Every athlete needs to address the mental game sooner or later. The common belief is that you don't need to worry about the mental game until you are at a high level. That's just not true."

Bassham researched what it takes to win after a disappointing Silver Medal finish in International Rifle Shooting at the 1972 Olympics. "I started my program because I choked in the Olympics," he said. "I realized I needed to learn what winners were doing mentally that I wasn't doing. I finally created a program based on what I learned talking to the elite 5% of competitors who win 95% of the matches. I used that program to win the Gold Medal at the '76 Olympics."



Some of the key points in Bassham's program include learning to limit the effects of your environment on your thinking, determining the optimal things to focus on during competition, and improving your self-image as a competitor. "Self-image is huge," he said. "The people in the middle of the pack are trying to win. The top 5% aren't trying to win, they are trusting that they will win."

Bassham added that newer competitors often don't realize the importance of the mental aspect because their mental mistakes are masked by the technical errors they make as they develop their shooting skills. "As shooters improve many get to the point where they do better in practice than in competition," he said. "That's a sign they haven't developed a consistent mental game. Their mental skills are lagging behind their technical skills at that point."

Bassham stressed the importance of not changing anything in your shooting style during the competition season. "There are two ways to improve: The first is to find a technique that works better than what you are doing now and upgrade to that technique. The second way to improve is to find something that works and make it work more often. The top 5% do it that way." He explained that changing techniques before a match damages your mental commitment as part of your mind will wonder which technique you should use. "Commitment wins tournaments and doubt is the opposite of commitment. You should be careful that the new things you learn don't make you doubt what you are going to do. The best performers in the world don't change their mind much."

Julie Golob, Captain of Team Smith & Wesson, said developing the mental ability to block out distractions comes with experience. "For me, I tend to try to really focus on the shooting problem at hand. The more I focus on the things I need to do, in the moment, the less I feel the effects of stress. When I'm on the line I do the basic walkthrough in my mind and when the buzzer goes off I go on autopilot."

Sports Psychologist Ed Etzel is also a former Olympian. He won the Gold Medal in Men's English Rifle at the 1984 Olympics before receiving his PhD in Psychology. Etzel says one way to improve mental consistency is to make your practice routine as much like competition as you can. "Routines are very grounding so the more the elements of your practice routine mirror your competition routine, the better."

Randi Rogers, Julie's teammate on Team Smith & Wesson, is a believer in using routine to inoculate herself against stress. "During training I don't put on my gear until after I set up the range. I like to walk up to the drill as if I'm walking up to a stage at a match. I also try never to quit in the middle of a run or drill. In a real match you aren't allowed to give up so I always finish

"THE PEOPLE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE PACK ARE TRYING TO WIN. THE TOP 5% AREN'T TRYING TO WIN, THEY ARE TRUSTING THAT THEY WILL WIN."

LANNY BASSHAM,
MENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

the drill even if I am doing badly. This also helps me practice problem solving under pressure."

B.J. Norris, the 2014 NSSF Rimfire Challenge World Champion, also uses follows a routine. "I have a very set 'Load and make ready' routine," he said. "I do exactly the same thing every single time. It

puts you in a nice calm place because it's familiar. Your mind and your body know 'We're doing this now,' and it helps your mind and your body perform."

Norris recommends using visualization techniques to reduce stress. "I'll try to visualize the entire match in my head," he said. "That way it's more familiar when it's happening. I'll put myself in the environment of being in the Championship position and imagine the entire run." He added that by putting yourself in different situations you can "rehearse" different contingencies. "You want to take as many surprises as you can out of the situation. The bigger the mental playbook you have the more things you have to



B.J. NORRIS SHOOTS THE 2013 STEEL CHALLENGE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP, WHERE HE WON THE STEEL MASTER TITLE.



SMITH & WESSON'S RANDI ROGERS SHOTS THE 2013 STEEL CHALLENGE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP, WHERE SHE TOOK THIRD IN THE WOMEN'S DIVISION.

go back on as you move through the event."

Another important element is the idea of "mindful practice." "You need to practice being present in the moment," Etzel said. "In training you need to be aware of when your mind drifts away and get back in the moment." He added that being present in the moment includes accepting the conditions around you. "Whether it's noisy, or the weather is bad, you have to accept what is happening and deal with the facts of your experience without letting it disturb you. That is the face of mindfulness."

Julie Golob recommended deep breathing as a way to control stress. "I'm a big fan of controlled breathing. By breathing deeply I can focus on my breathing and calm myself. I used to actually stand on one foot while breathing deeply because by focusing on my breathing and my balance at

"I DON'T THINK PEOPLE UNDERSTAND HOW MUCH WORK GOES INTO THE MENTAL PREP OF SHOOTING. IF YOU CAN'T PRODUCE ON DEMAND WITH YOUR FELLOW COMPETITORS, YOU AREN'T GOING TO GET THAT DISTINGUISHED TITLE."

JULIE GOLOB,
SMITH & WESSON TEAM CAPTAIN

the same time I wouldn't be able to get nervous."

Randi Rogers is also a fan of meditation and controlled breathing. "One of the biggest things I struggle with is controlling the 'monkey mind' where my head starts going crazy and I start thinking of everything that could go wrong. This puts a lot

of pressure on me. I've found the best way to control this is with a little bit of meditation. I control my breathing and let my mind center by thinking about my breathing. This gets me plenty of oxygen which helps calm me down and it also gives me something to concentrate on that doesn't wind me up. I also try to make time to laugh and smile on the range. I think it's good to talk to your fellow squad mates and even give a friendly 'Hello,' to the range officer before shooting to help break up all the pressure."

Everyone I talked to agreed that no matter your experience level, mastering the mental challenges of competition shooting is one of the keys to success.

"I don't think people understand how much work goes into the mental prep of shooting," said Julie Golob. "If you can't produce on demand with your fellow competitors, you aren't going to get that distinguished title." ❖

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A woman with her hair in a ponytail, wearing a black baseball cap with a pink logo, yellow earplugs, and red sunglasses, is shown in profile aiming a black AR-15 style rifle. She is wearing a red long-sleeved shirt with black stripes on the sleeves. The background is a blurred outdoor setting.

TRAINING TIME

TAKING **YOUR FIRST** RIFLE TRAINING CLASS

BY CALEB GIDDINGS

IN THE LAST four years there has been a tremendous increase in the number of AR15 pattern rifles on the market. Many shooters purchase a new rifle, take it to the range a few times and then wonder “what now?” 3-Gun shooting can be expensive, and many ranges limit the amount of rounds per minute you can fire and the shooting positions you can fire from. So what is an AR owner looking to do more than just plink rounds to do?

The answer is to take a training class. Right now is the best time to take professional training, as an abundance of quality



training providers exist all over the country. But with the volume of instructors comes some pitfalls; without knowing what to look for a shooter could end up in a class that doesn't meet that person's developmental needs.

KNOW YOUR GOALS

The most important step to preparing for a training class is to know what your goals are as a shooter. Do you want to get better at general gun handling and weapons manipulation? Do you want to learn about employing an AR in home defense or an ac-

tive shooter situation? Different classes are going to provide different types of instruction; and while "shooting" may be the theme that ties it all together the kind of shooting you see in a manipulations class is going to be different than a tactics class. Similarly, a class focused on running the rifle in 3-Gun will teach a different set of skills than a class focused on high-power rifle competition.

KNOW WHO IS TEACHING

The instructor is the most critical component of any class you take. Without knowing your instructor's background, it's impossible to know whether or not they're a legitimate instructor or just some guy that decided to teach rifle class as his new job. The problem is that it's difficult to differentiate between one or the other without knowing what questions to ask. Some of the areas to look for are:

▸ **Whom have they trained with?**

If a trainer doesn't list some people that they've personally trained with on their website, it could be an indicator of a lack of professional learning experience. If a trainer has never been a student, how can they understand enough to teach?

▸ **Whom have they trained?**

Depending on what your goal is, this could be important. If you're looking for a class on civilian self-defense and home defense use of a rifle, and your instructor only teaches tactics to SWAT teams and Navy SEALs, you might want to consider looking elsewhere.

▸ **Buzzword bingo**

When you're reading a website about a trainer, and it's covered in tactical buzzwords, or the instructor claims to be teaching secrets of gunfighting that are "too extreme" for Group XYZ, it's probably time to move on.

▸ **Tearing down other instructors**

Regardless of how Trainer A feels about Trainer B, he's not going to tear Trainer B down in public. That's unprofessional, and in and industry that lives and dies on referrals, it's a major red flag.

WHAT TO BRING

Most classes will post an equipment list that will likely include all the gun-related stuff you're going to need for the class. Rifle, ammo, magazines, pouches, secondary

weapon (usually a handgun), ammo for the secondary, etc. However, many times the gear list will leave out some important items that could be useful. For example, check the weather. Is it going to be hot? Will it be raining? Could it be raining one day and hot the next? You'll need to pack appropriate gear to deal with the weather conditions. A few items that should live in your range bag are sunscreen, baby wipes, and Band-Aids. Sunscreen because the constant agony of a sunburn makes training difficult, baby wipes because you might be quite a ways away from a proper bathroom, and Band-Aids because you never know who's going to cut themselves.

Along with all that gear, there are other considerations on peripheral gear. Obviously, bring water, but think about how you're going to be moving your water around. At a recent class, a student showed up with a case of those tiny eight-ounce water bottles, which caused everyone to laugh at him until they realized he could stuff three or four bottles in his cargo pockets without compromising his mobility. Smart. Are you going to be shooting from unusual positions? Bring knee pads. Maybe even some elbow pads. There are some classes where a hockey/skateboard style helmet might even be a good idea. It's pretty hard to keep learning with a concussion or a destroyed kneecap.



DOS AND DON'TS

Once you're at the class, regardless of whether it's a Larry Vickers class, Gunsite, or any of the other reputable schools out there, there are some general guidelines to having a good class experience. Simple, easy to remember dos and don'ts will go a long way towards making your first training experience rewarding.

▶ Do ask questions

If you don't understand a drill, the reason for something, or are just confused, it's okay to ask. Most instructors would prefer you ask rather than you fumble through a drill and not learn.

▶ Don't be "that guy"

Everyone knows "that guy," because everyone has had him in a class at some time or another. He's the guy who asks questions just to hear himself talk or to have people pat him on the back about how smart he is. No one likes that guy.

▶ Do help tape targets and reset steel

This helps keep the class moving at a good pace. Help tape/paste/reset and you'll spend more time shooting and thus learning.

▶ Don't hold the class up because you don't have enough ammo

If the course description says "you'll need to be able to bring 50 rounds to the line at a time" then make sure you can do that. Have enough mags, and keep them topped off.

▶ Do have fun

It's easy to get caught up in the serious nature of practice and training and forget that you're supposed to be having fun doing this. You may have given up vacation time for this class, so enjoy it!

TAKE MORE CLASSES

Hopefully you're ready now to take your first major rifle training class. Once you've gone in to your first class, it's important to keep building on that solid foundation. Take different classes from different instructors to broaden your skill base. Keep learning. You'll find the more you shoot, the more you'll want to learn, and the better you'll be able to pass those skills on to other shooters, whether they're friends, family, or just folks at the range.

It doesn't matter if you're learning about 3-Gun, tactics, self-defense, or even traditional rifle marksmanship. Attending a professionally taught training class by a reputable instructor will be a beneficial experience. Who knows, you might even find yourself walking the teacher's path someday. 🎯



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// TRAVEL

BOOT CAMP:

3-GUN AND HANDGUN
COMPETITION SKILLS
AT THE TACTICAL
PERFORMANCE CENTER

BY ANETTE WACHTER | WWW.30CALGAL.COM

SINCE I STARTED my competition career as a rifle shooter, I have never had any proper instruction on shooting a handgun. That became a problem when I decided to start competing in a Multigun sport that requires strong pistol skills. I just threw myself out there and tried to figure it out on my own. Well, it shows, because that is the one area of weakness I have had in 3-Gun competition. When I started in 3-Gun I struggled with a flinch, which I chalked up to not having the right fundamentals. I also watched myself in videos and was able to see how slow I was shooting with my handgun.

While I wanted to take a class that taught 3-Gun skills, such as how to walk and game stages, and drills to do at home or on the range, I first needed someone to find a class that would teach me better pistol fundamentals, but had a competition edge to it. It is especially difficult to find a course that teaches a competition model. Through a friend, my search led me to the Tactical Performance Center (TPC) at the Southern Utah Shooting Sports Park near St. George in Utah. I contacted the owner, Ken Nelson, for more details. They offer three-day





// TRAVEL



Contact **Tactical Performance Center** at (970) 323-6111 or email them at ron@practicalshootingacademy.com. To learn more go to tacticalperformancecenter.com.

boot camps for pistol, competition, and tactical shooting. 2,000 rounds of 40 cal. from Nosler and Tactical Ammunition and a plane ticket later, I flew down to Utah.

I had met Ken and his son Brian several times at matches, but I did not realize they were behind TPC. If you are in the 3-Gun world, or most any competition circuit, then you have heard of Practiscore software; Ken Nelson and his son Brian, a 3-Gun Phenom at the age of 17, developed this software. As I researched TPC I noticed that the range it's located at, Southern Utah Shooting Sports Park, has quickly become a mecca for 3-Gun, USPSA, cowboy action and more. Since Ken and family have been there they have worked hard to make this range in to a destination.

Over a dozen shooting bays and all of the props you can imagine are always available

for use by range members or the public. Currently, they are working on a partnership with more landowners in area in order to add a precision rifle location. Ultimately, their goal is to build lodging for visiting shooters as well.

In September, the Park has hosted USPSA Handgun Nationals, which had 28 stages and 550 competitors. They also hold the 21-stage Berry's Steel Open each April as well as the annual Southwest Multigun. For the last three years they have put on an Outlaw 3-Gun event called the Purgatory Flats Hard As Hell Multigun, which has gained much attention for its creative course of fire. While at the range they were building the stages for this year's event; there is an actual mini "roller coaster" you ride on and shoot from, and you also may need to brush up on your rope swinging

skills over mud pits. Think Tough Mudder, but with guns. This Shooting Park is the perfect location to have the TPC Academy.

Plagued by endless blue skies, mild winter temperatures and gorgeous south-desert red rock, the class location is impossible to beat. Ken Nelson has acquired a great team of people representing the range and school. His theory in hiring is to approach people he wants rather than let the masses send in resumes. Ron Avery, for example, has been with TPC a little over a year to help Ken put together a world class teaching facility. As TPC's Director of Training, Ron has brought over 34 years of law enforcement, professional training, and consulting experienced. He is also a writer and world-ranked competitive shooter. I really enjoyed his enthusiasm for teaching and he truly loves what he does. You can



see it even when he is not in class. He lives and breathes it.

Although I really wanted to attend one of TPC's 3-Gun clinics, I had just missed their last one, which was held in October. I knew it would be best to attend the Pistol Boot Camp first anyway. That was my goal first, to break myself of bad habits. I wanted a fundamentals boot camp, not a self-defense class.

All of the camps TPC provides focus on mental as well as physical training. In the Pistol Boot Camp I attended we were broken of our bad habits and born again to solid fundamentals, but we also left with images of success.

I noticed Ron was a fan of the teachings of Lanny Bassham who wrote the book *With Winning In Mind*. I have read this book over a dozen times. It is very popular in the

competitive shooting community. Lanny is an Olympic Gold Medalist in small bore and talks about methods of performance through the subconscious at various levels. Every member of my U.S. Team has read his book. Ron also had influences from *The New Mental Toughness Training for Sport* by Dr. James Loehr and *In Search of Excellence* and *Psyching for Sport* by Terry Orlick. All of the mental exercises are useful not only for competition, but can be applied to every aspect of your life.

“THE TRUE REWARD COMES WITH LETTING GO AND ALLOWING YOU TO BE FREE TO PERFORM WITH INCREDIBLE AWARENESS AND AMAZING CALM. WHEN YOU TRULY LOVE WHAT YOU DO THEN YOUR CHANCES OF DOING JUST THAT GO UP EXPONENTIALLY.”

RON AVERY,
TPC DIRECTOR OF TRAINING

The Pistol Boot Camp has its name for a reason. I arrived at the Southern Utah Shooting Sports Park on Friday at 9 am. All of the students had experience but all of us needed some tweaking. We were competitors, law enforcement officers, and enthusiasts. There were seven instructors to nine students, giving us almost one-on-one coaching.

The days were not overwhelming, just three hours in the morning and then another three to four hours in the afternoon. On day one we started inside the building for classroom time, using fake orange pistols we were going over stance and grip. Sounds harmless right? Well, do you remember the *Karate Kid* movie when Mr. Miyagi has Daniel wash and wax his cars for days? “Wax on! Wax off!” Do you also remember the feeling when you over do it at the gym lifting weights and you can't even lift your arms to shampoo your hair later? That was me by the end of day one.

Many of us complained of flinching problems we wanted to rid ourselves of. The

RON AVERY'S **RULES OF PEAK PERFORMANCE**

- ▶ See everything clearly: Reading and comprehending that what you see is an acceptable sight picture for the shot you are about to take and that you can call your shots to the best of your ability and skill.
- ▶ Do everything correctly: Do not allow yourself to feel rushed. The key is to make it feel effortless and then you can make it both fast and precise.
- ▶ Stay mentally calm and physically relaxed: Cultivate an inner core of flexible, adaptable, emotionally resilient mental and emotional strength that is finely tempered with humor. Nothing gets to you that you cannot successfully deal with. NOTHING.
- ▶ Challenge yourself: To perform at the upper end of your comfort zone. When you feel butterflies you should welcome a new opportunity to break down another fear barrier. Winners turn threat into challenge.
- ▶ Have fun and feel deep satisfaction: The most powerful rule of all. Learn to love it all and enjoy the entire experience. It's a package deal. Rain, cold, heat, wind, being tired, frustration, love, joy, fun, and triumph; enjoy the journey.

drills were meant to make us comfortable with “the fear” of shooting handguns. With a rifle you have a solid structure, as in a stock, to take the recoil, with a pistol we have our hands and arms. The bang and recoil startle most people. I understood it when they mentioned how we need to get used to the stress. While they were going over and over handgrip and proper tension, I realized I was thinking too hard. By lunch I could feel my muscles were aching. Over the course of the day, we ended up firing 500 rounds, and I was too tired to fight the tension in the places I was not supposed to be tense in. My body learned to relax the necessary parts and have the strength only



where it needed to be. It was enough to eliminate the noise and stress of shooting the handgun. That was the point. All of the waxing on and off set my brain up to do things in the subconscious.

Days two and three were filled with hundreds more rounds of shooting. Drills of dot torture, speed, drawing and shooting deliberately fast under the stress of a timer. Student competitions were thrown in to put the new skills to use. I was wondering how shooting tiny one-inch dots was going to help me with competition. I realized that I subconsciously learned to focus on front

sight and recoil management to the point that when I got to blast away at the normal IPSC targets I was hitting the A-zone no matter my speed or distance. Who knew I would place second overall in the final Battery Test competition.

The teaching format of the Pistol Boot Camp carries over to the handgun and 3-Gun competition camps. Ron covers platform, mindset, and technique for fast shooting on the first day. Signing up for the pistol competition camps they assume you are a B- or C-class level competitor coming in. Day two is competition techniques for

movement, running with the gun, reloads and more mindset. There are shoot-offs between class members and if the class is rolling they will do some small stages. Day three is reinforcement and then running stages all day. 3-Gun is similar, but with three guns of course. It works out to a day per gun with more technique and manipulation.

THE RANGE LOCATION

The Shooting Park is leased from the BLM so plumbing does not exist, but there are portable toilets. They do have bottles of hand wipes everywhere. They have two buildings, one as an office and one as an indoor shelter with tables and garage doors. In bad or hot weather you can shoot from inside to some shorter bays. All of the shooting bays have moveable canopies that are much appreciated in the heat of the summer. The school supplies water and lunches each day. Snacks and specialty beverages are up to you. TPC has a discounted rate at the nearest Holiday Inn Express in Washington, only a five-minute drive away. The only issue I had was that there is nothing near the hotel. It is by itself. St. George is only 10 minutes away and I think I would have rather stayed in St. George for the amenities and then driven 15 minutes to the range instead. If flying, it is easiest to fly to Las Vegas, rent a car and drive two hours to St. George.

COURSES AT TPC

The three-day Pistol Boot Camp is \$795. They offer this class once a month as well as their instructor courses, which are \$1,495. The competition camps have only been offered two or three times a year, so I am hoping they will add more for 2015. They are still putting together the schedule of all camps for 2015 so you may not see it yet on the web site.

Tell them 30calgal sent you and get 15% off any camp for 2015! If checking out through the web site, use the code 30CAL-GAL. This offer is only good through February 2015 so don't delay. You will not find a better intensive clinic and you can't beat the location and sunshine. ☺



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// TRAVEL



MIDNIGHT 3-GUN

AND

STARLIGHT 3-GUN

THE FUTURE OF AN AMAZING EVENT.

AT THE BEGINNING of December, the following letter was sent out regarding the 2015 Midnight 3-Gun:

M3GI Competitors, Sponsors, Staff, Media, Supporters and Aficionados-

It is with a twinge of sadness that I'm informing you today of the following news: We have made the strategic decision to formally end the world's first night time and premiere 3-Gun competition, the Crimson Trace Midnight 3-Gun Invitational.

I know this will be a disappointment to many of you, but after much discussion, deliberation and thought, we've decided to go out on top, leaving each of you and the industry wanting more.

When we conceived M3GI almost 4 years ago now, it was in the context of "what's the next, big thing we can do?" From a business perspective, M3GI – with your help and support – accomplished everything we wanted from the event. And more.

Four years later, we're asking the same, strategic questions for our Brand:

What's the next big thing for Crimson Trace that's best for our business? In the end, it's the perfect time to take our strength, creativity, formidable resources and utilize them elsewhere.

But there is good news: For those of you who believe in the concept and just can't get enough, Jim Shepherd, founder of The Outdoor Wire and the Outdoor Wire Digital Network, believes so strongly in the concept that he and his partners have formed a new company Starlight 3 Gun, LLC to take the

ground breaking M3GI concept to the next level.

While we don't have a formal relationship with Starlight 3Gun, I can tell you that we have given our full permission for them to take our groundbreaking concept, put their resources behind it and see where it goes. I'm sure each of you will hear from them in the coming weeks and months as they devise "what's next".

We will never be able to thank each of you enough for all the support of our little event. I can honestly tell you that we don't take much credit for the success and growth of M3GI, because that credit really belongs to everyone reading this announcement. We had a helluvalotta fun over the past 3 years and will miss the dust in our teeth, 2am granola bar hording and the glow of your lightsticks. We should all feel great about being brave enough to do something crazy, turning into a

huge success and making it difference in our Industry.

Thank you again for supporting and advocating our message:

No personal protection firearm is complete without a laser sighting system.

Have a great holiday season with friends & family,

Kent Thomas

Director of Marketing

For those of you who have been following *GunUp the Magazine* over the past two years, you know that we are huge fans of not only Crimson Trace and the people there, but the Midnight 3-Gun match. We're sorry to see it go, it's one of the events we look forward to the most every year, stacked right up at the top of the list next to the Bianchi Cup.

Fortunately, a few days after this letter went out, the Shooting Wire posted a press release on the upcoming Starlight 3-Gun matches, which are sure to be success.

According to the release:

The inaugural 'Starlight 3-Gun' will feature three-days of amateur and professional competition at an east-coast location yet to be announced. There will be an open enrollment for experienced 3-gun competitors and interested shooters who are new to 3-gun competition will have the opportunity to qualify the Starlight 3-Gun via participation in other qualifying 3-gun events.

The press release also suggested that Starlight 3-Gun has some large aspirations. It quotes Jim Sheperd, managing partner of the new company, saying:

"Our long-term goal is to popularize the concept of athletic shooting competitions and create local, regional and national events where everyone from a young children shooting beginner courses can compete at the same venue as the pros. The full-blown pro circuit will combine TV, online and live events to fill up arenas and athletic facilities across the country. Our goal is to make shooting competitions entertaining- and to do that, we're amping up the entertainment value- without sacrificing safety.

It looks like the Midnight 3-Gun set up is going mainstream. The new events are meant to be accessible to all different levels of shooters and, eventually, across the country.

One of the things we're excited to see Jim Sheperd talking about is getting more young people involved by integrating shooting and athleticism:

The M3GI competitors used lights and lasers, we're going to add in fog, thumping music, strobe lights, pyrotechnics, and a

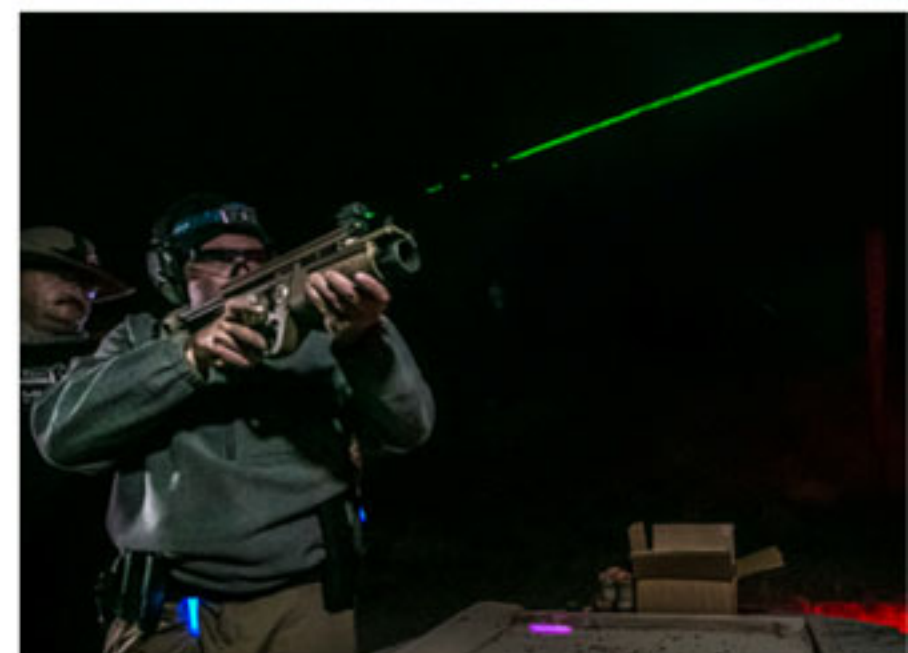
THE INAUGURAL EVENT WILL BE HELD IN SEPTEMBER 2015 ON THE EASTERN SIDE OF THE COUNTRY, MAKING TRAVEL SIMPLER FOR SHOOTERS ALREADY COMMITTED TO NATIONAL EVENTS ON THE 2015 COMPETITION CALENDAR.

true 'event' atmosphere. It won't impact the shooters, but it will showcase the skills our shooting professionals have right now. Young people who see these events will want to become shooting pros because they'll see a sport that integrates shooting skills with athleticism.

Staying fit and healthy is something we believe in strongly here at GunUp, and while we're sad to be losing one of our favorite events, it sounds like Starlight 3-Gun is trying to do something amazing. It's great to see the shooting sports trying to appeal to a younger demographic in a very real way.

New shooting sports are constantly on the rise – and not all of them make it. It will be interesting to see if Starlight 3-Gun can evolve from a niche single-event to a real force in the shooting sports world. After the experiences we've had at Midnight 3-Gun, we won't hesitate to say that a nighttime 3-Gun match is a truly unique and difficult experience we would love to see brought to a nationwide audience.

Keep an eye out for Starlight 3-Gun. It could be your chance to play. 🎯



LOOK FOR FUTURE INFORMATION ABOUT THE STARLIGHT 3-GUN AT GUNUPTHEMAGAZINE.COM.



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THE LATEST NEWS AND PRODUCTS FOR SHOOTERS AND OUTDOOR ENTHUSIASTS.



REACTOR

REACTOR Watches Takes Toughness, Durability to a New Level with the Debut of the Titan

REACTOR, maker of the worlds' most durable and progressive sport watches, is introducing the Titan, a watch designed to be the toughest watch on the market to meet the grueling needs of men in the military, law enforcement and the avid outdoorsmen.

The Titan's 45mm watch case is constructed with a stainless steel core enveloped in a Nitromid™ cover, a glass-reinforced polymer with a tensile strength higher than steel. This gives the Titan improved durability and impact resistance with the watertight capabilities of a fully stainless steel version at half the weight.

Constructed with a design similar to its popular Gryphon watch, REACTOR took a lightweight nylon-webbing watchband and fused it inside a proprietary silicone and natural rubber compound for the Titan. The result is a band that is more durable than nylon or rubber alone that will not absorb odor, dirt or sweat and is comfortable for all day wear. To further perfect the strength of the Titan, REACTOR molded the watchband at each of its connection

points around stainless steel tubes eliminating any potential for weakness where the band joins together with the base and buckle.

Additional features of the Titan include dual timing bezels and water resistance to 300M. The internal timing bezel on the Titan is activated by a large 11mm crown located at the 2'o'clock position on the watchcase that was designed for ease of use. Co-molded with silicone for better grip, the crown locks the internal bezel in place when in the neutral position. Simply press the crown in to engage the internal bezel, adjust the bezel as needed and then release the crown to lock it back in place.

The Titan also has REACTOR's patented Never Dark® illumination technology. Never Dark® is the first technology to combine the intense brightness of Superluminova with the multi-year longevity of tritium, providing optimal illumination under all lighting conditions. Because it can take up to 30 minutes for the human eye to fully adjust to the dark, Superluminova's intense peak brightness makes a Never Dark™ watch easily visible during that initial adjustment period. In situations where the watch will remain in the dark for many hours, the tritium will remain visible for



New design features larger case size, internal timing bezel, additional tritium tubes for improved night visibility and stronger band structure.

years, even if the watch is never returned to the light. The Titan has 11 multicolor Tritium tubes dispersed along the dial and timing bezels, and on the hour, minute and second hands for precise night visibility and Superluminova hour markers.

REACTOR has designed its watches from day one to be the best built performance sport watches. Built on the REACTOR DNA, the Titan is no exception. Every REACTOR has a solid forged 316L stainless steel or Titanium case and case back and all bracelets are solid link construction. Additionally, every REACTOR has solid screw bars for strength, free floating lugs for ultimate comfort, screw down crowns and a proprietary application of true Swiss Superluminova.

With a suggested retail price of \$500, it is available in black, flat dark earth, and black with an orange dial.

For more information or to find a local retailer, visit ReactorWatch.com.



Pre-SHOT Show Golf Event to Support Disabled Veterans

NSSF AND HONORED AMERICAN VETERANS AFIELD (HAVA) are joining forces to host a charity golf event at the 2015 SHOT Show on Sunday, Jan. 18, at Bear's Best Las Vegas.

The new HAVA Invitational Golf Classic will be a strong statement of industry support for America's disabled veteran heroes as we enter the new year. We encourage everyone headed to the SHOT Show to get involved — register a foursome or become a sponsor.

For those not familiar with HAVA, it is an industry-run organization that helps the healing and re-integration of disabled combat veterans back into normal American life through participation in hunting and the shooting sports. The HAVA Board of Directors, which I'm proud to serve on, is comprised of industry execu-

tives who look to put the funds raised to work to benefit these returning heroes and their families. All the proceeds from this event will benefit HAVA outreach programs.

If you're not familiar with Bear's Best Las Vegas, it's a pretty phenomenal golf course. It's a Jack Nicklaus-designed course, where "The Golden Bear" himself hand-selected 18 holes from his more than 200 course designs worldwide, encompassing all of his favorites into one extraordinary round of golf.

Participation in the HAVA Invitational Golf Classic is only \$200 per golfer, however companies registering for a foursome receive one free registration (foursomes can be registered for only \$600). Each participating golfer receives the following:

- ▶ One Round of Golf at Bear's Best Las Vegas
- ▶ Backpack full of Valuable Welcome Golf and Outdoor Gifts
- ▶ Golf Cart
- ▶ Breakfast / Lunch
- ▶ Roundtrip Ground Transportation from the Sands Expo Center to Bear's Best
- ▶ Opportunity to Win Valuable, High End Raffle Items
- ▶ Chance for Prizes for Winning Teams and Contests

 This is a great opportunity for our industry to provide even more support for those who have sacrificed so much for our country.

Learn more at shotshow.org/hava-golf-classic.

Beretta USA Presents Next Generation Handgun to the Department of Defense

AFTER DELIVERING over 600,000 M9 pistols to the DOD and on the heels of being awarded a new contract for up to 100,000 M9s, Beretta USA announced today the presentation of the M9A3 to the US Army. The M9A3 introduces major improvements to the M9 that will increase the operational effectiveness and operational suitability of the weapon. The improvements include design and material enhancements resulting in increased modularity, reliability, durability, and ergonomics. They are being submitted via an Engineering Change Proposal (ECP) in accordance with the terms of the current M9 contract.

Made in the U.S.A. by an American workforce since 1987, the M9 has been the sidearm of the U.S. Armed Forces for nearly 30 years; serving with U.S. service men and women in training and combat operations throughout the world. The M9A3 is designed for the next 30 years – delivering

21st century capability and features while increasing usability and reliability.



"The M9A3 represents the next generation military handgun utilizing the best of the legacy M9 combined with proven COTS modifications that increase performance and durability" stated Gabriele de Plano, Vice President of Military Marketing and Sales for Beretta USA. Mr. de Plano added, "After listening closely to the needs of U.S. Army and other Service small arms representatives, we determined the M9, much like its counterpart legacy weapon systems (M4, M16, M240, etc.), was capable of being upgraded through material and design changes. The resulting M9A3 we are offering to the DOD will likely cost less than the current M9

and answer almost all of the Services' enhanced handgun requirements."

The M9A3 features a thin grip with a removable, modular wrap-around grip, MIL-STD-1913 accessory rail, removable front and rear tritium sights, extended and threaded barrel for suppressor use, 17-round sand resistant magazine, and numerous improved small components to increase durability and ergonomics, all in an earth tone finish.

"Furthermore, the M9A3 benefits from having a law enforcement and commercial variant that will be launched at S.H.O.T. Show 2015 in Las Vegas, NV" stated Rafe Bennett, Vice President of Product Marketing for Beretta USA. Mr. Bennett added, "The M9A3 offered to the DOD is the exact gun that consumers will be able to purchase in the second quarter of 2015."

For more information visit Beretta.com.

Ruger Gunsite Scout Rifle Now Available With A Lightweight Composite Stock

STURM, RUGER & COMPANY, Inc. (NYSE-RGR) announces that the popular Gunsite Scout Rifle is now available with a lightweight, black composite stock. The composite stock reduces the rifle weight to 6.25 pounds, 3/4 pounds less than the popular laminate wood stock version. This new version features a forward aluminum bedding block and rear aluminum pillar that positively locate the receiver and free float the 16.1-inch barrel for outstanding accuracy.



The new composite stock, available on right-hand rifles chambered in .308 Win., contains the versatile adjustable length of pull found on all models of the current Gunsite Scout Rifle. Recognizing the importance of a proper fitting rifle, Ruger developed this adjustable system, which allows the shooter to change the length of pull to fit their individual needs. The length of pull can be adjusted from 12.75 inches to 14.25 inches to give the shooter the proper fit with outerwear or defensive gear of varying thickness, or properly fit the rifle to different shooters.

A swivel stud boss is molded into the stock im-

mediately in front of the magazine well. This allows the stock to be drilled and a third swivel stud installed for use with the popular three-point "Ching" Slings.

Developed in conjunction with Gunsite Academy, America's oldest private firearms training facility, the Gunsite Scout Rifle is a relatively lightweight, do-all rifle, consistent with Col. Jeff Cooper's Scout Rifle concept. Based on the Ruger® M77® family, the Gunsite Scout Rifle has M77 features such as controlled round feed and integral scope mounts (scope rings included) and is supplied with a 10-round detachable steel box magazine. The rifle's trigger guard and magazine well are formed with glass-reinforced nylon. The magazine release is a push-forward Mini-14-style paddle just ahead of the trigger guard.

Given the lighter weight of the composite stock, these new models are equipped with a radial port muzzle brake fitted on 5/8"-24 muzzle threads. A thread protector is shipped with each rifle and can be used to protect the muzzle threads if the installed muzzle brake is removed.

The Ruger Gunsite Scout Rifle contains a medium contour, cold hammer-forged 16.1-inch barrel with a protected non-glare post front sight and receiver mounted, adjustable ghost ring rear sight. A forward-mounted Picatinny rail offers options

in mounting an assortment of optics - including Scout Scopes, reflex sights and red dots for "both eyes open" sighting and super-fast target acquisition.

Polymer magazines also are available for the Gunsite Scout Rifle and are available at www.ShopRuger.com in 10-, 5- and 3-round capacities. These rugged, smooth-feeding magazines are durable, easy to load and feed smoothly. The 3-round magazine is near flush-fitting and is a great accessory to have when hunting. These polymer magazines can be readily disassembled and reassembled for cleaning and have been function and drop tested at extreme temperatures ranging from -30° F to +140° F. A snap-on dust cover, included with each magazine, keeps the internals of the magazine clean and allows long-term storage of a loaded magazine without risk of deforming the magazine feed lips.

For more information visit Ruger.com



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