

THE WASHINGTON ARMS COLLECTORS



# GUNNEWS

M A G A Z I N E

DECEMBER 2020

VOL. 29 - #12

 Merry Christmas 



- S&W .44 Double Action • First Model -

**Coronavirus Cancellations Likely - Check the website before traveling**

- **December & January Shows have been Cancelled** •
- **CHECK BACK FOR CURRENT DATES** •

ALL Show Hours: 7:30 am for Table Holders - 9:00 am for Members & Visitors each day  
**CALL 425-255-8410 for INFORMATION & DIRECTIONS**



# DECEMBER 2020

The *GunNews* is the official monthly publication of the Washington Arms Collectors, an NRA-affiliated organization, P.O. Box 400, Sumner, WA 98390. Subscription is by membership only and \$15 per year of membership dues goes for subscription to the magazine.

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### **Columns & News**

- 5 Short Rounds
- 18 Legislation & Politics—Joe Waldron
- 20 Colts vs. Smiths—Tom Burke
- 23 Straight From the Holster—JT Hilsendeger
- 24 Letters to the Editor

### **Features**

- 4 Special Referendum & Ballot
- 8 The S&W .44 Double Action First Model
- 24 Letters to the Editor & News

### **For Collectors**

- 26 Wanted: Dead or Alive
- 32 Show Calendar

### **Member Resources**

- 3 Renewal Notice
- 6 Board Minutes
- 31 Renewal forms

**Cover—**A classic transitional revolver, the S&W .44 Double Action. Cover photo by Phil Shave, Article on p. 8.

## **Club Officers**

- President — Bill Burris (425) 255-8410**
- Vice President — Boyd Kneeland (425) 643-9288**
- Secretary — Forbes Freeburg (425) 255-8410**
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- Scott Bramhall (425)255-8410**
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- John Rodabaugh (425)255-8410**
- John Solheim (425) 255-8410**
- Jim Weaver (425) 255-8410**
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**DCM club #068115**



### **NRA**

**The WAC is affiliated with the National Rifle Association**

# What is the Washington Arms Collectors worth to you?

## COVID-19 Threatens Our Financial Health

Is it worth a few of your hard-earned dollars to keep our club functioning through the Covid-19 crisis? Many of you have memberships that will expire in December. You may be thinking that without monthly shows there is little reason to renew for another year. We ask you to renew now and offer some good reasons to do so:

- The WAC is still the largest group of firearm enthusiasts in the Northwest and you should be a part of it.
- As a non-profit—a club designed for your benefit rather than a business—our operations depend upon membership.
- Membership gives you a way to buy and sell firearms safely—even without in-person shows. The GunNews magazine is the best way to reach thousands of buyers and sellers, and it's free.

- Each month we bring you original firearm articles in the GunNews.

- The WAC has a history of defending your firearm rights when no other statewide organization could do so. We can only represent you if we continue to exist.

- While no one can predict when large events will be allowed—and safe—the WAC is committed to offering shows as soon as possible.

- The Covid-19 virus is more than a health threat; it is destroying the finances of many small businesses, including the WAC. The virus is imposing costs that are impossible to absorb. It is likely that our show venues will increase the rates they charge us. We expect that gate fees and membership dues must increase in 2021.

### **A Special Renewal Offer for Our Loyal Members—Save \$\$**

You have stayed with us through the worst of the 2020 Covid-19 crisis. Because of this we would like to make you a special offer:

- 1. Renew before December 31, 2020 at our current rate and avoid the 2021 membership rate increase. Only current members are receiving advance notice that we will be increasing dues. You may renew at today's rate for multiple years.**
- 2. Membership entitles you to a free table and we plan to accommodate as many member tables as possible when we offer our first events of 2021.**
- 3. Member-only hours in 2021—for the first time in 15 years, the WAC will give members exclusive early access to the shows, an opportunity to look and shop before the non-member crowds arrive.**

**—Don't miss out—be the first through the gate—**

**Call the office to renew—425-255-8410  
or...Use the mail-in form on page 31**

# Special Referendum & Ballot

This page is your ballot—use it to vote

## Referendum to the Membership Requiring Your Vote

### Explanation and Statement of Board Action:

The Bylaws of the WAC require that: *“The financial books and records of the corporation shall be audited at least once every four years by an independent Certified Public Accounting firm. The Board may require audits or reviews more frequently as it deems appropriate.”* (The complete Bylaws are available at [washingtonarmscollectors.org](http://washingtonarmscollectors.org))

Past audits have been contracted at an average cost of \$70,000 each and such an audit is required in 2020. Currently the WAC has no show income and a greatly-diminished membership due to the Covid-19 crisis. The Board does not believe that we can remain solvent if we contract for such an audit at this time. And with no events and little income there is little cash flow to audit. On October 27, 2020, the Board unanimously approved a motion to temporarily suspend the audit requirement until WAC finances will permit both the expenditure for a full audit and organizational survival. The motion is as follows:

*“The Board will suspend the Bylaw-required 2020 audit until such time as the organization’s finances allow such an expenditure without causing irreparable harm to the organization. This action will not amend the Bylaws and the next required audit is scheduled for fiscal year 2024. This motion by the Board will be referred to the membership for a vote to approve or disapprove by a ballot in the December 2020 GunNews magazine.”*

**We ask that you vote on this ballot page (no photocopies will be accepted) and return the ballot to the WAC office before December 31, 2020:**

### Referendum to the Membership:

**YES—I approve the Board motion to suspend the 2020 audit**

**NO—I disapprove the Board motion to suspend the 2020 audit**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Member # \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Deadline—Ballot must arrive in the WAC office no later than December 31, 2020.**

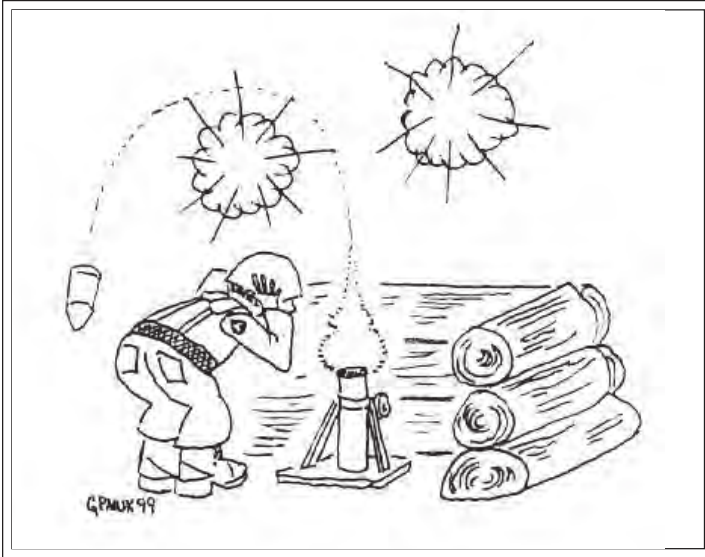
Mail this ballot page to:

**Attn. Election Chair**

**WAC, P.O. Box 400**

**Sumner, WA 98390**

## SHORT ROUNDS



### A Special Vote of the Membership

Just in case you missed it...the preceding page 4 is your mail-in ballot . The Board is asking you to vote on an important issue—the temporary deferral of the full audit of WAC finances. The Board has unanimously voted to suspend the 2020 audit at the October 27, 2020 Board meeting but because the Bylaws require this audit, the Board motion is being referred to the membership for approval or disapproval.

The Board does not believe that the Bylaw requirement is a "suicide pact" that requires unthinking process to overrule all consideration of the WAC current financial situation. If the WAC were to proceed at this time with a full audit, the cost would be about \$70,000. The Covid-19 virus has canceled our 2020 events resulting in a crisis in membership, an elimination of gate revenue and loss of nearly all cash receipts. Not only is there little cash flow to audit, but there are no operating funds to cover the cost.

The WAC is going through extraordinary times and the Officers and Board intend the organization to survive until we can return to normal operations. Note that the vote on this motion was unanimous .

Please read the explanation and motion on the ballot page.

**Look Left for Ballot!**

### Mike Brennan Passes

We have just received word that one of our long-time members has passed away. Mike Brennan was a familiar face at every WAC show in both Monroe and Puyallup for many years. He was a dedicated supporter of WAC, frequently offering ideas for better operations. Mike went looking for the "upside" in I-594 and noted that this anti-gun initiative changed the definition of private sale in a way that permitted unlimited private sales done through an FFL dealer; this eliminated the two event per year restriction that had been in place—a huge boon to WAC members. Mike died of a heart attack in early October. *By the Editor*

### Display Show Canceled

We've canceled the annual display show for 2020. The availability of venues and space remains questionable. Please continue to plan your displays as we expect to be able to offer our members an opportunity at some point in 2021.

### December Puyallup Show Canceled

The restrictions on large events continue and have canceled the WAC show in December. A January Monroe event was planned but is also canceled. The latest show schedules will be on the website.

**NOTE: SHOW CANCELLATION:  
Canceled—Puyallup, Dec 12-13**

### SHOT Show 2021 Canceled

The National Shooting Sport Foundation announces that there will be NO Shot Show for 2021. As in past years, SHOT had been scheduled for January but due to Covid-19 restrictions the show has been completely canceled rather than re-scheduled. Look for 2022 dates to be announced.

**Letters & More News and Short  
Rounds on pp. 24-25**



# Official Board Minutes—W.A.C.

By Secretary Forbes Freeburg

Washington Arms Collectors

Board minutes for October 2020

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Pre-meeting business:

September 28 - Motion by Director Rodabaugh to accept the September, 2020 BoD minutes as presented

Second by Director Weaver

Votes for: Directors Bramhall, Hubbard, Ripley, Rodabaugh, Solheim, Weaver

Votes against: none

Abstain: none

No response: Directors Palmer, Wegner

Motion passed

October 6 - Motion by President Burris to authorize the transfer of \$25K from WAC investments to checking to cover operating expenses.

Second by Director Hubbard

Votes for: Directors Bramhall, Hubbard, Palmer, Ripley, Rodabaugh, Solheim, Weaver

Votes against: none

Abstain: none

Absent excused: Director Wegner

Motion passed

October 12 - Motion by Director Rodabaugh that after Mr. Gordon Spear files with the BOD a written apology directed at the WAC employees to whom he used abusive and profane language, that he be allowed to become a member upon filing an application for membership and paying the necessary fees, just as any other member of the public.

Second by Director Weaver

Votes for: Directors Bramhall, Hubbard, Palmer, Ripley, Rodabaugh, Solheim, Weaver, Wegner

Votes against: none

Abstain: none

Motion passed

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The Board of Directors meeting scheduled for Tuesday, October 27, was convened in the WAC Business office conference room.

Meeting opened by President Burris at 6:36 pm.

Present: Officers: Pres Burris, VP Kneeland (via teleconference), Sec Freeburg, Treas Henson (via teleconference)

Directors: Bramhall, Hubbard, Ripley (via teleconference), Rodabaugh (via teleconference), Solheim, Weaver, Wegner (via teleconference)

Operations: Cleary, Hinckley, Shave

Absent: Director Palmer (excused)

## Financial Report

The WAC financial position for September of 2020 (-\$26K) was favorable when compared to the financial position for September of 2019 (-\$35K). The difference in revenue is attributed to show expenses in 2019 (WAC sponsored a show at Monroe during September, 2019) and offsetting income in 2020 from the rental of office space in the WAC office building. The WAC is averaging approximately \$25K in monthly expenses to sustain the club while waiting for county approvals to resume sponsoring shows. Some months operating losses are higher or lower than the average, as yearly payments for items like liability insurance, taxes, and one-time only expenses (e.g. moving expenses) are addressed.

WAC membership renewals are currently the largest revenue source for WAC while the statewide Covid-19 phased reopenings are in effect, and membership renewals alone cannot cover the expenses required to sustain WAC as a business. Periodic drawdowns from savings will be required until a business revenue stream sufficient to sustain WAC month to month operations can be re-established.

## Old Business

### 1. WAC Membership Rates

WAC event venues will increase facility usage rates in 2021 to offset losses incurred during the Covid-19 crisis. WAC will in turn have to increase

membership rates, table rental fees, and gate fees in 2021 to continue using rented facilities for events.

Motion by Director Rodabaugh: Increase membership rates effective January 01, 2021. Any membership renewals that occur before December 31 will receive the existing (2020) membership rate. Members may renew for multiple years at the existing rate, and members only shopping hours will be offered at WAC shows as a member benefit during 2021. This change is to be explained in detail in the December, 2020 GunNews.

Second by Director Solheim

Votes for: Directors Bramhall, Hubbard, Ripley, Rodabaugh, Solheim, Weaver, Wegner

Votes against: none

Abstain: none

Motion passes

## 2. WAC 2020 Financial Audit

The WAC Bylaws require a financial audit to be performed every four years. An audit was to be scheduled during the summer of 2020. The audit was suspended by the Board because of the severe impact that an audit expenditure (~\$70K) could have on the viability of WAC as a business while the WAC is experiencing operating revenue issues that have an unknown ending date.

Motion by Director Rodabaugh: The Board will suspend the Bylaw-required 2020 audit until such time as the organization's finances allow such an expenditure without causing irreparable harm to the organization. This action will not amend the Bylaws and the next required audit is scheduled for fiscal year 2024. This motion by the Board will be referred to the membership for a vote to approve or disapprove by a ballot in the December 2020 GunNews magazine.

Second by Director Solheim

Votes for: Directors Bramhall, Hubbard, Ripley, Rodabaugh, Solheim, Weaver, Wegner

Votes against: none

Abstain: none

Motion passes

## New Business

1. An event outlook for 2021 is presented by Event Manager Cleary. Nine shows are currently scheduled for 2021 with venues in Monroe, Puyallup, and Elma, Washington. It is unknown at

this time if any of the scheduled events for 2021 will be affected by Covid-19 caused cancellations.

2. WAC Property Management actions. Bookkeeper Hinckley reports that property taxes of \$6K were paid with credit, and that the downstairs heating system (in office space leased to a tenant) has failed in service. The estimate for repair of the downstairs heating system is \$5,500.

Motion by Director Weaver to authorize the transfer of \$12K from savings to checking to cover current operating expenses.

Second by Director Rodabaugh

Votes for: Directors Bramhall, Hubbard, Ripley, Rodabaugh, Solheim, Weaver, Wegner

Votes against: none

Abstain: none

Motion passes

Bookkeeper Hinckley also reports that a company that would like to relocate from their current location in Renton, WA, is considering a leased space offer from WAC for a portion of the first floor of the WAC office building.

Disciplinary actions for October are tabled.

Motion by Director Weaver to adjourn.

Second by Director Solheim

Votes for: Directors Bramhall, Hubbard, Ripley, Rodabaugh, Solheim, Weaver, Wegner

Votes against: none

Abstain: none

Meeting adjourns at 8:07 pm

---

Forbes L Freeburg,  
WAC Secretary

-GN-

**Merry Christmas**  
**From the Staff, Officers, Directors &**  
**GunNews Editor**  
**We wish all of you the very best during**  
**this Holiday season.**



# The First Big-Bore Double Action Revolver

## —Smith & Wesson .44 Double Action First Model—

By Phil Shave, Editor

**Smith & Wesson's preference for bore size for large caliber handguns has always been the 44 caliber.**

—Neal & Jinks, from *Smith And Wesson 1857-1945, A Handbook for Collectors*

Smith & Wesson .44's—Russians, Specials and Magnums—are, in my opinion, their most interesting and useful revolvers. There is one S&W that bridged the gap between the old world of single action .44's and the 20<sup>th</sup> century of double action revolvers—the S&W .44 Double Action First Model of 1881. This historically significant firearm mimics some of the characteristics of the single actions, yet

offers a much more modern double action mechanism. Let's examine one example of this ground-breaking handgun.

### **Ancestors, Relatives and Descendants**

Preceding the .44 Double Action First Model were two single action revolvers—the New Model Russian and the No. 3 New Model. These two top-break revolvers (along with the earlier Old Model Russians) introduced the caliber .44 Russian, an innovative cartridge noted for its accuracy. The No. 3 New Model (1873) incorporated many of the Russian-influenced revolutionary features that are found in the later 44 Double Action: The humped backstrap, round butt grip frame and top-break action.





**Above**—The .44 Double Action is relatively compact considering its caliber. It fits perfectly in an El Paso holster made for an N frame S&W. The stubby-looking Russian rounds are reloads very similar to the original blackpowder cartridges.

**Right**—One can load six rounds but care must be taken to ensure that the firing pin is not resting on a primer. In this view the ejector is just starting to lift the cases from the chamber.



**Left**—Just another view of the right side of the revolver, closed and locked with hammer down on an empty chamber. Reproduction grips from N.C. Ordnance are on the revolver in this photo.

**Top Left**—Looking back up to the top photo of the left side, note the sideplate secured by a single screw and the hinge or pivot for "breaktop" action.

Regarding relatives, Neal & Jinks document the manufacture of 275 Double Action First Models in 38-40 Winchester chambering (.40 caliber); consider these to be close cousins and they are included in the total 54,668 Double Action First Models manufactured. As far as other relatives, there is also a .44 Double Action Frontier introduced in 1886, that is like the .44 Double Action First Model but with a longer cylinder for the 44-40 Winchester cartridge. Then there is the Model .44 Double Action Wesson Favorite (1882), a deluxe, more compact and much rarer revolver that was reduced in size and weight, chambered only in .44 Russian. The 1000 Favorites are included in the .44 DA First Model serial range. The Wesson Favorite would likely be found in nickel and would be a wonderful find for a collector.

What came after the .44 Double Action First Model? The .44 Russian round birthed the .44 Special in the entirely new .44 Hand Ejector New Century of 1908 (often referred to as the Triple-Lock). The Hand Ejector models abandoned the top-break action in favor of the swing out cylinder, manual or "hand" ejection, right side sideplate and square butt.

### Features of the .44 Double Action First Model

The honors for "first" big-bore double action revolver belong to the .44 Double Action of 1881. Other double actions that I know of came a few years later. Merwin & Hulbert offered a double action in their 3<sup>rd</sup> Model of 1883, calibers 44-40 and .44 Russian. The Webley-Government .455 came along in 1887. The Colt M1877 "Thunderer" .41 Long Colt arrived earlier but fired a smaller .40 caliber cartridge with an obsolete heeled bullet. Are there other .44 caliber or .45 double actions built before 1881? I can't find any.

The .44 Double Action First Model (we'll shorthand it here as the .44 DA) features a top-break action that appears old-fashioned to us but works beautifully. One quick action extracts all five or six empty cases from the cylinder and ejects them, clearing the way for an unobstructed, rapid reload. In many ways this is much more appealing and functional than the later swing out cylinders with manual extraction. 19<sup>th</sup> century top-break revolvers were pretty common but usually in .32 or very mild .38 calibers.

The top-break barrel and cylinder pivots to open on a bushing held by a single screw. Like other top-breaks, quick reloads are possible since an extractor cam with coil spring snaps the ejector, throwing cartridges from the chambers—all five or six pop out at once. This is a wonderful feature without the clumsiness of ejector rods or single action style single case extraction. If speedloaders had been invented in 1881, this would have been a two second reload.

A little detour on top break revolvers. Years ago I invited Sid Woodcock of Detonics to speak to a group of law enforcement armorers. Imagine our surprise when he put away the small 1911 Combat Master and unveiled a stainless steel, seven shot, large caliber, TOP BREAK revolver. This was a prototype and I don't believe another was ever made; it embodied Mr. Woodcock's fondness for stainless metal and innovative features. (If you don't know Sid Woodcock, you should. Co-creator of the small



**Top**— Here is the action open at full ejection stroke. Note the two cylinder stop notches on the cylinder, one rounded, one "normal."  
**Center**— Looking at the pivot from beneath, the stud at center is the stop on the extractor cam that hits the frame to eject cases.  
**Bottom**— L to R, .44 Russian, Special, Magnum.



1911-style Combat Master pistol along with Pat Yates, a partner in the original Detonics Bellevue-based company, OSS operative, CIA contractor, respected martial artist, etc.) What I'm saying here is that, from a tactical and functional perspective there is not much wrong with the top break revolver. Yes, it is difficult to design a mechanism that will eject longer cases and a frame that will handle powerful cartridges—manufacturing would be expensive.

If you own and shoot modern S&W revolvers you are familiar with the classic round butt shape of many models. This shape, with the hump at the top of the backstrap and curved back originates with the Model 3 Russian Second Model (a single action revolver) and was then adopted for other S&W's including the .44 DA. S&W double action revolvers basically used this grip shape from about 1880 to present. Today, even the target stocked S&W revolvers have a round butt shape hiding beneath the grips.

The S&W .44 Double Action First Model of 1881 deserves recognition as the first double action Smith in a serious caliber. The .32 Double Action First Model of 1880 and the .38 Double Action First Model of 1881 used the double action lock work only a few months earlier. The mechanism is somewhat similar in operation to a modern Smith but this action does not have a rebounding hammer so the hammer nose will rest on a primer if you load six. It is possible to load six rounds and carefully close the action with the hammer nose between chambers. A "safety" position places the hammer on a retracted position—this first step prevents the hammer nose from contacting the primer as the action is closed after loading; like the first "click" on a single action this is not foolproof as a carry position. Better to load five and place the empty chamber under the firing pin.

There are what appear to be two cylinder stops—this mechanism is called a "rocker" cylinder stop. The forward rounded primary locating stop keeps the cylinder from rotating while the hammer is at rest. This forward stop retracts as the hammer is cocked and the true cylinder stop rises as the hammer approaches full cock. The hand



**Top**—S&W identifies this revolver as theirs only by the markings on the barrel rib. The patent dates range from 1865 to May 11 & 25, 1880.

**Center**—Typical of S&W from this era is the ribbed barrel with 1/2 (1/3?) moon sight.

**Bottom**—Looking down at the latch, the two frame lugs show clearly.

works much like any S&W but has a leaf spring. There is also a leaf trigger spring. Unlike Hand Ejector Smiths, the cylinder rotates in a clockwise direction, a right hand wheeler. The strain screw at the front of the grip frame tensions the leaf mainspring exactly like a modern S&W and the leaf mainspring works identically to the later guns, including the stirrup on the hammer that engages the spring to power the hammer.

Frame construction features an open top strap and left side plate secured by a single screw. The pivoting barrel and top strap locks into two lugs on the frame. The trigger guard is a separate piece from the frame and is pinned in position. On nickel guns the trigger guard remained blue while the remainder was plated.

Compared to later S&W revolvers, the action has a very short hammer travel in both single and double action modes. Inside we find an action that looks familiar. Although it lacks some of the operating pieces of the later S&W action it works in much the same manner.

19th century revolvers and many cheap pocket pistols and European revolvers will not stay in time or tightly locked after only minimal shooting. The reason is that the cylinders are fairly soft and cycling of the action requires that the cylinder stop come up to engage the notch in the cylinder; after that happens a number of times the stop begins to peen out the notch in the

*Text Continued on page 14*

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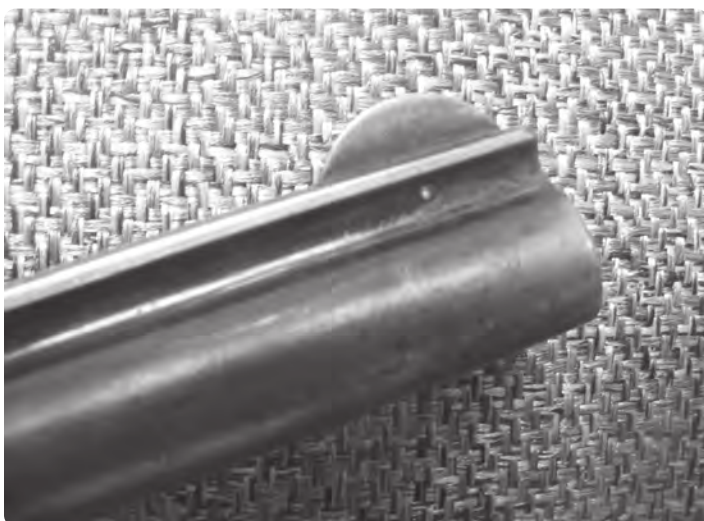
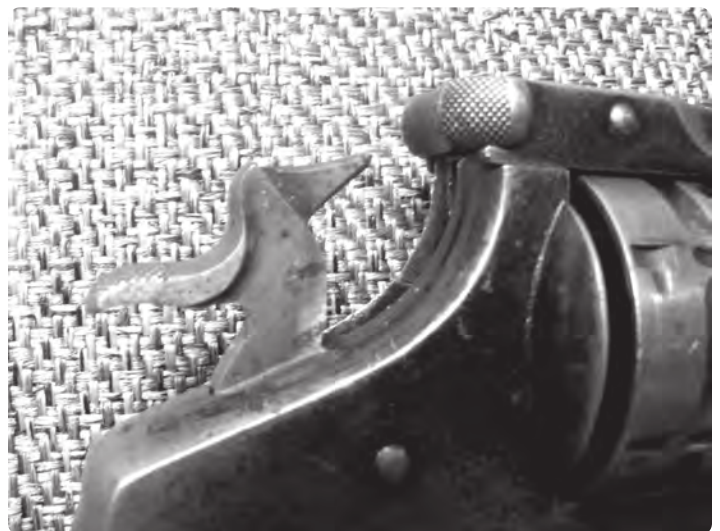
**Below**—The front sight tapers to a narrow blade, visible only to young eyes.

**Top Right**—Two large lugs just above the hammer engage the latch to lock the topstrap.

**Center Right**—Hammer cocked, nose is fixed.

**Bottom Right**—Look for the two cylinder stops, the forward stop is rounded.

**Next Page**—S&W factory letter from Roy Jinks.



# SMITH & WESSON

A BANGOR PUNTA COMPANY

SPRINGFIELD, MASS. 01101

PLEASE ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO THE COMPANY

January 28, 1976



Mr. John Solheim  
7678 Old Hwy. 90 West  
Apartment #26  
San Antonio, TX 78227

Dear Mr. Solheim:

We received your letter of recent date in reference to one of our early revolvers. The revolver you inquired about is a .44 Double Action First Model. This model was introduced in 1881 and sold until 1913, with a total production of 54,668 revolvers.

The .44 Double Action First Model was designed to fire the .44 S&W Russian cartridge, which is no longer commercially available. It was manufactured in both blue and nickel, having the barrel lengths of 3½, 4, 5, 6, and 6½ inches.

Your revolver, Serial Number 28809, was shipped from our factory on December 15, 1896, and originally purchased by Browning Brothers.

We hope this information will be of some interest.

Very truly yours,

SMITH & WESSON

R. G. Jinks  
Product Manager-Handguns  
Historian

RGJ/gmc



in at the top and are checkered but worn smooth. The left grip has a large piece broken out and for regular use these are replaced with replica grips from N.C. Ordnance. The bore is in good condition with some pitting but strong rifling. Chambers are very clean. The lock-up is solid, without any play. The barrel-frame hinge is tight. Checkering on the latch and hammer is finely done, as original but not sharp. The hammer spur is elegantly curved to a relatively low position for easy single action cocking. The double action is heavy (mainly due to heavy mainspring tension) but smooth. The crisp single action weighs about 4 lbs.—not as good as a modern S&W. Serial numbers are stamped on the cylinder to match the frame number. The 1/3

cylinder so that the chamber is not properly aligned with the bore. S&W patented a technique of inserting a hardened steel piece at each cylinder stop notch to prevent this wear. This makes for a very durable revolver and this feature is found on the .44 DA of 1881. Neal & Jinks note that the steel shims were also later applied to .38's (1896) but do not clarify their use in all revolvers; these shims are seen in some Triple-Locks. S&W began heat treatment of cylinders in 1921 (Neal & Jinks). S&W ceased using the hardened shims some time around 1909 and later revolvers have hardened steel cylinders minimizing the need for this reinforcement. But note that stop notch peening remains an issue with modern revolvers that see heavy use, particularly stainless models; the hardened steel inserts were a very good idea.

moon shaped front sight is narrow and tapered, pinned to the barrel. The sight picture is amazingly fine, suited only to target use. There are no caliber markings on the barrel sides or frame. The Smith & Wesson marking is on the barrel rib in all capitals, along with patent dates as follows:

**“SMITH & WESSON SPRINGFIELD MASS. U.S.A. PAT'D JAN. 17 & 24. 65  
JULY 11. 65. AUG. 24. 69. JULY 25. 71. DEC. 2. 79. MAY 11 & 25. 1880”**

The S&W factory letter documents that serial #28809 was shipped from the factory on December 15, 1896, as one of 54,668 produced from 1881 to 1913. The letter is signed, as expected from the 1976 date, by the authority

*Text Continued on page 16*

### **Serial # 28809 .44 Double Action First Model**

This First Model 44 DA has a 4” barrel and blue finish. Some blue remains below the rib on the barrel and the sides of the frame but most of the finish is faded to a gray patina. There is no real pitting, just wear and fading. S&W case hardened the hammer and traces of color remain. The hard rubber grips have an S&W logo molded





### The J.M. Browning Connection

This .44 Double Action First Model was delivered to and sold from the J.M. Browning & Bro. sporting goods store.

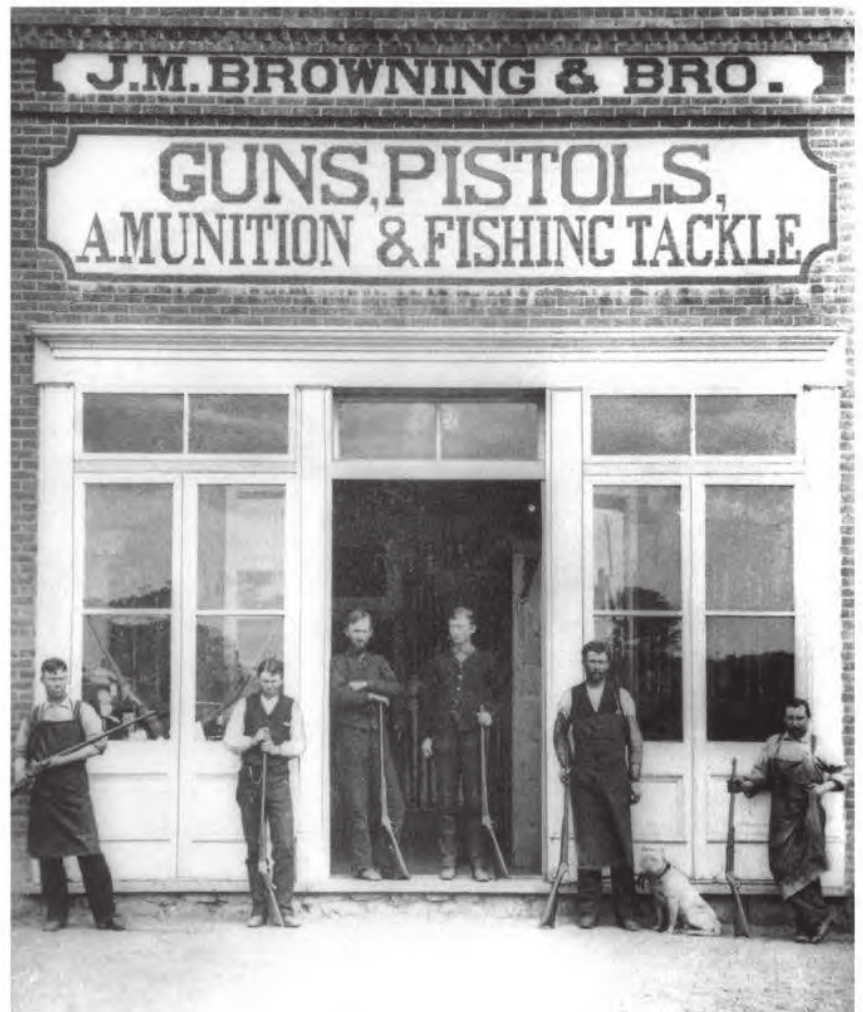


**Top**—The Browning Brothers letterhead found on invoices.

**Above middle**—The shop in Ogden Utah, date unknown.

**Lower Right**—This commonly published photo of the Browning Brothers gun shop in Ogden, Utah Territory, 1882. Left to right: Thomas Samuel Browning, George Emmett Browning, John Moses Browning, Matthew Sandefur Browning, Jonathan Edmund Browning, and Frank Rushton John M. is age 27 in this photo.

*Public domain photos.*



R. G. Jinks. Note the date discrepancy between most sources and the factory letter—.44 DA production theoretically ended in 1908 but it appears that revolvers continued to be assembled from remaining parts until the last one was shipped in 1913.

### The .44 Smith & Wesson Russian

The common design practice in the 19<sup>th</sup> century was to use a heeled bullet in a brass case—just like the .22LR has always been made. With a heeled bullet the rifling engages only the full caliber portion of the bullet that is just forward of the case and the bullet is held in the case by a smaller diameter portion, the heel. This places the bullet lubrication outside the case where it can attract grit or be damaged. The Russians, a major purchaser of single action S&W revolvers, came to Smith & Wesson and demanded that their military single action revolvers be chambered in an improved cartridge, one without the heeled bullet.

In response, Smith & Wesson designed a new cartridge in 1870—the .44 S&W Russian. The Russian became the model for all future centerfire cartridges: A bullet with no heel that had a bore diameter bullet inside the brass case, protecting the lubrication grooves and increasing the bullet bearing surface for accuracy. The only difference between the old Russian and modern handgun ammo is that modern rounds usually have jacketed bullets. This one blackpowder cartridge pioneered an entirely new way of thinking about cartridge design. And the lineage of all .44 handgun rounds is directly from the .44 Russian; it was followed by the smokeless .44 S&W Special and then the .44 Magnum. It is fair to say that the .44 Russian cartridge was more significant than the original single action handgun that hosted it.

Originally the .44 Russian was assembled with a 246 grain lead round-nosed bullet over 23 grains of black powder, for a published muzzle velocity of 770 FPS (Ammo Encyclopedia, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, Bussard). Some sources vary, but not enough to matter, listing a 245 grain bullet and 750 FPS. This was approximately the same as similar .44 and .45 caliber handgun cartridges of the time such as the .45 Colt.

The combination of the modern .44 Russian cartridge with the effective double action mode, made the .44 Double Action First Model an impressive package, especially for police or civilian use. In fact, its only drawback was the blackpowder that quickly fouled the action, limiting the number of rounds that could be fired before cleaning.

### A John Browning Handgun

Now wait a minute...John Moses Browning of Colt 1911 fame had nothing to do with the S&W 44 DA—did he? Around the time that S&W released the .44 DA, Browning was working on lever action rifles such as the



**Above**—The original hard rubber grips have faded in an unusual pattern; still black in places but a dark brown in others.

**Below**—Smith & Wesson kept the same round butt grip shape for about 140 years. The revolver on the left is a modern K frame.



1886 and was more interested in automatic actions than revolvers (he was experimenting with his first auto loading firearm in 1889). Browning held a bunch of patents and not a single one had to do with revolvers.

However, the Browning brothers, at least some of them (his father Jonathan Browning begat 22 children by his three wives), worked in the Ogden Utah gun shop—J.M. Browning & Bro. “With the death of the elder Jonathan, his son John Moses Browning became the head of the family’s gunsmithing business, and with his brothers - Matthew, Jonathan Edmund, Thomas Samuel, William, and George—established in 1872 the Browning Brothers Company with its shop and retail store in Ogden” (from “Browning Arms Company” by Richard C. Roberts, Utah History Encyclopedia). The photo with this article shows the shop in 1882 with John M. Browning standing in the doorway at age 27. The marque over the door promises,



“Guns, Pistols, Amunition (sic) and Fishing Tackle.” So, this was a retail gun store, offering not just Browning-made firearms but others as well. Still waiting for the connection with the .44 DA?

The Smith & Wesson factory letter of January 26, 1976, signed by Roy Jinks states, rather matter-of-factly I think, that, “Your revolver, Serial Number 28809, was shipped from our factory on December 15, 1896, and originally purchased by Browning Brothers.” Imagine that—this Smith and Wesson .44 Double Action First Model, sitting in a glass case in the Browning Brothers gun shop waiting for a buyer who wanted only the finest in big bore revolvers. It is fun to speculate that #28809 was wrapped as some lucky guy’s Christmas present a few weeks later.

### Summary

The Smith & Wesson .44 Double Action First Model was an innovative revolver, a bridge from the blackpowder era to that of modern cartridges but a dead-end in revolver engineering:

- The double action and function were quite modern compared to other .44’s of the era and single actions.
- The S&W .44 Russian cartridge, while introduced in the single actions, gave us a modern .44 cartridge in a double action revolver.
- The top-break revolver was a clever and functional design that was good enough to offer for 32 years. But the top-break had no future and it was supplanted by the Hand Ejector models of 1908.

All these features make this a fascinating old gun deserving of a place in history and as a collectible firearm. This 124 year old example is in fine condition and could be taken to the range for a shooting session using modern brass and lead bullets; remember that it is a blackpowder era gun that will not withstand smokeless loads.

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**Editor’s Note:** This handgun came to my collection via WAC member/director John Solheim. Years ago he had purchased it at Heber Ward’s gun shop that was down in Tacoma on South 12<sup>th</sup> St. According to John, Heber Ward was a Pierce County Detective and fabulous gunsmith. His purchase price—\$75. In the past Smith & Wesson would respond to requests for historical information by providing a factory letter (see the letter with this article). Roy Jinks, authority on S&W history, was employed at Smith & Wesson and his signature on the letter pretty much ensures accuracy of the information. While John was attending law enforcement canine training down in Texas in the 70’s, he wrote a letter to S&W requesting information and the letter of provenance shown here came in response.



**The .44 Double Action First Model**—For personal defense or police use this would have been the S&W to carry. Compared to the underpowered .32 and .38 caliber topbreaks, the .44 possessed not only a large, heavy bullet but also decent velocity; the equivalent of the famed .45 Colt. A scabbard much like this would have made for a secure (with hammer thong) and comfortable carry.

-GN-

## Legislation & Politics



**Joe Waldron**  
Legislative Chairman

### **ELECTION 2020 – FEDERAL**

For years they've been telling us there are 300+ million guns in private circulation in the US, owned by 80 million gun owners. Allegedly another 17 million guns were bought this year, many by first time buyers. Not all, but presumably most of those gun owners, old and new, are of voting age.

Biden got 75+ million votes, Trump 70+ million. .

Where were the apathetic, lazy, "it'll never happen here" gun owners? Arrggghhh!

#### **White House**

It ain't over yet. Keep in mind ALL of the reports are nothing more than media PROJECTIONS at this point. Nothing becomes official until the fat lady sings, and that won't be for a few weeks to a month, depending on the level of the election. Presidential electors don't vote for another four weeks at this writing, December 14<sup>th</sup>. While I don't expect to see a change, things happen.

The internet is full of reports of several forms of election fraud (bad machines, late ballots, multiple ballots from one address, oh the many ways to diddle an election), many of them from credible sources. Without doubt, this one is going into the courts. Several courts across the country. The legal profession just won the mega-jackpot!

Mr. Biden (I will call him that until it's official, although he has already assumed the title of President Elect, something that is not his until the Electoral College says so): "Let's put the hatred and bitterness behind us." Huh? Where has all the hatred and bitterness since 2016 been coming from? Not just against President Trump, the entire nation has been subjected to a four year temper tantrum, unprecedented in US history. All from the "tolerant" liberal left. That's the height of hypocrisy and irony. Of course hypocrisy is a virtue to Democrats. (Again for the record, I'm a registered Independent, have been since 1967.)

My biggest fear here is that the courts will kick the ball down the road, or outright dismiss lawsuits (as they already have with a couple), not wanting to open this can of worms. Or they'll issue contradictory rulings... There will be more lawsuits filed and appeal(s) up the system. Theoretically it stops at the Supreme Court, but the Supreme Court can refuse to hear it and let lower court decisions stand.

While Trump may get some ballots recounted, or changed in a few locations, I don't expect the massive reversals it would take to give him another term.

Interesting side-bit: according to some exit polling, black males voted for Trump 18%, and APVoteCast says Latinos voted 35% for Trump, while 59% of Native Hawaiians and 52% of Native Americans went for Trump, the guy the media and the left have been calling a racist and white supremacist for the past four years. The recent election was in no way a "blue wave" the left had been predicting. At least some people have paid attention to the reduced minority unemployment figures during the Trump presidency.

Various big name Democrats and Democrat support groups are already calling in markers, demanding cabinet or other appointments and other concessions. Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren among them. Black Lives Matter co-founder Patrisse Collors gave black voters full credit for the Biden victory and made several demands in a letter to Biden and Harris. Police "reform" and economic issues at the top.

They just put a silver alert out for the fat lady. It seems she's missing or in hiding!

#### **US House**

Keep in mind we're looking at projections, but it appears Republicans picked up five to nine Democrat seats (including Clinton H&HS Secretary Donna Shalala's House seat down near Miami). At this writing, no Republican House seats were lost. At this writing the House sits at 218 Democrats to 202 Republicans, with several uncalled seats. Still a Democrat majority, but within striking distance for the mid-term elections.

At the U.S. House level, at least, this would appear to be an affirmation of Trump's agenda and a repudiation of the Democrats'. Depending on how far the Democrats push it over the next two years, the 2022 mid-term elections could be a pleasant surprise.

#### **US Senate**

Again, projections for control of the U.S. Senate show a 48 D -50 R split, with 51 needed for a majority. That Democrat 48 includes two "Independents" who vote with them – Sanders (VT) and King (ME). Must be something in the water in the northeast,

Then there are two Senate seats up in Georgia – one a normal six-year rotation and the other a confirmation vote for a mid-term Republican appointee. Both are slim holds by the Republicans now. There will be a run-off election for those seats on January 5<sup>th</sup>. Republicans SHOULD take both seats, but no one can predict accurately this year. Democrats spent hundreds of millions to take control of the Senate this election cycle, and so far have failed. You will no doubt see tens of millions more spent by Michael Bloomberg and his friends to grab those seats.

And remember, if the Senate is tied 50-50, the vice president is the tie breaker.

The Second Amendment hangs in the balance.

#### **SUPREME COURT**

Former Judge Amy Coney Barrett is now Associate Justice Amy Coney Barrett of the US Supreme Court.

We're back to nine sitting justices and ready for whatever comes their way.

### **ELECTION WA**

Well...I can recall the 1994 mid-term elections, when Republicans swept the Washington House AND Senate, giving them clear majorities that they held for six years. That was then, this is now.

Democrats took all statewide elective seats, from governor to dog catcher. There was one Republican in a statewide position, Duane Davidson, who lost his Treasurer's position to a Democrat challenger.

There were no significant changes in the legislature, either. Democrats still control both chambers, 57 D to 41 R in the House. A few Senate seats remain too close to call, but it appears each party picked up at least one and lost at least one seat.

On the down side, we lost a couple of good Democrat friends of gun owners. Senator Dean Takko and Representative Brian Blake, both from the 19<sup>th</sup> District, lost their seats. Brian, especially, has been a hard core pro-gun voice for us in Olympia.

More on the upcoming legislative session below.

### **117<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS**

Presidential candidates, Republican and Democrat, make all kinds of promises on the campaign trail, as if they could just sign an executive order and poof!, promise fulfilled. It doesn't work that way. Most candidate promises are subject to legislative approval and funding.

The new, 117<sup>th</sup>, Congress convenes on 3 January 2021. What can we expect? I covered Biden's gun control agenda last months. It will take a dozen or more bills to accomplish everything. But the new Congress will have its hands full with other promises made, too. Among other controversial topics taxpayer-funding for abortion, amnesty/eventual citizenship for illegal aliens, "BidenCare" whatever that is (I guess they'll have to pass it to see what's in it), various cutbacks in fossil fuels, "free" (likely community) college, and the "Equality Act" giving legal protection to promote the transgender agenda. All in fulfillment of promises made in return for Democrat votes.

Something to keep in mind: while many of the bills, especially gun bills, which will be introduced, are remakes of previous bills, all bills will carry new bill numbers.

### **WA LEGISLATURE**

Washington's long (105 day) legislative session begins on Monday, 11 January.

What's on the agenda? It's too early to say, but likely more of the same. Without any real shifts in the legislative make-up, it's not likely bills will change, either. Yes, they'll get new bill numbers, just as with bills in Congress, but the content will be the same-old, same-old.

You should receive your January *GunNews* a few days before the legislature convenes and by then we'll see what gun bills have been pre-filed. Pre-filing of bills

begins in early December. They can be found at the legislative web site at [leg.wa.gov](http://leg.wa.gov) under "bill info."

### **COVID-19 VACCINE**

As Gomer Pyle used to say, "Surprise, surprise." Pfizer Inc. just announced successful development of a Covid-19 vaccine with an alleged 90% immunity rate. The announcement came on Monday, 9 November, coincidentally one week AFTER the 2020 election. Pfizer says they didn't want to make the announcement "political."

President Trump predicted the availability of a viable Covid vaccine by Election Day... or close to it. He was ridiculed and called delusional by the media and his political opponents. And Covid played a major role in the election.

Another US pharmaceutical firm, Moderna, is also reportedly close to delivering a viable vaccine, as well as at least one German firm. Russia says they already have one – right.

### **GEORGIA RUN-OFF SENATE ELECTIONS**

Do you think the presidential election was stolen? Many do. Do you think third party candidates can't screw up an election? It happened in Georgia. And you ain't seen nothing yet! In Georgia, a candidate must win 50%+1 ballot to be declared the winner. There are two Senate races in Georgia next month, one a normal six year rotation and the other a confirmation vote for an appointed replacement. With the current Senate count at 50 Republicans versus 48 Democrats, control of the Senate rests with the January outcome. In the 3 November regular election, Republican and incumbent David Purdue got 49.7% of the vote, Democrat Jon Ossoff got 47.9... and Libertarian Shane Hazel got 2.3%. So Purdue and Ossoff will face each other in the run-off. Appointed Republican Kelly Loeffler drew a Republican opponent, Doug Collins, in the general election, as well as Democrat Rev. Raphael Warnock. Loeffler took 25.9% of the vote, Collins 19.9% and Warnock 32.9. In January it's Loeffler versus Warnock.

According to Wikipedia, and I quote, "Ratf\*\*kng" is an American slang term for political sabotage or dirty tricks, particularly pertaining to elections. It was brought to public attention by Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein in the book which chronicled their investigative reporting of the Watergate affair, All the President's Men (1974). There is a major effort underway to do exactly that with the Georgia Senate run-off election set for January 5<sup>th</sup>. Political columnists and commentators and some Democrat activists are encouraging individuals to "move to Georgia" and register to vote to influence the outcome. Is that illegal? Yes. Can it be detected? Very difficult. Can it be prosecuted? Yes, kind of. Only one case of false registration has been prosecuted in the past decade.

-GN-

# Colts vs. Smiths

## —The World of Collecting By Tom Burke—

There are many kinds of collectors. Some people collect so they'll have the proper firearm for a specific purpose – ya don't take a .375 Holland & Holland Magnum to hunt squirrels or a 30/30 Winchester Model 94 to bag a Cape Buffalo. Others collect from an interest in a defined time period, such as folks who collect only American Civil War firearms or the guns of the Finnish Winter War.

Then there are those who specialize in a specific model of a specific manufacturer, such as the collectors of Smith and Wesson's Registered .357 Magnums; or those interested in WWII 1911's (made by Remington Rand [900,000 of 'em], Colt [400,000], Ithaca [400,000], Union Switch and Signal [50,000], and the most sought after 1911, the Singer [500]).

Military "surplus" collectors may lust after every variation of the Mauser model 98 (WWI and WWII); all the different Finnish Mosin Nagants; English Enfields, Swedish Mausers; Swiss Schmidt Rubins; US Springfields, American Krags, or even "Kyber Pass" knock-offs, those guns, hand-built in the backyards or shacks of "craftsmen(?)" in India or Pakistan, that resemble real military arms but, as they were home-constructed of dubious materials, probably killed more people shooting them than they ever killed the enemy they were shooting at.

So this month I'd like to offer some perspectives on collecting two major American manufacturers: Colt and Smith & Wesson.

(Author's Note: I'm sorta doing this article out of personal interest and again putting off the last of my Beretta series. For years I focused on Smith & Wesson, ignoring Colt except for a John Moses Browning-designed Model .32 ACP 1903 pistol. Then I acquired a .45 ACP New Service US Army Model 1917 revolver, but only because I couldn't find a .45 S&W 1917 I could afford. I similarly came across a Colt .357 magnum Trooper Mark III because both a Smith Model 27 or 28 had eluded me. Oh, and when I was on a .38 S&W tear I added a .38 S&W caliber Colt Police Positive to the safe. But it was the Trooper that sort of woke me up to Colt. It's a real good gun! Great finish, smooth DA trigger, and near-perfect SA bang. So I started researching other Colt revolvers and picked up an Official Police in .38 Special. For a shooter it's got a really nice trigger, even if the cylinder revolves backwards and ya gotta pull on the cylinder release instead of pushing it like god intended. And now I've got an Officer's Model, Police Positive Special, and a .38 New Service on the radar. I'd like to say I'm searching out a Python or Diamondback, but those two guns are way out of my budget unless someone wants to crowdfund my collecting.)



**Colt Official Police**

### Colt vs S&W

To be sure, both companies produced almost identical firearms lines as they competed for share in the military, police, and civilian markets. Both have early-made guns (although Colt sorta wins the "Most Iconic" six-shooter award with their Single Action Army and Peacemaker offerings) that changed the firearms industry (and maybe world history). And both had intermediate-history gun that changed things as well (Colt wins the same award in the semi-auto pistol category with the 1911). And I guess among "modern" revolvers the Python is the big-budget "production" champion, although in terms of quality the S&W Registered Magnum is more likely its superior. In terms of numbers there were/are a bunch of Pythons made (including a new, 2020 version), but only 5,224 Registered Magnums were ever produced (from 1935 to 1939) which makes them a perfect (and expensive) collectible: historic, superbly-made, and rare. Now I asked a bunch of shooters/collectors/accumulators about their perspectives vis-à-vis Colt and Smith & Wesson, and their responses sorta focused on a few things:

Today, Colts out-price Smiths. (And while it's difficult to say why, most conclude Colts are over-priced, especially the "Snake" guns compared to Smiths of the same ilk.)

Colts are made for look'n, Smiths are made for shoot'n (especially in the woods). Now this goes beyond that iconic Royal blue bluing Colt is famous for. It is mostly focused on the relative delicacy of the Colt lockworks, they being described as too delicate, too complicated, and too prone to break. Especially the springs. One old cop even said, "I'd rather have a mother in a cathouse than a partner with a Colt revolver." Cylinder timing was also a pretty constant theme, the opinion being that Colt revolvers get out of time quickly compared to Smiths and are more difficult to repair. Which led to the feeling that it's getting tougher and tougher to find a good Colt-familiar gunsmith, whereas good Smith smiths are a lot easier to find.

And the complaint, which I referenced earlier, is that Colts are just backwards as far as how the cylinder turns and the release moves. (For me that can be explained by the fact that I began shooting with Smith & Wesson revolvers, and didn't come to Colt until later, so the counter-clockwise rotation of the Smith was more natural.)

A few final thoughts from the collective wisdom: With the price of Colts today, there's a lot of shenanigans going on in terms of faking stuff to get a higher price. Hence the advice that one really has to know their stuff, especially with SAA's and 1911's, if you're going to pay biggish bucks for a Colt. And that advice even extends down to how some folks are counterfeiting hang tag and boxes in order to drive prices up. (A gun without papers or box commands a bunch less money than the same gun with 'em.) There was a particular warning sounded about a guy in Tennessee who has some notoriety among the Colt clan for faking boxes. Caveat emptor.

#### **A Bit of History**

There's sooo much history of behind both Colt and Smith & Wesson. Just a ton of it' such as the first 1,000 Colt Walkers ordered by the Texas Rangers in 1847 or whether a S&W Schofield was actually found at the Little Big Horn battle site for instance and it is far too complex a topic to be dealt with here.

So instead, let me make a couple of recommendations: For Smith & Wesson there is ONE book that anyone interested in that rollmark must have: the Standard Catalog of Smith and Wesson (4th Edition) by Jim Supica and Richard Nahas. It details the history of the company and then describes, with pictures, every gun the company made up to 2016. If you have any interest in collecting, or even just buying, a Smith it is an investment (about \$35.00 on Amazon) you should make.

The Smith & Wesson Forum ( <http://smith-wessonforum.com/forum.php> ) is, in my opinion, the best gun forum on the internet. It's got friendly people, helpful people, experienced people and the moderators keep the site civil, pertinent, and up-to-date. There isn't a question asked that doesn't get answered. And they have a classified section second to none for both guns and gear. And the mods most of us can't imagine. The Smith & Wesson Collectors Association is an adjunct to the Forum. It costs a bit to join but there's a really good, slick, four-times-a-year magazine, specialized advice, a separate classified section and a really neat shoulder patch, as well as an annual meeting and showcase. Joining is well worth the money.

For Colt fans it's a bit tougher: The forum ( <https://www.coltforum.com/forums/> ) is good, with all things Colt covered and a classified section that's not bad. There's also "ColtFever" web site, a really, really great guide to both the history of Colt and a detailed look at its major products. While not as comprehensive as the Supica & Nahas book it's pretty good and should be a first source for those who are interested in what Colt makes.



**S&W 28-2**

As far as books, there isn't a single, all-inclusive Colt tome ala the Standard Catalog , but there are a ton of excellent sources on specific Colt guns – the SSA's, 1911's, and police pistols.

#### **Colt & Smith Collectibles**

In the world of 1911's Colt owns the collector's market. But it is fighting for share in the world of shooters and self-defenders as there are a ton of really good, modern, eminently shootable .45, nine, and .38 Super 1911's out there including SIG's, Smiths, Springfields, Rugers, Dan Wesson, Wilson Combat, S&W, Kimber, Les Baer, and more. But for collectors of .45 ACP, well, it's Colt, unless you are looking for the one, known .45 ACP "unicorn," the second of a pair of .45 ACP P08 "Lugers" made by George Luger himself and entered in the 1906 trials that selected a new handgun for the US Army (which the Robert Browning's 1911 eventually won). (Luger's Gun #1 was most likely destroyed during the tests. Gun #2 was purchased into private hands, for \$1 million, bit later auctioned for only half-a-million. Today's value: whatever the market will bear.

Now another Colt, the Single Action Army, or Peacemaker, holds it's place as the #1 early US collectible. But as the folks I contacted warn, "Ya better know what you're doing" if you are going to buy an "original." They warn there are a lot of scammers around and ya gotta know your beans.



**1903 Colt Hammerless**

Of course, for shooters (whether those of the Cowboy Action variety or just folks who like to go bang with older-style guns) there is no lack of most of the Colt line in the form of replicas in any major caliber you like. I've had a couple, but they didn't last long. I found them awkward to shoot (compared to more modern designs), I wasn't shooting in cowboy action competition and they were good fodder for trade, so away they went. Now what interests me today (as being available, reasonably affordable, and with an interesting history) are the post-1900 police guns.

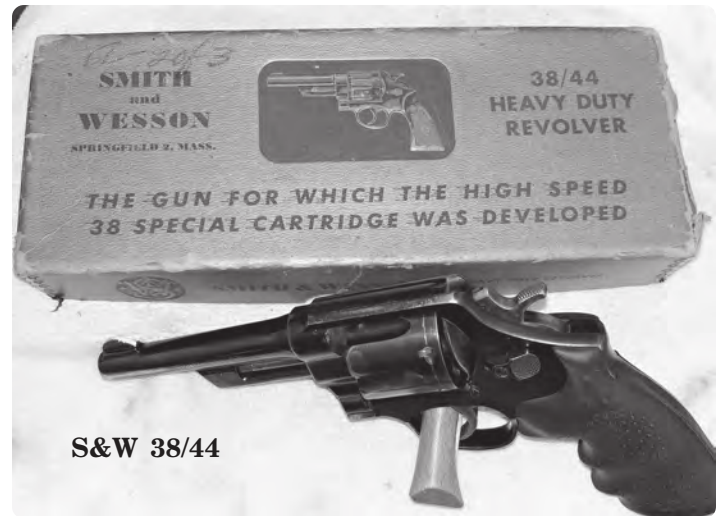
In that area it was Colt that mostly owned the market up to about 1941; then, after the war, it was Smith & Wesson that was the major factor.

Colt's big seller was the "Official Police," which had been called the "Army Special" up to 1927; but because the Army wasn't buying many (any?) of the Army Specials, and Colt wanted another entry in the LEO market, they cleverly renamed the gun the "Official Police" and that's what it became, with New York, Boston, and other cities, plus the feds, buying 'em up at a prodigious rate. The run lasted until 1960 or so.

In that same time period Colt made the Police Positive in "smaller" calibers such as the .38 S&W and the Police Positive Special to handle the larger .38 Special; which then morphed into their famous "Detective Special" and competed with Smith's J-frames and Chiefs Special.

In 1969 Colt goes on to introduce its first "new" gun in, many years with a completely redesigned lockwork: The Mark III Trooper in both .38 special and .357 magnum. Which led to the Python in 1980, then the King Cobra (both blue and stainless, V frame), and the rest of the "snake" line. Spend some time picking \$100 bills off your money tree if you have an interest in any of these revolvers...you're gonna need them. (Another Note: If you want an "almost" Python, try the Colt Trooper; most of the parts interchange, the trigger is virtually the same, and while it doesn't have the bling or cache of the Python, it has everything else at a lot less cost.)

Of course, Smith and Wesson vigorously competed in the LEO market with its own complete line in minor calibers and .38 specials such as the Regulation Police. But Smith made its biggest gain when they, in



S&W 38/44

cooperation with Winchester and "invented" the .357. (See last month's article on the Big Bang).

I won't go into specifics about all the different pre and post-war Smiths here, especially as the Standard Catalog does it so much better, in so much greater detail. The takeaway of note, however, in terms of a meaningful dates, is 1957; which marks when Smith changed from naming its models to numbering its offerings (most were both named and number—the Chiefs Special is a Model 36 and the Combat Masterpiece is a Model 15). So, as they used to say at Ebbet's Field when the Dodgers played in Brooklyn, NY or when I watched the Orioles play at the old Memorial Stadium in Baltimore, "Ya can't tell the players without a scorecard." Get the Standard Catalog.

### So Which to Collect

If I were asked to choose between Smith & Wesson and Colt to collect for display, I'd say, "Go with Colt." If asked which to collect and shoot, I'd suggest, "Go with the Smiths." But if you do go for the Colts, bring money. For reasons that can't be rationally explained, Colts generally cost more and I'm not just talking about original SAA's or Union Switch and Signal 1911s...pretty much across the line. And ya gotta do your homework on the particular model you are interested in.

And, why you ask, do I like Smiths for shooting? Well from my research Smith & Wesson made a sturdier revolver. They are less finicky than the Colts, as well-built, and simply more robust.

To conclude, know what you want before you start looking online or walk into your local gun store. For me, it's condition first, then cost. I'll sacrifice appearance for price, as I decided long ago that I can probably only afford "shooters." Besides, if I pay the premium for an ANIB S&W 38/44 Heavy Duty with all the paperwork, tools, box, and a letter from Mr. Roy Jinks, who'll listen to my brag? My boys hunt but don't collect, most of my friends aren't interested in firearms at all and my English Cocker Spaniel, Telly, was (very sadly) put down last month, so I can't even show it to the dog.

So it's shooters for me and I gotta get to the range more often, Covid or not. Stay safe. **-GN-**



Colt Trooper Mk III

# STRAIGHT FROM THE HOLSTER

J.T. HILSENDEGER

Well, Bambi still lives. I only hunt deer and grouse. I decided to hunt a different area this year in Eastern Washington where I could encounter either a mule deer or a whitetail but either has a 3 point minimum antler tines. I saw a lot of bald headed mule deer and no 3 point white tails. Yup, three days of taking my rifle for a walk in the woods. Talking with some locals, they said there was an awful lot of wolf activity in that area. Oh, well, there's always the late buck season of "any buck", white tails only.

Coming back to the west side, I went out for grouse hunting with only a handgun. I'd recently acquired a Ruger Blackhawk in .30 carbine caliber and having a bunch of that ammo, it was the gun of choice. I'd always had good luck on the south side of Riffe Lake especially after the land owner gated it off to vehicle traffic (Thank you to the tire/sheet rock/old lumber/assorted garbage dumpers. Oh, also the monster motor home guys who would leave their blue tarps and carpeting.). Anyway, the area is now a "walk-in" only which means very few guys will, and then will only walk the old logging roads. Nope, not many will hunt the heavy brush and the hillsides.

I'm frequently asked how I can score so many grouse. Read the previous couple sentences and see if you can figure it out. Anyway, four grouse per day allowed, no problem, but with that caliber, only sitting birds and either head shots, or at the base of the tail. Oh, forgot to mention how loud that gun is. Ate one there in the woods and brought 3 home, yum, yum. Season is until the end of December so figure a couple more trips down there with maybe an overnight or two, with Army blankets and a poncho. (.30 carbine solids, the soft point or hollow points too destructive).

A little while back, I was telling our Editor about all the wildlife around and in my brother's place up out of Tonasket. For those familiar with the area, it'd be in the Havilah area. Anyway, the usual bunnies and squirrels, a grouse or two not flying when people are on the porch not 15-20 feet away and of course the coyotes, bear, white tail deer, elk tracks and an occasional moose cow. This last summer/fall, also the yearling big horn sheep, visiting the bird bath for water.

Driving there, I head north from Wenatchee on Highway 97A, towards Chelan. Over the years I've seen a number of signs advising to watch out for big horn sheep crossing the highway. The west side of this area, between Wenatchee and the Rocky Ridge Dam, is rocky cliffs, the other side of the highway is either apple

warehouses or waterfront. Anyway, a couple years ago I saw a few yearling sheep along the highway and since then, I slow down to look at the hillsides, now seeing lots of little white sheep butts. But one needs to look closely.

A couple weeks ago, I was driving through that area, about a half hour after sunup, scanning the hillside as usual. I saw on a rock projection, about 60-70 yards up, a silhouette of a bighorn ram, the clear sky behind. Not a real big body but a massive full curl of horns. This looked like a metal cutout, like the iron horses over by Vantage. Driving slow and looking up, I saw it turned it's head, watching me. Dang, it was real. Very impressive! Now I've seen all the Washington big game, except the woodland caribou that are occasionally spotted way up in the N.E. corner. Someday – someday.

Time for a little gun talk. Recently I became the owner of a couple rifles in caliber 25/20, the bores quite dark, with little rifling left. Yeah, this was an original black powder or a smokeless powder loading and as we know, the Black is tough on barrels if not cleaned faithfully. Plus, there was the era of corrosive primers. The guns themselves were in quite good shape for their age, 1902 & 1908, needing either a barrel rebore, to 32-20, the cartridge almost the same size as the 25/20, except for bullet diameter of course. Cost –350-400 bucks each. A barrel bore and reline, about 135-150 bucks for the same caliber 25/20 liner, plus a chamber reamer for 120 bucks (but I can make my own). SO, before spending a lot I figured I'd best try each at the range. Sometime back I got an 1892 Winchester in 25/20 with a marginal bore, similar to these and it put all six bullets into one hole at 50 yards. Yup, I split the chunk of stump I was using as a target, finding six slugs, piled in a straight line.

These two rifles showed three quarter inch, center to center, six shots, with the worst of the rifles shooting one inch, center to center, at fifty yards. Woo Hoo—good enough for me. Point is, just because it looks bad, it might still be a shooter. No, these won't go on the table at our show to sell to some unsuspecting buyer. My stuff, if it has issues, the prospective buyer is made aware, even though I might lose the sale.

Okay, change of topic. Undoubtedly we've all heard this, right? A friend asks you to keep your eyes open for a certain kind of gun for him. A few years back I was asked for a "survivalist" gun, a .22 over a .410 shotgun. Yeah, it's gonna be a Savage 24. This guy wanted to be able to shoot grouse, either sitting on the ground or on the wing. (New to hunting but does some hiking). The

next show, I found one and also saw that this knothed had gotten his membership and I spotted him carrying a single shot .22 rifle as well as a .410 single shot shotgun. He spotted then avoided me. No problem. Yup, I guess I bought that Savage 24 for myself. A mutual acquaintance questioned his purchases and was advised by knothed that he would carry both, one in each hand when in the woods. Knothead! Oh yeah, I held onto that little Savage for about six months to see if he'd admit his mistake, then put it on my table for a profit. His loss – knothed.

Oh, got a little feedback from a friend/WAC member, about the last column where I'd offered the guy only scrap iron price on his guns. Hate it when somebody asks for expertise in identification or value, then challenges what he's told, that was the knothed (knothead, the word of the day). These guns looked like they'd been handled by spaghetti eaters, using no utensils, then laid in the dirt. You know how the terminals on a car battery get all that fuzzy crap build up. Well that's how these bores looked. Nuff said, wasn't interested.

A couple years back, I got a referral for a bunch of long guns, the owner moving. This fella was taking them out of a closet one by one, handing me the obvious lesser cared for ones. Most were of questionable caliber, the bore so dirty, like looking up the tailpipe of a diesel truck. Anyway, as I looked at each handed to me, I was "warming up." I probably screwed up by passing on them, even though some may have cleaned up or could be "parted out". When he insisted the Remington Rolling Block with Arabic scribbling on the side of the receiver was a 45/70 and I pointed out that it was a .43 Egyptian, he started to argue. Anybody who knows the Remingtons will know this to be .43 Egyptian caliber. There were about eighteen or so guns, and I offered him only a couple hundred dollars but he wouldn't settle for less than fifteen hundred. I countered with an offer fifty dollars less than my previous. Nope, lost that purchase, too.

Nuff for now, I've got a gunstock to finish. A friend had his horse fall on his nice little Winchester Model 88, a lever action carbine. He ordered a 90% finished stock (off the internet?) only needing final fitting and finish. Yup, like most, looking at it for weeks, he decided he'd hire it out. A good project for this crappy weather we're having. (Very nice walnut – pricey).

In our last *GunNews*, I read some of the articles on "bug out" bags. There's some "tactical" stuff recommended. From what I see in catalogs, tactical means it's painted black and costs at least three times as much as the normal. Case in point – one catalog lists a ball point pen, tactical black, at about a hundred bucks—maybe it corrects your spelling and won't write cuss words. Just my backwoods take on the tactical craze. See you at our next show, whenever that is. **-GN-**

## Letters to the Editor

—from our members—



Phil,

You must have caught me in a literary mode as your suggestion brought to mind a happening from six or seven years ago which, with the stay-at-home edict, may be appropriate with all the reloading which might be being done. Most of our members have heard of or personally experienced guns "blowing up"

During my Cowboy Action shooting days, it wasn't uncommon of hearing about the top of a single action army model revolver losing the top half of its cylinder. Theories went from a double charge of powder to the position of a light charge in a large cartridge. This one is about a shotgun.

Several of us were shooting trap at the local gun club on a Wednesday morning. Two shooters were on Stations 1 and 2, I was on Station 3 and our fourth shooter was on Station 5. I had just shot probably at my "bird" (at my skill level I doubt I hit it!) and was looking down unloading my gun when I heard "Pull" and a VERY LOUD BANG from Station 5. I looked over expecting to see blood and gore, but the shooter was still standing there unharmed, but with a very bewildered look on his face and holding a well-known higher end over and under with the of the receiver missing. The missing receiver couldn't be found in the immediate area.

The shooter was a reloader and couldn't see how, with his reloading setup, he could have double charged his shell. A couple of very experienced shooters volunteered to go with him to check out his reloading setup and were of the opinion that it was possible for a shell to be double charged if the reloader's close attention was diverted. The shotgun was sent off to the manufacturer whose inspectors were definitely of the opinion that damage was due to an overcharged shell. They were good enough to offer the shooter a replacement shotgun even though it was not their fault.

Two follow-ups:

- 1) In response to his wife's demand "You will not reload any ammunition ever again", the shooter/reloader said "Yes mam!" and sold all his reloading equipment.
- 2) The afternoon of the "blowup" another shooter found the top of the receiver. It had flown over the top of the clubhouse and landed in the parking lot some 30 yards from the shooting point. Looking at the trajectory it would have followed, it had passed within an inch or two to the side of the shooters head about eye level.



We were very fortunate that the shooter was not hurt (other than some shaken nerves), but it was and is a lesson to all of us who reload, to pay strict attention to the task at hand and put the socializing and other distractions well off the radar screen for another time.

**Frank Gaetje**

## Shooting on Public Lands

—from our members—

Here's some Member feedback on public land shooting possibilities:

### **Lytle Pit**

I discovered the Lytle pit about 10 years ago. At that time the site was very clean and not heavily utilized. I have no idea if it is still open or if it has been trashed. It is easy to get to from Highway 12, about 2 hours South from Seattle. It can be located with Google Maps. The pit is maybe 200 yards long with an excellent backstop. I am no longer very interested in outdoor shooting but if I got the urge, this is where I would go.

*From Tony Marshall.*

### **Ellensburg & Wenas Wildlife Area**

I wanted to give you my experience with the WDFW/DNR folks over here with relationship to shooting on that land. I live in Cle Elum and can generally shoot from my own property in the summer and if I want skeet practice I go to a gravel pit on Forest Service land not far from me. In the winter with the snow on the ground around Cle Elum, I go southwest of Ellensburg on the Wenas Wildlife Area and shoot off a dirt road up there. There are several areas that people shoot with proper backgrounds so one can usually shoot by yourself which I prefer as not everyone is as careful as I like. The topography is rolling open hills with sagebrush covering so one can see quite a ways. The Wildlife Area is pretty large so the Ellensburg folks shoot on the north end and the Yakima/Selah folk use the south end. Five or six years ago, the managers decided they had two problems in the Area that needed to be fixed—claims of stray bullets and brush fires...I went to their meeting where they were explaining what they were thinking about doing. Of course one of the ideas was to shut down the wildlife area to target shooting because of those fire-setting bullets. They also had an idea to set up two full ranges, one north and one south with all the shooting stands and facilities for pistol, rifle and shotgun. Then they promptly adjourned and gave us handouts to provide comments. I immediately went over to the law enforcement individual, a really nice guy, and asked how they had determined that gunfire started the fires. He first explained the use of tracers which are already outlawed there. The speakers had said that four fires were attributed to bullets; when it got down to details...actually one fire was started by a shooter when he lit his toilet paper on fire so it would not litter. I sent in my comments and suggested two formal ranges was a waste of money. To make a long story short, they convened a work group. They started shutting down the area to target shooting...it just opened it a few

days ago so hunters could sight in their rifles. They also got funding for the two ranges and they started clearing land in the south end last fall.

I got to know the WDFW Central WA manager and chat with him at all these meetings. Explained my problem and he brought up the vandalism you mentioned and the mess created so thought that alone was reason to close the area to shooting. I suggested he just put a cleanup cost in his budget for twice a year and invite the public instead of shutting down the area for shooting for most of us that clean up after ourselves. He did not want to do that.

*From Ross Pearson*

## Generous WAC Members Donate

In spite of the tough times for everybody, some WAC members are not only renewing but making donations to the club. Office staff, Marcy and Emma, report receipts of \$1030 in recent weeks. One Life Member included \$100 with a "Thank You" note. In the online renewal form there is a donation box which can be checked. The staff, Officers and Directors truly appreciate our members and their generosity. **THANK YOU!**

## 20 Million Modern Sporting Rifles

### **From the National Shooting Sports Foundation:**

"In 2018, 11.4 million total firearms were produced or imported in the United States (less exported firearms). Approximately one-half (48%) of all rifles produced and imported (less exports) in 2018 were Modern Sporting Rifles. Since 1990, there are an estimated 19.8 million Modern Sporting Rifles (MSRs) in circulation today.

An interim 2019 estimate showed a total of 6 million total firearms were produced in the United States. Of those, 3.6 million were pistols and revolvers, 2 million were rifles and 480,000 were shotguns. Those are interim figures that will be updated when complete reports become available from the ATF. In 2019, there were approximately 3.3 million firearms imported into the United States which included 2.3 million pistols and revolvers, 301,000 rifles and 678,000 shotguns.

From 1991 to 2019, nearly 214 million firearms have been made available to the U.S. market.

According to reports such as: ATF Firearms Commerce in the United States, ATF AFMER and Congressional Research Service data, there are an estimated 434 million firearms in civilian possession in the United States.

There are approximately 71.2 million pistol magazines capable of holding more than 10 rounds, and 79.2 million rifle magazines capable of holding 30 or more rounds in circulation."

**Editor's Note: The numbers above illustrate the impossibility of "buying back" (seizing) so-called assault rifles. Half of all rifles sold each year are magazine, semiauto rifles. And 150 million high capacity magazines is likely an underestimate. Maybe \$25 billion in public funds to buy back just the rifles!**

**Some great presents in the  
WANTED ads this month—  
Merry Christmas!**



## WANTED: DEAD OR ALIVE



This column is provided for **non-commercial member ads** at

and include phone and member number. **Submit written copy by email to gunnewseditor@comcast.net, or 7625 78th Loop NW, Olympia, WA 98502.** It is the Member's responsibility to adhere to all ns.

- each item & description listed as one sentence
  - manufacturer, model, rifle/pistol/shotgun, etc.
  - caliber or gauge (GA)
  - barrel length (" bbl), finish, accessories or features, extras
  - condition (G, VG, Exc, NIB, or % cond), vintage/age
  - price (OBO for best offer) •name, email and/or phone.
  - punctuated, no paragraph breaks, CAPITALIZATION ONLY
- WHERE NEEDED!, avoid colors or odd fonts, no underlining.**

Send this information in the body of the email message (rather than attachment) to: **gunnewseditor@comcast.net** or mail to: 7625 78th Loop NW, Olympia, WA 98502. You must include your phone and current member number for verification. **You may require WAC I.D. from the buyer but since all ads are for members this will not be stated in the ad.** Ads accepted for one month only, so resubmit as needed.

FOR SALE: Colt series 70 Combat Commander, 45 ACP, stippled and chromed frame, Caspian slide, Heinie rear sight, Tru-Glo TFO front sight, Schumann barrel/bushing, Ambi safety, beavertail, McCormick hammer/trigger/sear. Total custom—\$1,500. Colt series 70 lightweight Commander, 45 ACP, Ed Brown barrel/bushing, ambi safety, beavertail, fiber optic sights, Crimson Trace laser grips—\$1,200. RCBS Rockchuker with Piggyback II progressive attachment, uniflow powder measure, shell plates for 30 Carbine, 38/357, 44 Mag, 45 ACP.—\$300. Will consider 45 ACP DA revolver as partial trade. Photos available.e-mail evisam@ywave.com , call Sam @ 360-790-0671.

FOR SALE: 400 count, 38 Sp. Speer brass casings, appear to be once fired and all the same lot number in original boxes—\$20. Mike 425-836-8648.

FOR SALE: 1922 FN Browning .32 ACP, WW2 German occupation model with German Eagle on barrel and frame, all numbers matching, minor wear on nose piece otherwise is excellent, wooden hand grips, 1 FN magazine—\$500. C&R eligible firearms and C&R holders preferred but will do transfer at FFL on your dime. I have C&R license also. Located in Tacoma. Email

Erik at erik22lax@gmail.com for pictures/inquiries.

FOR SALE: Henry Golden Boy, .22WMR, Brass Receiver, Skinner Peep sight added, also has semi-buckhorn sight..20 in. octagonal bbl., excellent cond.—\$550. Norm, 253-988-3084. Voice or text.

FOR SALE: Keltec KSG 12 gauge shotgun with upgrades, V6, muzzle brake, Magpul sights, forend grip, cheek plate, and a 8 round stock shell holder, excellent condition—\$1450 Firm. Alan, 425-941-7155. hiker454@comcast.net

FOR SALE: Everett Area. 7x57 Mauser ammo 1952 FN 100rd box—\$50 ea OBO. 8x57 Mauser ammo, (tested this summer to ensure it works) misc mfg—45 cents ea. 303 Brit ammo, (tested this summer to ensure it works) mostly UK production—50 cents ea. 2011 LC 308 ammo—\$400/500 rds. OBO. 8x57 Mauser bull bbl for LG ring Mauser, made in Sweden, 21.75 inch long—\$150 OBO. NIB unfinished Bishop sporter stock for 1903 Springfield—\$90 OBO. Factory primed 2011, LC308 brass from pulled ammo, needs to be neck sized—\$17/100. Once fired 7mm Rem Mag, 338 Win Mag, 300 Win Mag, 300 WSM brass—25 cents each. Once fired 270 Win, and 243 Win brass—15 cents each. RCBS 6mm Rem dies—\$20. New IMI 40 S&W brass—\$125 per 1000. Israeli TZ 308 ammo FOR COMPONENTS ONLY! (Bad brass cases)—\$45 per 100 OBO. Fully processed 223 brass ready to load, misc head stamp—\$60 per 500. Glenn, 425-418-2655.

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**FOR SALE:** Black Powder Revolver, Connecticut Valley Arms .36 cal, 5 1/2" round bbl, fluted cylinder, brass frame and grip frame, walnut grips, good cond—\$200. Norm, 253-988-3084 voice or text.

**WANTED:** Good quality shotguns. One or a collection. Call Paul at 503 621 3766 or email blimppy44@gmail.com.

**FOR SALE:** Parker Bros. 12 ga. SxS, GHE with No. 2 Frame, re-blued, good shooter, double triggers—\$1500. Winchester Mod. 54 classic bolt rifle in 30-06 w/ 4x Lyman—\$495. Browning 12 ga. Special Sporting Clays Edition in mint cond.—\$1800. Remington 760 Gamemaster pump in .270 with 4x Leopold + 20 rds. ammo—\$450. Rem. 740 Woodsmaster auto in 30-06 w/ 4x Leopold + 40 rds. ammo—\$460. Ruger Mini-14 Stainless in .223 w/ 4-12X scope and 100 rds. of ammo—\$765. Winchester Model 67 Kid's Plinker single shot .22 LR. in good cond.—\$175; another in near new cond.—\$245. FFL transfers only. Call Robert at 206-909-7189.

**FOR SALE:** CZ75B in pristine condition, Imported in 1996 and comes with many extras, CZ hard case, one extra mag, full set of Wolf springs plus originals, Bladetch easy loader and Gunlok trigger lock, taken in trade at a WAC show but don't really have a need for it now—\$600. Also, Mossberg 500/410 still NIB, 24" barrel and full choke, purchased for grouse hunting in E. WA but hunting partner moved away, cute little shotgun (Christmas is coming!)—\$325. I live in the Tacoma area for any transactions. Trades will be considered, prefer vintage military arms. Email:sugarlarsons@me.com .

**FOR SALE:** Ruger Mini-14, blued with wood stock, S/N 195-nnnnn, includes original box and manual, and a Mini-14 book, includes a muzzle brake and a Bear Creek folding stock which are not installed and 5 magazines—\$800 and will split the transfer fee with interested WAC buyer. Ray, sopac@centurylink.net.

**FOR SALE:** Robert Mika round-bottom pocket holster for S&W J-frame, like new—\$20 incl. shipping. J-frame grips: New/takeoff S&W round butt boot grips—\$20 incl. Shipping. New Pau Ferro (?) J-frame target grips for round or square butt, 3 finger grooves, backstrap covered, medallions, very nice, best for smaller hands—\$20 incl. shipping. Lee Loaders for .250-3000 Savage and .22-250 Remington, complete and in excellent condition—\$25 each. Various other powder-handling items, POR. Simmons 20-60x spotting scope, Model 846060, like new—\$75 OBO. Gary Nesse "The Ultimate" hunting jacket, Size 42-44, dark green, brown leather shoulder patches, very water resistant, super quiet, lots of pockets, converts to vest, little-used near-new condition, \$50. Orange rip-stop nylon 11x11 cargo parachute, original/excellent with nylon lines in corners—\$20. Call Jack, 360-485-5312.

**FOR SALE:** Bullets,brass, grips, pellet pistol for sale. 50 rds 35 Whelen brass, new— \$40. Also have 16 rds of once fired—\$10 more. 15 rds 35 Whelen 250 grain sp (remington brand)—\$30; plus 37 rds of reloads—\$40 more. 1 box 20 rds Remington 22-250 55 grain HP—\$30. Vintage Crossman C0-2 22 cal pistol, model 110—\$95. Hogue grips for Security Six, Police service six—\$10. S & W small pistol revolver wood grips—\$15. RCBS vintage 22-250 seat die—\$10. Call Dave, 206-962-7952.

**FOR SALE:** Ammo, all in old vintage boxes. 7mm mauser in Winchester,Remington, and Federal brands, 7 boxes—\$50 each. 30.06 in Remington, super x silvertip and Winchester brands,3 boxes—\$50 each. 30-30,super x 170 grain boattail, 1 box—\$50. Call Dave 206-962-7952

**FOR SALE:** Vintage New/Old stock 16 gauge Ammo. Here is what I have: 5 full boxes Winchester Western Duck & Pheasant- 1 1/8oz #6 shot. 1 full box Western SuperX - 1 1/8oz #4 shot. 2 full boxes plus a box of 15 ea. Federal Game Load - 1oz #8 shot. 25 rounds no box C-I-L Imperial #6 shot. 24 rounds Activ 1oz #8 shot.—\$100 OBO for the whole lot. Also have 1 box Winchester-Western 3-1/2 inch 10 gauge #3 buckshot—\$30 OBO. Calvin, email: c\_olin1960@yahoo.com

FOR SALE: Left hand Remington mod. 1100 Trap 12ga. with rare 30" Remchoke barrel. Gorgeous, upgraded low comb stock. Comes with three extra Rem choke tubes (full, extra full and super full). Couldn't find the date of production (no response from Remington) but they started building these in '68 with an "L" prefix on the serial number and this is L9346xxV so it appears to be very early production. Gun is in immaculate condition. May be C&R eligible. \$875.00 Doug (509) 947-5987 (text ok)

FOR SALE: Left hand Remington Mod. 1100 magnum (shoots 3" or 2 3/4). 30" full choke, VR barrel. Jan, '83 production. Has fired two boxes of shells & in as new condition. Beautiful, high gloss wood—\$775. Doug, 509-947-5987 (text ok).

FOR SALE: Remington Model 1100 G-3 Left Hand 12ga. This gun is the crown jewel of my collection and it is unquestionably the rarest left-hand shotgun Remington ever produced. The G-3 was manufactured for two years ('07 & '08) and the left hand version was only made in '08. This gun was one of the last ones produced (12/08) and when I asked Remington how many were made, I was told "very few". I've never seen another one & doubt that I ever will. It shoots 2 3/4 and 3" shells, has an advanced gas system that reduces recoil, all internal parts are Teflon coated and the receiver is PVD coated, the barrel is overbored and the stock is a combination of Walnut and carbon fiber that produces a stunning, very durable high gloss, beautifully grained wood effect. The choke system is called Probore & it comes with 8 Briley extended tubes and 5 factory tubes. Original hard case and factory book. Gun retailed for \$1208—that's why they didn't sell very many. Like new—\$1450 (firm). Doug (509) 947-5987 (text ok).

FOR SALE: Remington Mod 700 Left Hand 30-06. 22" bbl, comes with both a McMillan black composite stock and the factory wooden stock, which is in beautiful condition, Leupold scope rings & bases, 3lb trigger pull-gun is a tack driver, no bluing wear or dings, 1972 production-very, very nice gun—\$900. Doug, 509-947-5987 (text ok).

FOR SALE: Left hand Remington 12 ga. model 1100 barrels (all are vent rib) as follows: 26" Skeet ('82 production), 26" Imp. Cyl ('81 production-both very rare), & 30" full ('74 production). \$175 ea. Doug, 509-947-5987 (text ok).

FOR SALE: Ruger 10/22 factory wooden stock (new) and factory barrel (very good cond.)—\$50 OBO for both. Doug, 509-947-5987 (text ok).

FOR SALE: Marlin 12 ga pump with patent dates 1894 & 1896. Open hammer-looks a lot like a Winchester

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## Mark S. Knapp

Attorney

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'97. Solid action and I wouldn't be afraid to shoot it but gun is rough and has seen better days. Great wall hanger, C&R eligible—\$75. Doug, 509-947-5987 (text ok).

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**FOR SALE:** Dillion conversion kits for a RL 550C progressive press, 38/357 and 40 S&W both include powder die, tool head, stand, caliber conversion kit, powder measure and carbide pistol dies, Exc—\$160 Each. Nikko Stirling Nighthead scope 3-10x42, side parallax adjustment and lens caps, VG with only ring scratches—\$50. Hand Priming tool, Exc—\$25. Polymer Dial Caliper, Exc—\$25. All RCBS equipment with manuals. Daisy 99 Champion BB gun, works well, in good condition—\$50. Plano Polymer 48 in. rifle case, Exc—\$20. See All Tritium Lite open sight, Exc—\$30. Cash only. Denny @ 406-240-6057 or dbs45@comcast.net. Photos available on request.

**FOR SALE:** Merwin Hulbert Pocket Army, made in 1882 nickel plated, in 44-40 caliber in good to very good condition—\$3500. Standard Arms model G, made circa 1912, chambered in .30 Remington good overall condition, solid action—\$1000. Winchester model of 1892

made in 1907 chambered in .32-20 (.32wcf) 20" round barrel - \$800. Savage model 99 in .22 Savage HP, made in 1917, in fair to good condition—\$400. Winchester model of 1894 made in 1904 in 32 Win Special, octagon barrel, crescent butt plate, aftermarket peep sight—\$800. Casey in Auburn 253-326-9610.

**FOR SALE:** 1950 Enfield No 4 MK1\* Longbranch made, matching bolt & receiver, .3015 on muzzle wear gauge, Enfield style sling, 10 round magazine, VG condition, stock is in excellent condition, C&R eligible—\$600. 458 rounds of .303 British ammo, 360 MEN Germany, 48 Greek, 50 GB, 10 Enfield stripper clips, cloth bandolier—\$400. Model 1922 FN Browning .32 ACP, WW2 German occupied model w/German Eagle on frame & barrel, all numbers matching, wood grips, 1 magazine, VG condition, C&R eligible—\$500. Ruger 10/22 LVT 20" barrel walnut stock, 3-9x40 scope, 6 25 round magazines, 200 rounds .22lr, metal target—\$400+xfer. Pics available by request. Email Erik, erik22lax@gmail.com. Located in Tacoma.

**FOR SALE:** 30-.30 Ammunition: 100 rds. 170 gr. RN soft point; 80 rds Federal Power Shok and 20 rds. Remington Core-Lokt; \$18.99 a box on Midway, but all out of stock—I will sell for \$25 a box or \$120 for the lot. Norm at 253-988-3084 voice or text.

**FOR SALE:** Top quality Stoeger-Uberti model 1873 Cattleman .22 LR SAA revolver, 6-shot, case hardened frame/blued 5-1/2" barrel, single piece grips, original box, never fired—\$575. Browning 1911-22LR mfg'd 2012, 3/4-scale of original 1911, original soft case, excellent condition—\$525. Winchester Model 1894 30 W.C.F. (30-30 cal.), Mfg 1903, crescent butt plate, 23" octagonal barrel, small repair to stock/receiver joint, nice older patina—\$1100. 1940 Colt .22 LR First Series Woodsman Sport Model, 4-1/2" barrel, with original box (different s/n) & instructions, excellent condition, out of well known local collector inventory—\$2000. 1945 or 1946 Husqvarna-Lahti M40 9mm with original holster/cleaning rod/magazine loading tool-screwdriver, and (2) magazines, very nice condition—\$1800. Older Stoeger-Uberti .45 cal. SAA, 7-1/2" barrel with old west/gray finish with one-piece grips and black powder style frame, nice—\$600. Older Uberti Model P US Cavalry SAA .45 cal. with 7-1/2" barrel, imported by Navy Arms Co, blued/case hardened finish in excellent condition with one-piece grips and black powder style frame—\$650. **I have a C&R** for eligible firearms. Randy, 253-858-2120 or matt42mtq@comcast.net.

**FOR SALE:** 6.8 SPC top of the line cache: SSA Sierra Pro Hunter 110 gr.—\$20 a box. Hornady Match 110 gr. BTHP—\$20 a box. HSM 115 gr. Match King HPBT—\$20 a box. S&B 6.5 Creedmoor FMJ—\$15 a box. Limit 5 box per member. NIB Coleman Dual Fuel gas Lantern—\$65. Stove—\$85. NIB Kestral 5700 w/Hornady 4DPF

Ballistic Calculator—\$425. NIB RCBS PRO 2000 reloader—\$450. Glen at kalenas@comcast.net

FOR SALE: NIB Armalite AR10 308, uses proprietary mags from Armalite not Pmags, comes with 5 mags—\$1250. NIB Glock 27 40 S&W—\$500. Winchester Classic Collection: NIB Stainless 300 RUM—\$1,000. NIB Stainless 300 WBY—\$1,000. NIB Stainless 270 WIN w/BOSS—\$1,100. NIB Stainless 7 MM RM w/BOSS—\$1,100. Used Stainless 308—\$700. JM Stamped Blued 45-70 Guide Guns. ANIB: Ported—\$800. ANIB: Non Ported—\$750. Hunter grade/rust on barrel—\$700. Transfers done at South Sound Guns in Lacey. Glen at kalenas@comcast.net

FOR SALE or TRADE: Goodyear Dura Trac M/S 285/70/17, mounted and balanced on factory alloy wheels, ready to bolt on, came off of 2500 8 lug RAM Power Wagon, 15,000 miles on tires—\$600 or trade for Glock, Sig 365, Hellcat, etc. Glen at kalenas@comcast.net

FOR SALE: DSA FAL (early forged receiver version), excellent—\$1,400. Springfield Armory M1A Super Match 7.62/308, as new—\$2150. Transfer done at South Sound Guns in Lacey. Glen at kalenas@comcast.net

FOR SALE: NIB S&W SS M629 8 3/8" revolver—\$850. Used VG/Ex S&W Blued M29 in wood case—\$800. Transfer done at South Sound Guns in Lacey. Glen at kalenas@comcast.net

FOR SALE: 44 special fired brass, 8 cents each. 400 count, 38 Sp. Speer brass casings, appear to be once fired and all the same lot number in original boxes—\$20. Mike, 425-836-8648.

FOR SALE: Bullets—various brands: rifle \$10/100, rifle Nosler partitions \$15/50. Sabots: 45 cal.: T/C Shock Wave 180 & 200 gr. \$5/box 15, Knight 250 gr. lead \$5/18; 50 cal.: Knight 310 gr. lead \$5/20, Power Belt 348 gr. lead h/p \$5/20; 54 cal.: Power Belt 295 gr. lead \$5/20, T/C Maxi-hunter 10 pack 455 gr. lead \$5. Mike 425-836-8648.

FOR SALE: Loading die sets: RCBS; 338 Win Mag, 308 Win, Lee 270 Win,—\$15 each. Lee Loader 270 Win, 303 Sav—\$5 each. Sizers only; Forster 280 Rem, RCBS 22 Var (no de-capping spindal), Lyman 38/357—\$10. Sizing/lube dies (H & I) for 450 Lubricator: 439, 452, 458—\$5 each. Lyman bullet mold; 358242LW-d —\$20. Ideal 420-s rb —\$5. Lee bullet molds (singles) with handles: 90410, .319 round ball (rb) 46 gr; 90435, .440rb, 128 gr; 90447, .490rb, .176 gr—\$5 each. 20 Gauge MEC Loader kit—\$10. Mike, 425-836-8648.

FOR SALE: New brass: Rifle; 25-06, 30-30 Win, 30-06, 338 Win Mag, 7mm Ultra Mag, 300, Wby, —40 cents ea. for standards & 50 cents ea. for magnum. New cartridges: Rifle; 30-06—\$10; 338 Win Mag—\$15/box; 43 Spanish available; 22 LR Rem Thunderbolt—\$4/box. Pistol: 32 S&W Long, 43 rds—\$15. Hand loads pistol: 38 S&W —\$5/box Of 20. Hand loads rifle: 257 Rob, 270 Win—\$5/box. Bore snake: 458 cal—\$5. Mike, 425-836-8648.

FOR SALE: New factory ammo and brass. Five 20 round boxes of 8mm Mauser—\$20 each. 100 cases, once fired .44 Magnum—\$20. Rob at 253-857-3343, evenings.

FOR SALE: Fired brass: 9mm, 38 Sp., 40 S&W—3 cents each; 357 Mag—5 cents each; 45 ACP and 30 Blackout, 44 Mag—7 cents each; 7.62X54 Russian—8 cents each; 6.5 Creedmoor—10 cents each; 7x57 & 8x57—11 cents each; 6mm Rem, 25-06, 257 Roberts, 270 Win, 30-30, 308 Win., 30-06, 45-70—10 cents each; 270 Wby, 7mm Rem, 300 Wby, 458 Win—20 cents each; 50 BMG—75 cents each. Mike, 425-836-8648.

FOR SALE: Savage 110 .338 Lapua precision rifle 24" barrel, Burris XTR 10 x50 tactical scope, mint like new no box, pictures on request ,serious inquiries only absolutely beautiful—\$1550. Coonan.357 magnum compact, 2 mags, excellent condition, also pictures on request—\$1175. Also Hi-point single stack 9mm model C9, great shape inexpensive pistol, inexpensive price—\$120. Text or call same #phone as below need current DL CPL. Call or text Jon, 425 773 5067, Lynnwood area.

FOR SALE: The Benjamin Marauder PCP air rifle, .22 Caliber, 1000 fps, 10 shot magazine, new condition, never used, \$475 original price—Now \$300 Firm.. Alan, 425-941-7155, hiker454@comcast.net

WANTED: NAA PUG (XS white dot front sight) or PUG-T (tritium front sight), .22 WRM ; new or like-new condition. Call Jack, 360-485-5312.

FOR SALE: Caldwell Lead Sled DFT2 Rest; assembled but not used; 25 lb. lead shot with Caldwell weight bag, still in shipping box—\$180 OBO. Jim, LJ7helen@tds.net

WANTED: 2 complete bolt assembly + 2 mags for a Schmid Rubin K-31. 1 bolt cam follower rod for a Schmid Rubin K-11. 1 Ariasaka 99 monopod with spring and screw. Ted, 425-353-0042.

FOR SALE: Spotting scope, Burris Landmark Compact 20X-50mm, as new w/soft case and box--\$80. Wind meter Mastech #MS6252, as new w/soft case and box--\$35 . Binoculars, Bushnell by Bausch & Lomb 7X-50mm, fogproof, waterproof, soft case and neck strap, NIB--\$125 . SR4756 propellant--\$30/lb or 4lb.3oz. for \$110. Stoeger Condor 16ga nearly new--\$325. Spanish 16ga side/side w/fitted case--\$435. Pardner Pump 12ga 28" w/box & papers--\$145; rifled barrel for this PP--\$115. Burris 20-60x80mm spotting scope, exc. w/soft case and box--\$185. NIB Burris handgun scope,2-7x heavy plex--\$290. 9.3mm bullets and 9.3x62 new brass, call for long list. Savage Mod. MKII-F .22LR, NIB--\$180. Weaver handgun scope 2x28 in box--\$115. New self-retracting lanyard for treestand--\$85. Dove, crow, coyote, fox and deer decoys--\$2-\$50. 10ga 3-1/2" steel T's, BB's and 2's. \$25-\$28/box. Ralph, 253-272-4811.

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# Member Renewal Info & Forms

- Renewal dates are no longer based on the calendar year—it depends upon when you joined or renewed last.
- However, many members DO expire in December 2020.
- The WAC urges you to renew today.
- If you are unsure of your expiration date, please check your badge or call the office at 425-255-8410.

**There will be a dues increase on January 1, 2021. Renew today and avoid that increase; you may renew for multiple years at the current rate. See page 3 for details.**

W.A.C. - Membership Application (New and Renew)						
Last Name:		First Name:		M.I.:	Mem#:	
Mailing Address:		City:	State:	Zip:	Phone#:	
E-Mail: ( We will not share this with anyone.)				DL# Drivers License#	Exp. Date:	
Birth Date: (Month)	(Day)	(Year)	CPL# Concealed Pistol License	Exp. Date:		
				<b>CHECK PAYMENT TYPE</b>	New and Expired Members, if you do not have a current CPL or FFL, add an additional \$15.00 for the Initiation Fee which includes a Washington State Patrol background check.	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Year - \$50	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Background (if no valid CPL)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$5 Donation	Total Amount: \$			
<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Years - \$100	<input type="checkbox"/> Assoc. \$30	<input type="checkbox"/> Life \$600				
<input type="checkbox"/> 3 Years - \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> Spouse \$15	<input type="checkbox"/> Sr. Life \$350				
			<input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Donation			
<b>** SEE THE BACK OF THIS APPLICATION FOR ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS AN</b>						

**\*\* Read Carefully and Sign Below \*\***

I agree to be bound by the Bylaws and rules of the Washington Arms Collectors. I also agree to obey all applicable local, State and Federal laws, ordinances and regulations pertaining to firearms, ammunition and accessories; and accept full responsibility for maintaining a current awareness of the legal restrictions, proscriptions, and penalties applicable to firearms, ammunition, and accessories.

Additionally, I am a citizen of the United States of America or a legal resident. I authorize the Washington Arms Collectors to verify the accuracy of the statements and information I have provided on this confidential application for membership. I also waive any liability that might otherwise attach to those organizations and individuals who aid in the corroboration or refutation of the data on this application or the statements attested to by me. I authorize the release of all information whatsoever to the Washington Arms Collectors, and its presiding officers that will aid in judging the merits of this application.

By signing this application I agree not to sue and to indemnify and hold harmless the Evergreen State Fairgrounds (in Monroe), The Washington State Fair (in Puyallup), the Washington Arms Collectors and all other venues, persons and organizations participating in W.A.C. events.

My Dated Signature on this Application certifies that I am presently entitled to purchase and possess firearms as defined according to all Federal, State and local statutes, and I have read and understood the W.A.C. Rules of the Road.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\* Sponsor Information Only \*\***

Required When Sponsoring All Associate, Spousal and Junior Memberships.

I verify the accuracy of the preceding statements and do hereby sponsor and endorse the applicant for Membership in the Washington Arms Collectors

Sponsoring W.A.C. Member (Print Name) \_\_\_\_\_

W.A.C Member Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



# GUNNEWS

W.A.C.  
P.O. Box 400  
Sumner, WA 98390

PRSR STD  
U S POSTAGE  
PAID  
Permit No. 1  
SEATTLE WA

## CALENDAR of UPCOMING EVENTS

• VERIFY ALL DATES BEFORE TRAVELING •

**Coronavirus cancellations are possible—verify all dates before traveling**

•Dec 12-13—Puyallup, WA, Washington State Fairgrounds, WAC—**CANCELED**

**The ANNUAL DISPLAY SHOW is canceled. Even if the WAC is permitted shows in January 2021, social distance rules will not allow enough space for the displays—we will re-schedule.**

## Washington Arms Collectors



# 2021 Gun Show Schedule

[www.WashingtonArmsCollectors.org](http://www.WashingtonArmsCollectors.org)

OFFICE: (425) 255-8410

### SATURDAY & SUNDAY

Feb.	20 & 21	Puy. Pav.
Mar.	21 & 22	Monroe
May	22 & 23	Puy. Pav.
July	10 & 11	Elma
Sept.	18 & 19	Monroe
Oct.	16 & 17	Puy. Pav.
Nov.	13 & 14	Monroe
Dec.	11 & 12	Puy. Pav.

### SHOW LOCATIONS

Monroe Show - Evergreen State Fairgrounds  
Puyallup Show - WA State Fair & Events Center  
Elma Show - Grays Harbor County Fairgrounds  
Show Times: Saturday 9AM-5PM & Sunday 9AM-3PM

**VERIFY ALL SHOW DATES BEFORE TRAVELING**

*Membership in WAC gives you free entrance to events, free ads in the GunNews, the monthly magazine either mailed to you or online and the ability to rent tables at WAC events.*

**Tables**—Call the office to reserve, Saturday only, Sat/Sun or Sunday only. Puyallup—\$60; Monroe—\$50. Discounts for multiple tables. Members only.

**Membership**—Keep your membership current by renewing online or calling the office—\$50/yr. Spouse and Associate members at reduced rates.

**Committees**—Check the website for committee members and to volunteer for a committee.

**GunNews**—Missing a copy?—call the **office** for replacement and to verify your address.

**GunNews Free Ads**—Email to [gunnewseditor@comcast.net](mailto:gunnewseditor@comcast.net) or mail USPS.

**Office: 425-255-8410**

**[washingtonarmscollectors.org](http://washingtonarmscollectors.org)**