

# GUNNEWS





# JANUARY 2021

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### **Columns & News**

- 3 Legislation & Politics—Joe Waldron
- 6 Straight From the Holster—JT Hilsendeger
- 23 Short Rounds
- 24 Interview with a Gunsmith—Tom Burke

### **Features**

- 8 American Percussion Revolvers—Dick Farnsworth
- 16 Shooting Those C&R's—Ray Heltsley

### **For Collectors**

- 26 Wanted: Dead or Alive
- 32 Show Calendar

### **Member Resources**

- 5 Board Minutes
- 31 Renewal forms

**Cover**—Some of the loading tools that are useful in loading for obsolete cartridges. Ray Heltsley photo.

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#### ELECTION 2020

Suppose they held an election and no one came? Or too many people came? Take your choice. As I write this in mid-December, state certification of election results gives Joe Biden 279 electoral college votes, enough to put him in the White House later this month.

But the controversy remains. First there was NO election fraud. Then there was SOME fraud, but it was insignificant. Then there was some fraud, but it WASN'T ENOUGH to overturn the election. At the rate they are going (it's mid-December as I write this), President Trump should be inaugurated on the 20<sup>th</sup>! Courts have dismissed several lawsuits by President Trump to block election certification in various states. But testimony – credible testimony – has been offered in several state legislatures of irregularities throughout the election process. President Trump was ahead on election night when vote counting shut down until the following morning – when suddenly Joe Biden was ahead, almost always in major cities (keep in mind most states are dominated – population-wise – by one or two large cities). Reports of dumps of ballots AFTER election day. Issues with mail-in ballots: in some states count only ballots RECEIVED by election day, in others, ballots POSTMARKED by election day count. Multiple ballots mailed to the same address (with different last names, sometimes to empty lots). Then there were ballots that were not signed, or dated, and some states allow election officials to contact the voter to make corrections, “rehabilitating” the ballot. If the testimony is to be believed, there are major chain-of-ballot-custody issues in several states, with literally truck-loads of ballots appearing after election day. If you lose chain-of-custody on evidence in a criminal trial, the “evidence” is tossed as inadmissible.

The Democrats were burned badly and unexpectedly in 2016 when outsider and non-politician Donald Trump won. The temper tantrum we've been experiencing for four years is ample proof of that. So they've had four years to prepare for this election.

There are several ways elections can be manipulated, legal and illegal. The article linked below outlines a method by which the election can be influenced, apparently legally... for now. A legitimate question is, should private citizens be allowed to donate money to state/local election offices to assist in “getting out the vote?” And use public employees to roust out votes... in targeted areas likely to vote on way or the other? Classic “cherry-picking!” This is an issue that state legislatures better take a hard look at, soon. And maybe Congress. The article: <https://pjmedia.com/jchristianadams/2020/12/02/the-real-kraken-what-really-happened-to-donald-trump-in-the-2020-election>.

Was the election stolen? My gut feeling is yes, but I don't have access to all of the information. Republican victories “down ballot” (below the presidential level) would appear it was a Republican sweep year, EXCEPT for the presidential election. Odd, that. Not! Republican control of state legislatures went from 28 to 31. Republicans took nine Congressional seats away from Democrats. We probably won't know the truth until after the 2024 election, when the books revealing the true story come out (yeah, I'm a cynic).

#### ELECTION 2021

About the time you receive this issue of GunNews, the Georgia US Senate run-off elections will have taken place – two of them. One is 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. And had there not been third party candidates in both, one or the other candidate in each would have gained a clear 50%+1 vote. But a few extra names on the ballot means no one candidate got 50%, hence the run-offs.

The current US Senate count is 50 Republicans and 48 Democrats (includes two Independents who “organize” with the Democrats). Republicans have to take at least one seat to keep control of the Senate and provide a firewall against a “progressive” Democrat agenda. One is enough, two would be better. Recall in 2001, Republican Senator Jim Jeffords (VT) flipped parties and gave control of the Senate to the Democrats. It's always nice to have more than a one seat majority.

If the November presidential election was stolen or manipulated, there is a great likelihood that the same will occur in Georgia as well. The same mechanisms are in place. And there have been a few challenges to

the way the November election in Georgia was conducted, so legitimate questions have been raised. Voters in Georgia had until December 7<sup>th</sup> (Pearl Harbor Day!) to register or update their registration for the January 5 Senate run-off elections. Several political commentators and Hollywood “celebrities” on the left have publicly suggested individuals from out of state “move” to Georgia and register to vote to swing the election. Possible? Certainly.

And you don’t even have to move – Georgia has on-line voter registration AND mail-in balloting. Is false voter registration a felony in Georgia? Yes, definitely. But how difficult or easy is it to detect? One method might be to disqualify any ballot with an out-of-state postmark. That would start them screaming, “voter suppression, voter suppression!” (The left’s biggest issue with elections – that evil Republicans try to suppress the liberal vote by tricks such as requiring photo ID.) Unfair!

Why unfair, ask Republicans? You need a photo ID to buy a gun. To fly on an airplane. To get married. Oh, and to get welfare in most states! And most states issue free state ID Cards to the indigent. So much for the voter suppression argument—really just a talking point.

The Georgia Secretary of State is already investigating at least one false voter registration by a Florida man who bragged about doing it publicly, using his brother’s Georgia address. If I were the GA SOS, I’d flag ALL post November 3<sup>rd</sup> voter registrations and trace them.

### **LOOKING AHEAD**

It’s not too soon to begin looking at the 2022 mid-term elections. If President Biden (or Harris) overreach with their liberal agenda, the 2022 mid-terms could be very interesting. It was only 26-28 years ago when newly-elected President Bill Clinton and his Democrat-controlled Congress pushed for major tax increases and went all out on gun control: The 1993 Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act (universal background checks on retail firearm purchases and the FBI-managed National Instant Check Background Check System) and the 1994 Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act (sponsored by then-Sen Joe Biden).

The 1994 act, also called the Omnibus Safe Streets Crime Act, was the largest in US history. It included

the ban on so-called assault weapons and “high capacity” magazines (with a ten year sunset), addition of misdemeanor offenses such as domestic violence as firearm prohibitors, “hate” crimes (they get to define “hate”), and nearly \$10 BILLION in new prisons, believed by many to be the cause for incarceration in large part of black males. (Note, unlike the new media practice, I do not capitalize “Black” – we’re all whatever color we are, and the law should apply equally to all, per the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment. The law of grammar, too.)

What did that do for the Democrats? In November 1994 the American public took 40 years of Congressional control AWAY from Democrats and gave it to the Republicans. And the same happened that year in Olympia, with control of both the state House and Senate going over to Republicans. Maybe it would be a good idea to remind our mostly Democrat Congresspersons AND state legislators that overreach on their liberal agenda has consequences.

Without doubt the next two years are going to be tough on gun owners and on Americans in general, especially taxpayers. (Not everybody in this country pays federal income taxes, don’t’cha know. By one academic estimate, about 45% of Americans pay no federal taxes, mostly those in the lower income brackets.) I limit most of my column to guns, one way or another, but if you’ve got a lot invested in a 401(k) or elsewhere, you’d better pay close attention to new Democrat action on taxes, much of it in the name of “social justice” (like New Jersey’s proposed “social equity tax” to fund inner city programs).

It would be nice to think that “moderate Democrat” Joe Biden would put the brakes on that, but remember he’s the author of the 1994 crime bill.

### **OLYMPIA**

The 2021 long (105 day) legislative session begins on the 11<sup>th</sup>. There were no significant changes to the legislature in November, so likely no changes in their agenda... same-o, same-o. Bill information can be found at the legislative web site at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov). “Bills by topic” will let you choose a bill topic (e.g. “firearms”) to track. You can use the “Bill tracking” app to let you follow bills as they move (or don’t move) through the process.

Here’s a list of the topics that were covered in the 38 gun control bills that were filed last session (2019-2020): a/w ban, high capacity magazine ban, excise



tax on ammunition, pre-conviction gun confiscation, CPL training mandate, additional penalty for use of a stolen firearm, repeal of state firearm law preemption, expanding no-firearm protection orders, ammunition background checks, firearm ban on Capitol grounds, expanded gun free zones, and many more... Did they leave anything out? Trust me, they'll think of more.

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

Again, it's too soon to tell what's in store. By next month we should get an idea of what D.C. is looking for in the gun control arena. New bill numbers here too.

With luck (and good gun owner voter turn-out in Georgia), we'll be able to block the Biden/Harris/Shumer/Pelosi gun control agenda.

### REGULATORY ACTION

I've discussed ATF's focus on AR-style pistols before. Some career bureaucrats in the ATF hierarchy consider them a cover for short-barreled rifles (SBRs), calling them pistols (with "arm braces") to avoid National Firearms Act 1934 registration and the \$200 transfer tax. Can they arbitrarily reclassify them as SBRs or some other definition that would invoke NFA 1934? Yes and no. With a green light from a Biden administration, yes. Recall the Clinton administration's reclassification of "street sweeper" (and other) shotguns as "destructive devices" in 1994. How could this be implemented? A couple of ways. First, they can do a repeat of 1994, an internal (with administration backing) reclassification of an existing classification of firearms (in this case AR pistols with arm braces) into SBRs, or possibly AOWs (Any Other Weapons). That's how they typically "grandfather" existing possession.

There would be a grace period for those already possessed to register them with the ATF NFA branch. The grace period for street sweeper and other reclassified shotguns lasted six years! I would not expect remotely as "liberal" registration window this time. The \$200 tax was waived on original registrations as there was no new transfer involved. Future sales or transfers would incur the tax fee — \$200 (SBR) or \$5 (AOW).

Reportedly the Bidenistas are considering including standard capacity magazines (anything over 10 rounds capacity) as well – registration and tax. That would be much more problematic. The Clinton a/w

ban of 1994 solved that by grandfathering all existing possession and requiring a date stamp on magazines produced after enactment of the law change. There have got to be a hundred million or more such magazines out there. Good luck on that!

Or they can get really vindictive and pass a new law (assuming they can get one passed) that includes registration and a new tax. Not the way these things were handled, even in 1934, but it would haul in billions of tax dollars. That would pay for many of Biden's campaign promises. Assuming a high level of compliance, that is. No one was willing (or able to publish numbers, but it was pretty obvious there was high non-compliance with the California Roberti-Roos a/w ban back in 1989. And possibly as well in Canada after their 1996 long gun registration law.

That's all purely my opinion... for now. We're entering a brave new world. Supreme Court, here we come!

-GN-

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## Official Board Minutes—W.A.C.

By Secretary Forbes Freeburg

Washington Arms Collectors  
Board minutes for November 2020

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Pre-meeting business:

November 02 - Motion by Director Ripley to accept the October, 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: Director Wegner

Motion passed

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The Board of Directors meeting scheduled for Tuesday, November 17, was cancelled as a result of newly enacted Covid-19 restrictions within Washington State that prohibit in-person business meetings from November 16 through December 14.

Online activities will be conducted by the Board in lieu of an in-person meeting.

By—Forbes L Freeburg,  
WAC Secretary

# STRAIGHT FROM THE HOLSTER

## J.T. HILSENDEGER

Can you remember the first time you went to a gun show? I grew up in a family not really into guns although there was the single shot .22 rifle, but more about that later. Even though I have a Tacoma address, I'm actually closer to downtown Puyallup and before I'd ever attended a show, I noticed guys near my house crossing the road carrying rifles and so on. By that time I'd owned a couple handguns and some long guns and thought about going to the gun show but didn't. Then, one of our Tacoma detectives convinced me one Saturday saying he'd buy. Woo hoo

This was probably in the mid-eighties, the shows still in the old barns. Wow!!! I couldn't believe how many guns there were with some vendors having 4-5 tables of nothing but new handguns, with others having the same but long guns. The barns were packed with shoulder to shoulder attendees. Plus a lot of related outdoor gear but more about that later. I was hooked!!!

Here's how I got into all this gun show stuff. Born and raised in south central N. Dakota where you are either born into a wealthy family or marry into one. Those are the options or you work your tail off forever to survive. My family and relatives were the workers. In the late 40's my dad bought a Remington single shot .22 and after church on Sunday we'd drive the farmland roads shooting striped ground squirrels for the county bounty of a penny apiece, the tail the proof of a kill. At that time a box of .22 shells was about 25 cents. We kids would retrieve the carcasses and give them to the farmers for their hogs.

I remember my older brother, 12 or 13 at the time, picked up one of the misfired shells and the next day at home, put it on a rock and smacked it with a hammer. Of course it discharged and the brass casing struck him in the belly drawing a little blood and raising a bruise, matching the one on his backside when dad got home from work.

A couple years later we all loaded the family belongings in a utility trailer, the five kids and parents in the Chev and headed to Tacoma with no job prospects or place to live. Yup, just showed up on the doorstep of a relative until finding a low income duplex. Two years later we had gotten a small farm south of Puyallup.

There I met a couple brothers who knew more about everyone's backyards and out buildings than the owners probably knew. I remember once when they procured (I didn't ask) some kind of a military bolt action carbine along with some ammo. Before long we'd shot it all up. Somehow they came up with some ammo that looked similar (I didn't ask) but the bolt needed to be really forced to chamber the round and every case was split from the rim to the neck when extracted. Yeah, it probably wasn't the right stuff but the bullet went out the barrel. I don't know what ever happened to the rifle.

Wasn't too long after that when they came up with a top break revolver (again, I didn't ask) similar to the one in our last GunNews magazine. As I recall, the cylinder rotating feature was not functional so with the ammo they'd gotten, we shot it as a single shot using our thumb and forefinger to index the cylinder. I believe it was a .38 S&W caliber and being as young as we were, we couldn't buy ammo (we must have been 14-15 yrs. Old).

We decided to convert it into a .22 single shot by boring the cylinder and barrel to accept a turned down .22 barrel from a rifle that had been in a burned up barn (I didn't ask).

At the junior high we had a metal shop and I convinced the instructor that I knew how to work a metal lathe. He'd been told I was turning an axle for a mini-bike. At that point I'd only used a wood lathe and the metal lathe was brand new to me but we did it. The next thing was modifying the hammer nose for rim fire, from center fire. No big deal. Never did find out what happened to that pistol.

A couple years later one of the brothers and I built a log cabin on his dad's property, big enough for six guys to sleep in, plus we scrounged up an old sheet tin wood stove. Good times were had in that cabin. Somehow he came up with a bunch of .45 ACP and .30 carbine ammo (I didn't ask) and having seen the old western movie where the cowboy dumps some ammo in the campfire, we thought we'd do it too, in the old stove. We were smart enough to get out of the cabin though, before the stuff started exploding. Oh yeah, sounded like a war zone. His dad showed up, found out what he'd done (they knew I was a good boy and would never do something like that) and torched the cabin right then.

Shortly after that I ordered a 1917 Enfield rifle and had to pick it up at the Burlington Northern Railway office in Tacoma. I had to sign for and I was only 15 at the time but clean cut, so no problem. With no family or friends into hunting and no vehicle, I was stuck shooting it in local gravel pits. You could do that in the fifties.

In '61 I graduated and the next day signed up with the USMC, leaving a \$1.35/hr. job shoveling stuff associated with cattle, for a government job at \$67 a month with room and board thrown in. Woo hoo. My friend—the one who could always come up with stuff—didn't want to go into the military so he signed up with the Navy. I was amazed to find how many of the recruits had never even held a firearm before, let alone shot one. Another shock was how many were there because a judge had given them a choice—the Marines or the crossbar hotel.

Anyway, we were issued the Garand and for the silver spooners, bone spur guys, or the ones suddenly moving to Canada (when the draft was reinstated for Viet Nam) it's a semi-automatic 30/06 rifle. Love it—yeah with peep sights we were taught to hit targets repeatedly out to 500 yds. We got to shoot all kinds of weapons and what comes to mind is my first experience with the 1911 .45 auto. These were so worn out that when you fired the pistol it would rattle for 3-4 seconds before you could take another sight picture for the next shot.

Okay, my three years of USMC is over but my friend still has another year in the Navy where he becomes an alcoholic. I bought a couple more pistols and long guns, learned how to be a successful hunter with a great appreciation for the outdoors.

Yes, this is going somewhere.

Years later, I'm now a policeman in Tacoma and some friends and I decide to go hunting. One brought along some hug-bore muzzle loader. The best he could do is to kill stumps, but I was hooked on the front stuffers, although not that large caliber. Buying all that lead and powder could get expensive. I'd just finished a small remodel job for a friend and as a thank you he gave me a CVA .50 caliber Hawken kit. Even though most guys think the CVA rifles are not real quality guns, I out-shot a lot of guys. I ended up buying a couple for friends and family.

This was while I was a policeman and I found a few of the officers were black powder shooters also. One confided that he and his partner had been in a special elk hunt up near Snoqualmie Pass and each took three shots at a big bull, the animal getting away. I got hot about then, asking if they tried following up to check for blood etc. Answer—No, he didn't look like he'd been hit. Me, unless I can guarantee a hit,

I'll pass and stalk closer. This also applies to the smokeless/modern crowd.

Another thing I found was that most guys tend to overload. For instance, a good load for a .50 caliber patched round ball would be 70-85 grains of ffg black powder, not the 120+ these guys were shooting. Yeah, if all you want is less accuracy and lots of smoke plus setting the grass on fire, have at it. More is not always better.

Probably the biggest mistake guys make with any black powder firearm is not cleaning them properly. Yup, the sooner the better with a good lube job afterwards. Then again in a couple months to catch the rust from the first lousy cleaning. I'd recently talked with a fella who hunts deer with a .40 caliber which is the minimum allowed in Washington for deer, and he uses only 40 grains of fffg black powder and punches through and through a deer. Heck, that's only a smidge more than a pistol load. His secret, stalk as close as possible and shot placement.

Time to wind this up, answering some questions asked at our last show. (remember when we had shows):

1. Why did I decide to deal with black powder/muzzle loader arms. Well they are not classified as a modern firearms and can be shipped through the mail like any other item. Plus, the issue of liability comes to mind. When was the last time if ever, that a black powder revolver was used for a night time withdrawal of money at a 7-11 or any other stop and rob? Also, whenever I sell one, I give the buyer all the instructions for loading but only recommend mild loads. EVERY TYIME
2. Why do I do the overnight/camping thing with wool army blankets and the poncho? Hey, it's what I've always done although I do have all the nylon tent, zero degree sleeping bag, stainless cookware etc. Even when I was in high school, I'd drive my mom crazy, sleeping in the backyard enjoying the fresh air and sounds of nature.
3. I've mentioned a number of times that I sleep with my muzzle loader rifle to keep it from getting moisture fouled powder. Question—do I leave the percussion cap on the nipple? Duh!!! Heck no. If I had a percussion revolver I would leave it capped if it was either Ruger or Remington style, each having a hammer safety notch between nipples. If a Colt style, the hammer would rest on a nipple- not capped.

We've got roughly three weeks left of grouse season as I'm typing this, with an overnight or two figured in there, so there's probably a story for next month's magazine. Until then, keep your powder—not the powder substitute junk—dry. Oh, even though it's sold as so much cleaner firing, the residue left in the barrel from that stuff is almost as bad as black powder.

See you at our next show.

-GN-



# American Percussion Revolvers Yesterday & Today

By Major Dick Farnsworth, U.S. Army Infantry, Retired



**S**amuel Colt did not invent the revolving cylinder repeating handgun; he patented an improvement in the cylinder indexing and locking system of the Collier, an ingenious early revolver. Collier produced a few (sources state less than a thousand or up to 10,000) rifles and handguns. They had a number of chambers that were pre-loaded with bullet and powder, in a cylinder the user rotated by hand into alignment with the firing mechanism and barrel. The early Collier was a flintlock, which requires a small amount of loose powder exposed to the sparks produced when a piece of flint is struck across a steel plate—the Frizzen. How to align that with the main powder charge, repeatedly, required genius; the Collier system provided that genius. For the flintlock, the Collier system delivered a single, metered charge to the chamber flash pan each time the frizzen was cycled. That system, however was fragile and complex, thus expensive. Once percussion became the prevalent ignition system, mass production of revolvers became viable.

Samuel Colt is said to have acknowledged the Collier as one of his inspirations for his invention whereby a pawl, called the “hand”, attached to the hammer, advanced the cylinder one portion of a turn while another part called the “bolt” popped up through the bottom of the frame and stopped the cylinder with one chamber exactly in line with the barrel. Mr. Colt vigorously defended that patent until it expired in 1857.

Colt introduced ten different models of his revolvers between 1836 and 1871. His first, known today as the “Paterson Model” was introduced in 1836 (only a few months after the standoff at the Alamo). It was a commercial failure and Colt went out of business after a few years. He manufactured in a rented facility in Paterson, New Jersey, thus the name. The Paterson featured a folding trigger and on several early versions the loading system was separate; intended for use when the barrel assembly is removed. Initially chambered for .28 or .31 Caliber, there were as many as 5 variations in the 6 years it was produced, but only about 2,800



**Title Page**—: This is the Kurst Konversion cylinder for the Pietta 1861 Colt. It is chambered for .38 Special but of course will chamber .38 Long Colt easily. The fixtures to the right are the ejector, also by Kurst. They replace the loading lever. Notice that this revolver has a replacement front sight. It was common on handguns of that era that the front sight was low such that the revolver would print high. I had my 'smith fit that into a dovetail. Nickel plating was fairly common in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century both for both aesthetics and to protect from rust and corrosion.



**Right**—A .44 Short Rimfire for my Hammond Bulldog illustrates outside lubrication. This cartridge probably dates from well before 1930. Notice how the bullet is of the same diameter as the cartridge case. The heel is clearly visible. Such a design will not provide the best accuracy and when the .44 Russian was developed with a full-caliber bullet, accuracy improved dramatically.



**Left**—The conversion cylinder, backplate and ejector system mounted on the Colt. Yes, this is a brass frame reproduction; Colt did not make any revolvers with brass frames. Brass is soft and not the best choice for frames even though it was used by some period small manufacturers. This conversion is not recommended for brass frame revolvers.

**Below**—This is the replacement cylinder conversion system for a Remington New Model Pocket in .32 S&W. Each chamber has a firing pin. Once the cylinder is removed to be reloaded, each case must be pushed out by a rod. There is a pin at the 11 o'clock position that locates the firing pins on the cylinder.

**Below**—Here is a comparison of Conical and Round Ball bullets. The Conical has a smaller diameter at the base than along the driving bands to facilitate loading. Note how the tapered bullet drops into the chamber mouth with the lube groove in the cylinder.



were made. The best known and most successful versions were in .36 Caliber.

Sam Colt did not reopen business and introduce his second revolver—the huge Walker Colt—until 1847. With a powder charge of 60 grains, this was the most powerful revolver until the 357 Magnum of 1935. Only 1100 Walkers were produced, all in 1847, but fewer than 200 originals survive; Colt used a cast iron cylinder not up to the task of keeping the charge in check and most were destroyed in firing. The Walker was at 4-1/2 lbs. a very heavy revolver. Modern reproductions of the Walker have been chronographed at driving a 148-grain round ball bullet to nearly 1200 feet per second, which computes to having almost 500 foot-pounds of energy!

The “Dagoon” came next. This was produced in three evolutions, each with a number of improvements over its predecessor. These were still heavy revolvers, not noticeably lighter than the Walker. The first version was made in 1848 and ‘49, the second in 1849 and ‘50, and the third was produced until 1860; some 19,000 or so of all three versions made. The Dagoon was the same .44 Caliber as the Walker but used a smaller charge of about 40 grains in its shorter cylinder. These are variously called “first model” or model of 1848; “second model” or model of 1849; and “third model” or model of 1850, although Colt did not use such designations. Colt simply called the entire series—Walker and Dagoons—“Holster Pistols” making the improvements unheralded.

Also introduced in 1847 was what Colt called the “Pocket Pistol,” but known today as the “Baby Dagoon.” This much smaller revolver was chambered in .31 caliber with a 5-shot cylinder. Roughly the same size as the earliest Paterson, it became a favorite of California gold miners and many others. Power was similar to the modern .22 Long Rifle cartridge when fired in a handgun. Colt produced three versions, all in .31 Caliber, with combined production of more than a third of a million this was Colt’s most popular percussion revolver. The 1849 Pocket Revolver, the third version, was produced until 1875. A case could be made that the success of this revolver, and thus Colt’s enterprise, is directly related to the discovery of gold in California.

1851 saw the introduction of what was to be Colt’s third most famous handgun (after the 1873 Single Action Army and the 1911 Automatic Pistol), what we refer to as the “1851 Navy” or “Navy Colt.” Colt called it “The Revolving Belt Pistol of Navy Caliber.” (I’m at a loss to envision a revolving belt.) This is the model that James B. “Wild Bill” Hickok used until his murder in 1876. The revolver was produced from 1851 until 1873, with more than 270,000 units sold, including many produced and sold internationally. The British Empire used this particular model for a short while and it is believed that it was carried into the Crimean War, very likely on the “Charge of the Light Brigade.” Although never adopted by the US Army—or Navy—it was popular on both sides

of the Civil War, as well as both before and after that war. The revolver’s grip was copied for the still-produced model P, or 1873 “Single Action Army.” Many of the original handguns still exist. Of course, their selling price is quite dear. This was the first of the current wave of imported reproductions and quite possibly close to a million copies of this model have been produced.

Colt and Elijah Root jointly developed a now-rare variation on the revolver theme. The hammer was mounted outside the frame on the right-hand side, rather than riding up through the centerline of the frame. The mechanism that controlled the movement of the cylinder was in the frame behind the recoil shield. The model was introduced in 1855 and 45,000 or so were sold in either .28 caliber or .31 caliber, the majority being the latter caliber. The “Side hammer” Root was discontinued in 1870. I have not seen this revolver introduced as a replica.

### **Remington Competes**

Remington was not idle at this time. They began work on their “New Model” revolver, also known as the “Remington-Beals”. It is known today as the “1858 Remington” due to patent markings, but Remington did not begin wide scale production until late in 1861. Three models were produced, each a different caliber: New Model Pocket revolver in .31 Caliber, though most were produced after 1865 for the .32 S&W Caliber cartridge; New Model Navy in .36 Caliber; and the larger frame New Model Army in .44 Caliber. The Remingtons achieved widespread distribution due to the fire that destroyed the competing Hartford Colt plant in 1864, some 6 months before the end of the war. With Colt unable to meet demand the government turned to Remington. This revolver proved popular with those officers and civilians who had to purchase their own side arms, even though the Remington was slightly more expensive (.50 in 1864, about half a day’s wages). Almost a quarter of a million Remington “New Model” revolvers were produced in all three variations during the production run of 1861-1875. The main difference between the Remington style and the Colt style is that the Remington had a top strap over the cylinder to strengthen the frame and provide a location for the rear sight. That design advantage also made the cylinder easy to remove and replace, making reloading with a spare cylinder very fast. The most famous user of this revolver is William F. “Buffalo Bill” Cody, who gave his to his ranch foreman in 1906.

### **Enter the Cartridge Revolver**

One of the contract gunsmiths hired by Colt was Rollin White. As the cartridge was becoming increasingly popular during this time, 1845-1855, Mr. White patented under his own name the concept of boring revolver cylinders completely through. Heretofore, the cylinder was drilled only part way, with the rear fitted with a tiny, hollow cone, now called a nipple, for the percussion



cap. The White patent was filed in 1855. All firearms, prior to cartridge, were loaded with loose gunpowder poured through the barrel muzzle or cylinder mouth, a bullet followed and a percussion cap added to spark the gunpowder charge at the rear of the cylinder. This was basically the only system in use for the first 400 years of firearms. Cartridges changed all that by combining the charge of gunpowder and primer, topped off with a bullet, in a cartridge case that was easy to handle and which sealed—or obturated—the breech. As is now obvious, cartridges increased a firearm’s rate of fire. Samuel Colt did not believe cartridges would survive and refused to purchase the patent.

Smith and Wesson saw the value and introduced their first revolver in 1857, when Colt’s patent of the cylinder locking mechanism expired. Smith and Wesson paid Rollin White the princely sum of 25 cents for each revolver for his patent. This revolver, their Model 1 was chambered in .22 short rimfire and was popular among Civil War officers and others. Later versions were chambered in .32 short rimfire. Smith and Wesson did not ever produce a percussion revolver. Even with cartridge arms available, percussion persisted for another 50 years.

**Colt Percussion Revolvers Through the Civil War**  
Colt began work on their “Army” model of 1860 by simply relieving a portion of the frame of the earlier Navy Colt to allow a stepped or “rebated” cylinder and thus to allow .44 Caliber. Improved steels made this change possible. Of the 200,000 or so Army Colts produced, the majority, some 127,000 were sold to the US Government for use in the Civil War. Once the Colt factory was rebuilt after the fire, production of this revolver continued until 1871 and as a cartridge conversion until 1878. Besides caliber and the cosmetically appealing rounded barrel assembly, the most notable feature of the Army Colt is the “Creeping” loading lever, first introduced in the Colt-Root. It uses a series of teeth to transmit the leverage applied on the loading lever to seat the bullet, rather than an admittedly weak strap around the loading lever screw. (I have broken that strap and it renders the revolver temporarily useless.)

In 1861 Colt introduced his “New Model Revolver in Navy Caliber.” All “Navy” Colts are in .36 Caliber. The 1861 Navy was not different from the 1860 Army, except for caliber and the only differences from the 1851 Navy were the cosmetics of the rounded barrel and creeping loading lever. Only some 38,000 of the New Navy Colts were produced until the production run ended in 1873. Many percussion revolver enthusiasts—myself included—consider the 1861 Navy to be Colt’s most aesthetically pleasing revolver.

1861 also saw the beginning of the American Civil War. Fort Sumter was bombarded in April and the battle of Manassas—or Bull Run, the first major battle—followed in July. Colt was producing their Revolving Belt Pistol

of Navy Caliber (known now as the 1851 Navy), the Pocket Pistol (the Baby Dragoon), the Revolving Belt Pistol of Army Caliber (model of 1860), the Root Side hammer, and the New Model Revolver of Navy Caliber (1861) all alongside each other. Colt had ceased production of the Holster Pistol (Dragoon) series the previous year as it was replaced by the 1860 Army. (In 1861 Remington began wide scale production of their revolvers.)

As a follow-on to the Pocket Pistol series, Colt produced his “Pocket Model of Navy Caliber” in 1862, a 5 shot revolver on the Pocket Pistol, or Baby Dragoon frame. The cylinder was rebated, as with the 1860 Army, to accommodate .36 caliber chambers on the smaller (.31 caliber) frames, which were relieved for this rebate. The 1862 was made in a number of variations, some with shorter barrels and others without loading levers. One variation was marketed to police departments, who until that time were armed usually with the .31 Caliber Pocket Pistols. Samuel Colt died in 1862, making this the last revolver he designed personally.

#### **Other Manufacturers**

I mentioned Remington, Smith and Wesson and Colt, but a number of other manufacturers of revolvers and pistols were in business and made sales during this time. Before the Colt “Paterson” revolver there were a number of “Pepperbox” pistols. These were dissimilar to “revolvers” in that they did not mate a revolving cylinder to a fixed barrel, but instead each “chamber” was a full barrel, though rarely rifled. While flintlock pepperbox pistols did exist, the percussion ignition system inspired continued work on them. Allen, or Allen and Thurber, made a number of variations and the basic pepperbox of the 1840s through the 1850s and did see some successes. Samuel Clemens, aka Mark Twain, mentioned the pepperbox in his writings from the gold fields of California.

After the Colt patent expired and especially during the Civil War there were a number of competing manufacturers. Spiller and Burr, Starr, Dance Brothers and many other makers produced guns for both sides of the Civil War, some only for the Confederacy while others supplemented Colt and Remington’s efforts to supply the Union forces. None of these makers had the sales numbers of Smith & Wesson or Remington, and even those sales were dwarfed by Colt. Foreign guns were also imported, including the trigger cocking (“double action”) Adams from England and the unusual LeMat from France, an eight or nine shot revolver with a shotgun barrel in the axle or “arbor” of the cylinder. This revolver was made famous by a couple of the Confederate generals and is currently reproduced in 9-shot .36 or .44 Caliber with a 20-gauge shotgun arbor.

#### **The Civil War Ends—Percussion Survives**

The end of the American Civil War in 1865 created dire financial trouble for firearms manufacturers with the



usual end-of-war depression and the glut of war surplus revolvers dumped onto the civilian market. Colt managed to stay in business by assembling guns from leftover parts and with foreign sales. Smith and Wesson had a few contracts for foreign arms sales as well, and Remington had sales of the Rolling Block rifle to sustain them. The other producers did not survive. In an attempt to survive numerous independent gunsmiths and former employees of the arms makers made conversions on percussion revolvers to shoot cartridges. Colt did not produce cartridge revolvers until the Rollin White patent expired in 1869. Both Smith and Wesson and Remington paid for the use of the patent at the rate of 25 cents per gun. White, himself, vigorously defended his patent and even petitioned Congress to grant him an extension but his petition was refused. White spent most of his fortune in those efforts.

On the frontier and other remote corners of the world, a percussion revolver was favored even well into the cartridge era for three very logical reasons. First, percussion revolvers were war surplus and could be had for as little as \$1.50 at a time when the average cowboy or farm hand earned a whopping \$1.00 per day. The Colt Frontier or "Single Action Army" sold for upwards of \$35 at that time. The second major advantage was that the percussion revolver used loose gun powder, percussion caps and loose lead balls or conical bullets. It did not require that the owner have a steady supply of the specific caliber cartridge. On the frontier when "General Stores" were few and far between, the chances that one could find the particular caliber ammunition needed was slim. On the other hand, percussion caps were fairly standard and widely used; black gun powder was almost universally available; and lead was readily available in small ingots to be melted down and cast into satisfactory bullets over an open campfire. Further, the loose components were less expensive than "store-bought ca'tridges."

The third major advantage was that while a percussion revolver can be incredibly slow to reload, the use of combustible paper "cartridges" can make the percussion revolver reloads very nearly as fast as an 1873 Colt Model P. The user of the newer Colt must eject each empty cartridge and insert a fresh round before going on to the next. The percussion user need merely slide the cartridge into the chamber and drive it home with the loading ram. It is tapered and longer than the chamber to disrupt and ensure flame from the cap reaches powder. All six can be loaded quickly and then all the shooter need do is cap the desired chambers and he is ready to rejoin the fight. During the Civil War those cartridges were issued in usually wooden boxes of six, with a few more than six percussion caps as the tiny caps could easily be lost. It is not illogical to assume such cartridge boxes were available in the usual calibers in frontier "general stores," alongside the loose components. The

fastest reloading procedure—only barely beaten by modern revolver users—is the replacement, loaded cylinder for the Remington New Model series revolvers.

As percussion revolvers were often seen on the frontier throughout the rest of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century and even into the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century, the conversion to cartridge use was seen more frequently in "civilized" areas and one of the first revolvers to be so converted was the Army Colt, converted to .44 Colt Caliber, for sale to the Army. Colt began converting revolvers for the military in 1871.

### **Transition—Percussion Revolvers Converted**

The initial commercial production by Colt of cartridge revolvers was as conversions of the 1860 Army in .44 Colt Rimfire and some were reamed to accept the plentiful 44 Henry rimfire rifle cartridge. The Army Colt was soon revised to accept the .44 Colt Central Fire cartridge. The loading lever cut-outs were unnecessary in a cartridge revolver, and in the "Mason" conversion those cut-outs were not machined out. If you are keeping count of Colt's models this, the tenth, is what modern collectors refer to as the "Open Top," or "Richards-Mason." It wasn't long before Colt was producing the "Open Top" revolvers fully for cartridges, using no percussion revolver parts.

The Revolving Belt Pistol in Navy Caliber (1851 Navy) was converted to .38 Caliber in the same method (of course this was a belt pistol and the awkward name had nothing to do with revolving belts). The .38-caliber designation has become the standard, again because of the popularity of percussion revolver conversions, particularly the Navy caliber, even though modern ".38" caliber bullets are actually .357" diameter. The "38" designation refers to the actual original revolver chamber diameter, .375", such that the bullet would be swaged into the barrel groove diameter, .364", as it passes through the breech end, at what is called the "forcing cone." Bullets used were often .375", or "full caliber" to seal in those original chambers. For marketing purposes, the rounded-up name ".38 Caliber" was used. The bullets were crimped into the cartridge mouth at a "heel" at the base of the bullet and the bullet and cartridge exterior were the same diameter. .22 rimfire cartridges continue to use this same design. .44 Caliber is similarly mis-named as the modern "44" is actually .43".

That all changed in 1873; Colt introduced their most famous revolver of all time, the 1873 "Single Action Army" (or "Frontier Single Action," or "Peacemaker," or "Colt 45"). That model was adopted by the Army to replace their 1871 "open top" conversion revolvers and be supplemented by the 1871 Smith and Wesson Model 3 revolvers. Colt's production of percussion revolvers ceased in 1875, which completes our journey.

### **Paper Cartridges**

As mentioned above, the percussion revolver was usually reloaded with bulk gunpowder and a loose bullet. During

earlier conflicts a paper cartridge was developed, initially for muskets. A pre-measured powder charge and bullet were wrapped in a flammable paper casing. For revolver use, the entire cartridge was dropped into the chamber and rammed home in turn.

Making those cartridges is straight forward and instructions are on line by several experts. During the Civil war, cartridges were issued in boxes or waterproof paper packs of six because they are quite fragile. Such packaging is still recommended for the same reason. Packaging can also include percussion caps or you can use some mechanical device to hold and present the percussion caps, such as an in-line capper.

### **Effective Sidearms**

There were over a third of a million .31 caliber Colt pocket revolvers in circulation, in addition to well over a million Navy and Army caliber Remington, Colt and other percussion revolvers. Many were converted to use cartridges, either by the factories or by independent gunsmiths, in addition to the versions of those revolvers produced for cartridge by Colt, Smith and Wesson and Remington between 1865 and 1873. Nevertheless, the vast majority of the ancient system revolvers still exist in their original state, plus the probably close to a million modern reproductions which are currently produced.

Use of percussion pistols didn't cease because cartridges had been developed. As discussed above with use on the frontier, many of the percussion revolvers saw military use worldwide well up into the 1870s and '80s, and civilian use well beyond that. Percussion arms produced a significant percent of the casualties inflicted during the American Civil War as well as civilian casualties due to outlawry and other strife before and after that war. Of course, they are fully capable of doing so today. The post WWII Gun Control Acts have named them "antiques" whether they are old or recently manufactured; reproductions can thus be sold by mail order and on the internet. Technology may have changed, but the human physique remains vulnerable to a lead bullet propelled by black powder sparked by a separate percussion cap. James Hickok and Bill Cody, among countless others, found them reliable enough to bet their lives on them as they went about their daily chores. So too, could we.

Compared to modern weaponry, of course, the ancient system is considered to be woefully underpowered. Handgun power has been doubled and redoubled, and the bar is usually thought to be substantially higher. But in fact, is it? The .44-caliber revolver shot a 200-grain conical bullet to between 600 and 800 feet per second, the upper end of that nears 300 foot-pounds of energy which compares very favorably to the modern .38 Special and 9mm Luger. And of course, the greatest effectiveness is in shot placement. A near miss with a magnum is worthless but a vital hit with a .31 is deadly.

A percussion revolver is very time consuming to reload. You must charge the chamber with appropriate amounts of black gunpowder (NEVER use modern smokeless powder), seat the bullet atop that powder and proceed to the next and finally place the tiny percussion cap on the back of each chamber. The process can take up to 5 minutes, not something to do in a fight. On the other hand, using a replacement cylinder—not unheard of in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century—one can reload the Remington in just a few seconds. The Colt system was not as convenient to exchange cylinders, so nineteenth century Colt users simply carried more than one revolver. Civil War cavalry soldiers often had several—as many as four or five or more—in holsters on their saddle. James Hickok is pictured as carrying two pearl handled Navy Colts; probably the origin of the fable of the western "gun fighter" armed with two guns.

Ordinary cowboys and other laborers of the nineteenth century would rarely go about openly armed. First, even though dueling was pretty much outlawed it would only happen if a significant wrong or insult was perceived. The duel "just to see who is faster" is the stuff of Hollywood fiction. Second, prior to the 20<sup>th</sup> century, holsters were simply a way to carry a handgun and have it close at hand. Retrieving that handgun quickly was far less a consideration than having it secure. Working cowboys normally left their revolvers in their saddlebags, especially on cattle drives, because there were so few people who might be a threat (It would be very unusual to see any person besides other members of one's crew during the entire two or three months on the trail from southern Texas to the rail head at Abilene, Kansas). "Fast draw" was not conceived of until the advent of the "horse opera" motion picture. Parenthetically, many of those movie plots were originally Japanese Samurai stories reset on the 19<sup>th</sup> Century frontier. Hollywood takes advantage of what most audiences don't know and gives us most cowboys using the Colt "Single Action Army" revolver. This is done so that Hollywood can use blank ammunition, which would not be feasible using a percussion revolver—until recently. In fact, in its day the 1873 Colt was so expensive that only the most well-heeled gun owner would be likely to have one, let alone two.

James Hickok is said to have emptied and cleaned his revolvers and reloaded them every night. I doubt he did so nightly; the cost of powder and caps would have been prohibitive. On the other hand, I am sure he did so frequently and always after exposure to rain. As an experiment I left my percussion revolver loaded and capped in my gun safe for an entire year, then tested it to see if there was any degradation—there was not; after a year the gun was as reliable and powerful as it had been the year previous.

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# Modern Use of Percussion Revolvers and Cartridge Conversions

## Modern Cartridge Conversions

**T**here are two modern systems to convert the percussion revolver to shoot cartridges. The first is simply a replacement cylinder, obviously drilled through, with a fitted back plate which holds firing pins for every chamber. This concept is based on several 19<sup>th</sup> century patents but was not developed until recently. Once the live rounds have been fired, the cylinder is removed and the empty cartridges are pushed out of the chambers, the chambers are reloaded, the back plate is replaced and the assembly is re-inserted into the revolver frame—that simple. These cylinders are currently available in .45 Colt and .44 Colt for the “Army” caliber revolvers, .38 Special and .38 Long Colt (yes, there was a .38 “Short” Colt), for Navy caliber revolvers and .32 Smith and Wesson—not to be confused with .32 S&W Long—for use in Pocket caliber revolvers. Remington revolvers work well for these conversions as the cylinder base pin is easily withdrawn to remove the cylinder. The system has also been adapted for use on Colt revolvers. Colt revolvers must have the barrel/frame wedge removed—usually by pounding it out—before the barrel assembly can be dismounted to remove the cylinder—not convenient.

Of much greater convenience, and especially on the Colt “Open Top” frame, is the historically accurate “Richards” conversion mentioned previously. This is made by Kirst Konverter as a cylinder and back-plate with loading gate and with the firing pin mounted on the back plate. It is up to the owner to grind the recoil shield (“Port”) to allow cartridges to be ejected. Howells Old West Conversions only lists .38 Long Colt caliber for the Richards Conversion System of the Navy caliber revolvers, but others list .38 Special. Use of full power or hyper power +P .38 Special ammunition is dangerous and actively discouraged. These conversion systems are also made for .31 and .44 caliber revolvers and are manufacturer specific.

If you do not have an ejector, use a dowel or pencil to eject the spent cartridges from the replacement Kirst cylinder. Ejector rod systems are also made but are not included in the usual conversion kit. An additional modification by Colt on these revolvers specifically made to accept cartridges (1871-1878) is the “Mason” conversion, mentioned above. Kirst Konversion Ejector Rod systems are a revision of the

“Mason” conversion—they are mounted on a plug that replaces the loading lever and fills in the openings.

One issue today with conversions, is that with them the revolver becomes a modern cartridge revolver, with all the legal ramifications which may exist upon transfer. However, with the “drop-in conversion” the cylinder is merely a part, easily acquired and as easily removed. To be sure, some installations are quite significant because of the large divot required in the recoil shield, and not easily returned to its original configuration—but return is possible. In our totalitarian jurisdictions such as Washington State under Initiative 1639 or California, legal possession and transfer of handguns may be a challenge whereas a primitive system **may** be transferable without fees, inconvenience and registration (In some jurisdictions such as New York and Washington, DC, even percussion handguns are prohibited.). Should possession of primitive firearms—defined in both Washington State law and BATF regulation as “antique”—be legal, a fitted cartridge conversion removes these from the antique category. On the other hand, most conversions are only parts, and the handgun can be easily returned to original configuration. So why even bother with a conversion? Simple—black powder is messy and requires cleaning and fouling slows up the mechanism, so a smokeless powder charged cartridge gun for practice builds familiarity without the cleaning hassles and fouling issues.

The 1968 Gun Control Act required that all firearms that meet the provisions of that law are to be controlled by Federal Firearms License holders until sale to the ultimate consumer. Generally any firearm—or re-creations/reproductions thereof—produced prior to 1898 and for which ammunition is not commercially available, or which is not designed for cartridge ammunition, is considered “antique.” Such firearms are not subject to the provisions of the Act and can be sold by mail order and/or on the internet. Some may see this special accommodation for antiques as a big plus for percussion firearms. That the heroes of the “Old West,” Hickok, Cody and others, including the millions who fought on both sides of the American Civil War, considered these weapons adequate for combat must be taken into account.



### **Is the Percussion Revolver Still a Viable Tool?**

Before you can convince yourself that one of those primitive revolvers is a viable self-defense option, you should examine their capabilities. Let us begin with the smaller caliber. As I noted above, the .31 has about the same capability as a modern .22 Long Rifle cartridge when fired in a handgun. The modern rimfire's 40-grain bullet can be driven to about a thousand feet per second from a 4" pistol barrel. That calculates to about 90 foot-pounds of energy. For a .31 revolver to achieve that, it must propel its 50-grain ball to 900 FPS. Please remember that the different black powders will produce different velocities and Pyrodex® or one of the other black powder substitutes will produce different results but I have yet to see bullets exceed 700 FPS from my Remington .31. Even that only generates 55 foot-pounds of energy. All I can suggest is for you to shoot your revolver enough to be comfortable with it. Modern cartridge conversion cylinders for the .31 caliber revolvers usually chamber the .32 Smith and Wesson "short." In modern smokeless powder factory ammunition that caliber produces only about 80 foot-pounds of energy; still less powerful than the .22 Long Rifle. Reloading can improve on that somewhat; driving the typical 85 grain bullet to between 600 and 800 FPS. One source suggested 900 FPS is possible, but that may exceed the pressure limits of the cylinder. At 800 FPS the 85-grain bullet will produce upwards of 120 foot-pounds of energy.

During its heyday, the Navy, or .36 caliber revolver was well-regarded. The Navy caliber propelled an 81-grain ball to around 800 FPS—again more or less according to the propellant and barrel length. That bullet is neither the most powerful nor the most accurate. Original revolvers usually performed their best with conical bullets. Bullet molds to cast conical bullets to be used in revolvers can be obtained from Lee Precision or Eras Gone. The 81 grain round ball at 800 FPS produced about 120 foot-pounds of energy. A 150-grain conical can be driven to about 700 FPS, which produces about 160 foot-pounds of energy.

Actually, most of the original black gunpowder charged conversion calibers were weaker than the original percussion version, and to make matters worse, many of the early conversion calibers were rimfire. Rimfire cartridges cannot be reloaded and rimfire is not as reliable as either centerfire or percussion. Modern cartridge cylinders accept either the .38 Long Colt or the much more common .38 Special, but the recommended loading is marketed as a "Cowboy" load. Of similar power—and similarly recommended—is the "mid-range wadcutter" .38

Special Target loading which drives the 148-grain bullet to 770 FPS for 195 foot-pounds of energy. Should you choose .38 Special, I suggest "Hollow base" bullets that expand into the rifling for better accuracy. Modern reproduction .36 caliber revolvers use a barrel interior groove diameter of .360" to .364" or more, and a .357" bullet may not prove accurate without a base skirt that expands to grip the rifling.

Finally, the Army, or .44 Caliber gives more powerful results. Round ball loadings usually strain to achieve 1000 FPS with black powder or 1100 FPS with Pyrodex® pellets, a 30-grain equivalent of "P" or 3Fg. That 148-grain bullet would then achieve just over 300 foot-pounds of energy. Conical 200 gr. bullet loads approach 800 FPS and achieve over 260 foot-pounds of energy; less powerful but still authoritative.

### **Safety**

Nineteenth Century safety was every bit as important as it is today. The Remington and Colts both had small notches or pins on the cylinder for the hammer to rest on to prevent the hammer from resting on the cap or primer of a live round. That notch or pin can fail, so most users usually leave one of the chambers empty for safety, with the hammer resting on that chamber. The replacement cylinder method of converting to cartridge discussed above fully encloses the rear of that cylinder so how would you ensure that the at-rest chamber is the empty one? I don't encourage you to look into the forward end of the cylinder. My solution has been to remove one of the firing pins and simply rest the hammer on that chamber. Even if I happen to load that chamber it cannot discharge without the firing pin. When I load a percussion cylinder, I usually load all six chambers but unless I'm going to fire them immediately, I do not cap the sixth. That is where I rest the hammer. If I need that shot, it can easily be capped.

Single action revolvers usually had a "safety" notch in the hammer. That notch held the hammer off the cap or primer but it could fail and if it did, the hammer would fall onto the live primer, possibly detonating the primer or cap. Leaving the hammer resting on a live primer or cap is also unacceptable. Should the hammer be struck the revolver would fire. Back in the 1990's I heard a news report of a gentleman killed in Portland, Oregon; his Ruger Super Blackhawk revolver fell from his pickup truck, landed on the hammer and fired, killing him. I do not know whether the hammer was literally resting on the primer or the safety notch failed when struck.

*Continued on page 20*

# Shooting Those C&R's



By Ray Heltsley, WAC

Prior to leaving for my tour in Vietnam in 1969, I decided that if I was going to go fight for my country, I would like to see as much of it as I could first. I departed Ft. Bragg in early March and drove south along the East Coast, then through the Deep South and west all the way to California. I spent as much time as I could on back roads so I could see the real America.

Even back then I was an ardent collector of old things, including firearms. I made it a point to stop at junk stores, antique shops and gun stores that I passed along the way. I acquired some interesting pieces of cut glass in Louisiana, and a bone-handled sword cane. In Texas I found a Miquelet flintlock pistol that still worked fine. It also had sheets of gold made from hammered Spanish Doubloons wrapped around the stock and tacked in place. Then in an out of the way gun shop in Arizona, I picked up a Sharps

.22 "Pepperbox" and a Springfield Trap-Door .50-70 rifle. When I reached California, I was running out of time, and hopped on I-5 headed for Seattle and my point of departure for Southeast Asia. The guns and antiques were put away in the hope that I would have an opportunity to enjoy them in the future.

Fast forward to 1974. I had returned mostly intact from Vietnam, spent three more years in the Army, training Rangers for two years and shooting for the pistol team at Aberdeen Proving Grounds during my final year of service. By 1974 I was a civilian writing technical manuals for Bendix Corporation in Sedro Woolley, Washington. I now had time to play with some of my treasures.

I found the old Miquelet to still be loaded with an ancient charge of black powder and an oddly shaped lead ball with the sprue still intact. I drew the bullet, cleaned out the old powder, and loaded the pistol with

**Below & Right**—U.S. Springfield Model 1868 .50-70 "Trap Door" Infantry Rifle. Lock plate dated 1863, breech block dated 1869. Only the outline of the cartouche is visible. Initials "AMR" carved on bottom of stock ahead of trigger guard. With original issue "Hagner" No. 2 cartridge box shown at right, open and below, closed. Bayonet with it is of Civil War vintage.



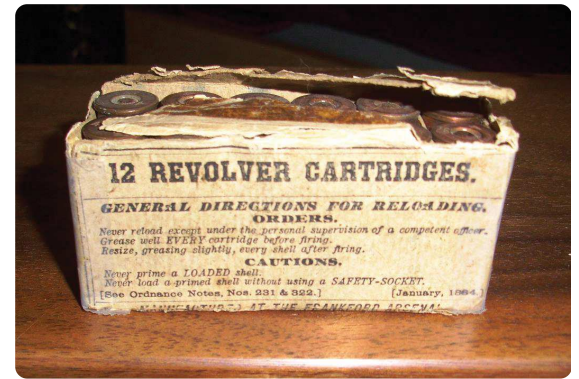


**Title Page Photo**—Original S&W .44 Double Action, 1873 Colt and Pepperbox.

**Right**—Many of us started out with Lee Loaders and other hand tools. The author finds that tools like these are most useful in loading for antique and obsolete calibers.

**Below Right**—This is an original and collectible packet of cartridges...don't be tempted to shoot them, rather create your own.

**Below**—This is a replica Colt Dragoon. Make your own paper cartridges and take it into the field.



**Right**—These are all rimfires that can be used with modern CCI mini-caps.

**Below**—Look closely or you won't know that these paper cartridge boxes are made from images found online and printed on brown paper.





fresh powder and a cotton ball for a projectile. After blowing that unfortunate cotton ball to Kingdom Come, I cleaned the old Miquelet and placed it back in the display cabinet. I then loaded the Sharpes with .22 CB caps and made short work of a few paper targets left over from my Army Pistol Team days. It also received a cleaning and retirement to the display cabinet.

But what to do with the Trap Door .50-70? Back then, you couldn't just walk into a gun shop and buy a box of .50-70 Government cartridges. I found four rounds of CCC (Connecticut Cartridge Company) .50-70 brass cartridge cases in a gun shop in Everett, for which I paid \$1 each. They had been produced on a lathe, rather than being made of drawn brass. I loaded them with 70 grains of FFg Black Powder, and cast lead bullets made in a Lyman mold. I had no dies, so I seated the bullets in the case mouths after tightening-up the cases by running them around in the muzzle of the rifle until they were small enough to grip the bullets as I tapped them in with a plastic mallet. I just could never bring myself to fire those rounds, both because I was aware of their low-tech production, and they represented my entire stock of ammo for that old Trap Door.

About that time, Turner Kirkland of Dixie Gun Works came to the rescue. He began selling newly minted .50-70 cases just for folks like me! I was able to obtain a couple dozen of them. I bought an RCBS mold that made a 455 grain .50 caliber bullet and went to work. I put the new cases through a torture test in which I selected four of the cases and loaded them with black powder, then took them and my loading press to the range. I kept firing and reloading the same four cases until one of them finally split slightly at the case mouth. I believe that case failed on its 12th or 13th shot. I then ordered enough cases from DGW to keep me set up indefinitely. I still have a supply of freshly loaded rounds in a U.S. issue

Hagner cartridge box sitting behind my .50-70 Springfield in the gun cabinet.

One of today's favorite sporting cartridges is the .44 Magnum. It is the end product of a long line of handgun cartridges using that numerical designation. Civil War veterans swore by the old Army .44. The Colt Model 1860 Army Revolver fired a pure lead .44 ball or a conical bullet. The balls came from the mold about .454" in diameter but when pressed into the chamber by the loading lever, a thin ring of lead was shaved from the ball, insuring a tight seal in the chamber and reducing the ball to a true .44 caliber.

You can make paper cartridges just like the original ones issued for cap and ball firearms simply by gluing tube made with a cigarette rolling paper to the base of a proper size lead ball or bullet and filling it with the appropriate charge of black powder. Twist the end of the paper tube and give it just a tiny touch of Elmer's white glue. You will then have a supply of the same type of ammunition issued to 19th Century soldiers before the cartridge era.

To take it a step further, you can even package your black powder paper cartridges like the originals by finding pictures of the original packets on line. Save a picture of the packet, use it to print your own labels (it helps to print them on paper cut from grocery store brown bags) and paste them onto cardboard boxes, which you can also make with the kind of scrap cardboard that most "normal" people just throw away (see photo on page 17).

When cartridge revolvers came into use, some retained the .454" projectile, like the .45 Colt used in the Model 1873, and the .45 Schofield which served alongside the Colt during the Indian Wars. Other cartridges stayed with the .44 caliber designation, like the .44 Smith & Wesson American and the .44 Russian, which fired a .429" bullet. All of these rounds were loaded with black powder, until about 1898. There are still many of these fine old revolvers around, and modern smokeless powder ammunition will fit in the chambers...but don't do it. If you value your gun and/or your body parts but still want to shoot it, you may have to roll your own ammo with black powder. You can buy low pressure ammunition from retailers such as Black Hills Ammunition but if you reload it's not too difficult to make your own. Just be prepared to go through the proper cleaning process, both with the guns and the brass, after using your black powder ammo.

Brass is available from Midway U.S.A. and a number of other companies. If you want to use modern cartridge cases with the proper caliber head stamp, it



**Left**—New brass for old calibers like the .44 Russian and .45 Schofield is made by Starline.

*Below is a paper cartridge made from cigarette papers.*





**Above**—An old original Colt Model 1873 “Peacemaker” a.k.a. Single Action Army Revolver like this may demand handloaded black powder cartridges—yes, you can shoot these old gunst.

**Below**—This old Lyman tong tool will do it all—cast .32 bullets and load the cartridges for these very collectible revolvers.

beats trying to round up a supply of old original cases. I use the Starline brass like that shown on the previous page for both my .44 Russian and .45 Schofield revolvers. The nice thing about loading these with black powder is that you can choose your load level safely. If you want a mild load, pick a charge level that won't fill the case to the brim (but will also not leave space between bullet and powder). If you want a maximum load, fill the case with your black powder and seat the bullet with a good tight crimp. Unlike with smokeless powder, you can't overcharge a black powder revolver cartridge; any unburned powder will simply blow out of the muzzle behind the bullet. I have found that a good rule of thumb is to use a little less powder than called for by the cartridge designation.

Some of my handiest and least expensive tools for reloading small batches of specialized ammunition are the old Lee Loader hand tools, and a hand press that takes regular reloading dies. (Photo on page 17 of hand loading tools.) A set of Lyman dippers will work for most of the ammo you want to make. For black powder you can also use a regular muzzle loader charger if you don't have the appropriate size dipper. Remember to use proper technique when dipping your charges. Don't shake or settle the powder, strike it off the top of the dipper with a knife blade or straight edge. Small batches of cast lead bullets can be sized and lubricated with the kit made by Lee.

Do you have a vintage .22 revolver or pistol that you would like to shoot at least once? No problem, you don't

have to go to the trouble of loading black powder .22 Rimfires. You can use modern low pressure .22 ammunition like CCI's Mini-Caps! (The lower right photo on page 17 shows some vintage rimfires.)

Old style Lyman “tong” reloading tools like the one pictured on this page are great for making small batches of original style ammo or custom loads for those cool little .32 S&W revolvers that were so popular in the past. This tool will even make your bullets for you. Why let them continue to languish in your dresser drawer?

Whether those old Curio & Relic firearms are black powder percussion or cartridge, there is so much fun to be had by shooting them. Get out and show some tin cans that these guns can still hit!

-GN-





## *Modern Use of Percussion Revolvers*

*Continued from page 15*

### **Loading & Shooting Percussion Revolvers**

There are two gunpowder types suitable for percussion revolvers. The first is standard Black Gun Powder. It is an explosive and not easily transported or stored, so local availability may not be good. If you are particularly adventuresome, you could try making it yourself; the production of black gunpowder has been a cottage industry throughout most of history. There are even how-to videos on YouTube, but I cannot attest to their accuracy or reliability. Black gun powder has existed for well over 700 years, but I'm told that the best formulations were lost at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. If you can find a supply of black gun powder you will usually find it in one of four granulations (or some variation of those four), Fg, used for largest bore shotguns and rifles and small cannons; FFg, or 2Fg, for use in shotguns and rifles .45 caliber and up, FFFg, or 3Fg, for use in 45 and smaller caliber rifles and handguns, and FFFFg or 4Fg, for use as the priming charge for flintlock ignition. 99% of applications will be for 2Fg and 3Fg powder.

There are several modern black gun powder brands—GOEX, Schuetzen and Swiss and others are sold through several vendors, for example Buffalo Arms of Idaho. Those three brands provide different performance among the various granulations; Swiss, for example, is somewhat more intense and more expensive, with GOEX being less. Buffalo Arms has a guide to usages of the various grades of all brands. Your selection will produce widely varying results.

As to the other gunpowder type, there are four modern substitutes for black gunpowder usable in percussion revolvers. The first and most common is Pyrodex®, a product of Hodgdon. It is available in the two most usable granulations, their 3Fg equivalent being called “P” and their 2Fg being called “RS” for Rifle and Shotgun. Variations of RS are “Select” and “Triple 7,” the former being their target formulation, and the latter designed specifically for use in modern-style Muzzleloader rifles with “in line” ignition. Pyrodex® is treated similar to smokeless powder in that it is not an explosive; it is classified as a “propellant” and thus can more safely be transported and stored. Pyrodex® is thus more commonly encountered in sporting goods outlets than Black Gunpowder.

Pyrodex® has burn characteristics similar to black gunpowder and firing produces a pall of smoke and significant fouling. Pyrodex® is not as “hygroscopic”

(moisture attracting) as black gunpowder so there is less urgency to clean after firing, but fine guns should not be allowed to sit overnight without cleaning as Pyrodex® is still mildly hygroscopic and does induce rust. Pyrodex® will significantly foul the barrel and action, so you should consider cleaning after only a few cylinders are fired. During a long shooting session you may wish to clean after intervals of 20-25 rounds. Although I have fired Cowboy Action matches of 6 stages (30 rounds from each revolver) without cleaning my revolvers, near the end I was experiencing fouling-related malfunctions.

There are alternatives to both black gunpowder and Pyrodex® and one example is American Pioneer Powder® (APP). This is available in the four usual granulations and is used like black gunpowder. APP does not produce the residue that Pyrodex® or black gunpowder leaves. In the literature for APP there is discussion that they fired one rifle for more than a thousand shots without cleaning. Either Pyrodex® or black gunpowder would leave fouling in the bore such that a bullet would be unable to pass through well before that mark. American Pioneer® still generates a cloud of smoke like Pyrodex® or black gunpowder but there is much less bore fouling. It is one of my favorites and the only downside for APP is that it does not compress. Some care must be exercised when measuring because if too much is dumped into a revolver cylinder the bullet cannot be seated deeply enough. Pyrodex® has some compressibility as does black gunpowder, although heavy compression is not recommended with either. On the other hand, American Pioneer® is clean burning enough that several more cylinders can be fired through a revolver before fouling interferes with operation.

Two alternatives are GOEX Clean Shot, and Blackhorn 209. I have no experience with Clean Shot as it has been unavailable near me. The advertising is that Blackhorn 209 is formulated for modern in-line ignition, and it is remarkably accurate in my black powder cartridge rifle.

As was mentioned above, the accuracy and velocity will vary with the type and brand of powder, but much less so with the charge than it will with modern smokeless powder. Generally, the powder measure is set at the volume desired as measured in grain weight of black gunpowder. If using one of the substitute black gun powders, always charge the gun by volume equivalent, NEVER by weight. Use enough powder to allow proper seating of the bullet. Most importantly, though, NEVER leave an air gap between the powder and the bullet. Black gunpowder and the substitutes



will not react well to unused case volume either in muzzle-loaded chambers or cartridges and potential danger exists. Always use at least some pressure when seating the bullet. Best results are often attained by putting a dab of lubricant on the mouth of revolver chambers, to soften the fouling and prevent chain-fires. (Chain fire is when the spark from the chamber being fired ignites the charge in adjoining chambers. This is extremely rare but could be somewhat disconcerting.)

Conical bullets are much more accurate and effective than are round balls. They were—and still are—cast with a smaller diameter at the heel than the driving bands to facilitate seating in the chamber. Lubing in a modern size-lube setup such as a Lyman or RCBS can be messy, however I find that if I do not apply pressure to the lube reservoir until the bullet is seated fully in the die, then relieve pressure before I drive the bullet out, I can limit the application of lube to just the lube grooves. I am not aware of a supply of pre-cast, lubed and sized bullets for percussion revolvers, so if you choose to use conical bullets you may have to cast, lube and size them yourself. They are very much worth the effort. An alternative lubricant is Lee Liquid Alox, an easy to use lube but with an odor; my wife absolutely hates that smell. Conical bullets must be lubricated to prevent lead deposits that will destroy accuracy.

### **Cleaning**

In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, percussion caps and priming compounds in primers and rimfire cartridges were charged with fulminate of mercury or some similar, highly corrosive compound. That tradition was continued up through World War II, but shortly after that war, all priming compounds changed to non-corrosive mixtures. In the 19<sup>th</sup> Century and before, normal cleaning was with water which prevented damage from the corrosive priming. As modern priming methods evolved, modern cleaning compounds became prevalent. Unfortunately, these methods do NOT ameliorate corrosive priming damage, and modern guns are subject to severe corrosion from the ancient compounds. Modern percussion caps are non-corrosive but are not an excuse to avoid immediate cleaning. Most importantly, should you find a supply of old (Pre-WWII) cartridges you should expect the priming to be corrosive; any delay in cleaning will damage your firearm. This warning also applies to some foreign-made ammunition, especially military ammunition.

There's always debate over cleaning. As mentioned, modern chemicals such as Hoppe's® or Shooters

Choice® don't work well. The ancient method of warm, soapy water is recommended to remove black powder residue. This does not apply to Pyrodex®—although hot soapy water will indeed remove Pyrodex® and the other substitutes, so too will the modern cleaning chemicals. In all cases, a light coating of oil after the gun is cleaned is mandatory. Corrosive priming compounds must always be cleaned with water.

### **Loading cartridges for conversion revolvers**

An array of conversion calibers are possible. The .31 caliber Remington and Colt are both converted to .32 Smith and Wesson (short). Hopefully your chambers are too short to allow the 32 ACP which would be unsafe—.32 ACP ammunition is loaded to twice the pressure of the S&W round. Original conversions were normally to .32 soon after the Civil War; .32 Rimfire until 1878 then .32 S&W (short.) While the conversion cylinders today are of modern construction, the frames of these revolvers were designed to handle black gunpowder pressures. Reloading manuals rarely show .32 S&W load data however using an 85-grain lead bullet, such as Lyman's #313249, some recommend a maximum 1.4 grains of Winchester's #231 smokeless powder for an estimated 600-625 fps and 68-73 foot-pounds of energy. Alliant's "Unique" is reported to give higher velocities but pressures are not noted.

The Navy caliber Colt and Remington revolvers were often converted to .38 caliber rounds by independent gunsmiths and by the factories. Rimfire ammunition larger than .22 Caliber is not readily available, if at all, and if one were to find old cartridges, the corrosive priming and inability to be reloaded should stop you from firing it. Centerfire on the other hand is much more reliable, easier to find and to reload. Historically, many of the post-Civil War Navy revolver conversions were to the .38 caliber Colt cartridges, either Rimfire or the original Short Colt. To achieve best accuracy a bullet should be at least full groove diameter, so original .38 Rimfire and Short Colt cartridges used "outside lubricated" or "full caliber" bullets held in the case by crimping onto the heel of the bullet. Most do not have access to the tools to crimp the case mouth onto the heel of these bullets and bullet molds are unavailable so we use "hollow base" bullets instead of the original heeled bullets. Upon firing that hollow base will expand to seal the barrel and grip the rifling, providing accuracy.

Most importantly keep loads mild for cartridge conversion revolvers. I have a 150-grain hollow base

.36 caliber bullet mold and I use 3.0 grains of Alliant “Unique” smokeless powder, for about 680 feet per second and 150 ft./lbs. of energy. .38 Long Colt cartridge cases can be found online or can easily be made by shortening 38 Special cartridge cases. A significant advantage of cartridge conversions is the freedom to use smokeless powder so that cleaning is much easier. Also, the 38 S&W cartridge of 1877 uses a larger diameter (.386” vs .378”) case than either the 38 Colt or Special. It should not fit into the chambers of the Colt or Remington conversion cylinders but if it does it is of low enough pressure that firing it is safe. The reverse is not true—do not, under any circumstances, use .38 Colt or .38 Special cartridges in chambers marked for .38 S&W. There could be catastrophic case failure, a damaged firearm and injury or death. If in doubt always match the marking on the cartridge case head with that on the firearm.

Modern reproduction conversions of .44 Army revolvers are converted to a number of calibers, most often .45 Colt or rarely .44 Colt. .45 ACP is also seen. .44 Colt was a martial round, having been used in conversions of the Army caliber Colt percussion revolvers as mentioned above. There is a similar cartridge, .44 S&W used in the 1871 S&W Model 3, that is similar but not interchangeable. Again, use only mild loads if you reload, and if you intend to use only factory ammunition, the makers recommend the “Cowboy” level of pressure. Use of black gunpowder, Pyrodex® and APP will destroy brass cartridges after only a few firings, unless they are thoroughly cleaned between firings and annealed frequently. The conversion cylinders are very thin and the revolvers themselves were designed for black gunpowder, so keep pressures low.

### Conclusion

Percussion revolvers are still with us. We shoot them for entertainment and they connect us with a fascinating era in our history. They remain potent—James Hickok found percussion revolvers to be more than adequate in his day. When Hickok shot and killed Davis Tutt in July 1865 at a distance of 75 yards—an extraordinary shot indeed—he was not handicapped by his choice of weapon. Those 19<sup>th</sup> century percussion revolver users did not feel themselves under-gunned and neither should you. Whether for target shooting, hunting or personal defense, the percussion revolver and black powder are antique technologies that remain viable in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

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### Some Reference Sources:

- **Cartridges of The World, 4<sup>TH</sup> Edition**, by Frank C. Barnes, 1965, 4<sup>th</sup> Ed. 1980; DBI Books, Northfield, IL
- Wikipedia articles concerning Colt, Remington and Smith and Wesson Revolvers as a major research source.
- Dixie Gun Works, Union City, TN catalog 2013 edition

**The Author**—Major Dick Farnsworth, US Army Infantry, Retired. Dick Farnsworth is a former professor of Military History at the University of Montana, an avid hunter and competitive shooter of all types of firearms. He spent the last 60 years reloading and the last 50 casting most of his own bullets. Black Powder shooting in rifle and revolver is a side specialty for him dating back more than 50 years. **-GN-**

### How to Log On to the WAC Website

Go ahead, try it. First, go to:  
**washingtonarmscollectors.org**  
Then, check out the banner on the home page for the latest info and show dates.  
Need to renew or extend your membership?  
Click on the Membership tab.

How about viewing the *GunNews* magazine—then you must log into your account:

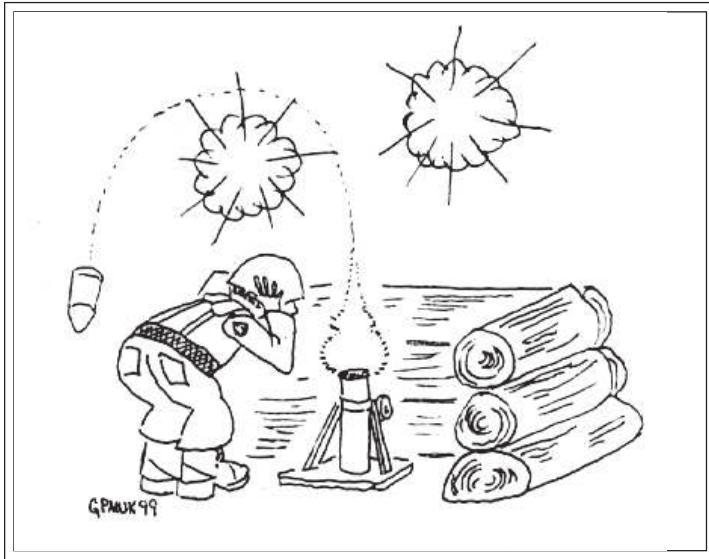
- **user name is your member number**
  - **password is your last name, all caps**
- Once logged in you can go the WAC Member tab and see the magazine.

### WAC Member Donations Exceed All Expectations—\$3574

During November and the first couple of weeks of December, WAC members have donated \$3574. Many of these donations come from long-time Life Members who are committed to the continued viability of the club. We recognize your generosity and thank you for the continuing support. **Officers & Directors**



## SHORT ROUNDS



### 80% Receivers Are Firearms?

From the Polymer 80 website: "...the ATF conducted a raid against Polymer 80 for allegedly illegally manufacturing and distributing firearms, failing to pay taxes, shipping firearms across state lines, and failing to conduct background checks. This information broke Thursday night after the search warrant was unsealed when the raid had been completed.

The ATF is specifically targeting the company's "Buy, Build, Shoot Kit". The kit is marketed as having "everything you need to complete a pistol at home". The kit contains a slide, barrel, recoil guide and spring, a lower parts kit, the jig, the drill bits, and an 80% frame. The ATF is claiming, because the pistol can be completed at home in just a few minutes, it is sold as a complete firearm. This requires that they serialize the frame and must conduct a background check on the purchaser. When a company wishes to sell an 80% frame, they must send a sample to the ATF. The ATF then conducts a review of the item. When they finish their review, they give the company a "determination letter", stating if the object does or does not qualify as a firearm according to the Gun Control Act of 1968. When Polymer 80 began selling their frame, they had to get this determination letter. Which they did. The fact that they sell the rest of the parts with the gun is irrelevant. The part that the government considers a firearm, the frame, has been determined by the ATF as a "non firearm object". The ATF disregarding their own determination letter is ludicrous. Which therein lies the bigger issue.

The ATF largely operates on these determination letters. These letters are little more than the individual opinion of the person conducting the review. The problem with this is the ATF's opinion is easily changed.

## Stan Larson Passes

The WAC received word that long-time member Everett Stan Larson died of a stroke on August 10, 2020. We have no additional information.

## I-1639 Appeal

From the 2nd Amendment Foundation: *Attorneys representing the Second Amendment Foundation, National Rifle Association, two Washington state gun retailers and three private citizens have filed an appeal brief with the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in their challenge of gun control Initiative 1639, a measure adopted two years ago in the Evergreen State.*

*The 45-page brief asserts I-1639 "infringes the rights protected by the Second Amendment and enjoyed by law-abiding adults of all ages. The interstate sales ban violates the Interstate Commerce Clause." A district court judge in Tacoma dismissed the case in August, and plaintiffs promptly filed notice of appeal with the Ninth U.S. Circuit Court in San Francisco.*

*The initiative prohibits young adults ages 18-20 from purchasing and owning so-called "semiautomatic assault rifles," which it defined as literally any self-loading rifle, regardless of caliber. Tens of millions of semiautomatic rifles are in use today by law-abiding citizens of all ages for a variety of endeavors including hunting, competition, predator and varmint control, recreational shooting and personal/home protection.*

*"We're asking the Ninth Circuit to reverse a ruling by the lower federal district court, and remand this case back for further action," said SAF founder and Executive Vice President Alan M. Gottlieb. "The constitutional rights of law-abiding citizens should never be subject to a popular vote, and we are hopeful the appeals court agrees." Plaintiffs are represented by Seattle attorney Joel B. Ard and Spokane attorney David K. DeWolf. The case is known as Mitchell v. Atkins.*

## Renton United Cowboy Action Shooters Host Range Officer Classes

Renton United Cowboy Action Shooters will be hosting SASS RO1 and RO2 classes on the weekend of February 27 & 28th, 2021 at the Renton Fish & Game Club. Pinto Annie will be the instructor.

Please contact Cedar County Sheriff at [d.mirkle@msn.com](mailto:d.mirkle@msn.com) if you would like to attend either or both of these classes. Please indicate which class, or both, that you would like to attend. -GN-

# The Gun, The Law, And The Tools of Self-Defense

## The World of Collecting By Tom Burke

As readers here may know, the major focus of my interest in firearms is as a “collector.” (Accumulator would be more accurate but not as “distinguished” sounding!) So while I can’t afford museum-quality pistols such as an original S&W Registered Magnum, I can afford “shooters,” such as a Smith & Wesson 38/44 Heavy Duty mix-master (not all the serial numbers match but she sure shoots). As I no longer hunt or compete I don’t have any of the most popular deer rifles, goose guns, or shotguns for trap or skeet. My long gun interests focus on milsurps, such as an “Irish-Contract” Enfield Mk IV or Finnish Mosin M39.

But a couple of weeks ago I was again reminded that firearms are for more than their history or mechanical wonder. They are tools used to protect ourselves and our loved ones. Here’s a post in that vein I made on the Smith & Wesson “M&P” forum:

*"So I'm Not Selling my .40 M&P...after last night."*

*Last night was a false alarm, but now I'm not selling my .40 M&P, which is my bedside gun. I've had a full-size M&P in my nightstand for a year or so. It's got nice bright sights, a rail (with flashlight) and a full Apex kit installed.*

*But I was thinking of selling it, replacing it with a Smith 4566TSW that's in the safe, and using the proceeds for something Colt-revolverish as a range toy.*

*Last night, after our motion-activated lights went on around 2:45 am and I reached into the drawer, picked the .40 out of the easy-access one-gun safe, and went to*

*cautiously look to see what was happening, I changed my mind.*

*What happened was nothing. The front door motion light never came on, the other lights went dim, and there was nothing stirring. Must have been a smallish animal that set them off.*

*But as I was waiting and watching, I realized just how “perfect” that M&P was: striker-fired for a surer first shot than my DA/SAs; nice bright night sights, a flashlight attached, plenty of firepower, and it feels good in my hand. And yes, the 4566 is just as good, but I'd need new sights and I think the advantage of a striker-fired gun, at 3 am, makes it a better choice for me if I'm suddenly roused out of bed.*

*There's no real point to this little tale, except to say that it sure makes me feel a whole bunch more secure knowing that if something untoward had happened, I would have been at least modestly prepared."*

Responses in the Smith & Wesson community were extensive and contained good advice. One that brought a smile to my face was a fella referring to the best kind of motion detectors—the furry kind. He wrote, “I have two motion detectors, Iko and Tika, my two German Shepherds.” (I lost my ‘furry motion detector’ (our English Cocker Spaniel “Telly” last month. Anyone have a spare English Cocker that needs a new home?)

Others listed their bedside protection, which ranged from a retired LEO’s S&W Model 10 in .38 special (his service revolver), to SIG 226’s, Beretta 92’s, DA/SA Smith 5906’s, to a Remington 12 gauge Model 870, and to a clearly well-prepped homeowner, who kept a 9mm Beretta Cx4 with a 30-round magazine handy.

There was also a lively discussion about reasonable measures for home protection, what type of firearms are optimal, where to keep them, how to use them, and when they might be used.

So here’s a combination of the best advice from an actual gun law attorney (and *GunNews* advertiser) David M Newman from the Rainier Law Group and my research and experience.

### **Best, First Advice...and More**

The best and first advice: Know your local laws.





Which to me means not relying on Internet “wisdom” but finding and understanding for yourself, Washington state gun laws plus local county and city add-ons.

Next, David of the Rainier Law Group recommends that if you are going to keep a firearm at home for self-defense (or carry one), find a firearm-friendly, gun-knowledgeable, skilled criminal defense attorney and line him up now; put his number in your cell phone. Use that number before you start talking to the police if there were an incident.

He reminds us that if there were in a shooting, especially if someone is killed, it is a homicide and the shooter ( Y O U ) will be the prime suspect. (So, says he—don’t cheap out; find someone good, as it’s your freedom that’s at stake.)

Next, most advisors suggest choosing a firearm that’s comfortable to handle, safe to operate, not too modified or slicked up, not your “best” gun, ten-million percent reliable with the ammo you’ll use, and appropriate for your location.

And, says David, get some training. Learn how to use it properly.

Which means sleeping with a full-load .357 or .44 Magnum under the pillow in your new 5th floor Belltown apartment is probably not a good idea unless you want to put a few rounds of big-bang wonderfulness into the Space Needle...after they pass through a perp, a couple of walls, and a half-mile of Seattle smog.

Better to consider your surroundings, what’s behind what you might be shooting at, and pick caliber and ammo accordingly. I find .40 S&W to be adequate, but then .45 ACP and 9mm would be as good. (No caliber wars...it’s your gun, and shoot what ya like, but be conscious of muzzle blast and noise, which are disorienting at night in a relatively small space.) As far as a light, some like ‘em (nice to see what you’re shooting at and they can blind the perp); but they also give away your location, so some hold ‘em at arm’s length for that reason. Lasers are also an option.

And, says David, use something tool-like – a Glock, M&P, shotgun, or Ruger wheel gun –so if it does get impounded you aren’t out a whole lot of money. There’s no sense risking an original Colt Python, which, if used, it could find itself in a Prosecuting Attorney’s evidence locker for a couple of years until your case came up. Or you might never see it again.

As far as a trigger work and DA versus SA, there’s a bunch of internet chatter about not modifying anything from stock for self-defense; as some ambitious Prosecuting Attorney will call you trigger happy and use your modification to prove your original intent was deadly. (Your original intent is to stop the threat, it has nothing to do with deadliness.)

Personally, I’ve not ever heard of that actually happening and neither has David, although it may have. And DA/SA versus SA versus Striker Fired: pick what

you shoot best, and what you think you’d need if you were awakened suddenly and had to operate a firearm. There are sound arguments on all sides of this topic, so again, choose what you feel most comfortable with. Oh, and if you need glasses, have them handy and put them on before doing anything drastic.

### **Where and When to Fire a Weapon**

Apply the usual four “laws” to real life situations — All guns are always loaded; don’t point it at something you don’t want to kill; know your target and what’s behind it, and keep your finger off the trigger until on target. These are not just range rules.

Experts tell us not to go roaming outside looking for threats; wait ‘till they actually attempt to enter your home (which is scary and counter-intuitive, but good advice)—this results in the most solid self-defense case. Stand your ground and castle doctrines, although not specifically in Washington law, says David, require an imminent threat to life, and shooting a guy rummaging in the vegetable patch is going to prove iffy in court, even if he were carrying a weapon.

### **Best bottom-Line Plan of Action**

Call 911 and stay on the line with the dispatcher until the police arrive.

Get your family somewhere safe. (Retreating to a safe place is not only just plain smart, says David, it makes a stronger self-defense case.)

Wait ‘till you are obviously threatened (like someone coming down my hallway to our bedroom).

If there is a discharge say little-to-nothing to law enforcement until you speak to a lawyer. You are under no obligation to say anything and the police may seem sympathetic, but may not be your “friend” in court with the Prosecuting Attorney.

Note: David suggests you, of course, give police your name, etc., and explain you’ll give them a full statement after you speak with your attorney. If you say anything, keep it short and simple, such as, “I was in fear of my life (wife’s life, kids, etc.)” and no more. You will be electric with adrenalin from the incident, and he asks, “Is that the best time to talk to law enforcement?”

In terms of storage, we all know the law: Lock ‘em up. And there are plenty of high tech and no-tech bedside solutions to keeping guns safe but very handy.

Clearly gun ownership is a serious subject. And the actual use of a firearm is deadly serious. If you are going to own a gun (and by definition readers here probably do) know the law; and if you ever have to use a firearm, ya damn well never want to say to yourself, sitting in some prison day room, “Well, I thought it was okay to...”

**Email Tom with your questions and suggestions on column topics:  
t.burke.column@gmail.com**

-GN-

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FOR SALE: Assorted pistol magazines mostly .40 S&W caliber. Too much to list such as Beretta, Browning, FN, S&W, Springfield, Taurus, etc. NIB and LNIB conditions. Price from \$15 to \$35 each. Email me for availability, pictures and pricing. [reyesii@comcast.net](mailto:reyesii@comcast.net)

FOR SALE: Remington choke tube bundles, new and unopened. Three different packages: 12 ga. extended choke tubes for steel or lead shot, includes full, modified, IC tubes—\$22; 12 ga. express bundle for lead shot only, includes full and IC tubes and a choke wrench—\$22; 20 ga. express bundle for lead shot only, includes full and IC tubes and a choke wrench—\$18. These fit Remington 870, 1100, 11-87 shotguns, may fit some others, you'll need to

do your own research to be sure. Asking \$22 for the 12-ga. packages and \$18 for the 20-ga. pack, that's more than 50% less than what they're running for on Amazon. Pick up in Everett. Email for pictures. [zep11@comcast.net](mailto:zep11@comcast.net)

FOR SALE: Ruger Old Model Super Blackhawk .44 Magnum, early '70's vintage, likely the nicest one you'll ever see, excellent in every way. Action tuned by Joe Perkins at Classic Single Actions, including fitted Belt Mountain Keith #5 oversize cylinder base pin. Comes with factory grips, a beautiful set of Hogue cocobolo

grips, and a set of full custom Herrett grips from feather-crotch black walnut. These grips may be the last set of grips ever made by Herrett before they went out of business...the order was snuck in 2 days after they stopped taking orders! Includes a full box of Winchester white box 240-grain JSP—Asking \$1295. Call Jack, 360-485-5312.

FOR SALE: Want different grips for your new J-frame round butt but not sure which ones? Try them all! Package of five grips for J-frame round butt: Wood combat finger groove (3) grips, wraparound, new, unused, with medallions; Pachmayr Compacts, two each, one is a newer 1-piece design and the second is the original 2-piece design; Pachmayr Compact Pro grip; Uncle Mike's Spegel-pattern boot grips. All in excellent or like-new condition—\$55 for the package, including shipping. Call Jack, 360-485-5312.

FOR SALE: Steyr S-40 compact pistol, .40 S&W, similar to Glock, made in Austria, LNIB—\$525. Taurus 85 stainless, 38 special, 5 shot, 2" barrel, LNIB—\$330. Both have been test fired only. Thompson model 1928, 6 mm airsoft, full auto, looks and feel like the real thing, NIB—\$225. Benjamin break barrel target air rifle model BTN 2175X, 1400 fps, 177 caliber, NIB—\$270. Email [reyesii@comcast.net](mailto:reyesii@comcast.net) for more info and pictures.

FOR SALE: Thumler's Tumbler, Model B, clean your dirty brass and nasty rocks fast—\$75. Mike, 425-836-8648.

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FOR SALE: Ruger Mini-14 Stainless w/4-12X scope—\$725. NIB Mini-14 magazines, 3 at—\$30 each. Parker 12 ga. SxS, GHE, frame size 2, used but a classic that shoots well—\$1500. Winchester 54 in 30-06 w/Lyman 4x scope – used but a classic—\$525. Rem. 760 Game Master in .270, excellent cond., w/ Leopold 4X—\$425. Winchester Model 12 in 12 ga, full choke, field grade, built in 1950, excellent orig. cond—\$525. Have 4 Magazines for H&K P7—\$100 each. Legal Transfers. No texts. Please phone Robert in Seattle 206-909-7189.

WANTED: Czech Mauser VZ 24, seek decent condition rifle with good rifling and clear rampant lion crest on receiver. Call...no texts. Robert 206-909-7189.

FOR SALE: 950 .380 caliber rounds in 50 and 100 round cases—\$700. Paul 253-224-0319.

WANTED: Revolver in .22LR. New or VG. Taurus model 94 or equivalent, 8 or 9 shot. Prefer 3" barrel and prefer SS but consider others. Ray, 425-329-5709.

FOR SALE: AMT Backup 22 LR, 3 magazines—\$250. Ruger Security Six 357 mag, 6 in, original grips and a nice older Ruger with appx. 88/90% finish, marked

Made in the 200th Year of American Liberty—\$525 OBO. Ruger Mark I, 6 in, all original nice blue about 85/90% except for a small spot on left front of trigger guard where blueing is thin, marked, Made in the 200th year of American Liberty—\$425 OBO. S&W model 625 JM special, 2 sets grips orig. wood and rubber type, comes with a dozen clips for 45 ACP, loading/unloading tools and the original box—\$825 OBO. Trades considered if right item. Buyer pays transfer. Can transfer here @Boerner Firearms. Harlan, 360-649-0309 or email gottogo3943@gmail.com.

WANTED to buy. \$\$\$ cash in Hand for KIMBER of OREGON Rimfire. Nice wood a BiGGG PLUS +++. I buy estates and collections. Call Daniel, 541-670-9940, email, dillmandan@gmail.com

FOR SALE: Bullets,brass, grips, pellet pistol for sale. 50 rds 35 Whelen brass, new—\$30. Also have 16 cases of once fired—\$5 more. 15 rds 35 Whelen 250 grain sp (remington brand)—\$30, plus 37 rds of reloads—\$20 more. 1 box 20 rds Remington 22-250 55 grain HP—\$30. Vintage Crossman C0-2 22 cal pistol, model 110—\$50. Hogue grips for Security Six, Police service six—\$10. S & W small pistol revolver wood grips—\$15. RCBS vintage 22-250 seat die—\$10. You can call me. Dave, 206-962-7952.

WANTED: Musket caps, 45-120 brass or ammo, FFg or FFFg black powder. Contact Dan at ridinghides@gmail.com or 509-293-3510.

WANTED: 9.3x74R brass. Gary, 206-396-2395.

WANTED: Ruger single-six pistol in .17 HMR. I am looking for a shooter. I am not a collector. If you would like to find a new home for your Iron, Please contact me. Greg at, Thomasunit@msn.com

WANTED: Looking for a Colt 1908 Pocket Hammerless pistol in .380 ACP in good condition. Steve, 360-491-3608 or sbloom@theolympian.com.

FOR SALE: Rifle bullets, various brands—\$10/100, 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. Shipping available. Mike, 425-836-8648.

FOR SALE: Loading die sets: RCBS; 338 Win Mag, 308 Win, 22-250, 25 ACP, Lee 270 Win,—\$15 each. Lee Loader 270 Win, 303 Sav—\$5 ea. Sizers only; Forster 280 Rem, RCBS 22 Var (no de-capping spindal)—\$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. Shipping available. Mike, 425-836-8648.

FOR SALE: New brass: Rifle; 30-30 Win, 30-06, 338 Win Mag, 7mm Ultra Mag, 300, Wby,—40 cents each for standards & 50 cents each 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. Shipping available. Mike, 425-836-8648.

FOR SALE: Fired brass: 38 Sp., 40 S&W—3 cents each; 223 Rem R-P, 357 Mag, 357 Sig, 380 Auto—5 cents each; 45 ACP, 30 Blackout, 44 Mag—7 cents each; 6.5 Grendel, 7.62X54 Russian—8 cents each; 22-250, 243 Win, 6.5 Creedmoor, 6.5 Swede, 7mm-08, 7x57 & 8x57, 303 British—12 cents each; 6mm Rem, 257 Roberts, 270 Win, 30-30, 308 Win., 30-06—10 cents each; 30-40 Krag, 7mm Rem, 300 Wby, 43 Spanish, 458 Win—20 cents each. 50 BMG—75 cents each. Shipping available. Mike, 425-836-8648.

FOR SALE: Rifle scopes: Original Redfield Co., 4X medium duplex with dot—\$75. 3X9 fine crosshairs with dot—\$75. Burris 3X9 Fullfield with Ballistic Plex—\$100. Shipping available. Mike, 425-836-8648.

FOR SALE: Dillon Reloading Equipment NIB. Dillon Precision. Super 1050 reloading machine, 223, NIB cost \$1899. plus carbide 223 dies \$82. S&H \$30. Dillons cost

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\$2112 .NIB asking- \$2050. / Extras sold by piece all NIB. R1100 quick change setup, tool head powder measure. NIB- \$285. / RT1200 electric case trimmer NIB- \$280. CV-2001 Vibratory case cleaner NIB- \$200. / used CV-2001- \$150. CM2000 Large case media separator NIB- \$90. Extra die sets, & plate sets in 223, & 308, 38 super, all NIB. ask me on what you need. GUNS: Springfield M1A .308 match barrel & parts, JAE-100 G3 Stock, 4X12X50 scope, latch mount, bipod, pictinny rails, 2) 20 round mags, soft case—\$3950. Old Marlin pump 22 nice, books \$2400./ sell- \$2000 OBO. Cash. Dave 206..941..0060.

WANTED: Looking for good quality shotguns, one or a collection. Call Paul at 503-621-3766 or email blimppy44@gmail.com .

WANTED: Stevens 12 gauge shotgun with the 36" barrel. Must be in good working order. Ordie, ordiedb@gmail.com, 253-266-2105

WANTED: German Luger magazine loading tools: DWM, Erfurt, Simson, Police, Krieghoff and early Mauser. Also Weimar era tools and the navy marked M over an anchor and the Imperial Navy Crown nested on the M. If you are not sure what you have, contact me. They can be identified. I will buy or trade for your Luger magazine loading tools. I also sell them. Klaus Merzbach's 33

### Legal Representation & Advice:

- Advocacy, seminars on self-defense
- Licensing & Litigation
- Representation in administrative proceedings
- Criminal defense
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### Mark S. Knapp

Attorney

(253) 202-2081

[mark@firearmslawyer.net](mailto:mark@firearmslawyer.net)

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page Luger magazine loading tool article is still available free of charge. As well as the Long Neck Luger Loading Tool article. Email me and ask for it. Dave, phone: 208-365-5268 or Email: davidolindsay5@gmail.com.


FOR SALE: HEIZER PS1 single-shot pocket shotgun, new in box. Shoots 2 1/2" .410 or .45 Colt. Only 3/4" wide, weighs 21 oz. Black Isonite finish. Interesting little backup gun and easily concealable. For a full price offer of \$325 I'll cover the transfer fee at Sound Loan & Pawn in Everett plus I'll throw in five rounds of new brass .45 Colt. Other offers considered but then transfer fee will be on you and the ammo will not be included. Check the usual internet gun sites, you won't find one cheaper than what I'm asking. Not looking for any trades right now. Email David for pictures or questions. zep11@comcast.net

FOR SALE: Springfield XDs, .45ACP pistol, blue bbl, excellent with original case/accessories, 4 standard and 3 extended magazines, Crossbreed IWB holster, 50 rounds factory ammo—\$450. Kimber EVO SP CDP 9mm pistol, NIB (unfired), 4 mags, Sticky holster, 200 rounds of premium HP and factory ball ammo—\$850.. Savage Mk II FV-SR .22LR bolt rifle, new, unfired (no box), blue threaded 16.5 inch bbl, one 5 round and five 10 round magazines, 100 rounds ammo—\$250. Browning Buckmark "Camper" .22LR pistol, excellent, with original blue bbl, and Tactical Solutions threaded bbl, adj. rear sight, 4 magazines, soft case, 100 rounds ammo—\$350. Seven - new Ruger BX-25 .22LR magazines (no boxes)—\$20 each/\$100 for all. RCBS 502 beam scale, NIB—\$50. RCBS Rangemaster 2000 digital scale, NIB—\$100. Firearms sales subject to state law. Call/text/email Grant: 253-370-3628, grandorb@comcast.net.

WANTED: Internal parts for Meriden model 15 pump .22 rifle. May interchange with Mossberg model M. Please contact Steve at 206-291-8638.

FOR SALE: Colt custom shop Single Action Army, unfired, 1976 vintage, factory "D" grade engraved, in original factory custom shop box, 45LC, 7 1/2 " barrel, rare non fluted cylinder complete with factory colt letter—\$7999. Colt "Lightweight Commander" stainless steel finish, 1911,, 2 original stainless magazines (marked m), original box/with Colt booklet (copyright 1994), came with rosewood grips, skeletonized hammer and trigger, ambi extended safety, rounded grip insert, and extended beavertail safety, I added adjustable night sights and bushing (original sights and bushing are in the original box/case)—\$1000. Winchester "1892" chambered in 32/20, octagon barrel, excellent bore, tight action, better than most you have seen at shows—\$1200. Also some "Belgium" Browning A-5 Humpback in 12 GA 3" MAG, 12 GA 2 3/4 " , and 16 GA 2 3/4"; all shotguns have solid or vent ribs. Other collectible guns. What do you want? Call Mike, Vancouver, WA, 503-310-2650.

FOR SALE: New and estate firearms: Ruger 10/22 Stainless bbl. w/Scope—\$315. Ruger 57, 5.7X28mm, 2) 20 round mags—\$775. Ruger American Rimfire .22 LR—\$245. Ruger Gunsite Scout, .308, 3 mags—\$975. Kel-Tec KSG 12gu. 14+1—\$749. Ruger LCP .380 w/laser—\$350. European American Armory SAR P6P, 9mm—\$350. Chiappa M9 .22 2)10 rd. mags—\$265. Ruger 556 #8500—\$795. Sig Sauer P365 S.A.S. 9mm. 2) mags—\$650. Springfield Armory Hellcat O.S.P.—\$695. Springfield Armory Hellcat O.S.P. w/ Sig Sauer Romeo Zero Sight—\$750. Heritage Rough Rider .22/22mag. Special Edition Skull Grips—\$179. Bersa Thunder .22 2) mags—\$325. Glock 21 4th gen .45acp 3)mags—\$565. Smith & Wesson M&P 15, Sport II .556—\$745. SCCY cpx-2 9mm 2)10 rd. mags. W/ Red Dot Sight—\$349. Legacy/Citadel BOSS-25, 5)rd. mag. 12ga—\$675. Glock 22, 4th Gen .40 3) mags. Night Sights. (L.E.O. Trade-in)—\$475. All include transfer fee but do not include the \$18 DOL Assault Weapon fee (on semi-auto long guns only). Text or call Paul, 425 232 3988 with questions ( NO WEEKEND CALLS).



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FOR SALE: Mossberg 500 riot shotgun with extended mag tube, VG EX—\$375. Armalite AR10 NIB, uses Armalite mags only, with 5 factory 20 rd mags—\$1250. Transfer done at South Sound Guns in Lacey. Glen at kalenas@comcast.net

FOR SALE: Winchester 94AE (angled ejection) Commemorative. This is a 1 of 300 dedicated to Charles M. Russell, famous western artist. Stock and metal are engraved with western scenes and gold plate. An identical rifle can be seen on line at C M Russell tribute rifle/America remembers. This is a beautiful rifle that needs to be displayed, but I have no place for it. Will sell at my cost—\$1300. Also for sale is a Mossberg #21 single shot .22 rifle rescued from a closet, stock refinished and metal parts made to look like new, good barrel, cute gun, C&R eligible—\$100. I live in the greater Tacoma area for transfer. Email Gary at, sugarlarsons@me.com.

FOR SALE: 1903A3 with cut military stock. Easily restorable. VG EX—\$500. Transfer done at South Sound Guns in Lacey. Glen at kalenas@comcast.net

FOR SALE or TRADE: Goodyear DuraTrac M/S285/70/17. Mounted and balanced on 2500 Power Wagon 8 lug factory alloys. Approx. 15,000 mi on tires. Note: will sell tires separately for \$400. \$600 for package or trade for Glock 26. Glen at kalenas@comcast.net

FOR SALE: SA Super Match M1A, as new—\$2150. DSA FAL VG-EX (early forged receiver)—\$1400. No.4 Enfields: 1 Savage, 1 Longbranch—\$600 each. Transfers done at South Sound Guns in Lacey. Glen at kalenas@comcast.net.

WANTED: Thompson Contender frame or frame with any caliber barrel. Rob, 253-857-3343.

FOR SALE: Factory ammo: 338 Winchester Mag, 34 rds—\$45; 8mm (8x57JS), 5 boxes of 20—\$125; 45ACP HP police ammo, 50 rds—\$75; 45ACP Magtech HP, 20 rds—\$35; 45 ACP Remington HP, 25 rds—\$30; 40 S&W Winchester FMJ, 1000 rds—\$1000; 40 S&W Remington FMJ, 500 rds—\$500. Rob, 253-857-3343.

FOR SALE: Winchester 94, 30-30, about 62—\$900. Save model 24, .22/20G—\$350. J Stevens Arms Springfield model 94A 12 G, SxS Long Tom, 1926-1945—\$550 Winchester Repeating Arms model 37, 12 G, SxS, about 1950—\$250. JC Higgins 22 model

48 103,19810 Sears & Roebuck bolt, tubed feed, pre-1960—\$155. Ruger 10/22 “M1 carbine” with extra stock and magazine—\$450. Walther PP 32 ACP, about 1972—\$700. Savage model 101 22, S.S. Revolver—\$155. Dupont Remington WWII fighting knife, RH 24/28—\$55. RH PAL 36 WWII fighting knife—\$95. Both knives—\$125. Stan, stg66@netzero.net.

WANTED: Davis or Cobra derringer, .32ACP only. .22 Magnum Remington only. Possible trades. Stan, stg66@netzero.net.

FOR SALE: Complete Razor Sharp Edgemaking System sharpening kit, only used once or twice, with original full cups of grit, wax, rouge and roll of abrasive sanding cloth. The two 8x3/4” sharpening wheels are mounted on a dual arbor Craftsman grinder. Grinder has 1/3 HP heavy duty induction motor and a light for each wheel—\$60 takes all. Stan, stg66@netzero.net.

WANTED: Smith and Wesson M&P 340, .38/.357; excellent condition, high quality trigger/action tune a plus. Also need .22 WRM ammunition. Call Jack, 360-485-5312.

FOR SALE: Two hundred forty three total rounds of vintage ammunition collected from at least since 1976. 40 rounds of military 30-06 in two boxes from Lake City Arsenal with 5 and 7 markings? 203 rounds of 45ACP some of which (three rounds) from 1917 and 1918. The rest are: Nine half moons revolver clips loaded with rounds from 1940 thru 1943. Three twenty round partial box from Frankford arsenal. Fifty round box from Evansville Ordnance Plant. Three partial boxes, one from Korean era (20 rounds) and a repacked partial box of 20 in August 1944. Another partial box of various WWII years of 10 rounds. In addition a civilian Remington Targetmaster box of 50 from the 1950s or sixties. Don't know what this stuff is worth but am reasonable and would sell or trade with members. Tom, email, tom@trsporar.com. -GN-

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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.
- 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.
- ~~The Board has increased regular~~ annual member dues for 2021 and will consider taking action on all categories of membership in January 2021.

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	\$57	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Background	(if no valid CPL)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$5 Donation	Total Amount: \$		
<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Years	\$114	<input type="checkbox"/> Assoc. \$30	<input type="checkbox"/> Life \$600	<input type="checkbox"/> \$10 Donation			
<input type="checkbox"/> 3 Years	\$171	<input type="checkbox"/> Spouse \$15	<input type="checkbox"/> Sr. Life \$350	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Donation			
** BACK OF THIS APPLICATION FOR ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS AND **							

### \*\* 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: \_\_\_\_\_



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•Feb 20-21—Puyallup, WA, Washington State Fairgrounds, WAC

## 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.	20 & 21	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.

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