

Daisy's Avanti 499 Competition BB Gun

JUNIOR SHOOTERS

Volume 7 / Summer 2010

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Notes From The Top

What is the right age to start shooting or hunting?

By: Andy Fink

I have heard comments from people over the years such as, "He is too young to be going shooting." Many parents and grandparents are concerned about what is the proper age for their child to be able to participate in the shooting sports. What is this age? Hmm, I don't know the answer to that question. There are so many factors to consider: attention span, responsibility level, ability to follow instructions, listening, the expertise of the adult supervision available, and more. *Oh – there must be adult supervision!*

I believe that familiarity with firearms is important, and the sooner you teach your children that firearms need to be treated with respect and have them learn firearm safety, the better. Safety is always the key. NRA's Eddie Eagle GunSafe Program teaches children pre-K through third grade the four important steps to take if they find a gun:

1. **STOP!**
2. **Don't Touch.**
3. **Leave the Area.**
4. **Tell an Adult.**

These steps are very important and should be taught to all children. Unfortunately, they are not. Children learn many life skills when participating in shooting sports such as discipline, patience, focus, control, respect, teamwork, and most importantly, what is required to keep them, and others, safe when around firearms.

Children growing up in a family that is familiar with guns are normally much more careful when handling a firearm. They treat a firearm with respect, understand what it is for, and know the fundamental safety rules. The NRA has these safety rules listed on their website at: www.nrahq.com.

The first rule is: ALWAYS keep the gun pointed in a safe direction. If this rule were followed 100% of the time, accidents would be far less likely to happen.

Personally, I recommend that each person is also taught that a gun is ALWAYS loaded. If someone hands you a firearm after they cleared it and says, "It is unloaded," clear it yourself. If it is a semi-auto make sure the magazine has been removed BEFORE clearing it. You must also be extremely careful during dry fire practice where yellow, or orange dummy rounds are recommended.

How old should a child be before being able to participate in the shooting sports? The parents determine that. Make sure all safety rules are followed. There is an excellent video at www.juniorshooters.net/safety. Click on the Basics of Firearm Safety by USA Shooting Video. We recommend everyone watch this video.

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Daisy's

Competition Avanti 499 BB Gun

By: Andy Fink

My first gun was a BB gun. I learned safety, gun handling, and had some of the most fun shooting ever! I have many fond memories of shooting that Daisy Red Ryder. When I was a kid, we didn't have formal BB gun competitions with approved targets and a competition gun capable of hitting the 10-ring with a diameter of .125-inches at a distance of five meters. Yes, I said .125-inches. Just think of trying to hit a bullseye that size 10 times in a row! That is a real challenge. Now try it from three different positions: prone, kneeling, and standing.

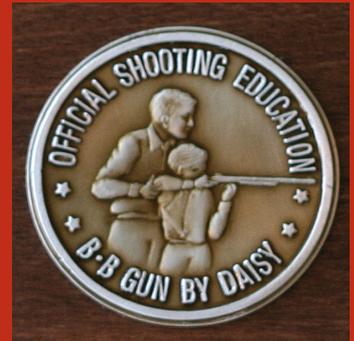
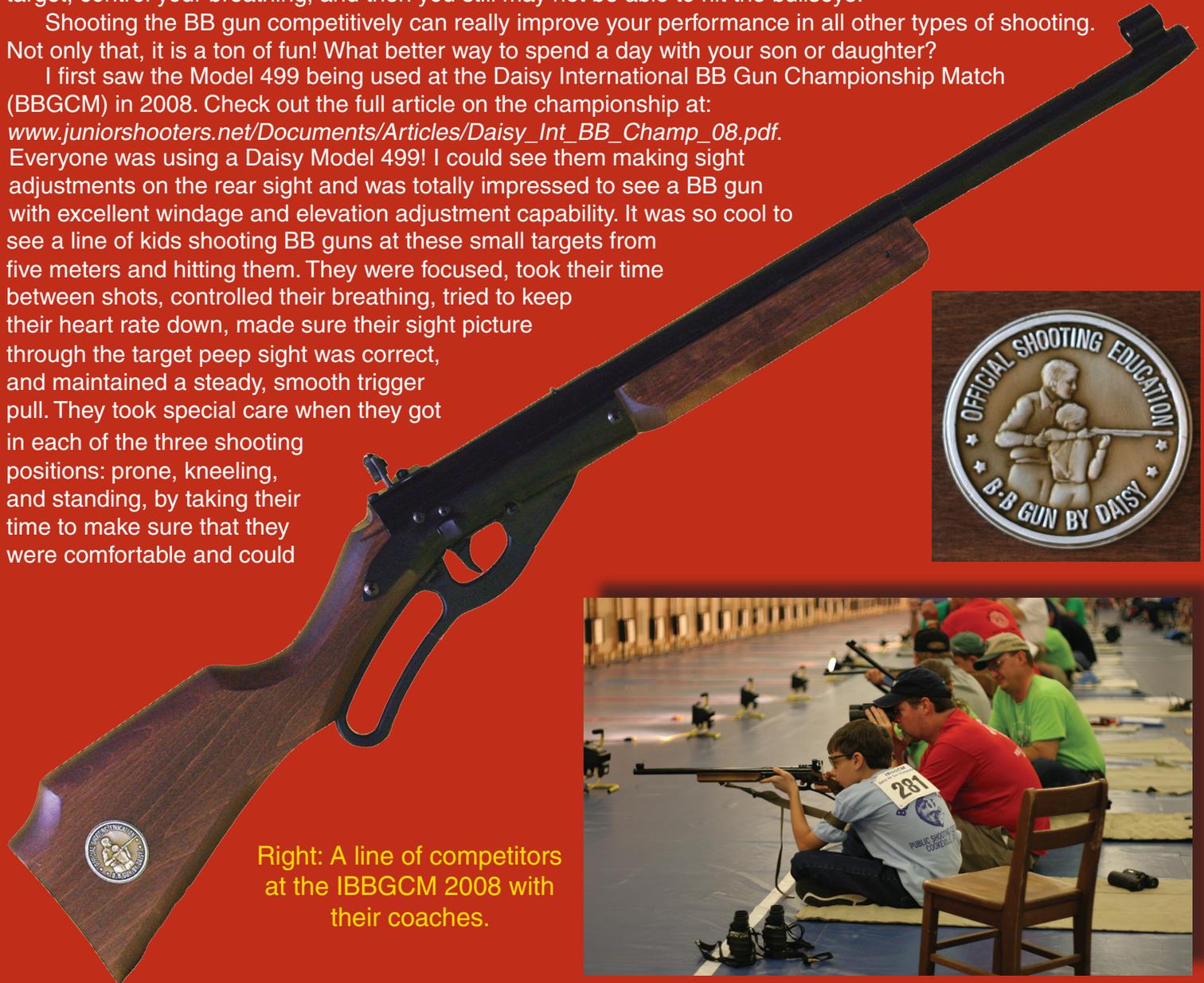
Now, if you are an older junior or an adult and you think that shooting a BB gun in competition at a .125-inch bullseye is easy, you are clearly mistaken. In fact, whatever shooting sport you participate in, you might want to think about going back to the BB gun. Go get yourself a Daisy competition Model 499 Avanti Champion BB gun. Try shooting at official NRA BB gun targets. You will need to increase your focus, enhance your trigger pull, hold on target, control your breathing, and then you still may not be able to hit the bullseye.

Shooting the BB gun competitively can really improve your performance in all other types of shooting. Not only that, it is a ton of fun! What better way to spend a day with your son or daughter?

I first saw the Model 499 being used at the Daisy International BB Gun Championship Match (BBGCM) in 2008. Check out the full article on the championship at:

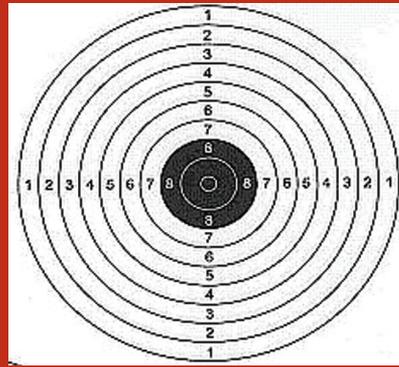
www.juniorshooters.net/Documents/Articles/Daisy_Int_BB_Champ_08.pdf.

Everyone was using a Daisy Model 499! I could see them making sight adjustments on the rear sight and was totally impressed to see a BB gun with excellent windage and elevation adjustment capability. It was so cool to see a line of kids shooting BB guns at these small targets from five meters and hitting them. They were focused, took their time between shots, controlled their breathing, tried to keep their heart rate down, made sure their sight picture through the target peep sight was correct, and maintained a steady, smooth trigger pull. They took special care when they got in each of the three shooting positions: prone, kneeling, and standing, by taking their time to make sure that they were comfortable and could



Right: A line of competitors at the IBBGCM 2008 with their coaches.

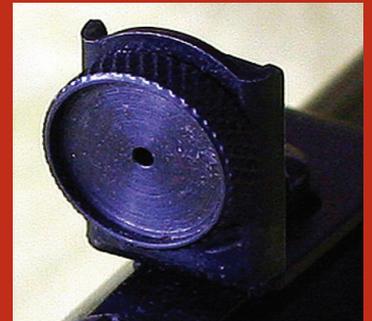




Top and bottom: Daisy's competition BB gun sight allows the shooter to accomplish pinpoint accuracy.

Left: NRA's official BB gun target. Twelve targets per target sheet. Two sighter targets and ten for score. Do you think you can hit the black?

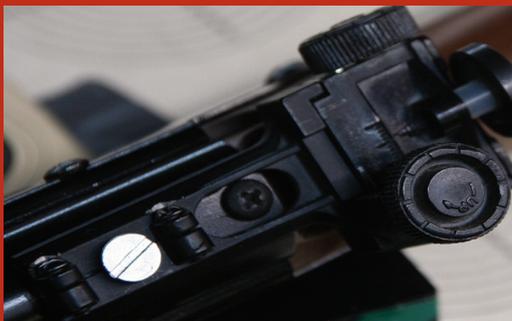
Right: The standard rear sight that comes with the Daisy 499 BB gun.



make their best shot. I knew then I had to get one of these guns.

The Daisy Model 499 is a beautiful spring air rifle and is used by thousands of shooting education programs to teach as well as compete. The "Official Shooting Education BB Gun by Daisy" medallion is embossed in the stained, solid wood stock which is a nice touch. This is a real competition rifle. It is a single shot, muzzle-loading BB gun and looks as great as it performs. Daisy says, the Daisy's Avanti Champion Model 499 has been dubbed "the most accurate BB gun in the world" time and time again. I can certainly believe it. In fact, I didn't see any other model BB gun shot at the 2008 Daisy International BB Gun Championship www.daisy.com/ibbgcm.

It comes with a standard rear sight that is adjustable only for elevation. However, Daisy produces the Model 5899 Receiver sight for competition that works very well. It is a simple, two-step adjustment for elevation and windage. It has click features and it fits the Models





499, 845, 977, 853, and 953 airguns. Using the sight is simple and allows the shooter to attain super accuracy! The front sight has a shroud over a removable aperture sight that comes standard as a circle. This allows the shooter to place it directly over the bullseye.

I have a new respect for those competing in BB gun competitions as well as a new respect for the accuracy of the BB gun. This gun is fun, and can really be used as an outstanding tool to teach the fundamentals of shooting and firearm safety.

You can find out all of the rules regarding NRA BB gun competitions at www.nrahq.org/compete/RuleBooks/BBgun/bb-index.pdf. You might also check with your local 4-H club. You can go to the national 4-H website and locate clubs near you:

www.4-hshootingsports.org.

To find out more about the Daisy 499 or to order on-line, you can go to the Daisy on-line store at:

www.daisy.com/shopping/customer/storehome.php

Check the box for Avanti Competition Airguns and scroll down until you reach it. ©



Above: Daisy's Model 499 BB Gun has a manual safety which is excellent for training youngsters.

Above left: The front sight allows the use of a variety of different apertures.

Below: Many of the kids have their BB guns painted or carved and covered with stickers from the events they compete in.





This photo and top left on preceding page: All of the shooters at the IBBGCM really seemed to enjoy shooting their Daisy Model 499 BB guns.



Left: Two siblings competing at the IBBGCM 2008 with their Daisy Model 499s with competition sights. Right: Shooters start young, learning discipline, focus, control, safety, sight picture, and how to respect others during a match.



Standard Specifications:

- Weight: 3.10 lbs.
 - Action: Lever cocking, spring air
 - Sights: Hooded front with aperture inserts, adjustable rear peep
 - Safety: Manual
 - Max. Muzzle Velocity: 240 fps (73 mps)
 - Muzzle Energy: 70 ft. lb. (.90 J)
 - Overall Length: 36.25 in. (92 cm)
 - Caliber: .177 (4.5mm) BB
 - Stock/Forearm Grip: Monte Carlo, stained hardwood stock, stained hardwood forearm with internal compartments for additional weight for competitive shooting
 - Magazine: Single-shot muzzle loading
 - Barrel: Smooth bore steel
- Qualified shooting organizations & instructors should contact Daisy's special markets customer service department for discount pricing.

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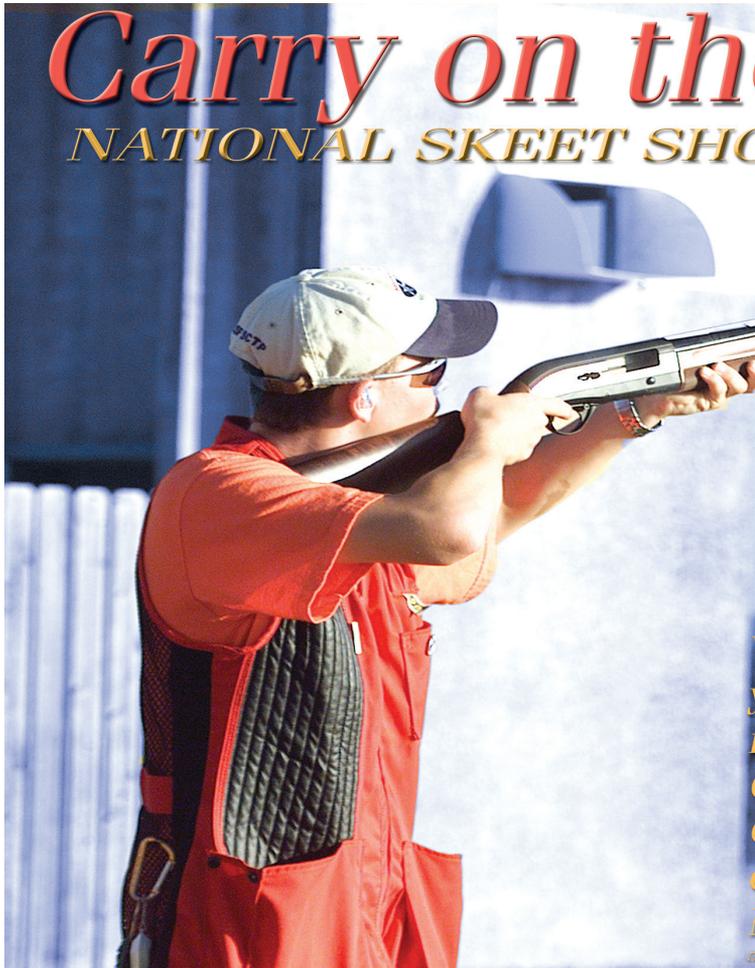
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Krieghoff's KX-5 - Beauty In Motion

*For Kids
By Kids*

By: Phillip Barrus (14)

This shotgun was definitely cool. The fit was perfect and it was beautiful. It had some of the nicest wood I have ever seen. The action was very smooth with no problems at all.

Ease of assembly: It is a joy to put a gun together. But sometimes it's a pain to get one to go together. Most shotguns, whether they are double-barrel, over/under, pumps, or semi-autos don't go together that easily. The KX-5 was so easy to put together that even a person with no experience could do it. I put it together and took it apart very easily, even easier than my own gun. It went together and came apart like butter.

How it felt in my hands: This Krieghoff was the most balanced gun I have ever shot. It was perfectly in tune with everything I did; it became part of me when I shot it. The grips were very easy to hang on to, and the wood was beautiful. The weight of the gun was not very much for a trapgun, but it still was enough. The size was perfect. It was a perfect fit for me, and I loved shooting it.

Sights: The sights were very easy to see, and they were in perfect alignment for the gun. A large white bead sat at the front of the barrel with a small metal bead behind. I loved being able to shoot where I saw the beads. I would not change anything about the beads. In general, the beads were easy to see, and I liked it a lot.

Recoil: The recoil was not bad at all, but I was shooting 1-ounce loads. I also shot some 1-1/8 ounce, but it still was very manageable. I put over 400 rounds through the gun, and I think that it kicked less than my BT-99.

Fit: As I said before, the gun fit me perfectly. It was not too heavy and not too long. It just felt really good when I shot it.

Accuracy: When you shoot 98 out of 100 the first time you ever shoot a gun, I'd say that it's very accurate. And this is right out of the box! I was creaming the targets and having a lot of fun doing it. By the way, that picture



When you shoot 98 out of 100 the first time you ever shoot a gun, I'd say that it's very accurate.





of me smashing that target is awesome!

Trigger pull: The trigger pull was perfect, not too hard and not too soft. I really enjoyed how nice it was.

Safety: Every gun is a tool, not a toy, so every gun needs to be handled in a safe manner. This gun had no safety on it, but if handled correctly, you would not need a safety. It's not a field gun. You're not going to be hunting birds with this gun. It is a trapgun and nothing else. You never even load the gun until you are on the line and it is your turn to shoot, and when you open the gun, the shells pop right out.

Ammunition: I used mostly Winchester AA Feather Light 1-ounce with some B&P, Remington, and Estate loads thrown in. It did not kick very much. The KX-5 worked equally well with all of the ammunition used.

Case: A hard case is probably a very cheap investment. Such a case can save you a lot of problems and money. I would know. The case that came with the KX-5 is an excellent form-fitted case from Americase. It really adds to the beauty of this gun/case combination. Inside the case, there is a cleaning rod, lube, and oil to put on the gun.

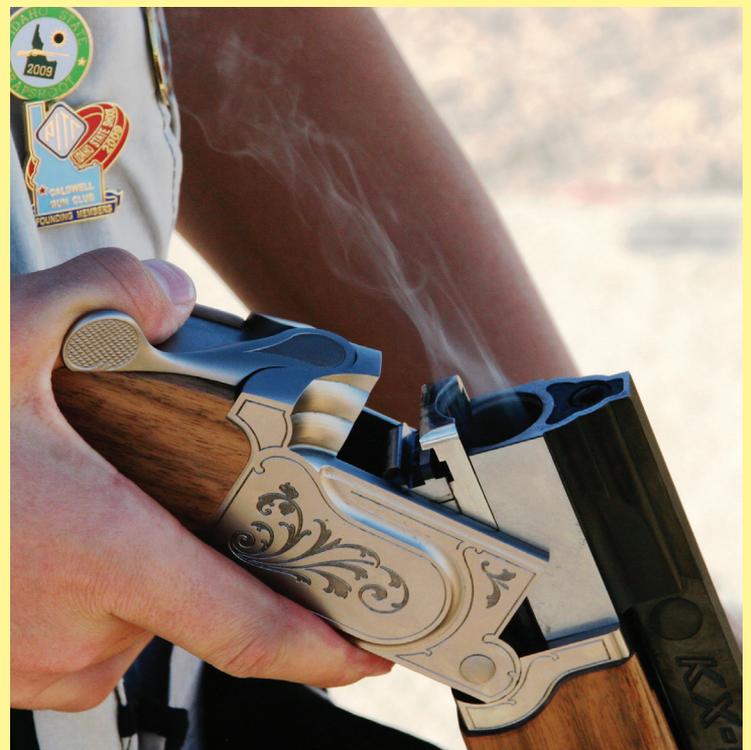
This gun will last you a lifetime, which brings up my final, and most important point: If you have a junior shooter who is really interested in shooting, then you know that a gun can be very expensive, and this gun is no different. You will probably not have the money for this gun without help. But over a period of time, if you keep shooting, you will probably buy three or four guns. But, if you buy the Krieghoff KX-5, you will spend \$5,600 once on a gun that you will have the rest of your life. I am saying that it is a great investment over time.

Thanks again, *Junior Shooters* for giving me an opportunity to test out this gun. I really appreciate it.

Additional Information:

A pure single barrel trapgun, the KX-5 features all of the attributes of the KX-5 Special plus many refinements and new features. It is available in 34" or 32" with choke tubes and has a fully adjustable rib which allows you to lower or raise the point of impact.

Calibrated at the factory to achieve a 65% / 35% pattern, the unique adjustable rib allows you to change point-of-



impact quickly and conveniently. By altering the height of the rib via a dial at the muzzle, you can vary the pattern from flat shooting 50% / 50% to nearly, 90% / 10% high. When the desired rib height is reached, and the set screws are tightened, you may alter the height of the adjustable comb of the KX-5 stock for your preferred sight picture, and the gun is ready to go.

The trigger can be moved back and forth for comfortable position and trigger control. In addition, the trigger is fully variable for weight of pull and for movement, or sear engagement. Using the special trigger wrench provided with the gun, you can adjust the trigger within a range to suit your own shooting style. Factory specifications call for a trigger pull of between 3 1/4 and 3 3/4-pounds with minimal trigger movement. Additionally, factory release triggers are available. ©

Krieghoff: www.krieghoff.com
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Homemade Range

Last fall my two brothers, a son-in-law, and I planned to go shooting on a Saturday afternoon after a family event. While at the family event, we invited some more folks to join us. We ended up with about nine of us going. Everyone brought whatever they wanted to shoot, and share. Between the eight of us, there was a wide assortment of shotguns, rifles, and handguns and lots of ammo.

We had a safe place to shoot in the country -- some family land with an earth backstop and no housing for several miles behind it. On the way to the site, I started thinking about how we could safely enjoy this family shooting event. We had a wide range of shooting experience among us; from the beginner to the experienced. What we needed was a safe and organized process that everyone could understand.

My mental picture was how shooting is organized at most shooting ranges. There is a loading area, a shooting area, and an unloading/cleaning area. Well, there is no need to reinvent something that works. I decided we would do the same.

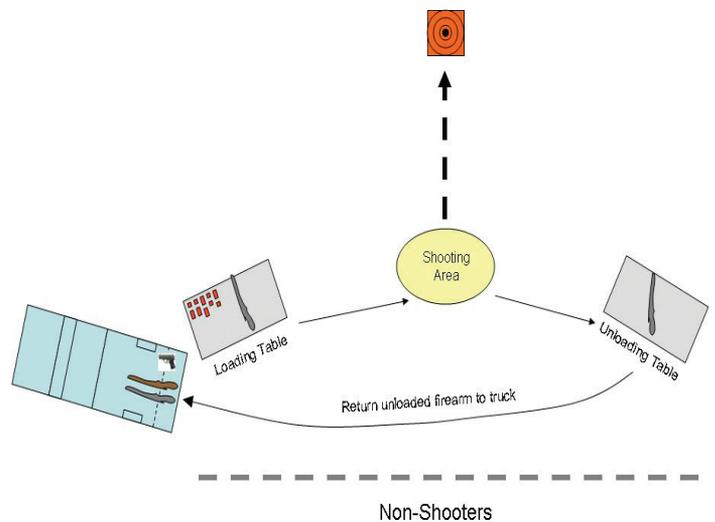
We had several pickups we traveled in, and we had brought two fold-up tables. We positioned one of the pickups and a table just to the left of the shooting position and the other table to the right.

**"IT'S ALL ABOUT
FORETHOUGHT &
TEAMWORK!"**

We placed all of the firearms on an old blanket in the bed of the pickup. We placed the ammunition on the table next to it – the loading table.

The procedure was to:

1. Select a firearm from the truck bed
2. Move to the loading table and load (keeping muzzle pointed downrange)
3. Move to the shooting position and shoot (one at a time)
4. Another person could load and wait to shoot when current shooter is unloading
5. Move to unloading table and unload and clear action (keeping muzzle pointed downrange)
6. With muzzle pointed up, return firearm to pickup bed
7. Everyone not shooting stays behind the shooting area



We had a great time! Shooters got to shoot their favorite firearms and some new ones, and most importantly, we did all this safely. It was very organized, and the shooting was almost continuous. Everyone said we should do it again, and I expect we will. It was a learning opportunity, one that everyone there can now safely repeat, and teach, when they go shooting with others.

Note: In our preplanning, we brought a box of earplugs, earmuffs, and some shooting glasses so that everyone had "eyes and ears". We followed all of the safety commandments. Having a simple shooting procedure made it easy for everyone to understand and use. Before you go shooting, make a checklist of what to take so when you are getting ready to go you won't forget anything. Think about others and what they may not have that you can provide to make their shooting safer and more enjoyable. ©

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Junior Shooters strives to be the first of its kind to promote juniors involved in shooting and the many disciplines they are shooting, all in one publication. Junior Shooters is dedicated to juniors of all ages, but primarily from the age of eight to 21, depending upon the shooting sport.

Junior shooters and their parents now have a publication they can go to and find what is needed to get started in many different shooting venues. Questions will be answered about guns and gear needed, protective gear, events, organizations and more.

The premier issue of Junior Shooters, Volume 1, was published in August, 2007 and received an outstanding response! Volume 2 followed in Spring 2008 and Volume 3 is on newsstands now!

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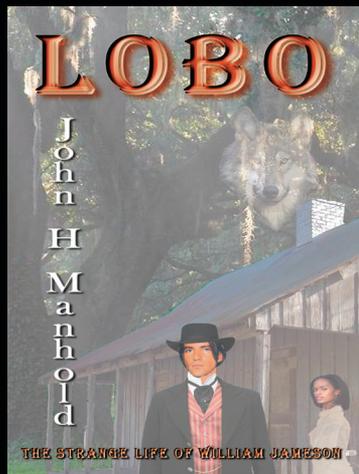
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Adventure Novels

For Juniors, Young Adults & Even Old Guys

By: Andy Fink

I am an avid reader of adventure novels – everything from westerns, to spy novels, and even some science fiction. I also prefer novels that don't have explicit sex or foul language. John Manhold, aka "El Tigre," his cowboy action alias, is a fine writer of such books -- the kind that are fast-moving, adventuresome, and all-around great reads. He has lived in Europe, traveled through the Middle East, won shooting competitions, has taught knife fighting, is an expert fencer, and has the type of background that enables him to write his books with historical accuracy. Not only does he know his subjects, but he takes the time to ensure his research is correct. These are books that I have read and recommend, and would consider them to be classified in the genres of adventure, western, and historical novels.



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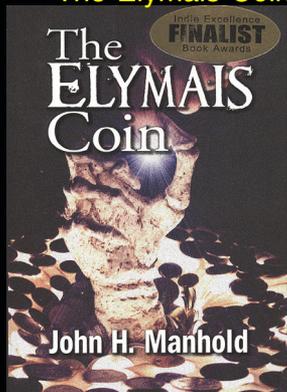
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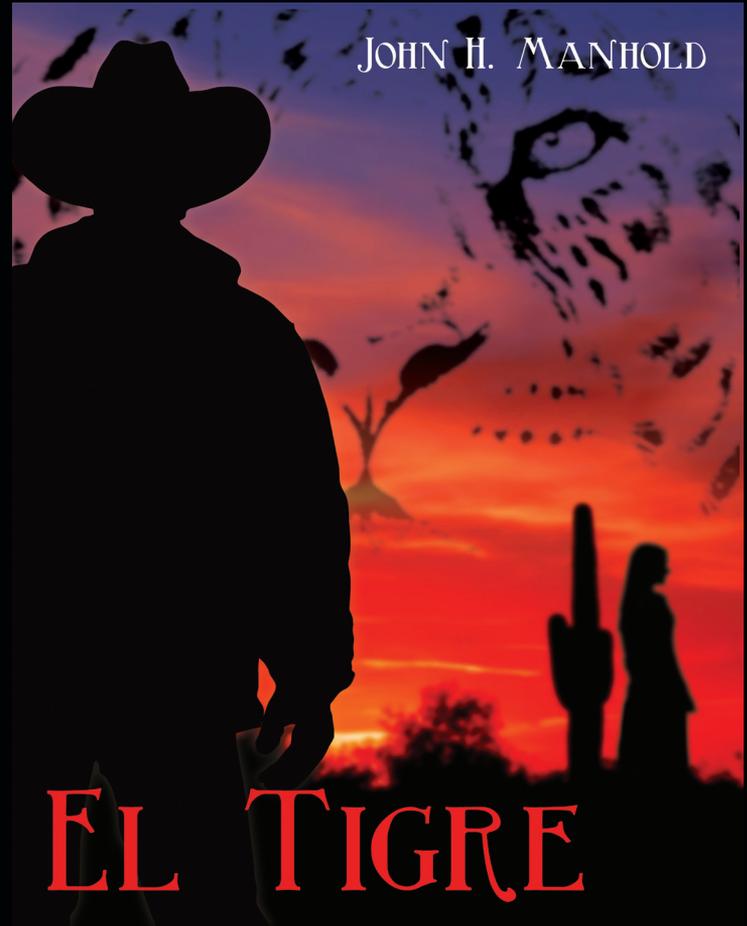
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El Tigre: A young Prussian Militarist establishes himself as synonymous with the deadly jaguar in the minds of the inhabitants of the southwest United States.

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FIREARMS

Multimedia Guide

By: Andy Fink

I have always liked looking at pictures of firearms, even as a kid. Having a resource at hand where you can access over 41,000 models of firearms, airguns, and ammunition from 345 manufacturers would normally be unthinkable. Now, it is a reality with the Firearms Multimedia Guide. The guide comes as a DVD and is compatible with Windows Vista, XP, and 7.

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I found this guide to have tons of information and it is an excellent reference tool. It also has over 500 targets you can print out and a US-EU ammunition caliber chart as well. Technical specifications are just a click away. One of the better features of this guide is the high resolution photographs that are available. Check them out at: www.firearmsmultimedialoguide.com.

Right: It is amazingly easy to use. With a click of a button you have 14 different search options, high resolution photos, technical specifications, and ammunition used for almost every firearm you can imagine.

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Ruger's SR-22

By: Andy Fink

Sturm, Ruger & Co., Inc., announced the introduction of the Ruger® SR-22™ Rifle on September 15, 2009. This semi-auto, .22 Long Rifle, rimfire rifle is a lot of fun! The rifle combines the legendary reliability of the Ruger® 10/22® with the ergonomics and configurability of the new AR-style Ruger® SR-556™. This new rifle allows shooters to use economical .22 LR ammunition while still enjoying the look and feel of an “AR.”

Junior Shooters received the gun for review in early October and have taken it out a number of times and the three boys who tested it, ages 14 -17, had an absolute ball (oh, the adults did, too!) We decided to mount an Aimpoint Micro H-1 red dot sight on the Picatinny rail which provided excellent accuracy and very quick acquisition.

The Aimpoint Micro H-1 is a perfect match for the Ruger® SR-22™. It has a light weight of 84 grams. The integral Weaver-style base makes it is easy to install the H-1 on the rifle's Picatinny rail (a Picatinny rail is a rail used for mounting scopes, lights, lasers, or other add-on devices.) ACET technology provides 50,000 hours of operation on one battery. The Micro red dot has precision adjustments for windage and elevation, and the top of the protective caps fit into holes on adjustment screws. This means no searching the pockets for a nickel or a screwdriver! There are 13 settings for use in daylight and low light conditions.



The SR-22 is great for hunting, plinking, and shooting Steel Challenge. Our experiences shooting Steel Challenge were awesome! We used both the standard 10/22 rotary magazine that came with the rifle (we received an extra six magazines specifically for shooting Steel Challenge) and a Hot Lips high capacity magazine that was provided by Brownells. They all worked perfectly. We only had a couple of misfires and no jams out of over 1,000 rounds shooting CCI and Winchester ammunition. We expect to use the SR-22 extensively in the future for both Steel Challenge and for practicing for 3-gun matches where we will use a regular AR-15 .223 in the actual match.

Because it utilizes the unique rotary magazine supplied with the Ruger® 10/22®, the SR-22 Rifle offers the same gold standard for reliability in autoloading rimfire rifles. Like the 10/22, the AR-style SR-22 Rifle also has an extensive array of accessories available, allowing shooters to select a custom configuration that best suits their tastes and needs.

It uses a standard 10/22 action inside a top-quality, all-aluminum chassis that faithfully replicates the AR-platform dimensions between the sighting plane, buttstock height, and grip. The rifle provides a Picatinny rail optic mount, and includes a six-position, telescoping M4-style buttstock

(on a Mil-Spec diameter tube), plus a Hogue® Monogrip® pistol grip. Buttstocks and grips may be swapped out for any AR-style compatible option.

This rifle also features a round, mid-length handguard mounted on a standard-thread AR-style barrel nut. Picatinny rails, specifically designed for this handguard, are available from Ruger, allowing the handguard to be configured to accept any number of rail-mounted sights or accessories. A barrel support block is installed in the handguard, ensuring accuracy and allowing the standard 10/22 V-block barrel attachment system to be used.

It is equipped with a precision-rifled, cold hammer forged alloy steel barrel. The 16-1/8" barrel is capped with an SR-556/Mini-14 flash suppressor mounted with a 1/2"-28 thread. ©



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BECOMING THE BEST SHOOTER YOU CAN BE

TIPS & HINTS FOR AIRGUN AND SMALLBORE COMPETITION

BY- BOB BENBOUGH - COACH BOB

In past articles we have discussed the fundamentals of rifle shooting, mental management, and time management. Today, I'd like to focus on one aspect of physical training for shooting athletes which is often overlooked by both shooters and coaches alike, and that is nutrition. Later we'll talk about both energy (that is endurance) training as well as muscular (strength) training.

Now let's look at one of the most basic aspects of physical fitness. It has often been said that, "You are what you eat," and this is, of course, true! What, when, and how we eat plays a much bigger role in how we perform in any sport, and each sport has unique requirements that must be met for an athlete to excel. Our food and drink intake is really important for everyday living. It becomes more important when we participate in our sport, and it is absolutely necessary when we are in a competition.

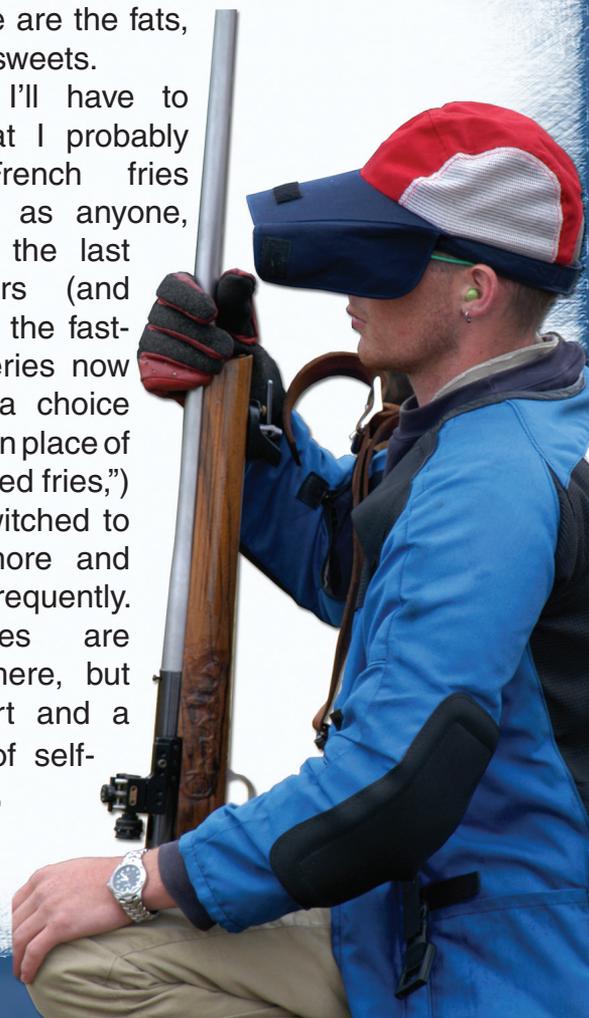
A lot has been learned about sports nutrition and maintaining optimum body weight since the 1960s when I first started coaching. Back then, coaches taught that high protein meals before a competition was the right way to go. Now we know that protein is not a desirable food for developing and maintaining muscles. It is actually carbohydrates that provide energy for our muscles. These nutrients actually come from starches and sugars. In addition, the fiber in these foods helps digestion and the control of fat and cholesterol.

There are three big questions that need answers concerning sports nutrition: WHAT should you eat and drink? HOW MUCH should you eat? And WHEN should you eat? Let's take a brief look at each one in turn.

WHAT should you eat? For most athletes, diet

should consist of 55 to 65 percent carbohydrates, 25 to 30 percent fat, and 15 to 20 percent protein. This translates into the heaviest emphasis on breads, cereals, rice, and pastas, with vegetables and fruits coming next on the Food Guide Pyramid. Smaller amounts of milk, yogurt, and cheese should be next in volume with meat, poultry, fish, dry beans, eggs, and nuts. At the top of the pyramid -- and therefore, the ones we should eat the least of -- are those foods which most of us enjoy, but should eat sparingly, and those are the fats, oils, and sweets.

Now, I'll have to admit that I probably enjoy French fries as much as anyone, but over the last few years (and thanks to the fast-food eateries now allowing a choice of salads in place of the "fat filled fries,") I have switched to salads more and more frequently. The fries are always there, but with effort and a little bit of self-discipline,



I choose salad almost every time.

In the meat food group, many of us eat way too many greasy hamburgers when, in reality, a really well-balanced diet calls for about one-third of a pound per day total of meat, poultry, fish, beans, eggs, and nuts. Remember to really limit your intake of full-fat salad dressing, cream cheese, sour cream, butter, sugars, soft drinks, fruit drinks, candies, and sweet snack foods. Think of foods in this group as something you get to eat AFTER eating your way through the lower levels of the Food Pyramid.

In addition to eating the right foods (in moderate amounts), you should also remember to drink lots of fluids. Water is essential to all body functions, and while most shooting does not involve intense physical activity, peak performance does not happen when you forget, and become dehydrated.

WHAT to eat and drink? Eat a variety of foods from the five food groups. No one food group has all the nutrients that you need, and variety makes eating more enjoyable.

- Eat lots of whole grain products, vegetables, and fruits. These provide the complex carbohydrates needed for energy, plus the essential vitamins, minerals, and fiber, and they are low in fat.
- Be very moderate in your intake of fat, saturated fat, and cholesterol. They are hard on your body and can lead to overweight problems.
- Limit your intake of sugars as well as salt.
- Drink lots of fluids. Water is essential to all body functions, and while most shooting is not a sport that involves high levels of physical activity, shooting athletes still need to protect themselves from dehydration.
- Avoid alcohol, even if you are old enough. It contains lots of calories and almost no nutrients, and it increases the possibility of dehydration.
- Sport drinks with some carbs and a small amount of electrolytes are also a good choice. Juices are a good refreshment drink, containing more nutrients, but they are not absorbed by the body as quickly as sport drinks. Stay away from soft drinks. Many of them contain caffeine which definitely will affect your nervous system. Caffeinated coffee does the same thing.

HOW MUCH should you eat? Most teenage girls do well on a diet of about 2,200 calories per



day, while teenage boys need between 2,800 and 3,500 calories per day depending on how active a person they might be. The key to how much is to eat only what you need to maintain your weight at an optimum level.

WHEN to eat? Give your body time to digest the food you eat before you start training or competition. This could range from an hour prior for a snack to two or three hours prior for a full meal. If you tend to get nervous before a competition, consider not eating until after the stress-inducing event is over. If you do this, be sure to eat well the day before and consider a bedtime snack.

Hopefully some of the ideas presented here will help you stay fit and be able to reach your greatest potential in the practices and competitions to come. If you have any topics you'd like to see discussed in this column or have comments, feel free to contact me at bbenbough@juniorsshooters.net.

Be safe, shoot straight, and have a great time doing it! ©



The Case for Bullseye Pistol

Classic Handgun Competition at All levels

By: Mike Stumbo

Photos By: Mike Stumbo & NRA Competitive Shooting

Today we have a number of good options for competing with our favorite handguns. No matter where we live, many of us can find International Defensive Pistol, Long Range Silhouette and Cowboy Action events within reasonable driving distance. These are great sports in their own right, but, along with every other distraction of modern life, they have conspired to reduce participation in one of the best of all target-shooting competitions: NRA Conventional Bullseye Pistol. What follows is an introduction to this sport, or maybe a reintroduction, since the official Bullseye competition rule book was written by the National Rifle Association (NRA) way back in the 1930s.

NRA Conventional Bullseye Pistol competition is a precision target event where shooters use one hand, unsupported, in the classic “dueling” position. (In fact, the dueling pistol may be the ancestor of International Bullseye shooting, which I will touch on briefly at the end.) It is shot at paper targets with a bullseye center. The three courses in a match include slow fire (10 shots in 10 minutes), timed fire (two rounds of five shots each in 20 seconds), and rapid fire (two rounds of five shots each in 10 seconds).

Events are shot both indoors and out. A typical indoor event is fired at 50 feet with the slow-fire target having a 7/8-inch 10-ring and the timed and rapid-fire targets having a 1 3/4-inch 10-ring and a 7/8-inch inner X-ring. Outdoor matches are usually fired at 50 yards for slow-fire and 25 yards for timed and rapid fire. The 50-yard slow-fire target has a 3 7/8-inch 10-ring with an inner X-ring that measures 1 5/8-inches. The 25-yard timed and rapid targets are the same size, but the black includes only the eight-ring, while on the slow-fire target, the black extends out to the seven-ring.

The place to start NRA Bullseye competition is at the .22-caliber level, with either a semiautomatic pistol or a revolver. Most shooters opt for a semi-auto because cocking a revolver is an extra challenge in rapid fire. There are no restrictions on sights and most shooters today use an electronic red dot, although, a shooter thinking about advancing to international competition, might stay with open sights since electronics are not permitted in international events.

There are two additional NRA Bullseye events: centerfire and .45-caliber. The first type of event, whether

semi-auto pistol or revolver, may be any pistol caliber between .32 and .45. This probably reflects the typical police revolver at the time the rules were established. The .45 event must be fired with a .45 ACP semi-auto pistol or revolver because of the Model 1911 military pistols (and some .45-caliber revolvers) used from the First World War up through Vietnam, until the adoption of the 9mm Beretta.

Early in the history of Bullseye shooting, a target .45 was typically a military surplus or commercial Colt that had been carefully tuned to improve accuracy and had been blessed with precise target sights. Today we can buy .45 ACP target guns that are highly accurate right out of the box. (This means 10 shots inside two inches from a machine rest at 50 yards.) Many, if not most,

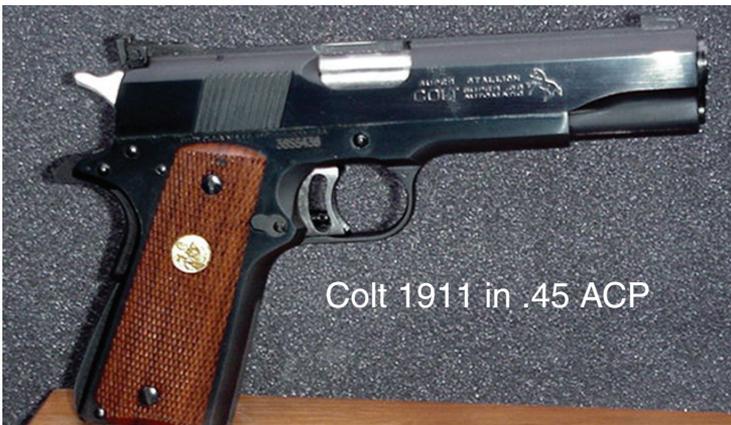


Ruger's 22/45 Mark III Hunter

competitors shoot the .45 in both the centerfire and .45 matches, thereby saving the cost of a third pistol and at the same time improving competency with the .45 despite the possible sacrifice of a few centerfire rapid-fire points. However, specialized .32- and .38-caliber target pistols are available for the shooter who wishes to go this route. There are no sight restrictions with the .22 caliber pistol, so most shooters use red dots.

Bullseye Pistol deserves our attention because these events are widely available everywhere in the US, and thanks to the indoor classifications, it is a year-round sport even in the northernmost states. The NRA and many state associations also sponsor postal series, wherein a competitor can shoot a registered target at the local club and mail the scores to the organizing authority. This lets us compete across a wide area without having to travel. For those who do travel, the national championship is held every summer at Camp Perry, Ohio. US Army Sergeant Jimmy Henderson was the 2009 National Champion.

A shooter starting out in Bullseye competition quickly learns that success is all about trigger control. In other words, don't jerk the trigger and the bullet is more likely



to land in a scoring ring. Learning trigger control will improve your results in all other shooting sports, from action pistol to hunting with your favorite rifle. Given proper practice, anyone can master Bullseye shooting, so a 100-pound girl has as much opportunity for success as a 200-pound jock. Finally, Bullseye is the only pistol sport that provides the option to move up to international competition. If you aren't already deeply immersed, it's probably too late to consider the London Olympics in 2012, but if you start now, you might make it to Rio de Janeiro in 2016.

If trigger control is the key, what are the barriers to Bullseye Pistol? Because it is truly a precision sport, shot on small targets at longer distances than most pistol events, it is challenging. Reaching the top levels can take years of practice. In addition, the equipment needed to shoot every event can add up to a lot of dollars. A typical shooter arriving at an outdoor Bullseye match will have a .22 pistol with a red dot sight, a .45 pistol with a red dot, a special carry case for the guns, and a spotting scope (which then mounts on the case lid) plus ammunition, and ear and eye protection. The total cost can easily approach \$4,000.

Addressing the physical challenge of Bullseye Pistol shooting is just a matter of digging deep, staying with it, and investing as much time as possible in practice—just as it is for basketball or gymnastics. The cost can be reduced to the bare minimum by starting with an iron-sighted .22 and a spotting scope plus safety gear. (The bull-barrel Ruger .22 is a great starter Bullseye gun.) This will get a new shooter into all indoor events, postal competitions, and the first stage of a typical outdoor event.

Recognizing that costs might be keeping juniors out of Bullseye Pistol competition, Larry Carter, a multiple Bullseye record holder, recently spearheaded the launch of the Junior Pistol Shooters of America, a non-profit organization that supports beginning shooters. JPJA can supply some of the equipment, barring the pistol itself, needed to participate in Bullseye Pistol competition to junior shooters who are in a qualified program. Details and application forms are available online at www.juniorpistolshooters.com. Junior Pistol Shooters of America also supports junior shooters engaged in International Bullseye disciplines, including air pistol.

International Bullseye shooting requires another article, so let me just summarize for now: The primary courses of fire include air pistol, conventional pistol, rapid-fire pistol, centerfire pistol, and free pistol. All are restricted to iron-sights, so shooters from the US must leave their red dots at home. The best international discipline to start with is air pistol, which is fired indoors at 10 meters (33 feet) on a target with a 10-ring the size of a match head. Most of us can find a 10-meter space in the basement or garage, or even along a hallway in the house, so practicing every day with an inexpensive bullet



High Standard
.22 Long Rifle
target model



Baikal air pistol

trap is relatively easy. Medalists in London at the 2010 Olympics will be shooting very expensive pressurized air pistols with electronic triggers. However, it is possible to buy a Russian-made, spring-powered Baikal air pistol for around \$300. These are sufficiently accurate to win matches except in the highest levels of competition, so a beginner can get many years out of one before having to graduate to the best pistols. Here's a tip: Use good pellets, like H&N Match, for best results.

Good shooting and may all of your bullets, or pellets, land in the 10-ring.



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USPSA shooting provides a chance to practice firearm skills in a fun, sporting environment. Jessie (below) started shooting with her father and her husband, and went on to win practically everything in sight in 2008.



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The Modern Sporting Rifle

By Glenn Sapir, Director, Editorial Services, National Shooting Sports Foundation

Photos courtesy of the Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP), Rock River rifle photo by *Junior Shooters*

Modern sporting rifles (MSRs) present plenty of strong points that make them the fastest-selling rifles today, but understand that like more traditional hunting and target rifles, they shoot only one round with each pull of the trigger.



Rock River LAR .223 DCM Rifle for the Civilian Marksmanship Program capable of 0.29-inch three-shot group at 100 yards with iron sights.

When I was growing up, I watched a lot of television shows at home and movies at the theater that had an Old West theme. That's how I fell in love with the wooden-stocked lever-action rifle. Some say that the lever-action was the gun that won the West. It's what the settlers and other frontiersmen depended upon for survival.

Interestingly, the popularity of the lever-action rifle came about as the result of its introduction and adoption by the Union Army during the Civil War. The story goes that President Abraham Lincoln was given a demonstration of the Spencer lever-action rifle. He made it a hands-on experience, and the president was impressed. He repeatedly hit his target as the innovative firearm ejected the spent bullet casing and fed a new round into the chamber.

This perhaps marked the first time in American history

that a firearm was introduced for military purposes and then later adapted for civilian use—but it certainly wasn't the last.

The bolt-action centerfire rifle, which for decades has been the "classic" deer hunting rifle, is actually a descendant of the First World War battle rifle, the 1903 Springfield. The Springfield used a .30-06 cartridge, which remains America's most popular big-game cartridge. Of course, this bolt-action rifle, like the lever action, also shoots only one round with each pull of the trigger.

The first military semi-automatic, the .30 caliber M-1, or Garand, ushered in the era of semi-automatics for hunters and target shooters. Today, the AR-15 is the civilian, semi-automatic counterpart of the M-16. Called the "modern sporting rifle," MSRs have become the rifle

of choice for many of today's hunters and target shooters and, in recent years, have been the best selling long arm manufactured.

An important thing to remember is that MSR's, just like lever- and bolt-action rifles, shoot only one round of ammunition with each pull of the trigger.

So, if you watched Rambo and other modern war movies, you likely saw actors using high-tech looking rifles. The actors were probably shown firing the rifle as a "machine gun." However, an important point to understand is that firearms that are fully automatic, that is, that continue to fire ammunition if you keep your finger depressed on the trigger, are really machine guns. Civilian ownership of these firearms has been severely restricted by federal law since 1934. The modern sporting rifle is not a machine gun; it only fires one round at a time like the lever-action rifles I saw actors using in Westerns when I was growing up.

Because of this confusion, modern sporting rifles have been wrongfully called "Assault Rifles" and "Automatic Rifles." Part of the reason for those incorrect and misleading names is that many of these firearms are built on the "platform" of the AR-15, and the "AR" in that name is misinterpreted. Actually, "AR" stands for ArmaLite, the manufacturer that originally developed the rifle. MSR's are no more "automatic" or "assault" than the lever-action Spencer that President Lincoln fired in that small park near the Treasury Building.

Yes, MSR's look different than the rifles that have become traditional at hunting camp or on the rifle range. That appearance, however, is simply cosmetic, though, in many ways, more functional than rifles that have come before them. Functionally, MSR's are often lighter, more rugged, more accurate, more versatile, more compact and offer less recoil than traditional rifles. Many of those attributes make it an ideal sporting firearm for all members of the family.

As you decide on whether an MSR should be the next firearm to be purchased by your family, the most important thing to remember is that these modern sporting rifles, just like the "modern sporting rifles" that evolved from military firearms used in the Civil War and World War I, fire one round of ammunition with each pull of the trigger.

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MSR Website

A Web site, www.nssf.org/MSR/, is devoted to the modern sporting rifle. Here, you can find a time line that shows how rifles used for hunting and target practice have evolved from military firearms. You can also view a wonderful video that gives some insights to what MSR's and other sporting rifles have in common.



Start Hunting 30 Minutes After Sunset?

ATN's MK350 Guardian Night Scope



All shooting and photos were under adult supervision. Photos taken from in front of the firing line were accomplished via a remote camera.

By: Ty Weaver (14)

The title is correct, although most hunting regulations read: "Hunting must cease thirty minutes after sunset." Many states allow varmint / predator hunting or non-game species hunting after dark. Please check your hunting regulations.

Many challenges exist if one wants to partake in this type of hunting. The biggest challenge is a good lighting system that allows the hunter to spot his target species. Portable lighting systems require the use of batteries, and then the challenge of keeping them charged comes in to play, not to mention the real challenge of keeping the critter in the light pattern long enough to sight, become steady, and cleanly make the shot without spooking the animal. This is NOT an easy thing to do, especially if you are hunting by yourself! Fortunately, I have my dad to help. Getting all these things to work together is still like trying to rub your belly, pat your head, and hop on one foot all at the same time!

Let's hunt at night without the use of a light to eliminate the need of aiming a light and a rifle. Sound crazy? At first

thought, maybe, but American Technologies Network (ATN) makes it possible. I was lucky enough to have the opportunity to try the ATN night vision MK350 Guardian scope. It is by far the most highly technically advanced shooting system component I have ever used. Don't let the "most highly technically advanced" thing scare you! The ATN scope is very user friendly from all aspects of mounting, operating, sighting in, and field use. I will never forget the first time that I looked through it and could see objects that I could not see with out it! COOL STUFF! I will certainly never forget the first critter that I put the crosshairs on!

After reading the instructions, which are simple and clearly written, Dad and I decided to mount the ATN scope on a custom Remington Model 700 chambered for .22ppc. This gun is a very accurate rifle and is deadly on varmints and even wild hogs when loaded with Barnes Triple Shock bullets!

After mounting the scope, which was very easy to do, we headed to the rifle range. The ATN scope did not take much time to sight in. We did this during fading daylight, and before darkness arrived, we made certain all was