

Rock River Arms LAR-15

JUNIOR SHOOTERS

Volume 8 / Winter 2010

MAKING A MARK



FNH USA's FNP-9

**Ruger's 22/45
MK III RP**

**Nine Juniors
at the MGM
Ironman 2010!**

**Daisy's National BB Gun
Championship 2010**



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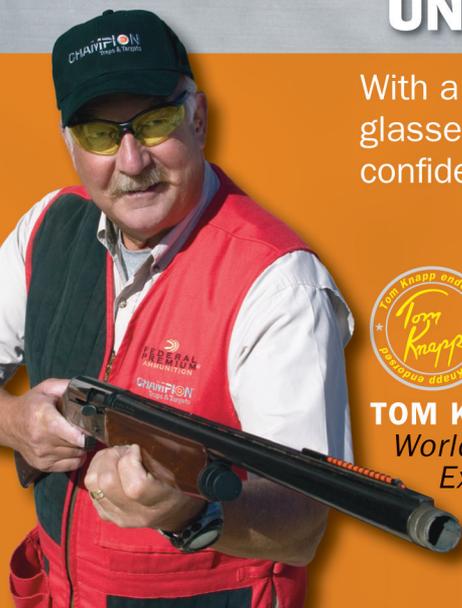


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Features

- 8 Rock River Arms LAR-15
By: Danny Garcia (17) *For Kids By Kids*
- 12 An Olympic Dream
By: Jamie Beyerle
- 16 What the SHOT Show Does For You
By: Glenn Sapir
- 20 A Very Little Girl With a Very Big Agenda
By: Mike Setting
- 24 Six Guns Flame at CFDA Nationals
By: Andy Fink
- 28 The Wills Boys - Playing the Hand Dealt
By: Kevin Greely
- 32 Ruger's 22/45 MK III RP
By: Andy Fink
- 36 AirForce's Talon SS
By: Terry Bowers
- 40 MGM Ironman 2010 - 9 Juniors!
By: Andy Fink and the Juniors *For Kids By Kids*
- 46 FNH USA's FNP-9
By: Corey Shaw (17) *For Kids By Kids*
- 50 BB Guns Rock at Daisy Nationals
By: Andy Fink
- 60 How I Got Started - A Champion's Story
By: Julie Golob



Columns

- 15 SAFETY - Practicing Safety
By: Larry Haley
- 56 Gunsmithing - Single-Actions
EMF's Great Western II
By: Robert "Doc" Krone
- 58 Kid's Gear - Rudy Project
By: Andy Fink By: Dallin Hixson (16) *For Kids By Kids*
- 62 Ty's Tidbits - Hunting Black Bear in
Canada
By: Ty Weaver (14) *For Kids By Kids*

On the Cover:

Danny Garcia with Rock River Arms National Match LAR-15 A4. Viking Tactics sling from Brownells, Warne RAMP scope mount and Alpen Outdoor 1.5-4.5x Kodiak scope.

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A Word From Your Editor

Juniors are the future of the shooting sports. That is something that should always be in our minds. There are still a lot of people who think *Junior Shooters* magazine is only about young kids. However, we cover juniors all the way up until they are 21. There is a good reason for this. Not only do we want to encourage juniors and help them through their informative young years, but we want to promote collegiate shooting as well. These years lay the foundation for an appreciation of the shooting sports with a basis built on safety. Yes, safe gun handling should always be an inherent part of our youth instruction and programs.

We must encourage juniors, and their parents, to both enjoy the shooting sports and promote them. There are certainly many ways to do that. However, one of the most important is providing information on, and the opportunity to participate in, the shooting sports for those who are non-shooters. Without more juniors, the shooting sports and our hunting heritage will start to die out.

One of the areas we are trying to provide information on is the shooting programs available in college and scholarship programs. The National Shooting Sports Foundation does an excellent job with providing funding for collegiate shooting programs, and the National Rifle Association maintains a database where you can search for different schools to find out if they have a shooting program. We just published a listing that pertains to articles on shooting scholarships and where to go to find out more information. You can check it out at www.juniorshooters.net/2010/09/25/shooting-scholarship-information/. If you have information on collegiate shooting programs or shooting scholarships and would like to share it, we would enjoy receiving them. Specific articles with photos would be greatly appreciated as we would like to provide more coverage on this subject.

We hope you enjoy *Junior Shooters* magazine, and if you have any suggestions or ideas, please let us know. We are always looking for articles, especially for ones that are written by juniors. Our goal is to achieve 50% of the articles published in our print magazine and 25% of the articles published on our website at www.juniorshooters.net written by juniors. With your help, we can continue to provide the youth involved in the shooting sports the opportunity to be heard.

Safe shooting, and remember, juniors are the future of the shooting sports.

JUNIOR SHOOTERS MAKING A MARK

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ROCK RIVER ARMS

NATIONAL MATCH LAR-15

By: Danny Garcia (17)

*For Kids
By Kids*

As a junior shooter, it is difficult to have enough resources to shoot a big match such as the MGM Ironman 3-Gun match, so I asked for support from my dad. Of course, my dad is also a competitive shooter, so this would require double the equipment and double the guns. This included shotguns, handguns, rifles, and all the holsters, ammo holders, and ammo.

Because of the large amount of equipment needed, I gained the support of Andy Fink, Editor-In-Chief of *Junior Shooters* magazine. Andy provided me with a great rifle and scope combo, which is what the following article will describe. If you are a junior shooter and want to know what goes on in the competitive shooting world, subscribe to *Junior Shooters* magazine.

3-Gun matches require an accurate rifle, such as an AR-15-type rifle from Rock River Arms.

Rock River manufactures quality, accurate rifles for civilians and law enforcement. The firearm provided to me to test by *Junior Shooters* magazine during the MGM Ironman match was Rock River's National Match A4 Rifle chambered in .223 caliber Wylde chamber.

The rifle arrived in a blue, plastic, hard case. The configuration of the case requires the upper and lower receivers to be separated. As I pinned the upper and lower receiver together, I noticed the tight fit between the two. There wasn't any rattling between the upper and lower halves. The rifle comes with a non-adjustable A2 stock which fits my body type at 6'2" and 180 pounds. According to my dad, at 5'7" and 165 pounds, the stock fit him well, too. The barrel is shiny stainless steel, which by the way is a great color contrast with the flat black of the rest of the rifle. I thought the barrel was a little on the heavy side for the run-and-gun type of shooting required for the Ironman, but this can also be a plus when demanding accuracy at long distances. Also a plus was the Free Float Thermo Mold Handguard. If you shoot high power matches, which are what this type of rifle is intended for, the Thermo Mold Handguard conforms to high power match rules. *Junior Shooters* magazine also received a standard A2 upper for DCM (Defense Civilian Marksmanship) program using iron sights (more on that in an upcoming article.)

Because the rifle arrived without a front or rear sight, I needed a scope to mount on the upper receiver's picatinny rails. Using one of the new Warne RAMP (Rapid Acquisition Multisight Platform) forward scope mounts, I mounted a 1.5-4.5x Power Kodiak Scope from Alpen Outdoors. Because of the limited space on top of AR-15-type rifles, a forward



Above: Danny on stage six off-hand. Below: Danny prone on stage three shooting the far targets. Rock River Arms National Match LAR-15 with an A4 upper, Warne (RAMP) scope mount, Alpen 1.5-4.5x scope and Sig Sauer red dot. Sling and bipod from Brownells.



AWESOME!



Above: Full length right side view of LAR-15 National Match Rifle with A4 upper. Alpen Outdoors Kodiak 1.5-4.5x scope mounted using a Warne "RAMP" mount. Viking Tactics sling was courtesy of Brownells.

scope mount is needed in order to gain the proper eye relief. The Warne scope mounts come with side rails which allow mounting of a secondary red dot optic at 45 degrees on either the right or left side of the rifle.

The MGM Ironman allows the use of a secondary optic in the scoped tactical division, so I took advantage of this and mounted a STS-081 Mini Red Dot sight from Sig Sauer. The Sig's sight is similar in size to Aimpoint's Micro T-1 sight and features a four MOA dot with 11 daylight settings and advertised 8,000-hour run time on a single battery. I am left-handed, so I needed to mount the red dot on the left side of the Warne scope mount. The STS-081 has its controls on the left versus the right side like the Aimpoint Micro Dot, so it was perfect for what I wanted to do. This type of scope setup allowed me to have my Kodiak scope to be set at 4.5x power for long-range targets and use my red dot for fast shooting at multiple short-range targets.

Once my scopes were mounted, I placed a target at 25 yards and fired several groups and zeroed my Sig red dot scope for short-range targets. Next, I placed a target at 50 yards and zeroed my Kodiak Scope using the 4.5x power setting. The Kodiak scope was easy to sight in using its finger adjustable knobs and 1/4-minute adjustments. I used a 50-yard zero which allows me to aim about 1-1/4" low at 100 yards, 1/2" low at 200, and about 6-1/2" high at 300-yard targets. I zeroed my rifle using Hornady 55-grain V Max TAP Ammunition. The ammo worked great, and I consistently shot 1" groups. A better shooter with a higher power scope could easily shoot smaller groups.

One of the interesting things about the National Match rifle made by Rock River Arms is the use of the Wylde chamber. With the plethora of manufacturers of complete weapons and aftermarket barrels, there is a potential hazard associated with



Above: Close up of Warne multi-optic mount, Alpen Outdoor's scope and Sig Sauer red dot. Note: The controls on the Sig Sauer are on the left side which was necessary for Danny as a left-handed shooter.



Above left: Top of the adjustable front sight on A2 upper. Above right: Rear sight of A2 National Match upper has full windage and elevation adjustments for extreme accuracy.



The original LAR-15 A2 National Match upper is an extremely accurate rifle. Look for a separate article coming .

chamber specifications. Both civilian (SAAMI) specification .223 Remington and 5.56 mm NATO are available. Though both chambers typically accept both types of ammunition, the firing of military specification ammunition in civilian specification chambers can produce chamber pressures greater than the barrel is designed to handle. The most common result of firing military 5.56x45 mm ammunition in a .223 Remington chamber is that the primer can be forced out of the case by chamber pressure, often resulting in the primer becoming lodged somewhere in the action of the rifle, and disassembly of the rifle is often necessary to remove the jammed primer. Military specification chambers typically have a more open-throat area producing less pressure and can handle both types of ammunition.

A few AR-15 manufacturers incorporate the use of a hybrid chamber specification known as the Wylde chamber. Designed by and named after Bill Wylde, this chambering was designed to accurately shoot the military ball ammo of the day while still feeding reliably. Coincidentally, it shoots the longer 80-grain bullets commonly used in the sport of high power rifle competition very well and is one of the preferred chambers for that use. While the Wylde chamber allows for optimal seating depth of 80-grain bullets over .223 Remington and 5.56 NATO, it is capable of accepting both ammunition types. The Wylde chamber is used by a few manufacturers who sell National Match configuration AR-15 rifle, barrels, and upper receivers.

Wanting to really test my rifle, I only lubricated my rifle and did not clean it after having shot about 400 rounds during sighting it in and practice. I drove to the match to shoot about 500 more rounds with it. At the match, we had high temperatures into the 90s with high winds. These high winds covered my rifle with what MGM calls "moon dust." Starting the match with a dirty rifle and the moon dust tested my rifle's reliability and to my surprise, I did not have a single malfunction.

Although I shot ten stages at the Ironman match, my favorite stage - and what I believe would be the stage to test the rifle's true accuracy - was stage 3. This stage consisted of climbing to the top of a tower and engaging targets from 50 yards to about 300 meters. I hit 90 % of the targets with first-round hits. What allowed me to hit the targets with this type of accuracy? Was it the accurate Rock River free-floated barrel? The Rock River two-stage match trigger? The Alpen Kodiak and Sig Sauer scope mounted on Warne Scope mounts? Was it the Hornady ammunition? It was a combination of the right

equipment with hours of practice and the coaching from Andy Fink at *Junior Shooters* and Travis Gibson from MGM Targets.

If you are looking for an accurate and dependable rifle, look up Rock River Arms.

Editor's Notes:

1. Danny was one of five juniors sponsored by Junior Shooters magazine and numerous other sponsors who donated or provided products for Junior Shooters' use in the MGM Ironman 2010 event. Rock River Arms, Warne scope mounts, Alpen Outdoors, Hornady, and 3 Gun Gear were all nice enough to donate the products mentioned in this article. We sincerely thank them for their support for Junior Shooters magazine and supporting our youth, the future of the shooting sports.

2. Many thanks go to Travis Gibson for providing extensive training to Danny and the other juniors sponsored by Junior Shooters magazine and for all of his other assistance. All of the Gibsons at MGM Targets are wonderful people and do everything they can to promote juniors in the shooting sports.

3. Danny came in 38 out of 103 participants in the scope tactical class at the MGM Ironman 2010. This is a real accomplishment that we are all proud of.



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The difference between the NM A2 and NM A4 is that the A4 model comes with a detachable carry handle leaving a picatinny rail on top for mounting optics.

Rock River Arms National Match (NM) A2 & A4 LAR-15

Specifications

Caliber: .223 Wylde Chamber for 5.56mm & .223

Upper: Forged A2 or A4 with NM Carry Handle



Above left: Danny at stage two, 3-Gun Nation stage, picking off the rifle plates.



Above right: These were the first sight-in shots taken right out of the box at 50 yards. Eight shots with the final five sight-in shots making a 0.5" group.

Absolutely awesome!

- Barrel: 20" Air Gauged Heavy Match Stainless Steel, 1:8 Twist
- Muzzle Device: A2 Flash Hider / 1/3-28 Thread
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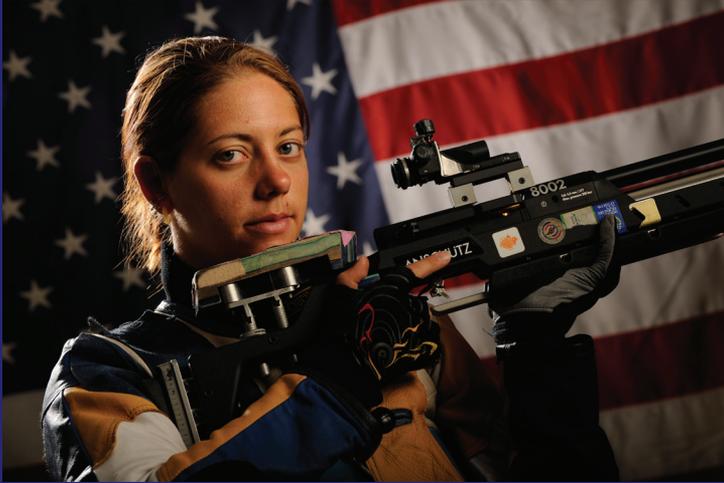
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LE HOME HUNT TARGET

An Olympic Dream

Jamie Beyerle



Jamie with the Anschutz air rifle she used in the 10-meter air rifle competition at the 2008 Olympics.

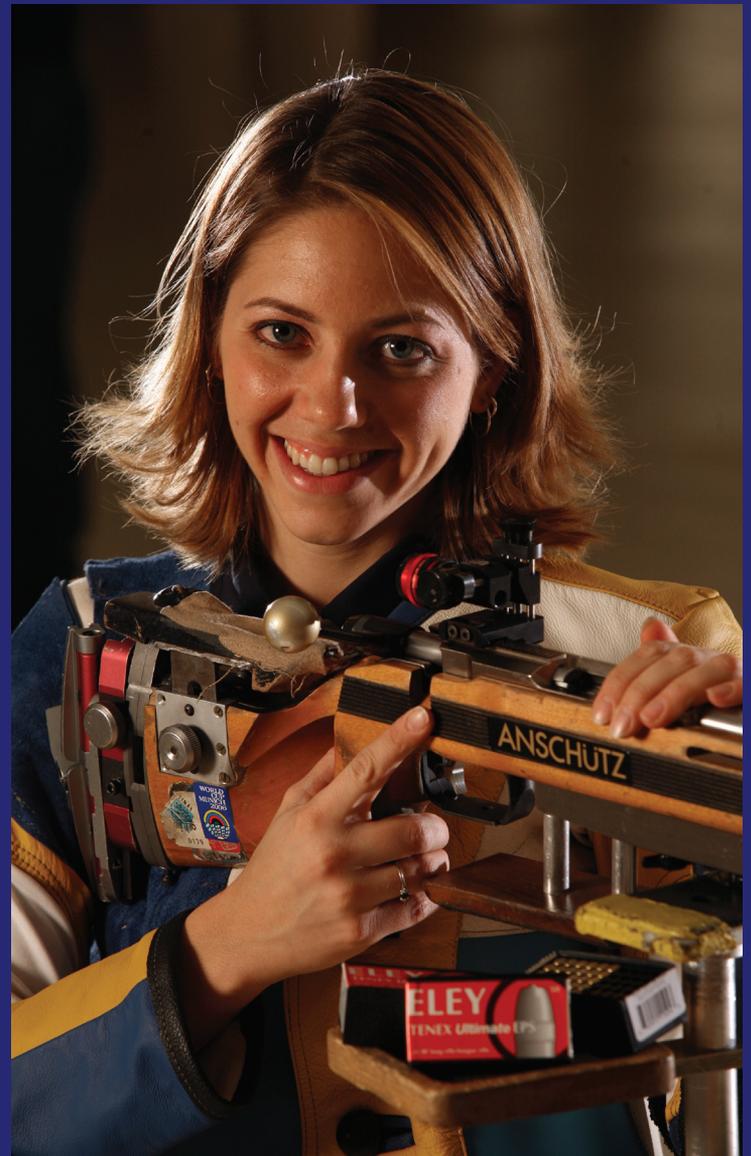
It was not until I was 14 years old that I set a goal of being an Olympian. I actually did not even know shooting was an Olympic sport until then, but when I did decide I wanted to be on that stage, I worked hard every day to get there. My father was the person who introduced me to the shooting sports, as he did with my older brother. I shot for the first time in our basement at home at the age of six, a Daisy Model 499 Spring Air BB Gun. Of course, it is not until one is eight years old that they can start shooting in the Daisy BB Gun programs, so I was stuck in the basement, with my brother, shooting for fun for two more years.

At the age of eight, I started shooting with the Myerstown Rod and Gun BB Gun Team, and that is where my shooting career really started. My goal at that age was simple: to beat my brother. I was a young tomboy, and beating up on the boys in anything was always a goal. It was not until I was a little older that I could actually beat him, but I always had fun in the process.

I competed at the National Daisy BB Gun Championships for the first time when I was 13, where I took home the gold. This was the beginning of my success. I returned again when I was 15 and shot all three events - BB Gun, Precision Air Rifle, and Sporter Air Rifle - where I won both air rifle events and was second in BB Gun. From that point on, I definitely had the desire to be the best in the country, and later, the best in the world, in rifle shooting.

Guns alone did not fill my junior years. I also played softball, basketball, and soccer. I think it is very important for young people to get involved in other sports to learn

different aspects of sport, such as teamwork. It is hard to learn about teamwork on a shooting team, as shooting seems to be more of an individual sport. However, one reason our 2008 Olympic Team was so successful was because of our team atmosphere and the support from the team members. It is also important to develop one's entire body, which is easily achieved through multiple sports. It was not until I was in the tenth grade that I decided four sports were too much to handle, and I chose to only play



Jamie with the Anschutz smallbore, .22 LR rifle she used in the smallbore competition at the 2008 Olympics.

soccer and shoot, both of which I did year round.

Through my junior years in rifle shooting, I shot with the Palmyra Sportsmen's Team. My brother was still shooting at the time, so my simple goal was still, in effect, to beat my brother. After he went off to college, I had to find someone else to beat, and that person just so happened to be my coach Erin Gestl. Of course, choosing a person to beat is an easy way to get motivated, but eventually there has to be a bigger picture goal. That is when I really started to get serious about wanting to be an Olympian.

I worked harder than anyone I knew growing up. I spent over 320 days on the range every year, even shooting on Thanksgiving and Christmas. Shooting and playing soccer were the two things in my life that really meant a lot to me, so I put as much energy and focus into those two things that I could. The best thing was that my parents were behind me every step of the way. It sounds like I was quite the jock growing up, as I was, but don't be fooled; I was also a straight A student. Sports are fun and can teach many different skills, but an education is also important for skills in life.

As a junior, I shot many different matches including Friday night league matches, local indoor and outdoor matches, Camp Perry, Junior Olympics, American Legion, and USA Shooting Nationals. Match experience is something one cannot obtain without shooting in different competitions. My very first Friday night league match I shot in the 490s out of 600. Through that season, I improved every match ending the season in the 570s. This is just one example of what hard work can do.

As I grew through my high school years, I had to make a very tough and important decision: soccer or shooting. I loved both sports dearly, but I could only go to college for one of them, and luckily I decided shooting was the one. As I weighed the pros and cons of different universities, the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) ended up on top. I was a growing shooter and already one of the best female shooters in the country so I wanted to go to a college team where I would be pushed and shoot with the best. At the time, that team was UAF, where I got to spend time on and off the range with one of my best friends and teammates, Matt Emmons. To this day, Matt and I are very close and can help each other out on and off the range.

After being a part of three NCAA Championship Teams and being an individual NCAA Champion twice, I decided to pursue shooting after college. That is when I moved to the Olympic Training Center (OTC) in Colorado Springs, CO. At the OTC, I had the opportunity to work day in and day out with Dave Johnson, the USA Shooting National Rifle Coach.

I would have to sadly admit that I am quite a high



Above: 1997 Winning BB gun team with the Golden Gun in Myerstown, PA.



1999, On the podium at the Daisy BB Gun and Air Rifle Nationals in Atlanta, GA.



2001 Camp Perry junior team photo, Jamie Beyerle, Justin Sparks, Mike Beyerle, and Vicki Goss.

maintenance person when it comes to shooting, and having Dave by my side was one of the best things for me. I like to be able to figure out my own problems but also have a coach there to tell me “sounds good”. I am a big believer in that a successful athlete is one who is a problem solver, but also one who is coachable and can accept positive criticism. An athlete must have a good relationship with their coach as well. A coach is someone who an athlete should feel like they can go to with any sport or non-sport related issue. I have always been really close to all of my coaches, and I trusted each and every one of them fully.

Through all of this, I have learned many different skills from many different people in becoming a champion. I have surrounded myself with others who have a positive attitude, which is a major key in becoming a champion. Probably one of my best attributes as a shooter is that I am one of the most competitive people walking on this planet. I am competitive in everything - and I do mean everything I do - however, being this way, it is important to still have good sportsmanship at all times. Most importantly, above all things, I shoot because I enjoy it and I still have fun doing it. The day that I feel shooting is not fun anymore is the day I will hang my gear up for good.

I hope all of you shoot well and have fun!

Editor’s Note: In 2008, Jamie took the silver medal at the World Cup in Milan and won first place in the Olympic trials for 3-Position Rifle. At the 2008 Olympic Games, she just missed winning a medal in Women’s Air Rifle, coming in fourth. In women’s 3-Position Rifle, Jamie was again the top-placing American, only missing a medal by two places. This 26-year-old athlete plans on continuing her dedication to the shooting sports and securing a spot in the 2012 Olympics.

In an interview with the American Legion, she was asked:

“You have a great amount of medals behind your name. How does all the success make you feel?” Her reply was inspiring: “I work very hard at shooting, and winning medals is just the reward for the time I put into this sport. It feels great to be on the podium, especially when you get to see the American flag raised and hear the national anthem played.”

©



Above: 2008 Olympics Air Rifle match.



Above: 2008 USA Olympic Rifle Team.



Jamie Beyerle competes in the women’s 10m air rifle final on Day 1 in the 2008 Olympics Beijing, China.



FIREARMS SAFETY AND YOU!!

By: Larry Haley

Safety, safety, safety. When will it ever end? It WON'T!

It is so easy to become “lazy” when we are handling firearms a lot or when we are by ourselves. But, as I’ve said before, what you practice at home, for example, with your firearms is what you will most likely do when you are in a busier or exciting location like the field or range. The most exciting location may be at a competition if you are a competitive shooter. Competitions also can have consequences for safety violations that can impact your placement or result in a disqualification.

You may be in a home where you are not allowed or are severely restricted in handling your firearm. You can still practice safety without your firearm. All you need to do is find something that can take its place. This could be a toy gun or something you make. It could be a lot of fun to make a model of the gun you like to shoot. If you can afford it, there are non-firing replicas of a lot of firearm models. There are replicas that look real from a distance, and there are those that are colored (blue, for example) so that they are easy to identify as a non-firing model. These blue models are used by the police and military for training where they have a lot of

movement and want to make sure no one gets injured. Some replicas have some moving parts, and some have none and are totally plastic.

One of the things I find disappointing is having to lock up all my firearms and not have them out where I can see them. This, however, is a necessity. I have a non-firing model of a single-action Colt 45 out in my office that I can look at whenever I want. I always use safety practices with it and encourage my friends to do the same if they want to look at it.

You could do the same with your friends. It would give you a chance to pass on some of your safety practices to them and help make them safer. This could even apply to any younger brothers or sisters you may have.

©

Remember. Practice safety!

Gun Giveaway!

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What the SHOT Show Does for You



A show you probably can't attend pro

By: Glenn Sapir, NSSF Director, Editorial Services

The SHOT Show is the Super Bowl of the hunting and shooting world, and anyone who attends feels like the proverbial kid in the candy store. The truth of the matter, however, is that a “kid” cannot attend. In fact, if you are under 16 years of age, liability considerations prevent you from registering as an attendee at the SHOT Show. However, there is another important condition that must be met before someone, even if he or she is 16 or older, can register as an attendee. The person must be a member of the hunting, shooting sports or law enforcement industry.

The SHOT Show is not a “consumer show,” that is, one where shooters and hunters can pay their admission and walk the aisles as they look at what’s new in equipment. Instead, the SHOT Show is a trade show, open only to members of the industry. The folks that walk the aisles at the SHOT Show—and the aisles can be measured in miles at this gigantic expo—are the people who sell the equipment at the consumer shows that they see and may order at the SHOT Show. These are the store owners, the buyers for the stores and also the writers who report on the new products for the magazines like this one and others you may read.

In fact, the full name of the SHOT Show is the Shooting, Hunting and Outdoor Trade Show. SHOT is what you’d

call an acronym, where the first letters of several words are combined to make up a new word. The SHOT Show is owned and sponsored by the National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF), which is the trade association of the firearms and ammunition, hunting and shooting sports industry. NSSF’s mission is to promote, protect and preserve hunting and the shooting sports, and one way it can fulfill that mission is by creating this show that brings all facets of the industry together to allow manufacturers from around the world to display their products, including their newest items, and for stores to view those products, talk to the people who make them and order them. In the same way, the more than 1,800 members of the media who cover the show get to write for their readers and report to their viewers on what has caught their eye.

Another important benefit of the SHOT Show is the revenue produced. It provides more than 80 percent of the funding on which NSSF operates year-round. And that’s where you come in, because besides exhibiting the new gear that you’ll find in your favorite stores, catalogs and website, the SHOT Show provides the money for many programs that directly affect you.

NSSF has an active government relations program that works hard to defend your rights as a sportsman.

It also funds many programs that promote hunting and the shooting sports and provide money that can open up access and opportunities for you and your families. For example, the



produces tremendous benefits for you.



Acres of floor space with thousands of industry supporters at the SHOT Show provide NSSF with much of the funding that supports the many programs promoting hunting, conservation, and the shooting sports.



A daughter and her father afield enjoying the outdoors together while getting their turkey.

Hunting Heritage Partnership and the Range Partnership grant programs award money to state wildlife management agencies and shooting ranges for them to find effective ways to help get more hunters and shooters afield. It might mean helping to open up new lands or a new promotion to make time at the range even more fun.

By working as an active partner in the Families Afield initiative, NSSF has helped break down legal barriers that prevented young people from going hunting, and now 30 states have passed regulations that make it possible for young



Families AfieldSM

people to hunt under adult supervision.

“In addition,” says Chris Dolnack, NSSF senior vice president, “NSSF supports youth shooting programs run by the Boy Scouts of America, 4-H, the Scholastic Shooting Sports Foundation (SSSF) and others. In fact, the SSSF-run Scholastic Clay Target Program was founded by NSSF.”

NSSF provides many other services that help hunters and shooters, young and old, and these programs are funded to a great extent by the SHOT Show. So even though people under 16 can't attend the SHOT Show, the revenue it produces is working hard for young shooters and hunters.



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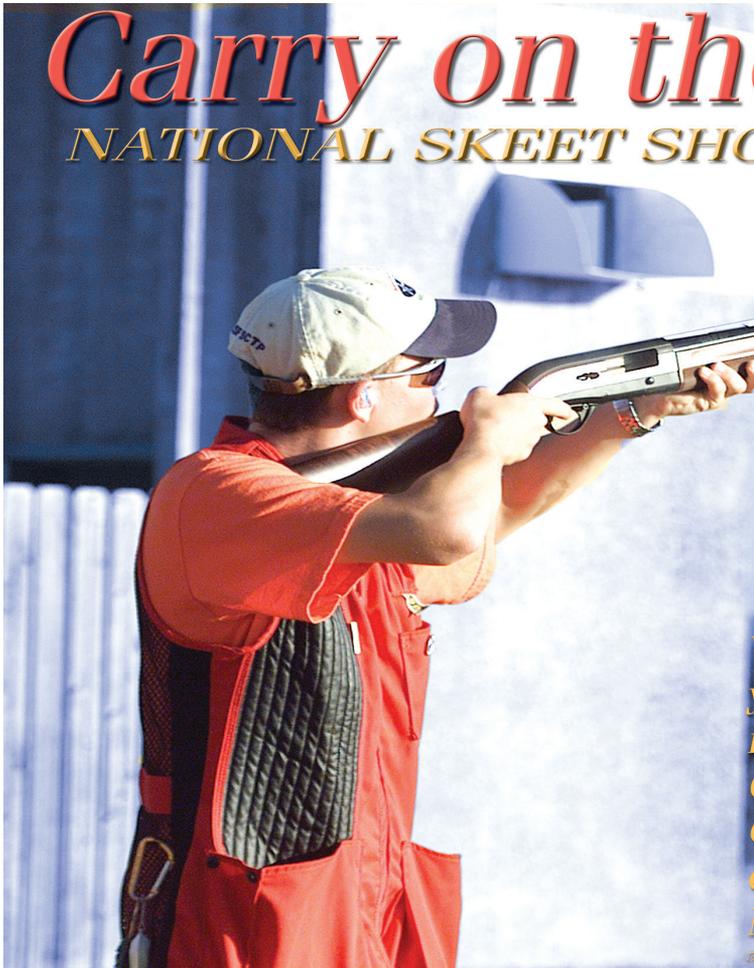
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A Very Little Girl With A Very Big Agenda

By: Mike Setting

On a chilly Saturday morning in beautiful Morro Bay, California, the coastal fog gently lifts off the shooting bays at the Houge Sport Shooting Park. It's the Ruger .22 Rimfire World Championship Match, and over a hundred competitors are beginning their exciting challenge to see who will be the fastest and most accurate shooter this day. John Allchin, one of the world's fastest pistol and rifle marksmen, has just stunned everyone with a blistering fast run. He has just shot ten very small steel targets at an average of 50 feet in less than 8 seconds!

As the background sounds of appreciation start to wane, the range officer calls aloud, "The next shooter is Alicia Setting." The crowd suddenly stills, and both range officers freeze with looks of confusion and worry as a 45-pound, 40-inch tall pixie of a Korean girl, half drags her shooting bag to the firing line. The look of doubt on the RO's faces is only erased after a couple of words from Alicia's father, USPSA and SCSA grandmaster, Michael Setting. "Don't Worry. She's got this," Mike tells them.

Within a few seconds, the RO's are smiling like they just won the lottery after seeing Alicia expertly get ready for her run at the plates. Alicia, or "Alleycat" as many of her fellow junior shooters call her, has just retrieved her pistol, shown the gun clear, taken a sight picture, inserted a loaded magazine, cycled the action, and assumed the start position all with the smoothness, grace, and confidence of a twenty-year veteran competitor.



Here, Ally is practicing shooting targets while running with her Browning Buckmark Tactical Solutions Trail-Lite. This is a skill that takes years to master.



Alicia Setting has been nicknamed Ally or Alleycat by her shooting friends.

After the commands, "Shooter ready," and "Stand-by," the timer beeps, and in a blink of an eye and the sound of a jackhammer on steel, Ally unleashes ten rounds and ten hits ring out over the range. Her time is just slightly more than Mr. Allchin's. The roar of the spectators matches the look of amazement on the range officer's faces as Ally looks at them and asks, with all humility, "Was that all right?" The range officer simply says, "Who are you and can I visit your world someday?"

The answer to those questions is: Alicia Setting, a twelve-year-old girl from Los Angeles who absolutely gets it. Ally understands that the shooting sports are just that, a sport. She understands that the reason kids enjoy sports so much is that they are fun and challenging. Did I mention fun yet? Oh, yes, there is that fun part, too. Like any sport, there is a skill set that needs to be mastered if a kid is to achieve a high level of accomplishment.

Ally is one of those kids that loves a challenge, hates to lose, and is not afraid of paying her dues. As a red and black belt in Taekwondo, she knows a little about hard work and bruises. Growing up in a beach town in southern California, she knows way too much about having fun. But the funny thing is Ally never lets her success go to her head. She is the first one to run downrange, after a shooter is cleared and safe, to paint plates or tape targets. She is always one of the first to say a kind word to another junior after a less-than-great performance.

Most importantly, Ally truly appreciates the effort and love of those who make her sport possible. She never fails to thank every RO at each stage in a match or even at practice sessions. A true social butterfly, Ally loves to roam all over the range sites and will often walk up to whomever she sees and introduce herself. It must be a gene thing from her mother,



Alicia's Ruger 10-22 rifle and Browning Buckmark pistol are both .22 Long Rifle caliber and highly modified to fit Ally. Note the rifle stock. This is actually the original stock that has been chopped, glued, bondo-filled and painted to form a stock that fits Alicia's micro-sized body. Ally uses C-more red dot scopes and shoots Lapua Signum ammunition in competition.

but nevertheless, Ally knows how to work a crowd and is a wonderful ambassador for the shooting sports.

While realizing some success in speed shooting, Ally has gained much notoriety because she is tiny, cute, female (all girl), and extremely quick. Local news broadcasts and worldwide sports shows alike have often focused on her as the non-typical stereotype. This attention encouraged Ally to continue with her training because she didn't ever want to look incapable or undeserving of the attention she received. This has had a kind of a snowball effect. As Ally gets faster and wins more often, she becomes even more encouraged. Nothing succeeds like success.

Ally has been shooting for just over three years now and started at age ten. This year she is moving on to centerfire pistol competition at the Steel Challenge, World Speed Shooting Championships. Being that cute little girl has some advantages, but when it comes to controlling recoil or moving heavy guns around, being small is no advantage at all. Ally began her training with her father and mother who are both competitive shooters. Then, as Ally began to interest her schoolmates and friends in the shooting sport, the weekend practices evolved into the formation of the Norco Juniors Marksmanship Academy. This is an ever-growing group of kids 8 to 18 years of age that meet twice a month to receive free training from some of the greatest pistol and rifle shooters in the world. Ally has received help from the likes of Michael Voigt, JoJo Vidanes, and Valerie and Cathy Levanza who are all-world champions. However, if you ask Ally, she'll tell you



Ally and Claudia Vidanes. These girls take practice seriously but never pass up a chance to have fun.

that her friends like Ashley Bolda, Deleana Saylor, Claudia Vidanes, and Lena Miculek are the most helpful and coolest of her shooting friends. That's because they are young ladies who also share Ally's love of clothes, music, boys on TV, etc. You know girl stuff, fun stuff!

Ally wants to be world champion someday. She also has a goal to become a high Don black belt in Taekwondo. She studies with Master Andre Lima who is one of the world's best. Her many friends from the Taekwondo studio all came out to the range to learn about the shooting sports. They had a wonderful time. They all shot a .22 caliber steel match, much like the Ruger championship. Many of her fellow Taekwondo students will continue to shoot with Ally at the Norco Juniors Range. Alicia also wants to be a writer and is working on a series of articles for *Junior Shooters* and other magazines. Look for more from Ally on shooting from a kid's point of view.

With Alicia's high level of dedication to her sport and with the help of some truly great people who sponsor her, she should go far in the competition world. Lapua ammunition, Vihtavuori powder, C-more sighting systems, Tactical Solutions, Safariland, Bar-Sto gun barrels, Allchin gun parts, Hawktech arms, and, oh, yeah, Mom and Dad all make the road to success a little smoother for Ally. For this, Alicia and all the juniors at her academy are very thankful and honored. Most of all, Ally works hard at bringing the joy of the shooting sports to everyone she meets. She is not afraid to talk about competing with guns at her school, and others often find that it's pretty hard to argue about gun control with a 12-year-old girl who gets it.

If Alicia could have her own world, we would all want to live there! That world would be full of wonderful, caring people who show honor, respect, kindness, and effort in everything they do.



Above: Ally shooting her Ruger 10-22 around a barricade. Note the proper form in Ally's arms, legs, and hips. Using the barricade for support is a good idea if it is firm and does not wobble with the gun recoil.

Left: One reason Ally's shooting has improved so rapidly is because the people she practices with are world champions. From left to right: Valerie Levanza-Rosales three time Steel Challenge Champion; Ally California State speed shooting Champion; JoJo Vidanes IPSC World Champion; and Claudia Vidanes future champion for sure.



Right: Ally with her Browning Buckmark .22 LR pistol.



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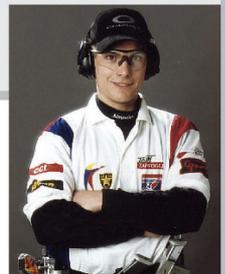
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Six Guns Flame



By: Andy Fink

The two young men looked at each other, smiles on their faces. “You’re going down,” one said. The other’s smile just got bigger as he tipped his broad-rimmed cowboy hat back. “Your times aren’t good enough to beat me.” They waited until the range officer had cleared the line and gave the command, “Load and make ready.” They slowly drew their sixguns from their 1880s-era holsters and opening the loading gate spun the cylinders of their new model Ruger Vaqueros in .45 Colt. Accepting one round at a time from their hand judges, they loaded the five cases one at a time, checking each as they were pushed into the chambers. Each case was loaded with a 15-grain wax bullet and about 3.5 grains of Hodggen’s Triple 777 powder. Spinning the cylinder, they checked to make sure that when they closed the loading gate, locking the cylinder in place, that the hammer would be resting on an empty chamber.

They showed their hand judge the gun was ready. The sixgun was slowly put back in the holster, and they were set to go. The hand judges took their places on the stools behind the young men indicating to the range officer that their shooter was ready and the sixgun was holstered.

The tension mounted. Eyes were fixed on the 24” diameter steel targets with an amber “go” light set in the middle. The targets were set at 21 feet from the firing line – the distance of the Master Gunfighter!

The range officer’s voice was loud as he told the timer, “The line is ready.” The timer spoke, “Gunfighters are ready. Shooters on the line. shooters set.” There was a slight pause

between the words “line” and “set.” The timer released the start button at the word “set,” and the random generator picked the time to light up the LED lights in the middle of the target.

The right hands of both the young men were wrapped around the grips of their sixguns. Their off-hands were held out straight in front of them but off to the side so they weren’t in front of their bodies. Their eyes squinted, and they tried not to tense as they realized their time was coming. Flash! The light came on. Their sixguns flew out of their holsters, and as they came up, their off-hands came over, met their gun hands and the thumbs of their off-hands caught the hammers pulling the hammers back as they thrust their sixguns toward the target. Kaboom! A flash and black powder smoke poured out of the barrels as the wax bullets went splat against the steel targets. Each of their hits on the targets was evident by the round spots showing up against the white lithium grease that had been placed on the targets.

“Lane one, a .689, and lane two, a .725,” that is sixth-tenths and seven-tenths of a second! “Spud has one, and Cactus Kid has zero.”

Both young men got ready for their second shot, as they knew it was the best three hits out of five that won the round; that is if all of their shots hit the target. Spud was up by one and knew he had a slight advantage. Cactus Kid would have to dig down and see if he couldn’t speed up his time by a few hundredths of a second. Kaboom! Another flash and smoke and the metal twang as the bullets hit.

Cowboy fast draw is one of the fastest growing shooting sports in the country. Replica Old West single-action sixguns



at CFDA Nationals 2010

chambered in .45 Colt are used. It is a sport that can be set up and shot most anywhere, has a fairly low cost to get into, celebrates the traditions of the Old West, and is just downright fun! Imagine playing a cowboy. Now you can do it whether you are eight or 84!

Juniors are a big part of cowboy fast draw as there is an emphasis on both getting new shooters started in the game and on safety. Safety is always the first consideration. This means young shooters must go through safety classes and be approved prior to participating at events. The instruction is very thorough and covers all of the standard gun safety rules, as well as the function of the six-gun, the draw, gun handling, and how to conduct oneself on the firing line. Learning life skills such as respect, concern for others, patience, confidence, focus, and how to take care of your gear are all a part of the program.

Of course, once this is accomplished, you have the dress-



Top left:- L to R: Texas, Sweet Pea, Little Miss Sweetwater, Annie B. Good, Speedy Bullfrog, Spud, and Cactus Kid.

Top right: Little Miss Sweetwater on lane 1 and Texas on lane 2 shoot it out using wax bullets and black powder cartridges.

Right: Sweet Pea holding up the post.

up. Yep, you get to get dressed as a cowboy or cowgirl and show off your favorite duds. Each person also has an alias such as “Spud,” “Cactus Kid,” “Sweet Pea,” or “Greased Lightning.” There are new friends to make and old friends to see and lots and lots of fun.

I talked with some of the juniors at the 2010 Nationals held in Idaho City, Idaho, where they put on a fantastic shooting event. Annie B. Good says, “Mississippi Marshal & Nevada Slim (grandfather) picked out my alias. I have been shooting for a little over three years. I am doing pretty well in this match so far. Out of three rounds, I won two. I just need to keep shooting quickly and accurately. I love this sport. No other sport has gotten me as enthused as this one has.”

Cactus Kid says, “I have been shooting about three years, and I am 10 years old. I shoot in the Billy the Kid class. I really like it. Prizes and family got me shooting in cowboy fast draw, and my grandpa, Mr. Powderhorn, who shoots with me. Some of my friends at school know I shoot and some think it is cool.”

All the way from Reno, Nevada, comes Cockeye who says, “I am 14 and have been shooting cowboy fast draw for a little over a year. It is a lot fun and very addictive. My dad saw it and got us both into it. I use a Triple K leather holster, and I shoot an old-style Ruger Vaquero .45 Colt. My friends at school know about me shooting fast draw and think it is cool.” His dad said, “He doesn’t like to brag about it, but he was the 2009 World Champ and 2010 Nevada State Champ in his category.”

Little Miss Sweetwater says, “I have been shooting for three years, and I am 11 years old and shoot in the Annie Oakley class. My friends at school think it is pretty cool. I usually shoot in about one-second times and usually hit my target.”

Portland, Oregon, sent along the Oregon Ranger to compete. “My dad is Oregon Cowboy and grandpa is Gentleman Jim. I am 13 years old from Portland, Oregon, and I shoot a Ruger Colt 45. I really enjoy shooting cowboy fast draw.”

How about picking out an alias like “Speedy Bullfrog?” “My alias is Speedy Bullfrog. I have been shooting for a couple of months and am 12-and-a-half, shooting in the Billy the Kid category. I plan on shooting in the junior category next year. My grandpa shoots with me. I really like it.”

Texas says, “My alias is Texas. I have been shooting for two years. We started shooting cowboy fast draw because it looked like fun, and my family wanted to do something together. My brother and both parents also shoot cowboy fast draw. I shoot a Cimarron .45 Colt, and I am from Centerville, Idaho. It is fun to shoot with people you know and hang out with friends. It seems like everyone is your friend at these matches.”

Providing a venue for kids to participate against both adults and their peers in competition is a great idea, and the Cowboy Fast Draw Association should be proud of what

they have accomplished. Check them out and events across the country at www.cowboyfastdraw.com. You might also want to check out the Idaho Shootists who have their home range in Idaho City where they put on the National Championship and the Idaho State Championship as well. You can do that at www.idahoshootists.com.



Captions at right.

1) Gentleman Jim (grandpa) with Oregon Ranger. Note the 24” diameter targets behind them.

2) Speedy Bullfrog with tied down holster.

3) Speedy Bullfrog on lane 1 and Cactus Kid on lane 2 shooting it out.

4) Cockeye by the range officer’s stand. Check out the targets behind him.

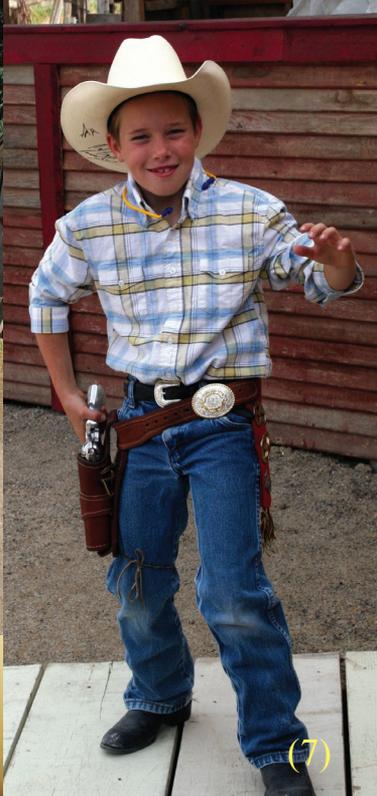
5) Sweet Pea, a junior on lane 1, goes up against one of the top lady cowboy fast draw artists, Cool Hand Suz.

6) Grandpa, The Rev, with Little Miss Sweetwater.

7) Spud getting ready to draw.

8) Texas on lane 3 and Annie B. Good on lane 4 shooting for their category championship.

All shooting is accomplished under supervision of certified range officers. All photos taken in front of the firing line were taken behind a barricade and a protective shield.



The Wills Boys

Playing the Hand Dealt

By: Kevin Greeley

Here is a term to say three times as quickly as possible: “Bilateral Syndactyly, Polydactyly with 14 fingers.” To most of us, this means nothing. If you were an orthopedic doctor, you would know exactly what it means, and to Lee Wills, it applies to him and his life. Lee was born with this condition - 14 fingers with webbed skin in between. Lee is only ten and has had surgery every year to correct his hands and split the skin between fingers, creating what we could consider normal looking hands.

There is nothing grotesque about Lee’s condition, but due to the constant attention and healing, it is a matter of self-consciousness for Lee. It is somewhat of a disability, but to Lee, it is a normal part of his life - and he doesn’t let it hold him back. Things like this are only limiting to others who do not understand. Lee is an example of the credo, “Improvise, Adapt, & Overcome.”

About a year ago, I was approached at a local match by Lee’s mother and his older brother, Jesse. Jesse had started shooting and was having difficulty with the Colt Gold Cup 1911 .45 ACP he was using. Several people had looked at and worked on it, and finally someone suggested they speak with me. The issue was simple to correct, and soon Jesse was on his way. Jesse was 14 at the time and had fallen in love with the shooting sports. United States Practical Shooting Association (USPSA) and steel shooting were eating up his spare time and his allowance. His parents were in full support of him participating in the shooting sports. They were fortunate enough to be able to set up a range for practice on their property in Northern Virginia.

Soon, the sounds of steel rang quite often as both boys practiced with their father coaching. Top USPSA shooters stopped by to lend their support and coach the boys. Tommy Thacker, Ron and Megan Francisco, and others have been willing to spend time with the boys. Louis Lara, a top Master Class Open Class junior shooter, and his father, Lucito, and Kirk McWilliams can be found coaching both boys at their local matches. Others, such as Cliff Walsh (2009 National Revolver Champion) and Todd Jarrett, spend a great deal of time mentoring the boys. Karla, the boys’ mother said, “It takes a whole village to raise a child, but in this case it is a whole shooting community coming together to help the boys get there. It is touching to me that people at that level make time for others.”

As Jesse was progressing, Lee started to show more interest and ability. The boys are complete opposites of one another. Jesse is humble, reserved, and observant. In six months of dedication and work, Jesse has improved from D Class to B



The Wills boys - Jesse left and Lee right.

Class in USPSA. Jesse committed himself to pushups every day and running. Not only did Jesse change physically, but his focus in school and his personal skills with those around him have dramatically changed. Jesse continued to work with his Gold Cup for as long as possible, and finally had to move on to another gun when it became clear the gun was a disadvantage and not worth any money being spent to customize it to his needs. In February 2010, a local shooter deploying to Iraq wanted to donate all of his shooting gear and guns to a junior. Jesse was fortunate to get an Infinity 2011, in .40 S&W.

Lee is wired like a mosquito wanting to try everything now! Lee started shooting in earnest during 2010. In 2009, he was able to be classified as D Class shooter in order to attend the Juniors Camp held by the United States Army Marksmanship Unit (AMU) at Fort Benning, Georgia. This is sponsored by USPSA and MGM Targets. During the camp, Lee and Jesse were able to work with Rob Leatham and Travis Tomasi and many others who are in the upper 2% of the modern action-shooting sports. Sponsors such as Remington provided all of the ammunition for the event.

The AMU camp fanned the flames for Lee and pointed out some obvious issues - his hands. Most of the guns available are set to be used by “Joe Average”. Lee is 10 with hands that are sized larger with limited motion. The fit and feel of a Glock, a Smith & Wesson M&P, or FNP did not work for him. The Springfield XDm did and does fit him, but the reach for the trigger is difficult. For the AMU class, Lee made the XDm work. But coming away from the Juniors Camp, his parents asked what could be done to help him. The answer was to build a custom 1911 for Lee.

Jokes abound concerning the 1911 and keeping gunsmiths in business for over 100 years. However, some things seem to be perfect, even if they are 100 years old in design. In this case, the 1911 frame allowed itself to be manipulated to better



Jessie at York, Pennsylvania's USPSA monthly match reloading magazines into his custom Springfield XDm in .40 S&W with a #2 trigger job, steel mag well, and extended mag release built by Rich Ditelhauser.

fit Lee's hands. The trigger was shortened to a point where he can reach it correctly. It was agreed to build the gun in 9mm to minimize recoil, expense of ammo, and provide 100% reliability.

After working with Lee and getting his input as to what felt good, what worked, and what he wanted, a custom 1911 built on a Caspian Tactical frame and slide was created. The pistol uses a non-ramped Storm Lake Machine barrel, is stippled on the front and back straps, with an arched mainspring housing blended into the frame. Ambidextrous Swenson design thumb safeties with thumb shields that help prevent Lee's thumb from dragging the slide. The trigger is a custom flat trigger, nearly 1/8" shorter than a standard short trigger. When the hammer falls, Lee's trigger finger is just short of touching the frame. Trigger weight is set at a clean 4 lbs. Sights are a Bomar Target copy made by Caspian, with a Dawson fiber optic front. Finish has been provided by Blue Ridge Bluing, and has a deep black/blue finish. The slide has been further accented with front cocking serrations and 40 lpi checkering on the rear.

From the first rounds through the proofing phase and now complete, this gun is about Lee. At the South Carolina State USPSA match in March 2010, Lee shot more A hits than any of the other 100-plus competitors. At the Area 6 USPSA Championships in April 2010, again Lee made it a point to shoot for points. His ability to shoot accurately has dramatically improved and so has his confidence and determination.

Both boys are very respectful of others and eager to improve. So I asked each boy this question, "What do you like about shooting with your brother?"

Jesse: "I like to watch Lee run through a stage shooting his gun, and I like to hear it when they are calling his scores out, and I know he did well when he smiles. We always high five each other no matter what."

Lee: "I like for Jesse to be there and help me with my gun if I need it. Jesse knows a lot about 1911s, and Mr. Kevin taught him about my gun so he could help me. I like to watch Jesse shoot because he is getting so fast, and Jesse always



Lee at Oxford, NC, shooting his custom Greeley 1911 in a demo for Massad Ayoob.



Custom Caspian tactical frame 1911, 9mm. Storm Lake machine barrel, Kart NM bushing, Tripp Research 9mm magazines.



Custom trigger to allow Lee proper reach. The trigger is 1/8" shorter than a standard "short" trigger.

gives me the high five when I come off the stage even if I didn't do so well."

Lee is doing well. He is breaking into C Class for Limited 10 in USPSA. If there ever were a case of chasing a moving target, it is Lee. As a gunsmith, you never want people to know your work for jamming or malfunctions. I can tell you that with Lee's gun, it will function 100% in anyone's hands.

But this is where Lee is different. Lee's condition concerning his hands forces him to hold somewhat differently. The latest round of trying to determine why he would have an occasional feeding issue was identified by seeing that his support thumb was dragging on the slide. A heavier recoil spring was installed and helped some, but, still, his thumb creates an issue. The thumb on Lee's left hand is as large as or larger than an adult. It is straight, flat, and has limited motion and strength. With his hold, it is natural for him to roll his thumb into the slide, and creates a stopping force. Many things were tried, and eventually a piece of abrasive tape was placed on the frame for him to feel and help keep his thumb positioned lower.

"Fear not the shiny gun. Fear the worn gun whose owner spent his money on ammo and practice." The bluing has since worn off due to his constant practicing. Lee's hands recently became sensitive to the stippling. Jesse changed grips for Lee and opted for a pair of Hogue rubber grips versus the ultrathin wood grips. Suddenly, Lee was having issues jamming in a match. Round and round we go to realize the only real change was the grips. How can grips cause a jam? In this case, the grips were now pushing his hand higher, not allowing his thumb to contact the tape, and he was back to rolling into the slide. Small changes that would not normally affect most of us have a direct impact on Lee and his operation of the gun.

Within the coming weeks, Lee is planning to have surgery on his hands and specifically his left thumb. This will not only change the appearance and function of his thumb, but will also affect Lee and his gun. When that time comes, we will adjust accordingly and keep him running.

Both boys are continuing to do extremely well and starting out shooting as juniors in a mature game. USPSA is the affiliation of the International Practical Shooting Confederation (IPSC) in North America. IPSC events are sponsored and held in over 100 countries and have a draw of all ages, ability, and diversity. In the U.S., USPSA sponsors IPSC-type events, steel shooting, and 3-Gun or multi-gun events. An initiative taken by USPSA in 2008/2009 created Scholastic Steel, a program aimed at starting junior shooters based on the successful format of the Steel Challenge matches and the Scholastic Clay Target Program (SCTP.) Karla Wills, the boys' mother, volunteered to set up and work the matches in Northern Virginia, but to date has been unable to find a range able to host the matches. Until then, the boys will continue to shoot regular USPSA matches and Steel Challenge matches in other locations and are showing interest in the multi-gun events.

In as much as this story is about junior shooters and each boy working within their born abilities, there is more based on Lee. Human nature allows us to look past imperfections and

disabilities when we do not know anything different. Lee has never known what most take for granted. Lee's father works for the U.S. Army in Washington D.C., and because of that, he is able to have all of his medical needs performed at Walter Reed Medical Center (WRMC).

Lee is at Walter Reed quite often to evaluate progress and plan the next steps. His hands are not immediately noticeable. They are more flat, with flat digits. Fingers that have been fused are the size of a man's, not a 10-year-old boy. They do not flex as well, but Lee manages just fine. Lee is part of the support for the Wounded Warriors program. His parents tell me that each time he is at WRMC he makes time to see the soldiers. Lee points out his issue to show others you need to accept and work with what you have in hand, so to speak. This is not an obstacle - it is a challenge. For Lee and his determination and for that of Jesse his brother, it is a matter of how to improve given their personal sets of circumstances.

When all around us people seem to be focused on what is wrong, went wrong, or could happen, these boys and their family are focused on what to do right. Enjoying the shooting sports, displaying respect for others, or helping others through their perception of disadvantage, this is where more people need to be in life at any age.





The family: Karla and Richard Wills with their two boys, Lee and Jesse.

About the author: Kevin P. Greeley is the owner of Greeley Custom, www.greeleycustom.com, a gunsmith located in Northern Virginia. He has been a competitor in USPSA and many shooting sports since the late 1980s. Kevin also has children of his own, recently starting to compete in these types of events.



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Ruger 22/45 Mark III RP

By: Andy Fink

Want a .22 that feels like a 1911? Need a .22 pistol for plinking, hunting, competition, and fun that is accurate right out of the box and reasonably priced? Don't wait any longer. Go pick up a Ruger 22/45 Mark III semi-automatic, single-action pistol at your local dealer now!

Ruger says, "No other .22 LR pistol provides the feel of the classic 1911 pistol with the proven reliability and value of Ruger® Mark III™ pistols. The new Ruger 22/45 RP pistol features a classic 1911 grip angle and feel and is enhanced by replaceable 1911-style grip panels. The checkered, cocobolo, 1911-style grips are functional, aesthetically pleasing, and allow shooters to swap to other grip panels to suit their shooting taste, style or need."

I certainly agree. When I pick up the 22/45 MK III, especially the RP Target model, it just feels right in my hand. They have the Hunter model with fiber optic sights, the Target model with replaceable 1911 grip panels, the Slab-Sided Barrel model with fixed sights, and the Bull Barrel model. The Hunter, Target, and Bull Barrel models all have adjustable sights. The replaceable grips on the RP model are great, but I just might replace them with a pair of ivory-grip panels.

The 22/45 is just about the perfect .22 semi-automatic pistol for practice, target shooting, plinking, and small-game hunting. Both the Hunter and the RP Target model, which are the ones we received for testing, are also ready to compete with right out of the box. We put them both through their paces in steel challenge and have used them for instruction with new shooters, both juniors and adults.

They have the same fire control locations (manual safety, magazine release, and slide lock) as the 1911. Both models are drilled and tapped for scope mounts, and a scope mounting rail is included in the box. Each pistol comes with only two magazines, but additional magazines are readily available. I recommend you always have at least six. You need five magazines for steel challenge events, as well as some other events like the Ruger .22 Rimfire.

I also like the safety features. The gun will not fire if the magazine is removed. This is a good safety feature. Another safety feature is the loaded chamber indicator on the left side of the frame. When the chamber is loaded, it sticks out from the frame and there is a small red warning mark. The manual safety on the left side is firm, but easy to push down with your left thumb as you bring the pistol up to the shooting position.

The front sights are different on both models. The Hunter has fiber optic front sights so they are easy to pick up when hunting or plinking while the RP Target model has heavy, wide, target-style sights. The front sights screw in so they are easily replaced.



Ruger Mark III 22/45 512 RP. The "RP" is for replaceable panel. Left side shown with a box of Winchester Super-X .22 Long Rifle ammunition.

Both pistols were very accurate and, once sighted in, were right on target every time. The sighting-in part was quick and easy. The Ruger 22/45 MK III is one of the favorite .22 semi-auto pistols for both young and old. Comments from three of the juniors who have shot these pistols are included below.

Dallin Hixson (16) says, "I really like the 22/45 series. The MK III Hunter pistol is a great gun! I like this gun because of how light the weight is and its similarity to the Ruger SR9 9mm pistol which I use to shoot Steel Challenge, USPSA, IDPA, and 3-Gun matches. The Hunter model is ideal for kids or adults who have small hands. It also has very thin grips, which make this gun very easy to control for any type of shooter. The pistol has excellent accuracy, shoots very consistently, and looks cool. I really like the fiber optic sights. It makes it easier to find your target and helps you to shoot more accurately.

Another 22/45 MK III model Ruger makes is the Target model. It is a little heavier and thicker than the Hunter model.



The loaded chamber indicator is a nice safety feature.



The Ruger Mark III 22/45 512 RP is in the back and the 22/45 MK III Hunter is in the forefront. Federal, Lapua (Kaltron Outdoors), Winchester, and Wolf ammunition were all used for testing.

In fact, it feels like you are holding a 9mm or .45! This gun is more like a 1911-style gun. It has similar weight and similar grips. The thumb safety, though not shaped like the 1911, operates in a similar manner. It is a very good practice gun if you are a 1911-style shooter. It almost feels like you are picking up a 1911, but really, it's a 22."

Hayden Hixson (15) says, "Both the Ruger 22/45 MK III Hunter and the RP Target models are pistols that remind me of a 1911 when I pick them up. They have the same slim grip shape as the 1911. The trigger also feels the same. I like the sights on the RP Target model, but don't care as much for the ones on the Hunter. The Hunter's rear sight configuration makes it so you have to put the front sight on top of the rear sights. I would probably replace it with a rear sight just like the Target model. However, one thing I do like about the Hunter's sights is that the front sight is a neon red fiber optic sight so it is a lot faster to acquire a sight picture with. These are the perfect pistols to start shooting with. They are easy to use and fun."

Alicia Setting (12) really likes the Ruger 22/45, but the barrel is a little heavy for her. "When we talk pistols, there is a lot to consider. If you are small like me, you will want a light gun with a small grip. Another thing to consider is what other type of shooting you will be doing with the gun. I also shoot the Steel Challenge and the World Speed Shooting Championships where I draw a 1911 9mm from a holster. So



I really like the replaceable grip panels. You can replace them with any after-market 1911 grip panels.

having a .22 that has the same grip shape and angle to the bore is very important to me. That way, my body only has to learn the feel and presentation of one gun. Muscle memory is a big deal with my father. I didn't know my muscle could think, but sometimes at practice it feels like my arms have a mind of their own. The good news is that Ruger makes a model called the 22/45 that has the same grip shape and angle of my 1911. The bad news is that it has a heavy barrel. The good news is that Tactical Solutions makes an aluminum barrel for the Ruger 22/45. The bad news is that I can't own it in California."

Now don't forget, if you don't have a 22/45 in your gun safe, you need to get one. They are the first semi-auto .22 Long Rifle pistol I pull out to start a new shooter with.



Contact information:

Ruger: www.ruger.com

Federal Ammunition: www.federalpremium.com

Lapua: www.lapua.com or www.kaltronoutdoors.com

Winchester Ammunition: www.winchester.com

Wolf Performance Ammunition: www.wolfammo.com

Ballistics & Accuracy Table: 15 yards, best five-shot group from a sandbag rest.

22/45 Mark III RP Target:

Federal Champion .22 LR 7/8 inch

Wolf Match .22 LR 7/8 inch

Lapua Match .22 LR 1/4 inch

Winchester Super-X .22 LR 5/8 inch

22/45 Mark III Hunter:

Federal Champion .22 LR 5/8 inch

Wolf Match .22 LR 3/4 inch



*Top: Dallin getting ready to shoot the RP Target.
(Photo above taken with remote camera)*

Below: Hayden with the Hunter and Dallin with the RP Target.



The target model has an excellent block sight picture with fine tune adjustments for both elevation and windage.



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