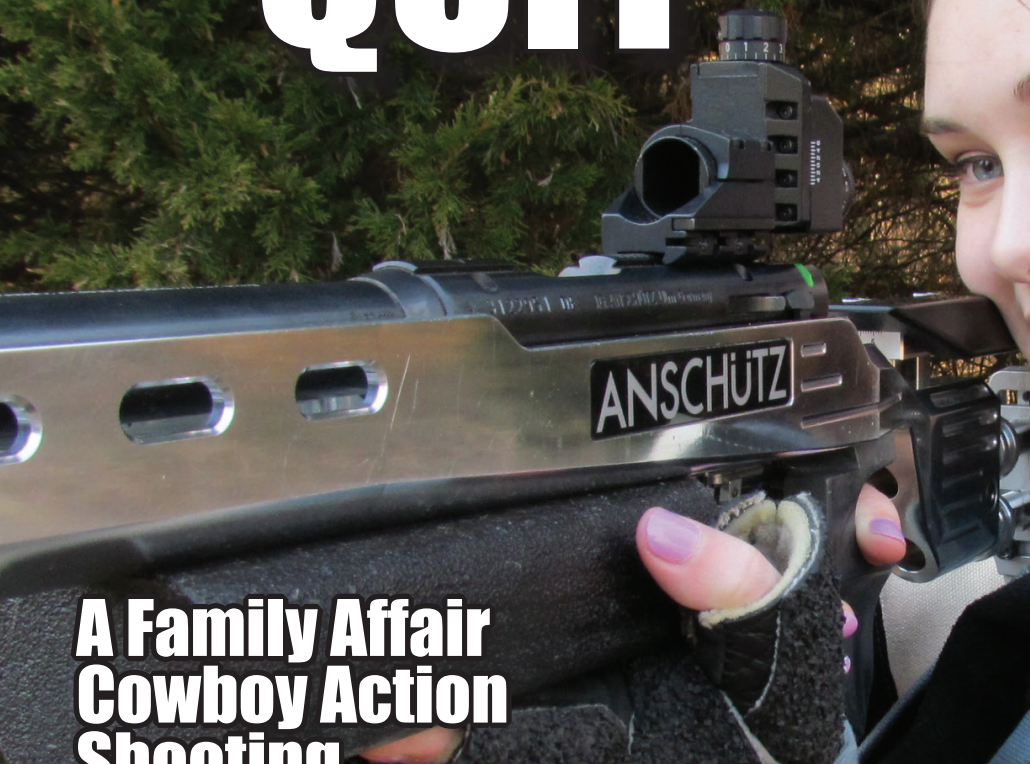


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Volume 26 | Spring 2017

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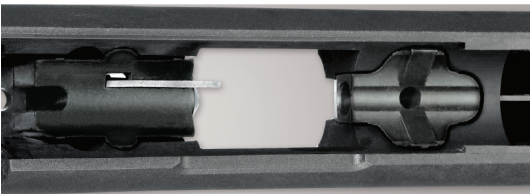
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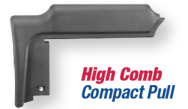
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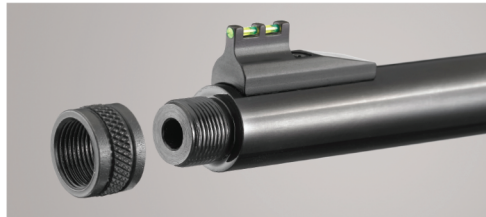


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# WORD

From your Editor

*up*

## *Schools and the Shooting Sports*

This issue has its usual excellent (at least I hope you think so) variety of articles that should be of interest to both the novice and the experienced shooter, junior and adult. These include information on two scholastic shooting organizations, primarily for those juniors in high school, as well as NSSF's Collegiate Shooting Sports Initiative (CSSI) wherein the number of colleges and universities that have shooting programs and shooting scholarships is continuing to increase.

Getting more educational facilities to include shooting as one of their sports is something that needs to be encouraged and supported. It has been a major objective of the National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) for some time.

Many people involved in the shooting Industry do not realize that quite a few colleges not only have shooting programs as one of their sports, but that shooting scholarships are available! Do you have a junior looking to go to college? Are they already competing in a shooting sport? Do they need a scholarship? Here is your chance.

Don't forget, there are even some high schools that still have shooting programs available to their students. If not, get together with other families and start one by contacting some of the organizations mentioned in the articles in this issue. Also, go to [www.nssf.org/cssi](http://www.nssf.org/cssi). Once you go over this information, you may want to search for "colleges with shooting programs." This will provide you with a list of articles where you can find out more detail about those colleges with shooting programs, scholarships, and the types of shooting disciplines the colleges may have.

Safety first, fun second!

**Safety Notice** During article development, firearm testing, training, and participating in shooting activities, *Junior Shooters* insists that all juniors are supervised by an adult and follow NRA-approved safety rules. In addition, the taking of photographs must always be accomplished in a safe manner. Any photographs taken in which the camera is in front of the firing line, or what would be the firing line, are made using a remote camera.

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# New Perspective



*Getting ready to head out to the field for the first time at Oak Harbor Conservation Club's 2015 youth pheasant hunt.*

**Sereha Juchnowski (17)**

The books sat in a basket under a bench. My dad had brought the hunter education books home for my third-grade self and my first-grade sister, hoping that we would take the course and get hunting licenses. My dad was, and still is, an avid hunter and outdoorsman. I picked up the books, noted a few diagrams, and found myself entirely lost. I did not like things that I could not understand. Besides, as a third grader with an intense interest in school, I did not feel the need or desire to go hunting.

Over time I convinced myself that the reason I had not tried was that I "did not know if I could kill something." An even larger part was a lack of peer interest. My dad had one very close friend and others that he grew up hunting with. I loved the stories he told of their exploits. None of my friends hunted, so I was not especially inspired to do so myself. This situation persisted for several years until I joined a junior shooting team partway through high school. There I found a group similar to that of my dad's in his youth. Nearly every one of my teammate's hunts; some shoot on the team primarily as practice for hunting.

Last year one of them convinced me to go on a youth pheasant hunt. Initially, I wavered but was eventually won over by my friend's insistence that I would "love it" and the fact that the more I entertained the idea, the more it captivated me. Even though I only needed an apprentice license for the hunt, I completed a full hunter education course and obtained an official license, hoping that I would enjoy hunting just as much as my dad and teammates did.

I arrived at the pheasant hunt not knowing what to expect. Pairs of youths followed hunting dogs through a field, waiting for the dogs to go on point. When it was my turn, I found my heart pounding as one of the dogs flushed a bird. Even though I did not have a safe shot and thus held my fire, the adrenaline rush I experienced was like nothing I had ever felt before. By the end of the hunt I had claimed one bird, and before the end of that month, I had attended another hunt, bringing home two. My friend showed me how to clean pheasants, something



*I was elated when I hit my first bird using a twelve-gauge over and under shotgun.*



*Tyler Nichols, my friend who convinced me to start hunting, and I with our birds from the 2015 youth hunt held at South Cuyahoga Sportsmen's Association.*





*Tyler, my friend who convinced me to start hunting, snapped this picture of me holding both his and my birds (mine are in my right hand, his in my left) before we cleaned them.*



*I hung my rifle from a tree so that I could stay warm while keeping watch during my first morning deer hunt.*

that I now do on my own and actually taught my dad how to do when he went bird hunting for the first time.

Last year, when deer season arrived, inspired by the excitement of my teammates and talk of early Americans in my history class, I convinced myself that I wanted to go deer hunting. Ultimately, I informed my dad two days before the special Saturday and Sunday youth gun season that I wanted to go to. That Friday, my dad happened to run into a friend at work who offered us the use of his property in Muskingum County, an area known for harboring large bucks. We decided to go on Sunday, using the day before for me to practice kill shots on paper targets in the backyard. I was to use a Thompson Center Contender .357 max Carbine. My dad and I were on the road by 4:30 A.M. Sunday morning. I sat in the dark, wide-awake, secretly wondering if the woods held a big buck for me. I could not be incredibly selective for my first deer, but I had a strange feeling that my buck was out there, waiting.

It was still dark as we pulled down a long gravel road up to a small house. As quietly as possible, we trudged across a field and along a path. At some point, we departed from the path and into the woods, coming up to a cluster of trees. There were two trees, with a large felled trunk between them. I sat in a camping chair and rested the rifle on the trunk while my dad set up a tree seat for himself. Silently I observed the still woods. I did not see the sunrise, but at some point, I just realized that I could see. I scanned the valley below and the surrounding trees to no avail. Eventually cold set in and around noon, after seeing a grand total of two squirrels, we decided to break for lunch. I was reluctant to leave, fearful that the deer would start moving as soon as we had left, but my dad convinced me that they would likely not be moving until after lunch anyways.

All during lunch, I squirmed as my dad and his friend talked. Itching to return to the woods, I felt as though I was wasting daylight, only having until sunset to get my deer. I had the choice of either returning to the morning spot or moving to a makeshift blind we referred to as "the box." Not wanting to be cold, and knowing that the field in front of the box had been baited, I decided on the latter. I later learned that both my dad and his friend favored the morning location, but they let me have my choice.

The box was a camouflage spray-painted plywood structure facing an open field spread with corn. A narrow flight of steep stairs led to a small door. Opening a latch, I immediately noted a dirty, dusty, blue seat from an old

Suburban, complete with an ashtray. A small propane heater and a bucket sat to the right side of the seat, which faced the field. Each side of the box had a small rectangular Plexiglas window. Tiny pieces of wood held the windows shut. By turning the loosely nailed squares, one could open the window. After climbing into the box, I reached for my dad's binoculars and immediately began scanning the edges of the surrounding woods. After a few hours of intense concentration, I saw it. I looked into the trees on the far edge of the field. There, staring at me, was a buck. "Dad!" I exclaimed. He immediately shushed me. I pointed excitedly. Taking a look, I was disappointed to learn that I had mistaken grass and twigs for a deer. There was nothing there. I was so desperate that I had begun to imagine things.

By sunset, I had completely exhausted myself. "Serena," my dad whispered. He pointed out the window to my right. After a second glance, I noticed white antlers just barely visible over the top of the tall grass. I felt my heart beat a little faster. I was nearly breathless. The deer must have been bedded down. I watched the antlers, waiting to see the buck emerge. Suddenly the tips vanished. A second later, the body of the deer was visible. He had walked through a low spot in the ground. I quickly and quietly opened the window. As I did so, my dad feverishly rushed to turn off the heater. In my haste I had nearly pressed against it, putting myself at great risk of lighting my jeans on fire. I had noticed this but did not really care. I was entirely focused on the deer.

I set the loaded rifle on the windowsill. "Clank!" I lifted it back up. I set it back down again. "Creak!" I lifted it back up. Luckily the deer either did not hear or ignored the noise coming from the box. I waited for a clear shot. The deer hesitated at the right side of the box. I breathed a sigh of relief when it nonchalantly moved towards the corn. Had it gone behind the box it surely would have caught human scent and darted off. I carefully set the rifle down on the open front window and peered through the scope. The deer was slowly walking into the open. I could see its entire body now.

*Front View from the Box – After Lunch: I watch as my dad's friend departs after dropping my dad and I off at the box for the afternoon hunt. This was done so that we left as little a scent trail as possible outside the box.*



Setting the crosshairs slightly ahead of the lungs, expecting it to step forward during the shot, I pulled the trigger. The deer immediately fell. I turned to my dad in excitement, slightly shaking.

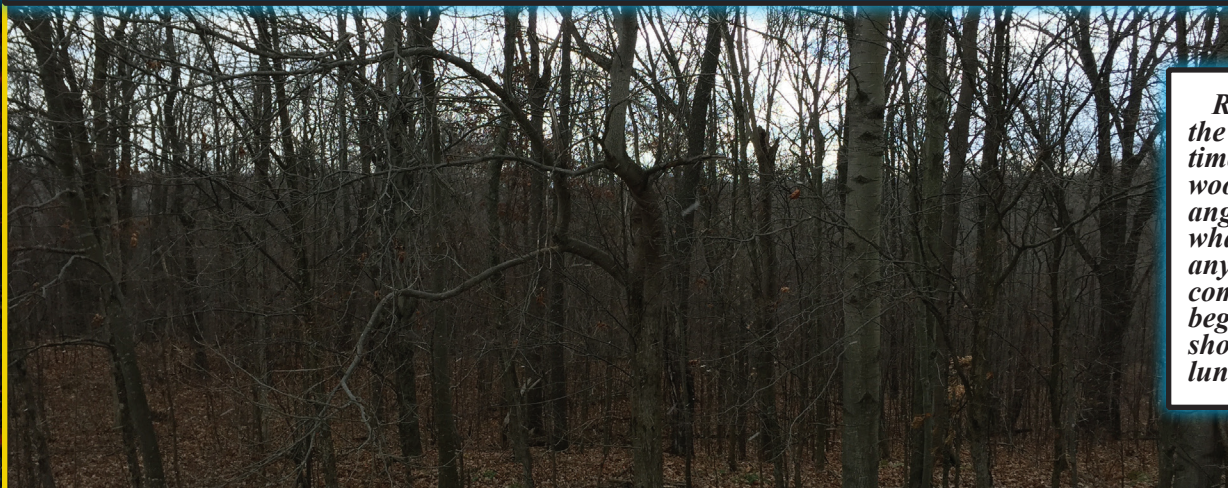
"It just dropped!" My dad seemed to be in disbelief.

"Was it not supposed to?" I asked bewildered.

Unbeknownst to me, a novice, deer usually run a few yards before dropping. My dad was just, as if not more, elated than I was. Nearly unable to contain my enthusiasm, I waited in the box for a few minutes before climbing down and out. My dad handed me another cartridge and told me to load it. I soon found out why. We walked up to the deer, its limbs jerking. Blood poured from its eyes. My dad assured me that it was dead; its spasms were due only to nerves. I fired another two rounds into the kill zone as instructed. After a few more minutes, the nine-point buck lay still. Finally able to observe its large body, I realized that I was incredibly lucky to have bagged such a sizeable buck for my first deer. I was ecstatic, privately deciding in that moment to mount him.

I guarded my harvest, loaded rifle in hand, while my dad left to get his truck, not trusting coyotes. By the time my dad had returned, it was nearly pitch black. He donned a headlight and grabbed gloves and a knife from his bag. I watched each step, unaffected, as my dad field dressed him for me, my first deer a lesson.

I recalled my morning thoughts that a big buck was out there waiting for me. I could hardly believe that there actually had been, the first deer that I had had a shot at the entire day. I like to think that the deer was meant for me, to light my passion for hunting. The moment was exhilarating, but the hunt was actually just as fun if not more so than the kill. Like



*Rear view from the box: I spent time observing the woods from all angles, not sure what direction any deer might come from. It began to snow shortly after lunch.*

# Love



*I am standing in front of the box that I shot my buck from.*



*My dad holds my .357 max T/C Contender Carbine while I excitedly grab the antlers of my trophy.*

with pheasant hunting and competitive shooting, I was hooked. At no point was I bored. Nothing could match the feeling silently observing nature gave me. I enjoyed letting my mind and imagination wander, appreciating the serenity that I often lack in the craze of my everyday life. The experience revealed to me another use of my rifle skills, which I had only formerly used for competition. Even though I had always recognized the usefulness of firearms for hunting, I did not truly think of them in this way until I had used one myself for this purpose. In one day, I learned of a love that I will pursue for decades to come while also cementing my respect of and passion for firearms. ©

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# AWESOME!

By Ben Moody (18)



Several manufacturers in the past few years have come out with air guns that shoot arrows. The Air Venturi representation of this product is the **best on the market**. Instead of building a whole new system dedicated to firing a bolt they have simply designed a bolt that can be fired from their existing platform. The platform is called the Dragon Claw, chambered in .50 caliber. The bolts themselves can be fired from any .50 caliber air gun with a barrel length twenty-two inches or over. It seems this line of their rifles follows the same look and high-quality feel. Although I have only tested one of their other rifles, the Dragon Claw shares all of the same main functions. This makes transitioning from one type of air gun to the other an **easy process**.

The greatest part of this design is that it is not limited to shooting air bolts. At any time, it can be shot using the original .50 caliber pellets. Loading the rifle with Air Bolts is much like a crossbow. The bolts fletching, or arrows, must be bent clockwise in the same direction and then pushed down the barrel until only the point is visible. After cocking the hammer with the side charging handle, the rifle is hot. The safety is just like most traditional shotguns, located on the trigger guard behind the trigger. The first few bolts fired from the rifle were into a small haystack. Both of the bolts entered through a sideways row of bales and penetrated two and a half of them. **The power was as much as a crossbow!** Not only was I impressed with its penetration, but I would not hesitate to take game as large as a coyote with an Air Bolt.

Unfortunately, finding the bolts after you fire them is a daunting task. I started with six bolts at the beginning of the test, and now only two remain. Because of this, I was not able to confirm the accuracy of the rifle with these projectiles, but as far as I can tell from one target, it is more accurate than the crossbow. The sights are easily adjustable and are very well made. The report from the rifle is louder than I expected and I would suggest wearing hearing protection when firing. The two air tanks contain enough air to fire roughly eight shots before needing to be refilled. I would definitely spend the extra money to get a prefilled tank to recharge the rifle.

Pumping it by hand with a special pump is a thirty-minute workout.

**This is a serious airgun**; I would only suggest for hunting purposes on mid-sized or larger game. It is far too powerful for pests in the back yard. In conclusion, the Dragon Claw is a **great way to hunt** mid-sized game and can be a **bunch of fun**.

I would like to thank *Junior Shooters* magazine, Pyramyd Air, and Air Venturi for making this article possible. ©

# Air Venturi's Airbolt



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"...QUITTING  
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OPTION."

# NEW

By Jenna Fees (20)

# EVER quit

"You have to quit shooting sports or you could make your injuries permanent." Those are the words my orthopedic surgeon spoke just a few months prior to my second Junior Olympic Championship. At the peak of my precision career and in the midst of applying to colleges, I was faced with chronic neck and shoulder pain. After practicing diligently for eight years, traveling across the country to compete, and spending thousands of dollars on equipment and ammo, hearing that news was devastating. Questions raced through my mind as I completed the annoying exercises required in physical therapy. Am I going to be stuck with this pain for the rest of my life? How will I pay for college without any scholarships? Will I ever be able to compete again?

Even after months of chiropractic adjustments and physical therapy, I still could not lift my eleven-pound rifle without feeling "pins and needles" down my left arm. Despite my persistence, my unstable and trembling frame caused my scores to plummet, which only added to my frustration. Going into my senior year of high school, I decided to stop pushing myself and started taking baby steps. Temporarily, I kept both of my Anschutz precision rifles in their cases and reverted back to the Crossman Challenger PCP. I assumed that switching back to my favorite sporter rifle and old gear would be effortless. To my surprise, the custom stocks and light triggers on my precision rifles had spoiled me and made transitioning more difficult than I had anticipated. Fortunately, there was

enough time to adjust and prepare for the 2014 Junior Olympics. Maintaining a positive attitude and managing my stubborn pain with a portable TENS (Transcutaneous Electrical Nerve Stimulation) unit, my team drove to Camp Perry, Ohio for the CMP Three-Position Air Rifle Championship. For the first time in our club history, Trigger Time 4-H won "High Club Team" in the sporter class. My perseverance was rewarded with a first place plaque and a sense of accomplishment. I was so proud to stand on the stage with my teammates one last time.

When I first sustained my injury, I received overwhelming support from my coaches, teammates, and family. However, a successful future in shooting sports seemed unbearable and improbable. With time and patience, I

# er

regained some strength in my shoulder and was able to compete in trap and skeet leagues. Every now and then, I would shoot in rifle matches but I never fully returned to precision. Thankfully, I found other scholarships and enrolled in a Christian University. During my first year of college, I was chosen to be the 2015 Brownells/NRA Youth Ambassador. Additionally, I worked as an intern at the National Rifle Association in the Training and Education Department (Youth Programs) this past summer. Through those experiences, I was able to set new goals and enter an entirely new realm of shooting sports. I shadowed national coaches, influential leaders, and elite competitors. Furthermore, I discovered that the “behind the scenes” administrative side is equally as important as the practical side. As an intern, I also had access to the NRA range and was able to participate in challenging courses and competitions. Both of those opportunities opened doors that molded me into a sharper competitor, college student, shooting coach, and Second Amendment advocate. My physical ailments did not limit my ability to contribute, learn, and accomplish more than I deemed possible. Above all, I realized that promoting shooting sports education is even more fulfilling than winning medals.

Currently, I am a junior in college and I still have not regained full strength on my left side. Even with medical care, the pain remains constant but I refuse to let it control my life and interfere with my grades. Since I am a Criminal Justice major, I am taking a law enforcement defensive handgun class this semester and will continue to challenge myself and polish my marksmanship skills. Even though nerve damage makes life harder, I have never completely stopped shooting. Without a doubt, shooting sports has always been my passion and quitting has never been an option. ©



# HATSAN Air Rifle

# ALFA

Ben Moody (18)



The Hatsan Alfa is a **must** for backyard pests and plinking. Its compact design allows for easy storage and its light weight for easy **mobility**. I found these features very useful while working at our farm.

The Alfa is a break barrel pellet gun that uses .177 caliber pellets. The biggest **advantage** to this caliber is its availability, as you can buy .177 at most sporting goods stores and even most hardware stores. And it is **inexpensive**, I found two hundred and fifty rounds for as low as three bucks. That's a cheap source of **entertainment!** The crowning feature of the Hatsan is the adjustable trigger. I was able to take up trigger pre-travel, which increases the trigger pull, and vice-versa with one **simple** screw.

The rifle also has a **unique** feature for a break barrel. Out of all the break barrel pellet rifles I have owned and tested none of them had a self-resetting safety. The Alfa **safety** resets when you break the barrel to reload. This added safety feature makes it **great** for a wide range of shooters.

The accessories are also very good. The fiber optic sights front and rear are easily **adjustable**. Both sights are very well made; the rear sight is solid with almost no wobble, and the front sight is hooded to prevent breaking. The hood also doubles as a shield for the crown of your barrel, **preventing** damage to the crown and debris in the barrel. The rifle looks great but how does it shoot? The answer is pretty dang accurate. At twenty-five yards, I was hitting a half dollar sized target **every time**. Knock down power? The box claims that it runs about 495 Feet Per Second. Great for squirrels, midsized birds, and other pests. In the end, I would **highly suggest** the Hatsan Alfa for this year's Christmas list whether for a new shooter or just something to plink cans with.

I would like to thank *Junior Shooters* magazine and Hatsan for the opportunity to test this **great product**. ©



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# BEAST

# Hoyt Ignite

Ashley Rumble (14)

One of the great things about being involved in the shooting sports is we never seem to run out of new things to try and new adventures to try them out on. There is always a few small issues related to this. That thing called money, and another called time, but those are minor issues when there is fun to be had. Also, to an extent, many people are flexible when it comes to that. The latest thing I've been wanting to try is archery. My dad has a few very old recurve bows (recurves don't have the pulley system a compound does, and not as much power to pull ratio), and I've seen these bows in our house my whole life, so naturally I wanted to try it. The old recurves really are too old to be safe, but I've been able to get a little time with archery at the Scooters Youth Hunting Camp, and Y camp, where I got to try a variety of bows and get some instruction. I had a lot of fun, so I decided I wanted to get my own bow. So, last spring I started to save for a new compound bow.

I looked at a few models in the local stores and at first decided

the one I wanted was the Diamond Infinity, but after looking at the Hoyt Ignite, I thought it best fit my wish list of things I wanted on a bow. It came with a site, quiver, whisker basket; it fit me well right off. It had a nice balance for me and fit in my hand well. Nothing against the Diamond at all, the Hoyt just fit ME better.

Around June I got the bow, but out of the box, it needed a few adjustments. So off we went to Dead On Archery in Garden City where they have a great and very knowledgeable staff that set the bow up to the pull length and pull weight I needed. They spent a good forty-five minutes going through the bow adjusting everything, so it fit me better. After they were done with that,

I bought a release, and they set that up for me too. These guys were super helpful, and I can easily say that if you need anything archery related, it's

the go-to place in my area.

When the initial setup was done, we went to the back of the store where they have an indoor range to practice and sight in. I spent about a half hour back there getting help sighting in, then I just started shooting arrows to get a feel for it all. The pull of the bow is super smooth. No big lump to pull over, or any unevenness. The comfort of the bow allows me to focus more on the target than on trying to adjust myself to the bow. Make the tool do the work, and the job will be easier.

Along with the bow, I also received



# Compound Bow

a few dozen arrows. They were Bloodsport arrows, but later I was given Easton Carbon Aftermath and Beman White Box arrows. I don't have a lot of knowledge in the area of arrows yet, but I could tell right off these were right up there in quality. They were all light and had a very sturdy feel to them. They went to the target straight and true and showed no signs of damage when I pulled them through to retrieve them.

The Easton arrows needed to be cut to size for me, as I've learned that many high-end arrows do, but other than that, everything was good to go. We haven't tried any hunting tips yet, just field points. I need more practice before I move into needed hunting tips.

I'm having a lot of fun learning

something new. Archery has been a very refreshing change for me since I've been shooting firearms since age ten in competitions, and although I've learned and experienced a lot in those four years, I'm always looking forward to the next challenge in the sport, and this is the next one for me. I can't wait to push into something new like archery competitions and hunting. There is still a long list of things I need to learn before I can begin to hunt, and doing some competitive shooting will be a good place to start. The new Hoyt bow and all the arrows are very high-quality items that are designed to adjust to the user and are very versatile. I know we will be able to grow into the sport together. So, on with the next adventure! ©

*Ashley loves being in the outdoors, be it camping, shooting, or with a bow.*



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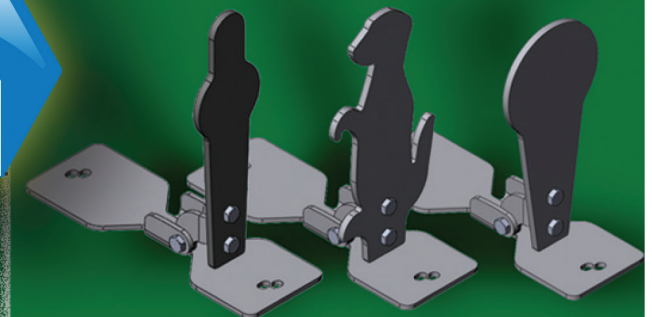
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# Dillon XL 650 Reloader

By Mike Sacks (Coach)

## The basic 650

- ONE POWDER MEASURE WITH STANDARD LARGE AND SMALL POWDER BARS (SMALL BAR INSTALLED), SMALL BAR THROWS FROM 2.1 TO 15 GRAINS OF POWDER, LARGE BAR THROWS FROM 15 TO 55 (EXTRUDED TYPE) - 60 (BALL/ SPHERICAL TYPE) GRAINS OF POWDER
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- ONE TOOL HEAD
- ONE POWDER DIE
- ONE CALIBER CONVERSION KIT - INSTALLED
- ONE SET OF STANDARD ALLEN WRENCHES



I have had the opportunity to test a number of progressive reloaders over the years and have always found Dillon to be the leader of the pack. The XL 650 is no exception. The engineering is top notch. They really think through the design and use of their reloaders.

This high-speed progressive reloader is designed to load the common rifle and handgun cartridges, from 17 Hornet through 458 Winchester Magnum in rifle, and 32 ACP through 500 S&W in a handgun.

When you receive your XL650 the first thing you will notice is how well it is packed. Again, Dillon really thought about what you need to unpack first to set up your press. The XL650 press is set up and calibrated for the caliber that you chose when you purchased it. I found that once assembled there was no fiddling to get things to align and work. Shell cases drop as they should. Primers feed as they should. Cases advance as they should and so on. Each component is, well, well designed.

I manually place my bullets and hand fill the case feeder. It works fine for my needs, and I can comfortably reload 300-400 rounds per hour. With the auto case and bullet feeder, I would imagine it to be much faster.

Listen, there are few things more frustrating than a reloading press that needs constant adjusting and fixing. Reloaders that fail during the process are potentially dangerous. I will not mention names, but they are out there. You will be fine if your press is Dillon Blue!

The instructions provided are easy to follow complete with photos.

I have been using a Dillon XL550B for 30 years, and I am familiar with how Dillon does things which did give me an advantage during set up. Honestly, it took me longer to install the dies to their proper specs than it did to unpack and put together the complete press.

Dillon uses a tool head for each caliber with five locations for dies, etc. I like this because I can use a powder check assembly. Each pull of the handle performs sizing, depriming and priming, powder feed, powder check bullet seating and crimping. If you pay attention and work methodically, all should go well.

Check out the optional equipment too at [www.dillonprecision.com](http://www.dillonprecision.com). I like to stand while I reload and use the Dillon Strongmount. It puts the machine at a comfortable height to work at. Caliber conversion kits and tool heads make changing to a different caliber easy. Check out The Powder Check System too.

If you are about to purchase your first reloader don't shy away from a progressive reloader because you think it might be too complicated. It isn't. Yes, there is a learning curve to it but once mastered you will find it a joy to reload. If you intend to reload more than one caliber I highly recommend the XL650. Shoot safely and often! ©

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# MODERN MUZZLE LOADING

## HIGGINS



Muzzle loader season has opened in Arkansas, and for us, that means fun times with our family and friends. We are Sydney and Nathan Higgins. We are the two oldest of six children in the Higgins Bunch! All of us kids that are big enough to hold a gun love to shoot and hunt. Nathan is the current Arkansas State Champion "Young Gun" in Cowboy Action Competition. He has also been selected by Cimarron Firearms Company to represent them as a "Cimarron Young Gun" in 2017.

Sydney is a high school senior and the leader of her basketball team. Sydney has been a member of her high school trap team for several seasons. However, it is deer season in Arkansas right now, and we are both focused on taking deer with archery, muzzle loader, and modern gun. And, since it is currently muzzle loader season, we are devoting this article to muzzle loading.

Modern muzzle loaders have come a long way from the old style "Hawken" or "Pennsylvania" rifles which

## By Sydney (18) and Nathan (14) Higgins

utilized a cloth patch, round lead ball, true black powder, and a percussion cap to ignite the powder. The muzzle loaders we shoot are called "in-line" muzzle loaders. They resemble a modern gun and have mounts for rifle scopes. They are extremely accurate out to 100 yards. The only similarity these guns have to a traditional muzzle loading rifle is that they are loaded at their muzzle.

This photograph shows the difference in a traditional style muzzle loader and a modern "In-line" muzzle loader:

The "Pennsylvania" rifle Sydney is holding was custom built by our Great Uncle. He is a World War II Veteran. The gun Nathan is holding is a Thompson Center "Triumph."

Our muzzle loaders are .50 caliber. We shoot

Thompson Center Shock Wave bullets. The bullet is 250 grains in weight and has a spire point which causes it to have great expansion on impact. The bullet itself is .45 caliber but is inserted into a "super-glide" sabot, which is a plastic sleeve that makes the sabot/bullet combination .50 caliber. We shoot a black powder substitute called Blackhorn 209 which is a more accurate, and cleaner burning propellant than true black powder which is extremely messy, corrosive, and dirty when fired. Cleaning a muzzle loader after shooting black powder is a terrible chore. Cleaning our muzzle loaders after shooting Blackhorn 209 is "a piece of cake"! We shoot 100 grains of Blackhorn 209.

Instead of a percussion cap, which would sometimes miss-fire, or have a delayed ignition, modern muzzle loaders use a 209 shotgun shell primer to ignite the powder charge. These shot shell primers fire instantly and are much more dependable than the old percussion caps.



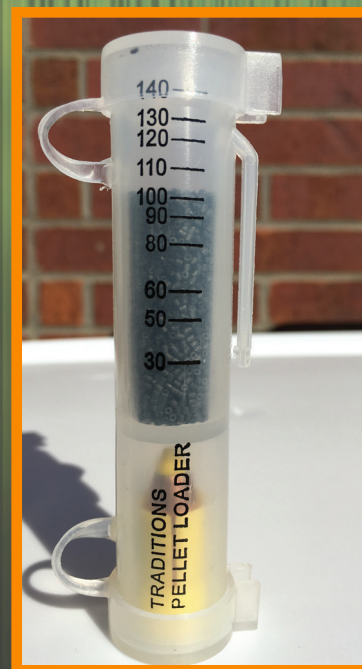


Sydney: I am an 18-year-old Senior at Bay High School in Bay, Arkansas. I have been hunting and shooting with my dad for as long as I can remember. I shot my first white-tailed deer at age eleven. I really like muzzle loading season because of the excitement I feel each Fall when, for the first time of the deer season, you can take a firearm into the woods. This is one of the first deer I shot.



Nathan: I am 14 years old, and in the 9th grade at Bay High School. I have been hunting since I was big enough to climb into a deer stand. I shot my first deer when I was eight years old. I shot this buck with my muzzle loader when I was 12:

What I like the most about deer hunting with a muzzle loader is that the deer haven't been pressured. You see a lot of deer. The only deer hunters that have been in the woods up until muzzle loader season are bow hunters, and there aren't all that many bow hunters! Deer movement is usually good during muzzle loader season because in Arkansas this is usually the phase of the deer rut which is known as the "pre-rut" and the deer usually move quite a bit during daylight hours.



*Some of the products we use with our muzzle loaders.*

There are some notable differences between muzzle loaders and modern rifles. The main difference is the fact that a muzzle loader can only hold one bullet. Unlike a rifle with a magazine that can hold multiple rounds, when you deer hunt with a muzzle loader, you only have one shot! You get one chance to take a deer because it takes about a minute to reload a muzzle loader.

These photos show Sydney loading a Thompson Center "Triumph" muzzle loader. Loading this gun is as simple as 1,2,3. You load the powder, then a bullet, then insert a primer.

This is a "Quick Load" containing 100 grains of powder in one end and a bullet in the other:

First, you pour the powder down the barrel:

Then, insert the bullet:

Then you use the ramrod to press the bullet all the way down the barrel until the bullet is firmly seated over the powder charge:

Next, you insert a 209 shotgun shell primer into the breech plug. On the Triumph, you access the breech plug by unlatching the trigger guard and swinging the barrel down:

These muzzle loaders are fun to shoot, extremely accurate, and dependable!

Muzzle loader season is a fun time to be in the woods. It opens well in advance of modern gun season. Therefore, the deer have not had much hunting pressure, and are more likely to move during daylight hours. Knowing that you only have one shot to take a deer makes you really concentrate on the deer's position and your shot placement. This is a very fun sport! You should give it a try. We think you would really enjoy shooting this type of firearm and spending quality time on the firing range and in the woods with your family and friends. We shot these two does on the opening day of this year's muzzle loader season in Arkansas! ©





(7)



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(10)



*Nathan and Sydney with their deer and muzzleloaders.*



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# College & Shooting Sports

Spring is here and high school seniors everywhere are taking SATs and submitting college applications to universities across the country. As exciting as this time of year and coming months are for those soon to be graduating seniors, for those who have competed avidly in the shooting sports as youth shooters, going away to college often means putting the guns away.

It doesn't have to be that way. Thanks to the National Shooting Sports Foundation's (NSSF's) Collegiate Shooting Sports Initiative (CSSI), more and more colleges and universities have incorporated shooting clubs and programs into their outside-the-classroom activity rosters.

"NSSF created the Collegiate Shooting Sports Initiative with several goals in mind," explained Tisma Juett, NSSF Manager, Recruitment and Retention. "Our top priority with this program is to raise awareness with the public about those higher education institutions that already have established target shooting programs. But we also wanted to be able to provide resources to those universities and colleges looking to develop new programs or grow their team participation. Of course, this also helps fulfill our mission of promote, protect and preserve hunting and the shooting sports by simply providing information to these young adults who may not even know anything at all about skeet or trap or 3-position rifle or whatever discipline for which a college has a program."

The timing is right for this kind of effort and is a crucial component of the program and NSSF's work to encourage diversification and capture the interest of a new audience. Research done by NSSF staff over the last couple years has shown that target shooting is on the rise. From 2009 to 2012, participation in target shooting of all types rose 19%, from 34.4 million in 2009 to nearly 41 million in 2012 (the last year for which numbers were available).

"The majority of today's students don't have the exposure to hunting and firearms shooting sports in their schools, something the generations before them once had," said Juett. "Things have changed, but that doesn't necessarily mean for the worse. Right now our industry and the future of hunting and the shooting sports is changing for the better with programs

By Jennifer L.S. Pearsall  
NSSF Director, Public Relations



# Yes Yo

such as CSSI, which have an entirely new audience—many of them young adults—experiencing the shooting sports for the first time.

"As we see it, when encouraged at the university level by their peers who do have experience in the shooting sports and have come up through the ranks competing at the youth level, those young adults newly introduced to the shooting sports will find a level of sportsmanship and camaraderie few other sports offer. Best of all, they'll also find a level of acceptance uncommon in other sports. Short or tall, athlete or not, male or female, black, white, Hispanic, Asian, Native American or any other ethnic background—none of that matters in the shooting sports."

### University Shooting Programs

College catalogs and online information are essential to choosing the right school whether you're a parent working out the tuition budget or a student looking to get the most out of their next four years and their first venture away from home. For those looking to include a collegiate shooting program in that planning, there are several resources available.

Those pursuing rifle disciplines will want to visit the National Collegiate Athletic Association's page, [www.ncaa.com/sports/rifle](http://www.ncaa.com/sports/rifle), while the National Rifle Association's resource page, [www.competitions.nra.org/collegiate-shooting-programs.aspx](http://www.competitions.nra.org/collegiate-shooting-programs.aspx),



provides a wealth of information for college shooters participating across a wide array of disciplines, including smallbore rifle, airgun, skeet, trap and others. More information can be had at [collegiate.nra.org](http://collegiate.nra.org).

Have a dedicated skeet or trap competitor looking to keep his string alive while he or she works away at their bachelor's degree? You'll find an excellent resource in the student programs guide of the Association for College Unions International (ACUI), [www.acui.org/claytargets](http://www.acui.org/claytargets). Working to continue the success of the 45-year-old program, the ACUI's website lists

# orts

# ou Can!



a team directory, information on how to start a team or shooting club if your university or college doesn't currently have one, and events for all eight U.S. divisional regions. You'll also find links to the history of past national championships and record scores to literally give you something to shoot for.

### Students Can Start Their Own College Shooting Clubs

The ACUI partnered with NSSF on its initiative to encourage university students to start clubs where they don't currently exist. Known as the Collegiate Shooting Sports Initiative (CSSI), the basis for this program can be found in a downloadable PDF located at [www.nssf.org/cssi/](http://www.nssf.org/cssi/). Assembled with the help of Duane Shepherd, Ph.D., of Fort Hays State University Department of Health and Human Performance, this multi-page guide was created to give rising college freshman and current university students a resource for establishing club goals and initial planning, developing



membership, acquiring range access, working with student advisors and other faculty members, becoming a university-sanctioned club and promoting a shooting club to other students through on- and off-campus activities.

Said Juett, "Today's young adults on a whole are incredibly open to trying new things and having fresh experiences. They're not in lockstep with convention, and that means they provide the perfect opportunity for an introduction to the shooting sports. With our resources, there's the added benefit to the students who will work to establish university-sanctioned shooting program or form a team through cooperation with faculty and fellow students, because they'll end up gaining invaluable insight into the leadership and management skills they'll need post-graduation. That's what I call a win-win for today's firearms industry and the future of the shooting sports."

For more information on NSSF's Collegiate Shooting Sports Initiative, visit [www.nssf.org/cssi](http://www.nssf.org/cssi), or contact Tisma Juett at [tjuett@nssf.org](mailto:tjuett@nssf.org). ©



# College & Shooting Sports

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# SCHOLASTIC ACTION SHOOTING PROGRAM



SASP teams can compete in both pistol (centerfire and rimfire) and rimfire rifle matches.

**SASP uses the discipline of speed shooting on steel targets, which is unique to our program, combining the best features of other disciplines to allow athletes to practice and participate in exciting matches with less specialized equipment.**

We hope you, your school or your shooting club will consider becoming part of SASP.



SASP teams can compete in matches that are held locally, state, regionally, and nationally, plus we have a virtual match series that runs year-round.



### Questions?

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### Tammy Mowry

National Director  
Scholastic Action Shooting Program (SASP)  
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tmowry@sssfonline.com  
<http://sssfonline.org>



# FAST FACTS



# JOIN SASP

## PROGRAM GOALS:

- Teach the safe and responsible handling and use of firearms
- Provide a supportive team-based environment using the shooting sports as the catalyst for teaching life lessons and skills that emphasize positive character traits and citizenship values
- Introduce young shooters to a sport that can be enjoyed for a lifetime, one that offers a level playing field, and one that all family members can enjoy together

## MISSION STATEMENT:

The Scholastic Shooting Sports Foundation is an educational-athletic organization that exists to introduce school-age youths to the shooting sports and to facilitate their continued involvement by providing, promoting, and perpetuating opportunities to safely and enjoyably participate and compete in a high-quality, team-based sport led by trained adult coaches focused on enhancing the personal growth and development of their athletes.

## VISION STATEMENT:

To continue to be recognized and respected as the leader in the youth development shooting sports programs.

## PROGRAM SPONSOR:

The Scholastic Shooting Sports Foundation (SSSF) is the National Governing Body (NGB) for youth speed shooting and the Scholastic Action Shooting Program (SASP). SASP was started by SSSF in 2012.

## PROGRAM SCOPE:

The SASP offers participation in speed shooting using pistols and .22 rifles.

## PROGRAM FOCUS:

**TEAMS!** The SASP is a **TEAM-BASED** program, focusing on youth development. Participation in SASP should be fun, and there is no place for a win-at-all-costs attitude.

## TEAM SUPERVISION:

An adult Volunteer Head Coach leads each team. Volunteer State Advisors provide support for in-state activities and support to their Volunteer Head Coaches and Assistant Coaches. Full-time Directors of Development coordinate the program, and they are assisted by National Coach Trainers and the National Training Team. National Coach Trainers are responsible for coach development and training.

## REGISTRATION FEES:

The registration fee for State Advisors, Head Coaches, Assistant Coaches, and Adult Volunteers is \$30.00. This fee covers the cost of liability insurance and a portion of the cost of a background check. All adults working directly with SASP athletes must be registered with the SSSF. To be covered by SSSF liability insurance, a volunteer must be registered with the National Program.

The membership for each registered athlete, including Collegiate, is \$20.00. The fee covers the cost of insurance and awards. All athletes must be registered by their Head Coach.

## PARTICIPANT ELIGIBILITY:

Students in grades 6-12 are eligible for the Intermediate and Senior Divisions in the pistol and rifle disciplines. Students in grades 5 and below are eligible for the Rookie Division in the rifle discipline. There is no age limit for those enrolled as full-time students in the Collegiate Division. College athletes must be enrolled and attending an accredited college or university. All athletes must be academically eligible to participate in their school's extracurricular sports program.

**Scholastic Action Shooting Program**  
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