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Volume 27 | Summer 2017



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JUNIOR SHOOTERS

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Gun is a Ruger Blackhawk. Inset photo: Macey Tadlock with a pair of Ruger Blackhawk Convertibles in .357 Magnum and 9mm. Gun rig from Ted Blocker Holsters. NOTE: Photo taken using camera remote!



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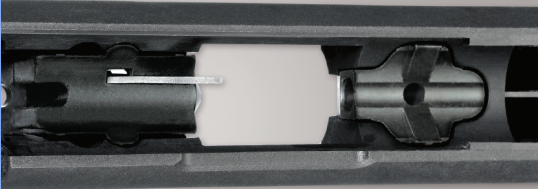
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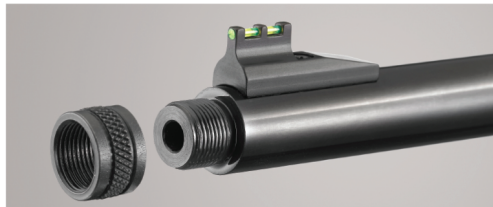
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WORD *up*

From your Editor

PERSONAL SAFETY FOR JUNIORS

What? An editorial that is not about the shooting sports? Yes, you got it. I preach gun safety constantly and will continue to do so.

There is another type of safety that we don't talk a lot about, and that is personal safety for our juniors, especially those trained in the safe use of firearms. What are they supposed to do when there is no access to a firearm?

This is normally the case when it comes to juniors, even at home. They are not allowed access to a firearm in their daily lives.

There were at least six successful cases of juniors defending themselves and their families in 2016. These instances happened in their own homes or on their own property.

So, what do we do? Teaching situational awareness and not talking to or going anywhere with strangers is a good beginning. I am also a big fan of self-defense classes, especially ones that incorporate making noise and creating various scenarios and using appropriate actions taken to protect yourself.

Personal Safety is the subject of our SAFETY column (page 56) in this issue with four nonlethal ways to help protect yourself. Please check it out.

These are areas that I believe really need to be addressed within our families. At what age do you tell your child, "Don't talk with strangers"? At what age do you worry about them walking off to a football game? Going on a date? Driving to school? Do they have the tools they need to make sure they come home safely?

Drop me a line sometime about what you think of my editorials, the subjects, and the magazine in general. I would love to hear from you.

Safe shooting, Andy
publisher@juniorshooters.net

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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We the People

of the United States, in order to form a more perfect Union, establish
insure domestic Tranquillity, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to
and our Posterity, We ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

Article 1

By Ricky Marston (16)

Every day, people of our nation walk freely upon it's soil, often paying little mind to what its means to be an American citizen.

230 years ago, on September 17th, faithful, enduring, and dedicated men of our country decided to ensure that our God-given rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness were guaranteed to those who walked among our great nation. But, individually what does the constitution truly mean to each and every individual of our nation. From my perspective, the constitution means a great deal. It underlines and enhances my pride and faithfulness for such an amazing country. The first nine words of the Constitution are "We the People of the United States of America." Specifically, this line stands out to me for a few reasons. First, it is a gentle, but a strong reminder of how no matter the numerous and various differences we may have as individuals—in the end, we stand strong and together as a nation no matter the situation.

On the other hand, our treasured Constitution consists of the separation of the powers. The separation of powers is an excellent asset to our constitution because it guarantees that the government is serving our nation and our citizens to the best of its ability and capability. The Constitution means a great deal to me as it emphasizes and boosts my individual God-given rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Sadly, so many people tend to take our God-given rights as if they mean nothing. Truly brave and enduring men had to fight for us to live in a country where freedom is an everyday idea and right. ©



Ricky, at 15, shooting trooper class in the MGM Ironman. Shown here with all his gear he has to pack from stage-to-stage.

We the People

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Blackhawks & Single-Sixes VERTIBLES

By Andy Fink and
Macey Tadlock (14)

Single-action sixguns and convertibles. WOW! What could be better? I have always liked single-actions, and my most favorite shooting discipline has always been cowboy action shooting. Ruger single-actions have been among my very favorites, and I have several pairs and individual models from the old-style Vaquero to the New Model Vaquero and the old model Blackhawk to the New Model Blackhawk. My first pistol was a Ruger .22 Bear Cat, and my second was a Single-Six convertible in .22 LR and .22 Magnum (I still have both of these.)

I have always been partial to the convertible Rugers as they provide so many options from reloading to target practice, plinking, hunting, and competition. These revolver combinations also make great packing, hiking, fishing, and emergency guns. You can easily take a stainless-steel model and throw it in a tackle box. Carrying them in the field works well, and you can adjust the sights to point-of-aim for your favorite load. These Ruger convertibles are some of the best revolvers available. They are built strong, have adjustable sights, come in a variety of barrel lengths, and also remind you of a good Western.

Sturm, Ruger & Company first introduced the Single-Six, a .22 LR rimfire single-action revolver, in 1953. The .22 LR cylinder also chambered .22 Short and .22 Long cartridges. The Single-Six proved to be a popular seller, leading Ruger to develop and market a centerfire revolver similar to the Colt Single Action Army: the Ruger Blackhawk.

Single-Six

Single-Six Convertible

The Single-Six is currently produced as the New Model Single-Six and is in .22 LR and .22 Magnum. The term "New Model" simply means that this model includes Ruger's transfer bar mechanism for increased safety, allowing one to carry the revolver safely with all 6 chambers loaded. Prior to 1973, the Single-Six was produced without the transfer bar mechanism, making it less safe to carry with all six chambers loaded, and with the hammer resting on a loaded chamber. The transfer bar safety allows the weapon to fire only when the trigger has been pulled. Ruger provides the transfer bar safety upgrade free of charge for owners of any old model Single-Six.

*Macey wearing the Sidekick from
Ted Blocker Holsters with two
Single-Sixes.*

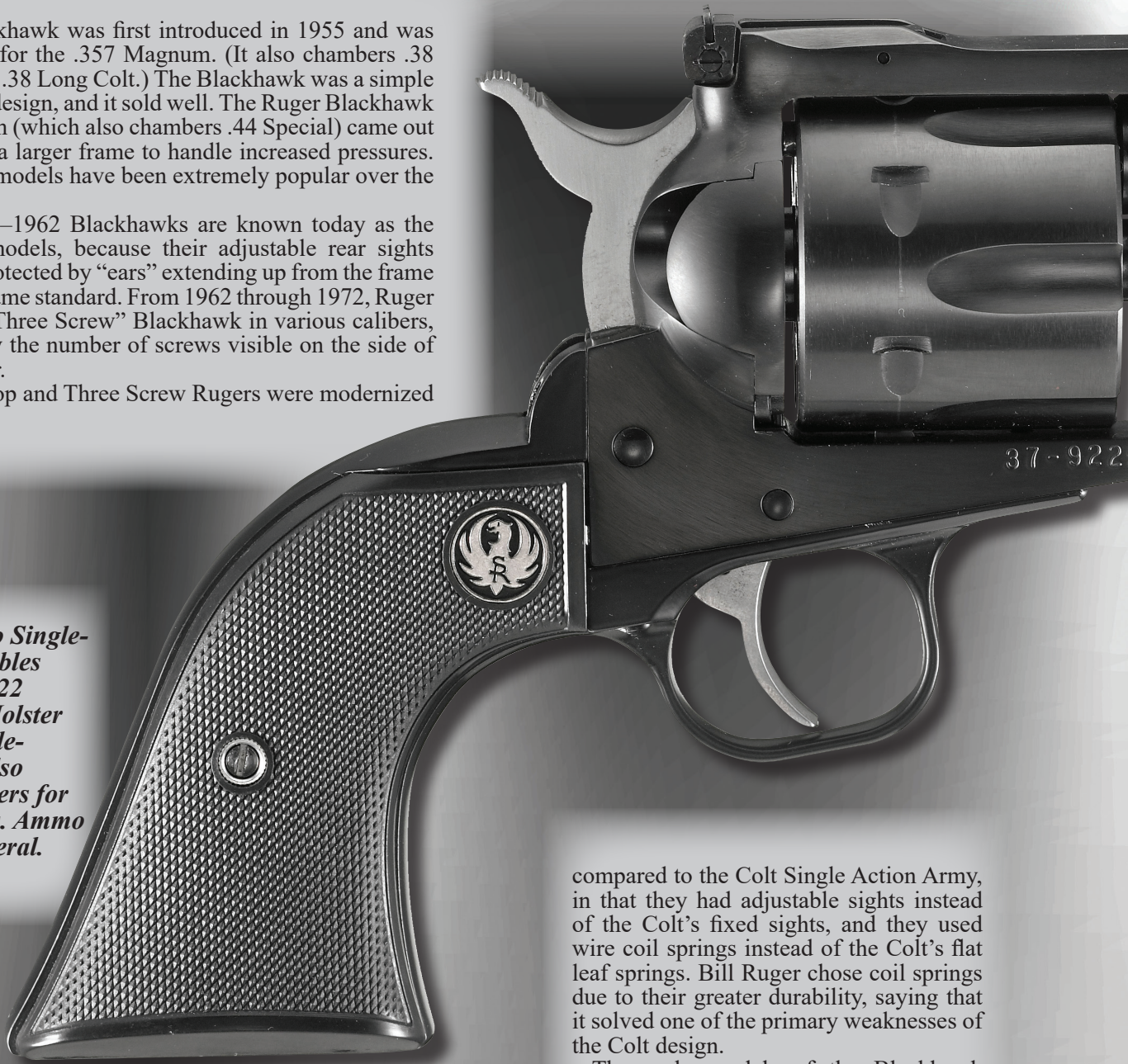


The Blackhawk was first introduced in 1955 and was chambered for the .357 Magnum. (It also chambers .38 Special and .38 Long Colt.) The Blackhawk was a simple and strong design, and it sold well. The Ruger Blackhawk .44 Magnum (which also chambers .44 Special) came out in 1956 on a larger frame to handle increased pressures. Both these models have been extremely popular over the years.

The 1955–1962 Blackhawks are known today as the “Flattop” models, because their adjustable rear sights were not protected by “ears” extending up from the frame as later became standard. From 1962 through 1972, Ruger made the “Three Screw” Blackhawk in various calibers, so called by the number of screws visible on the side of the revolver.

The Flattop and Three Screw Rugers were modernized

Below: Two Single-Six convertibles .22LR and .22 Magnum. Holster is from Blade-Tech who also makes holsters for Blackhawks. Ammo is from Federal.



compared to the Colt Single Action Army, in that they had adjustable sights instead of the Colt's fixed sights, and they used wire coil springs instead of the Colt's flat leaf springs. Bill Ruger chose coil springs due to their greater durability, saying that it solved one of the primary weaknesses of the Colt design.

The early models of the Blackhawk still operated the same way as the Colt, in that the hammer was half-cocked to load and unload and that the firearm was not safe to carry with all six chambers loaded due to the hammer resting upon the sixth chamber. In 1973, in order to eliminate accidents occurring from the hammer jarring against a round loaded in the sixth chamber, Ruger introduced the New Model Blackhawk. The New Model Blackhawk did not require the hammer to be half-cocked for loading and unloading, and it employed a transfer bar safety mechanism which prevented the cartridge under the hammer from being fired without the trigger being pulled. Ruger then began offering a retrofit program, offering free transfer bar conversions to earlier variants of the Blackhawk.



Ruger
Blackhawk 4.62"
barrel.

Blackhawk

New Model Blackhawk Convertible: The cylinder of a Blackhawk is easily removed and replaced by a cylinder with the same diameter in which the bullet diameter is the same but the chambered cartridge in the cylinder is different. Ruger has offered "convertible" cylinder revolvers in:

- .45 ACP/.45 Colt
- 38-40/.40 S&W/10mm Auto
- .357 Magnum/9mm

Other than being sold with multiple cylinders, these firearms are identical to the Blackhawk.

To showcase these Rugers, I went to Ted Blocker Holster with a side visit to Blade-Tech. We received a beautiful holster set for a pair of Single-Sixes called the Sidekick, two belt holsters (very unique - see photo caption) for the pair of .357/9mm Blackhawks, and a cross-draw holster for the .45 Colt/.45ACP Blackhawk from Ted Blocker Holsters. These all work great and certainly have that Old West touch. We also got a Kydex holster for a Single-Six and one for a Blackhawk from Blade-Tech which are comfortable on your belt in a straight draw.

I took the three Blackhawks and gave them to one of our female cowboy action shooters to test. WOW! She did a great job showing off their capabilities.



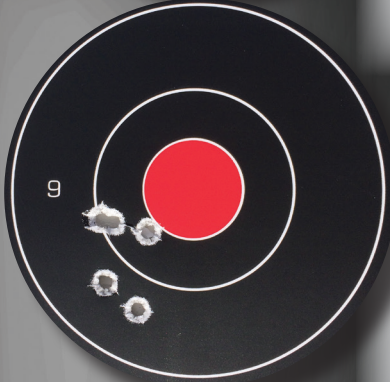
Ruger Blackhawk .45 Colt/.45 ACP. Cartridges shown are .45 ACP on the left and .45 Colt on the right. Cartridges in the extra cylinder are .45 ACP.



This field packing holster can be carried cross draw or straight up. Revolver is a Blackhawk .357 Magnum/9mm convertible. It is comfortable, and the hammer strap keeps it secure even when crawling over logs. Notice the cylinder pouch for carrying an extra cylinder. Holster and pouch from Ted Blocker holsters.



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**Ruger Blackhawk .45 Colt/.45 ACP with Ted Blocker Holsters
cross draw holster, extra cylinder pouch, and extra ammo
sleeve.**



**Ruger Blackhawk .357 Magnum convertibles with extra 9mm
cylinders and ammo.**



Macey Tadlock (14)

The Ruger Blackhawk pistols I was given to test out and review are really nice pistols. I enjoyed shooting them. They were very easy to shoot. I liked that you didn't have to halfway cock the pistol to load it unlike all of the other revolvers I have shot. The grips were nice and I like the style of them.

My dad and I tested out the pistols. We first sighted them in using Cowboy Action Shooting (CAS), 127-grain bullets with 3.5 grains of trail boss in .38 Special caliber cases with Winchester small pistol primers. After we sighted them in, we shot them with different ammo that I was given to test with these pistols. The other ammo shot very true to the original sighting we did with the CAS bullets. After we shot the .38 Special and .357 Magnum ammo, we switched the cylinder to the 9mm one and shot the 9mm loads. The 9mm shot dead-on without even having to adjust the sights.

There was practically no recoil with these guns, which I liked, because then it doesn't rock in my hands. They were very lightweight as well. They fit nicely in my hand, which is sometimes hard for me because lots of guns are usually too big for me to hold comfortably.

They reminded me a lot of my pistols that I shoot in CAS. These would be great guns for someone who is just starting in cowboy action shooting. You would have to shoot in the Modern category since they have adjustable sights. I highly recommend these pistols for anyone that is looking for single-actions, and especially single-action convertibles. ©



Macey shooting Blackhawk. Holsters are from Ted Blocker holsters - Thell Reed model both left and right hand straight draw.

A Beginner's Long-Range

Mossberg's MVP Combo



*Vortex HS-T
4-16x scope.*



Ben Moody (18)

Mossberg's MVP LC Combo in .308 includes the Vortex HS-T 4-16x scope. The LC is for light chassis. We used both Black Hills Ammunition and Hornady 168-grain ammo.

Precision rifle shooting is a great sport to participate in. But, you need a rifle and a scope worthy of the job; that also doesn't break the bank. Mossberg's MVP Light Chassis Package accomplishes both. I was able to test the MVP when we first started shooting precision long-range as a group. It was an easy transition. Shooting primarily 3-Gun, I was extremely familiar with the AR-15 platform, and the MVP rear-end is set up just like the AR. Using the same Magpul adjustable stock and grip as most AR-15s, I got nearly the same sight picture. This cut down on a large chunk of new training that I had to do with this long-range rifle.

The light chassis aspect of this rifle is great for matches, with a lot of walking between stages or hunting, and having to carry it for long periods of time. I was a bit apprehensive at the even ten pounds of rifle and accessories. Chambered in .308, I thought the recoil would be extreme. Recoil was not an issue once I learned the correct position. The rifle already comes with a muzzle break, is threaded for a suppressor, and is mounted with a Caldwell bipod.

The MVP LC Package includes the Vortex Viper HS-T 4-16 power scope. This scope comes with a MRAD reticle as well as MRAD turrets. For me, just getting into this sport the simple increments were easy to understand. I used the Mossberg in a few different matches and found that it maneuvered very well around the various barricades. It made for a very stable shooting platform when used with the bipod.

I was impressed with its accuracy at a match when we were checking zero before our first stage. Two shots on the same target were barely discernible from each other. This consistency showed itself all day during the match, even out to 1,000 yards, it was still holding well. This rifle package is a great choice for someone trying to get started in the sport of long range shooting or for someone just looking for a modern hunting rifle.

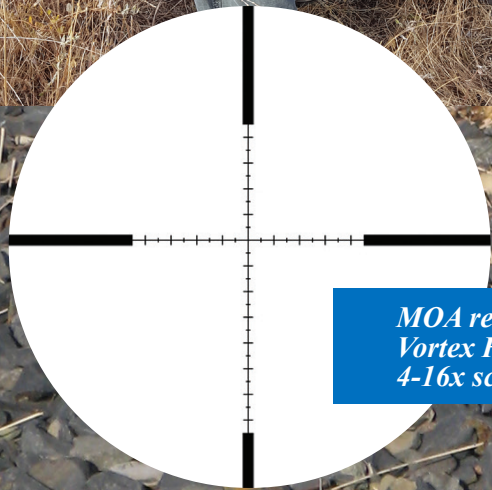
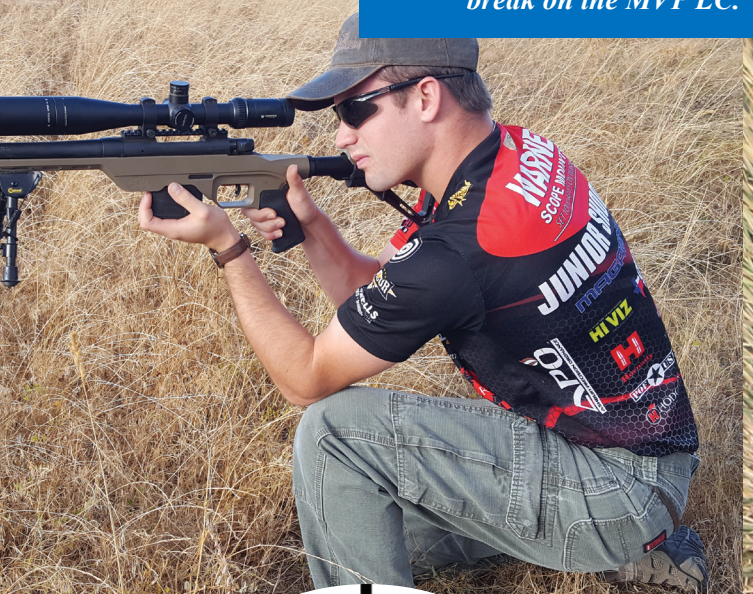
I would like to thank Junior Shooters magazine and Mossberg for the chance to shoot this great product.

Editor's note: The MVP LC Vortex HS-T Scoped Combo is available in both 5.56 NATO (.223 Remington) and 7.62mm NATO (.308 Winchester). The rifle without the scope is also available in 6.5 Creedmoor. The combo models have an MSRP of \$1,995.©

ange Rifle



Recoil was reduced significantly by the muzzle break on the MVP LC.



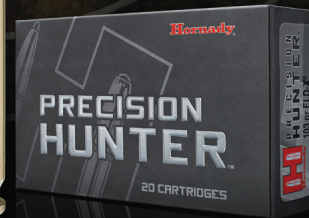
MOA reticle for Vortex HS-T 4-16x scope.



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SEEKINS PRECISIONS

3-Gun 2016



Taylor shooting a custom AR with Cerakote by Ding-Go Coating. Scope is a 1-6X Swarovski. Mag Pull offset iron sights and WARNE scope mount.



Taylor shooting an FN SLP tactical shotgun. Cerakote from Ding-Go Coating.

Taylor Stout (17)

Once again, Seekins Precision put on another great competition. When shooting the Seekins match, you get to shoot in three man teams, making it uniquely fun and challenging. Every stage was well thought out and provided a series of obstacles. I had the opportunity to shoot with two great and very talented people who taught me the importance of working as a team to work towards a common goal.

The whole competition consists of two different courses of fire including melee and relay. If I had to choose, I would say that my favorite would be melee. When the timer beeps, we all run in different directions to complete one of the three areas. When one person is finished with their chosen firearm, they run to help out those who have not yet finished, resulting in a quicker more accurate stage. When everyone is finished, we fire one last shot to indicate that we have finished.

Although I've admitted melee is my favorite, relay is just as much fun. Everyone starts at a different point, with only one person shooting at a time. When the first person is done shooting, they run and tag the next person. This results in the stage taking more time, but all in all, it is equally thrilling.

I would no doubt suggest Seekins to any shooter looking for a fun, exhilarating experience and I am definitely looking forward to the next one. So many thanks to those who made the Seekins 3-Gun Match possible, my teammates for making it that much more fun, and to Junior Shooters and its' sponsors for making my dream reality. ©



All members of the Junior Shooters team shooting the Seekins 3-Gun 2016 match. Left to right: Tristan, Tayler, Wyatt, Ricky, and Ben.

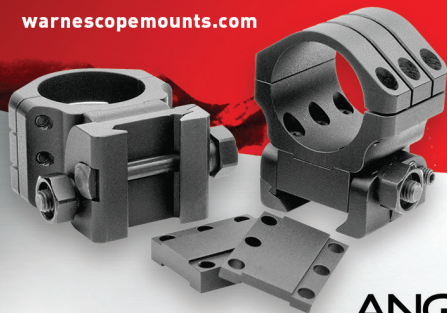
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SCOOTERS 2017



Ashley Rumble (14)



Three years ago I was able to participate in The Scooters Youth Hunting camp held each May in Emmett, Idaho. Scooters is a camp set up so that young kids can learn and experience firearms, survival, archery, knife sharpening, and gun cleaning. It was a lot of fun and to pay back the camp in some way I decided to volunteer to help out.

Scooters calls the volunteers "The Orange Army". All volunteers wear bright orange shirts with the camp logo.

Everyone in the Orange Army is assigned a task, and mine has been archery for both years. I enjoy archery a lot, so being at that station makes for an even better day. My dad has been on the .22 station showing kids how to shoot .22's - the gateway gun. It's how I got started in all this.

My duties are to make sure everyone is following directions, and retrieving arrows after each round. It's not glamorous, but it is fun watching kids shoot, and seeing their faces when they succeed. As a bonus, between each group of kids we have some time to do other things, and this year I brought my own bow, and shot it as much as I could. There are some great 3D targets for me to practice on, and I was able to get more accustomed to my bow.

Another bonus is we get lunch like all the other campers. If you leave this camp hungry, you're doing something wrong. In the morning there are donuts, and for lunch; burgers, hot dogs, finger steaks, and chicken wings. There's something for everyone, and enough for everyone to fill their stomachs to the max.

At the end of the day, there is a large drawing for prizes the campers can get. All the kids walk away with an arm load each year. The prizes may be anything from a fully loaded Cabela's camping set, guns, cleaning kits, fishing poles, to almost anything outdoor related, and all useful.

All the junior volunteers get an envelope with money for us to buy our hunting and fishing license. It's really generous of them, and something that I took care of as soon as I could.

I feel honored to be a part of this camp. I see it is for a good cause, and is a lot of fun. I get to watch all sorts of kids try their hands at new things. It doesn't matter who you are or where you come from, Scooters is a great place to be. In the end, we hope the kids take what they learned and go outside on their own to use the new knowledge with their love of the outdoors.

About six weeks after the actual camp, and Scooter has had a chance to recover a bit, we have a volunteer BBQ and trap shoot to thank everyone for their help, and it all begins again for next year. ©

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MY FIRST DEER

By Brody Loftin (10)

I didn't realize how much work Mule Deer hunting was (mentally and physically). Don't get me wrong, it was a spectacular day that I will never forget. My first hunting trip was with my Dad and his friend, Mick, in Unit 38, Payette Islands. This was personal property and to be legal, Mick contacted his boss to verify it was approved for us to hunt on his land.

It was not perfect weather, but I was excited about my first deer hunt. The air was chilled, and sprinkling rain fell down my camo onto the soggy ground. I had a tag for either sex, but my first deer was going to be a buck.

As we moved through the brush, I saw 4 deer behind the bushes; it was hard to see what sex these were with the rain and the brush in the way. The deer ran out, and they were all 4 does. Good choice, not to shoot so early in the morning. I decided to move on with my 12-gauge shotgun, an 870 Remington Wing Master, carrying that 1.5 ounce slug for my first deer. My Dad pointed out a 4-point buck that was in the clearing; this was not a safe shot. Mick was in front of me, and all I could do is watch the beautiful buck take off out of sight.

All three of us were very wet, and we went back to the pickup for lunch and to get warm. At this point, I was a little disappointed since it was getting later in the afternoon and I could possibly not get a deer in 2016. Went back out for the last try of the day. I spotted a deer, I could see horns but couldn't see how many it had, to me it looked like a monster deer. I put the sneaky pete on him, and then he heard me. I held perfectly still without breathing. He started to run, I asked myself "Was this a safe shot" then I thought back quickly to Hunter's Education. I made my decision then I shot. I made a connection with my deer in the shoulder blade. Excited with fear running inside me, I went to find my deer. It was a spike, but he was not dead. I didn't want him to suffer and asked my Dad if I could borrow his .380 pistol and shot him in the back of the head.

After I had confirmed that he was dead, I filled out my tag and placed the tag in his mouth. As my Dad and Mick showed me how to dress the spike, I thought to myself...I felt bad for killing an innocent animal and not sure if I could do it again in the near future. For now, I will not waste my meat, we decided to make jerky out of him. My grandpa prepped the horns for my memory of my first deer hunt. ©

WHAT A DAY!

Brody with his Remington 12-gauge Wing Master.



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