



Serena prepares for a shot as she hears a turkey approaching.

was not answering our calls but was in fact shock gobbling at thunder in the distance. Mr. Berry had told me of this phenomenon during our ride back to the lodge the night before, and I was thrilled to hear it for myself. We stealthily made our way through the woods towards the sound, finally locating the turkey in a large field.

By this time it was nearing noon; we had only half an hour left to hunt before hunting hours ended for the day. During the Ohio spring turkey season, one can only harvest a male bird within restricted hunting hours. Mr. Berry and Brock peered over the hill into the field first, and then signaled for me to move forward. After we had assessed the situation in silence, we headed back out of sight down the hill. Mr. Berry addressed me, telling me that I had two options. One, we could try to find an alternative route through the woods to get closer to the bird. I immediately ruled out that option, knowing it had taken us far longer than the time remaining to reach our current spot. I

kept quiet and waited for him to present the second option. Two, we could belly crawl through the field. I thought for scarcely a moment before responding, "Let's do it!" My enthusiastic response surprised my companions. I was on my first turkey hunt, and girls stereotypically are less willing to get dirty than boys. Having just met me the night before, they did not quite know me well enough to expect my answer. Brock and Mr. Zwick supervised as Mr. Berry and I crawled through the field. We would not have attempted it without someone to watch over us, to make sure that no other hunters would mistake us for game. I moved when Mr. Berry did, sliding my Remington 870 shotgun beside me on the grass but always keeping it in a safe direction. After belly crawling approximately one hundred yards, I could see the turkeys more clearly. There were two sizable gobblers and a hen out in the field, the former still gobbling at the thunder. By this time the rain had returned. I hardly noticed. I removed the scope caps from

my red dot scope and readied myself for a shot. Mr. Berry continued to call, folding his hand into a shape resembling a turkey's head and raising it above the grass as he did so. The gobblers moved closer. A small group of trees and brush occasionally blocked my view of the turkeys. I was on the side of a hill, looking down over the brush into the field. Finally, with only a few minutes remaining before noon, I clearly saw the head of one gobbler come into view. My guide told me that I could take him anytime. I pulled my gun into my shoulder and set my head on the stock, ready to take a shot. Peering through the scope, I could see nothing clearly. With all the excitement, I had not noticed that the rain and wet grass had soaked the glass on my scope. I used my facemask to clear away some of the water, this time seeing a dark shape moving up and down through the scope. I could still not see well enough to take a confident shot. I tried once more to clean off the scope, this time succeeding just in time to watch the turkey run out of range further into the field. I was disappointed, but not upset. As a hunter, it is my responsibility to only take shots I can be certain of. Even though I really wanted to harvest my first turkey that day, I was not willing to risk wounding a gobbler by taking a shot that I was not completely confident in. Wet and tired but still full of adrenaline, I unloaded my shotgun and we trudged back up the hill.

I was the last hunter to arrive back at the lodge, accidentally delaying the group picture as my dad, who had arrived that afternoon, helped me remove several ticks from my hair. My adventure proved quite the story and inspired several jokes over the course of the evening.

After group pictures, everyone reconvened at Deerassic Park for a special dinner. All of the hunters shared their day's experiences. Two successfully harvested turkeys while some missed or held fire. We heard from speakers from the NWTF and from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) and were presented with special certificates and box calls. A silent auction helped to raise funds for the next year's event. Some of my peers had already gone home to attend their high school prom, but a few other kids and I stayed for the dinner and to hunt the next day.

My dad came along the next morning. We met Mr. Zwick, Mr. Berry, and Brock at another property. The weather was much nicer, but the mosquitos were

far worse. We called in two hens and very nearly a gobbler, who came up to the foot of a hill next to us. I felt my heartbeat quicken as he approached, but soon found that he was to remain just out of range, stubbornly refusing to come up the hill. We spent the remainder of the morning walking, calling and scouting. It was much different than the previous day in the blind. Although this hunt also ended unsuccessfully, I had a wonderful time, having fallen in love with turkey hunting.

I learned a tremendous amount about turkey hunting and gained a greater appreciation for the NWTF and all of the good work they do. I am very grateful to all of the volunteers, guides, and sponsors who put on this hunt every year. In talking with several of them, I found that while some had been hunting turkeys longer than others, all of them shared the same love of it. NWTF Regional Director Shawn Dickey describes turkey hunting as his “passion” even though he did not hunt turkey from a young age. Today, he has a significant role in the organization of the hunt, “coordinat[ing] and pair[ing] the guides, mentors and landowners who allow access to their property for the weekend...[and] help[ing] with some small fundraising efforts to offset some costs of the event.” I truly appreciate his efforts and those of everyone involved. If it were not for this opportunity, I might never have started turkey hunting. I am already excited to go out this fall and am hoping to help with the Ohio Youth Partnership Hunt in the future. While I knew that outdoorsmen and women share a common bond, hunting with a group really taught me how unique the hunting sports are. Everyone is truly passionate about what they are doing and are more than happy to pass along whatever knowledge they can to help keep the tradition alive. I found it especially nice to have Brock along on the hunt, as I had never really hunted with someone as near my own age before. As a young female hunter, I am in a significant minority in my community. My experience has inspired me to introduce several members of my junior rifle team to hunting this fall, providing them their first opportunities to hunt. The Ohio Youth Partnership Hunt is a wonderful program that I think goes a long way in encouraging the next generation to either start or continue hunting. As Mr. Goodwin promised me in his initial phone call: “It will be a weekend you won’t forget.” He was entirely right. ©



Shawn Dickey (NWTF Regional Director) announces while Gene Goodwin (hunt coordinator) and other volunteers help with the live and silent auctions.



Each participant was presented with a special certificate and custom turkey call courtesy of the ODNR and Guernsey County Longbeards chapter of the NWTF.



Hunters and volunteers gather at Salt Fork State Lodge following the first day of hunting. Emma Studer and Rebecca McCarty harvested birds.

SIGSAUER® MPX 9



Sig Sauer's 115-grain FMJ and 115-Grain JHP were among the ammunition used for testing with excellent results. Notice the Magpul fixed sights installed as backup sights on the rail.

By: Andy Fink, Steven Shults (14), Brody Loftin (11), Ben Moody (18), & Macey Tadlock (14)



Steven:

Left: Steven was all on board for testing the MPX 9mm carbine from Sig Sauer.



Shooting the SIG 9mm Carbine was incredibly fun. It ran very smooth and had no issues while shooting it at all. The recoil was about the same as a .22 and very accurate. It was very light and had a sleek design. The rate of fire for the gun was as fast as you can pull the trigger. Every round ejected like the gun was brand new.

The SIG MPX 9mm Carbine was a very comfortable gun, and the recoil was very controllable and very vertical. There was no side-to-side recoil. This 9mm carbine is a gun that anyone and everyone could shoot. It's comfortable and fits very nicely into your shoulder. All around a very reliable gun.

Three different 30-round groups from three juniors shot at 20 yards. Macey's was the bottom group with the big hole shot from a rest on the bench.

Bro



9mm Carbine

A pistol caliber carbine is the perfect gun for those 3-Gun matches that allow you to use a pistol caliber carbine instead of using a pistol. It is an option, and the choice is yours. Sig Sauer's MPX 9mm carbine that came out in 2016 is the perfect choice!

This modular 9mm SIG MPX Carbine maintains all of the ergonomic superiority of the short-barrel rifle and pistol variants, but has a 16" hammer-forged barrel. A full-length aluminum KeyMod handguard provides ample room for mounting lights, lasers, and grips.

It is completely ambidextrous; the SIG MPX Carbine is great for left- or right-handed operators with its dual-sided selector switch, magazine release, charging handle, and bolt release. The three-position collapsing stock features integrated QD sling cups for fast and easy sling attachments.

The SIG MPX Carbine is completely modular, and handguards and barrel lengths can be quickly changed over in the field. The barrel comes with the SIG three-prong flash hider.

It is extremely accurate and very easy for a junior to control. Combined with a Sig Sauer Bravo Romeo 4 with a Horseshoe Dot and Illuminated 0.5 reticle, it makes clays easy targets regardless if the target distance is 15 yards or 100 yards.

Here is what some of the juniors thought:

Macey:

"Macey really liked it. It was spot on and was really fun."



I was given the chance to shoot a Sig Sauer MPX. It was really cool, but it was weird at the same time. I had never shot anything like it before so I had to figure out how I wanted to shoot it to make a good group. At first I tried standing, but I wasn't slinged or anything so I couldn't really keep it steady. So after I realized that wasn't going to work for me to shoot a consistent group, I decided to shoot off of the table and ended up putting a big hole in the target. I would recommend it. I really liked it. It was spot on and was really fun.

Brody:

Brody shot the MPX off-hand and was all smiles when he finished.



Sig Sauer MPX 9mm Carbine rifle is a very user-friendly firearm. Being one of the younger *Junior Shooters* and being familiar with an AR-15, it was a very easy firearm to get used to.

This carbine is a bimanual semi-automatic for right or left-handed shooters with safety and mag release located on both sides. I was one of the several shooters who were able to have hands-on experience with this rifle. It kicks like a 22LR. If I was to change one thing, I would rework the trigger for a smoother-crisper pull.

Ben:

I was recently able to test the new Sig Sauer MPX pistol caliber carbine. The MPX looks like an awesome version of the MP5 in a more versatile package. I was amazed that even how short it was it was still comfortable to shoulder. It didn't feel like I was compressing my regular shooting stance to accommodate the carbine's length. I was surprised at the quality of the trigger. The factory trigger has a crisp break and very little reset, not something common straight from the box. I ran several magazines through the MPX and had no issues with functionality. The most noticeable difference that sets the MPX apart from all the other carbines is it does not clank when fired. This is a huge testament to the machining and quality of materials used at Sig Sauer.

I thoroughly enjoyed testing the MPX and am looking forward to their future products. ©

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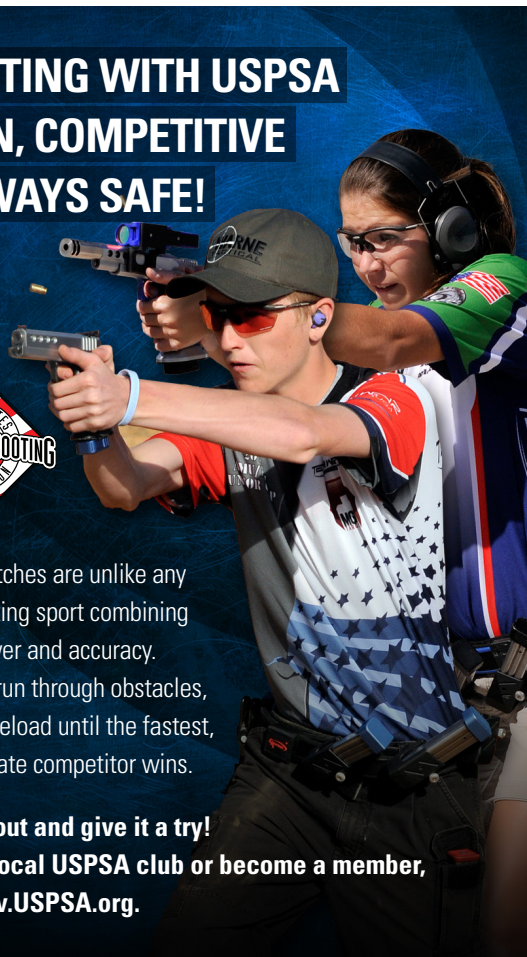
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By : Andy Fink

JUDGE



The Taurus Judge is a fantastic packing, hiking, and backup hunting pistol for older juniors and adults. The one we received for review was the standard one in matte stainless steel – Model 2-4410397 with a 2-1/2-inch chamber that shoots either .410 shotgun shell or .45 Colt.

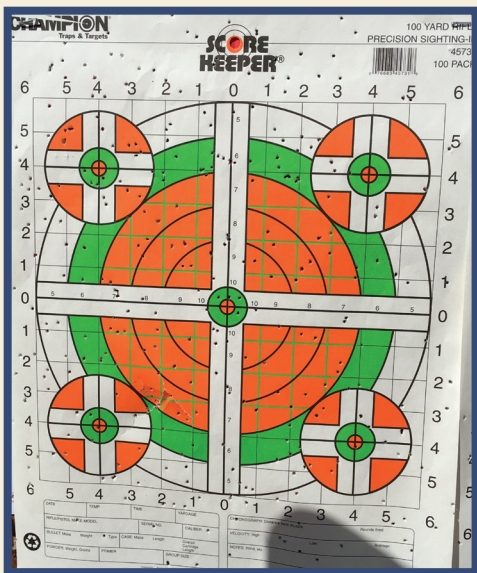
The grip was very comfortable and surprisingly enough I really didn't notice that much recoil. The fiber optic sights were easy to see, and I could pick them up quickly regardless of the target color. The double-action trigger was smooth and the single-action trigger very light.

The gun has a five-shot capacity and the barrel length is only three inches which means it is easy to pack on your hip while hunting. DeSantis holsters provided a holster molded to fit and I didn't even feel like I was wearing it after a while. The retention was strong, and the gun came out swiftly when pulled.

Taurus' key lock security system comes standard along with the regular transfer bar safety almost all revolvers have today. This transfer bar safety allows you to carry a cartridge under the hammer safely.



Above: Ricky shooting the Judge in single-action mode (pulling the hammer back first to get a light trigger action and more accurate slow shots.)



.410 # 6 shot was on target at 10 yards.

The typical .410 bore 2-1/2-inch target shell, used primarily for small bore skeet shooting, contains 1/2 ounce of #9 shot. There are approximately 292 pellets in these loads. This is typically used for shooting at clay targets thrown from a hand trap, and for teaching beginners the fundamentals of wing shooting. However, it works great for snakes. I used #6 shot.

Ricky (16) had no trouble at all with the recoil and handled the Judge well. He said, "The action is smooth, and it is easy to shoot. It would make a good trapping gun or backup hunting gun."

Using Black Hills Ammunition .45 Colt, 250-grain, round-nosed, flat-point bullets makes this a real show-stopper. ©



Black Hills Ammunition's .45 Colt 250-grain cowboy loads were right on target.





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2017 Jamboree

Ashley Rumble (15)

For several years rimfire competition was all I ever did. I was content, and still have fun with it, but recently I've decided to branch out into other parts of the shooting sports world. So, in July I took my Hoyt bow, and went to the Bowhunter Jamboree up in Stanley Idaho. Although it was much different than I expected, it was still a lot of fun.

The Bow Hunters Jamboree is held each year in July just outside the little mountain town of Stanley, Idaho. People from all over come to compete, or just shoot the course for fun. There are several courses set



up that people can go out and shoot at life-like targets spread out along the route. All of the courses offer different scenarios, and all of them are challenging.

Before we got started we stopped and talked to some of the vendors that had booths set up in the common area around the sign in booth. We ended

up buying a BowBuddy bow sling that allows me to carry my bow by a strap that goes over the compound bows cams, then over my shoulder. After we looked over a few more things, we studied the course map to decide what course we would shoot. We chose a course that had 40 targets and it took us a good chunk of the



Above: Ashley shooting at her staged target with her Hoyt compound bow.

Left: An arrow connects!

Far Left: Her dad had a lot of fun too while shooting a recurve.

Upper Right: Ashley tracking along the trail, keeping her eye out for markers and targets.

day. It was also very challenging in more than just time. Lots of good terrain challenges, and targets. I don't have a lot of archery experience, and it was a steep learning curve. My dad was with me using his very old recurve, that I kept thinking was going to break. Recurve isn't as easy as a compound bow, or as accurate in the hands of someone that hasn't shot it in thirty years, so we spent some time searching for arrows that missed. Now, we didn't realize that it was going to take us so long, and we were super tired by the day's end. So, if you plan on doing this, bring good shoes and water! The targets ranged from elk, bear and foxes to dinosaurs and many other animals. It definitely challenged my limited bow shooting skills and made me realize that I was pretty unprepared, and that I needed a better knowledge of my equipment. It was all good fun though, and it didn't really retract from the experience too much. I lost a few arrows, but that comes with the territory. It was super cool to see all the different

kinds of setups that were out there, and how much time and money and effort people put into their bows and the sport. I have a Hoyt Ignite, and it works great for me and the type of things I'm doing, and when I get to the point of wanting to bow hunt, it will serve me well there too. Just like guns, everything you put on your bow is personal and there's a world of things to put on them. Though it's still a shooting sport, it's very different from everything I've become accustomed to doing. Sometimes you should take a break from what you're good at and try something new, you'll never know if you'll be good at it or not, or if you'll like it or not.

The jamboree is put on by the Idaho Bow Hunters Association. From everything we saw, it was very well run. Each route was well marked. There were outhouses, and water at the beginning, and end. We really enjoyed our day because of their efforts, and are looking forward to next year.©



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Picking Your Sport II - Learning

By : James DeLambert (17)

In my last article, I touched on my brief evolution in the competitive pistol shooting sports, and a little background on the shooting sports that I compete in. This article will take you a bit further on the path I followed.

I am striving to learn all that I can in the shooting sports, be it techniques, or how to play the game better. I am always looking for new drills that keep me excited to train. In addition to my competitive pistol sports (USPSA, Steel Challenge, SASP), I also take tactical classes, when taught by someone I wish to learn from. I occasionally get asked by a tactical school here locally to take their classes, so they can get my feedback. They do not seek my feedback because I'm a tactical expert, but rather because being pretty well-versed in competition shooting, I may have something I can bring to the table. I am constantly looking for ways to be more efficient, as efficiency equals speed. Likewise, many tactical schools are open-minded enough to realize that we can learn from each other. So, there are times I may share a unique perspective on something that a tactical instructor has not thought about for whatever reason and vice versa.

As we get further along, I will get us in to the practical pistol basics, because without a strong foundation, it is tough to build a quality shooting game. First of all I must tell you that I did not start out doing everything right by any means. When I started shooting it was just Dad and I going to the range and doing whatever we felt like doing. In hindsight, I'm sure we spent a lot of what I would now consider wasted time, in regards to training. We also had a lot of fun, but we never saw any great gains in improvement. That is because we were just there having fun. We had not done any homework in regards to how to do things the right way, or how to improve in areas that we may have been lacking in.

All that began to change once we joined the USPSA at our local Holmen Rod and Gun Club. Then we began to meet a bunch of really good



Above and right: James shows his Grandmaster's class technique. He is now an instructor and a match director.

people that had a love for competitive shooting, and we were fortunate enough to have some grandmasters and masters at our club that were incredibly helpful in all areas, from minor gunsmithing tweaks, to the sort of drills they worked on when they practiced, and how they read stages to run them more efficiently.

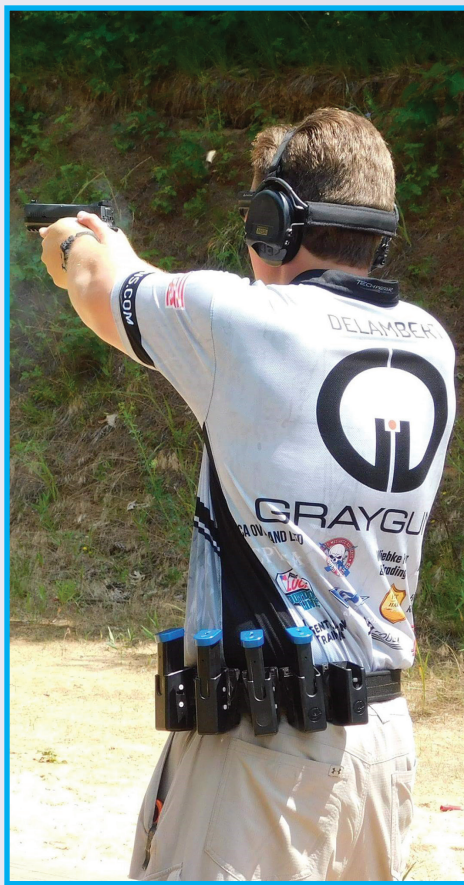
Probably my biggest help from a single person in USPSA competitions has been Ronnie Casper. Ronnie is a member at Holmen Rod and Gun Club and is a grandmaster in production and a master in limited. Ronnie has competed for years and has a wealth of knowledge and a love for the sport. He helped me a ton when it came down to reading a stage and running it. In USPSA, we have 5 minutes to walk through a stage before we shoot it. In that time, we need to figure the most efficient way to run the stage, and commit it to memory because when the buzzer goes off, it's off to the races. USPSA is all about speed and accuracy. I'm still learning to read stages. Ronnie is very knowledgeable about firearms as well, so he was a

great help in teaching me all about my Glock, which is what I shot the first 5 years of competition. So, I highly recommend you find someone like a Ronnie and bug them for all the knowledge you can. It also builds great friendships, and Ronnie and his wife Lori will be friends for life.

Another big help to me was attending the MGM Junior Camp in Idaho. Mike and Ronda Gibson run the greatest 2 camps! One for USPSA and one for 3-Gun. Two summers I attended the USPSA camp and it was a great experience. World renowned competitors take time off their busy schedules and share their knowledge with us Juniors and it is invaluable. The years I attended we had instructors like Eddie Garcia, Manny Bragg, Steve Shroufe, Travis Gibson, Matt Burkett, Phil Strader, BJ Norris, Iain Harrison, Chuck Anderson, and Travis Tomasié. If you can afford to get to a quality camp or a class from a world class instructor, take it! They have so much knowledge to share. MGM was the first time I actually had any kind of professional instruction.

I moved from A class to master class between the two camps.

Once I'd begun to strive to get from A class to master, my biggest jump came from following Ben Stoeger's materials. I had enthusiasm from the camps and Ben was coming out with great materials that I soaked up. Additionally, I took a class from Ben and that really got me moving. Before materials like that, I just shot when I could and hung around knowledgeable guys like Ronnie. Once I read Ben's materials and I began really seriously dry firing and using my timer and working drills hard. I believe following Ben's training routines, especially dry fire training, is how I made grandmaster in production division at age 15. Ben Stoeger is a 5 time USPSA Production National Champion who has made shooting and training for USPSA, his life. He and his wife Kita have become great friends of ours over the years but that is not why I recommend his products. I truly believe his materials touch on all the good stuff we need to practice, to become the best competitors that we can. Ben has multiple books and CDs available, and he is constantly on



the road instructing small groups of competitors across the country who pay to spend a couple of intensive days being trained by one of the best in the world. I would have to say that following Ben's materials alone and doing what he says, can turn most folks into very good shooters. However, you have to train, not just read the materials. For me, Ben has a way of taking what seems complicated and breaking it down to its simplest form, as well as making it fun. Ben has just come out with a dry fire book, and though many people feel dry fire is boring, I love it! I look forward to reading the materials and improving further. There are plenty of good instructors out there, I'm just sharing the path I've followed.

My advice to you is to find the shooting sport you like, get to know the people involved, and get some mentoring from someone knowledgeable and caring. Work to be safe and to build up a strong skill set. In the future, I'll touch on some great drills to practice, the type of equipment you may wish to use, and outline some of the rules of USPSA, Steel Challenge, and SASP. Until next time! ☺

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A young man wearing a black baseball cap and a dark t-shirt is shown in profile, aiming a black air rifle. He is standing outdoors with trees and a clear blue sky in the background. The rifle is held with both hands, and the barrel is pointed towards the left. The image is slightly blurred, suggesting motion or a shallow depth of field.

Tyler shooting the MPX Pellet carbine. It uses a 30-round .177 magazine and is almost identical to the standard 9mm MPX 9mm carbine covered on page 26 of this issue.

A Visit to Sig Sauer

Tyler Savell (14)

Factory Tour and Airgun Product review

Hi, my name is Tyler!

I was given the incredible opportunity to take a full factory tour of a Sig Sauer firearms manufacturing plant, and to test three of their new training air rifles.

When I first arrived, they led us to a viewing platform where you could see the entire factory. From there, they explained how the plant was arranged. I thought the plant was arranged perfectly, to where gun metal comes in from the back where it is machined into the gun body and parts, finished and engraved, quality checked for perfection, assembled into rifles or pistols, tested in a range to ensure safety, hand-packaged, and

shipped.

It starts in machining. When they're making a pistol, they start with a bar of steel that goes into machines that grind it into pistol bodies and pieces. The tools and dyes for the gun parts can be changed to the manufactured part that is needed. The rifles start as an aluminum blank that already looks like a rifle receiver, and they are milled from there. Just after the parts come out of the machine, the workers do a small quality check right there on the parts they made to make sure the parts are the same

specifications, and that the machine is working properly. Each machine is efficiently equipped and able to make multiple different parts for each type of gun depending on what is needed.

Next, the parts move along to finishing, where they are completed so they can continue to assembly. First, they toss the parts into a tumbling machine that is meant to get rid of sharp edges or burs. They move along to be laser-engraved once tumbling is over. Sig Sauer has state-of-the-art laser technology machines that engrave the logo and serial number. The guns can have



Tyler holding the P320 pellet gun with 30-round rotary magazine. His tour guides and range masters, Dani Navickas product manager airgun division, right and Joe Wyner left, from Sig Sauer are behind him.

names and pictures engraved if requested.

Afterwards, workers take some parts to a batch quality test. A few parts are taken from each batch, where they are sent through many thorough quality and sizing tests. Each test is computer run with feeling gauges and measuring instruments so its tolerance for imperfections is never gone unseen. If they find anything that falls outside their margin of error, they either fix the problem or have to toss the batch to ensure the guns shoot safely and properly.

After that, the batch moves on to assembly. In assembly, they have workers who piece each part

of the guns together. Each table has a certain type of gun being assembled and has a few workers working at each table. For special firearms and the military, they have a fenced-off security zone that only authorized workers can enter and build the firearms to ensure there is no tampering, and to make sure that only the specific parts enter the assembly line.

Once the guns are assembled, they move to testing. The testing zone is in its own building inside the factory. Once inside, each firearm has three rounds fired through it to ensure consumer safety. They test them in one-of-three, 30-meter lanes. For military purposes, they have a 100-yard rifle range they use for testing military grade guns. If the gun has a fault during the three rounds, they are sent to be repaired by highly trained gunsmiths who take apart the firearm and reassemble it with a new part if needed. They are then sent back to be tested again. Since the tests are indoors, the guns are equipped with a sound suppressor.

They are soon delivered to packaging where workers box up each gun, checking to make sure everything is there and that each box has the correct serial number on the gun and the certificate. Three workers check each gun box before it's sent to the shipping warehouse. In each gun box that comes with

the purchased firearm is a magazine for the specific gun purchased, the certificate of ownership, and the three rounds fired through it.

Once we completed the tour, we went out to their range that they call the "Academy" where they have their own special coaches teaching courses on many types of pistol and rifle techniques. Their classes range anywhere from beginner to professional including law enforcement and military. We followed them to our reserved lane where they gave us a 1911 Spartan BB pistol, a P320 air pistol, and their new MPX air rifle to test out. All three of the air guns are meant for practicing being prepared for the real rifles and pistols.

The MPX air rifle was designed to have the same weight, configuration, and design as the MPX in 9mm, but chambered in .177. It has a 7-1/2-inch barrel, flip-up iron sights, a reflex sight, and sports an ambidextrous safety selector. It was exactly the same, so you could shoot the air rifle to practice instead of the real thing, but when you start using the MPX 9mm, you are already accustomed to the configuration of the rifle. When I was firing the rifle, I liked that it was compact, a good weight, and accurate. The reflex sight was perfectly accurate without adjustments. All I had to do was put it on, though the iron sights are nice

to have just in case. The trigger was a little heavy which I found helpful on the rifle for accuracy purposes. The CO2 tank is concealed inside the gun's stock so it's out of the way and easily accessible. The CO2 tank lasted about 250 shots before weakening. I think it's a good gun that anyone would enjoy.

Next was the Sig P320 air pistol. It is modeled after their recently released P320 pistol and chambered in .177 pellet. It also was the same weight and configuration as a P320 pistol in 9mm or another caliber. What I noticed was that it had a very heavy trigger and once you fire you must release it all the way before preparing your next shot to allow it to fully cycle the next round. It was a good gun. It has plenty of power and was fun to test. The CO2 tank is contained inside the handle and is easy to change out when needed, and lasts about 75 shots before beginning to lose speed.

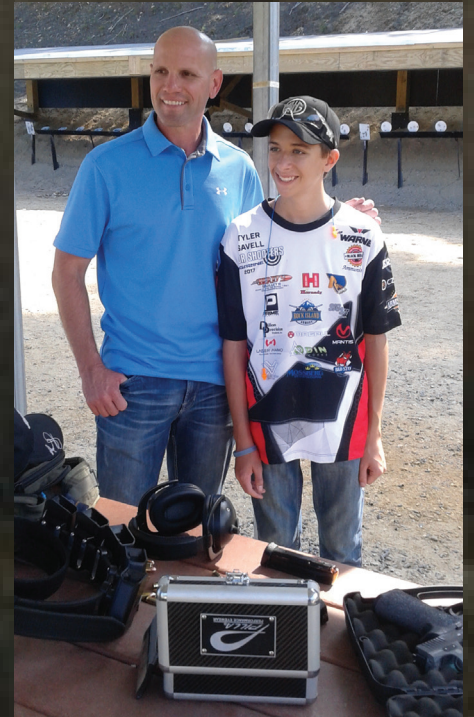
Then I tried the Sig 1911 Spartan BB pistol that is modeled after the 1911 and chambered in 4.5mm steel BB. It had iron sights and a double safety. One safety was on the grip and one was on the side, and you had to press the button on the safety to let it drop. If you want a gun that feels and looks great, then this is your gun. It was dark earth-colored with golden writing with the Spartan motto, "Molon Labe". Besides the color, it was the same design as a 1911. I think it had a perfect trigger pressure and a good strength. If you're looking to shoot and have fun, then you will enjoy owning this gun. It is lightweight and ready for action. The CO2 tank is held in the handle and lasted a little longer than the P320 at about 100 shots before it began to weaken.

Before I left, I got to meet Max Michel, the world's fastest shooter. He was very friendly and gave me his signature hat.

This was an awesome visit and I can't believe I was given such a fantastic opportunity. I left with all three guns to practice with and show other Junior Shooters how to use them. Thank you, Sig Sauer and Junior Shooters magazine. Thanks also go to Joe Huston VP and GM of the airgun division, Dani Navickas product manager of the airgun division, and Joe Wyner for their interest, support, and help. ©



Above: Tyler shooting the Advanced Sport Pellet (ASP) 1911 Spartan BB Gun. It uses a 16-round BB Magazine.



Left: Tyler, with Max Michel - Sig Sauer's top competitive shooter. The current IPSC World Champion (XVII) and holder of five world speed shooting championships (2014, 2013, 2009, 2007 and 2005).

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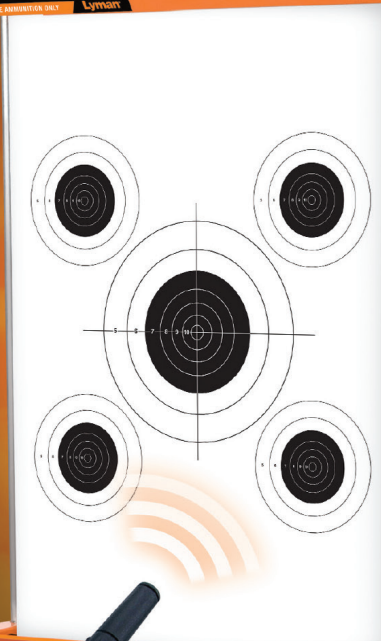
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Ruger American



Tanner Hardy (17)

9mm

I grew up shooting Ruger's but my experience was limited to their wheel guns and rifles. Because of that I am confident with the quality and strength in Ruger cowboy style six shooters but we didn't own a Ruger semi-auto. This was partly because my dad wished he was born 125 years ago and partly because he didn't like the Ruger P series. So, I would have to say I had little to no expectations of what this Ruger American pistol would be, but after the opportunity to review this gun, I have become a fan.

I like everything about the Ruger American 9mm pistol except for the trigger. The trigger seems sticky and gritty straight out of the box. I was disappointed with the very long trigger pull and even longer reset. I would consider having the trigger worked on if you are looking to use this as a competition gun which you are striving for accuracy and speed. As with any pistol if the trigger pull is too hard you find yourself struggling to be accurate. I could see this being an issue if used in competition. If you can look past the trigger, I think you will find this is a nice mid-priced pistol that stacks up well with others in the same price range.

Above: Slide locked back after firing the magazine empty.



Above: The Ruger American comes in a case with a lock, two magazines and two extra backstraps.

Packaging on this gun is nice. The pistol comes in a hard case. It is well equipped from the factory, with two double-stack magazines. Each magazine holds up to 17 rounds. Also, this gun came with three interchangeable back straps making it very easy to personalize the grip for a wide variety of people. These back straps are very easy to change with a simple quarter turn clockwise with the star wrench that is provided. After pulling off one back strap you just slide the desired grip on and lock it in then you're ready to go.

This gun feels great in the hand. It levels quickly on the draw. It is well balanced when held with a full magazine. Pulling this gun up is smooth, and I find that the sight picture is very quickly obtained.

When shooting this gun, I found no problems mechanically. The gun functioned flawlessly. I used different brands and style of ammo with no malfunctions of any kind.

I was pleasantly surprised by the ease in which the magazines load. I know that I have experienced the struggle, as I am sure you have as well, you get to the tenth round and think your finger is going to fall off because of how stiff the springs are. Well, I can assure you this is not the case with these mags, as they are easy loading and very smooth to put in the gun. I found that these magazines do not take a hard hit to get them to lock in to place.

I found this gun to be a pleasure to shoot and very reliable. I was pleased with the customization options that are included and think this gun is a good value for those in the market for a pistol.

Editor's note: *After seeing how Tanner felt about the trigger reset. I did some research and tried it myself. Some people really liked and some didn't. I didn't think the trigger was that bad for a striker-fired pistol but it could certainly use work. A little polishing and smoothing and then shooting a couple of boxes of ammo through it should improve it.*

Also, the new cam system spreads the recoil impulse over a longer period-of-time. This absorbs some of the energy and reduces the shock of the remaining pulse. The result is less muzzle flip and less felt recoil. This makes shooting this gun much more comfortable which is especially true for first-time shooters. ©



Tanner shooting thr Ruger American 9mm.

S & W Victory .22 with TANDEM KROSS

A Winner in My Book!

By Andy Fink



Features

- Removable Interchangeable Threaded Match Barrel
- 1/2 - 28 Threaded

Barrel

- Steel Reinforced Polymer Thumb Safety
- Picatinny-Style Rail Included
- Fiber Optic Front Sight
- Adjustable Fiber Optic Rear Sight
- (2) Ten-Round Magazines Included
- Adjustable Trigger Stop
- Stainless Steel Frame
- Textured Grip Panels with Finger Cuts for Easy Magazine Removal

One of the relatively new .22 semi-auto pistols out there that has been becoming popular in the competitive world is the Smith & Wesson Victory. We got one in for review and were quite impressed. The one received had a threaded barrel.

Right out of the box, it was flawless. A fair group for the first 10 shots with the stock trigger, it fired all 10 shots without jamming. The balance was good, but a little heavy on the front. The fiberoptic sight put you right on target. The grip felt very solid in my hand, though it might be a little wide for younger juniors, as well as a little heavy for very young juniors.

Smith and Wesson says, "The SW22 VICTORY® is constructed on a single-action, enclosed hammer-fired, blowback semi-automatic design. Chambered in .22 LR, the SW22 Victory comes highly featured with innovative design qualities that include a match-grade, interchangeable barrel for superb accuracy on the range or in the field along with a simple one-screw takedown design."

Though we didn't get another barrel, the take-down was certainly easy using the one screw. We were impressed with how easy it was to work on.

You can certainly compete with this gun as soon as it comes out of the box. Juniors and adults will have a lot of fun with it.

We decided to go a step further. We went to TANDEM KROSS and got their full set of aftermarket parts and turned our Victory into a custom, high-end, competition .22 pistol. Awesome!



GRIPS WITH FINGER GROOVES



MAGAZINE BUMPERS



HALO SLIDE HANDLE

The completed Victory with TANDEM KROSS accessories.





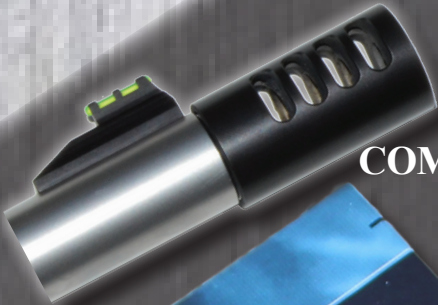
The Smith & Wesson Victory .22LR as it comes out of the box. Federal .22LR were used for testing. The

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MAGAZINE SAFETY DISCONNECT

first five-shot group at 12-yards, shot at a fair rate-of-fire, showed pretty good grouping using the stock trigger for the first time.



COMPENSATOR



Okay, the Victory was already pretty good, but now it was amazing! Though still a little heavier compared to some of the other .22 pistols used for fast-paced competition, the finger grooves on the new grips helped settle it in my hand. The Halo slide pull really made it easy for even a younger junior to pull the slide back. The trigger was smooooooth! Though the compensator added a little weight to the barrel and extended it, the result was a significant drop in recoil making shots faster and the target easier to pick up. Competitors watch out! **The VICTORY is here!**



TANDEMKROSS Parts:

- Magazine follower giving you one extra round
- Compensator
- Bolt halo for pulling the slide back
- We polished the bolt friction points
- New trigger assembly
- Extended mag release
- Magazine safety disconnect - fire without mag in it
- Grip
- Magazine bumpers

