

17, we finished last minute packing, with George and Mr. Kerg arriving at our house early Saturday morning for the three-hour drive down to Washington County. My mom and I made one batch of the peanut blossom cookies I had promised George for his upcoming birthday, and my sister made another. The bed of the truck was so filled with gear that I wondered how we would fit a deer inside. It always amazes me how much equipment one brings for even a short hunting trip. It is better to be over prepared than under prepared when going out in the elements.

When we arrived, we stopped first to talk to the neighbor across the street, then unpacked our gear and changed clothes. It is best to bring layers with you while hunting rather than put them all on at once. Once you sweat in clothes and they get wet, it is harder to stay warm and dry. Dad oriented George to the .444 Marlin he would be hunting with, while I donned my hunting bag. We walked an open, but muddy path, to a small clearing. Having temporarily abandoned their hunting packs, Dad and George headed into the woods to find an optimal location to set up a hunting blind. Mr. Kerg and I waited in the clearing. Four people make more noise than two. My dad came back alone after a few minutes, and we followed as quietly as we could through some brush, finding ourselves at the top of a hill. I saw George sitting on the leaves a short bit away, rifle across his lap. He was scanning the area for deer while we set up. Dad had selected an area with a good vantage point overlooking a saddle between two ridges where the wind would not blow our scent to where we thought the deer would travel. We then set up the blind and inserted small fallen branches and leaves into the side pockets of it to further camouflage and obscure the outline of the blind. Surprisingly, all four of us fit comfortably in the blind.

I knew we would be waiting awhile. While you never know when a deer will appear, even with a good guide and location, most often a hunter should expect to wait at least a few hours in a new area. Every so often I would look over at George. I could not help but laugh, recalling my first hunt. He had the same energy and excitement I had had: the agony of waiting coupled with the continuous fear of missing an opportunity. We hunted the rest of the afternoon. At one point, George's dad grew restless, accidentally making considerable noise in the otherwise silent blind. George turned around, furious. This continued for quite a while. I watched George remain quiet but I could tell that he was angrily wishing his dad would be quieter. It was quite



George with his chocolate milk.



The view out of the blind.



Serena Continues...

*George,
taking
his shot.*



KAPOW!

By the next morning, we were on our way to the blind by 6:30 AM. A bad storm hit the night before, so much so that the power in our trailer went out. Through yesterday's mud and today's we made it back to the blind which was miraculously still in place. I crawled in and set my eyes on the feeder.

I was very hopeful at this point, more than ever. Sunrise would be at 7:15 and that was when I was going to see a deer. However, when that point hit, there was just as much action as the day before. A half hour passed, still no deer.

I am going to have to sit here for nine more hours to shoot at nothing, I told myself.

I watched as I saw the wind pick up and move some branches that were not there previously. With suspicion, I looked through my scope and saw two

does at the feeder. I almost jumped off of the stool when I saw them! I looked around at everyone and told them to put on ear protection.

Mr. Juchnowski looked up to confirm that I had a possible shot lined up. I loaded the round and cocked the hammer. I was shaking. Serena had to tap my shoulder and tell me to take my time in order to calm me down.

All of the waiting all of us had done to get a deer now depended on me pulling four pounds. I was not sure which one to take so I decided to shoot at whichever one presented a clean shot that would take it down without pain.

As soon as I conferred this with myself, the deer on the left looked up to its right as if it heard something. I lined up the shot just a little left of where I thought the right shoulder (the deer's

left) was. I slowly pulled the trigger. The recoil hit my shoulder but it did not bother me. I looked out of the scope and saw the deer go down.

My dad stood up in the blind to see the shot because he did not want to make noise trying to see it happen. Mr. Juchnowski was standing right behind me and he slapped me on the back exclaiming, "Nice shot!"

Time of harvest was 8:16 AM. I was very eager and excited that the deer collapsed quickly. I instantly wanted to go and see the doe, but the other doe hung around for about five minutes, clueless of what to do.

*George
Continues...*

comical to observe. We saw nothing more than a squirrel or two and some leaves rustling in the wind by the time dusk fell. After sunset yielded no signs of deer, we secured the blind and headed out of the woods. We made our way by headlamp back to the truck. Dinner followed, with a trip to the Marietta Wal-Mart afterward. The next day would be colder than the first, so we wanted to see if there was a small heater there. We also needed more bottled water to use in the sink to wash our hands since we had no running water. We split off for a short time; my dad and I met George and Mr. Kerg back at the checkout. Mr. Kerg was grinning, while George shook his head. They held two boxes of doughnuts, a half-gallon of white milk, and a full gallon of chocolate milk. Seeing as how we were only staying the night, even with breakfast in the morning, I could not understand why they bought so much milk. All was soon explained. Mr. Kerg could hardly contain his excitement. The entire gallon of chocolate milk was mere 82 cents, rather than the usual \$2.50 or more!

I knew the 82-cent milk would live in infamy as talk of the milk continued on the rainy drive back to the trailer. George was annoyed with all of us. The 82-cent milk was the find of the night, and my favorite memory of the trip. Mr. Kerg proposed that if George shot a buck, they should mount it with the framed receipt next to it. The next morning I asked George how he slept. His dad responded, "Of course he slept well, knowing his dad was scoring major deals on milk!" George shook his head as I laughed. We packed sandwiches in our bags, not knowing how long we would be out. As tempted as we were to take it along, we left the milk in the trailer.

The hike in, though dark, was easier than that of the previous day. Once we arranged ourselves in the blind, with George's dad trading his stool for my chair, we remained quiet and still. With George watching intently, I watched the area to the right of the blind, but found myself nodding off every so often. I was awake, but extremely tired. I had finally decided to try to shut my eyes, turning around to ask my dad to take up my vigil for me. Simultaneously, George nearly jumped up and motioned to everyone to don ear protection. I quickly did so, now fully awake. Dad peered over to see where George was looking. I watched George start to shake as he watched two does through the scope. I tried to calm him, albeit quietly, so that he could make a clean shot. I had warned him that he might shake when he saw a deer, but he did not seem to believe me when I told him the day before. After a few agonizing

seconds, George pulled the trigger. The doe fell immediately. The smaller doe stayed in the area; she had not smelled us. Though we waited a few minutes, she did not leave until we had left the blind and started climbing down the hill.

I was thrilled that George shot a doe. I was worried that he would lose interest in hunting if he did not see anything. Dad showed George how to field dress the doe. It was fun to see George's reaction to the smell. A strong smell like that of livestock is the worst part of field dressing a deer. When they had finished, Dad and I took down the blind, leaving George and Mr. Kerg the task of dragging the doe. As we collapsed the blind, dad watched as George and his dad started dragging the deer up the steepest part of the hill. He shook his head, noting that they were attempting a path that appeared shorter, but would prove harder than taking the doe up the longer but more gradual slope. Dad and I had stowed all of the gear in the truck before George and Mr. Kerg were in view of the truck. We brought them bottled water and with our hands free we helped drag the doe the rest of the way. Even with the four of us, we had to take some breaks. Once we got the doe in the truck bed, we headed back to the trailer to clean up and pack. We stowed all of

our luggage in large plastic bags since they were going in the back with the deer. The last items in the truck were the plate of peanut blossom cookies and what remained of the chocolate milk. It was a good ride home; George was thrilled to death to drink straight out of the gallon with a plate of cookies on his lap, I was happy to take pictures out the window. Driving down the highway, we saw Joe Lacko, another member of our junior team, and his dad driving next to us. They had been out hunting but had not seen anything. It was amazing that we saw them, considering the fact that if George had shot the doe a minute earlier or later we might never have seen them!

Everyone had a great time. George's dad loved the trip and plans to start hunting with George this fall. (I am debating bringing a large cooler so he can stock up on chocolate milk.) While hunting with friends makes it most memorable, it is even more fulfilling to watch someone experience something and find a passion for the first time. I am certain that George, Joe, myself and our dads will find ourselves hunting together this fall, hopefully bringing someone new along too! ©



Dave Juchnowski, George Kerg, and Serena Juchnowski commemorate George's successful first deer hunt.



George and his first deer



We went down to the deer and scared the doe away. My deer was a fair size, and we dragged her somewhere to get her field dressed. This did not bother me.

But now was the most challenging part of all: getting the doe up the steep hill and back to the truck. My dad and I tried every method of carrying the doe: cutting hand holds in the legs, dragging, carrying, putting a stick through the hand holds and dragging it, but it was all impossible. We finally got it up one steep hill. Then came the longer end of the journey.

We all contributed heavily in getting the deer up the hill and it was very

difficult because the mud caused lack of traction on the hills. We eventually picked up a cadence and took breaks to get it the rest of the way. We all loaded up the car and packed our stuff to leave.

That was the very first deer I ever shot and I was very thankful to have gotten one on my first hunt.

On the highway, we saw another one of our shooting buddies Joe, on the highway. They shouted that they saw nothing and they were close to where we were.

I was very lucky to have even seen a deer let alone make the shot. As of right now, I still have a majority of that meat in my freezer and can't wait to go hunting again. ©



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Dreaming of summer vacation? Make sure you put National Shooting Sports Month, taking place throughout the month of August, on your calendar of things to do during the long school break.

This is our second annual event, and all during August, shooting ranges, firearms retailers, public and private shooting clubs, shooting sports organizations and fish and wildlife agencies will focus their attention on the fun and excitement of target shooting by encouraging newcomers and experienced shooters alike to head to the range.

“For junior target shooters, National Shooting Sports Month focuses attention on the fun, safety and sociability of our sports,” said NSSF President and CEO Steve Sanetti. “This is a great time to safely enjoy a day at the range with your family and friends.”

Manufacturers, shooting sports organizations, shooting ranges and retailers will be participating in or lending support to National Shooting Sports Month. To help spread the word about the businesses and organizations involved, while also providing a one-stop resource for participants, NSSF has launched www.ShootingSportsMonth.org. Among its many interactive features, the site contains a search tool to identify participating ranges and retailers that have scheduled events by state, as well as safety information, target shooting skills tips, introductions to new shooting games and information on how you can participate in the month-long Trigger Time Sweepstakes.

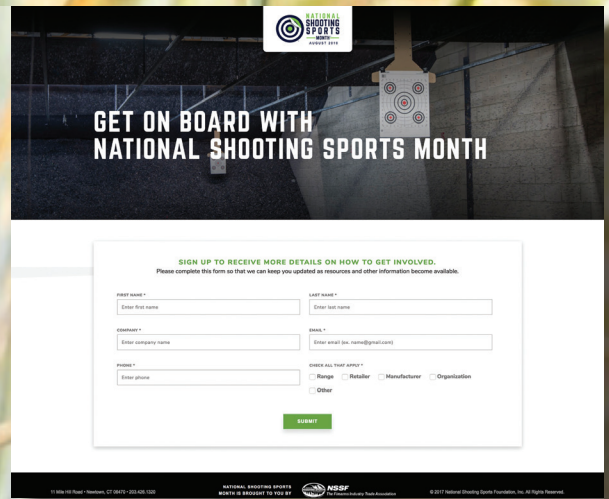
In addition, the celebration’s social media campaign will encourage inactive shooters to dust off their shooting gear and active recreational shooters to invite someone new to the shooting sports and act as a mentor.

“We received so much positive and enthusiastic support from our industry family for last year’s inaugural National Shooting Sports Month, we think it will be almost impossible for anyone to resist grabbing their favorite firearm, a few friends or family members and head to the range to see what all the excitement’s about,” said Zach Snow, NSSF Director, Range Services. “And we want to know about it! Tell us on our Facebook page, Tweet us and share your Instagram photos with the hashtag #LetsGoShooting, because this is what any of us who own a firearm have been waiting for.”

NSSF's Second Annual National Shooting Sports Month Takes Place This August

By NSSF Staff





NATIONAL SHOOTING SPORTS MONTH

AUGUST 2018



[sidebar]

Seven Great Ways to Celebrate National Shooting Sports Month This August

1. Try Something New—Are you a passionate rifle shooter? Try out a shotgun and give sporting clays or skeet a try. Are you primarily a shotgun shooter? Sign up for a rimfire rifle or steel silhouette target event and test your other long gun skills.
2. Bring Someone New—There's nothing quite like seeing the excitement on a friend's face after they take their first shots. Bring a friend or family member to the range for the first time, with appropriate adult supervision.
3. Watch the Video—At www.shootingsportsmoonth.org, discover how to hone your shooting skills with video tips from experts in handgun, rifle and shotgun.
4. Excitement for a Lifetime—The shooting sports are affordable, accessible and inclusive. They're lifetime activities you'll enjoy with family members and friends.
5. Tell someone about how safe the shooting sports are—The shooting sports are safe. Ranges emphasize safely handling firearms at all times and securely storing them when you're finished at the firing line.
6. Share It!—Our hashtag #LetsGoShooting is the theme of National Shooting Sports Month. Share the hashtag and your experiences on your social media networks, and remind others to give target shooting a try.
7. Win a Great Prize!—Enter the sweepstakes at www.shootingsportsmoonth.org and have a chance to win great prizes during the National Shooting Sports Month celebration this August.

NSSF Report WOMEN GUN OWNERS

Purchasing, Perceptions and Participation



THE FIREARMS INDUSTRY TRADE ASSOCIATION | NSSF.ORG | [f](#) [t](#) [v](#) [i](#) [y](#) [+](#)

Cattle Ropes

Barrel Racers

Bulls

Dust



Though rodeo kids rope and ride, youth rodeo kids now have a chance to shoot competitively as well. Beginning in 2005, the National High School Rodeo Association and the Junior High Division began a shooting program in partnership with the NRA, consisting of small-bore and trap. Now, hundreds of qualifiers from around the nation compete in the junior high and the high school rodeos in small-bore and trap. The competition has grown locally as well. In the last year, the number of competitors in Colorado has nearly doubled. So far, a majority of the states have picked it up and it has taken off to become a major competitive event. Because shooting is such a large part of the cowboy lifestyle, the shoots are very popular.

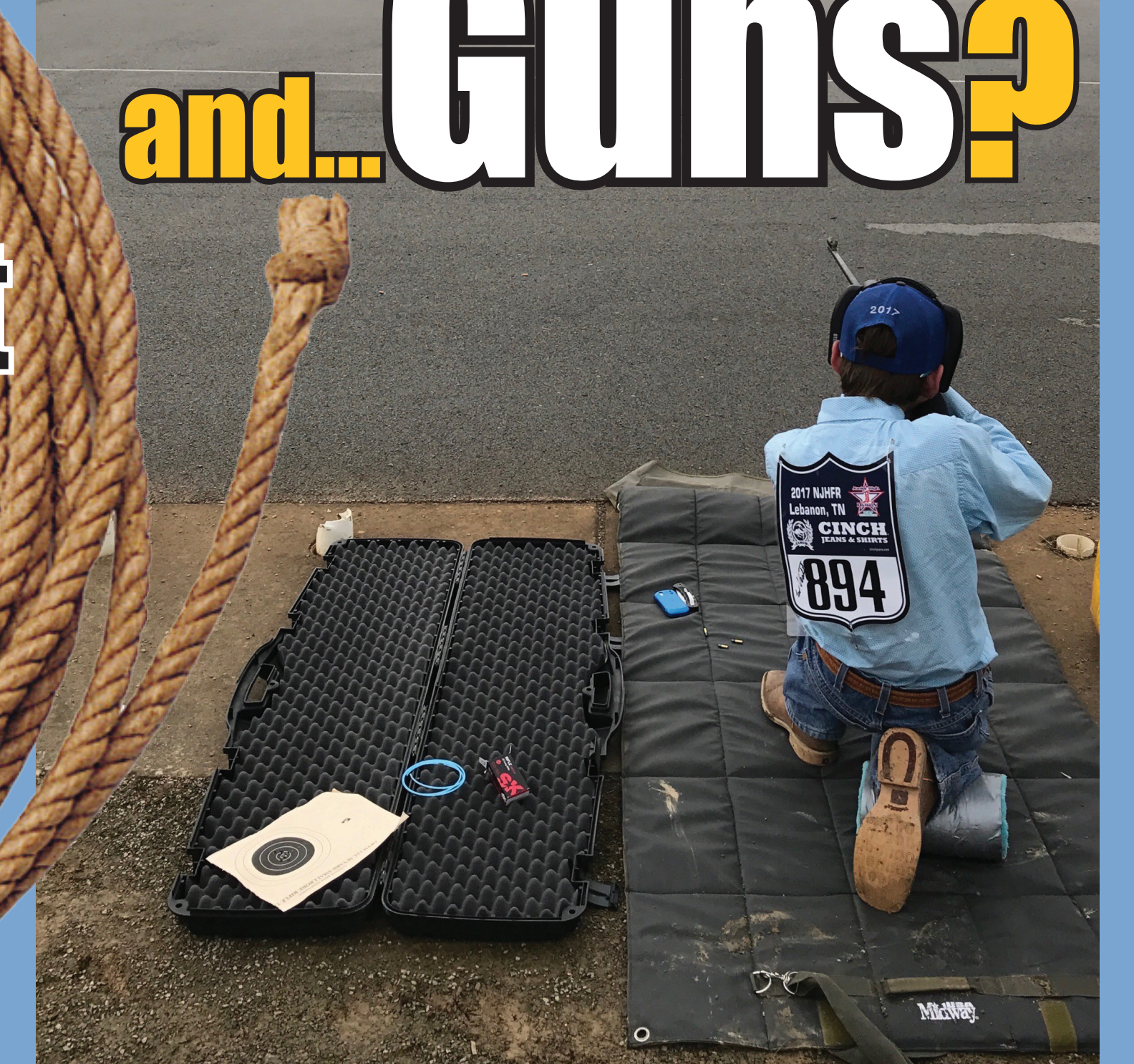
In addition to roping, I participate in the junior high small-bore shoot. These shoots differ from most other small-bore competitions. No shooting jackets, pants or shoes are allowed. Most competitors shoot in their boots and button-up shirts at the matches. Yet another difference in these shoots is that scopes are allowed as long as they don't exceed 10X. One of the great things about the shoots is that they allows kids to compete in two of the most American of sports, shooting and rodeo.

The small-bore is a 3x12 competition with an 18-minute time limit to complete each series of 12. There is also a five-minute time limit to shoot a five-shot "sighter" before the match to zero in your rifle. The three positions that competitors shoot in are standing, kneeling and prone. The targets are standard small-bore targets, A-23/5, with three shots in each bull. States hold competitions throughout the year. Each state sends the top four cowboys and cowgirls to the national rodeo finals in every event including bareback riding, barrel racing, cutting, breakaway roping, bull riding, goat tying,

pole bending, reined cow horse, saddle bronc riding, swear wrestling, team roping, tie-down roping, and now shooting events.

The shooting events at the National High School Rodeo Association and the Junior High Division have become popular. All of the athletes who shoot have a lot of fun in the event. It allows rodeo kids who love to hunt and shoot to compete with each other. In addition, it introduces kids to competitive shooting and allows those who don't shoot very often to compete with others and improve their skills. ©

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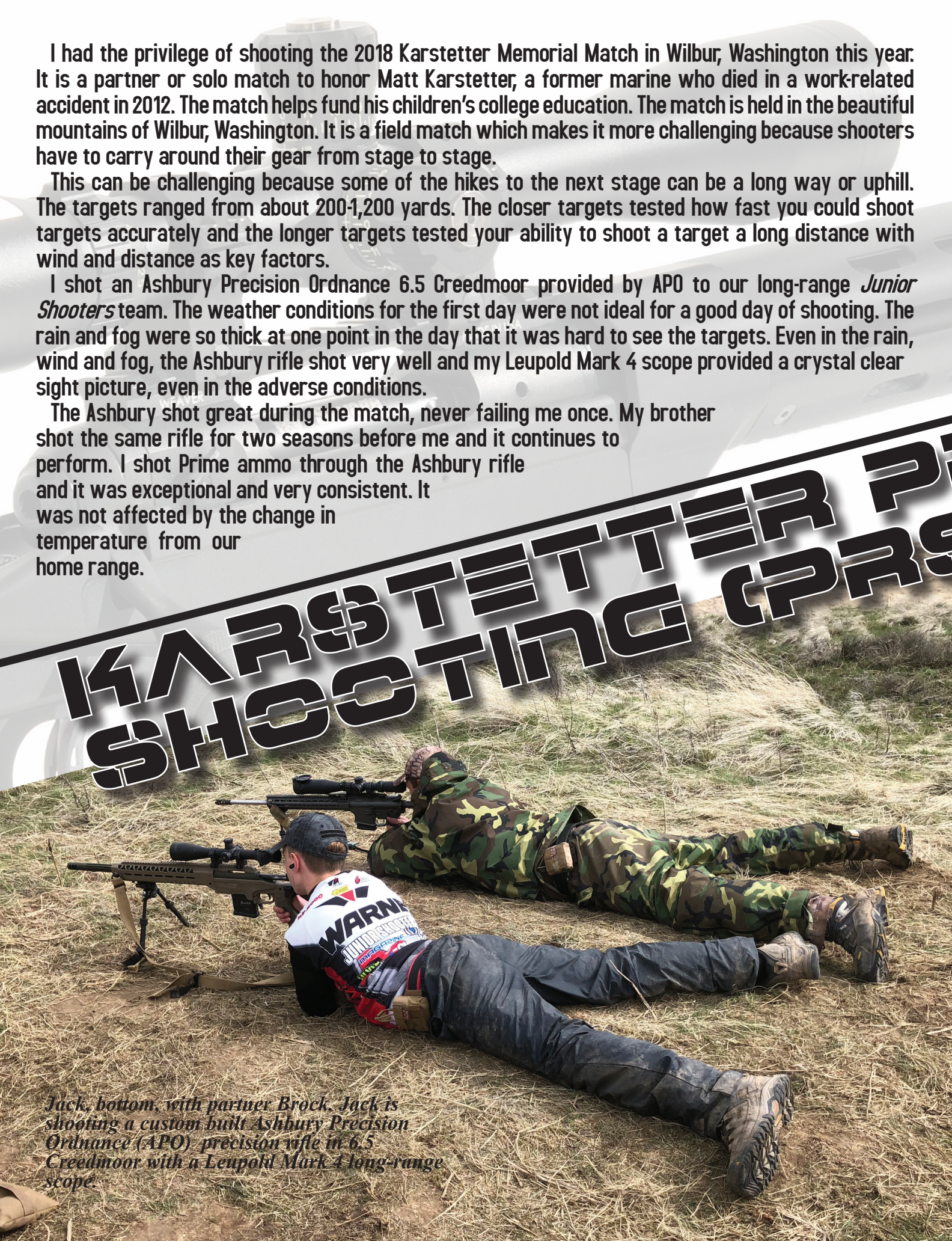
I had the privilege of shooting the 2018 Karstetter Memorial Match in Wilbur, Washington this year. It is a partner or solo match to honor Matt Karstetter, a former marine who died in a work-related accident in 2012. The match helps fund his children's college education. The match is held in the beautiful mountains of Wilbur, Washington. It is a field match which makes it more challenging because shooters have to carry around their gear from stage to stage.

This can be challenging because some of the hikes to the next stage can be a long way or uphill. The targets ranged from about 200-1,200 yards. The closer targets tested how fast you could shoot targets accurately and the longer targets tested your ability to shoot a target a long distance with wind and distance as key factors.

I shot an Ashbury Precision Ordnance 6.5 Creedmoor provided by APO to our long-range *Junior Shooters* team. The weather conditions for the first day were not ideal for a good day of shooting. The rain and fog were so thick at one point in the day that it was hard to see the targets. Even in the rain, wind and fog, the Ashbury rifle shot very well and my Leupold Mark 4 scope provided a crystal clear sight picture, even in the adverse conditions.

The Ashbury shot great during the match, never failing me once. My brother shot the same rifle for two seasons before me and it continues to perform. I shot Prime ammo through the Ashbury rifle and it was exceptional and very consistent. It was not affected by the change in temperature from our home range.

KARSTETTER PR SHOOTING CPRS



Jack, bottom, with partner Brock. Jack is shooting a custom built Ashbury Precision Ordnance (APO) precision rifle in 6.5 Creedmoor with a Leupold Mark 4 long-range scope.

On my favorite stage, the "animals" stage, there were targets at about 200 yards, 300 yards and 500 yards. During this stage, my partner, Brock Lueddeke and I shot our best stage and made impacts on most of our shots. With each of us making wind calls for each other, we were able to shoot straight on our targets and hold exactly where we needed it to be. On this stage, we placed 15th out of 125 teams and individuals. While we finished 50th out of all of the teams, that stage was the stage where we did the best.

The Karstetter Memorial Match was a very exciting and great learning experience for me to better develop myself as a shooter and a partner. I can't wait to shoot it again next year. ©

PRECISION RIFLE MATCH 2018

By Jack Burke (13)



Jack, taking that long-range shot using a bipod and barely able to see the target over the hill.



Jack kneeling with his custom Ashbury while his partner, Brock, spots his shots.

IN NOVEMBER, 2017, I WAS ABLE TO SHOOT THE SEEKINS PRECISION TEAM MATCH WITH FELLOW JUNIOR SHOOTERS MACEY TADLOCK AND ANDREW LANGERAK. THIS MATCH WAS THE BEST MATCH EVER HELD AT THE PARMA ROD AND GUN CLUB IN IDAHO.



**SEEKINS
3 GUN TEAM**

We started the day out strong, but it was hard getting back into the groove of shooting 3-Gun (I had been focusing heavily on precision long range for the past six months.) Our whole team had not been doing much 3-Gun shooting recently and we were excited to get back into it.

For the most part, the stages were fairly simple, but it was easy to get overconfident and miss targets because of the stage setup. For example, Stage One was a “melee” stage. In a melee stage, all three members of the team are shooting at the same time. In the beginning of the stage, we all started out in the seats or sitting in the windows of a sedan. Once given the command to go, we split up and went to the three different firearm shooting areas.

Shotgun and pistol went quickly, so we all joined in and began shooting rifles off of a designated trailer. Unfortunately, we didn’t realize how unstable the trailer was; and incidentally, we ended

up getting a lot of shooting time! This stage was really fun because we were all able to shoot rifles at the same time and in a few cases at the same target.

This is the controlled chaos that makes the Seekins Match the most intense!

Another style of shooting that several of the stages required was the “relay.” In a relay stage, one of the team members begins the stage and when they finish their portion they tag the next shooter to go shoot their portion. This is where you get to watch people push speed to the limits! It was on one of these stages that I was able to shoot shotgun. The round count for this stage was in the 40s just for the shotgun! Thankfully, this match lets you stage as many firearms

in the box as is safe, but even with five shotguns I still had to reload in order to finish the course! You would think that two competition-model SLPs from FNH, a Stoeger M3000, a Remington 1100, and a pump-action Benelli would have been plenty!

All of the stages had something unique about them, but the one that outshone them all was Stage Six. Stage Six started atop a trailer that was towed by a truck. Yes, we shot pistol and shotgun from the back of a moving trailer! The staff were able to accomplish this in a very safe way and was it the best! Aiming is hard enough when you’re running a stage on flat ground, but trying to shoot 5-inch knockdown steel with a pistol

Ben on the rifle, shooting at targets way out there.



Macey, using the Sig Sauer MPX 9mm Pistol Caliber Carbine (PCC) while her partner, Ben, waits behind to pick up the shotgun targets.

Ben, Shooting the rifle targets.



PRECISION MATCH 2018

Ben Moody (18) and Macey Tadlock (15)

while moving and bumping along is something else!!! This stage was by far my favorite. After shooting many rounds out of the back of the trailer, we all transitioned to the rifle bay where we cleaned house with amazing speed. It is an awesome thing to watch when three rifles clear all the targets in a 100-yard berm!

This was by far my favorite match of the season and we all had a great time shooting together. I can't wait for the next Seekins Team Match and hope to be able to shoot it again. I would like to thank Junior Shooters for their support and equipment that we were able to use, as well as Seekins Precision for putting on another amazing match.

Macey:

This fall I shot in the 2017 Seekins 3-Gun Match. This was my first real 3-Gun match ever. It was a lot different than what I'm used to shooting, but the practicing we have been doing with the Junior Shooters team made all the difference. I had a lot of fun at this match. It was very cold.

The stages were really unique. I've never shot stages like those before. This was by far my favorite shoot that I've ever competed in.

My favorite part was when we had to shoot off of a moving trailer, even though I almost fell off of it, it was really fun. It was our last stage of the day. The whole day I got to try out new stuff: I had to figure out how to shoot off of a trailer, I shot my new scope for the first competition with it, and I shot a long-range AR for the second time ever. That was really cool!

The Seekins Match was so much fun and I learned a lot from it. I will definitely shoot this match again next year. ©



Macey, on the rifle shooting long-range spinners.

Macey, using a Beretta 92 on pistol targets.



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Customizing the Ruger

By Andy Fink, Dave Furney, and Ryker Bell (9)

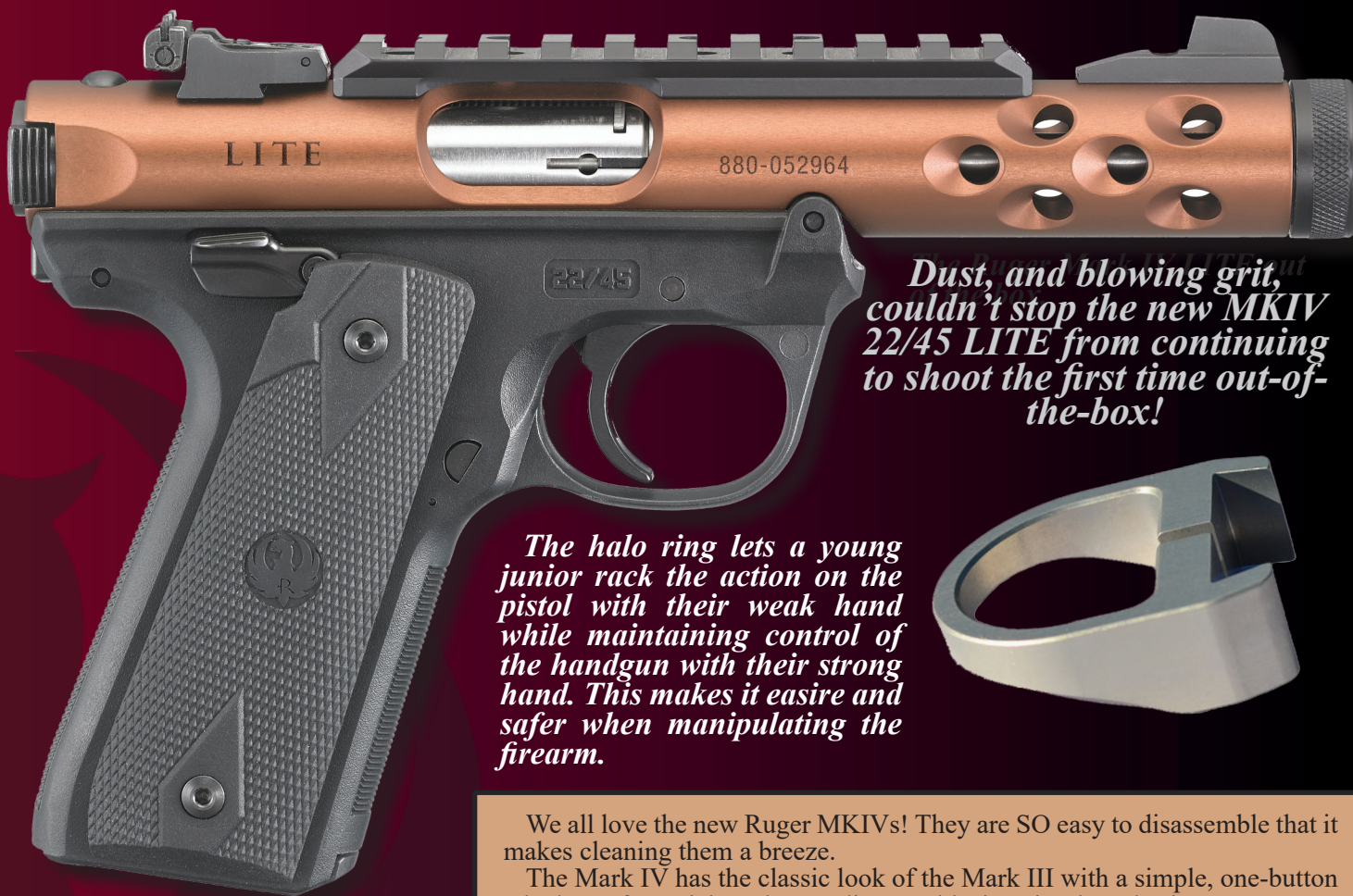


*The Ruger
Mark IV
HUNTER.*

Mark IV

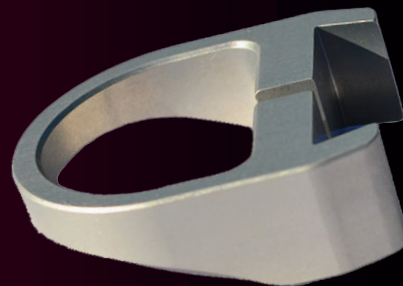
The three main parts disassemble for cleaning after pressing the push-button underneath the rear of the bolt.





Dust, and blowing grit, couldn't stop the new MKIV 22/45 LITE from continuing to shoot the first time out-of-the-box!

The halo ring lets a young junior rack the action on the pistol with their weak hand while maintaining control of the handgun with their strong hand. This makes it easier and safer when manipulating the firearm.



The key to disassembly is the push-button underneath the rear of the bolt.

We all love the new Ruger MKIVs! They are SO easy to disassemble that it makes cleaning them a breeze.

The Mark IV has the classic look of the Mark III with a simple, one-button takedown for quick and easy disassembly into its three basic components: receiver and grip, barrel and action, and bolt. Ruger really did their homework on this model making it so easy to disassemble that no one should have an excuse for not cleaning their MKIV.

The Mark IV is available in the following models:

- Standard
- Competition
- 22/45 LITE
- Target
- Tactical
- 22/45 LITE Tactical
- Hunter
- 22/45

I have always liked Rugers, and the MKIV is the result of a very quality firearm that is durable, accurate, at a reasonable price, and now very easy to field-strip.

We received two of the MKIVs for review: a 22/45 LITE and a Hunter model. They functioned flawlessly the first time at the range. We disassembled them and thoroughly cleaned and checked all parts, and then added a little oil to the moving parts before going to the range.

It was now time to customize them to be easier for young juniors to shoot with and for competition. The same components you use to make them better for competition work equally as well for the beginning junior shooter. Don't get me wrong. You can compete with them in Rimfire Challenge, Steel Challenge, or SASP out-of-the-box. However, to me, the customized Ruger MKIV 22/45 LITE is absolutely the BEST pistol to teach a junior how to shoot, regardless if they're 8 or 18!

We went to TANDEM KROSS and got their Race Gun Kit (MSRP: 146.99, though they have sales discounts). This kit includes:

- 1 x "Halo" Charging Ring
- 1 x "Victory" Trigger
- 1 x "Titan" Extended Magazine Release
- 2 x "MarkPRO" Extended Base Pads

The competitive trigger kit from TK produces a nice smooth and light trigger pull.



A customized Ruger MKIV 22/45 LITE is absolutely the BEST pistol for a young junior to learn to shoot with. Note use of yellow safety flag.

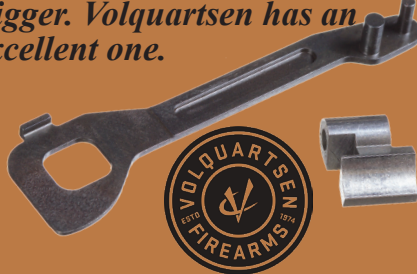


Extended magazine release kit from TK.



Magazine pouches for Ruger .22 pistols are a great accessory - also from TK.

A MKIV sear and disconnect is a must when replacing the MKIV trigger. Volquartsen has an excellent one.



Magazine bumper pads from TK make it easier to load magazines.

The muzzle brake from TK reduces even the slight muzzle flip the 22/45 LITE has to almost nothing. This is a great feature for the beginning shooter and competitor,



Ryker is excited to shoot the MKIV 22/45 LITE for the first time.



Ryker pulling the halo charging handle with his left hand.



We also got a nice TANDEMKROSS compensator to reduce recoil. It doesn't add much weight, and when using it on a LITE model, you hardly notice it.

We also received a C.O.W.S. Pro Shooters holster for the Ruger MKIV from TANDEMKROSS along with some belt magazine pouches (not necessary but nice to have).

We then went to Volquartsen for a machined disconnect and sear. Installing the magazine disconnect is a little tricky.

Start out with the Halo charging handle, and then as you become more comfortable handling the gun, you can customize it with additional parts.

If you are mechanically inclined, you should be able to install these components. If you are the least bit concerned, then acquire the parts first, and then take it to a qualified gunsmith who can install them for a reasonable price. There are a variety of YouTube videos around, but we recommend going to the TANDEMKROSS website where there is plenty of information on installing them. They are basically a drop-in part and work great.

All parts are important, but we feel the most important is the Halo bolt-charging ring. The Halo ring lets a young junior rack the action on the pistol with their weak hand while maintaining control of the handgun

with their strong hand. Being able to manipulate the firearm and its action easily not only makes it more enjoyable for the shooter, but it means that the student is much safer.

The light weight of the Ruger Mark IV and the use of after-market parts such as the extended magazine release, magazine bumpers, muzzle brake (compensator), and custom trigger also aid in being able to manipulate the firearm safely and more effectively. This makes the pistol operate better in the hands of the seasoned competitor as well as the beginner. It also makes it much safer and easier to teach a new shooter.

In conclusion, the Ruger Mark IV models are outstanding examples of .22 rimfire pistols. They are competitive out-of-the-box and made even more so by customization. The MKIV Hunter we received is an excellent outdoor gun, sturdy and accurate, and takes to customization just like the MKIV 22/45 LITE (note the magazine bumpers will not work on the Hunter as it takes different magazines).

A customized Mark IV 22/45 LITE, with parts from TANDEMKROSS and VOLQUARTSEN is my recommendation for you to use when teaching the beginning shooter the concepts and techniques of pistol shooting. ©

Ryker Bell

“The Ruger MKIV LITE 22 pistol felt light in my hands which made it easy to aim and shoot. The pistol was accurate for shooting at multiple targets. It felt relaxing in my hands, so I could move and shoot at different targets. I had fun shooting the pistol because it was comfortable. The little bit of kick felt like my little sister and me pushing each other while we wrestle. This day at the range was very exciting; I got to shoot and hit a lot of targets and learned a lot about safety.”

First 3-Gun

By Caleb Hamilton (14) and
Kaden Barney (16)

*Caleb, running
the stage with
his shotgun
pointed safely
down-range.*

Caleb:

My first 3-Gun match was fun. It was a learning experience. On the first stage, we used shot guns. It was good until it was time for the pistol. Right as I raised my pistol, I dropped my mag. I didn't do so well because I didn't have the feel for it yet.

The second stage I did much better on because I got in my stance. I got my sights lined up, slowed down and took a deep breath. I did much better and Junior Shooters helped me with it all.

My safe shooting, transitioning, and safe handling of firearms is due to the training I have received from *Junior Shooters*. My stance, slowing down, taking aim and smooth shooting has also been a result of the help from the trainers at *Junior Shooters*. It was a fun day and if you have never shot a 3-Gun match, you definitely should.

*Kaden,
running the
stage, pistol
holstered,
ready to pick
up the rifle.*



Kaden:

This spring I was given the opportunity to participate in my first 3-Gun match. That was an experience! In this 3-Gun match, there were five stages; using a semi-auto rifle such as a Modern Sporting Rifle (MSR), a pistol, and a shotgun. In each of the five stages, we shot each weapon at the targets. The stages were different, some shorter, some longer and I needed to move around a lot. Some targets have different levels of difficulty. At each stage you will want to be safe, fast and accurate. I learned to plan my way of attack before starting, not to touch my guns unless authorized, and not to panic when I hear the timer.

At the 3-Gun matches, it is important to practice safety. For example, keep the safety flag in the gun, and keep ear and eye protection on at the range. These safety practices should be utilized whether you are at the 3-Gun match or just shooting.

Over 30 shooters came to compete. It was fun to see the different techniques people used. The targets in each stage were fun to learn. They had metal targets for pistol and shotgun, and paper and metal targets for pistol and rifle.

In conclusion, my experience with the 3-Gun match was a cool experience and I will be back to shoot many more.

Junior Shooters magazine's training emphasizes:

- Safety
- Integrity
- School
- Moral
- Persistence
- Representation

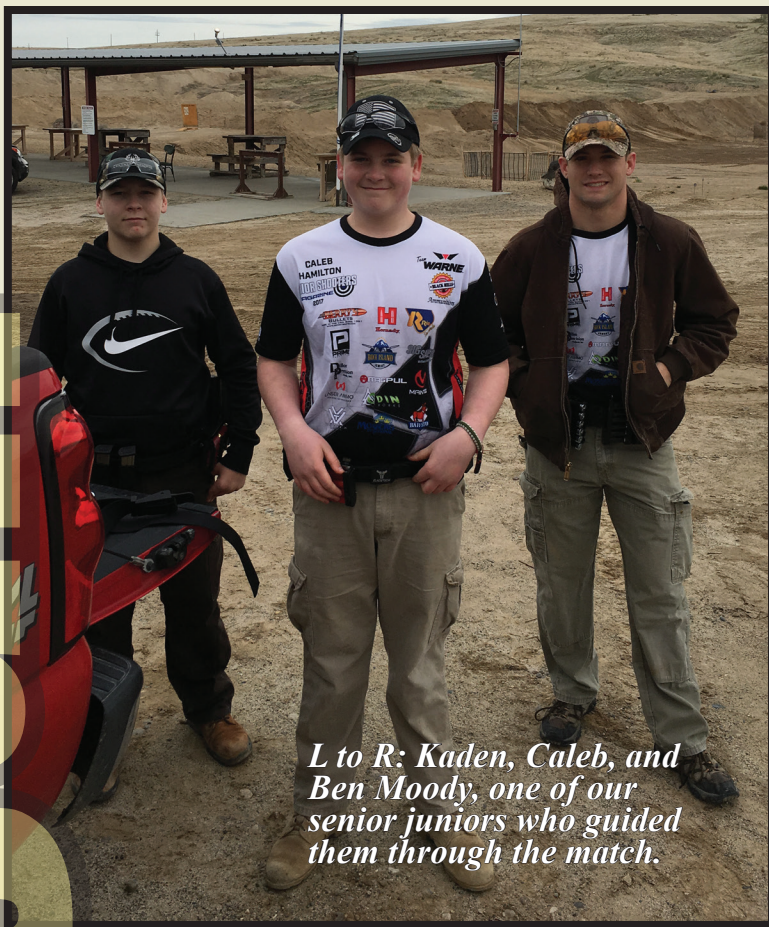
The guns I used for the match were:

Smith & Wesson M&P 15 that has a Warne tactical scope mount, ODIN Works hand guard, ODIN Works extended magazine release, Magpul MBUS open sights that are offset to the right (these work well for close targets), and a Magpul BAD lever (this helps with quicker reloads being able to handle the rifle in a safe manner). This is a fun gun to shoot because it has minimal recoil and I love to shoot long range with it.

Springfield XDM 9MM. My favorite things about it are the sights and its size. This is a fun gun to shoot.

Mossberg 930 JM Pro Series. This is fun to shoot because it doesn't take that much aim to hit the target. It holds a lot of rounds (9+1) so you don't need to reload as often. Some of the stages have only 9-10 targets. It's a light gun and easy to handle.

Can't wait for the next shoot! ©



L to R: Kaden, Caleb, and Ben Moody, one of our senior juniors who guided them through the match.

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By Kylie Delaney



What Shooting Has Taught Me

“Shooting, for me, has been the single best instructor in self sufficiency.”

I pick up a bullet, selecting it from the prearranged pattern in my ammo box. I inspect it to ensure there are no visible flaws before sliding it into the chamber of my rifle and closing the bolt. Glancing down at a ruler on the ground, **I adjust the positioning** of my feet as needed, sometimes only by a fraction of an inch. You see, if I angle the toe of my boot out, it shifts my balance; if I move my feet closer together, my gun rests lower on the target. Everything is done with precision and for a purpose. I fit my buttplate into my shoulder and align a sharpie mark on my gloved left hand with a predetermined spot on my rifle. Now, **I finally lift the gun.**

As I lift my rifle, **I shift my hips forward** so that my left elbow comes to rest on my hip, snug and close to my body; the weight of my gun is fully supported by my skeletal structure. **I close my eyes** and feel the position - is my gun balanced? Am I 110% sure my elbow is in the correct place? If the answer is yes, **I look over** the top of my sights downrange. Is my buttplate snugly fit between the folds of my jacket? Is my weight distributed in the correct ratio between my feet? Have I prepared myself to shoot the best shot possible? If the answer is no, **I put my gun down** and begin the entire process again. I can't afford the luxury of taking bad shots. However, if I have prepared my position to the best of my abilities, I will lower my cheek to rest on the cheek piece. My finger slips onto my trigger and **I guide my barrel** straight down onto the target - not forcing it, but allowing it to come to rest in its natural position. **I exhale slowly** and see my sights align with the target. For a split second - and believe me, it won't last long - I am completely relaxed and steady on the ten. **I break the shot.**

I began shooting Olympic style precision rifle at the age of 10; my gun was too big and duct tape covered a hole in the shoulder of my jacket. Six years later, you can find me at the gun club, staring down my sights at a tiny, black target. Over the years, my sport has been an outlet as well as an educator to me in many ways.

Shooting, for me, has been the single best instructor in self sufficiency. My friends and family would describe me as a very independent person; I have to be. Since the age of 13, I've had to board airplanes with my gear and guns and take long flights to Colorado Springs, where I get picked up at the airport and taken to the Olympic Training Center. There's no one there to make sure I eat enough protein before I shoot or keep track of me and make sure I get on the firing line on time. I have to be able to manage my time, and myself, if I want to be successful.

When a problem arises during competition, I can't afford to lose minutes by coming off the line to talk to my coach. Sometimes, as is the case during most national matches, my coach is 1,300 miles away, watching the targets broadcasted online from behind a computer screen.

The ability to keep your cool and think through problems on your own is not only helpful, it is essential. However, there are times when you simply need help. Many kids my age either don't know how to ask an adult a question or are too stubborn to admit when they need help. In a competitive sport, you have to be able to accept when your way of doing things isn't working and be willing to look at the situation from a different perspective. Unless, of course, you want to get left in the dust of all those who were willing to listen. ©

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SAFETY ALWAYS FIRST EACH AND EVERY TIME



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, any photography, spectating or otherwise participating 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.

Juniors Get Safety

By Andy Fink

Juniors understand safety, but they need to be taught and reminded what to do. Let them know that they are also a safety officer when you are at the range. I recently received an email from a young 13-year-old who really gets it.

"Hello, my name is Turner. I am 13 years old, and I am a first-year sporting clays shooter in South Carolina. I have read the Junior Shooters Volume 30 Spring 2018 magazine with the article called 'Starting Out Young.' I really enjoyed the article. I 100% agree with your editor's note. I participate in SCYSF shooting events where there may be almost 700 youth shooters. I appreciate the focus on safety for starting shooters like me. I feel confident being around that many young people carrying shotguns because we are all trained and consider safety first. This is a sport for all ages, and safety can be taught no matter how young or old you are."

Safety Flags Are A Must!



Safety flag designed and built specifically for placing in the action of Modern Sporting Rifle (MSR)

I see more ranges starting to require the use of safety flags. There are some matches that also require the use of safety flags. I wish all matches would.

I am very vocal about the use of safety flags. I think they should be used in all firearms, airsoft, paint ball, and BB guns – yes, ALL guns. When we teach juniors how to shoot, we must always emphasize safety. One of the problems is that even if you go over the ten main safe-shooting rules -- which include: "A gun is always loaded" and "Never point the muzzle at anyone or anything you don't want to destroy" and "Know what is behind your target" -- people still don't treat a gun with the respect it deserves. A gun is like an automobile; if you don't take care of it, and don't pay attention, bad things can happen. On the other hand, if everyone pays attention to what they are doing and follows the rules of the road, you can drive and enjoy the shooting sports your life.

So, how do safety flags relate to

automobiles? Safety flags are like seatbelts -- actually, they are even better. If a safety flag is used, then the gun cannot fire. If somehow (and it does happen all too often) a loaded round is in the chamber and the trigger is pulled, it cannot fire with a safety flag in it!

We tell the juniors who train with us that we want them to always use a safety flag. When they come to the range, their firearm should be in a case with a safety flag already in it. They take the case to a safety table along with a safety officer. The safety officer clears the firearm by physically looking to make sure the chamber is empty and there is no detachable magazine in the firearm and no rounds in a fixed magazine. The safety flag is then used to impede the action so it cannot close. The shotgun or rifle is then placed in the gun rack or on the shooting table with the flag in it, and the safety is ALWAYS ON! A pistol or revolver would follow the same procedure if it was to be put back in the case. If it is to be placed in a belt holster, then it would have to be cleared (taking the magazine out first), pointed toward the berm, pull the trigger to drop the hammer down, and the safety (if it has one) put in the ON position, and then holstered. NOTE: No magazines are allowed in the magazine-well except for the person who is actually up shooting after being told by the range officer to load the firearm and make ready.

On a firing-line range (more than one shooting position), all firearms should have the action open with a safety flag in them unless they are actually being fired right then. If the shooter gets up for even a minute from his shooting position, then a safety flag should be in the action.

Do you think I am being paranoid? Just remember, ALL shooting accidents would be prevented if a safety flag was in the action! Once the safety flag is removed, it is VITAL that all other safety rules are followed. You cannot take back a bullet and ask for a "do over" just as you cannot ask for a "do over" when someone goes through a red light. Stop the accident before it happens!

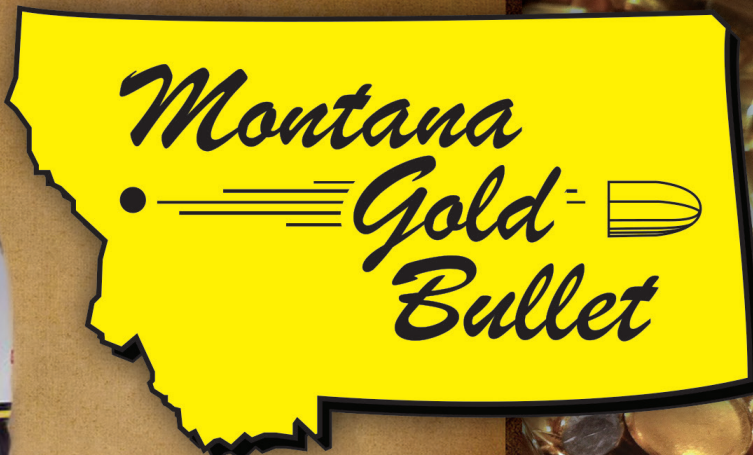


Most pistols come with safety flags in the box such as this orange one for the Sig Sauer P365

Safety flags don't have to go inside the chamber or barrel. In fact, putting plastic down a hot barrel is a no-no. It can melt and mess up the barrel. They do need to stop the action from closing and allowing a cartridge to fire. They should also be colorful so it is easy for a range officer to see them.

If a safety flag is blocking the action of the firearm, then it cannot fire! There are all shapes and sizes of safety flags, and they are available for revolvers, pistols, shotguns, and rifles.

There are a variety of safety flags available or you can make your own out of Weed Eater line. These two flags are for shotguns. Top right is in a Mossberg 930 and the one on the bottom right is in an FN SLP.



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Hey
JS,
whats
on the
list?



GEAR GUIDE

Flambeau Pistol Case

Flambeau pistol cases are very nice. They are sturdy, lockable, TSA approved, waterproof, and made of heavy-duty polycarbonate with a thick-wall base. The one we got has two removable layers of foam and includes two waterproof containers for cleaning supplies and tools.



Pro Ears Pro 200



Pro Ears ear muffs are well made and very effective. The 200 series is excellent and they even have a behind the head headband option. Ear protection is a must and Pro Ears can provide it.



Chef's Choice Knife Sharpeners



Chef's Choice knife sharpeners make sharpening your knives easy! The Edge, shown here, is a high-end model but they have all types. They sharpen straight edge and serrated knives. It saves a lot of time using one of these and the knives come out SHARP!

L.L. Bean Ridge Runner Set

L.L. Bean has some of the best outdoor and hunting clothes available. We got in their Ridge Runner jacket and pants set and it is awesome!

As a main layer during the spring or fall, or even an outer layer during the winter, it will exceed your needs.



Federal Premium's .224 Valkyrie



The .224 Valkyrie with the 90-grain Sierra MatchKing remains supersonic past 1,300 yards!



The .224 Valkyrie with the 60-grain Nosler bullet is a varmint hunter's dream!

Federal Premium's new 224 Valkyrie cartridge transforms the MSR 15 platform into a 1,000-yard tack driver, unleashes shooters' full downrange potential and shatters the boundaries of ballistic performance. Though it provides a rel long-range capability for the MSR platform, it also may be the cat's meow for the long-range precision shooter out to 1,300 yards as well as providing the long-range varmint shooter extended range.

The 224 Valkyrie is fast. A round loaded with the 90-grain Gold Medal Sierra MatchKing produces a muzzle velocity of 2,700 feet per second; it maintains a blistering 1,950 fps pace at 500 yards and 1,359 fps when crossing the 1,000-yard line. In fact, it remains supersonic (faster than the speed of sound) past 1,300 yards. Velocities are based on 24-inch test barrels with a 1:7 twist.

Sustaining bullet speeds faster than the 1,125 fps speed of sound during long-range flight is critical to maximum accuracy. For starters, a projectile is more efficient and easier to put on target at higher speeds. But the transition from super- to subsonic flight (slower than the speed of sound) can also destabilize the bullet, causing it to tumble like a poorly thrown football instead of spinning in a perfect spiral like it does at supersonic speeds. Such destabilization wreaks havoc on accuracy, causing downrange performance to plummet.

"The longer you can fly faster than the speed of sound, the more you can maximize the accuracy and ballistics the bullet is designed to provide," says elite long-range shooter and Federal Premium Brand Ambassador Jim Gilliland. "Once a bullet falls into subsonic flight, it's much harder to hit your target."

For its part, the 224 Valkyrie 60-grain Nosler Ballistic Tip Varmint yields a muzzle velocity of 3,300 fps, maintains supersonic flight to 780 yards and still cruises along at 934 fps at 1,000 yards. The 75-grain American Eagle TMJ leaves the barrel at 3,000 fps and zips by at 1,779 fps at 500 yards, while the 90-grain Fusion has an estimated 2,700 fps muzzle velocity remaining supersonic out to 975 yards. Again, all velocities are based on 24-inch test barrels with a 1:7 twist.

Compelling Comparisons

To put the Valkyrie's performance into perspective against other match loads, a 223 Rem. 69-grain Gold Medal Sierra MatchKing produces a respectable 2,950 fps muzzle velocity, but slips into subsonic flight just 775 yards downrange—more than 500 yards less than the supersonic range of the 90-grain Sierra MatchKing 224 Valkyrie. Likewise, the 77-grain Custom Competition 22 Nosler rips from the muzzle at 2,950 fps, but quickly loses momentum before dropping below the sound barrier at 875 yards.

GEAR GUIDE

Rail-mounted Data System (RDS) from X Ring Armory

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JS,
whats
on the
list?



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This is something new and one of the best tools I have seen out there for the precision shooter! A few month ago, one of the parents picked up a bunch of these rail-mounted data systems that keep all of your ballistic dope right in front of you right where you need it. The dope holder swivels back against the rifle out of the way and then pulls out so you can easily read it.

Contact X Ring Armory at 208-484-4099 and get yours today!

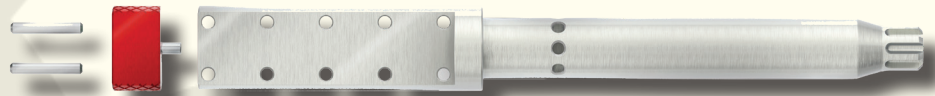


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Modern Sporting Rifles (MSR) products are always in demand. REAL AVID has some of the best. Besides the gun tools like the AR15 TOOL, THE GUN TOOL, GUN TOOL MAX, GUN TOOL PRO-AR-15, and others (check their website) they have a variety of bench and maintenance tools. These are all exceptional products.



AR15 Armorer's Wrench



Lug Lok Upper Vise Block

The Range Station - a great place to work on guns and even has a place to put parts.



Their new BoreBoss is great for cleaning the bore and the barrel and even has a handle!



The Spotlight Kit is an excellent cleaning kit to pick out dirt imbedded in the corners of your action. It has a light in the holder and works very well.



Hammer and Punch Set. This set comes in a nice case and all of the punches are heavy duty. A nice kit to carry in your range bag.

The Smart Fit Vise Block is adjustable to fit a variety of magazine wells for AR15/AR10 style rifles.



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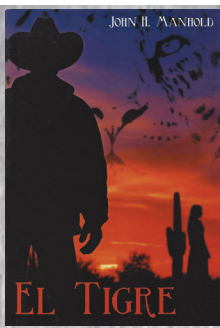


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