



Shooting SPORTS USA

NRA'S COMPETITIVE SHOOTING JOURNAL

WHY GO PALMA?

**How to build an Eliseo
Chassis Palma Rifle**

ALSO FEATURED:

- 2020 NATIONALS
CANCELED
- EXCELLENCE IN
COMPETITION RIFLE:
THEN AND NOW
- ASTRA CADIX
REVOLVER
THROWBACK



This month's cover feature details a money Palma rifle build by author Dennis Santiago. Prior to receiving the Gary Eliseo custom chassis treatment, this Remington 700 short-action was customized with a .308 Win. boldface one-piece bolt with a smaller 0.062-inch firing pin hole, a 30-inch Obermeyer barrel with 1:11-inch right-hand twist and a Palma chamber. Read all about it starting on page 28.

Ruger has been on a roll with great new products, and its newest Ruger PC carbine model is no different. The new Ruger PC Carbine Chassis models feature the same operating action, controls, takedown mode and barrel features as the original PC 9mm released in 2018. Check out Field Editor Chris Christian's review of Ruger's latest in June's Product Focus, beginning on page 12.

It takes something big, like Covid-19, to cancel the NRA National Matches. In conjunction with noted National Matches historian Hap Rocketto, I examined the previous instances the matches were canceled, going back to the early 20th century. Review our findings on page 18.

Abnormal Times

I'm not a big fan of the so-called "new normal." For starters, Zoom seems to be the preferred method of communication, even above telephone and email. Putting together a magazine over Zoom has become a new "normal" for me, along with phrases like "Sorry, I was on mute," and "Can everyone see my screen?"

Virginia is now over two months into our stay-at-home order, and I've been thinking about how Covid-19 is much more than an extended break from normal; it will forever be

ingrained into what we know as normal, into the way we communicate. I never thought I'd be Zooming with my family every weekend. I never thought we'd live in a post-handshake world.

In April the NRA released the below statement regarding the suspension of all sanctioned matches until June 30.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the NRA is unfortunately suspending all sanctioned matches through June 30, 2020. Any requests for sanctioning of new matches are also suspended until further notice. As a result of this suspension, the NRA will no longer accept match fees or scores. The NRA will continue to monitor the situation and make additional statements as the Covid-19 pandemic unfolds. Please contact the NRA Competitive Shooting Division at comphelp@nrahq.org or follow the NRA Competitive Shooting Facebook page at this link: <https://www.facebook.com/nracompetitiveshooting>.

I do hope things return to normal soon, but for now, I'm dealing with these abnormal times the best I can just like you. I'm not sure how much returning to things as we knew them before will actually happen, but one thing is certain—competitive shooters will find a way to bring themselves back to the firing line.

On a brighter note, the revamped *NRA Women* website launched last month and it's a real winner. Be sure to check it out at www.nrawomen.com.

John Parker

Executive Editor, *Shooting Sports USA*

Reporters Welcome

In our efforts to recruit more reporters, we frequently hear the comment: "But I'm not a writer." What people

overlook is that they are on the scene, hearing and seeing the action first-hand. Editing and completing the article is our job, so if you'd like to try your hand at sharing draft reports and photographs from national-level matches or interviews with key people in the shooting sports, please email us at shootingsportsusa@nrahq.org.



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Two competitors, one a Baby Boomer, the other from Generation Z, examine the past and contemplate the future of High Power Rifle competition.

By Dick Jones

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Want to perfect your position, refine shot delivery and make better wind calls? A new custom-built Palma rifle will help.

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34 ASTRA CADIX: NOT QUITE A SMITH & WESSON

While Spanish revolvers frequently get a bad rap from shooters, Astra’s Cadix is a copy of the Smith & Wesson double-action revolver, both on the outside and the inside.

By Art Merrill

ON THE COVER

What compels a Service Rifle shooter to build a Palma rifle? Author Dennis Santiago examines this topic in his article detailing this Gary Eliseo Palma custom build.

Photo by Dennis Santiago

A Publication of the
National Rifle Association of America

Wayne R. LaPierre
Executive Vice President

The NRA, the foremost guardian of the traditional American right to “keep and bear arms,” believes every law-abiding citizen is entitled to the ownership and legal use of firearms, and that every reputable gun owner should be an NRA member.



Competitors must be on the firing line early, but sunrises at the National Matches are a beautiful reward.

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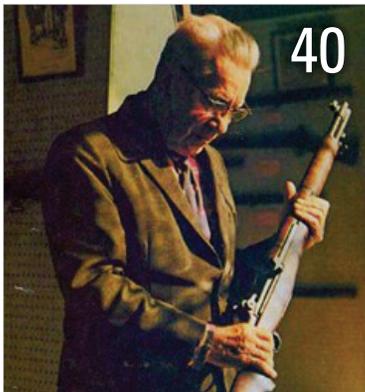
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The NRA, the foremost guardian of the traditional American right to "keep and bear arms," believes every law-abiding citizen is entitled to the ownership and legal use of firearms, and that every reputable gun owner should be an NRA member.

FATHER'S DAY GIFT GUIDE

With Father's Day on the horizon, one good way to say thanks for all of Dad's guidance is to aid his competitive shooting habit. Mom won't mind.

MTM Magazine Case

When headed to a pistol match, the last thing you want to deal with is a mess of unorganized magazines in your range bag. MTM's new Pistol Magazine Case offers protection and organization for up to five standard double-stack magazines in a compact package. And, the clear-smoke finish makes identification simple with just a quick glance. \$5.99, mtmcase-gard.com



HIVIZ Litewave H3 Compsight

HIVIZ Litepipe sights are fast to find against any background, and the company's Compsight line sets the standard for competitive shotgun shooters. The new Litewave H3 Compsight replacement front bead combines Tritium with Litepipe technology for illumination, day or night, using a single sight. Plus, rugged all-steel construction ensures fast sight acquisition and a bright sight picture for many years of shooting enjoyment. \$35.95, hivizsights.com



Mossberg 940 JM Pro Shotgun

The 940 JM Pro builds on the success of the 930 and then some. Designed with the input of father-and-daughter pro shooters Jerry and Lena Miculek, this scattergun boasts features worthy of their legendary name. Add in the fact it's a more affordable option than other competitive semi-automatic shotguns—picking this up for Dad becomes a no-brainer. \$1,015, mossberg.com

TETRA Earplugs

Keep Dad's ears in tip-top condition with high-quality ear protection. TETRA is the result of two audiologists who combined their expertise in the world of hearing with their passion for the outdoors to create some truly revolutionary



electronic earplugs. Using hi-tech circuitry from the hearing-aid industry along with custom algorithms, these earplugs are a cut above the rest. The entry-level AlphaShield models are optimized to block the specific frequencies of gunshots. \$699, tetrahearing.com



Berger Long-Range Hybrid Target

Berger Bullets' Long-Range Hybrid Target (LRHT) line has become popular with long-range aficionados. And with good reason, because with high-BC projectile offerings like the new 6.5mm 153.5-grain LRHT, shot-to-shot consistency at long distances is vastly improved. This bullet is tailor-made for popular cartridges such as 6.5 Creedmoor and 6.5 PRC. \$54 for a 100-round box, [bergerbullets.com](https://www.bergerbullets.com)

Filthy Pirate Coffee

Let's face it, coffee is the lifeblood that drives America. Enter Filthy Pirate, a Tucson-based self-described "blue collar" coffee roaster that offers up some tasty bean blends at affordable prices. Best of all, the company is Veteran-owned. Our pick is the Cutlass dark roast, with beans grown in the rich volcanic soils of the mountainous highlands in Chiapas, Mexico. \$14.99 for a 12-ounce bag, [filthypirate.coffee](https://www.filthypirate.coffee)



NRA SILHOUETTE NATIONALS CANCELED

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, and the many ensuing federal and state safety regulations and mandates, the Ridgway Rifle Club has made the difficult decision to cancel the 2020 NRA National Silhouette Championships which was to be held July/August 2020 at the Ridgway Rifle Club in Ridgway, Pennsylvania. The NRA and the Ridgway Rifle Club share your disappointment that these competitions had to be cancelled. A decision regarding the 2021 NRA National Silhouette Championship dates and location(s) will be announced later this year. The NRA and the Ridgway Rifle Club wishes everyone good health and the best of luck. For more information, please visit <https://competitions.nra.org>.

NRA TEAMS BENEFIT FROM AMAZONSMILE

Recently, the High Power Rifle community set up a 501(c)(3) charity to receive donations via the AmazonSmile Foundation. The goal is to raise money for the NRA International Rifle teams that are traveling overseas to shoot over the next few years, and beyond. Here is how you can donate. Visit smile.amazon.com and select "Palma Promotions, Inc." as your charity. After you do this, every purchase you make on Amazon will result in the company donating 0.5 percent of your purchase price to **Palma Promotions**. Best of all, this will cost you absolutely nothing and the International teams will benefit greatly from the donations. The more people who sign up, the more the International Rifle teams stand to gain from Amazon's charitable donations.

WHAT'S IN YOUR RANGE BAG, ED WHITE?

BY MICHELLE CERINO

M eet the founder of Metal Madness, Ed White. A born leader with a creative spirit, White invented the Metal Madness game in his backyard range in Grand Rivers, KY. Over the past three years, the game has exploded in popularity throughout the country. Let's find out what White keeps in his range bag.

What are your first memories of handling a firearm?

I first began shooting as a kid around the age of 14 with my grandfather's Remington single-shot .22 LR. Since I was always told to never shoot anything I wasn't going to eat, I only shot cans on the farm. My father wasn't a hunter, but felt that I should know how to handle a firearm.

Tell us how you began in competitive shooting.

In the late 1970s, I learned the art of shooting in the U.S. Army. After leaving the military, I became a municipal police officer in Southern Illinois. One of my fellow officers shot competitive pistol. Along with a few other officers, we would travel around shooting bowling pins on weekends. Back then, I was competing to improve my shooting skills for my job. It was a ton of fun. In the late 1980s, I left the police force and shooting behind for over 20 years.



PHOTOS BY MMSSA, LLC.

Please share with us some of your major shooting accomplishments.

Metal Madness is my major accomplishment. When my wife and I moved to Western Kentucky in 2010, I started offering CCDW classes as something to do in my spare time. In 2013, we opened our small five-lane range to the public. To our surprise, even though we live in a very rural area, people started joining. We had to add 10 more lanes. That was the birth of Metal Madness.

That has gone on to grow into a nationwide shooting sport which was included at the NRA World Shooting Championship.

Tell us about your range bag and what you carry in it besides your firearms.

For my Tippmann rifles I carry a Pelican hard case. It is indestructible and fits on an airplane or in my backseat. Plus, there's room for extra magazines. For my pistols I use a five-pistol backpack by GPS. Besides my guns it also holds extra ammunition, magazines, gloves, some cleaning supplies and a laptop.

What firearms and other gear do you use for competition?

We shoot a Tippmann M4 rifle with our Metal Madness brand on it. Denny Tippmann and I got together, made a few cosmetic changes to the barrel and Tippmann Arms is now producing them. Art Elftmann of Elftmann Tactical Triggers, developed a drop-in trigger for the M4 rimfire platform. It's performing perfectly after thousands of rounds. Last September at the WSC we shot 57,000 Aguila Super Extra .22 LR rounds flawlessly in three days with our Tippmann Metal Madness LLC M4s.

For pistols I prefer the Browning Buckmark micro with a Sightmark red dot. We upgraded the trigger with a Tandemkross trigger and

halo for the slide. I've had great success with the S&W Victory as well. We fluted the barrel in house to balance the weight and added all the Tandemkross accessories available. The Ruger Mark 4 is proving to be a formidable pistol as well. We're testing the Mark 4 now in the Metal Madness game with great success and also upgraded with Tandemkross parts.

What do you do in your free time?

In our free time, my wife Teresa and I enjoy the outdoors. We love boating and of course shooting. Our range is in our backyard and very close by is a trap and skeet field.

What would you tell someone interested in finding out more about your sport?

Metal Madness is designed for everyone, regardless of age or physical condition. It's a family-friendly shooting sport, and in some cases it's a stepping stone to other shooting disciplines.

Any tips for the new shooter?

New shooters should practice properly, it's the only way to improve and excel at shooting. And, visit the [Shooting Sports USA](http://ShootingSportsUSA.com) website every day. It's my favorite for a reason. ©



MONTHLY PHOTO CAPTION CONTEST



Submit your humorous photo caption to shootingsportsusa@nrahq.org no later than June 20, 2020, in order to appear in the July 2020 issue. Each month we will share submissions with our judges. The winning caption author will receive a box of **CCI Clean 22 Rimfire Ammo**.



MAY

"I don't see it."

May's winning caption submitted by: Jeff Murray of Springfield, Virginia.



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RUGER PC CARBINE CHASSIS

THE NEWEST RUGER PC CARBINE MODEL COMBINES ITS PROVEN ACTION WITH AN ADJUSTABLE AR-STYLE STOCK.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY CHRIS CHRISTIAN, FIELD EDITOR



Pistol Caliber Carbines (PCC) have become extremely popular in recent years. And when Ruger unveiled its new 9mm Ruger PC Carbine at the 2018 SHOT Show it was one of the most popular new guns displayed.

The operating action was a direct blowback, using a two-piece bolt with a dead blow tungsten weight that shortened the bolt travel. The bolt was machined from heat-treated chrome-moly steel and the receiver from aluminum alloy with a Type III hardcoat anodized finish. Additional features included a reversible magazine release, oversized charging handle, enhanced trigger system from the Ruger 10/22 and the same simplified operation that has made the Ruger 10/22 one of the most popular rimfire rifles among Steel Challenge competitors. The barrel was 16.12 inches in length, cold hammer-forged from chrome moly steel with a 1:10-inch twist,

fluted and including a well-shaped feed ramp. The muzzle was threaded ½-inch x 28 to accept standard muzzle accessories.

Also, like the **Ruger 10/22 Takedown Lite**, it was a takedown model, allowing the barrel to quickly separate from the action to open both up for a quick and thorough cleaning.

The gun accepted Ruger SR9 magazines, but an adapter module was included that allowed the use of Glock G17 magazines, including its 30-round model.

The **Ruger PC 9mm** used a sporter stock that made the gun, with the exception of a bit more weight, almost identical to the 10/22 Takedown Lite that I shoot in Steel Challenge A Class. When I tested the new gun, I was impressed enough to buy it. It quickly got me to SCSA A Class in PCCO.

Not all PCC shooters like a sporter-style stock. In late 2019, Ruger offered them an option.

PC CARBINE CHASSIS

The new Ruger PC Carbine Chassis models (\$799, Ruger.com) feature the same operating action, controls, takedown mode and barrel features as the original model listed above. The only difference is in the stock and forearm configuration. Three models are available. The Model 19122 I tested includes all the above features and ships with a 17-round Ruger SR9 magazine. The Model 19124 is the same gun with a 10-round SR9 magazine. The Model 19126 has the Magpul stock fixed in place (no LOP adjustment) and lacks the threaded barrel. It ships with a 10-round SR9 magazine.

New models are equipped with a glass-filled Magpul MOE six-position buttstock, allowing length-of-pull adjustments from 10.50 to 13.75 inches and incorporate an

AR-style pistol grip. The new stock also includes a flared magazine well for quicker reloads.

The forearm/handguard is a ventilated CNC-milled Type III hard-coat anodized aluminum and features Magpul M-Lok accessory attachment slots to allow additional accessories (like lasers) to be mounted.

Unlike the original, this gun is sans iron sights. Instead, a 6-inch Picatinny rail is affixed to the upper receiver, with a 1.75-inch Picatinny section attached to the rear of the barrel just forward of the takedown point. This allows easy optics mounting and provides plenty of options as to placement.

The empty gun weight is 7.3 pounds, and the overall length with the buttstock fully extended is 35.5 inches.

The author found the Ruger Chassis model PC to be smooth-handling during a Steel Challenge match, also performing without malfunctions.





ON THE RANGE

Out of the box I gave it a quick inspection, added a bit of lube to obvious bearing points and then removed the **SIG Romeo1 Pro** from my Ruger PC and installed it on the new carbine chassis model.

I gathered six different 9mm loads in bullet weights ranging from heavy (147/150 grains), mid-range (123/130) and light (115). The heavy loads were the Federal Syntech 150 Match and the 147-grain Bayou Hi-Tek coated lead handloads I use in my Ruger PC. Mid-range loads were the Federal Syntech 130-grain PCC and Lapua 123 FMJ. The lighter loads consisted of Atlanta Arms 115 Steel Challenge and Hornady 115 American Gunner XTP.

Zeroing the sight at 25 yards went quickly. The trigger broke at 4.8 pounds, slightly heavier than my original. But it was very crisp, with just a hint of take-up, virtually no overtravel and a fast reset.

ABOVE: Its takedown feature allows easy and thorough cleaning. The author's experiments with his original gun and the new Chassis models have shown no change in point-of-impact with a receiver-mounted sight. The gun locks back up the way it should.

BELOW: The flared magazine well on the new stock is a welcome addition and will help speed reloads during the heat of competition.





The new Ruger PC delivered the same accuracy levels the author experienced in the original model, with more than enough for action competition.

I then set up **white cut-out targets** and ran about 100 rounds through the gun on simulated Steel Challenge stages to get used to the new stock. Once the gun was broken in, accuracy testing was next. As with my Ruger PC test I used three-shot groups to get a valid comparison. The accuracy chart shows that the new Ruger has plenty to offer.

THE RUGER PC ACTION IS PROVEN, AND THOSE WHO FAVOR AN AR-STYLE STOCK SHOULD FIND THIS NEW MODEL A SOLID PERFORMER.

The last test phase was a six-stage, 150-round Steel Challenge match using my 147-grain Bayou handload. The gun was heavier, and the stock was different than what I shoot. But I finished third in PCCO behind one Master and one Grand Master. By the end of the match, there were well over 300 rounds through the gun with no maintenance beyond what I did in taking it out of the box. And there was not a single malfunction the entire time.

The Ruger PC action is proven, and those who favor an AR-style stock should find this new model a solid performer. ☺



Accuracy Chart

Groups are the average of five, three-round groups, fired from a 25-yard benchrest with the Romeo1 Pro 3 MOA reflex sight. Groups measured center-to-center in inches.

Load	Group Size (inches)
Atlanta Arms 115 Steel Challenge	1.12
Hornady 115 American Gunner	2.08
Lapua 123 FMJ	0.86
Federal Syntech 130 PCC	1.05
Bayou 147 handload	1.19
Federal Syntech 150 Match	1.16



"The Crew"

10/22® Team, Newport, New Hampshire

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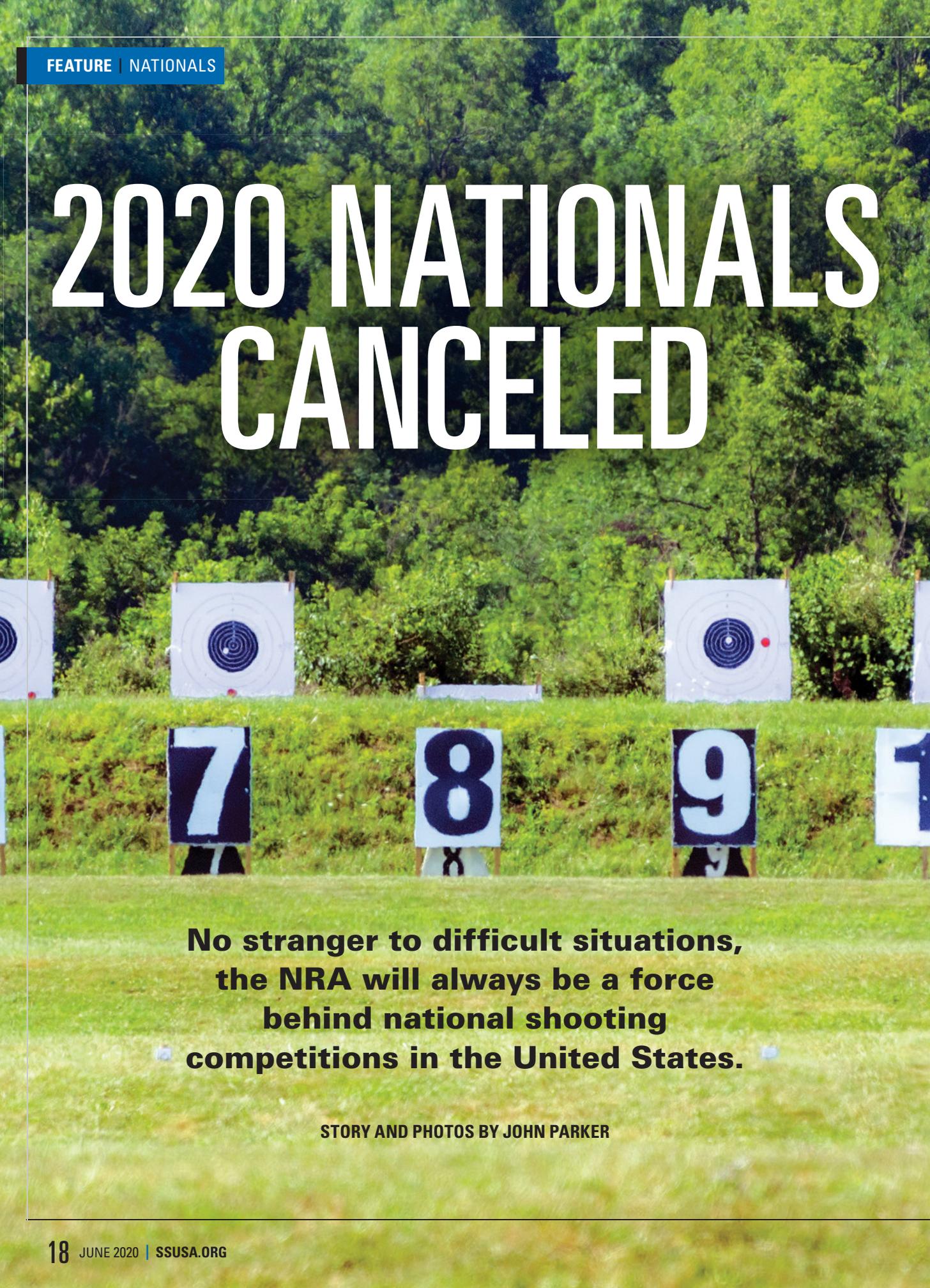
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2020 NATIONALS CANCELED



**No stranger to difficult situations,
the NRA will always be a force
behind national shooting
competitions in the United States.**

STORY AND PHOTOS BY JOHN PARKER

While not unprecedented, the cancellation of the National Matches is a rare occurrence. Currently, we have a situation that mimics one segment of National Matches history—the years spanning 1942 to 1953—that stand out as the most erratic. During that 12-year period, much like today, the American way of life was laced with uncertainty. Fortunately, as Americans we had the resolve to overcome reservation and reluctance in those years, and we will do so once again in the face of Covid-19.

Cancelling a national tournament is never taken lightly. Only six times in the history of competitive shooting has such drastic action taken place, most recently 70 years ago during the Korean War. But as the NRA noted in its statement released this past April, the coronavirus pandemic certainly qualifies for drastic action.

"Due to the current state of affairs surrounding Covid-19, the uncertainties associated with this pandemic at present, and shutdowns across our country that have impeded vital preparatory work, the National Rifle Association has made the difficult decision to cancel the 2020 NRA National Championships."

Thus, 2020 will mark the seventh time the "World Series of the Shooting Sports" won't be on the summer calendar. And it's not just the NRA Pistol, Smallbore and High Power Rifle Nationals at Camp Atterbury that fell victim to coronavirus. The CMP matches at Camp Perry were canceled around the same time in April as the NRA's matches. As if all this wasn't enough, sanctioned matches throughout the country were also canceled.

THE PAST

As mentioned, there are only a few examples of canceled national championships to

set precedent. Most were during wartime, but the first was in 1912 due to a situation that still often plagues summer shooting today—scheduling conflicts. When the National Board for the Promotion of Rifle Practice concluded that Army maneuvers conflicted with the proposed 1912 National Matches schedule, effectively pouring cold water on the entire event, the NRA held firm and conducted its own championships independent of the War Department. By doing this, the NRA ensured the perpetuity of the trophies and maintained the National Matches legacy. Held at Sea Girt, the storied range came back into prominence as the site for the 1912 NRA National Championships.

Although the build-up for World War I forced the cancellation of the 1917 National Matches, the NRA remained involved in the war effort. The NRA enlisted Gen. George Wingate to test the Model 1917 Enfield rifle for its suitability for combat as a "foreign rifle." Wingate's conclusion was that the Enfield was safe and as good under battle conditions as the beloved Springfield; thus dispelling any negative rumors about the rifle.

Similar to the situation in 1912, a lack of federal funds hampered efforts to conduct the 1926 National Matches and once again the NRA was forced to step in to fill the void.

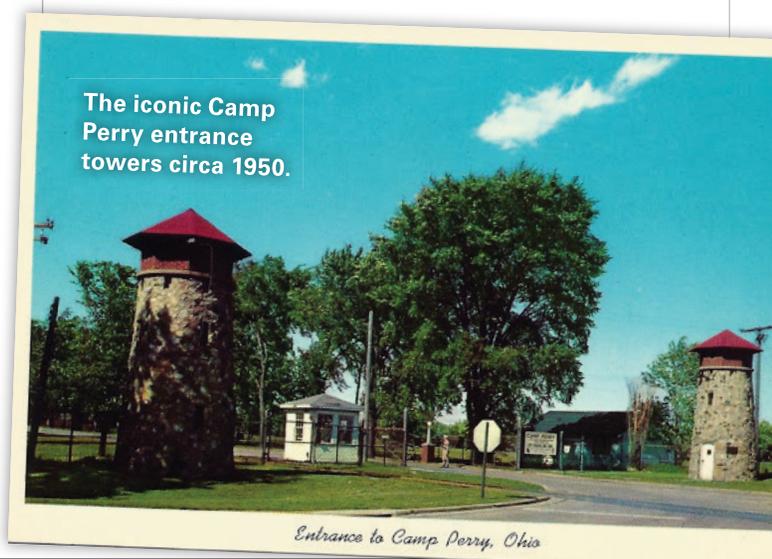


PHOTO BY NRA

But unlike the circumstances 14 years earlier when demands on the Army was the reason for the cancellation, in 1926 government officials claimed economic cutbacks as the reason for the elimination of funding for the National Matches in the federal budget. All of the major NRA matches that year were once again shot at Sea Girt except for the Leech Cup, which was conducted in Washington state.

As was the case in 1926, the 1932 National Matches faced insurmountable financial hurdles. The Great Depression forced the withdrawal of federal appropriation for the National Matches. The NRA's response to the elimination of the National Matches was to conduct regionals at Corps Area sites located around the country. Affectionately known as "Little Camp Perrys," these matches were implemented by the NRA with the help of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, National Guard and civilian state rifle associations. The "Little Camp Perrys" were held in California, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Virginia, Ohio, Illinois, Iowa, Texas and Washington.

While the National Matches were eliminated for a second straight year in 1933, the NRA was deeply rooted in its efforts to promote the shooting sports across the U.S., and the NRA Executive Committee wisely improved upon its

1932 efforts by encouraging state associations to conduct the year's matches.

For the third straight year, in 1934 federal funds were not available for the National Matches. The War Department had reserved \$75,000, but the President's budget director eliminated the appropriation. To once again fill the void, the NRA organized regional pistol tournaments in conjunction with state rifle and pistol associations, as in previous years. The Smallbore Nationals were held on a smaller scale at Camp Perry.

In February 1942, the NRA Executive Committee moved to designate "no tournaments as 'Official Regional' or 'National Championship'" that year. This decision was the first in a series of events that led to a tumultuous time in the history of the National Matches, leading to the transformation of Camp Perry into an active war facility that acted as a reception center for recruits and a POW camp.

It would not be until 1946 that National Matches would resume. The first to report this news was the June 1946 issue of NRA's *Tournament News* (*Shooting Sports USA's* predecessor) with the headline "Camp Perry Again!" At the time, Camp Perry was synonymous with the National Matches.

HAP ROCKETTO'S STAKE

Cancel the NRA National Championships and the National Matches? Never! Who would think it? But 70 years ago, just outside of the memory of most every contemporary competitive shooter, it happened when the North Korean Army invaded South Korea and ended any hope of a 1950 National Championship and National Match series.

For most competitive rifle and pistol shooters the time spent at the NRA National Championships and the National Matches is much like the week between Christmas and New Year's Day, days of wonderment. So, when I heard the news that the coronavirus has caused the NRA and the CMP to cancel the NRA National Championships and the National Trophy Matches, the first thing that came to mind was Alan Rickman, playing an angry Sheriff of Nottingham

The March 1944 issue of *American Rifleman* sums up this period of the Nationals best. "The first gun at Pearl Harbor signaled the end for the duration of the war of the entire NRA program of competitive shooting."

In the aftermath of World War II, the various National Championships were shot sporadically scattered and across the country. By 1950, once again the National Matches faced federal funding problems. NRA officials were all too familiar with the drill. The NRA moved forward once again without government dollars, making bold plans for combined rifle and pistol championships in San Francisco to be held in conjunction with that year's Annual Meeting. But, the conflict in Korea led to the cancellation of the 1950 National Matches as well as the NRA's convention.

The last time all three core NRA National Championships were conducted at the same venue was in 2013 at Camp Perry, ending a run that began in 1953. If all goes as planned, the next unified NRA Nationals will be at Camp Atterbury in 2021.

THE FUTURE

As a silver lining to all the doom and gloom that the coronavirus pandemic has brought

us, the NRA alluded to future events at Camp Atterbury in the fall in its aforementioned statement. The 2020 NRA World Shooting Championship is still on the calendar as of this writing for September 16-19. And the Bianchi Cup, now under the stewardship of the Green Valley Rifle and Pistol Club, will also be held in September.

Perhaps the luckiest of all will be smallbore rifle competitors. When the NRA Smallbore Nationals begin their run at Camp Atterbury next year, some of the competitors will be able to claim that they have shot the National Championships at three different venues—Camp Perry, Chief Wa-Ke-De Range in Bristol, IN, and Camp Atterbury. Only shooters that were competing during the early 1950s, when the Korean War forced a short-term diaspora for the National Championships, can make a similar claim.

And of course, there is 2021. This author is optimistic about the future. As in years past, the NRA will be a force behind national shooting competitions through its tireless efforts to promote the shooting sports. See you on the firing line in Indiana at Camp Atterbury next summer.

For the latest championships updates, be sure to [subscribe](#) to the free *SSUSA Insider* newsletter. ©

in the movie "Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves," as he screamed out, "That's it then, cancel the kitchen scraps for lepers, no more merciful beheadings and call off Christmas."

Calling off Christmas may be unthinkable, but the unthinkable has happened six times to the shooters' Christmas. Army maneuvers wiped out the Nationals in 1912, but the NRA ran its championship at Sea Girt. World War I put a stop to the 1917 event. Congress' tight purse

strings shut the National Matches down in 1926 and again from 1932 to 1935, although the NRA ran Regionals to take up the slack. World War II shut down national competition from 1942 to 1945. Finally, we have the previously mentioned Korean War in 1950. When I think about it, I am struck by the irony that the last match cancellations—1942 through 1945 and 1950—fell victim to Asian invasions just like the 2020 matches.

EXCELLENCE IN COMPETITION



Serena Juchnowski competing at the 2019 Hearst Doubles Team Match at Camp Perry.



ON RIFLE: THEN & NOW

Two competitors, one a Baby Boomer, the other from Generation Z, examine the past and contemplate the future of High Power Rifle competition.

BY DICK JONES WITH SERENA JUCHNOWSKI

At the 2019 Southeastern Outdoor Press Association conference, I met an interesting young woman. Serena Juchnowski is 21 years old, at the beginning of her career as a shooter and outdoor journalist, and had just earned her Distinguished Rifleman Badge. Since I spent 16 years of my life shooting, coaching and competing in NRA High Power, we had a lot to talk about. I had questions about how things work now and she was amazed

at how things worked then. We came up with the idea of writing this article together, to describe how things were then compared to now and to give the perspective of an up-and-coming shooter compared to one who has seen a lot of change since the beginning of his shooting career.

Serena: Though I've lived in Ohio, home of Camp Perry, my entire life, I did not discover High Power Service Rifle until 2015 at the age of 16. I had

joined a local junior team, rifle teams focused on supplying kids through their 20th birthdays with the equipment and coaching needed to start competing. My coaches encouraged me to attend the Small Arms Firing School (SAFS) at Camp Perry. Though that experience only lasts a few days, hundreds of people come for the program (first run in 1920) that teaches civilians how to shoot. I participated in the USMC Junior Clinic the year after, and in 2017 started shooting more of the National Matches.

Dick: In the years I shot at Perry, from 1984 to 2000, almost everyone stayed on the base in the World War II POW housing, which we called the huts. Each hut had four beds, a door, three windows, three electrical outlets, no air conditioning and a single 60-watt light bulb. In those early years, the latrines could be a considerable walk with the same amenities the prisoners over 40 years earlier enjoyed.



PHOTOS BY DICK JONES

Since sighters are not allowed in EIC matches, keeping a running data book was a major part in Dick Jones' success. Every shot for each full season was recorded.

Most of the time, we had hot water. The majority of those huts are now gone, they were simply too far gone to continue to use.

Serena: It was 2018 when I started to understand the culture of the High Power community and the tradition surrounding the National Matches. Mostly junior teams stay on base in the huts. Though they are structurally similar to Mr. Jones' description, they have been renovated to include air conditioning. Though you may still hear complaints about the occasional spider, they are nothing like the horror stories I have heard of the "old huts." I heard it was common for competitors to set a bug bomb off and wait several hours before re-entering. The bathrooms are only a short walk, have hot water and are well-maintained. Though the Nationals are a time for people from across the country to re-connect, and hospitality abounds, housing arrangements are generally location-centered. For example, the Texas juniors having Texas team dinners in the evenings. The Michigan Embassy, erected at the end of the huts by several Michiganders, both breaks and honors this by inviting everyone to eat, laugh and have fun. While it can be difficult to secure base housing, the magic still persists on local campsites and wherever else competitors choose to stay off base.

Dick: The "Board" matches were run by the National Board for the Promotion of Rifle Practice, coordinated by the Director of Civilian Marksmanship (DCM), which was run by an Army Colonel who rotated out of the position every two years. The DCM was highly supportive of competitive shooting, supporting the teams with travel expenses for half of the



Practice at shorter range events is a great way to develop the skills needed to earn the Distinguished Rifleman Badge.

team members for the National Trophy Team and Infantry Trophy Team matches as well as for half of one Whistler Boy team match. They also furnished teams with limited amounts of both 7.62 mm and .30 caliber ammunition for practice. All ammunition was furnished for the “Board” matches.

Serena: I knew that there were NRA and Civilian Marksmanship Program matches—the NRA’s rifle matches moved from Camp Perry to Camp Atterbury in 2017, so I never really experienced the NRA Nationals. The Cup Week matches were fired on electronic targets before the formal Nationals, which include the famous National Trophy Individual and President’s Hundred matches. Competitors bring their own rifles, ammunition and equipment. Even though

they are not provided by match directors, equipment is available on loan to juniors from special programs. Many in the community are willing to help new competitors to get started.

Dick: Even though the current Service Rifle was the M16, almost no one shot M16s or AR-15s. The matches were dominated by M1As and M14s. M14s were provided by the DCM to civilian teams. As team captain for North Carolina, I had 26 National Match M14s and 10 M1 rifles to distribute to my team members. Most of the serious competitors shot their own upgraded M1A or other commercial M14 clones. Ammunition for all the matches was issued on the line. You were not allowed to shoot your own ammunition and having one round of ammunition with the wrong head stamp was cause for disqualification.

Serena: The current Service Rifle is the M16, with civilian competitors using the AR-15 platform. On occasion you will see Garands on the line, but usually in competition for a special Garand award or for fun. Separate “Games” matches for vintage rifles exist. The biggest change that has happened during my time was the legalization of optics (limited to 4.5x) and adjustable stocks (horizontally only) in 2016. I started off with iron sights and resisted switching over until late 2017. Several other changes, such as the allowance of an extended bolt release have been added as well.

Dick: There was no option for scopes. A lot of effort was spent on Service Rifles getting the slop out of the movements. There were two options for aperture diameter and three different post widths. M14s and M1As were much more difficult to manage in rapid fire because of recoil. Using Hawkeye or Firm Grip adhesives was almost universal because a locked in position is required for the second magazine of eight shots of 7.62 mm match ammunition. Because of the recoil of the M14s, juniors with a Distinguished Rifleman Badge were rare. During my tenure running North Carolina’s program only a couple of my juniors earned leg points.

Serena: EIC matches are 50-shot matches without sighters following the National Match Course-of-Fire. The top 10 percent of non-distinguished competitors earn Excellence in Competition points toward the Distinguished Rifleman’s Badge. When I first started, cut scores for points were around the 470s. Now, one must reach nearly 480 or better to earn points. Many people blame scopes for this, but I don’t believe they’ve changed the game that

much. I believe that scopes have leveled the playing field for those with eyesight issues, due to age, genetics, etc. Talented shooters who had started on the Distinguished path but were unable to finish reentered the game, driving the scores up. In order to compete, the next generation learned to shoot better, the higher cut scores driving more intense competition.

Dick: In those years, High Power was probably the most popular of all the NRA disciplines. All 250 firing points on Viale and Rodriquez were filled to six relays and even seven relays were tried. Because of the tight schedule, the match was ruthlessly kept on schedule. When the call, “Is the line ready?” was issued, a raised hand drew the response, “Shoot him on the alibi relay.” Prep time for following relays was done concurrently with scoring for the previous relay, meaning you did your prep with the previous shooter’s spotters in the target. We were on the line and in the pits at first light and the days were long.

Serena: High Power Rifle is not the most popular discipline nowadays with action sports like 3-Gun that are more spectator-friendly. Colleges don’t have High Power teams, so many young kids and adults pursue Smallbore and Air Rifle for scholarship opportunities. There has been an increase in women in the sport, especially among juniors. Much of this may be due to the minimal recoil of the M16. High Power is still largely dominated by older males. This needs to change so that the sport can live on. We need more young people to enter the sport. The community is incredibly welcoming and supportive—all it takes to get started is some time and reaching out to someone who is already involved. ©



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What compels a Service Rifle shooter like me to build and shoot a Palma gun? My current focus is to complete earning my Distinguished Rifleman badge, a goal that has eluded me for many years as career and family have taken priorities in my time. The price of it has been living at a performance plateau. I'm one of those shooters with moments of marksmanship brilliance

juxtaposed with lingering inconsistencies. I finally started going to Camp Perry in 2016 and that exposure to some of the finest rifle shooters on this planet has begun to have a training effect. I'm cleaning rapid strings more regularly. My offhand technique is improving. And, I have moments of having everything come together at 600.

WHY BUILD A PALMA GUN?

How to build an Eliseo Chassis Palma Rifle.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY DENNIS SANTIAGO



One such moment was the 2019 P100 match at Camp Perry. The wind at this match was brisk and oscillating between three minutes and seven minutes of wind with a periodicity just under two minutes per swing according to the Applied Ballistics Kestrel I kept taking readings with that day. Calling the first shot right was crucial and shooting fast to stay inside the swing equally important. Nothing remarkable

about my equipment; just your basic 1:7-inch twist barrel spitting 80-grain Sierra MatchKings. I did have one advantage on my firing point, a California Grizzly junior in the pit which meant I knew that target would be marked and up in less than 10 seconds after every shot. So, the plan was read the wind perfectly and get the first shot in the 10-ring, then shoot fast to stay ahead of the wind. At the end of prep time, I

put five minutes on the Nightforce Comp SR. Part one of the plan worked. The first shot for record of my President's Hundred match 600-yard stage was a 10. No time for scribbling in a book, just click toward the X and send the next one. Four-and-a-half minutes later, I was done with my string. I'd just shot a clean. If you were one of the competitors on the line at the 2019 P100, you know exactly what sense of pleasure I experienced that moment.

But that's not the important thing of that moment. Yeah, I had a cool moment; but the reality is that I am still building my skills. Here's the zen of winners gleaned from many conversations with some of the world's best competitors I've been fortunate enough to befriend over the years. For national match caliber winners, the cool moments are part of the normal. They blend into each other match after match like a haze. What stands out in a champion's mind are the days everything fell apart; because they are so unusual and your friends like to chide you about them over tacos and beer. If you are not yet a champion, the imperfect strings are the ones that blend into a haze. The cool moments stand out as the exceptions.



The chassis would be one of the oldest members of the CSS product line, the classic R1 for the Rem 700s.



Sights for the gun are going to be Phoenix Precision sights. The rear is a rope mount unit that goes on the Picatinny rail. The 22mm diameter front sight mounts to a 0.750-inch barrel nose which is commonly found on match rifles.

What I want is to change the aura of my haze. And that's why I'm building this Palma gun. To raise the bar on perfecting position, refining shot delivery and making better wind calls. Doing this at the 800-, 900- and 1,000-yard lines of long-range competition doubles the degree of difficulty and the effort needed to stay ahead of the shooting process. That is a huge training advantage to take back to Service Rifle.

CHOOSING A CHASSIS

I needed a no-compromise gun that would take me into that training space. The natural choice was one of Gary Eliseo's Competition Machine **tube stocks**. Being an AR shooter, the familiarity of the ergonomics of a tube gun chassis feels as natural to me as a classic stocked Winchester Model 70. Its straight-line

stock is similar to an M16/AR-15 Service Rifle. That's about where the similarity ends. These are ultimate art form match rifles that now form a broad family of chassis solutions for numerous barrel/action combinations. "Gary Guns" are infinitely adjustable for ergonomics, with every bit as nuance-full as an Olympic-class smallbore or air gun. Actually more so, because Eliseo stocks serve a wider variety of hunting, sling and F-Class competition, and police/military applications.

I've known Gary Eliseo since he started making tube guns. Back then, we Southern California shooters were guinea pigs for testing ideas that would become the evolved designs of his company, Competition Shooting Stuff (CSS). My first Gary Gun was an RTS repeater built at the time for a fledgling field game that would become know as Precision Rifle Shooting (PRS). It was a chassis identical to a run that Eliseo was making for the USMC at the time. We put a stock Remington 700 SPS

in it with the recoil lug radiused to fit in the round bearing surface of the chassis and replaced the trigger with a Jewell. It loves 175-grain M11-LR class ammunition, but the Remington factory barrel has a long throat that doesn't play well with 155-grain bullets. My next Gary gun was a 700 long-action R1 chassis with a .284 Win. barrel sporting a Nightforce Benchrest scope on it for Any/Any long-range shooting. It eats IMR 4831 like a glutton, has a kick to match and had ballistics flight characteristics well removed from the behavior of Service Rifle ammunition in the air.

This time, the core-barreled action would be a Remington 700 short-action customized by PTG to include a .308 Win. boldface one-piece bolt with a smaller 0.062-inch firing pin hole. The barrel is a 30-inch Obermeyer with a 1:11-inch twist and a Palma chamber.

Assembly is straightforward. Initial setup has a few quirks. My previous Eliseo rifles were assembled by Gary when his shop was still



in California. This is my first time setting up a chassis by myself. And it's been an eye-opening insight into what makes these rifles special.

Load development will evolve over time, but I'm starting with a standard load. I'm cooking with Peterson small primer .308 Win. brass, 46 grains of Hodgdon Varget powder and Sierra 2156C 155-grain projectiles loaded to 2.8-inch overall length. This load conforms within the Hodgdon website load data table.

Using Labrador ballistic velocity radar, Kestrel Applied Ballistics weather meter and ShotMarker electronic target the following results were recorded.

■ Average Velocity	3,000 fps
■ High Vel.	3,020 fps
■ Low Vel.	2,990 fps
■ Standard Deviation	11 fps
■ Extreme Spread	30 fps

Environment during testing

■ Temperature	60.3 degrees F
■ Humidity	54 percent
■ Air Pressure	27.37 inHg
■ GPS Altitude	2,633 feet
■ Pressure Altitude	2,437 feet
■ Density Altitude	3,199 feet

Performance on target for the final zeroing string can be seen in the ShotMarker target that was located 200 yards downrange at the time. After setting the zero, the turret knobs of the Phoenix sight were reset to indicate zero/zero on the knobs at the 200-yard zero. The environment and muzzle velocity data was loaded into the Kestrel for use as DOPE (data of previous engagements) in future matches.

For the top Picatinny rail, in addition to three screws, three 3/16-inch roll pins tie the rail into the chassis. You line the rail up by temporarily assembling the barreled action without the trigger at full torque into the chassis, then



The trigger would be another Jewell, same as all the author's match rifles.

bore sight the barrel on a vertical mark; I used a piece of tape on a wall about 50 feet away. Next, slightly relieve the tension on the screws holding the rail so it'll move. Using a scope with the turrets centered in the tube mounted on the rail, line up the rail with the boreline of the barrel. Mark everything with a pencil. Take everything apart to drill three holes in the chassis aluminum using holes in the rail as guides. Pound in the roll pins, reassemble the gun, this time with the trigger and voila—one solid-as-a-rock Palma gun.

I did shoot a shakedown cruise 3x600 mid-range with the gun to discover and fix remaining flaws in the setup. The learning curve included adjusting the cant of the chassis forearm to make sure the hand stop goes perfectly into the web of my hand in a prone sling position; adding rear weights to the Eliseo chassis to get the center of gravity of the rifle to improve distribution of the weight between the hands for handling ease; discovering where parts were tending to come apart while shooting a string and applying Loctite or torquing as required; and figuring out how to address setting up the gun in position—particularly learning to not brush the ½-pound trigger while lining up for the shot. That's all done. Now it's back to fundamentals and practice until driving this Palma gun becomes a haze of well-shot stings. ©



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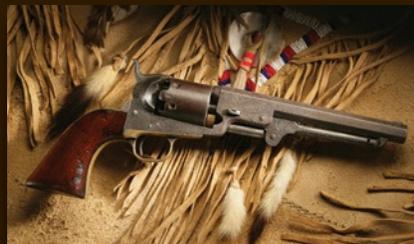
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ASTRA CADIX

NOT QUITE A SMITH & WESSON

Taking a deep dive on an old, but still serviceable shooter.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY ART MERRILL, FIELD EDITOR

Spanish revolvers frequently get a blanket bad rap from shooters, but tarring them all with the same brush is as delusive as stereotyping people.

Yes, some Spanish makers produced junk revolvers, but respected manufacturer Astra turned out Smith & Wesson revolver copies

of good quality. Among them are the post-war Astra Cadix revolvers.

S&W NEAR-CLONES

Astra's Cadix is a copy of the Smith & Wesson double-action revolver, not only in outside appearance, but also in its internal



Not a Model 35 Target, the Cadix is still “entirely satisfactory.”

workings. Astra made the Cadix (the word is an alternative spelling for the Spanish city of Cadiz) revolvers in .22 rimfire (the 200 series), .32 S&W (300 series) and .38 Spl. In response to the success of the Cadix, Astra later brought out similar, heavier revolvers chambered in .357, .41 and .44 Mag., .45 Colt and a convertible model with 9mm and .357 Mag. cylinders; but these, as well as a larger .38 Spl.-chambered Model 960, were not among the Cadix line.

Fit and exterior finish of the Cadix were nothing to complain about; leaving rough machine marks on out-of-sight interior surfaces, where it did not adversely affect operation, cut manufacturing cost and therefor the consumer price. Astra made the double-action, swing-out cylinder Cadix revolvers with 2-, 4- and 6-inch barrels, the length being incorporated into specific

model designations; for example, the Model 224 featured here is a .22 rimfire with a 4-inch barrel. The 200 series cylinders hold nine rounds of .22 LR rimfire ammunition, the .32 S&W 300 series chambers six rounds and the .38 Spl. cylinder accommodates five rounds. All models incorporated ejector rod shrouds, those with 4- or 6-inch barrels had adjustable sights, and the 200 series sported plastic grips while the center-fires had grips of wood. Cadix models 224 and especially the 226 are apparently copies of the S&W Model 35 Target revolver.

PARTS ARE PARTS— IF YOU CAN FIND THEM

Cadix production began in 1958 and ran until 1973 (some references report those dates as 1960 to 1968), and the company, which opened for business in 1908 as

Esperanza y Unceta, permanently closed its doors 90 years later as **ASTAR**. Today's Astra Defense (Astra S.A.) is a **Swiss company** that acquired the Astra name and is now engaged in manufacturing light and heavy machine guns and select-fire (fully automatic) M16-style rifles, SBRs and pistols for military and law enforcement markets worldwide. Unsurprisingly, then, finding Cadix revolver replacement parts can take considerable online research, and prices are like those for other discontinued firearms parts, ranging from "reasonable" to "You gotta be kidding." Unlike for many other makes of firearms, my search for Cadix parts didn't turn up any reproduction parts, perhaps an indication of the lack of appreciation for the revolvers today.

I received for repair the Model 224 Cadix shown here; troubleshooting revealed

it needed a firing pin return spring and suffered a broken cylinder stop. Parts resource **Jack First** had the spring. With no replacement cylinder stop to be found at the usual parts resources, and noting the internal parts are pretty much identical to those in Smith & Wesson revolvers, I pulled a cylinder stop from an old S&W revolver "parts gun" on hand, and with some careful filing and stoning altered it to fit the Cadix. However, the angle of the hole drilled in the S&W cylinder stop for its spring is different enough from the original Cadix part that the spring would not reliably push the cylinder stop upward into place. That sent me back online for a more lengthy, meticulous search for an original Cadix cylinder stop.

Happily, the internal lockwork parts of the rimfire and center-fire Cadix revolvers are apparently the same, as a used cylinder



The Astra logo is the post-1947 style. Sideplate stampings indicate the maker and importer.

stop I eventually found (\$9 plus shipping from an online auctioneer) for the .38 Spl. Cadix fit the Model 224 with only a modicum of filing to clear the trigger pivot post and some stoning to polish the flat surfaces. The experience leads me to presume that, even though Astra utilized Smith & Wesson's manufacturing practices to produce quality revolvers, the Cadix revolvers, at least, may have typically needed final hand-fitting at the factory. The similarity to S&W parts, the cross-series interchangeability of parts and the possible need for hand-fitting are points to bear in mind if you have a Cadix that needs work or may someday consider buying one that crosses your path.

Disassembly revealed one clever, non-Smith & Wesson feature of the 200 series Cadix is the mainspring seat, a steel ring bored on its outer edge with four recesses of various depths which support the bottom of the mainspring strut. The different depths allow four different compression forces on the spring, which effectively reduces or increases trigger pull weight, though not by a significant degree. Trigger pull weight utilizing the deepest recess measured 4.75 pounds, and for the shallowest, 5.25 pounds. The ring design allows easy removal and installation of the mainspring without the need of tools.

CAVEAT EMPTOR

By now it's probably evident that dropping off your Cadix at the gunsmith may not be cost-effective, depending on the specific cost of labor. That aforementioned lack of interest in Astra revolvers keeps values and resale prices low, with Cadix revolvers in NRA Very Good to Excellent condition fetching from

Code Chart

In 1927, Spanish firearms began receiving stamped codes indicating the year of manufacture. The chart here runs up to 2006. (The chart appears at several online sources without crediting.)

Stamp	Year	Stamp	Year	Stamp	Year
A	1927	A1	1955	A2	1981
B	1928	B1	1956	B2	1982
C	1929	C1	1957	C2	1983
CH	1930	CH1	(none)	CH2	(none)
D	1931	D1	1958	D2	1984
E	1932	E1	1959	E2	1985
F	1933	F1	1960	F2	1986
G	1934	G1	1961	G2	1987
H	1935	H1	1962	H2	1988
I	1936	I1	1963	I2	1989
J	1937	J1	1964	J2	1990
K	1938	K1	1965	K2	1991
L	1939	L1	1966	L2	1992
L	1940	LL1	(none)	LL2	(none)
M	1941	M1	1967	M2	1993
NR	1942	N1	1968	N2	1994
ñ	1943	ñ1	1969	ñ2	1995
O	1944	O1	1970	O2	1996
P	1945	P1	1971	P2	1997
Q	1946	Q1	1972	Q2	1998
R	1947	R1	1973	R2	1999
S	1948	S1	1974	S2	2000
T	1949	T1	1975	T2	2001
U	1950	U1	1976	U2	2002
V	1951	V1	1977	V2	2003
X	1952	X1	1978	X2	2004
Y	1953	Y1	1979	Y2	2005
Z	1954	Z1	1980	Z2	2006



"L1" below the two Spanish Eibar proof house proof marks under the left grip indicate year of manufacture is 1966 (see accompanying chart above).



The Cadix .22 LR revolver mainspring seat has recesses that permit adjusting spring tension and hence trigger pull weight.

\$100 to \$300 (based on Blue Book values and a perusal of online forums and auction houses). Paying a gunsmith to troubleshoot a Cadix that “needs a little work” and then to find parts and hand-fit them can easily double the final cost of a bargain revolver.

Such concerns aside, however, the Model 224 Cadix is a decent shooter. In the 1970 Shooter’s Bible Pistol & Revolver Guide, author Maj. George C. Nonte said of the Astras, “All are of good design and workmanship and those we’ve used have proven entirely satisfactory in both accuracy and reliability.” The model 224 here bears out the Major’s remark. While acceptable for a plinker, an under-the-truck-seat or a hiking carry gun, such performance is not suitable for competition, despite the adjustable rear sight, adjustable mainspring tension and the similarity of the Cadix to a S&W Model 35 Target revolver. Even so, the longer sight radius of a six-inch barreled Cadix Model 226 may improve groups a bit.

MODERATELY PRICED

Pulling the 1961 Gun Digest from my bookshelf shows the Astra Cadix Model 224 listed at \$49.95, which equates to \$429.68 in 2020 dollars. For a comparison with its contem-

poraries, the same 1961 Gun Digest lists the six-shot S&W .22LR Model 35 Target revolver at \$80 and Iver Johnson’s eight-shot Target Model 57 at \$32.50. Though Cadix revolvers are perhaps unknown to many of today’s younger shooters, they have attained minor celebrityhood in making a few cameo **appearances** in film (“The Spy Who Loved Me”) and television (“CSI: Crime Scene Investigation”).

Astra’s Cadix is one of those many throwback firearms that, though of better-than-utilitarian quality and possessed of some historical interest, nonetheless enjoys no real collector status, perhaps due somewhat to stereotyping all Spanish revolvers as cheap “booby trap” pistols. But that’s good news for those in the know who appreciate a bargain on an old but still serviceable shooter—and who can find the parts. ©



Except for the mainspring/hammer, the internal lockwork of the Astra Cadix is nearly identical to that of a S&W revolver (here, a Model 10 M&P).

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

- *The W.H.B. Smith Classic Book of Pistols & Revolvers* (W.H.B. Smith, Stackpole Books)
- *The Illustrated Encyclopedia of Firearms* (Ian V. Hogg, Chartwell Books, Inc.)

COMING EVENTS

PHOTOS BY NRA

NRA SANCTIONED TOURNAMENTS

To be listed, **NRA must sanction matches by the 15th of the month, two months prior to the month of the magazine issue.** If you are interested in entering a tournament, contact the individual listed. For any cancellations or changes to this listing, please contact Shelly Kramer: (703) 267-1459; mkramer@nrahq.org, NRA Competitive Shooting Division. **Due to current social-distancing measures, matches listed here are subject to rescheduling.**

2020 NRA NATIONAL MATCHES AT CAMP ATTERBURY

The National Rifle Association made the difficult decision to cancel the 2020 National Championships at Camp Atterbury. We are moving forward with range construction and other improvements as we look toward the 2021 NRA National Championships. The NRA wishes everyone good health and the best of luck.

Additionally, NRA is suspending all sanctioned matches through June 30, 2020. Any requests for sanctioning of new matches are also suspended until further notice. As a result of this suspension, the NRA will no longer accept match fees or scores. The NRA will continue to monitor the situation and make additional statements as the Covid-19 pandemic unfolds.

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John Parker and Evan Brune keep their rifle skills sharp at the range dinging steel plates at 200 and 300 yards. Gear: Browning X-Bolt Max Long Range 6.5 Creedmoor, Swarovski dS smart optic, Berger 156-gr. EOL Elite load and Federal Gold Medal 130-gr. Hybrid OTM load, plus a Phoenix shooting bag.

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The Keefe Report: THE M1 GARAND'S LEGACY

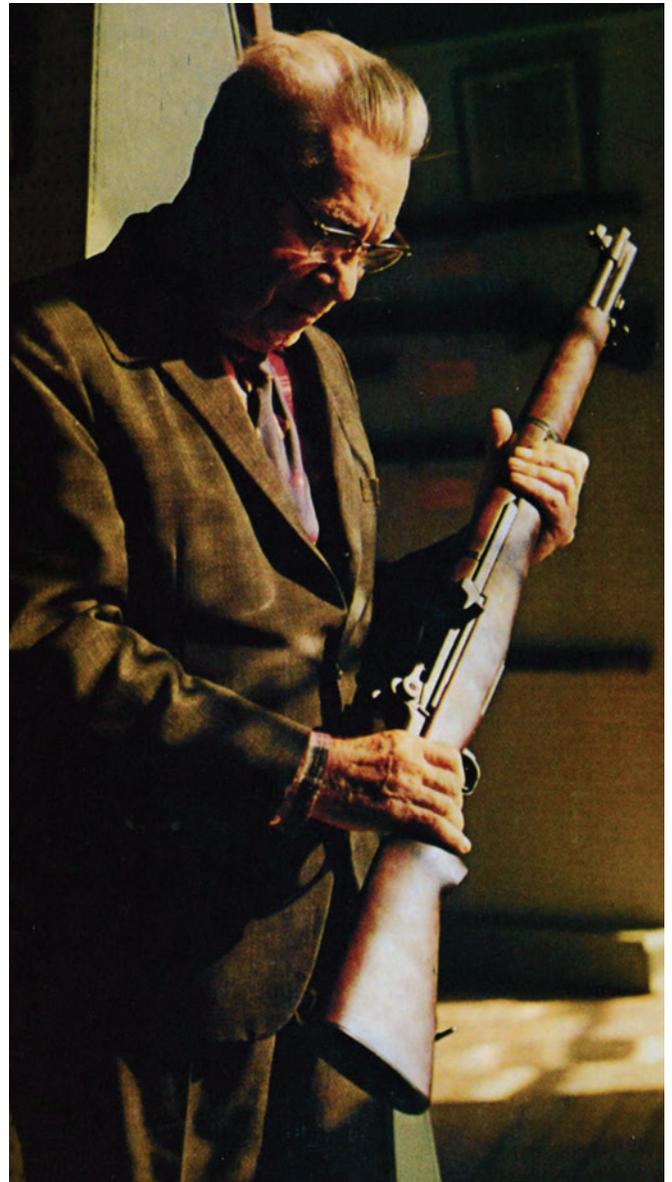
BY MARK KEEFE

“It’s a pretty good gun, I think. I have letters from soldiers who used it in the war. They said it did a lot of good. And that is enough for me.” So said John Cantius Garand of the “U.S. Rifle Cal. .30 M1”—the **Garand**—a rifle that will forever be linked to this humble genius, who conceived, designed and saw into production the rifle dubbed by Gen. George S. Patton, “the greatest battle implement ever devised.”

The 20th century has been called the “American Century.” When America took its first step onto the world stage, it was in World War I with doughboys armed with ‘03 Springfields, and when the United States became a superpower in 1945, it was through the blood, sweat and tears of a generation of GIs carrying M1 Garands. From the fragile peace of the 1930s, through the crucible of World War II, into the dark days of the Cold War, the Garand was America’s Rifle.

The Garand is a symbol of everything that made America great in the 1930s, 1940s and 1950s. It’s an example of America’s manufacturing genius and industrial capacity at its apex. It was the only standard issue semi-automatic rifle issued by any of the major powers in World War II.

As a wartime poster proclaimed, “Take care of your M1, and your M1 will take of you.”



Visiting the Springfield Armory Museum in 1974, retired inventor John C. Garand inspects an early model of his M1 “Garand,” chief combat rifle of World War II and Korea.

COURTESY WALLY HUNTINGTON