



June 15, 2016 -- The NRA's "boots on the ground"

Passing of a True Patriot

Francis E. "Buster" Bachhuber, Jr., 75, of Wausau, WI, died June 10, 2016 at Aspirus Wausau Hospital. He was born to Frank Bachhuber and Alberta (Krause) Bachhuber April 6, 1941 in Wausau, WI. Besides his parents, Buster was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Marilyn. He was also preceded in death by his sister, Mary Katherine Robinson and his brother, Andrew John Bachhuber. Buster is further survived by his sister, Margaret (Stuart) TerHorst of Ellison Bay, WI and Princeton, WI. Many nieces, nephews and cousins survive him. His closest friends included are The Channel Family (Chad, Amber, Brice, Brad and Brittney) and The Luedtke Family (Kurt, Julie and Kaleb). And of course, Racer, Buster's furry best friend.

After attending St. James Grade School and graduating from Wausau High School in 1959, Buster attended Marquette University College of Business Administration and graduated in 1963 with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration Degree. In 1966, he graduated from Marquette University College of Law with a Doctor of Law Degree. Upon admission to the Wisconsin Supreme Court and Federal Court, Buster redirected to Wausau to assume duties of Corporation Counsel and Assistant District Attorney. In October 1966, he enlisted in the U.S. Army and underwent Basic Training and Advanced Infantry Training at Fort Dix, New Jersey. Upon arrival in Korea, Buster was assigned to 2nd Brigade of 2nd Infantry Division where he was assigned to the 4/7 Armored Cavalry. He was shortly, thereafter, transferred to the 2nd Brigade Headquarters to instruct junior officers in the UCMJ and assist in clearing the backlog of courts marshal. Shortly prior from his rotation from Korea, Buster was decorated with the Army Commendation Medal and promoted to SP5, E5, both of which he was proud, as they recognized his service to his beloved country. After returning home, Buster continued his law career at Bachhuber Law Offices, S.C. He retired in October 2003.

On October 4, 1969, he married Marilyn R. Bachhuber and they were a couple for more than 45 years until her death December 8, 2014. They loved the quiet life of their wooded forty in the Town of Maine, where they resided.

Buster will always be remembered as a very accomplished individual with strong beliefs and opinions regarding our rights as gun owners. He had much influence on many communities, near and far. As a current NRA Board Member, Buster was a tireless and proven leader dedicated to the fight for our rights as gun owners. He has defended firearms ownership on the radio, television and in print. Buster's involvement in the NRA does not stop at just being a board member. He also worked closely with NRA-ILA organizing and coordinating action against antigun legislation. He traveled nationwide to promote NRA goals and spoke out against vicious attacks against firearms ownership. He was also a ballistics consultant to police agencies and at times, was an expert witness in court testimony. Buster's continued involvement in the NRA included, but was not limited to, NRA Election Volunteer Coordinator, NRA Heritage Society, NRA Speakers Bureau and Charter member NRA Golden Eagles. On a state and local level, Buster was past President and current board member of WI-Force and the Wisconsin State Association. Being a life member of VFW Post 388, past State Judge Advocate, a decorated U.S. Army Infantryman, Army Pistol Team competitor and a member of the American Legion were important to Buster.

While spending much of his time as an attorney and respected NRA member, Buster still made time for hunting, shooting and reloading and going to NASCAR races. After time was spent on his hobbies, Buster and his wife, Mary, dedicated much time and efforts to being Explorer advisors in aviation and shooting sports. The 28 years given, earned Buster a Bronze Bighorn; the highest award given to an Explorer volunteer. Aside from all of the previously mentioned involvement and accomplishments, Buster was an Instrument Rated Commercial Pilot and a Great Lakes Tug Boat Captain.

A Memorial Mass will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. Friday, June 17, 2016 at St. Matthew Catholic Church, 229 S. 28th Avenue, Wausau, WI, 54401. Father Dan Thelen will officiate. Burial will be in Veterans Memorial Park at Restlawn Cemetery with Military graveside services conducted by the VFW Burns Post #388. A luncheon will follow in the Angelorium at the church. Visitation will be held from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. on Thursday at the Brainard Funeral Home, 522 Adams St., Wausau and again on Friday from 9:30 a.m. until the time of service at the church.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorials be made to the National Rifle Association Foundation, 11250 Waples Mill Road, Fairfax, VA 22030 c/o of Chad Channel, 1411 Stark Street, Wausau, WI 54403. Memorials may also be sent to St. Matthews Church, 229 S. 28th Avenue, Wausau, WI 54401. All memorials are tax deductible.

Family and friends of Buster would like to give much thanks to everyone who has willingly helped with his care. All of the phone calls received and visits made will always be remembered. We would like to extend a huge thank-you to Dr. John Butler for all of the care and friendship that he has shared with Buster. Another huge thank-you goes to Brice for being Buster's roommate. And not for the sake of being independent, but the willingness to tend to Buster's everyday needs. Such a selfless act is hard to find in any 19 year old, working college student. A special thank-you goes to the doctors and nurses at the Palliative Care Unit at Aspirus Wausau Hospital. *continued.....*



Buster Lastly, there are no words to explain the love and friendship that Chad & Buster had. The endless years of long days and late nights spent at each other's side will forever be held close to their hearts. Doing projects, talking about guns and reloading ammo, trips, holiday meals, Friday nights at the gun store and eating at the truck stop, many years of collecting sap and cooking syrup with Kurt and the kids, or just hours of sipping coffee and telling stories and silly jokes, are only a sliver of the good times they spent together. As the old saying goes "Blood is thicker than water". However, not this time. Buster was our dad & grandpa, too. Always lending an ear to listen, or a shoulder to lean on. Good-byes are not forever. Good-byes are not the end. They simply mean I'll miss you. Until we meet again.

-- Author Unknown

Wisconsin FORCE has lost a big part of what has made us great. Buster's passing leaves a long history of work that he has done as past President and current Board member. Buster's support of the changes to the state association have been a critical part of our growth. He will be missed.

From the Executive Director

It has been a great, and I believe a very successful, journey with Wisconsin FORCE, but this will be my last issue of the Trigger. I was notified last week that the Board is not extending my contract. It has been almost ten years since I was first elected to the Board of Directors of the state association. Sadly, I also found out of the passing of Buster at the same time. Buster has been a huge supporter and mentor to me; when I needed him, he was there. Buster worked at NRA Headquarters to promote our Armed Forces Camp (Poolee Program) nationally, and we were able to get it done several years ago. I was humbled when, due to my work in Wisconsin, he worked to get me appointed to the NRA's Clubs and Associations standing committee. Several years ago Buster asked me to run for the NRA's Board of Directors. After talking me into it, he assisted me in that process. Just a month or so ago he called and made me promise to get on the Board next year. My passion for the Second Amendment made that an easy decision; hopefully, I can fulfill that promise. It goes without saying, he will be missed.



As a member organization, I believe that every member should know how and why we spend your hard earned money. I want you to know how I have earned what I was paid. The first year with the association I worked as membership chair; my last five years as a Board member I served as President. The state association had been doing a great job supporting competition, but had struggled trying to fulfill the responsibilities to be the NRA's chartered state association. Once I became President, I made Wisconsin FORCE my full time job to ensure we remained the state association. With the support of my wife Jenna, I was able to put my business on hold and invest time and money to cover my expenses for most of my first six years.

All volunteer organizations struggle to get things done, especially over an extended period of time. We have had some great Board members and volunteers in the past that have done great things, but their other responsibilities in life caught up and they had to move on. By the end of my second Board term, Jenna and I had the same issues. Although the Board changed the by-laws to allow for more than two terms on the Board, I couldn't afford to continue. The Board asked if they could hire me as a consultant to manage the association as Executive Director. I offered to continue the 50-60 hours a week for \$12,000 annually as a contractor so that there was no additional employer expenses. They also agreed to cover some of my expenses. My work week then expanded to 60-70 hours, I invested in equipment, supplies, and activities that directly supported Wisconsin FORCE, so after a year, I asked and received an increase to \$20,000 annually. My average work week had increased, but I offered to continue my contract as is.

Discussion has been limited, but their letter informing me that they were not extending my contract did reference running in the red and using Wisconsin FORCE's investment money the last couple of years as the major reasons for their decision. I believe we invested well in our future, and in turn received a great return. In the building process you must invest, cut waste, and increase income. The one area I had not been able to improve as much as needed was income. Attending gun shows, Friends of NRA, club meetings, and special events including the state's largest gun show held by Central Wisconsin Gun Collectors -- three times a year -- has been beneficial but just not enough. The Board has been reluctant to invest in advertising and could not get enough volunteers to promote us statewide. Those that did have done a great job, but there was just not enough of them.

The NRA has been very supportive. I applied, and we received a grant for a membership mailing. The mailing was successful with an immediate return of 70%. I was hoping to do get the Board to do another mailing but they did not think it was worth the investment.

Sadly, there are several so-called pro-gun groups that claim to do a lot, but spend their time raising money while doing little or no work in the state. Wisconsin has suffered for years under poor leadership by several of these groups and individuals, they have taken much needed funds away from us. Just ask yourself why Wisconsin was the second to last state to get concealed carry passed. *continued.....*

Jeff I am currently working with the DNR and the Department of Administration on rules for ranges and state parks pertaining to firearms.

The Board made a great investment when I brought in Bob Welch of the Welch Group as our lobbyist.

Bob and I made a great team working extremely well together. With Bob's support, we are well-known in Madison. Wisconsin FORCE passed three bills on its own (supported by some of our friends, working with Attorney Steve Gibbs), and helped write and pass two great additions in range protection (one signed by Governor Dole in 2010 and another in 2014). I also worked on cleaning up Wisconsin's knife laws for eight years and got the bill introduced and passed this year.

As the NRA's chartered association, we have become the top state organization fighting for our rights. In 2011 I was awarded the NRA/ILA Littlefield award as volunteer of the year followed in 2012 with Wisconsin FORCE getting the Littlefield award for NRA/ILA and association of the year from the NRA.

We worked hand in hand with NRA/ILA, the Hunters Rights Coalition, and our fellow pro-Second Amendment supporters, stopping bad legislation. Many times we helped stop ideas even before they became bills. We stopped bills that would:

- repeal of 48 hour waiting period
- eliminate state park hunting
- close the so called "gun show loophole"
- prohibit the use dogs to hunt wolves
- restrict firearms in Capitol
- loss of gun rights for unproven accusations
- elimination of firearm regulation preemption
- require unreasonable, impractical firearm storage requirements
- misguided animal abuse reporting
- allowing DNR board to appoint the Secretary
- Vinehout WCC reform
- bullet bans
- unreasonable change to straw buyer penalties
- ban on so-called assault weapons
- reversing Castle Doctrine
- allowing counselors to ban people from obtaining concealed carry permits
- And much more.....

Along with the passage of our range and knife bills we also helped pass a long list of bills including:

- Concealed Carry (and came close on permitless (Constitutional) carry)
- Castle Doctrine
- removal of 48 hour waiting period
- Right to hunt act
- gave law enforcement tools to stop hunter harassment
- youth mentored hunting
- removal of back tag requirement
- allow long gun transfers between states
- eliminated gun case requirement
- cleaned up gaming laws
- elimination of "Earn a Buck"
- allow service men and women stationed in Wisconsin to acquire concealed carry permits
- allowed use of Crossbows
- worked to open up spending at the DNR
- Stewardship land amended to have less land closed to hunting
- made inventory of all stewardship lands public
- helped implement Kroll report - less SAK, local control, using County units, DMAP
- Zone C dog/bear training put into statutes
- Elk – plan amended per our input on wolves, CWD, and roads
- Wolves – delisted

continued.....

Jeff

- dog hunting won in court, 3 successful seasons, supporting the re-instatement
- Bobcats – new southern zone
- Urban bow bill
- hunting in State Park rules adopted
- Purple Heart hunting licenses
- amended Domestic Violence Gun bills to make them acceptable
- representation on wildlife committees
- input (limited) on new chief warden
- defeated several local municipalities proposed rifle ban for deer hunting
- Sporting Heritage Council to give out \$10,000 in grants
- worked to make DNR accountable for use of Pittman Robertson money

I will continue working with NRA/ILA and the Hunters Rights Coalition on passing permitless (Constitutional) carry, Stand your Ground, clean-up of NFA firearms laws, additional range protection, requiring Pittman – Robertson money to go to ranges, including so-called private ranges, no background check with CCW, requiring all public buildings and property other than those specifically listed in statute to allow carry, additional hunting species including Sand Hill Cranes, allow a judicial review of those convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence or felonies, and fight the constant assault on our rights.

As a Range Technician, I was able to offer that expertise to the association, advising on all state-owned ranges, assisting the DNR, advising member clubs, and recruiting additional clubs while advising on their ranges. We offered a Nass Consulting designed, and NRA approved, range seminar across the state by the request of the DNR, followed by ten additional seminars, funded in part by a Friends of NRA grant. We continued to offer them to our Patriot member clubs. Keeping our ranges open and offering expertise will continue through Nass Consulting.

As I look back, some of our accomplishments include:

- establishing our position as the state's top pro-gun group in Madison
- stopped bad and passed great legislation
- offered club and range support to our member clubs
- worked as a range consultant with the DNR on state and public ranges
- presented free public range seminars statewide
- supported the Armed Forces Camp (the Board has indicated they will continue to support)
- increased support and promotion of competition
- revived our Junior program
- promoted quality instruction
- increased promotion and support of the NRA, NRA/ILA, and the Friends of NRA
- working with NRA Field Representative Scott Taetsch started the Nation's only NRA/Wisconsin FORCE annual convention
- ran raffles to support our public programs
- became a fixture at the state's biggest gun show in Fond du Lac
- started our own gun show
- sat on a DNR committee
- have regular meetings with the DNR
- modernized our membership management
- developed our monthly newsletter (the Trigger), sent out member alerts, and improved our website

This has been accomplished with the hard work of several of our current and past Board members, my wife Jenna, several volunteers, and other members that have been a part of many of these accomplishments.

Plans for the future – I have a full slate as I will be reintroducing classes I offer as an NRA Training Counselor/Instructor, Massad Ayoob Group Instructor, and self-defense courses. I will be expanding my range consulting services, and spending more time on my range. I was just re-appointed the NRA's Volunteer Field Support Team State Coordinator and will be working hard to become a member of the Board of Directors for the NRA. Please consider voting for me if I make the ballot.

You can always contact me at nass@athenet.net or 920-687-0505.

Support our troops and law enforcement, and remember one of my favorite quotes: continued.....

Jeff - "It is not the critic who counts, nor the man who points how the strong man stumbled or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena; whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly...who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions, and spends himself in a worthy cause; who, at best, knows the triumph of high achievement; and who, at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat." Theodore Roosevelt

Teach Freedom - Jeff

Orlando - Jeff Nass

You have all heard about the killing in Orlando. Our condolences to all the victims, friends, and families. As usual, the media is rushing to be first and speculating to meet their agenda; the facts and reality -- be damned.

My first thought was "another free fire zone." Thankfully, in the process of drafting our concealed carry legislation, I was able to convince our legislators that carrying in drinking establishments (as long as you are not drinking) should be allowed. Florida is a very pro-gun state, but prohibits concealed weapons license holders from carrying a firearm in "Any portion of an establishment licensed to dispense alcoholic beverages for consumption on the premises, which portion of the establishment is primarily devoted to such purpose."

http://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&URL=0700-0799/0790/Sections/0790.06.html

I am sure the NRA and Florida's state association will be working to eliminate this loophole.

I know we are all sick of the politicians and media's uneducated attacks, stating the AR is "extremely powerful" when we all know that it is less powerful than most, if not all, deer rifles. Within hours the anti-gun rhetoric was flying. We must remain vigilant in defense and aggressive in restoring the right of the people to have the choice to defend themselves. We need to eliminate restricting the ability to defend yourself in all publicly owned buildings other than those listed in Statute (Police Departments, Correctional Facilities, etc.), and allow concealed carry by law abiding citizens on all school grounds. Currently, carry is allowed at several schools in the state, but we need to make it state-wide. Locations that "post" must be places that you have a choice to enter. Property Rights is one of the core principles in the founding of this great nation and should be respected. It is extremely rare that I will enter a facility where I cannot carry, but it should be my choice.

What can you do for you and your family? Contact all of your political representatives, local, state, and federal, and politely demand they support your right to choose how you defend yourself and family. Be as prepared as you can, get educated, train, and practice. You should have an educated, practiced plan on how you will fight – situation awareness and avoidance, using a firearm, a knife, pepper spray, electronic weapons, kubaton, unarmed defense, run or hide. Your plan needs to work for you.

Again I recommend reading Massad Ayoob's, "In the Gravest Extreme" and Amanda Ripley's, "The Unthinkable: Who survives when disaster strikes – and why."



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More Information on the calendar! www.wisconsinforce.org

Meet the New Boss, Same As The Old Boss - Mike Stewart

The legacy of the Milazzo-Krieger trigger goes back nearly thirty years when an innovator from Wisconsin decided to design the 'perfect' service rifle trigger. Looking back it's hard to imagine someone in the late 1980's setting out to do such a thing. Remember, this was a period of time long before the AR-15 Became something that resided in the gun safes of nearly every American gun owner. Furthermore, the M14 still ruled the firing line at Camp Perry and anyone shooting a 'Mouse Gun' would've surely been laughed off the firing line.

But that's exactly what Charlie Milazzo did, he designed a 4.5# adjustable trigger for the AR15 rifle that was absolute and without peers. In the early 1990's 3,000 Milazzo-Krieger triggers were produced and as the popularity of the AR15 increased so did the demand for MKII triggers. Nearly all of the 3,000 MKII's were gobbled up by Service Rifle competitors, including several triggers that went into service with the United States Army Marksmanship Unit. Many of the original MKII triggers are still in use to this day at the National Matches and countless National Highpower records have been set with the MKII.

However, just as quickly as the MK trigger came on the scene it went away. Production of the MKII ceased and by the late-90s anyone lucky enough to own a MKII trigger would've surely held onto it as if it were season tickets to Lambeau Field. I can honestly say I've never seen a used one for sale since first becoming aware of the MKII trigger in the late 1990's.

I'll blame my inquisitive personality but I've owned a lot of different triggers. In fact I can honestly say I've owned over a dozen aftermarket triggers for the AR15. If I learned anything by owning so many triggers it's that there are three attributes that make up a good AR15 trigger. It must be crisp, fast and reliable. There are a lot of triggers that are crisp and fast but in order for them to be reliable enough to be used in competition, you must give them excessive second stage sear engagement. Well, with increased sear engagement you lose the crispness and so on and so forth.

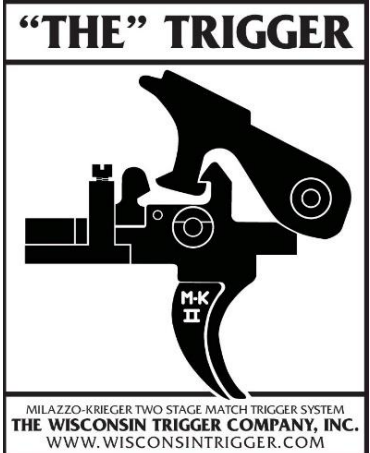
Having become frustrated over the past shooting season with my latest (and most expensive) trigger, I went back to my old reliable Rock River Arms trigger. The RRA trigger is a great non-adjustable trigger in its own right and a good gunsmith can tune them to be as good, if not better, than some of the top aftermarket brands.

I would still be using my RRA trigger today if I hadn't recently discovered that the Milazzo-Krieger trigger was back in production and available for purchase! Oh, the sound of that sent chills down my spine and if I still had hair on my head it would've surely stood on end. Seeing an actual MK trigger in person is like seeing a ghost!

So I ordered the MKII trigger from Holub Machine and Repair and within a couple of days it arrived in my mailbox. I wasted no time reading the instructions and fitting it to my Rock River Arms lower receiver. An important note here is that the new MKII is identical to the original legendary MKII triggers that were first introduced 25 years ago.

Having been disappointed with many of my previous triggers, I was just as excited as I was apprehensive to test out the new MKII. Upon installation and adjustment my initial thought was WOW! I was impressed on how much less second stage sear engagement this trigger required than some of my previous adjustable triggers. However, taking up the slack and hitting the second stage 'wall' still feels extremely solid and definitive, not mushy and soft like so many others I've owned. My trigger feels like the 4.5 pounds are just about evenly divided between the first stage take-up and the second stage break. The MKII has minimal over-travel which can be adjusted by carefully removing material from the tailpiece, but I like it just as it comes out of the box.

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AR Trigger I don't know of any other way to say it but my MKII is one of the few triggers that just feels 'right'. Dry firing at the kitchen table is one thing but shooting a match is the true litmus test for any trigger; don't ever think otherwise. Taking my rifle to the range, I really noticed how consistent this trigger is and to say its crisp is an understatement. You often hear the reference of a good trigger breaking like an 'icicle'. If I were to describe how the MKII breaks, I'd say it's more like a glacier breaking off and smashing into the ocean, I mean it is amazing! To date, I've probably fired over five hundred rounds with the MKII trigger and I have a feeling it'll be the last trigger I'll be buying for quite some time.

The Wisconsin Trigger Company is currently producing the MKII triggers and they are a good supporter of the Wisconsin FORCE Junior Service Rifle Team. They are also just as innovative today as they were in the early 90's. In addition to the MKII, there is a tactical trigger available as well as a variant of the MKII trigger that boasts a bronze bushing for added lubrication, reduced friction and faster lock time. A lot has changed since the Milazzo-Krieger was first produced in the early 90's but one thing has not, the Milazzo-Krieger Trigger is still without peers.

Defensive-Handgun Cartridges - Shooting Illustrated - Richard Mann - 6-6-16

The history of defensive-handgun cartridges is an interesting circle. Early development centered on revolvers, but after the turn of the 20th century this changed as semi-automatics became more prevalent. After more than 100 years of engineering, you would think we would have cartridges representing that same stretch of technical advancement, but in reality we've returned to our roots. The foundation for defensive-handgun cartridges was established in revolvers before 1910. The year 1873 saw the introduction of the .45 Colt, which was capable of launching a 255-grain bullet at 860 fps. A year later the .38-40 WCF, initially a rifle cartridge, hit the scene and it could drive a 180-grain bullet to nearly 1,000 fps. In 1902 the .38 Spl. arrived and this gave us our three primary calibers (.35, .40, and .45.) With the rise of the semi-automatic, we wouldn't see any real revolver cartridge innovation for another 30 years.



The first successful semi-automatic pistol cartridge was the John-Browning-designed .32 ACP introduced in 1899. But, three years later the 9 mm was introduced. It became the most-prevalent handgun cartridge in the world, and one of the few to be commonly used by opposing armies on the same battlefield. In 1905 Browning also invented the .45 ACP, which duplicated the ballistics of the .45 Colt. Since then, the 9 mm and .45 ACP have inspired the most-astirring and longest-running ballistic debate in history. This argument was probably enhanced by the fact American G.I.s used .45s to fight and defeat Germans armed with 9 mms during two world wars.

The only other notable early pistol cartridge was the .380 ACP. It, too, was a John Browning design and was essentially a .45 ACP reduced in size by about 20 percent. Early on, the .380 ACP was reasonably prevalent, but popularity waned until after the year 2000 when subcompact, reliable pocket-size semi-autos became available and preferred by many looking to carry concealed. Better bullets helped revive the .380 ACP, too, but more on that in a moment.

It wasn't until the 1930s that we began to see truly powerful handgun cartridges. In 1929, the .38 Super eclipsed the velocity of all semi-auto cartridges, and in 1935 the .357 Mag. began its legendary climb to stardom as the most-lethal and powerful handgun cartridge suitable for personal protection. Ironically, both were nothing more than modifications of older, 1900s-era cartridges, the .38 Spl. and the .38 ACP.

The year 1955 brought us the beast known as the .44 Mag., a revolver cartridge capable of producing almost 1,000 ft.-lbs. of energy. While some believe it the ultimate defensive-handgun cartridge, most realize it's too big and kicks too hard to be considered suitable for such employment. When .44 Mag. handguns are sized to tame its recoil, they might make better canoe anchors.

It was 30 more years until another major defensive-handgun development occurred. Originally available in the 39-ounce Bren Ten semi-auto, the 10 mm grew a cult-like following. While it seemed it marked the end of defensive-revolver-cartridge development, the very next year Federal introduced its .32 H&R Mag. to what was mostly yawns. Admittedly, the .32 H&R was not all that powerful, but it did offer .38 Spl.-like performance with less recoil. It was probably 40 years ahead of its time, considering how light modern revolvers have become and the projectiles that are now available.

In 1986, a shootout in Miami changed everything when a 115-grain Winchester Silvertip fired from a 9 mm failed to stop a felon. Not only was the way defensive-handgun cartridges were evaluated revolutionized but, we got a new cartridge out of the deal. In 1990, the FBI decided a light 10 mm load would be ideal for law enforcement and the .40 S&W was born. It soon took the donut-munching world by a storm and cops were carrying semi-automatics chambered in .40 S&W.

Many considered the .40 S&W the ultimate defensive cartridge. Ironically, the round duplicated the ballistics of the old .38-40 WCF, which was popular in Colt and Smith & Wesson handguns prior to the 1900s. The FBI, has now paradoxically concluded the 9 mm is a better all-around choice. History repeats itself, and after more than a century of ballistic advancement, we're back where we started.

After the Miami shootout, the FBI wisely put emphasis on projectile development. Initially, these improvements were centered on the .40 S&W, but the technology predictably spread to other cartridges. Unsurprisingly, high-tech projectile development led to the 1994 introduction of the .357 SIG, a pistol cartridge capable of launching robust bullets at almost .357 Mag. velocities. *continued.....*

Since the first decade of the 20th century, defensive-handgun cartridge progression has mostly been in the area of velocity. The bullets developed for the newest cartridges have taken



us back to the beginning. Introduction of the .327 Fed. Mag. revolver cartridge in 2008 was a culmination for all that had been learned. It's really nothing more than a hot-loaded version of the 113-year-old .32 S&W. Like with the .357 SIG, modern-bullet technology allows the .327 to launch lightweight bullets at blistering velocities, while still achieving deep penetration and wide expansion, without uncontrollable recoil, something unachievable in the early 20th century. After more than a century all we really have is better ammunition. Today, they're just loaded with more-effective bullets. That is the reason there's an ammunition column (as opposed to a cartridge column) in the absolutely best magazine available for the modern shooter.

Match Winning Accuracy from Combat-Grade Brass: Part 1

NRA Shooting Sports USA - U.S. Army, Army Marksmanship Unit, Custom Firearms Shop - Friday, June 3, 2016

WARNING: All technical data in this publication, especially for handloading, reflect the limited experience of individuals using specific tools, products, equipment and components under specific conditions and circumstances not necessarily reported in the article and over which the National Rifle Association (NRA) has no control. The data has not otherwise been tested or verified by the NRA. The NRA, its agents, officers and employees accept no responsibility for the results obtained by persons using such data and disclaim all liability for any consequential injuries or damages.

This article will answer a special request from several competitive shooters in Alaska. They asked about procedures for morphing once-fired GI 5.56mm brass into accurate match brass for NRA High Power Rifle use. The U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit (AMU) has used virgin Lake City (LC) 5.56 brass to win National Championships and set National Records for many years. In this 3-part series, we'll share techniques proven to wring match-winning accuracy from combat-grade brass.

The AMU handloading shop does not reload fired 5.56 brass. We use virgin LC brass with our chosen primer already staked in place.

However, our staff has extensive personal experience reloading GI brass for competition, which will supplement the shop's customary steps. In handloading, as in life, there are many ways to accomplish any given task. Our suggestions are not presented as the "only way," by any means. Time for loading and practicing is always at a premium. Readers who have more efficient, alternative methods that maintain top accuracy are invited to share them with us. So, how accurate can previously-fired GI surplus brass be in a good NM AR-15? Well, here's a data point from many years ago that might be of interest. A High Power shooter who wrote for the late Precision Shooting magazine took a Bill Wyld-built AR match rifle to a registered benchrest (BR) match. His first group ever in a BR match officially measured at 0.231 inches at 200 yards (five rounds). This was in front of witnesses, using a moving target backer that confirmed all five rounds were fired.

He recounted that his ammo was loaded progressively with standard match bullets using mixed years of LC brass with no special preparation whatsoever. Obviously, this was "exceptional" (here read: "fluke of universe"). However, he had no difficulty obtaining 0.5 MOA accuracy out to 200 yards using LC brass in subsequent testing. He later refined his accuracy to 0.3 MOA using high quality, selected commercial brass.

Assuming our readers will be getting brass once-fired as received from surplus dealers, the following steps can help process the low-cost raw material into reliably accurate components. First, clean the brass of any dirt/mud/debris, if applicable. Depending on the brass's condition, washing it in a soap solution followed by a thorough rinsing may help. This step also extends the life of ones' tumbling media. Approaches range from low-tech, using gallon jugs half-full of water/dish soap plus brass and shaking vigorously, to more high-tech, expensive and time-consuming methods. When applying the final cleaning/polish, some use tumblers with liquid cleaning media and stainless steel pins for a brilliant shine inside and out, while others take the traditional vibratory tumbler/ground media approach. Degree of case shine is purely personal preference, but the key issue is simple cleanliness to avoid scratching ones' dies. If a liquid cleaner is used, be sure to dry the cases thoroughly to preclude corrosion inside. One method is to dump the wet brass into an old pillow case, then tilt it from left to right so the cases re-orient themselves while shifting from corner to corner. Several repetitions, pausing at each corner until water stops draining, will remove most water. They can then be left to air-dry on a towel, or can be dried in a warm (150° F-200° F max) oven for a few minutes to speed evaporation. Once dry, inspect each case for significant deformation (i.e., someone stepped on it), damaged mouths/necks and case head/rim damage. Some rifles' ejectors actually dig small chunks of brass out of the case head—obviously, not ideal for precision shooting. Similarly, some extractors can bend the case rims so badly that distortion is visible when spinning them in one's fingers. These can be used for plinking, but our match brass should have straight, undamaged rims.

Dented case mouths are common, and these can easily be rounded using a conical, tapered tool. A dummy 7.62 or .30-06 cartridge with a FMJ spitzer is ideal. If most of your brass is of one headstamp, this is a good time to cull out any odd cases.

The clean, dry and inspected brass is now ready for full-length sizing, decapping and re-priming. Historically, primer crimps on GI brass have caused some head-scratching (and vile language) among handloaders. In our next article we will detail efficient, easy and practical methods to remove primer crimp, plus other useful handloading tips.

SSUSA thanks the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit for allowing the reprint of this article.

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