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# BULLET magazine



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the state's official NRA affiliate

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# President's Message

by Tom King

The foundation of our American values is the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights, which were so eloquently written by our Founding Fathers and defended by our First and Second Amendments. For 150 years, the NYSRPA has been on the tip of the spear defending our right to exercise both freedoms.

But understand this: We condemn all forms of violence. Like our 30,000

law-abiding members, we stand with law enforcement, members of the National Guard, military and others who have put their lives on the line to protect all Americans.

We encourage everyone to act responsibly and safely and use good judgement, today and always. Above all else, in the spirit of true patriotism, always respect the rule of law. ■





# The NRA is going out of business ... NOT!

by Tom King

This is fake news perpetuated by the anti-NRA and anti-gun mainstream media attempting to confuse our members and sow the seeds of doubt among members, donors and future members.

As a long time NRA board member, let me assure you that this is not the case. The NRA did file a Chapter 11 reorganizational bankruptcy petition, but NRA is financially stronger than it has been in many years, membership is continuing to stay in the 5 million member range—in the last 30 days, we have added 100,000 new members.

The Chapter 11 reorganizational filing is a method of ending the persecution of the NRA by an attorney general who, during her political campaign, promised to put the NRA out of business. Then, she weaponized the governmental processes of New York state to serve her goals, and the goals of our many enemies. Through this process, the New York attorney general attempted to put the NRA into receivership and confiscate its assets, thus making it necessary for the Chapter 11 filing.

The ramifications of this filing will have no effect on membership services or programs. All states will have the same legislative support and coordination that have been a hallmark of working with the NRA. What the NRA is doing will protect our assets, and make it possible for the NRA to continue defending our Second

Amendment rights without Big Brother looking over our shoulder.

Simply put, the NRA is doing what thousands of New York gun owners already have done—move to a more gun-friendly state.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (518) 272-2654. ■



**Deadline for submissions for the April issue of  
*Bullet* magazine is: Feb. 21, 2021**

# Troubleshooting your target: Trigger control problems

**The answer to your accuracy problems might be right at your fingertips.**

For the past few years, I've preferred to shoot 9 mm handguns at the range. So when I was ready to move up to a .45-cal. pistol, I reached out to a friend of mine and asked if I could meet him at a range and borrow his. I don't like to purchase a new firearm unless I shoot it first, either by renting one at an indoor range, or borrowing a friend's.

He handed me his Springfield Armory 1911 A1 Standard .45 cal., and I fired away. My cluster was terrible! So we changed ammo, from a 230 grain down to a 185-gr. cartridge, and my shot pattern improved a bit, but not by much. He suggested video taping me while I was shooting, so we could watch what I'm doing wrong. Turns out that since it had been a long time since I shot a .45 cal., I was really jerking the trigger, resulting in pulling the gun down and to the left. Well, that solves *that* mystery!

Trigger control is one of the most important shooting fundamentals. Proper trigger control involves pulling the trigger without causing any movement of the aligned sights. The pressure should be applied in a rearward direction, not to the side, up or down.

## How To Achieve Good Trigger Control

To master this technique, you want to apply slow, gradual pressure on the trigger. Don't yank or jerk the trigger. You should be able to give it a gentle,

backward pressure toward you. If you have to struggle to pull the trigger, then maybe the gun is not for you.

The key words to remember here are,

## Trigger control is one of the most important shooting fundamentals.

"Squeeze, and then stop." Granted, this can be difficult to do if your pistol has a heavy trigger pull. I've noticed that many of the concealed-carry handguns my students bring to the range have a long, heavy trigger pull. This is on purpose. It's one of the safety measures that prevent the shooter from accidentally depressing the trigger while it's moving around in its holster when carried on-body, or in a handbag. This is one of the many trade-offs that concealed carriers make when choosing the right gun.

## Proper Finger Placement

Another tip to achieve good trigger control is proper placement of your trigger finger on the trigger. This will allow the force of the pull to be directed straight to the rear, reducing

any jerking, which moves the gun to the left or right. For single-action shooting, the trigger should be pulled using the middle of the last pad of your trigger finger. For double-action shooting, the trigger should be placed on the joint between the last and middle pads of your trigger finger.

## Penny and Dry-Fire Drills

To test your trigger control, place a penny or a dime on top of your front sight. Your goal is to keep the coin from falling off while you aim and fire. Another practice is to dry-fire your gun while someone observes you to see if you are jerking the trigger. While dry-firing most modern firearms is safe, check with your gun's owner's manual, or use snap caps (dummy rounds) in the correct caliber for your gun. Snap caps do not contain any gunpowder.

*About the Author: Maureen Sangiorgio is an NRA Certified Firearm Instructor/Range Safety Officer. She can be reached directly at [maureenwriter.com](http://maureenwriter.com).*

*This article was first published by Maureen Sangiorgio, published on December 16, 2020. ■*



# 2021 SAFS

by Ed Walden

2021 will mark the 32<sup>nd</sup> year that the U.S. Service Rifle Small Arms Firing School (SAFS) is being provided by members of the NYSRPA to members of the NYSRPA. This is a two-day course that is designed to provide you with the basic knowledge required to safely compete in a High-Power Rifle Match. This program will instruct you on firing from position, both slow and rapid fire with only sling support. We provide detailed blocks of instruction on safety, sight alignment and adjustment, trigger control, match operations and of course the fundamentals of marksmanship. This program is approved by the Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP) and fulfills one of the requirements for purchasing firearms from the CMP.

The instruction you receive will be exclusively on the AR-15 A2 Service Rifle with iron sights. Scopes are permitted in actual NRA and CMP competition however we concentrate on the fundamentals by using iron sights for the course. Our host, The Peconic River Sportsman's Club has National Match AR-15 A2 rifles for loan at no additional charge.

Our lead instructors are all current or past members of the NYSRPA Service Rifle Team. Many are Nationally ranked competitors as well as Distinguished Riflemen. Our team is also supplemented with volunteer competitors that hail from throughout NY State. You will receive one on one marksmanship instruction. The two-day course consists of about a half day

of classroom instruction followed by dry fire exercises from position on the range. A short qualification course will also be fired at 50 yards using the AR-15 platform with a .22 rim fire upper. On Sunday, you will fire a modified CMP course at 200 yards using the AR-15 Service Rifle.

We have put approximately 2000 persons through this course since its inception. Many have gone on to compete and win at the national level. The attendance for this course is limited to the first 50 qualified entries due to current COVID-19 regulations. It will sell out quickly. You will find the complete registration form in this issue of the Bullet. The dates for 2021 are April 25 and 26. I hope we will see you there! ■



# PROGRAM and REGISTRATION FORM

## U.S. SERVICE RIFLE SMALL ARMS FIRING SCHOOL

**SATURDAY & SUNDAY, April 24 & 25, 2021 at the  
PECONIC RIVER SPORTSMAN'S CLUB  
MANORVILLE, NY**

*Approved by the*  
**CIVILIAN MARKSMANSHIP PROGRAM (CMP)**

*Sponsored by NYS Rifle and Pistol Association  
Hosted by Peconic River Sportsman's Club, Inc.*

*A portion of the proceeds will be used to support the NYSRPA Service Rifle Team*

**SAFS TIMES:** Seminar Phase SATURDAY 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.  
Range Firing SUNDAY 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.  
**Students should arrive not later than 7:30 A.M. each day.**

### SAFS OBJECTIVE

The SAFS is a program designed as an introduction to the sport of High Power Rifle Competition for new participants. It is also for persons interested in improving their shooting skills who are currently involved in High Power Rifle competitions. As a result of this training, the shooter should be able to enter and safely participate in High Power Rifle Competitions. **THIS COURSE IS NOT FOR FIRST TIME SHOOTERS. YOU MUST HAVE EXPERIENCE WITH SHOOTING FIREARMS.**

### SAFS DESCRIPTION

The SAFS is conducted by a team of highly qualified retired U.S. Armed Forces, Civilian NRA nationally ranked competitors, CMP Distinguished Riflemen, and High Power Rifle Instructor/Shooters augmented by volunteer rifle competitors from local clubs. The training emphasizes Range & Firearms Safety, Service Rifle Marksmanship Fundamentals and Techniques, Match Operations and Procedures, Zeroing, and Operation of the *U.S. Service Rifle AR-15 A-2*. The training includes classroom instruction and closely supervised Dry Fire and Live Fire instruction. Training is under individual trainer/coaches.

**NOTE THAT ONLY THE AR15 A-2 WILL BE USED FOR THESE CLASSES!**

## U.S. SERVICE RIFLE, SMALL ARMS FIRING SCHOOL REGISTRATION FORM

LAST NAME, FIRST, MI .....

NYSRPA MEMBER NUMBER (required for all adult civilian participants) .....

STREET ADDRESS .....

CITY/TOWN STATE ZIP CODE .....

PHONE .....EMAIL .....

LIST YOUR PRIOR SHOOTING EXPERIENCE.....

ARE YOU PROHIBITED FROM OWNING OR USING A FIREARM?.....

WHAT IS YOUR REASON FOR TAKING THE COURSE?.....

14 -16 years of age adult guardian required: Name: .....  
Phone: .....

**INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL BE DENIED. PROVIDING FALSE INFORMATION WILL RESULT IN FORFEITURE OF FEES PAID. ALL INFORMATION IS FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY.**

NOTE that ONLY AR-15 A-2 rifles will be allowed at these events. Muzzle brakes are not permitted in CMP or NRA competition. Flash hider is permitted.

Please check the appropriate box below regarding the need of a loaner rifle:

I will bring my own AR15 A-2:

I need the loan of an AR15 A-2:

\*\*\* Fees must accompany applications  
**Peconic River Sportsman's Club SAFS April 24 and 25, 2021**

**Mail entries to:** ADI 13 Mayflower Place Floral Park, NY 11001

**Make checks or money orders payable to the Peconic River Sportsman's Club  
Payment enclosed in the amount of: \$75.00**



**NOTE: ONLY PARTICIPANTS AND GUARDIANS WILL BE PERMITTED ON CLUB GROUNDS  
NO GUESTS OR OBSERVERS. THE USE OF CAMERAS AND CELL PHONES  
ON THE FIRING LINE IS PROHIBITED.**

**ELIGIBILITY: 14 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER. I.D. WILL BE REQUIRED**

This event is open to the public. **All civilian adult participants must be NYSRPA members.** The \$25.00 membership fee can be paid at the door if you are not already a member. NYSRPA is fighting for your gun rights in NY. Support them.

High Power Rifle competition is a sport requiring stamina and physical flexibility.

**All participants should be in good health and in good physical condition and be able to assume the prone and sitting firing positions for sustained periods of time.**

All applicants must already have experience and familiarity with firearms. **This course is NOT for persons who are not familiar with rifle shooting. THIS COURSE IS FOR THOSE WHO WISH TO ENTER INTO THE SPORT OF HIGH POWER COMPETITION.**

**REGISTRATION FEES**

\$75.00

**ENTRIES ARE LIMITED TO 50 STUDENTS ONLY**

You must qualify at 50 yards on Saturday to be eligible to fire at 200 yards for your CMP qualification on Sunday.

Students between the age of 14 and 16 must be accompanied by a parent or adult guardian on both days. The parent or guardian need not enroll and take the course.

**REGISTRATION PROCEDURE**

- Mail in registration is required for all students, (see registration form enclosed)
- Complete form and mail with check or money order.
- Registration must be accompanied by full fees and entry form.
- Registration must be received by April 16, 2021. Register early as course will sell out.
- Cancellations received prior to the above deadlines will receive a full refund.
- Registrations will be confirmed via e-mail if received by the above deadlines. If you do not have e-mail enclose a self addressed stamped envelope for **confirmation**.

**THERE WILL BE NO REFUNDS FOR NO SHOWS.**

**CONDITIONS:**

- Participants are required to comply with all safety rules and instructions.
- Students are required to attend and participate in the complete seminar training and dry fire on Saturday in order to shoot on Sunday. Students will also be required to fire a qualification score with a 22 LR Service Rifle on Saturday.
- All students are required to act as scorers and target operators.

**APPLICANTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL INFORMATION PROVIDED. READ CAREFULLY AND ASK QUESTIONS IF YOU DO NOT FULLY UNDERSTAND!**

**RIFLES USED FOR THE SAFS AND FOR LOAN**

- This training is limited to the U.S. Service Rifle, (AR-15) in the A-2 configuration or commercial equivalents with as issued iron sights. **National Match AR-15s will be available for loan at no charge.**
- Students borrowing rifles are required to provide factory ammunition only. Reloaded ammunition is prohibited in borrowed rifles. No other ammunition will be fired from borrowed rifles. You may purchase caliber .223 ammunition which will be sold at \$40.00 for 50 rounds. **These prices are subject to change.** Students are encouraged to bring their own service rifles both days.
- **Personal firearms must not be brought into the classroom.**
- Rifles with "muzzle brakes" or compensators are prohibited in NRA & CMP competition and are not to be used for this course.

**AMMUNITION**

- Live ammunition must not be brought to the Saturday seminar. Armor piercing, incendiary and tracer ammunition is not allowed. Fifty (50) rounds of ammunition are required per shooter for the qualification live fire match.

**CERTIFICATES OF TRAINING**

- A "certificate of training" will be issued to each student that completes both phases of training. The "Certificate of Training," issued by a CMP authorized SAFS, fulfills one of the requirements for Purchase of a U.S. Army surplus service grade M-1 from the CMP.

**STUDENTS MUST BRING THE FOLLOWING EQUIPMENT BOTH DAYS**

- Hearing protection is mandatory Eye protection is recommended.
- Students are required to bring a glove for their support hand (opposite hand of their shooting shoulder). An insulated work glove is adequate. Students are encouraged to bring if they already own, their own shooting equipment and clothing to include rifleman jackets, spotting scopes or field glasses, shooting mats. Bring your equipment on Saturday as we will conduct in position dry fire exercises. Students should wear appropriate outdoor clothing both days to include warm clothing, sweaters, sweatshirts, denim or heavy cloth trousers, boots, baseball type hats and rain gear. Windbreakers or nylon jackets should not be worn as the rifle will shift and move on these slippery surfaces. **STUDENTS WHO ARRIVE WITHOUT MANDATORY EQUIPMENT (GLOVE AND HEARING PROTECTION) WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE! STUDENTS MAY NOT SHARE MANDATORY EQUIPMENT!**

- NO FOOD SERVICE WILL BE AVAILABLE. Students must bring their own breakfast, lunch, snacks, beverages, etc. each day.

**LODGING**

- PECONIC. There are hotels and motels in the Riverhead area which is about 10 minutes from the club.

**DIRECTIONS**

PECONIC - LIE (Route 495) to exit 69. North (left) on Wading River Road about 4 miles to Grumman Blvd. (chain link fence). See signs for Calverton Enterprise Park. EPCAL. Go east (right) on Grumman Blvd. 2 & 3/4 miles to PRSC entrance (on right). 389 River Road Calverton NY Enter gate and follow signs and guides. **DRIVE SLOW** on club property!

**Speed limit 5 MPH! Follow these directions. Do not use GPS for this location!**

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(516) 924-2524

# Long Island Director

by Jim Collins

Recently, the National Shooting Sports Foundation released its 2020 Firearm Production Report to the industry. The report gives the latest information from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the International Trade Commission. Key findings included:

- In 2018, 11.4 million firearms were produced or imported into the U.S.
- Approximately one half of all rifles produced and imported were Modern Sporting Rifles.
- Since 1990, there are an estimated 19.8 million Modern Sporting Rifles in circulation today.
- In 2019, 6 million firearms were produced in the U.S. Of those, 3.6 million were pistols and revolvers, 2 million were rifles and 480,000 were shotguns.
- In 2019, there were approximately 3.3 million firearms imported into the U.S., which included 2.3 million pistols and revolvers, 301,000 rifles and 678,000 shotguns.
- From 1991 to 2019, nearly 214 million firearms have been made available to the U.S. market.
- There are an estimated 434 million firearms in civilian possession in the U.S., according to ATFE and Congressional Research Service data.
- There are approximately 71.2 million pistol magazines capable of holding more than 10 rounds, and 79.2 million rifle magazines capable of holding 30 or more rounds in circulation.

- Firearm and ammunition manufacturing accounted for nearly 12,000 jobs producing over \$3.9 billion in goods shipped in 2018. An estimated 8.7 billion rounds of all calibers and gauges were produced in 2018 for the U.S. market.

These numbers, combined with the record breaking 17.2 million background checks for the sale or transfer of a firearm in the first 10 months of 2020, demonstrate that Americans have a strong desire to continue purchasing firearms for lawful purposes. The Modern Sporting Rifle continues to be the most popular rifle sold in America today—with nearly 20 million in circulation—it is clearly a commonly owned firearm that is being used for lawful purposes every day in America. The continued popularity of handguns demonstrates a strong interest by Americans to protect themselves, their family and homes, as well as to participate in the recreational shooting sports.

The report also shows that as lawful firearm ownership in America continues to grow, criminal and unintentional misuse of firearms is falling. During the 28-year period covered by this report (1991–2018) the violent crime rate has decreased by 51.3% and unintentional firearm-related fatalities have declined by 68.2%.

I would like to shift gears, and comment on New York Assembly Bill 416. This bill has been around for several years, and it would give power to the government, which would be outrageous in my opinion. If it is passed, the bill would allow

the government to place citizens in confinement against their will due to a virus. What shall we do? I contacted my state Assembly member, state senator and the governor to express my opposition to the bill and asked for a reply in writing. And, I encourage you to do the same.

If we do not resist, silence is approval! During our revolution, the patriots gave us our freedom from the tyranny of the British crown. We must remember their sacrifice because we stand on the shoulders of giants! Damn the torpedoes and full speed ahead! That should be our reasoning! As always, may God watch over and protect the brave men and women serving us, at war, in our patriot Armed Forces and may God bless America! ■



# Collector's Corner

by David Bock

On March 29, 1911, after a long and involved process, the U.S. Army adopted for general issue its first semi-automatic pistol. I am, of course, referring to the Colt Model 1911.

Obviously, this didn't happen in a vacuum. John Browning spent over six years modifying his pistol submission to meet the military's requirements—and even based the design on earlier pistol models. The basis of the 1911 was Browning's Model 1900, which was based on some of his earlier experimental designs. This pistol used the “parallel ruler” barrel lockup system. Basically, there were two barrel/frame linkages, one at the front and the other at the rear of the pistol. After the slide and barrel came back a short distance, both links were engaged and lowered both ends of the barrel simultaneously.

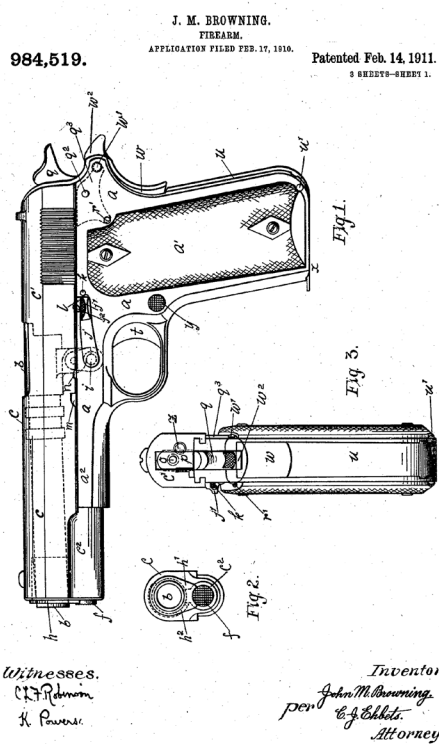
This locking system continued to be used in the Model 1902 and the Model 1903 Pocket Hammer. By 1905, Browning had started moving away from this to the single-link system we know today.

The barrel was locked to the slide by a series of notches cut into the inside of the slide with matching cuts in the top of the barrel over the chamber. This locking system became so ubiquitous, that in Europe, any pistol using a similar system was commonly called a Browning.

The next prototype, the Model 1909 looked more like what we think of when we hear 1911, but it wasn't there yet. In the eyes of the military examiners, it still had significant shortcomings. These included some

fragile, small parts and lack of safety mechanisms.

The Model 1910 incorporated a number of improvements over previous models, including thumb and grip safeties. The design was nearly complete and almost indistinguishable from the 1911 that would be adopted the following year.



In November 1910, at the Springfield Armory in Massachusetts, the Colt/Browning Model 1910 pistol was tested against the last remaining competitor, the Savage Model 1907.

At these tests, the Model 1910 had 12 malfunctions overall, while the Savage had 43. During a 6,000-round torture test, the Colt far outperformed the Savage submission—although it had a

number of issues. In the end, the board recommended Browning's Model 1910 be adopted for use. The commanding officer of Springfield Armory, the chief of ordnance, and the Army general staff all agreed.

On March 29, 1911, the Secretary of War Jacob M. Dickinson, approved this recommendation, and Browning's design became the official issue sidearm of the U.S. Army.

While Colt was the primary contractor for the 1911—and later the 1911A1—over the years other manufacturers produced pistols as well. Prior to and during World War I, the Springfield Armory made nearly 40,000 Model 1911 pistols. Just after the war, Remington UMC made just over 20,000 pistols.

Following World War I, some design modifications were requested by the U.S. military. These included a shorter checkered trigger, scallops at the rear of the trigger guard, larger sights (though they still are tiny by today's standards), a longer beavertail on the grip safety, and changing the mainspring housing from flat to arched. Once these modifications were completed, the new pistol was type classified as the Model 1911A1 in 1924.

During World War II, demand for war materials was so great, that a number of civilian companies were asked to produce everything from artillery to uniforms. This included production of 1911A1 pistols. In addition to Colt, Ithaca and Remington-Rand produced a large quantity of the pistols—almost 350,000 and nearly 900,000,



respectively. Two other manufacturers also made 1911s during this time of need. Union Switch & Signal made 55,000 pistols, and Singer Sewing Machine Corp., made 500 pistols before the company was asked to make other items for the war effort. The two pistols made by these manufacturers are the most desirable to collectors because of their scarcity.

The 1911A1 continued in U.S. military service until it was replaced by the M9 Beretta in 1984. However, there still are some of these pistols in the chain of supply. Recently, the U.S. military put out a bid request for new 1911-style pistols.

No other handgun of the 20<sup>th</sup> century is as instantly recognizable as the Colt .45. In the trenches of World War I, Sgt. Alvin York used a 1911. And on the silver screen, Humphrey Bogart and James Cagney used the pistol to slew dozens of gangsters. Police officers, target shooters, concealed-weapon carriers and tinkerers have all chosen the 1911 to fulfill their varying needs. In my opinion (and remember

what they say about opinions), every gun owner should own at least one 1911-type pistol. Examine the design, marvel at its simplicity, and remember that John Browning designed it without computers and without an advanced education.

At this point, 110 years later, no other firearm is produced by as many different manufacturers and in as many calibers. The selection of quality parts is astounding. Brownell's has an entire catalog section devoted solely to 1911 parts and accessories. You could probably build a 1911 with every part made by a different manufacturer.

For those interested in more information, Donald Bady's book *Colt Automatic Pistols* still is in print. It's an excellent read, and he covers the development of several Browning-designed Colt pistols in great detail.

As usual, if you have an idea for future articles, please send an email to [info@nysrpa.org](mailto:info@nysrpa.org) with "Collectors Corner" in the subject line and make sure to include your name for proper credit. ■



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# Notes from Brenda

by Brenda Leder

It's a new year, and we are all hoping for an end to the pandemic. Hopefully you are all well and safe. I want to thank all our members who have donated to our association. We really hate asking for money, but everything we do has costs and we certainly have a big battle ahead of us. Since this election it is going to be even more difficult.

Currently, we are working with the NRA on a big lawsuit, which as we previously announced will be going to the U.S. Supreme Court. The NRA is working hard with us, and if it wasn't for the national organization, we would not have the funds to fight this battle. We believe everyone should be a member of our association, because we fight on the state level. And, we believe our members also should be NRA members, because it fights for us on a federal level. Both are vital. If you have friends who believe in the Second Amendment and they are not members, please recruit them and encourage them to be members. We need all the help we can get! They should be helping!

I want to send a special personal thank you to William Stevens. He will know the reason.

As I write this article, we have only had one big snowstorm in the Capital District. However, I was recently made aware of a huge blizzard of 1888 that hit New York City.

This Great Blizzard of 1888 on March 11 is known as one of the worst blizzards in American history in the Northeast. It killed more than 400 people, and dumped as much as 55 inches of snow in some areas. New York City ground to a halt because

of massive snow drifts and strong winds. This storm affected the whole area between Maryland and Maine. The highest snowfall was 58 inches in Saratoga Springs, N.Y.

On March 10 temperatures in the Northeast hovered in the mid-50s. But the next day, cold Arctic air from Canada collided with Gulf air from the south and temperatures plunged. Rain turned to snow and winds reached hurricane strength—85 mph in New York City. There was a complete whiteout in the city as well. Snow drifts reached second-story buildings—the tallest drift measured at 52 feet. Up to 15,000 people were stranded on the elevated trains. And, walking the streets became perilous. Only 30 people out of 1,000 were able to make it to the New York Stock Exchange for work. Wall Street closed for three days. People collapsed in snow drifts and died, including Sen. Roscoe Conklin, the New York Republican Party leader.

Many New Yorkers camped out in hotel lobbies waiting for the worst of the blizzard to pass. Notable persons who were affected by the storm included Mark Twain who was stranded at his hotel for several days. And, P.T. Barnum entertained some of the stranded at Madison Square Garden.

While the East River—running between Manhattan and Queens—froze over, New York City was not the only area to be affected by the storm. Along the Atlantic coast, hundreds of boats sunk in the high winds and heavy waves. Over a three-day period, Keene, N.H., measured 36 inches of



snow; New Haven, Conn., 45 inches; and Troy, N.Y., 55 inches.

In addition to the human loses, thousands of wild and farm animals froze to death.

The storm highlighted the dangers of above-ground utilities. Trains, telegraph lines, water mains and gas lines that were located above ground became inaccessible to repair crews. Afterward, city officials began the plan to move telegraph, water and gas lines underground. Within 10 years of this storm, construction began on the underground subway system that still is in use today.

Another comparable snowstorm would not come to the region for another 90 years, when the Blizzard of 1978 raged for 32 hours. However, thanks to the modern advancement inspired by the Blizzard of 1888, the impact of the 1978 storm was far less severe.

If another blizzard descends on us this year, we have the example of the past to guide us. Be prepared, be safe, have fun, take some great pictures, and help your neighbors if you can. ■

# 3 gun fears you can ignore

People who know nothing about guns will try to scare you with these three fears ... but you can ignore them.

Women who are thinking of arming themselves for self-defense face a number of challenges, but among the most insidious and pervasive are the “challenges” we receive from our friends, family and the world at large. There are a number of cultural myths that people who know nothing about guns will repeat to you to try to scare you away from gun ownership. Many of those people mean well—they simply don’t know what they don’t know. That said, *some* of those people are projecting their own inadequacies and fears onto you. Whatever the motivation of these scaremongers, here are three gun fears that you can safely ignore. (We promise.)

## 1. You’re just going to hurt yourself!

People who know nothing about firearms will present this myth to you in a number of different ways, but the underlying message is always the same: They think that you are incapable of safely handling a firearm. Step back and take a moment to consider what they are really saying.

If you’re like most American women, every day you get behind the controls of a powerful machine that weighs a ton or more and is loaded with explosive vapor. You then take that machine out and pilot it at 60 mph among hundreds or thousands of other

people doing the same, many of whom regard things like “turn signals” and “lane markers” as suggestions. You do this accurately, effectively and without fear.

Ask yourself this: Why do these people think that it would be harder for you to manipulate a 2-lb. piece of metal engineering designed from the ground up to be safe, than it would be to survive the average American urban commute?

The truth is that firearms are tools, just like any tool, and learning how to use them safely is a considerably shorter and simpler process than it is to parallel park. (But hey, don’t take my word for it ... **sign up for a Basic Pistol course today and see how easy it is!**)

## 2. The criminal will take your gun away and use it against you!

This is a favorite among people who not only know nothing about guns, but who are additionally utterly ignorant on self-defense or criminal psychology. It’s difficult, therefore, to unpack every different way in which it’s wrong ... but I’ll try. First, the vast majority of defensive gun uses do not involve a shot being fired. It’s impossible to say exactly how many, but estimates run from 80 to 95 percent. That indicates that most of the time, the criminal sees the firearm and remembers urgent business the next county over and vamooses.

Second, the first thing you will learn in your Basic Pistol course is how to hold your firearm. It’s a strong, two-handed, push-pull grip that would require a tremendous amount of force to break. The hypothetical Bad Guy who would be hypothetically grabbing your gun out of your hands would need to do that *while you were in the act of shooting him*. This is a poor survival tactic for the Bad Guy.

Third, and I recognize that this is anecdotal, we here at the NRA have been tracking armed citizen encounters for about 150 years now, and it appears that having the bad guy get control of the good guy’s gun happens so rarely as to be statistically nonexistent.

## 3. You’re not one of Those People, are you?!?

This last “gun fear” is far more subtle than the rest, and more pervasive. There is a bedrock cultural message that women are supposed to be caring, nurturing and (above all else) nonviolent...and that gun ownership negates all of the above. People who discover that you own a firearm or are thinking of buying one will subtly (or not-so-subtly) indicate that this says something bad about your moral fiber. That, perhaps, you aren’t the nice person they thought you were.

For the record, loudly enough so they can hear us in the cheap seats, we state: There is no conflict between



firearms ownership and being a caring, nurturing, nonviolent person. Firearms cannot supernaturally possess you and turn you into a different woman than you were before. In fact, gun ownership can and will bolster your ability to be a caring, nurturing, nonviolent person by helping keep you

alive if you are ever forced to defend your life.

Whether or not to own a gun, what kind of gun, where you'll keep it, and when you'll carry it, are all matters of personal choice. We here at NRA Women can help guide you through those choices. We can also assure

you that you are perfectly capable of handling your firearm safely and effectively, no matter what "they" say, with the right training and mindset.

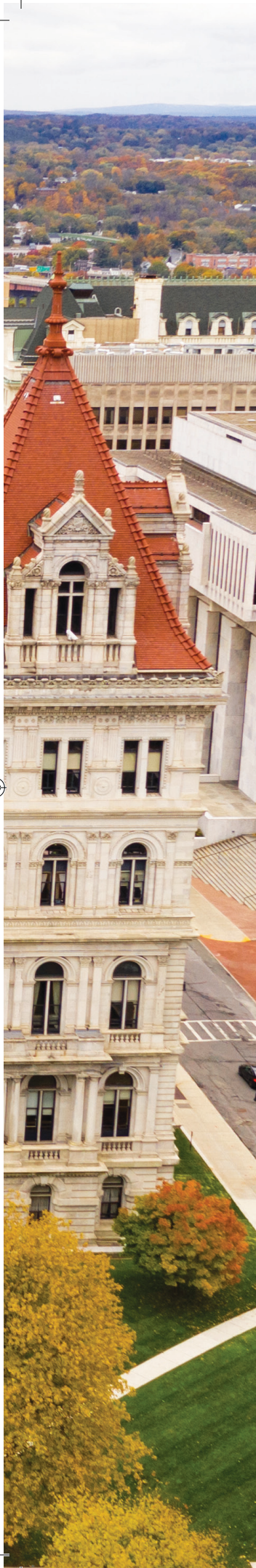
*This article was first published by Wendy Lafever, executive editor published on December 16, 2020. ■*











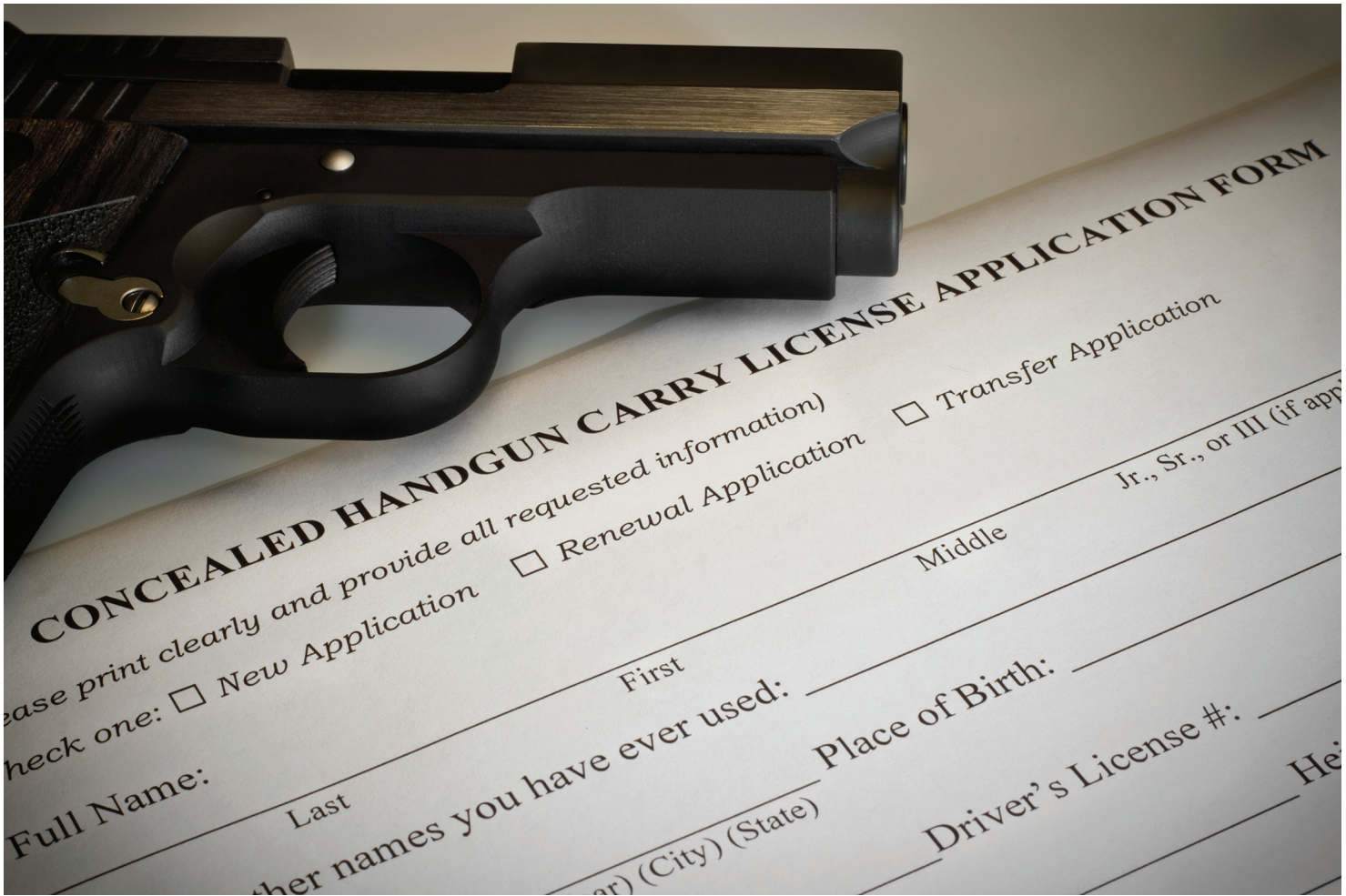
# NRA & NYSRPA take concealed carry case to U.S. Supreme Court

by Carl Gottstein

In times such as these, it's important to know who our friends are. The National Rifle Association is a friend to every gun owner in America, but the NRA has grown especially attentive and responsive to the needs of New York's besieged gun owners. For the last several years, the NRA has helped New York State Rifle & Pistol Association when called upon—we owe them our support, appreciation and gratitude. This year is no different; together we are heading back to U.S. Supreme Court. The good fight continues.

The NRA is starting off 2021 hand in hand with the membership of the NYSRPA to force the courts to recognize the merits of “shall issue” verses the detriment to the Second Amendment rights of New York residents under the current “may issue” policy.

The National Rifle Association's Institute for Legislative Action has partnered with the NYSRPA to ask the U.S. Supreme Court to hear a challenge to New York's restrictive process for issuing concealed-carry licenses. “As long as New York continues denying law-abiding gun owners their Second Amendment rights, the NRA will continue fighting to protect and expand those rights,” said Jason Ouimet, executive director, NRA-ILA.



The case, *NYSRPA v. Corlett*, challenges New York's requirement for applicants to demonstrate "proper cause" to carry a firearm. While New York routinely employs this arbitrary standard to deny carry permits, the NRA argues that this right should be available to "all 'the people'" instead of a "subset of the people that can distinguish themselves from their fellow Americans" by showing proper cause.

The NRA is the leader in America's right-to-carry movement having pioneered the effort on legislative and legal fronts since the 1980s. Today, due to its efforts, more than 40 states have what the NRA describes as "shall-issue" laws in which states are required to give residents who apply and satisfy

prerequisites their requested permits. The NRA also is the national leader in the "constitutional carry" movement in which law-abiding residents in 16 states are not required to have a permit to carry a firearm. This is the second lawsuit the NRA and NYSRPA have brought to the High Court in as many years. The move is just the latest in the NRA's decades-long fight to protect and expand Americans' right to carry. "Eventually, these anti-freedom activists will understand that our Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms is fundamental, and it doesn't vanish when we leave our homes. Until then, we will continue these battles wherever they arise," concluded Ouimet.

Unfortunately these battles far too often arise in New York state. This happens (directly and frustratingly) due to Democrat's fierce determination to infringe on our freedoms continuously. Their deep hatred for our rights—as guaranteed by our precious U.S. Constitution—borders on treasonous. They seem to want to control our thoughts, opinions, property rights, personal privacy, public security and of course ... our right to keep and bear arms.

NYSRPA goes to the mat for all gun owners in our great state and nation. New York has the membership of two great organizations stepping up to fight back: NYSRPA and NRA. In New York, these organizations count among their memberships the people who





work hardest to defend those immortal words—written by God-fearing men so long ago—that will eternally survive in our hearts and minds: “shall not be infringed.”

Our nation’s highest law was written on a now decaying sheet of parchment. Does it still represent America’s values over 200 years later even though some Americans find it archaic and outdated? We think it does. We also believe the right to keep and bear arms is going the way of the right to privacy if we don’t fight back, and fight back hard!

There are people who make it their job to tear our rights and privileges from us, and their party is now in near-absolute power in Washington, D.C., and in New York state. In times such as these, when the left is in power, our last line of defense is each other. Our unity and power as a group will bring the fight to them in the court house and will see us through. It is times

like these when our national and state civil-rights affiliates come into our own. Our membership will beat them in court until we can beat them at the polls, and we will make our wins stick.

We know they produce self-congratulatory polling; they use endless media-promulgated propaganda that hates on anyone who disagrees. They will do whatever it takes to twist and turn public opinion—even going so far as to use the crimes of a few to eliminate the rights of all people. That “gun snatch” agenda is never satisfied; it never ends; it just rests between crime and tragedy.

Currently, WE The People cannot trust those in power to protect and defend our precious rights and privileges. We must be the guardians of our rights. Our wisest people will unite arms with likeminded organizations, and join the fight to win court cases, political races, hearts and minds of our brothers and sisters for

the good of our county’s future. That is long-term wisdom. In the short term, we also must back politicians who suggest voting reforms to make sure no one can ever steal a single vote again.

This is a good time to renew our bonds to American heritage and cultural organizations. NYSRPA and the NRA are two of these important U.S. cultural heritage organizations whose actions have defended the rights of all people since founding in the 1800s. These organizations that were incorporated after the sad lessons learned by the Civil War, share a history that should bind and tie us all together to our past and present. And, they may just guide us to once again securing a bright future.

United we must stand: Then, now and tomorrow. ■



# Pre-shot mental routines: Easy as ABC (and QRST, too)

What happens before you shoot can affect the outcome of your shot more than you realize.

If you're relatively new to the shooting sports, you may be surprised to learn that shooting is as much a mental game as it is physical. Yes, basic hand-eye coordination is essential, so if you've participated in other sports, you have a leg up. But once you learn the basics of shooting, it's the space between your ears that will help you hit more targets.

Someone who knows well the mental aspects of the shooting sports is Raymond Prior, Ph.D., of Chicago. A sport psychology professional and performance consultant, Prior has worked with U. S. Olympic Team shooters, collegiate shooting teams, and professional athletes in various sports internationally for more than a dozen years. Shooters make up about 10 to 15 percent of his clientele.

"Good shooters will tell you that at least 80 percent of a shot happens even before your finger touches the trigger," said Prior. "With a good pre-shot routine, shooters prepare their physical position and, just as importantly, prepare their minds. In fact, when faced with the challenge of shooting under pressure, there is no greater source of consistency for a shooter than a well-executed pre-shot routine."

Prior helps competitive shooters by providing them a simple, quick mental checklist to run through before taking each shot. You may not be interested in

competition, but using his technique for recreational shooting will work for you, as well. Prior refers to his method as Q.R.S.T.

Q = Quiet your mind

R = Relax your body

S = Sharpen your focus

T = Trusting mindset

"Quieting your mind means turning down the amount, and volume, of your thinking," said Prior. "To quiet their minds, some shooters focus their eyes on a point on the range or at their firing point. Other shooters recite a word or short phrase, a Bible verse, or song lyrics that are meaningful to them. Some shooters take a few seconds to imagine a place or something they do where they are relaxed in order to quiet their minds. And many shooters quiet their minds by simply bringing their focus to their breathing. How you quiet your mind is up to you, every shooter is different."

Prior continued, "Relaxing your body means releasing the tension from your muscles so you can execute your skills. Under the pressure of competition, athletes' muscles have a tendency to get tense. Tension is a normal reaction to nerves but less than ideal for shooting because tense muscles produce jerky, erratic movements. An effective way for shooters to relax their bodies is to purposely tense their muscles, then slowly relax them."

Next, Prior explained focus.

"Sharpening your focus means

directing your focus to where your performance happens: at the target. Specifically, a shooter must be fully focused on the exact sight picture he or she is looking for. Remember, your body and mind work together best when you simply see the target and react."

Lastly, and this suggestion may be the most important of the four, Prior explained what he means by a Trusting Mindset. "The result of a good pre-shot routine is a Trusting Mindset," he said. "A good pre-shot routine doesn't cause a shooter to think more. A good pre-shot routine helps a shooter to think better by eliminating doubts and distractions, as well as overthinking technique and mechanics, and any other thoughts that interfere with executing a shot."

I shoot all types of firearms recreationally—shotguns, rifles and handguns—but prefer the shotgun sports; I love seeing those clay targets break. That said, even though I'm not a competition shooter, I enjoy striving to be the best shot I can. So, in recent months, I've applied Prior's mental pre-shot routine to my shotgun shooting, and guess what? It helps! Not that I now break every clay target I shoot at, but my percentage of hits has increased.

For instance, as to quieting my mind and sharpening my focus before a shot, as a shotgun shooter I tell myself "See the bird, shoot the bird." As a result, I don't overthink the shot. I simply see



the target when it's thrown and react to it, allowing my body to relax and do what I've already trained it to do with the Trusting Mindset that Prior recommends.

If there is one thing more I would add to Prior's advice it would be to shoot with authority. Meaning once it's your turn on the firing line, mentally take charge of your shot by being confident and assertive. A shooting coach taught me that concept, and even though I'm

not naturally an assertive person, that approach has improved my shooting. "Remember," said Prior, "just having a pre-shot routine does little for improving consistency. Having a consistent pre-shot routine that you use for every single shot is a must for any shooter. Ultimately, it's your thoughts about your performance that guide your performance."

If you'd like to learn more about the psychology of the shooting sports,

Dr. Raymond Prior's book, *Bullseye Mind: Mental Toughness for Sport Shooting*, is highly recommended and available at [rfpsport.com](http://rfpsport.com). Use the coupon code "Chip" to receive 15 percent off an order of any amount through Dec. 31, 2020.

*This article was first published by W.H. "Chip" Gross published on December 16, 2020. ■*



# Fitness check: Are you in shape for shooting?

While it won't turn you into Doug Koenig or Julie Golob overnight, incorporating some of these nutrition and exercise factors may contribute to some benefits on the range.

I'll never forget the first time I shot a .45-cal. handgun. I had just started shooting, and was at an indoor range happily plinking away with my brand-new Ruger Mark III Hunter .22 pistol. One of the guys that worked there, a hulking mass of a fellow, handed me a different pistol and said, "Here—shoot this." I asked him what kind of handgun it was, and he wouldn't tell me. So, I pointed downrange, and squeezed the trigger. BOOM! I turned and yelled at him, "I can't shoot this gun! Take it back!" He yelled back at me to keep shooting. So I did, emptying the magazine.

When we retrieved the target, we saw I managed to hit it a few times, but my shot pattern was all over the place. Turns out he was a retired Green Beret, and he told me he always starts his students on a .45, then works their way down to a .22. "That way, they can handle any caliber firearm," he said. Then he taught me a very important lesson. "If you work out, and build up your arm and grip strength, you'll shoot better, and you can shoot anything you want." Turns out ... he was right.

According to Shooting Sports USA and other experts in the field, shooters who are involved in a regular physical fitness program may enjoy the following benefits:

- Improved accuracy with superior control of a firearm
- Extended stamina and endurance for hunts and matches

- Increased ability to handle stress in competition, or in a panic situation

Here are some exercise and nutrition tips to help you become a better shooter, whether for recreation, self-defense, or competition. (NOTE: Check with your doctor before embarking on a physical fitness program, especially if you haven't exercised in a while.)

**Start with your core.** "Shooters should focus on strengthening their core muscles, which are the muscles around your trunk and pelvis, to improve balance and stability," says Robert Herbst, certified personal trainer, 19-time world power-lifting champion, and 34-time national champion. "Increased stability leads to increased accuracy, whether you're shooting a 10-lb. rifle or a 2-lb. pistol."

**To strengthen your core muscles, do an exercise called "The Plank":**

-Lie on your stomach with your arms next to your sides.

-Raise yourself up so that you're resting on your forearms, and clench your fists.

-Point your toes into the mat.

-Place your shoulders directly above your elbows.

-Tighten your abs as if you are about to be punched in the stomach. Your body should be in as straight a line as possible, horizontal to the floor.

-Hold for 30 seconds.

-Return to the start position and repeat.

**Strengthen the legs.** "Shooters need to be able to stand steady while holding their firearm, so strong legs

are a must," says Herbst. "To get strong legs fast, choose exercises such as high-rep squats and lunges. As an added bonus, these exercises will also work the core to give you strength and stability when holding a firearm."

**Squats.** Stand with your feet slightly greater than shoulder width apart and your toes pointing ahead. Slowly descend, bending through the hips, knees and ankles. Stop when your knees reach a 90-degree angle. Then return to the starting position. Repeat 12 times.

**Stabilize those shoulders.** "One of the most important fitness tips for shooters is to work on their shoulder stabilizer muscle strength," says Leon Turetsky, certified personal trainer, and corrective exercise specialist. "In order for shooters to have a steady arm while shooting, their shoulder muscles need to be in tip-top shape."

According to Turetsky, the main muscles involved here are the rotator cuff and deltoids. The rotator cuff muscles are a group of four muscles in and around the shoulder and shoulder blade area. Their main function is to stabilize the shoulder joint. Deltoid muscles form the rounded contour of the shoulder. "In shooting, they would be responsible for providing support to the arm holding the gun," notes Turetsky.

Here are two great exercises to activate and strengthen the rotator cuff and deltoid muscles:

**Exercise #1: External Rotation with a Band**

- Attach a resistance band to a doorknob, or something that doesn't move.



- Hold the other end of the resistance band in one hand (with tension), with shoulder internally rotated.
- Externally rotate the arm and shoulder (tension increases).
- Repeat 10 times on each arm and do 2 sets.

Exercise #2: Supraspinatus exercise

- Hold 2 low-weight dumbbells in both hands
- Externally rotate the arms so the thumbs point up.
- Slowly raise both arms to just below shoulder height
- Repeat 12 times and do 2 to 3 sets

**Get a grip.** A strong grip and forearm will help provide a stable platform for shooting, resulting in increased accuracy. A gun's recoil energy has to go somewhere, and if you have a strong lower arm, you should have better recoil absorption, more control of the firearm, and aim better. You should also have stronger gun retention—in other words, if someone tries to take your gun away from you, you will have a greater chance of holding on to your firearm for self-defense.

Follow these tips from certified personal trainer Jason Priest:

Purchase a gripper. "They are fairly inexpensive and can be purchased at most sporting good stores," says Priest. "Do three sets of 10 reps each day, increasing the number of reps until you run out of strength." Other products include Fat Gripz, Captains of Crush Grippers, and hand bands. You can also squeeze a tennis or racquetball.

**Practice reverse curls.** "Stand while holding a barbell at shoulder width with your elbows close to your torso, and your feet shoulder-width apart,"

says Priest. "The palm of your hands should be inward, facing your body. Keep your upper arms stationary, and bring up the barbell, curling and contracting the biceps, and exhale."

**Go long.** To increase stamina and endurance for those day-long hunts and three-day matches, follow these tips from certified personal trainer Franklin Antoian:

"A good range-ready tune-up would be to participate in some form of aerobic exercise, such as walking, for at least 30 minutes a day, five days a week," says Antoian. "This will provide heart-healthy benefits, and improve your shooting thanks to overall fitness." To increase stamina, Antoian suggests to increase the amount of reps that you do per exercise by 20 percent, and decrease rest time between exercises. "You can also add a cross-training cardio program, such as an additional 15 minutes on the treadmill, 15 minutes on an elliptical, or 15 minutes on a rowing machine."

**Aim for lean protein and fiber.** "Food is fuel," notes Elliot Beadle, sports dietician with Sodexo at Lehigh Valley Health Network. "If you put high-quality fuel in your tank, you're going to get good performance out of it." Protein helps build muscle tissue, and keeps your energy level on an even keel throughout the day. High-fiber foods have cardiovascular benefits, such as reducing blood pressure and inflammation. Dietary fiber also helps control blood sugar levels.

Beadle suggests dividing your plate into the following categories: ¼ plate of lean protein, ½ plate of veggies or fruit, and ¼ plate of whole grains. "What's key here is consistency," he

notes. "You don't want to drastically change your routine on the day of competition. You want it to be a habit as far as what you're eating, and when. If you change your diet on the day of a match or hunt, you could upset your system."

**Crunch on carrots.** "In regard to shooting sports, eye health is crucial," says Emily Wargo, clinical dietician, St. Luke's University Health Network. "Vitamin A has been proven to aid against macular degeneration and cataracts. It has also been shown to play a role in maintaining clear corneas, and is a component of rhodopsin, a protein that assists in better sight in low-light conditions." Other nutrients that support healthy vision include lutein and zeaxanthin. Great sources of these nutrients include carrots, sweet potatoes, spinach, kale, pumpkin, and green peppers.

**Drink up!** W.C. Fields once said, "Let us drink with impunity ... Or anyone else who's buying!" He'd be disappointed to hear we're talking about water here. "If you're shooting outside all day in the summer, water is key for adequate hydration," says Wargo. "Try to overhydrate before a match, because if you become dehydrated, it can take up to 12 hours to fully rehydrate." Wargo suggests 11 cups of water daily for women, and 15 cups a day for men.

*Maureen Sangiorgio is an NRA-Certified Firearms Instructor/RSO, and an award-winning writer.*

*This article was first published by Maureen Sangiorgio published on April 9, 2020. ■*

# Trusting the gun you carry

It's important to know that the pistol or revolver you're packing is going to function properly in an emergency situation.

I learned the importance of carrying a gun I can trust the hard way. Although there are lessons that can only be experienced firsthand, there are others that are better learned from someone else's misadventures. I would like to share one of the wrong turns I took early on in my defensive handgun pursuits in hopes that you can avoid repeating it.

Nearly 25 years ago, I was in the market for a concealed-carry revolver. I found a less-expensive 6-shot snubnose .357 Mag. from a lesser-known manufacturer (which is now out of business) that was just the right price and it had the features I was looking for. My friend behind the gun counter kindly advised me that the model I was considering wasn't exactly the best choice in the case. He suggested I save my money for a couple of more paychecks and get a similarly sized and gently used Smith & Wesson, which he would be happy to put on hold for me.

But I was young and impatient. I didn't want to wait or spend more than I thought I had to. I purchased the cheaper revolver, a couple of boxes of ammunition and stepped into the gun shop's indoor shooting range. I loaded up, took my stance and fired the first six rounds into a paper target. The second cylinder full fired smoothly as well. But when I loaded up a third time, things got interesting. The revolver jammed around the

third or fourth shot. You heard right, the revolver jammed! It locked up completely and wouldn't cycle any more. I opened the cylinder, checked things out and everything looked okay. I replaced the spent rounds, closed the cylinder and started again. Right around the second or third shot, the cylinder locked up tight once more.

For those who are less familiar with double-action revolvers, one of their top selling points is that they don't jam! While semi-automatics rely on the energy produced by the cartridge to cycle the action, revolvers do not. They don't have the same ammunition sensitivities as semi-automatic pistols. Pulling the trigger causes the cylinder to turn. Barring a physical obstruction or break down, revolvers don't jam up so that the cylinder won't turn. But this was literally a brand new gun and there wasn't a malfunction or a blockage that I could identify.

Luckily there was an experienced gunsmith on the staff who was on duty when this happened. He took the revolver through a series of checks and shot it for himself. It was an elusive problem that had him scratching his head because the jams seemed to come and go without any rhyme or reason. In the end, it turned out that the face of cylinder was uneven. When the revolver was room temperature, the cylinder would cycle properly without any hang-ups. But as the cylinder was heated up by the ammunition, the metal expanded just enough to cause the uneven surface to catch and stop against the forcing cone. When the cylinder cooled, it would work properly once more.

**It's important to know that the pistol or revolver you're packing is going to function properly in an emergency situation.**

This was a problem the gunsmith had never encountered before. It made me uneasy to realize that I had almost walked out of the shop with a revolver that could lock up right when it was needed the most! I asked him if he could fix it for me. He had the skills and resources but he refused to do the work. Instead, I paid the shipping costs to have the gun shop send the revolver back to the manufacturer, who took several weeks (about a couple of paychecks worth) to do the work and send the gun back. Not only did it take a long time, they did a miserable job of



it too. When I finally got the revolver back, it was obvious that they just hit it with a disk grinder and called it good. Instead of the clean, smooth cylinder face it had before, half of the face looked like it had been dragged across a parking lot.

I handed the sloppily modified revolver over to the same gunsmith who checked it out the first time to give it the once over before pulling the trigger myself. Despite its Phantom of the Opera appearance, the gun passed all of the smith's bench checks and a live-fire range test leading to a clean bill of health. He said the gun was ready for the shooting range and safe to carry for personal protection.

But I didn't feel safe, not with that revolver on my hip. Every time I handled it I could still remember the feel of the cylinder grinding to a halt with the chambers out of line with the barrel. The cylinder's grinder scars wouldn't let me forget it. The frustration of slow and poorly executed customer service fueled a burning question that wouldn't leave me alone: what else could go wrong with this gun?

Because of all this, I just didn't trust the gun any more, especially as a self-defense option. I quickly realized that in a self-defense situation there was a good chance that I might hesitate to draw it at a critical moment, just as someone might hesitate before stepping out onto a rickety bridge. And in a dynamic and difficult defensive situation, where seconds, even fractions of seconds can make all

the difference, any hesitation could be dangerous.

I took that revolver back to the gun shop. They were willing to buy it back as a used gun for about 25 percent of what I originally paid for it, adding more financial injury to the poor product quality insult. It was perfectly clear at this point that I should have taken my friend's advice and waited to buy the better revolver.

If you've read this far, I hope you won't mistake this for a revolver bashing session. I'm a dyed-in-the-wool revolver fan. The gun discussed here was an anomaly. I haven't ever run into this problem again or heard anyone say they've run into it either. I've owned other revolvers since then, and evaluated dozens more, which proved to be utterly reliable options for personal protection. In fact, the lemon was eventually replaced with a tough little stainless steel Ruger SP101 .357 Mag. that is still as reliable as the day I got it.

What I do hope you'll consider is whether there's anything about the defensive handgun you have, or that you're considering purchasing, that could make you hesitate to use it in a defensive situation. Clearly any firearm exhibiting mechanical problems or reliability issues should not be staged for personal protection. They should be set aside until they can be returned to proper working order by a qualified gunsmith.

If you're still shopping for a handgun, look for an opportunity to test fire one before you buy it. Some shooting

ranges rent out handguns, or maybe you can borrow it from a friend.

If you already own the gun, there could be other features and factors that contribute to your feeling uneasy with that particular model. Is the recoil manageable, or does the gun feel difficult to control? Is the grip a good fit for your hand shape? Or is it too big get your hands around or too small for good control? Are the sights easy to work with, or are they hard to see? Do you have a clear understanding of how to safely operate and maintain this firearm? Would a different brand or better quality of ammunition solve the problem?

Some of these issues can be resolved with modifications to the firearm or additional education for the gun owner. But in some cases, trading out a gun you already own for a different model is the best option. It's not cheap to buy a different gun, and it's not always easy to make the change. But when it comes to trusting your life the gun you carry, it's absolutely worth it!

*This article was first published by B. Gil Horman published on June 17, 2020. ■*

# Member Clubs

List your club's events FREE! Not a member? Call us for an application.

## 110 Rod & Gun Club

275 Gidley Road  
Pleasant Valley, NY 12569  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sun. 3 Gun Shoot  
4<sup>th</sup> Sun. Sporting Clays M. Rossi  
(845) 471-7497

## 336 Rifle & Pistol Club

Glen Head, NY  
.22 rifle, centerfire pistol, .22 pistol  
www.336rifleandpistol.com

## Armed & Unarmed School of Security Inc.

Defensive Pistol/Rifle/Shotgun Training Nick M. (845) 878-4804  
Trap Shooting Tues./Sat. Trap Instruction Mon./Sun. Special Event Range Usage (845) 270-4232

## Attica Rod & Gun Club High Power Tournaments Action Pistol

G. Logan (585) 591-2820  
D. Hojnicky (585) 591-1705  
T. Thompson (585) 591-0697

## Bar-20 Cowboy Action Shooters

At Eatonbrook R&G Club  
West Eaton, NY  
SASS, IDPA, Rimfire Challenge  
www.facebook.com/  
bartwentysportsclub

## BayRidge Rod & Gun Club

6716 Ft. Hamilton Pkwy  
Brooklyn, NY 11219

## Beaver Brook Rod & Gun Club

443 County Road 22  
Narrowsburg, NY 12764  
Trap & Skeet Sunday mornings  
B. Hofaker (845) 557-8522

## Binghamton Rifle Club

Pistol  
W. Platt (607) 723-2658  
wlplatt@stney.rr.com  
P. Matway (607) 723-1418  
pmatwey@stny.rr.com

## Black Rick Fish & Game Club

31 Liberty St.  
Highland Falls, NY 10928

## Bog Trotters R&P Club

Eden, NY (716) 992-4292  
High Power Pistol  
edendds@roadrunner.com

## Brookhaven Pistol Club

41 Brook St. Sayville, NY  
Pistol shooting  
Brookhaven\_pc@yahoo.com

## Broome County Sportsmen's Assoc.

PO Box 1794  
Binghamton, NY  
www.bcsportsmen.org

## Brunswick Sportsman's Club

Cropseyville, NY 12052 Smallbore, Highpower, Trap & Skeet  
Pistol, Air Rifle, Women's Activities  
www.brunswicksportsmansclub.org

## Burlington Flats Fish & Game Club

Edmeston, NY  
Pistol, Bullseye, Skeet, Trap, Jr. Rifle, F-Class Smallbore Shotgun  
(607) 965-8096  
www.bffgc.com

## Busti Trap Club

1181 Southwestern Drive  
Jamestown, NY 14701

## Camillus Sportsmen's Club

High Power Light Rifle Pistol  
Shotgun Smallbore  
www.camillusportsmensclub.com

## Caribou Rifle & Pistol Club

PO Box 6012  
North Babylon, NY 11703  
Meetings in East Islip  
Dan (631) 327-4942  
Rory (631) 232-1354  
www.caribougunclub.org

## Castleton Fish & Game Club

Light Rifle Pistol Shotgun  
castletonclub@gmail.com

## Columbia Greene FNRA

Leeds, N.Y.  
M. Conway (518) 537-5441

## Conservation Club of Brockport

Smallbore Pistol  
(585) 637-5961  
www.ccbrockport.org

## Cooperstown Sportsmen's Association

Skeet, Trap, 100-yard range  
(607) 547-8104

## Cortland County Pistol Club

H. Terwilliger  
terwilligers@yahoo.com  
www.cortlandpistolclub.net

## Depew Rod & Gun Club

PO Box 11  
Depew, NY 14043

## Dunham's Bay Fish & Game Club

Queensbury, NY  
(518) 668-4475 (518) 792-8821

## Dutchess County Pistol Assoc.

47 St. Nicholas Road  
Wappingers Falls, NY 12590  
(845) 297-4481  
Dcpistol.org  
info@dcpistol.org

## East End Regulators

Westhampton, NY  
Cowboy Action Shooting Club  
1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of every month  
D. Share (516) 640-8082

## Eaton Brook Rod & Gun Club

4700 Wilcox Road  
West Eaton, NY 13334

## Elma Conservation Club

Elma, NY  
R. Kraft (716) 675-5318

## Ephratah Rifle & Gun Club

Fort Plain, NY Trap Sundays 9 a.m.  
Hunter Training (518) 993-3061

## Forbes Rifle & Pistol Club

Albany, NY  
Highpower  
M. McGill (518) 355-5475

## Freeport R&R Club

Only outdoor range Nassau County  
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www.freeportlittleclub.org

## Glencadia R & G Club

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Pistol League  
R. Smith (518) 821-1255  
K. Smith (518) 858-5404  
Cabin Fever Bow League  
L. Jennings (518) 821-9213  
5 Stand & Sporting Clays  
T. Brorup (518) 755-5997  
www.glenacdiarodandgun.com

## Grand Island Rod & Gun Club Inc.

1083 Whitehaven Road  
Grand Island, NY  
Trap & Skeet, Sporting Clays,  
Pistol, Women's & Jr. Activities  
(716) 773-3529

## Great Lot Sportsmen's Club

Boonville, NY Snowshoeing 10 a.m.  
2/2 & 16 3/23 & 30  
G. Case (315) 378-7592

## Greenfield Fish & Game

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CMP Jr. & Sr. Shoots  
T. Internicola (315) 859-0796  
Trap Tues. nights  
M. Bambino (315) 724-4954  
Hunter Safety Courses  
www.greenfieldrange.com

## Hartland Conservationist Club

3606 Orangeport Road  
Gasport, NY 14067  
(716) 772-7390

## Hendrick Hudson Fish & Game

Poestenkill, NY  
High Power, Pistol  
NRA Silhouette/Smallbore  
A. Dorman (518) 573-5176  
hhfgscc@gmail.com Shotgun  
A. Cole (518) 674-3756

## Hudson Falls Fish & Game Club

Archery, Rifle & Pistol  
Indoor/Outdoor  
Skeet, 5 Stand & Trap  
10 a.m. Mon., Thurs., Sun.  
(518) 747-4850  
www.hffgc.net  
hudsonfallsfishandgame@gmail.com

## Hudson Fish & Game Club

PO Box 85  
Hudson, NY 12534  
(518) 828-6111  
Trap Fri. 7-10 p.m.  
Dave (518) 567-7991

## Hudson Valley Sportsmans Assoc.

PO Box 1294  
Wappingers Falls, NY  
www.HVSA.org

## Ilion Fish & Game Club

PO Box 177  
Ilion, NY  
(315) 894-2938  
Trap & skeet, Sporting clays





**Jamestown Rifle Club**  
 NRA/CMP Highpower League  
[www.jamestownrifleclub.org](http://www.jamestownrifleclub.org)  
 Junior Smallbore/Air Rifle  
 NRA Light Rifle League  
 J. Schmitt (716) 397-4378  
 Jschmitt1452@yahoo.com  
 Adult 4-position League  
 D. Allen (716) 763-5000  
 lizardvolts@yahoo.com  
 WNY/PA Pistol League  
 S. Slagle (814) 730-3904

**Kinderhook Fish & Game**  
 Rifle, Pistol, Archery, Fishing  
 Trap Sun 9-12, Wed 4  
 Dave (518) 567-7991

**Long Island Antique Historical Arms Society Inc.**  
[www.liahas.org](http://www.liahas.org)

**Long Island Black Powder Rifles**  
 118 Wood Ave.  
 Mastic, NY 11950

**The Maidstone Gun Club Inc.**  
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 East Hampton, NY 11937  
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**Marbletown Sportsmens Club**  
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 Outdoor Range, Jr. Programs,  
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**New Paltz R&G Club**  
 Trap Open to the public.  
 Contact M. Schmidt  
[trap@newpaltzrodandgun.org](mailto:trap@newpaltzrodandgun.org)

**North East Arms Collectors Assoc.**  
 PO Box 185  
 Amityville, NY 11701

**North Forest R&G Club**  
 Lockport, NY  
 Skeet, Trap, 5 Stand, Clays  
 (716) 438-2009  
[www.nfrgc.com](http://www.nfrgc.com)

**North Star Sportsman's Club**  
 Hamlin, NY Shotgun  
 F. Petricone (585) 456-8824  
[www.northstarsportsmansclub.org](http://www.northstarsportsmansclub.org)

**Northern Chautauqua R&P Club**  
 Fredonia, NY (716) 672-3488

**Northern Dutchess Rod & Gun Club**  
 Rhinebeck, NY 12572  
 T. Abrahams (845) 389-2661  
[www.ndrgc.com](http://www.ndrgc.com)

**NYC Womens Sport Shooting League**  
[info@nycwssl.org](mailto:info@nycwssl.org)

**Old Breed R&P Club**  
 Nassau County Range Bullseye  
 Rimfire/Center Fire Sundays 9 a.m.  
 Bob (516) 404-9166

**Oneida Rifle Club**  
 Indoor/Outdoor Pistol  
 Indoor Smallbore  
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 Trap Field  
 Youth Instruction  
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**Oneonta Sportsmen's Club**  
 Shotgun every Sunday  
[www.oneontasportsmensclub.com](http://www.oneontasportsmensclub.com)

**Owlkill Rod & Gun Club**  
 Eagle Bridge, NY  
[www.owlkill.org](http://www.owlkill.org)

**Paris Gun Club**  
 Utica, NY  
 M. Burline (315) 796-7766  
 K. Froit (315) 796-5518

**Parkchester Rifle & Revolver Assoc.**  
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 Bronx, NY 10462  
 (718) 823-3162

**Pathfinders Fish & Game Club**  
 116 Crescent Drive, Fulton, NY  
 Rifle/ Pistol Ranges for Centerfire,  
 Rimfire, Muzzleloading, Air Rifle;  
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 Clays; Cowby Action, USPSA, Steel,  
 Indoor, Outdoor & 3-D Archery,  
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[www.pathfinderfishandgame.com](http://www.pathfinderfishandgame.com)

**Peconic River Sportsmen's Club**  
 Manorville, NY  
 Club Office (631) 727-5248  
 NRA registered matches  
 High Power  
 T. Najdzion (516) 982-0612  
[Tnajdzio@optonline.net](mailto:Tnajdzio@optonline.net)

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 Shotgun, Rifle, Pistol, Fishing,  
 Archery  
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 Adult/Youth Instruction, Boating,  
 Archery, Hunting, Trap  
[prgc1923@gmail.com](mailto:prgc1923@gmail.com)  
 (518) 672-4108

**Pine Tree Rifle Club**  
 419 Johnson Ave. Johnstown, NY  
 Fishing, hunting, shooting, military,  
 Buy-Sell-Trade  
 NRA Basic Shotgun 6/9 Registration  
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 Trap Sat, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.  
 (518) 883-8605

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 Competitions Junior Programs  
 Equip & Instruction Provided  
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[roughridersrifleteam@yahoo.com](mailto:roughridersrifleteam@yahoo.com)

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 NRA Firearms Instruction  
 M Berman (914) 245-8618

**Ramapough Sportsmens Assoc.**  
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 Nanuet, NY  
 Smallbore, Pistol, Women's & Junior  
 Activities

**Ridge Runners Shooting Club Inc.**  
 Champlain, NY  
[www.ridgerunners.us](http://www.ridgerunners.us)  
[www.facebook.com/ridgerunnersrange](http://www.facebook.com/ridgerunnersrange)  
 G. Graham  
[back2biloxi@yahoo.com](mailto:back2biloxi@yahoo.com)

**Rockland Rifle & Revolver**  
 Camp Smith  
 G. Kline (917) 709-3691  
[gkline711@gmail.com](mailto:gkline711@gmail.com)

**Rockland Rifle Club**  
 West Point  
 E. Mahecha [emahecha@verizon.net](mailto:emahecha@verizon.net)

**Roosevelt Rod & Gun Club Inc.**  
 Box 2458  
 Seaford, NY 11783  
 Hunting big & small game

**Roslyn Rifle & Revolver Club**  
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 Indoor Pistol  
 NRA Conv. Pistol Intl. Pistol  
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**Saranac Lake Fish & Game Club**  
 PO Box 588  
 Saranac Lake, NY 12983  
 (518) 891-2560

**Saugerties Fish & Game Club**  
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 D. Zeeh (845) 481-4465

**Shortsville Rod & Gun Club**  
 Shortsville, NY 14548

**Southampton Pistol & Rifle Club**  
 919 Majors Path  
 Southampton, NY 11968

**Sportsmen's Club of Clifton Park**  
 CMP Matches  
 J. King (518) 896-6596  
[sportsmensclubofcliftonpark.org](http://sportsmensclubofcliftonpark.org)

**Stephentown Valley Rod & Gun Club**  
 PO Box 545  
 Averill Park, NY  
 (518) 766-5350

**Sunrise Fish & Game Assoc. Inc.**  
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 Massapequa, NY 11758  
 (516) 658-4057

**Taconic Valley Rod & Gun Club**  
 420 Dater Hill Road Troy, NY  
[www.tvrgc.com](http://www.tvrgc.com)

**Ten X Shooting Club Inc.**  
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 CMP Rimfire sporter  
 Conventional Pistol  
 B. Aube (607) 754-6182  
 IDPA  
 B. Vernola (607) 754-0740  
 Trap ranges  
 L. Howe (607) 659-5069  
 Skeet  
 D. Mider (607) 642-8419  
 5 Stand  
 K. Gee (607) 237-6786  
 Cowboy Action  
 B. Compton (607) 659-4770  
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 M. Porter (607) 687-2472

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 Trap L. Pawlings (315) 723-5657

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 Pistol Shotgun Smallbore  
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 Ladies' Events  
 M. Mann (845) 551-9265

**Troy Pistol League**

Troy, NY  
 (518) 235-7800

**Trumansburg Rifle & Pistol Club**

PO Box 10  
 Trumansburg, NY 14886

**Twin City Shooting Club**

North Tonawanda, NY  
 Pistol, Light Rifle, Indoor Range  
 www.twincityshootingclub.com

**Voorheesville Rod & Gun Club**

52 Foundry Road, Voorheesville  
 (518) 765-9395  
 www.vrgclub.com Open daily @ noon  
 Trap Sun. & Tues. at 1 p.m. Pistol  
 Classes 1<sup>st</sup> Sat. & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sun. Wolfgang  
 or Tony (518) 441-2160 Berne Range  
 9 a.m.-1/2 hr. before sunset  
 rangeinfo@vrgclub.com Archery:  
 clubhouse grounds Target points only,  
 brdheads prohibited.  
 Crosbows bring own bolt backstops  
 Call club to book parties or events

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Clays & 5 Stand  
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 Wed. evenings in summer  
 Harry (845) 219-9327  
 Bucky (845) 542-8571  
 www.walkillrodandgun.com

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 Shotgun J. Stern (203) 232-7896  
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 P. Scarano (845) 401-6636

**Wolcottville Sportsmen's Club**

1525 Phelps Road  
 Cofu, NY 14036

If your club is a member and would like to be listed,  
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Email \_\_\_\_\_

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Revised 1/1/2011

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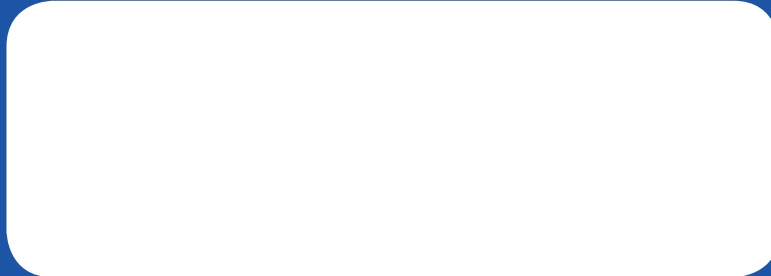


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