



Pedersoli's Blackpowder No 1. magazine

2nd Issue, December 2009

Tips & tricks
Fast rifle cleaning

Big Guns
Cannon shooting

Long Range
World Champs 2009

Pedersoli's
2010 products

Blackpowder hunt in Italy
.54 Jager vs. Mr. Wild Boar

In this issue

Tips and tricks:

<i>Fast and easy cleaning</i>	17
<i>45-90 - Loading for 1000 yards</i>	31
<i>Blackpowder cannon shooting</i>	24
<i>Blackpowder energy tables</i>	9

Tradition:

<i>Blackpowder hunting in Italy</i>	3
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From the shooting stands

<i>MLAIC Long Range World Champs</i>	11
<i>Interview with Kobus de Villiers</i>	15
<i>Invitation to Switzerland 2010 LRML</i>	34

Pedersoli pages

<i>2010 new items</i>	29
<i>Letters from our readers</i>	28
<i>Pedersoli on expo</i>	20
<i>An IX commemorative carbine</i>	10



From the hunters' heart...

Our December issue is dedicated to hunters, shooters, collectors with respect for our past and ancestors.

Hunting has always been part of human culture. Ancient instincts, love of nature, culture and respect for our roots are the main driving force behind the hunter in the hot Sahara, or cold Siberian woods. No other activity on Earth offers the individual the possibility to taste real freedom. Our high tech World has to be left behind for a few days to understand the oldest rules of life and death.



Blackpowder hunting is a special phenomenon of our age. Our old muzzleloading guns deliver just as much deadly power within short ranges as modern hunting rifles, but this traditional hunting method demands exceptional skills from the hunter. Stalking the game within 40 yards, shooting with open sights, choosing the right load and right bullet were simple, everyday tasks for the hunters before the 20th century. Learning these skills again are a great challenge for the hunter of our time, and demand extraordinary patience. But if the hunter does so, this hunting method offers him memories that no other hunting can offer.

Our other topic for this issue is long range muzzleloading shooting. This year's LRML World Championships in the US showed some extraordinary achievements. The aggregate replica and original World Champion title were both won by South African shooters. We salute all the participants with match reviews and interviews, and help new shooters with valuable information.

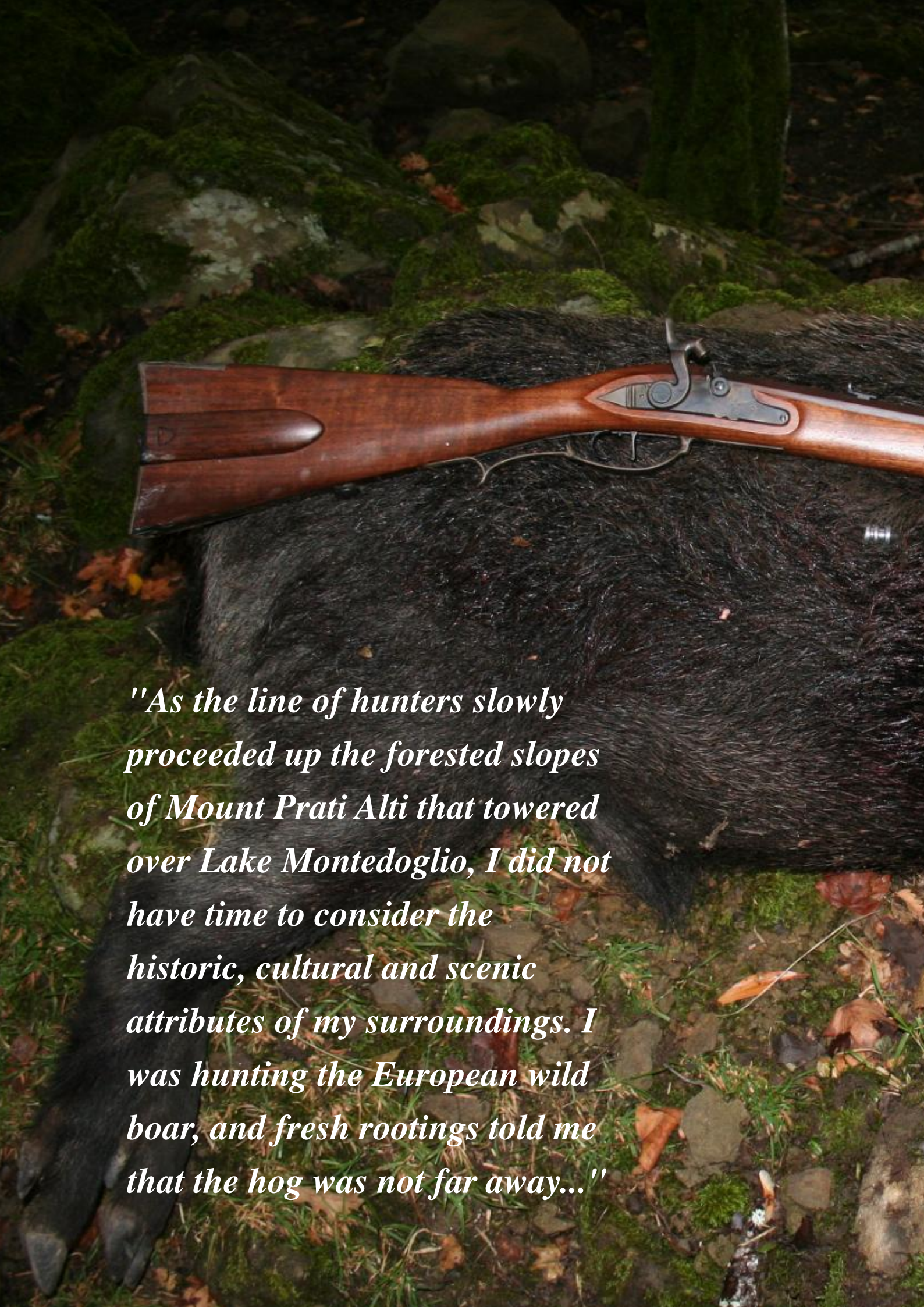
We wish you and your family a pleasant, peaceful Christmas, and a successful happy new year.

Keep your powder dry!



Pierangelo Pedersoli
editorial director

Balázs Németh
editor in chief



"As the line of hunters slowly proceeded up the forested slopes of Mount Prati Alti that towered over Lake Montedoglio, I did not have time to consider the historic, cultural and scenic attributes of my surroundings. I was hunting the European wild boar, and fresh rootings told me that the hog was not far away..."

A black bear is lying on its side on a large, moss-covered rock. A long-barreled rifle with a wooden stock and a black barrel is resting on the bear's back. The bear's fur is dark and appears wet or matted. There is some blood visible on the bear's side. The background shows more rocks and some dry leaves on the ground.

by Wm. Hovey Smith

Italian Style *blackpowder hunting*

This hunt was being done on foot as recent rains provided ideal stalking conditions. The rocks and trees were overgrown with moss and grasses, reminding me of mountain creeks that I have hunted in Alaska and the Rocky Mountain states.

Spread at about 40-yard intervals, our host Pierangelo Pedersoli anchored the left part of the line. Aurelio Boninsegni, the owner of the 200-hectare La Conca agricultural preserve was beside me and ballistician Alberto Riccadonna and editor Emanuele Tabasso were to the right.

I had hunted hogs many times in the U.S., but this was the first time I had hunted the European wild boar in its native habitat. The footing on the moss-covered boulders was treacherous. I was looking for a safe place to take my next step when a noise from ahead and a glimpse of something big and black informed me that the boar was on the move and very

Aurelio Boninsegni show in his homemade buckskins.



This photograph, taken in fading light, shows the author, gun and where the boar fell.

close.

As I wanted a European hunting experience, the gun I carried was particularly appropriate. It was a Davide Pedersoli .54-caliber early American Jaeger rifle the Germanic antecedents of which had been designed for this type of work. Pedersoli was carrying a 12-gauge double slug-shotgun, Riccadonna a Pedersoli double Kodiak rifle and Tabasso Pedersoli's new Hawken rifle.

True to the Jaeger style, my rifle was a relatively short barreled large-caliber gun intended to deliver a heavy ball into large game animals, particularly wild boars. The Pedersoli version was .54-caliber and its 27½-inch barrel was rifled to stabilize a Thompson/Center Arms 430-grain MaxiBall.

Jaegers were historically produced in both flintlock and percussion



The hunting party now in “civilian” dress before departing. From left to right, Danilo Liboi, Luca Rizini, Pierangelo Pedersoli, Marco Ramanzini, Alberto Riccadonna, Emanuele Tabasso and the author.

versions. My gun was fired by a no. 11 percussion cap and stoked with 106 grains of Swiss FFg black powder. I had only shot the gun twice. The first shot was off-hand and the bullet hit an inch or so above the bull at about 40 yards. When the shot broke I was aiming three inches to the left. The second shot, with a closer hold, confirmed that the gun was shooting to the right.

My favorite style of rifle for off-hand shooting has always been the set-triggered Hawken design. The forward-weighted barrel aids to steady off-hand holding that is nearly impossible with broom-straw weight tubes. I have taken off-hand killing shots at a walking boar at 85 yards with one of my Hawken rifles and used another to hit one-by-two-inch alligator’s brain at 30 yards.

“Enough shooting,” our host said. “It is time to hunt.”

Hunting Italian Style

I was in distinguished company. Marco Ramanzini, Danilo Liboi and Tabasso have editorial responsibilities for the magazines Diana,

Sentieri di Cacca and Caccia a Palla while Pierangelo Pedersoli and Luca Rizini are presidents of the gun-making companies, Davide Pedersoli and Fair. My responsibility was to take the Pedersoli Jaeger and cleanly kill a game animal with it.

Another task was that Pierangelo Pedersoli was attempting to convince the Italian government that muzzleloading guns were effective on game and that it would be advantageous to have special seasons for these guns. He had invited me and the other writers to help publicize muzzleloading hunting. For me, this hunt was more about shooting well than taking trophies.

This was very much a two-way interchange. These Italian journalist were interested in learning about my American exploits with muzzleloaders, and I wanted to hear about European hunting. The basic difference was that, in Europe, hunting is more of a group experience, whereas in the U.S. it is more commonly a solitary undertaking.

“Often,” Ramanzini explained, “these will be quite large affairs. There may be 40 dogs used to move the game and perhaps 50 people

participating in the hunt. It is not unusual for a hunting club to take 200 to 400 boars a year. The hunter who kills gets the trophy, but all share the meat.

“At each kill, honor is paid to the animal by placing a broken branch into its mouth as a ‘last meal,’ and frequently there is a ceremony with horn playing, banqueting and toasting at the conclusion of the hunt.”

It came as a shock when I told them that the only aspect of European hunting traditions practised in the United States was blooding the face of a young hunter when he took his first big-game animal. For most hunters it is gut the animal and drag it back to camp.

Asked why this was so, I replied, “Remember that America was settled by those who were escaping wars, famine and religious persecutions. They risked their lives to cross the Atlantic and settle in a hostile environment. Many European traditions were left behind in favor of what a man could accomplish with his own hands. For most Americans, big game hunting is still a solitary undertaking with one man taking one animal per trip.”

On the trip from Gardon in the Val du Trompia and down the Apennine Mountains to the la Conca reserve near Sansepolcro, Pierangelo Pedersoli talked non-stop about Italy’s complex hunting and gun laws. Hunters are licensed to hunt only within their provinces. With the exception of hunting on shooting preserves, they must relinquish their hunting licenses in their home provinces to obtain one in another. They may also only buy and possess ammunition for guns they have on license.

Non-Italian hunters may not hunt in public hunting areas, but are restricted to shooting preserves. La Conca specializes in agriturismo (agricultural tourism) and maintains four former home sites where tourists may experience rural life while living in modern

Paridiso at the ancient farm-site of Vallorsaia where we stayed.



A meat course consisting of various birds, including wild pigeons with a side of potatoes.



comfort, including swimming pools. These farms had been abandoned, and Boninsegni rebuilt the old farmhouses using wood that he cut and milled on the property.

The hunt continues

Getting ready for a possible shot, I cocked the hammer and set the trigger – carefully holding my trigger finger outside of the trigger guard. Although only 25 yards away, the boar was moving away at a trot and twisting this way and



One of the lunches served in the former cow stalls on the first floor of the Vallorsaia farm site. It is said that if you want Italians to be silent, tie their hands. Here Davide Pedersoli gestures as he tells a story.

that on its path. This was a going-away shot that was partly obscured by intervening rocks and trees. The boar hesitated in a clearing across the creek, briefly offering a shot at 40 yards. I put the sights on the animal and touched the set trigger.

Smoke from the gun obscured the result. I heard crashing noises, and Boninsegni said, "Bravo. Molto bravo." The 175-pound boar was down and dead. When the bullet was recovered it had expanded to .75-caliber and exhibited a perfect mushroom. It had passed through both lungs and the heart. I was very grateful that my quick, off-hand shot had struck the animal well. Pierangelo had a shot at a running hog and missed, but others of our group took a fallow deer stag, a doe and two mouflon. It had been a good day, and we returned for supper.

We were served in typical Italian style at a long table that now sat where the cow stalls were located. Amid ancient beams, rocks and boards; we were had several concluding with dessert and coffee. Particularly memorable were wild boar backstraps and homemade.

Pierangelo Pedersoli took a gold-metal class mouflon at 80 yards using his 12-gauge slug-shotgun. I was not surprised that his smoothbored gun did so well. I also own one and have used it to take deer in the U.S. as well as a blue wildebeest, guinea fowl and other birds in Africa. At home I often load one barrel with a round ball for deer and another with shot for small game.

These hunts are expensive. To a base fee

for housing and meals, trophy fees are added for each animal. The mouflon goes for between 200 and 2,000 Euros, fallow deer from 250 to 1,500 Euros and boars for 10 Euros a kilogram. My boar, for example, would have cost about \$1,200. Seasons vary, but everything is open during the last half of October.

Wm. Hovey Smith

Adapted from an article first published in the 2010 Gun Digest, used with permission.

The author's boar teeth with the fired .54-caliber slug extracted from the boar and an un-fired 430-grain MaxiBall.



Muzzleloading energy tables

Firearm	Calibre/t wist rate	Powder in grains	Type of bullet	Weight of bullet	Vo m/s	Eo in Joule	V 100m in m/s	E 100m in Joule
HAWKEN	50 / 18"	60	ogival	32,4	305	1511	276	1238
HAWKEN	50 / 18"	60	ogival	32,4	309	1546	280	1267
HAWKEN	50/18"	82	ogival	32,4	346	1942	313	1592
HAWKEN	50/18"	82	ogival	32,4	351	1991	317	1632
HAWKEN	50/18"	102	ogival	32,4	388	2439	351	1999
HAWKEN	50/18"	102	ogival	32,4	391	2477	354	2030
TRYON CR	45/21"	60	ogival	32,4	304	1497	264	1126
TRYON CR	45/21"	60	ogival	32,4	300	1458	260	1096
TRYON CR	45/21"	82	ogival	32,4	351	1996	304	1501
TRYON CR	45/21"	82	ogival	32,4	362	2123	314	1596
TRYON CR	45/21"	102	ogival	32,4	384	2389	333	1796
TRYON CR	45/21"	102	ogival	32,4	389	2451	337	1843
TRYON CR	45/21"	120	ogival	32,4	416	2804	361	2108
TRYON CR	45/21"	120	ogival	32,4	417	2817	362	2118
TRYON CR	45/21"	82	Minié	20,1	428	1841	380	1450
TRYON CR	45/21"	82	Minié	20,1	431	1867	382	1470
TRYON CR	45/21"	120	Minié	20,1	477	2287	423	1801
TRYON CR	45/21"	120	Minié	20,1	481	2325	427	1831
TRYON	54/65"	60	MAXI	27,22	309	1301	283	1093
TRYON	54/65"	60	MAXI	27,22	308	1294	283	1088
TRYON	54/65"	82	MAXI	27,22	353	1696	324	1425
TRYON	54/65"	82	MAXI	27,22	360	1760	330	1479
TRYON	54/65"	102	MAXI	27,22	390	2070	358	1740
TRYON	54/65"	102	MAXI	27,22	392	2091	359	1757
TRYON	54/65"	124	MAXI	27,22	425	2454	389	2062
TRYON	54/65"	124	MAXI	27,22	425	2458	390	2066
TRYON	54/65"	124	MAXI	27,22	424	2441	388	2051
SAFARI EXPR	72/75"	102	Roundball	35	319	1781	260	1187
SAFARI EXPR	72/75"	102	Roundball	35	306	1639	250	1092
SAFARI EXPR	72/75"	102	Roundball	35	311	1693	254	1128
SAFARI EXPR	72/75"	124	Roundball	35	342	2049	279	1366
SAFARI EXPR	72/75"	124	Roundball	35	342	2047	279	1365
SAFARI EXPR	72/75"	164	Roundball	35	380	2527	310	1685
SAFARI EXPR	72/75"	164	Roundball	35	385	2594	314	1729
SAFARI EXPR	72/75"	102	TERMINATOR	44	315	2183	292	1882
SAFARI EXPR	72/75"	102	TERMINATOR	44	316	2194	293	1891
SAFARI EXPR	72/75"	124	TERMINATOR	44	339	2522	314	2174
SAFARI EXPR	72/75"	124	TERMINATOR	44	338	2516	314	2169
SAFARI EXPR	72/75"	164	TERMINATOR	44	344	2597	319	2239
SAFARI EXPR	72/75"	164	TERMINATOR	44	343	2590	319	2233
KODIAK	54/48"	80	ogival	27,5	386	2048	274	1033
KODIAK	54/48"	100	ogival	27,5	419	2416	289	1151
KENTUCKY	45/48"	60	Roundball	8,29	507	1065	298	368
KENTUCKY	45/48"	80	Roundball	8,29	576	1376	320	423
KENTUCKY	45/48"	100	Roundball	8,29	622	1601	336	469
KENTUCKY	50/60	60	Roundball	11,46	476	1298	298	508
KENTUCKY	50/60	80	Roundball	11,46	516	1528	310	552
KENTUCKY	50/60	100	Roundball	11,46	562	1807	326	609
KENTUCKY	54/48"	60	Roundball	14,89	404	1215	284	599
KENTUCKY	54/48"	80	Roundball	14,89	453	1530	299	665
KENTUCKY	54/48"	100	Roundball	14,89	502	1879	315	738
R. BLOCK avc	50/24"	100	Sabot	15,54	476	1762	392	1194
R. BLOCK avc	50/24"	120	Sabot	15,54	513	2041	421	1375
R. BLOCK avc	50/24"	60	MAXI	23,95	330	1303	269	866
R. BLOCK avc	50/24"	100	MAXI	23,95	411	2020	301	1082
R. BLOCK avc	50/24"	120	MAXI	23,95	429	2207	307	1131



An IX Cavalry commemorative musket

The fourth gun of the “10 years collection” project will celebrate the battle in Friedland and the peace made in Tilsit. Two moments of the French expansion which showed the great strategist Napoleon Bonaparte at his peak of success. In The Battle of Friedland, Napoleon crushed the Russian resistance against the French in the only region of Europe where it might have been possible to put an end to French battlefield successes. As a result, the French gained control over the largest region of land by displaying brilliant tactical maneuvers and defeating numerically superior forces.

At Friedland the action of Napoleon's cavalry was again the determining factor in the French victory.

Therefore the Davide Pedersoli company proposes the Cavalry musket AN IX for the 2007 commemorative musket, , one of the most representative guns of the Napoleonic army, equipping all troops riding horses (hunters, light cavalymen, grenadiers, lancers, carabineers and crusaders) including the Hussars, who

however continued to prefer their typical lighter and shorter 1786 musket.

Adopting some modifications the gun was also distributed to some infantry and gendarmerie corps and to the navy. Due to such a wide diffusion, the cavalry musket was produced until 1816 and about 225.000 units were manufactured in the various arsenals. The fame and the quality of that exact model spread across the whole of Europe, such that other States imitated it to arm their corps such as, the Royal Horses Carabineers of the Sardinia Reign from 1814.

This commemorative version will be limited to 500 units addressed to the French, German and Italian collectors, marked with the three distinct numbers.

The collectors who purchased the first three commemorative models have the pre-emption to reserve the same series number also for the 2007 model dedicated to the Great Strategist.



First (front) row (kneeling) fltr: Christoffel Smit; Kobus de Villiers; Eugene Kuisis; Merwe van Rensburg; Chris Williams (official admirer). Second (back) row (standing) fltr: Johann Vosser (team manager); Japie Maritz (team captain/coach); Johan de Beer; Corena de Beer; Ronnie Blake; Gavin James.

South Africans rule on the LRML World Championships

Article by Japie Maritz

It is not an everyday task to hit the bull's eye at a distance of 1000 yards. However it seems child's play if the South Africans do it. We asked Japie Maritz, to give the readers of BP No. 1. magazine a brief summary of the SA team's performance.

I recently had the good fortune and honour to lead a Protea foray deep into mouldy forests of Southern USA. The occasion was the 7th MLAIC (Muzzle Loading Association International Committee) Long Range World Championships held at Camp Butner, North Carolina. This occurred during the last week of September 2009. Also on the team were Ronnie Blake, Johan (Bare) De Beer, Corena De Beer, Gavin James, Eugene Kuisis, Tertius Smit, Merwe Van Rensburg, Kobus De Villiers and Johan Vosser (Team Manager).

The whole team, without exception, gathered at O R Tambo International late afternoon on Thursday, 17 September 2009, where we were treated to an impromptu bon voyage party by a few stalwart BPSU landlubbers.

Soon we were airborne, bound for Atlanta, Georgia, where we landed 16 hours later. A couple of hours later and we were in Raleigh, North Carolina. There we were greeted by Mon Yee, an American shooter. After collecting our rental car and bus, Mon escorted us to our motel in Butner, Granville County, but not before taking us for a local pub lunch, where we were also joined by Lee Shaver, (American shooter) the (then) reigning World Champion in the replica class and his wife. We really appreciated this gesture of hospitality from Mon and Lee.

Saturday, 19 September was spent visiting a firearms collectors' expo in Raleigh and thereafter just loitering in true African spirit. (In a sports pub we watched a gridiron football match between Duke University and some other lot. The Dukes played in sky-blue jerseys, which made some of us feel right at home. Only that referee could not recognise a forward pass even if it kicked him on the shin!)

Sunday, 20 September was spent on registration, rifle scrutiny and issuing of powder and caps. Back at the motel, the team took to measu-

ring powder charges and other preparations of their ordnance while the Coach diligently assumed a reclining position, allowing for even clearer thinking.

The weather forecast for the week ahead was gloomy. Chances were good that we would eventually not be able to shoot the separate team matches. Consequently, it was decided that each country would submit sealed envelopes containing the names of the four shooters, whose individual mid-range and long-range scores shall be counted as team scores in the event of separate team matches eventually not taking place. This meant that I had to pick provisional teams without the benefit of the individual match results, just going by the individual shooting form discernable during the practice sessions.

On Monday, 21 September, the shooting started in all earnest, with the practice sessions at 300, 500 and 600 yards. That evening, I had to make my choices of the four shooters for the mid-range envelope. I found this selection excruciating. All eight shooters were thoroughly worthy of being included in the team. All were in top form. All have made tremendous personal, professional and financial sacrifices to be there. Yet, the teams could only accommodate four of them. I simply had to choose and the next morning my envelope was handed to the match director.

On Tuesday, 22 September only the 300 yards match could be shot before we were all driven off the range by rain. At that distance, the South Africans did not do well at all. Our best was Corena De Beer in tenth place with a score of 42.2. The Germans excelled by taking the first four places. In the original class, Kobus De Villiers ended second with 42.1, one point behind the winner, Whittaker from the UK.

The next day, the 500 and 600 yards individual matches were shot. Here, the Proteas did much better. At 500 yards Eugene was second, with a score of 46.3, one V-bull behind the winner, Joseph Ruoss of Switzerland. Gavin James and Merwe Van Rensburg both scored 44.3 at 500 yards, giving them fifth and sixth places respectively. In the original class, Kobus was again second to Whittaker of the UK.

At 600 yards, Tertius came in third with a score of 45.3, one V-bull behind the winner, Andy Burgess of the UK (a "hanskakie" born and bred on the East Rand!). Tertius was counted out from second place by an equal score of Petra Leonhardt

from Germany. On individual midrange aggregates, Eugene Kuisis earned the Silver medal, while Tertius Smit earned the Bronze. In the original class, Kobus was second. (The envelopes remained unopened, as we were still to see whether the separate team match would realize.)

I should pause to say that during the mid-range matches, a pattern started to emerge. The European shooters, who generally specialize on the shorter ranges, displayed superior technical shooting form. As the ranges increased and the effect of weather conditions increased, the greater experience of the South Africans started gaining the upper hand. This pattern was to spring to full bloom in the long-range match, particularly at 900 yards. Thursday, 24 September, started with the 900 yards practice session and the 900 yards individual match after lunch. A remark about the 900 and 1,000 yards firing points is now necessary. Both those firing points are on top of rather high embankments, steeply sloping forward. During the practice sessions, the team members and I worked closely together to unravel the mysteries of this range. Eventually we figured that, due to the steep forward slope, a brisk headwind would cause an updraft right at the muzzles of our rifles. This would then, contrary to all our experiences on all other shooting ranges, raise the trajectory by up to four MOA higher than in a slighter headwind. Similarly, a brisk tailwind would cause a downdraft, which would cause the bullet to impact up to four MOA lower than in a slighter tailwind. At the same time, we learnt that the wind-flags are to be trusted much less than a used car dealer who is also a part-time lawyer. Nevertheless, with the benefit of our joint experiments during the practice session, the Proteas were ready to take on the world in the 900 yards match.

The climatic conditions at that time were simply murderous. The temperature was over 100°F while humidity was more than 90%. The wind, with a speed varying from ± 3 to ± 10 mph was constantly switching direction and doing so very swiftly every time. It was out-"fish tailing" a fish tail. On the upside, the mirage was running as thick as treacle, allowing the trained eye to read the conditions like a children's Bible. Of course, to the inexperienced shooter, these conditions and the effect of the embankments presented a Chinese puzzle.

Then a massacre of sorts occurred. Merwe won the Bronze with 65.3, breaking the (then)

World Record of 64.3. Eugene Kuisis beat Merwe by one V-bull for the Silver medal (obviously also breaking the old record), while Tertius Smit took the Gold, setting the new record at 67.2. The next South African was Ronnie Blake in ninth place with 60.1. Kobus De Villiers finished third in the original class with 57.1, two points behind Whittaker of the UK, the winner. South Africa did suffer one casualty though, when Corena developed a bout of heat-exhaustion and was taken to hospital. I am glad to say she made a full recovery and was back on the range the very next day.

One of the excuses heard later that evening, was that the South Africans were just “lucky” to have had such terrible conditions at 900 yards. But for that (so the excuse went), we would have seen a different result. Eugene then drew attention to the fact that, but for certain appendages, his uncle would have been his auntie. This promptly settled the matter. Friday the weather allowed for 1,000 yards practice, but no match. Again, we joined efforts to experiment and ponder the effect of the embankment. The 1,000 yards individual match commenced first thing Saturday morning. In contrast to the 900 yard match two days before, and the 1000 yards practice the day before, the conditions were exactly what the South Africans would not want, according to certain foreign shooting lore. The skies were heavily overcast, with hardly a breath of wind. The range-flags hung as if cast from pure lead and no mirage was discernable at all.

David Munch (USA) won the Bronze, with Günter Kunz of Germany second at 62.0. Eugene Kuisis won the Gold with 62.3. So much for



The two new World Champions, Kobus de Villiers and Eugene Kuisis

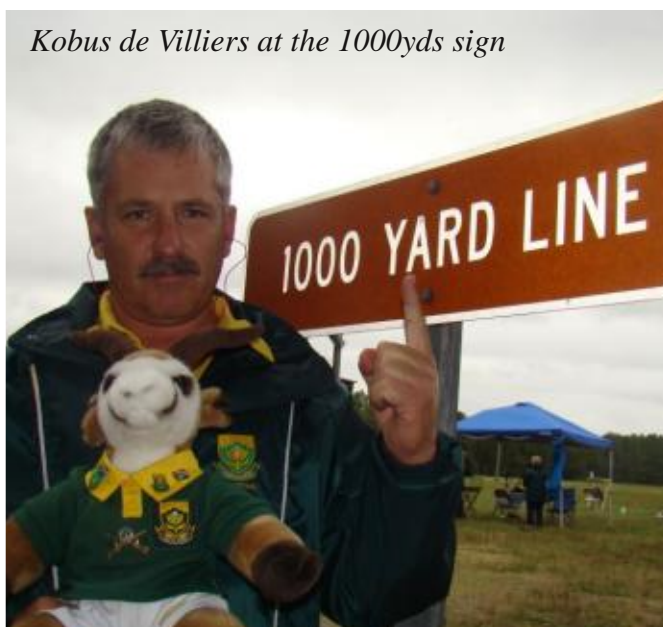
“luck” at 900 yards! The next South African was Merwe Van Rensburg in fourth place with 59.4.

That marked the end of the individual matches. On long range aggregates (replica), Eugene won the gold and Merwe the silver. Kobus won silver on long range aggregate (original). On grand aggregate, Eugene was the new World Champion in the replica class. Tertius was 4th, Merwe 6th and Gavin 9th. Kobus was the World Champion in the original class. (Amongst the Top Ten, five were South Africans).

Because it was still early in the day, the decision was made to start the separate team match at 1,000 yards and, if the weather allows, to move to the 900 yards thereafter. By then it was clear that there would not be sufficient time to have a

mid-range team match too. So, the mid-range envelopes were opened. The names in the South African envelope were Merwe Van Rensburg, Eugene Kuisis, Tertius Smit and Gavin James. Their combined scores were good enough to win a second place for South Africa in the mid-range team event, only two points behind the winning team, Germany.

After lunch we commenced the 1,000 yards team match. In the team were Eugene Kuisis, Merwe Van Rensburg, Tertius Smit and Gavin James. (This selection was, of course, with the benefit of individual long-range scores and would override the list in the envelope, should the long range team matches be completed). Those four shooters and I (as wind-coach), had practised our team-shoot routine on numerous occasions during the past year. The result was good synergy, culminating in another massacre. These scores were never officially released, for the reason stated below.



Kobus de Villiers at the 1000yds sign

Suffice it to say that, as far as we could tell, our lowest score in the team had beaten the best score in the closest rival team.

From there we moved to the 900 yards mark and commenced shooting that team match. It could, however, not be completed as it had started raining again. The final retreat was sounded by the match organisers, which marked the end of the 7th MLAIC Long Range World Championships. In the result, all scores in team events at 1,000 and 900 yards were scratched and the long-range envelopes were opened. The names in the South African envelope were Eugene Kuisis, Merwe Van Rensburg, Tertius Smit and Ronnie Blake. Their combined (uncoached) scores added up to 477.18. This was an improvement of 68 points above the previous World Record team score of 409.10! In the second place was Great Britain, with a score of 427.1. Although this was also above the previous record, Great Britain still ended up 50 points behind South Africa in the long-range team match. On grand team aggregates, South Africa was the overall winner with a team score of 976.44, a full 78 points ahead of the closest rival, the USA with 898.

This performance by the South African shooters was simply phenomenal in any language. All countries agreed that this time, the South Africans had raised the bar significantly. It would take hard work to ever improve on this performance in future. This World Championship in Camp Butner was a most memorable experience. The joviality with which every minute of the match was conducted is rare. We definitely rekindled all old friendships and forged many new ones. I am also happy to report that, amongst the team members, there was not a single instance of rabble-rousing, discor-

dance, insubordination, mutiny, sedition, high treason or any other conduct known to disturb Coaches in their highbrow meditation. I have nothing but the fondest appreciation for our shooters' camaraderie, mutual support and fellowship. At the same time, I am in awe about their prowess in marksmanship. I thank the team members for their good-spirited dedication over the last two years. All y'all truly are Champions of the highest order. You made me proud!

The next World Championships will be in 2011, Bisley England. We know that all countries will do their utmost to beat us then and attempt to prevent us from making it three in a row. Good luck to them!

Eugene's load for the Pedersoli Gibbs rifle

The Pedersoli Gibbs 45 is a stock off the shelf rifle with one modification, a sling attachment was fitted just in front of the latch.

My load that I use from 300y to 1000y is 95 gr Swiss no 4 and a 8mm soft felt wad the rifle is cleaned over the wad and a 590 gr 3.5% tin lead alloy paper patched bullet is loaded. I use saliva to clean between shots. Muzzle velocity is 1220 fps with an extreme spread of about 10 fps. The ballistic coefficient of the bullet is .49 so that terminal velocity at 1000y is 860fps.

Regards,

EUGENE JAMES KUISIS

Eugene Kuisis shooting



***for results
on the net!***



An original guy: Kobus de Villiers

BPNO1: What is your civil job?

Kobus: I am a Professional Hunter escorting trophy hunters in South Africa.

BPNO1: How did you get involved in historical shooting?

Kobus: My father and I were collecting historical rifles with a South African history. Then we started to shoot them, then we tried to shoot accurately with them, then we started to hunt with them, then we wanted to shoot more accurately, so we changed to target shooting with old rifles, first short range and then further and further, making the distance and the challenge bigger. So we ended up with long range shooting using black powder, cartridge rifle as well as muzzle loader. My father died in 2006 but I carried on with the love that we shared. I only shoot original rifles and they are as they came from the factory 130 ?? years ago, all the better the enjoyment.

BPNO1: Modern sport shooting career before you started ML shooting?

Kobus: I was shooting army service rifle/ combat shooting for 8 years before I started to shoot black powder. I received provisional colours in combat rifle shooting. Before that I did some large calibre

long range target shooting with 7.62 calibre rifles. Before that I did practical pistol shooting. (yes I am a bit death!!)

BPNO1: How about hunting?

Kobus: I have been hunting since I could hold a gun. I shot my first bird off hand when I was 4 years old, and my first antelope, a Springbok when I was 7 years old. I hunted all the affordable game in Southern Africa with rifles which are at least 100 years old.

BPNO1: How did you choose ML shooting?

Kobus: Of all the shooting disciplines I was exposed to, this is the most challenging.

BPNO1: How did you choose long range shooting?

Kobus: With short range shooting the conditions are too stable and the shooting too little, with long range shooting you are shooting more, for longer periods, with heavier loads, sometimes in the most unstable and changing conditions. THAT is the real challenge.

BPNO1: How much time can you give to practice?

Kobus: In earlier years I practised a lot on the range. Today I still practise, but not on the range so much, but in different ways. Practising to read the conditions, to see changes, to see well, to call my shots, to do everything exactly the same, to be calm, to be overall well prepared.

BPNO1: Does your family take part in the sport?

Kobus: No, but my little boy hunts and loves guns. As soon as he is big enough to take the recoil I shall let him go with the muzzle loaders.

BPNO1: How do they tolerate your hobby?

Kobus: They accept that I am a gun nut.

BPNO1: What firearm do you use?

Kobus: An original .461 Gibbs Metford target rifle since 2005. I am shooting it as I got it, as it came from the factory in 1881.

BPNO1: Which sights do you use?

Kobus: The original sights from George Gibbs.

BPNO1: Why, you could use precise replica sights as well?

Kobus: It make the challenge bigger. You know , every time as the conditions change , and I want to adjust, I have to stand up, for the windage adjustment is on the front sight.

BPNO1: How you develop your load for your rifle?

Kobus: I do have a couple of very good friends, worldwide, shooting black powder, who shared their knowledge with me over the years. Eugene Kuisis who is the replica class world champion, cast my bullets. If you trusted someone to cast your bullets, you will trust him with your wife. (and your life!) Shooting over a chronograph is important.

BPNO1: What was your winning load?

Kobus: Powder: 90 grains caps: CCI bullet: 570grains wads: felt. I practice and load carefully and I build up trajectory tables on the range and from the old manuscripts of Sir Henry Halford.

BPNO1: How and how much do you practise for a great international event?

Kobus: Good and proper preparation is more important to me than practising on the range.

BPNO1: How do you keep your records about practice?

Kobus: My practice is to concentrate to keep everything that can change as constant as possible, and to recognise the changes that I cannot keep constant.

BPNO1: Do you use modern software, computer to calculate trajectory?

Kobus: Not at all. I want to do everything in the spirit of the original.

BPNO1: Which is your favourite distance and why?

Kobus: Not a particular one, on the 300 the heart beat is the most and on the 1000 yards the men are separated from the boys.

BPNO1: Do you have weaknesses you have to overcome during a match?

Kobus: To keep myself calm, to concentrate, and to shoot the last shot in a string also perfect.

BPNO1: What made you the best shooter this year?

Kobus: I think I shot very constant over each distance.

BPNO1: What is that unique thing that you had compared to the other shooters?

Kobus: I was using "smart bombs" as bullets. :) As long as I don't shoot 3 's I am happy on the match. I never compare myself to other shooters. Even if I am last, and I did my best, I am happy. I am chasing no score and no other shooter.

BPNO1: When was the first minute when you thought you can win this match?

Kobus: The match consists of 5 distances. I did not win one of them, but was the runner up or third in all of them, so when the last match, the 1000 yards started, the leader was 5 points ahead of me. I knew that I have to do pretty well and really concentrate not to slip up somewhere, and I think I managed the pressure that silently came over me pretty well, I shot good sighters and a good string, the best in my life on the 1 000, and after 14 shots I made the silly fault of adding up my score and I could not believe my eyes for I was standing on 59 out of 75 with one shot to go. Already beaten the world record and suddenly it was hard to control myself and while concentrating to do it, a cloud came over the target, a friction of a second before my shot broke, I did not recognise it and I shot low and they signalled a miss. I nearly burst into tears. The last shot of the match, the most important shot a miss. The only miss of the tournament. My team captain walked up to me and shook my hand and told me the 59 was already enough to win the match . I was the world champion.

I won the same title 2 years ago in Cape Town, South Africa. The challenge was to win in America again. I did it. I want to dedicate this title to my late father, Jacobus Wilhelmus de Villiers, who told me everything about hunting, shooting and rifles. All the glory to my savior, the Living God. Maybe I must retire now.

BPNO1: Dear Kobus! We wish you every success for the future! Keep your powder dry!

BPNo1



all parts one by one. Do I have to tell you I am not one of them? I am one of the lazy guys, who enjoys shooting, but hates cleaning. This is why I had to develop a fast and easy cleaning method for all my guns.

First of all the clean rifle starts with the good lube. A good bullet grease will keep the fouling soft, eliminates leading and makes your work easy. The smoothness of the surface of the bore is also essential for a good job. Well made replicas, and originals have bores that are shining on the land and in the grooves as well. If the surface of the rifling is not smooth, you will spend your day with those gray patches.

Field conservation

There are many occasions when I do not have time to clean the rifle on the day I shot it. It is not a wise thing to store your gun when it's covered with blackpowder residue, but not because the gun is dirty. The residue itself is not corrosive. The

Fast and easy muzzleloader cleaning

The main enemy of all muzzleloading shooter is the fouling created by the burning of old smoky blackpowder. We all know how hard it is to start the cleaning of your guns after a full program match. Hardcore shooters have to clean 5 - 8 guns after a tiring day, and that's not an easy job.

How clean is clean?

I know many shooters who are really precise when it comes to cleaning. They can spend hours with a percussion revolver, completely disassembling it, cleaning and oiling

problem is that it quickly attracts moisture from the air, and this mix is corrosive. So if you want to store your gun when it's dirty, you have two options: move to the closest desert, where there is no moisture in the air, or seal the fouling in the bore.

Quick field cleaning in this situation is easy. Wipe metal surfaces with an oily rag, spray some oil in the bore, and run an oily patch in the channel. Loosen the nipple or touch hole insert (this can be a hard job at home if you leave your rifle dirty for a day). If you have done these, you can leave your rifle without any problem for days. The oil in the barrel will stop corrosion, and will soften the fouling. So, wherever you go, have a

small bottle of good quality gun oil in your shooting bag!

Cleaning single shot guns

If you chose a gun with a hook breech, your job is easy. Remove the barrel from the stock (always use a proper size brass tool to knock out the wedges) and remove the nipple. Get a bucket of hot water (70-80 C) and your cleaning rod with a proper size jag on the end, a bristle brush and several cleaning patches. Put the breech in the water, the water should be minimum 20 cm deep, so it covers the complete breech area. Use your cleaning rod with a jag and a patch first. Put the clean patch on the jag, and run it through the bore. If it is tight enough, it will suck up the hot water in the bore like a pump. Be careful! The barrel can get really hot if you have the correct water temperature. So use a rag for holding. Repeat this movement several times. This will clean the powder chamber and the touch hole completely. Some shooters like to add soap or any other “magic” solvents to the water, but to be honest, I never experienced any advantage compared to plain hot water.

With the first patch we softened and moistened the fouling, so it's now time to remove it with the bristle brush. If you are using only patched round balls, the bristle brush will be enough to clean your rifle. If your are using conicals then after every 4th shooting I suggest you use a harder brush (brass or bronze). Some shooters are afraid to use the brass brush, as they think it can run the barrel. Do not believe this. If you care for the muzzle – you use a nylon muzzle protector – and you use a cleaning rod that's material is softer than the barrel - for example brass or aluminum - your brushes will never harm the bore.

After cleaning the bore with the brush, use a dry patch to suck up some water again to clean out the residue particles. Now it's time to dry your bore. Lift it out from the bucket and put the breech on a soft surface. If your water was hot enough, than the moisture evaporates quickly. Blow into the barrel strongly a few times. This will remove any water from the powder chamber as well. Wipe the surface with a dry cloth and run a few dry patches in the bore. If you see that the patches are a bit gray, do not worry about it. You are not preparing your rifle for surgery, but for the



next shooting day. Do not overdo cleaning!

If the patches come out dry, it's time to cover the surfaces with oil. Spray a good amount of oil in the bore, and spread it with a patch. If you did your job correctly, the powder chamber will be covered completely with oil as well. Some shooters stop here and assemble the rifle, like it was ready. But it's absolutely not. The oil in the chamber will moisten the powder on the next shooting, or it will obstruct the touch hole channel, so it must be removed.

Blow a few times in the bore, so you will see a cloud of oil leaving the breech. After you have done so, run a dry patch in the barrel. Now your barrel is ready for assembly.

If you are shooting a full stock rifle without a hook breech you will need another accessory: a cleaning tube. It is not the best idea to remove the barrel for every cleaning. However you have to do it before the first shooting. Take out the barrel, and cover the bottom with water pump grease, so it will cover all surfaces under the wood. This will prevent water accessing the metal surfaces.

The cleaning of the full stock rifle will be easy this way like child's play. Remove the lock. Install the cleaning tube, put the end of the tube in the bucket with hot water, and use the same process I already mentioned above. It is also a good idea if you close the channel in the tube, and pour some hot water with a funnel in the muzzle. Let it stay there for a few minutes, let it out and start cleaning.

If you follow this process, you can clean the bore in 3-5 minutes without making a huge mess in the bathroom.

Clean the nipple in hot water also. Check the touch hole, clean the residue with a brush and



dry it. Blow the water out of the channel. You do not have to oil this part. Before reinstalling it cover the threads with PTF tape or with copper paste. This will prevent it from being stuck even if you leave your gun dirty for days.

Cleaning the lock

The complete disassembly of the lock is not necessary. Take it out of the stock, and wipe away the powder residue with a damp cloth. Check the screws of the bridle, and tighten them if it's necessary. Spray the lock with oil and wipe away the excess. If you are using a flintlock gun, never oil the frizzen face! Dry it, but don't touch it with the oily rag, as the oil will prevent the stone from cutting small particles from the metal.

Cleaning the wood

Clean the wood with a slightly damp rag. If you are using a rifle with musket caps, you will recognize that the flash of the 6 mm nipple will damage the wood at the breech area. If you want to avoid this, add a thick layer of natural grease to the wood near the lock. This will prevent the flash touching the wood. You can also cover the breech area with a thin leather sleeve.

A good cleaning patch

A good cleaning patch can be any of any material that can easily absorb moisture from the barrel. The size depends on the caliber of your gun: .32-.50 – 40 mm x 40 mm, .52-.75 50 mm x 50 mm. The best materials for this are the Pedersoli type flannel patches, or the kitchen wiping sponge cloth made of natural cellulose with great absorbency.

Oil

Pay attention to the quality of the gun oil. On the range I see many people using WD40. This is a good oil that is capable of getting under the moisture and it leaves a light coating of oil film on the surface of the metal. However this film is not thick, so if you touch the surface, you can easily cause rust stains. I personally like the Swiss Brunox, but you can find many good oils on the market. Brunox does the same as WD40, but leaves a stronger oil film. Be careful with Ballistol. It is a good oil as well, but do not clean the bore with it, as it just does not work with blackpowder. It will enlarge your group size, and it takes 30-50 shots to remove the layer from the barrel.

Before shooting, always wipe the barrel with a clean patch, and check the channel of the nipple. If you can, store your gun in a horizontal or vertical position, but with the muzzle down.

Alternative cleaning methods

Recently I started to use a steam cleaner to save time in cleaning metal parts. These small boilers are really cheap, but can be a useful help if you know what to do with them. They generate high pressure steam, that removes all residue from the metal surfaces. But be careful if you use it:

- It damages the finish of the wood, so remove the barrel or lock before cleaning.
- It heats the parts up quickly and to such an extent that it can burn your hand.
- Don't use it on original guns as their thin layer of bluing or browning can wear.

If you keep these rules, you'll recognize that it's a great help. It cleans quickly, easily, and warms up the metal, so you don't have to dry it before oiling. It's perfect for small parts also.

Balázs Németh

Video





INDEX DUBAI 2009 ***Pedersoli's unusual expo***

We have just returned from an interesting expo, called Index that is primarily exhibition of furniture and furniture accessories. We are sure it seems illogical that a product category like ours found its place in a context like this. Our production is oriented mainly to manufacture fine pieces for the shooters all around the world.

However our products are appreciated in the world also for their beauty and quality. They catch the heart of not only the shooters, but of all people interested in history and fine pieces of artwork. This is the fact that validates our presence at the expo in Dubai for interior decorators, visual designers, architects, showing the beauty, decorativeness and professionalism of our product(s).

Our exhibition showed 12 deactivated muzzleloading weapons, pistols and rifles, among them the Hussaro and cavalry carbines, the An IX and An XIII commemorative pistols, the Frontier rifle with a beautiful maple stock, and versions of Le Page, Mortimer, Mang in Graz and Kuchenreuter pistols.

I hope I do not exaggerate when I assure the reader we have had considerable success. The booth attracted the attention of all people passing by; anyone who visited us left with a positive feeling about our products.

I would like to seize the opportunity to thank all people who took part in this project for their help even if they did not know us personally.

Stefano Pedersoli





Davide Pedersoli was honored to take part in the “Arms and Hunting” annual expo in Moscow for the 4th time this year in October.

Russia is not an easy place to sell historical arms. Despite the lack of laws for historical shooting, the interest in our arms and in historical shooting is growing rapidly. The lack of legislation, and the unawareness of the muzzle loading shooting phenomenon must be overcome with reviews, published articles, and television programs. The quality and passion of Davide Pedersoli captured the heart of many journalists at the expo. The booth of Gardone Val Trompia was crowded during the show all the time with many visitors, and also many TV crews.

In the past 4 years many great changes took place in Moscow, especially in the field of historical

shooting and re-enacting. There are many re-enacting groups in Moscow and St. Petersburg that take part in the re-enacting of Napoleonic battles.

In 2012 we are going to celebrate the 200th anniversary of one of the most famous and decisive battles of the Napoleonic wars: Borodino. The event will be attended by all Russian and European re-enactors. The only problem to face in this project is that of legislation. Muzzle loaders are considered firearms in Russia, and the blank firing versions are the only ones that are legal currently. These days, many of the re-enactors in Russia use non-firing copies or even Mosin Nagant rifles. Only some of them have Davide Pedersoli products, but they are already used with great appreciation. These arms are kept thanks to the interpretation of

a law of the Ministry of Culture.

Another solution for the Russian re-enactors is to possess one of Pedersoli's blank firing version guns. These firearms are accepted by the Ministry of Internal Affairs, but the re-enactors keep up the fight for their right to use working replicas also.

To possess a rifled firearm or muzzle loader is a much harder job. The shooter has to have a license for a smooth bore rifle for at least 5 years before he can apply for a rifled gun. Currently only hunters and sport shooters can keep these arms.

The authorities will have to realize that the social danger of muzzle loading historical arms are minimal. They must not forget about the rich firearms making tradition of their nation. They must not forget about the many century old gun making companies in Tula, Izefsk, Sestroretsk. Many European countries understood this and made fine legislation on historical arms that is really helping our sport to grow.

The aim of the upcoming time is to solve this problem in alliance with the Russian armories. They paid not too much attention to these items before, but with their help the wider audience will be able to know the history and safe use of muzzle loading arms in Russia.

Vincenzo Tumbiolo





B
Black

*The author (to the right) with a replica artillery piece
from the Civil War times*



Big Guns:

Blackpowder cannon shooting

Oct 10th, Reliant Convention Center, Houston, Texas, standing alongside a replica Civil War Cannon and caisson, at one of Texas' largest Gun Shows, a friend explains the upcoming weekend: an actual cannon operating training course is scheduled at the San Jacinto Battleground. (I suggest you google the San Jacinto Battle, Goliad and Alamo) Interested at this invitation, I thought, why not attend? You see, I am a pilot. Having flown numerous airplanes - C5 Galaxy, C130 Hercules, C-123 Provider, OV10 Bronco, Boeing 727, 737, 747, 757, 767, DC10, MD80, A300 Airbus -and many other smaller machines, currently restoring a Grumman Albatross HU-16B to flying condition www.airrescuemuseum.org , accumulating over 30,000 hours, my life has been spent studying machinery and making it function safely. An interest in military history, how good people worked for peace, all these combined to perk up my interest.

You ask what and where is San Jacinto? "Remember the Alamo" (February 23 – March 6, 1836), a battle cry made famous by men fighting tyranny, men such as Davy Crockett portrayed by Fess Parker(Walt Disney Production) and John Wayne. San Jacinto, a small battle by world standards, was in fact, a major battle of historical significance. There, on the same spot it was fought, we were to learn the basic techniques of safe muzzle loading cannon operation.

The course began early – 0800. An overall briefing held where safety was constantly stressed. Outside the informal briefing hall, instructors explained the ins and outs of the cannon carriage, caisson and how the components functioned. We had three cannons to practice on. All of



modern construction yet, identical to the mid 1800's, just better due to higher quality metals of today.

Our instructional field piece was a six pounder. Cannons were rated by the weight of the ball they fired. Simple isn't it? Well, not quite. For smooth bore cannons of the period could and did fire just about anything available if need be. Two of our practice cannons were rifled. Rifled cannons fire a cylindrical projectile further and more accurately. This day, we would only be practicing how to operate, only charges would be

fired, no projectiles. After going over the various parts of the cannon, we proceeded to the San Jacinto Battleground itself.

Mosquitoes, do you enjoy their buzzing? Well, we had them. The heavy wool clothing of the period, not stylist by today's standards, then had many purposes:

- 1.) First mosquito resistant. The clothing was hard to impossible for the mosquitoes to bite through.
- 2.) Fire resistant. Our instructor took a small trough. Above it on each end a piece of wood across which he'd strung a wire. To the wire he attached various pieces of fabric including leather. Into the trough he poured a pound of black powder, the propellant of the day. Having us all stand back a safe distance, he ignited the black powder. Result – every piece was ruined, almost instantly, except the wool fabric! When a cannon fires, the actual moment, captured on high speed, shows fire enveloping the gunners. Wearing modern day clothing, a good chance exists for burns. Heavy wool was found to be resistant, the material to wear. This above demonstration illustrated again, safety is paramount. A wonderful, fun filled day of learning/comradeship must not be ruined by foolish behavior easily prevented with good training. We all must learn and appreciate safely the historical significance how such weapons



were used. And the great importance of this hobby is to establish a true understanding of the past. What it took for others to give us freedoms we enjoy today.

Where we practiced, the actual battle ground lay before us. The body of water in front was the actual spot Mexican soldiers ran into instead of standing to fight. Down beneath the cold, calm waters, even to today, rests Santa Anna's payroll of silver, hidden.

Setting up a battery of cannons is no small feat. We drove our vehicles near, rolled the cannons and caissons into position. A caisson is a box containing supplies needed to make the cannon function. Powder, projectiles, tools, etc. are held inside. Placed to the rear of the cannon, it is kept in readiness. The cannon is positioned by the Gunner, wooden blocks placed just in front of the big wooden iron wrapped wheels. These blocks afford the gun team a reference point to return the cannon to after firing.

Each cannon requires a crew of seven. Reference is from the back looking forward, to the right, in front of the right wheel, the man standing there is referred to as #1. To his left immediately, across the barrel, is #2. Diagonally back, just aft of the wheel is #3 and of course, numerically, across the cannon barrel on the left is #4. The gunner #5 stands aft of the weapon and controls the team and is the central person in charge of the cannon. Back of the gunner, to his rear is the powder monkey or #6. And by the caisson which holds a box called the Limber Box is the #7 who selects what is needed for the crew.

#1 holds a heavy wooden pole - implement, with a mop on the end called a sponge. Its purpose - to remove burning embers from the barrel and seat the charges/projectiles. In front of him is placed a metal bucket, attached to the gun's carriage for travel. Inside is water.

#2 holds a similar wooden pole called the worm, which has a metal twisted screw arrangement



designed to remove any debris remaining inside the barrel after firing.

#3 diagonally aft, has a leather finger guard placed on his left hand and a heavy glove on his right plus a priming wire to pierce the powder charge when it is set in the barrel. His jobs are many, one being to seal the vent hole when the barrel is being cleaned and the charges set. The



vent is a hole drilled in the back of the barrel going down from the top into the aft of the barrel. Through this hole the igniting fire passes to ignite the black powder charge and propel the projectile out.

#4 puts a primer and lanyard in the priming hole. Then stands back until commanded to fire, when he faces aft, away from the gun and pulls the lanyard sending fire down into the gun and igniting the main charge - boom!

#5 the gunner, he commands the crew and gun. His orders are followed by the other six, all working in smooth order to turn the gun into an effective weapon.

#6 the powder monkey, his job, carrying a leather bag transfers the charges and projectiles to **#2**. **#2** loads them into the barrel, hiding them from the eyes of the enemy as best he can. They are seated into the barrel by the opposite end of the ram from the mop by **#1**.

#7 selects the powder charge and projectiles, placing them in the leader bag and providing any other items needed on command.

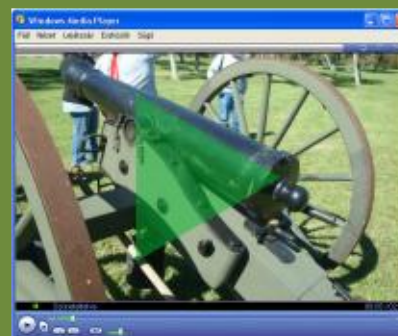
These then are the basic tasks for a basic cannon operation. All seven positions working together. Never standing inside the wheels, always stressing safety first and the reward - an experience few today appreciate.

On this Saturday we were each positioned learning the tasks and commands. By the end of the training, we had the idea and then loaded charges, fired the guns. Flame and smoke pouring out, our reward with a smile accompanied in the end with an official certificate enabling us to participate in re-enactments, competitions, etc., yes, our start along the road to a new hobby of historical interest.

John Stipetich

(Continued in the next issue!)

Video



Letters from our readers



Dear Pedersoli Team,

We bought our son your Ovation 50 cal muzzleloader for his birthday. He shot a 2 point buck from approximately 175 yards with a 250 grain sabot. Just thought we'd share this with you. Next year we'll go for the big one. He is very happy with our purchase. Attached is a photo of our son with his deer.

Thanks,

Traci Nelson (USA)

Dear Pedersoli Team,

Just some feedback on your rifle - I shot this 34" buffalo cow in Hoedspruit SA. I used my Pedersoli 50 cal, using 300 gr Hornady sabots and 110 gr powder.

I stalked her for about 2 hours when she decided to do a mock charge, she came stopped at 60 meters when I took a frontal shot, the bullet went straight through the heart, lung, liver and stomach. We managed to retrieve the bullet in the hind leg. It retained 91% of it weight.

She ran for about 25m before she fell and died about 20 seconds later.

Gert de Jager (South Africa)



Hello Pedersoli Team,

Congratulations on your new on-line magazine! We've been waiting for this for a long time, I like the idea. I hunt with modern rifles, but I hope in Europe we'll have a chance to try the muzzle-loading also. Till that time, please publish articles about BP hunting!

Thanks,

Josef (Czech Republic)



Howdah Damascus



*In
T
C
P*



Zimmer training modification



Howdah with stock



Sharps Bench Rest

2010 projects

*Innovation,
Tradition,
Creativity,
Precision...*



Wyatt Earp CAS Shotgun



Sharps Schützen



Classic Side by Side



45-90
loading for long range

1000 yard loads for the 45-90 Pedersoli Sharps or Rolling Block rifles The following are some tips and basic loading facts which work well for 800 to 1000 yard distances.

COMPONENT SELECTION

1. Bullet length should be 1.450 inches and weigh 530-550 grains but not more than 560 grains when using the 45 caliber Pedersoli rifles which have 18:1 rifling twist. The lead/tin alloy should be between 16:1 to 20:1 ratio. Softer alloys may produce bullet "slump" due to the long unsupported ogive of these long heavy bullets and this will result in oval bullet holes on the target or possible "key-hole" bullet holes.

2. Seat bullet touching the lands as any gap which causes the bullet to jump into land contact usually contributes to pushing the bullet off-center resulting in loss of some accuracy. Because some bullet shapes and chamber combinations do well when the bullet is seated with a gap between bullet and start of rifling, it is suggested that you experiment with other seating distances.

3. For serious 1000 yard loads you will need 1300 feet per second (fps) muzzle velocity with the heavy bullets. The use of 1.5 Fg Swiss powder (#3 in Europe) is strongly suggested as it has proven to be the best BP brand on the world market and can produce match grade accuracy.

4. Powder charge is 85 gr.to 92.5 gr by volume not by scale weight. Scale weight will be a smaller number and I do not use a scale when developing BP loads but use a tube type adjustable powder measure such as is used by muzzle loaders. Once you have settled upon the powder charge volume which works best, you can then transfer that same powder volume to a bench mounted powder measure which is adjusted to drop that same volume of powder. This then allows rapid bench work when charging many empty cases in one loading session. For added suggestions for making "match grade" ammunition I suggest you go to www.bpcr.net and then click on Technical Information and scroll down to my article about making accurate reloads.

ASSEMBLY TIPS

1. Dump the powder into the case and vibrate or tap the case to settle the powder grains. Place a .060" LDPE (low density polyurethane) wad onto the powder. You can use a card material wad called a "veggie" wad if you prefer but the LDPE wads have shown a slightly smaller group size in most loads.

2. Using a powder "Compression Die" (not the bullet) apply .060" to .070" compression to the wad and Swiss powder charge. You must adjust the charge volume so that the wad sits right against the base of the bullet when the bullet is seated to touch the rifling. Since there will be variations in the shape of bullet ogive between various bullet designs, the amount of BP required will be different, according to the bullet design you are working with.

3. Use the mildest primer available, such as the CCI Benchrest or Large Pistol primer. It has been found that placing one thickness of "newsprint" wad (punched from your local newspaper) over the primer flash hole prior to putting in the BP, has the affect of increasing MV by 15 fps and



also lowers the ES (extreme spread) number.

4. Use a bullet sizing die that produces a bullet diameter equal to your barrel groove diameter (.458") or .001" over your groove diameter to .459".

5. When using cases which were previously fired in your rifle, use only a neck sizing die to reduce just the case neck. Then use a neck expander die which expands the neck just enough to give the bullet a thumb push fit in the case neck. This fit will hold the bullet in position and since we are using a single shot rifle, there is no crimp required. During the bullet seating operation just iron out any bell mouth or flare you previously put on the case mouth. By not using any sort of crimp you prevent variations in neck tensions on the seated bullet caused by case length variations.

6. When using grooved bullets (called naked bullets) it is vital that the bullet design carry enough lubricant in its grooves (most do this OK). Use a lubricant which has a proven record as being a proper lubricant for black powder ammunition. Smokeless powder lubricants do not usually work well with BP because they don't absorb moisture from the blow tube or damp patches. Black powder fouling is water soluble and cleaning is done with water with a little soap added. Commercial solvents for BP may be OK but water is OK too.

LOAD DEVELOPMENT

1. As mentioned in my reloading guide seen on www.bpcr.net, almost all so called rules are subject to some changes when experimenting with changes to a certain BPCR load. What works great in one man's rifle may do poorly in another's rifle. Remember to change **ONLY** one thing at a time and see the results on a paper target, not on some rock or tree.

2. After establishing the group size for your best load, then change that load by adding 2.0 gr more powder without any changes in your seating die setting. Keep adding 2.0 gr more powder up to a maximum of 3.0 gr. Always fire a 10 shot group because fewer shots can result in false results. Review the group sizes for each of these 10 shot groups. You will see some differences and you can then select the smallest group size to be your

best powder charge.

3. After each shot use a blow tube to keep the fouling damp and soft. Or, wipe the barrel with a damp patch after every shot. Leading or powder fouling can quickly build up when shooting rapidly as is done in a timed match. A bullet which has to travel over any hard fouling will be squeezed down to a smaller diameter and **WILL** remain loose for the remainder of it's travel and exit the muzzle with some amount tipping present. Such a bullet will commonly produce oval shaped holes or key-holes on the paper target.

4. While this article was written for 45-90 rifles, many of the tips and advice will apply to almost all BPCR calibers.

Dick Trenk

Competition Events Coordinator (1998-2009)

Davide Pedersoli & Co.

pictures: Mihály Tar, Balázs Németh





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Josef Ruoss

More info about the match:

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