Pedersoli's
Blackpowder No 1. magazine
5th Issue, Oct 2010

with free scoring tool

Easy life
New Pedersoli Sharps

Tips and tricks
Mounting the Malcom scope

BP hunting
Buncing Bounty

24th MLAIC World Champs
50 medals with Pedersoli

Pedersoli's Blackpowder No 1. magazine

Editorial

The magazine is distributed free through the Pedersoli website. You can subscribe to the quarterly magazine by following this link:

In this issue:

On the cover: Pedersoli Sharps Civilian .54 cal

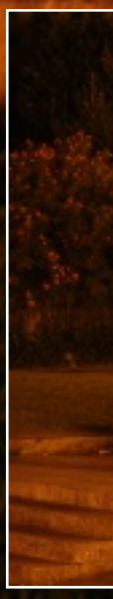
Dear Shooters, Collectors, Firearm Enthusiasts all over the World,

We are proud to see that many great shooters from all over the World chose our guns to compete on the 24th MLAIC World Championships in Barcelos. Our greatest reward for our work is to see our shooters on the podium. But let's not forget that winning a World Championships medal is not only dependant on the firearm. It is essential to have the best you can, but the human behind the gun is the key factor. We do our best to supply the best muzzleloaders available on the market, but the rest is up to those rugged women and men who use it.

We are proud to celebrate 50 medals won with Davide Pedersoli guns this year. With this issue of our magazine we would like to congratulate all Pedersoli shooters on the World Championships, and all over the World.

Pierangelo Pedersoli *editorial director*

Balázs Németh *editor in chief*



Barcelos - 2010

24th M.L.A.I.C. World Championships

50 medals with Pedersoli guns

The MLAIC World Championships are a true celebration of blackpowder shooting. As the World governing body of muzzleloading shooting sports, MLAIC organizes this event every second year. In 2010, the championships took place in Barcelos, Portugal, at the beautiful, privately owned shooting range of Fervenca. This year's competition was the 24th since 1975, and over 400 shooters from 25 countries gathered from all over the World to challenge each other in a noble fight to decide who is the best.

The Portuguese Shooting Federation did a beautiful job in making this event happen. I remember that, in 2003 we were sitting at the same table at the closing banquet of the European Championships in Halikko, with Luis Moura, Portuguese delegate, now the chairman of the Portuguese Shooting Federation. That year, Portugal and my country - Hungary - were newcomers in MLAIC; that was the first championship for both of us. In a short seven years, Portugal prepared well to host the World Championships. This task is not easy for an experienced country, but Portugal set a high standard this year. Of course there are always small problems to be solved, but the flexibility and understanding of the Portuguese team helped to overcome these minor issues.

In Barcelos

The program of the championship was somewhat different from the previous ones. The practice and the shooting program started a day earlier due to the high number of participants. This year's competition saw the introduction of one new event in the official program. The „Kossuth" team event was proposed by the Hungarian Muzzleloaders' Association for the Pennsylvania disciplines. The free flintlock 50 m rifle standing discipline is a newcomer itself in the program, and already saw some great results. Now it is time for the national teams to fight for the new trophy donated by the HMLA.

The delegates' made some important decisions at their meeting held on Sunday. The most important were the topics of the upcoming internationals. The 2011 European Championships will be held in Finland, the 2012 25th World Championships in Pforzheim, Germany, the 2013 European Championships in Eisenstadt, Austria.

The shooting for clay shooters started on Tuesday, and in the evening the opening ceremony was held as usual in the historical center of the ancient city of Barcelos. The shooters all marched along the main street of the friendly town, to arrive at the city hall to listen to the speeches of the city's officials, Luis Moura and MLAIC secretary general David Bridgen. The ceremonies ended with the spectacular show of re-enacting teams. The sound of muzzleloading cannons awake (awoke?) the interest of the citizens in Fervenca.

Pedersoli World – 50 World Championship medals

Pedersoli guns achieved a high reputation again. Great shooters deserve great guns that do not limit their high capabilities. Shooters achieved 9 individual gold, 7 silver and 5 bronze medals, with four new world records. Ducellier Mathieu of

France scored a wonderful 100 in Vetterli replica, resulting in a new world record with 22,5 mm group size. Thomas Baumhakl from Germany made good use of his new Swiss target rifle in the Pennsylvania replica event with a new record of 98. Alfred Bailer from Germany shot an excellent 98 with his 1857 Mauser rifle in the Lamarmora replica. Rita Palmer, also from Germany scored a new WR with a clean 100 in Walkyrie with her .45 Peedrsoli Pedersoli Gibbs long range rifle.

Some events were dominated by Pedersoli guns. In Lamarmora (percussion military rifle 50 m standing) 5 rifles out of the first six were Pedersoli 1857 Mauser rifles, while in Miquelet (flintlock smooth bore military musket 50 m standing) also five out of top six shooters chose Pedersoli guns. In Vetterli (percussion free rifle 50 m standing), Whitworth (percussion free rifle 100 m prone), and Pennsylvania (flintlock free rifle 50 m standing) three out of the top six used Pedersoli guns. In Minié (percussion military rifle 100 m prone), Walkyrie (percussion free rifle 100 m prone women), Manton (flintlock clay shooting), Lorenzoni (percussion clay shooting), Cominazzo (flintlock smooth bore pistol) two of the top six were using various Pedersoli guns.

The collection of Pedersoli medals cannot be complete without the team results. Pedersoli guns were present at medal-winning positions in nearly all replica team disciplines. 6 gold medals, 12 silver medals and 11 bronze medals were achieved with Pedersoli guns by the national teams. There were some 100 % Pedersoli teams on the firing line: the Magenta (Minié team) team of Germany used only 1857 Mauser rifles and won a gold medal. All members of the silver medalist Hungarian team of the Kossuth event (Pennsylvania team) used Mortimer Target rifles. The bronze winning Hungarian team of Pforzheim (Vetterli team) was also a clean Pedersoli team with two Bristlen Morges rifles and a Tryon Creedmoore. In the Halikko event (Miquelet team) all the three medalist nations were using 100 % Pedersoli guns, with Germany winning the gold, Finland winning the silver and France winning the bronze medal. The Youth Rigby (Whitworth team) was also dominated by Pedersoli Gibbs rifles: all members of the silver and bronze winning South African teams were using Pedersoli's deadly

accurate long range rifles, just like at the Pforzheim Youth event.

The World Championships are a great challenge for every shooter. Often, the winning positions are decided by half millimeters, so in many cases there are only very-very small differences between the top 6-8-10 shooters. It is not a question that you must have a bit of luck even if you are a well trained, qualified shooter. This is why not only the medal winning positions are important for Pedersoli. To be the 10th on the World Champs means that you are really one of the best. That is an achievement that has to be noted as well. This is why we are so proud that our guns scored another 33 7-10th positions in Barcelos in the hands of excellent shooters.

Pedersoli booth

Pedersoli was present all week long at the range with booth. Stefano Pedersoli took the time to answer all the questions of the shooters participating in the competition. As usual, Pedersoli deployed a spare parts' depo to the booth, just in case any of the shooters needed a spare part to replace during the match.

The 50 medals are an achievement that is hard to compete with. However Pedersoli cannot rest, and will do their best to produce guns that are capable of winning more and more medals.

The coming years

The place of the next international matches were decided at the MLAIC delegates' meeting. The next Europeans will be held in Finland next year, 2012 World Champs in Pforzheim, Germany, and 2013 Europeans in Eisenstadt, Austria. The delegates meeting also set a time frame to draw up the new constitution of the MLAIC, to help our shooters in preserving history. In many cases, the rules need significant changes to improve the authenticity of firearms used and shooting techniques.

Balázs Németh

More records for Pedersoli's guns at the World Muzzle Loading Championships

From the 15th to the 22nd of August, the shooting ranges at Fervença (Barcelos) in Portugal hosted the twenty-fourth edition of the World Muzzle Loading Championships. The new international meeting enabled Davide Pedersoli to count a new record of medals: fifty medals, consisting of fifteen gold, nineteen silver and sixteen bronze ones. To the great satisfaction of the Pedersoli team, the achievement of the shooters is recognised and the company is celebrating the amazing results achieved.

Nine gold medals were won in the individual disciplines: from the German shooters Joachim Haller who in Miquelet scored 95 with the Mod. 1777; Thomas Baumhakl in Pennsylvania scored 98, thanks to the competitive Swiss Match rifle; Rita Pamer in Walkyrie with the Gibbs rifle .40 calibre a perfect 100; Alfred Bailer both in Lamarmora scored 98 with the Württenbergischen rifle and in Maximilian, scored 93 with the Mortimer rifle; Franz Lotspeich in Lorenzoni with the Mortimer shotgun (47/50); from the French shooters: Mathieu Ducellier with the Bristlen Morges rifle (100/100) in Vetterli and Emilien Kovalenko in Kuchenreuter Youth with the Le Page pistol (87/100); the South African shooter Frederik Jacobs in Whitworth scored 99, achieved with the Gibbs rifle .40 calibre. In the Vetterli discipline the world record has been equalized and in the Pennsylvania, Lamarmora and Walkyrie disciplines new and prestigious records have been set. The other gold medals were won in the teams' disciplines: from Germany in Halikko (Mayr, Haller and Bailer with the Mod. 1777 muskets), in Magenta (Holla, Pamer and Sturm with the Württenbergischen rifles), in Enfield (J. Mayr with the Württenbergischen rifle), in Kossuth (A. Bailer with the Mortimer rifle) and in Wogdon (M. Kloke and B. Schönborn with the Le Page and Charles Moore pistols); from Netherland in Pforzheim, thanks to the 98 score shot by Cees Kalfsvel with the Bristlen Morges rifle.

Seven Silver medals were achieved in the individual disciplines: by the German shooters Josef Mayr and his Mod. 1777 musket in Miquelet, Alfred Bailer in Pennsylvania with the Mortimer rifle and Franz Lotspeich in Manton with the Mortimer shotgun; by the Spanish shooter Luciano Porta Gran in Lamarmora with the Württenbergischen rifle; by the United States lady shooter Shannon Boyce in Whitworth with the Tryon Creedmoor rifle; by the French shooter Emilien D'Herve in Kuchenreuter Youth with the

Le Page pistol; by the South African shooter Frederik Jacobs in Vetterli Youth with the Gibbs rifle .40 calibre.

Twelve silver medals achieved in the teams disciplines: by the Czech Republic in Wogdon (P. Kralicek with the Le Page pistol); by Portugal in Peterlongo (M. Cruz with the Pedersoli Remington Pattern revolver); by Austria in Pforzheim (P. Gassner with the Bristlen Morges rifle), in Magenta (A. Handl with the Württenbergischen rifle) and in Lucca (A. Handl and J. Staller with the Jäger and the Mortimer rifles); by Hungary in Kossuth (J. Nyitrai, G. Meszaros and B. Nemeth with the Mortimer rifles); by Spain in Enfield (J.R. Galan Talens with the Württenbergischen rifle); by Germany in Rigby (R. Pamer with the Gibbs rifle); by Great Britain in Hawker (R. Morris with the Mortimer shotgun); by Finland in Halikko (T.A. Näätänen Lihavainen and A. Mustamäki with the An IX musket); by South Africa (Team 1) in Pforzheim Youth and in Rigby Youth (F. Jacobs, M.-J. Dippenaar and Wim Steyn the Gibbs rifles).

Bronze medals were achieved by five shooters: the German Kloke Martin in Cominazzo with the Le Page pistol; the Italian Stefano Caruso in Kuchenreuter 15 shot with the Le Page pistols; the Finnish Timo Aulis Näätänen Lihavainen in Miquelet with the An IX Dragoons musket; the Hungarian Jozsef Nyitrai in Lamarmora with the Württenbergischen rifle; the South African Michael-John Dippenaar in Whitworth Youth with the Gibbs .40 calibre.

The eleven teams that finally climbed the third step of the podium were: Switzerland in Wogdon (U. Moser with the Charles Moore pistol); France in Halikko (J.-P. Pastouret, R. Thomes and R. Valentini with the Mod. 1777, An IX and Brown Bess muskets); Hungary in Pforzheim (I. Nagy, G. Meszaros and B. Nemeth with the Bristlen Morges and Tryon rifles); Austria in Kossuth (A. Gassner and J. Staller with the Jäger and Mortimer rifles); Italy in Magenta (G. Fuserio with the Württenbergischen rifle); Spain in Amazons (Y. Pons Martinez with the Gibbs rifle) and in Lucca (M. Mayol Colom with the Mortimer rifle); Germany in Hawker and in Batesville (R. Dupont e F. Lotspeich with the Mortimer shotguns); South Africa (Team 2) in Pforzheim Youth and in Rigby Youth (C. Twine, B. Keet and Willie Steyn with the Gibbs rifles).

In addition to the fifty medals you add the seventeen honourable places between the individual and the team's disciplines, plus the fourteen shooters ranked fifth and ten shooters ranked sixth, the success is highly satisfactory. Again reviewing the first ten classified places of the sixteen individual disciplines entered with Pedersoli guns, you can see that they have been used by 46, 2% of the shooters.
Special attention must be given to some European Nations attending the international MLAIC Championships only in the last few years, like the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Hungary, to confirm how the muzzle loading target shooting is involving a growing number of passionate shooters.

The Davide Pedersoli Company expresses a rightful big Thank You to all the shooters who chose to give preference to its guns. The company located in Gardone Valtrompia is vanguard in the manufacturing of the various guns parts and is proud to boast the hand finishing of the different models, paying attention to each single gun, like it is a custom made gun, a series of accurate manual checks & adjustments performed by skilled workers continuing the gunsmithing traditions of Gardone Val Trompia. The final result is well known in the whole world: style and elegance, faithful historic reproductions, first rate ballistic performances and high quality standards

for the list of Pedersoli medals.

Horsemen with the firepower of the infantry

The appearance of rifled infantry firearms as general infantry arms was not preferred by the horse soldier. The beginning of the end of classic cavalry tactics was the accurate elongated bullet fired from a distance by an average infantry soldier. The percussion ignition and rifling of the barrel gave a huge advantage to the line infantry. The battles of the American Civil War were good examples of these processes. However the scouting, ambushing duties of the light cavalry remained in good use by some legendary horsemen like Jeb Stuart. The situation on the battlefield was different: the role of the horse soldier started to merge into the role of the line infantry. The cavalry had to act more and more often like mounted infantry (dragoons). For this purpose the horse was only a fast „taxi" to the desired spot of the battle, where the horse soldier fought as infantry. For this purpose, the individual

cavalryman had to have enough fire-power to match the opposing line infantry. The revolvers and single shot pistols were not able to fulfil this job because of their limited effective range. Issuing long infantry rifle muskets to the horsemen was also out of question, as they were too big and too hard to handle for use on horseback. The cavalry needed something else, something in between: the rifled breech-loading carbine.

In the beginning of the conflict, the US Army had only 6 cavalry regiments, deployed in the western areas on guard duties. To equip them, there were only about 4000 carbines in the army stocks. After the the first battle at Manassas (Bull Run) it was clear that the war would last longer then a single battle, so the War Department started to build up a strong cavalry force in a rush. Until the end of the war, the number of regiments was increased to 200. This effort needed an incredible quantity of material: sabres, revolvers, uniforms and, of course, carbines. The US Army did not have any

other option than to contract as many private manufacturers as possible to fulfil the needs. The result was 16 types of breech loading carbines in the army, that gave a very hard task to the ordnance offices.

The need for a breech loading carbine was not new in the 1860s. The flintlock Hall carbine was issued to the troops early in 1830s, and the carbines saw action in the frontier areas and in the Mexican war also. In the beginning of the civil war, the first regiment to be equipped completely with breech loading Halls was the 1st Dragoons, that was renamed 1st Cavalry regiment, marking the start of the new age where strong fire-power for the mounted soldier was a must.

The original cavalry Sharps

The inventor of the falling block system was Christian Sharps, but the famous 1859 and 1863 models were constructed after he left the company in 1853. At the outbreak of the war the Sharps was the only company that was capable of mass production of breech loading carbines. Until the end of the conflict, more than 80,000 pieces were delivered to the Army from the 1859 and 1863 models. The southern cavalry had its own version.

The C. S. Robinson Arms Manufactory also produced some 5000 pieces between 1862-1865. Some states, like Georgia, purchased significant quantities directly from Sharps just before the first shots at Sumter. Also a huge quantity of captured arms were issued to southern cavalry men, so the falling block Sharps was a well known and intensively used weapon on both sides.

Sharps was not only the biggest quantity carbine in the hands of the cavalry, but one of the most respected ones also. The average soldier trusted the Sharps, of the 16 types of carbines, only the repeating Spencer had a better reputation..

Sharps played its part in all the battles of the five year civil war, and some important battlefield events are also connected to the gun. Marcellus Jones, lieutenant of the 8th Illinois Cavalry Regiment, fired the first shot of the battle of Gettysburg from his Sharps carbine, marking the start of one of the bloodiest battles of the conflict.

The strong, sturdy guns served well after the war as well. They did not disappear into the black hole of history but were converted to shoot the .50-70 central fire metallic cartridge, and served well in the hands of the hunters and pioneers of the unexplored western territories.

Technical parameters of the original 1863 Sharps Carbine

The original carbine had a 22” barrel, with a nominal calibre of 0,52”. In fact this was 0,542”

between the grooves and 0,520” between the lands. The barrel had 6 grooves that turned one complete turn in 49”. The issued bullet for the gun had a diameter of 0,543” and weighted 460 grains. Two types of cartridges were issued during the war: the original paper cartridge was longer than the chamber in the breech, so the gas check of the breech block cut down the end of the cartridge to open the powder container. The block cut off some unknown quantity of powder as well, the could easily foul the system, and was not too good for accuracy. The paper cartridges were produced until 1864, but the use of the linen cartridge started years earlier.

The linen cartridge had many advantages compared to the paper ones. It was a stronger construction, that was more resistant. The end of this cartridge was not cut off by the breech block, so there was no loose powder flashing in front of the eyes of the soldier. It was more accurate, as the complete powder charge remained in the chamber. The linen cartridge had only one disadvantage: sometimes the linen was not burned completely, so the soldier had to remove the remains from the breech manually.

The Sharps Manufacturing Co. recommended 65 grains of musket powder as ideal charge for the cartridge. Today, it is the equivalent of the 1,5 – 2 Fg powders. The bullet was lubricated with beeswax-tallow lube, as all the other military cartridges used by those times.

The cartridges were uniform only in theory. In practice all the cartridges of different arsenals were different causing many problems to the ordnance. Not only were the southern Sharps poor quality, but their ammunition was not as good as the northern ones either. The CS used only paper cartridges during the war, that was not as accurate as the linen versions.

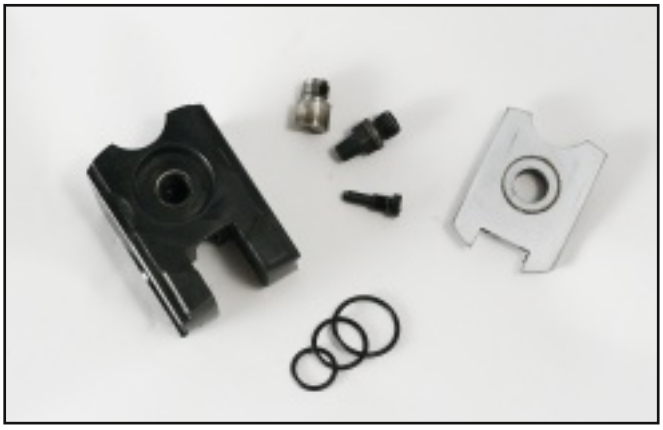
Pedersoli solutions for a 160 year old problem.

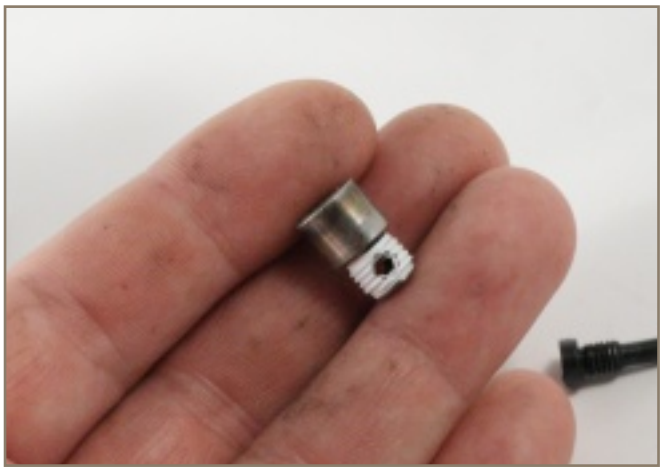
The new Pdersoli Sharps breech block system has a few new solutions for 160 year old problems. If you have ever shot a percussion Sharps, you know what I am talking about when I say, having a breech block working for 25 shots with paper cartridge is the dream of every shooter.

In the past there were two solutions to this problem: if the parts are loose enough, the action will work continuously, but the gases escape everywhere at the breech block, and the rifle loses accuracy. The other solution preferred accuracy over continuous operation. In this case the fitting of the breech was excellent, as well as the accuracy. On the other hand the gun was extremely sensitive to fouling.

The original Sharps rifle had a special part in the breech: the floating chamber. This piece of metal pipe was intended to seal the breech, when it was pressed against the face of the gas check. This part was free floating in the breech in theory. In practice, after the first few shots, the floating chamber stops moving and stops sealing the breech. If it stops, the gases find the way to the sides of the breech block and foul the action. For a few more shots, the action can be kept working by cleaning the sides with a damp cloth, but it will jam shortly.

The new Pedersoli solution for this problem is really simple. The company eliminated the floating chamber, and put 3 rubber „o" rings under the gas check. The rings press the gas check forward, so it touches the surface of the breech. Another new solution is the removable nipple in the face of the breech block. With a special tool provided with the gun, it is easy to remove this part. It offers three new features: first it helps cleaning a lot. It is much easier to clean the touch hole channel with both nipples removed. Second, it fills the hole of the gas check, so if the shooter uses brass cartridges for loading, the bottom of the cartridge cannot damage the nipple, like on the previous version. Thirdly, if the flash hole burns out, the shooter doesn't have to replace the entire breech block, just the nipple.





The Pedersoli barrel

Pedersoli's USA319-541 bullet mould is the copy of an original Sharps bullet style. The bullet has three bands, and it is designed to fit in the throat till the second band. The first ring is 0,500", the second 0,531" while the third is 0,543" in diameter. It is a basic rule to use oversize bullets in the breech loading guns. The bullet has to completely fill the lands of the rifling, so it is advisable to use 0,001" bigger bullet, than what you measure between the lands in your barrel. To accurately check the exact size of your barrel, push a soft, lubricated lead bullet through the barrel from the breech to the muzzle. Measure it, and you have the accurate calibre of your barrel.

The diameter of the Pedersoli .54 barrel between the grooves is 0,540”, while 0,521” between the lands. The barrel has 6 grooves, and the rifling pitch is 1:47”. As you can see it is nearly the same as the original.

The reference bullet, pushed through the rifling tells a few other secrets about the working method of the bullet. As you can see on the picture, the second band is cut by the rifling, but it does not fill the grooves. Only the third (bottom) band fills the grooves completely, this is the one that seals the gases. The bullet weighs 475 grain, so it can be considered a fairly authentic repro as well.

I suggest you slug your barrel every time before working out the perfect load. 0,001-0,002” differences can occur in any barrel even with the same manufacturer.

Reproduction of the paper cartridge

The powder chamber of the .54 Pedersoli Sharps is really huge. It can accommodate 120 grains of loose blackpowder. I believe we do not need this amount for target shooting. The chamber is set to this size to accept the thick wall, brass cartridges, thus not being filled up completely with BP. The brass cartridge has a capacity of 60 grains of 3fg powder, so if you plan to use loose powder, or paper cartridge loading, this is the amount we suggest . Do not forget that you must not leave an air bubble in the breech, so you will have to use filler (corn wheat) in this case, to eliminate air from the breech.

I tested the gun with two different types of paper cartridge. The first was constructed from ordinary printer paper. The first held 55 grains of 3Fg Swiss + 60 grains of corn wheat. I designed the length of this cartridge to be 4 mm longer than the chamber, so when the breech block is closed, the gas check cuts the bottom of the cartridges, and opens the

paper for the flash of the percussion cup.

The length of the second paper cartridge was set to match exactly the size of the chamber. This cartridge held 55 grains of 3Fg Swiss + 50 grains of corn wheat.

In both cases the bullets were lubricated with 15-85% mix of beeswax-tallow. When making the cartridge, pay attention to the diameter. It has to match exactly the inner diameter of the chamber, so you will not leave any airspace.

Shooting

Before taking your new Pedersoli gun the the range, there are some cleaning jobs you have to do. First, wipe out the oil from the barrel with a clean patch. You also have to clean the channel of the breech block, so remove both nipples and clean it with hot water. Let it dry, then with compressed air blow out every drop of water. Before reinstalling the nipple and the touch hole insert, cover their threads with Teflon tape, so they will be easy to remove after shooting.

Shooting the percussion Sharps is one of the dirtiest activities of blackpowder shooting. These old guns roar, bite, make you dirty, but I guess this is why we really like them. As a military rifle shooter, first of all I wanted to find out how does the gun perform with the paper cartridges at 50 metres, shot offhand – a kind of recreation of the ordinary military use.

After cleaning the nipple with a few caps, I started with the first type of paper cartridge. The gas check opened the paper without any problem. There is always some powder escaping from the cut off end of the cartridge, so clean this off the breech before shooting, so you don't have a great flash in front of your eyes. (Always wear eye protection when shooting any gun!)

The first experience with the new breech was that there are no gases blowing down from the breech. I shot 5 shot groups in a row, 25 altogether. I did not expect too much from this type of cartridge, as you cannot control the exact quantity of powder in the chamber. A black size group would have satisfied me. In contrary, the groups stayed in the size of 6 cm. The action worked fine for 15 shots. A great achievement for a percussion Sharps. After the 15th shot I cleaned the sides of the breech block with a damp cloth (without field stripping), and I was able to continue until the last (25th) shot without the problem of fouling .arising Operating the lever is not easy, but the action does not jam.

5 shots at 50m with short paper cartridge

5 shots at 50 m with long papper cartridge

10 lshots at 50 m with brass cartridge

The second type of cartridge had the same performance with improved accuracy.

Shooting with brass cartridges

Using brass cartridges to load the percussion Sharps is absolutely not authentic, but great fun. With the new Pedersoli breech block, shooting will be as easy as child's play. Fouling is completely eliminated, so even if you shoot 30 shots, the action will move as the gun was completely clean. The accuracy is superb. The brass holds 50 grains of 3Fg Swiss, that is an ideal load for 50 m shooting.

My only problem with the brass cartridge was some misfires. The factory size of the touch hole at the bottom of the brass is 1 mm. I prefer to drill this to 1,5 or 2 mm, as it completely eliminates misfires, while does not effect the operation or accuracy.

The fun gun

The fine Pedersoli percussion carbine with the new breech solution is a real fun gun. Accurate for target shooting, easy to handle for plinking, and has sufficient energy for hunting where it is allowed. Shooting the percussion breech-loader is not a piece of cake, but if you know the basic rules, you will have endless fun on the target range or in the woods.

Balázs Németh

MALCOLM-STYLE SCOPE MOUNT
DAVIDE PEDERSOLI CO.

Instructions for Mounting and Use

The Davide Pedersoli Company Malcolm style scope mount is designed for use with vintage-style rifle scopes having a tube diameter of ¾ inches (0.750”/ 19.05mm) that can be installed in a rear sight dovetail measuring 3/8 inches (0.375”/9.525mm).

REMOVE THE EXISTING REAR BARREL SIGHT

To prepare for installing the Pedersoli Malcolm Scope Mount, carefully remove the existing rear sight from the dovetail slot. Using a brass (non-marring) or nylon drift punch and a small hammer, gently tap on the left side of the sight base to move it out of the slot left-to-right. Some sights are very snug in the slot and may require the use of a light penetrating oil to assist in drifting out the sight. Once the sight has been removed, carefully examine the slot to ensure that it is clean and smooth; having no burrs or damage.

INSTALL THE MALCOM SCOPE MOUNT

The Malcolm mount is designed to be securely held in the dovetail slot by two set screws. To install the Malcolm mount, loosen the screws to the point where they do not project below the bottom surface of the dovetail base. Slide the scope mount into the dovetail from the right side. Depending upon your individual rifle, the mount may fit in the dovetail slot with plenty of clearance or be rather tight.

PROPER FIT

If the base fits the slot and makes contact or is a close fit on the bottom and top surfaces of the slot, make sure that the mount is centered on the barrel then tighten the set screws. After tightening the screws check to insure that the mount is tight and there is no front-to-rear wobble.

TOO LOOSE

If the base fits loosely in the slot, you may want to use a thin, brass (or other material) shim between the bottom of the slot and the bottom surface of the base. It is very important that the top-angled surfaces of the dovetail base are in contact with upper surfaces of the dovetail slot. Otherwise the mount will not be rigid and subject to front-to-rear movement or wobble.

TOO TIGHT

If the mount is so tight that it will not slide into the slot using hand pressure, use the non-marring drift punch and hammer to tap it into the slot until it is centered on the barrel. If the dovetail slot on your rifle is undersize to the point that you cannot drift the base into the slot using reasonable force, then consider having a gunsmith install the scope for you. It is best to modify the base rather than modify the rifle if possible.

INSTALL THE RIFLE SCOPE

To install the scope, begin by loosening the ELEVATION locking knob on the right side and turn the ELEVATION ADJUSTMENT knob clockwise until the scope mount is raised high enough to gain access to the two locking screws that secure the scope in place. Next, loosen the locking screws. Since the scope-mount clamp will only accommodate a ¾-inch tube, the rear eye piece or the front lens (depending upon your scope configuration) may need to be removed to pass the scope through the mount. If such is the case, refer to the scope manufacturer's instructions as to how to proceed.

Pass the scope tube through the mounting clamp and into the front scope mount (depending upon your specific scope and front mount, you may need to reverse the process by installing the scope in the front mount first). Next, secure the front mount in place on the barrel but leave the scope loose so that is moves freely in all directions (front-to-rear and rotates in the mounts). Do not lower the scope yet.

SET THE EYE RELIEF

To determine the proper eye relief for your scope, sit at a shooting bench or table in a shooting position. With scope still raised, rotate the scope so that the crosshairs are close to horizontal & vertical (we'll make final adjustments later) then move the scope toward or away from your eye until the best

eye relief is determined. Next tighten one of the two locking screws in just enough to prevent the scope from moving freely but loose enough so that the scope can still be moved.

Turn the Elevation knob to lower the scope to approximately the ½ or ¼ mark on the elevation scale mark. Next, while still sitting in your shooting position, check to confirm that you still have the correct eye relief. If not, adjust the scope as necessary. Then, from your shooting position, check the rotation of the crosshairs. If they are not aligned properly, rotate the scope until they appear horizontal and vertical. When you are satisfied with the eye relief and the crosshairs, raise the scope back up and carefully tighten the locking screws to hold the scope securely. (Note: Unlike other scope mounts where the scope is allowed to move under the recoil of the rifle, the Pedersoli Malcolm mount is designed to hold the scope rigid and to not move when the gun is fired.)

Finally lower the scope down to the desired elevation setting. At this point your scope is properly mounted and ready for bore sighting or test firing.

BORE SIGHTING THE SCOPE

Now that your scope is properly mounted on the rifle the next step is to sight in the rifle for the distance at which you will be shooting. By far, the best way to get the rifle “on-target” is to “bore sight” the scope as a starting point. Additionally you will likely want to establish settings for multiple distances. For example, in the sport of Black Powder Cartridge Rifle Silhouette matches you will need elevation settings for 200 meters, 300 meters, 385 meters, and 500 meters. For Mid-Range Target shooting, the targets are set at 200, 300, and 600 yards.

Begin by placing a target approximately 25 yards or more down range. With the action open, place the rifle on a bench rest or sand bags and get into position so that you can see through the bore of the rifle. While looking through the bore, adjust the position of the rifle so that the “black” of the target is centered in the rifle bore. Then, without moving the rifle, raise your eye to look through the scope. The crosshairs may or may not be on target but you should be able to see the target in the scope. To center the crosshairs on the target, adjust the ELEVATION KNOB to raise or lower until the horizontal crosshair appears centered. To center the vertical crosshair, alternately loosen and tighten the opposing WINDAGE SCREWS until the crosshair is centered.

Check your settings by alternately looking through the bore again and then through the scope. When the target appears centered in the bore the crosshairs should be centered on the target. If they are not, repeat the process.

ESTABLISHING ELEVATION SETTINGS

Follow all safety and loading procedures for your rifle!

Place a target at 25 yards (or 50 yards if preferred) from the bench rest and fire a shot at the target. The shot should appear on the target slightly low of center and may be to the left or right. For making windage adjustments at 25 yards you will need to move approximately 1 mark on the windage scale for every inch of adjustment on the target.

WINDAGE ADJUSTMENT

If the bullet strikes left of center, adjust the windage by loosening the left windage screw and turn the right windage screw clockwise (away from you) to move the bullet impact to the right. If the bullet strikes right of center, loosen the right windage screw and turn the left windage screw clockwise (toward you) to move the bullet impact to the left. After making windage adjustments, tighten both windage screws.

ELEVATION ADJUSTMENT

To adjust the elevation, loosen the locking knob and raise or lower the scope as needed. At 25 yards, you will need to move approximately 1 full mark on the main ELEVATION SCALE for every inch of adjustment on the target. Continue firing and adjusting until you are satisfied with your 25-yard zero.

100 YARD ZERO

Move the target to 100 yards and fire a 3-shot group from a bench rest or other steady position. Examine the target and determine the approximate center of the 3-shot group. Next, determine how far (in inches) the center of the group is away from the center of the target, both horizontally and vertically. In the event that the bullet strikes are not on the target board, move the target back to 50 yards.

USING THE VERNIER ELEVATION ADJUSTMENT

At 100 yards distance we can take full advantage of the Elevation adjustments using the VERNIER SCALE on the scope mount bracket. The elevation staff is graduated in inches with graduation marks at 0.050” (5/100 of 1 inch) and numeric markings at ¼, ½, ¾ and a “1” at the 1-inch mark. On the scope bracket there is a smaller scale known as a Vernier scale that has 6 lines marked “0” through “5”. The markings on the Vernier scale are used to make small adjustments by subdividing the space between the 0.50” marks on the staff into 5 equal segments. Using the Vernier graduations you can make elevation adjustments equal to 0.01” (1/100”).

1 Minute of Angle (MOA) at 100 yards = 1 inch distance, which approx. = 0.01 inch.

Once we have determined the VERTICAL distance in inches from our 3-shot group to the center of the target, we can adjust the elevation setting using the Vernier scale by moving the same number of marks to equal the number of inches required. For example, if our group is 5 inches low and out sight is set (the witness mark) at the ¼ mark (0.25 in decimals) we can raise the sight using the small scale in 0.01” increments until the “0” is at the (0.30) mark on the staff. If we only need to raise the bullet impact 3 inches, we would adjust the elevation until the line marked “3” is lined up with a line on the staff. This will place the “0” line 3/5ths of the way between 0.25 and 0.30 at 0.28-setting.

The windage scale is also graduated with markings 0.05 inches apart and the same applies MOA distances apply to the scale.

However, in this case there is no Vernier scale to subdivide the markings. But, if we remember that each mark represents approximately 5 inches at 100 yards, we can accurately estimate how far to adjust the windage.

Minutes of Angle are the preferred method for adjusting sights and scopes because of coincident relation to distances of 100-yard increments.

MINUTE OF ANGLE TABLE
1 MOA at 100 yards = 1 inch
1 MOA at 200 yards = 2 inches
1 MOA at 300 yards = 3 inches
1 MOA at 400 yards = 4 inches
1 MOA at 500 yards = 5 inches
1 MOA at 600 yards = 6 inches
1 MOA at 800 yards = 8 inches
1 MOA at 900 yards =9 inches
1 MOA at 1000 yards = 10 inches

BLACK POWDER CARTRIDGE RIFLE SILHOUETTE RANGES

Chickens – 200 meters, 1 MOA = 2 ¼”
Pigs – 300 meters, 1 MOA = 3 ½”
Turkeys – 385 meters, 1 MOA = 4 ¼”
Rams – 500 meters, 1 MOA = 5 ½”

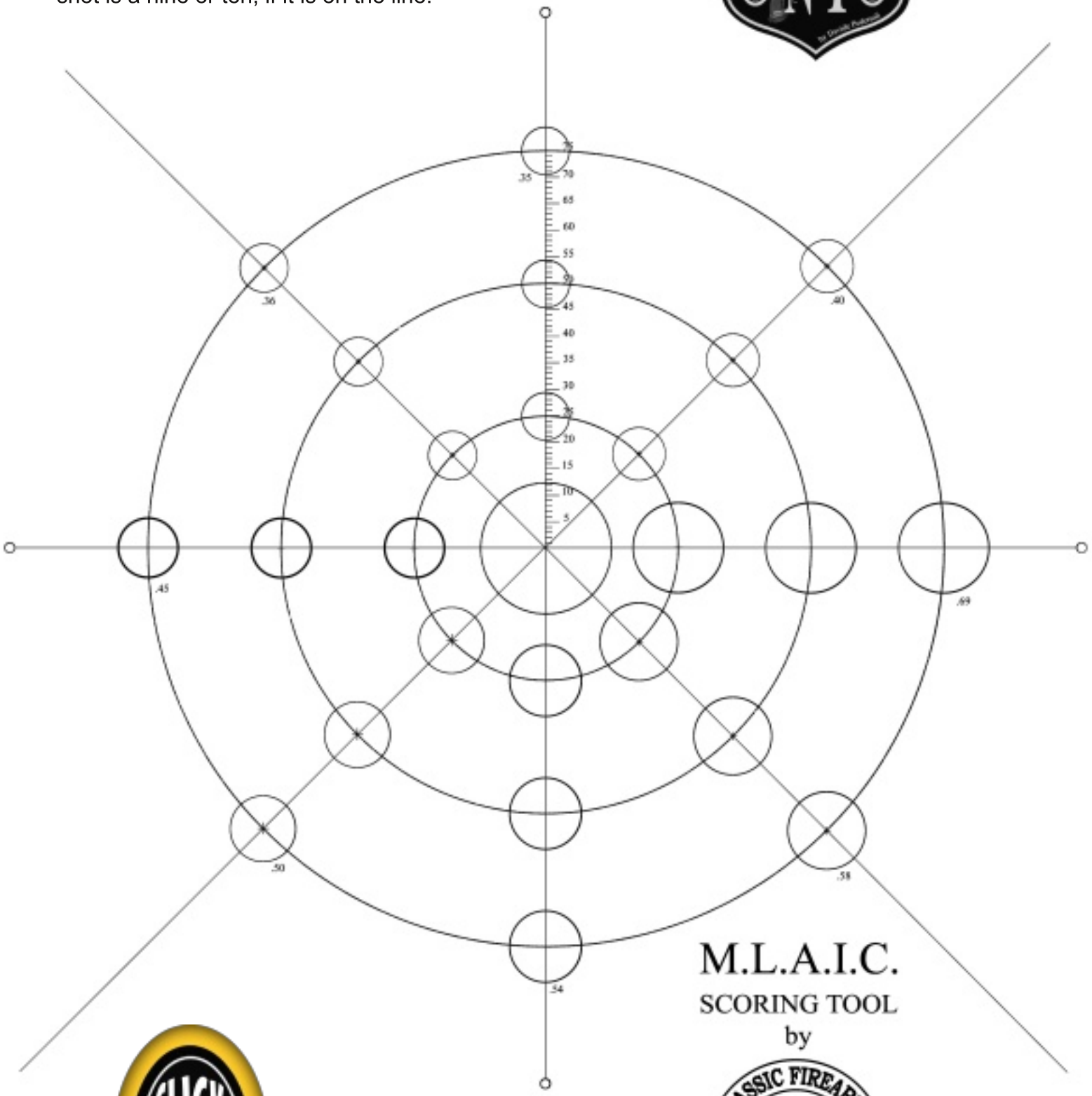
ESTABLISHING ELEVATION SETTINGS

Once you have a good 100-yard sight setting you will want to establish settings for other distances for target shooting. Most shooters acquire a small notebook in which to keep a record of their settings and often include settings for different locations where range conditions can vary. Keeping a record of your settings is a great time saver when getting ready for a match. By doing so you will know that your first shot will be “on-target” when the FIRE command is given.

Kenny Durham

Free MLAIC scoring tool

Download the file from the link below, and print it on a transparent slide. Do not change the size of the picture. With this simple tool it will be easy to decide weather your shot is a nine or ten, if it is on the line.



M.L.A.I.C.
SCORING TOOL
by

CLICK HERE!

From Wm. Hovey Smith:

Backyard Deer Hunting:

Converting deer to dinner for pennies per pounds

In a single volume, prize-winning author Wm. Hovey Smith explains every aspect of deer hunting from finding deer, hunting with a variety of equipment, cleaning the animal and cooking it. This book is designed to introduce new hunters to every aspect of the sport. Basic hunting and cooking instructions are provided for deer, small game and fowl along with 50 easy-to-cook recipes. For more information go to

www.hoveysmith.com.

Bouncing Bounty

Outrageous appearances sometimes translate into positive functions, and this was the case with a long-barreled flintlock pistol that I came to know as “Bouncing Bounty.” The gun had no known historical antecedent, and I would not hazard a guess why Davide Pedersoli chose to make .45 and .50-caliber rifled flintlock pistols with 16-inch barrels. The basic design utilized the same stock and fittings of the company’s Kentucky flintlock, to which was attached a long barrel and a brass fore-end piece to provide a more esthetically pleasing end cap than just attaching a barrel thimble under the front sight.

From a production point of view, the gun had some merit because it provided what was hoped to be an interesting variation of an existing design without the expense of producing a new stock, hardware etc. If one were going to play pirate, the long barrel would provide sufficient length to stick through a sash, but the length of the barrel and the gun’s weight would almost preclude it being shot with one hand. To link this gun with any sort of bounty hunter, as Pedersoli did, is even more fantastic. Some Arabic smoothbore pistols had similar-length barrels, but these were large caliber and had almost paper-thin barrels to make them more manageable.

I was attracted to the Bounty’s design because this gun appeared to offer the promise of providing enough barrel length to burn a sufficiently heavy charge of black powder to pass Georgia’s then-existing requirement that handguns used for big-game hunting must develop 500 foot pounds of muzzle energy at 100 yards. To meet this objective not only must a large charge of powder be poured down the barrel, there must be sufficient barrel length and bullet weight to provide reasonable combustion. Otherwise, much of the powder would burn outside of the barrel and do nothing more useful for the shooter than providing large amounts of choking black smoke.

Another potentially interesting aspect of this pistol was that it was rifled with a twist of 1:17¾-inches which meant that the barrel would stabilize an elongate bullet and not be limited to a patched round ball. Since I already owned a variety of .50-caliber muzzleloaders and had easy access to different-style bullets, I elected to purchase the then new .50-caliber version of the gun rather than the .45. As it turned out, using the larger, heavier bullets somewhat hampered my quest to get the highest possible velocity out of the gun, but things ultimately worked out.

By this time Thresa was fairly used to bringing home some unusual looking guns, and Bounty certainly fitted into this category. If I were going to use this pistol as a primary hunting handgun, I would carry it in the reverse-carry-thumb-hooked-into-the-belt method that I developed (Chapter 4), but if it were going to be used as a back-up gun, then some sort of holster would be required.

Casting about, I did have an old camo shirt with a bad rip that would potentially provide a pre-sewn component. I cut the sleeve, folded the edges and attached a belt loop to make a holster. Having the pockets left over, I sewed one to the outside of the holster to provide an attached pouch for extra flints and other accessories. That accomplished, I now had something that I could carry with me up a tree stand without getting too much in the way.

Some time was also taken to smooth up the action and trigger pull. Shooting flint is difficult enough, much less fighting a bad trigger. With a little personal attention, flintlock trigger pulls can be much improved.

Working on the trigger pull required disassembly and careful stoning of the parts as well as fitting a yoke made of a section of deer antler on top of the trigger bar to take up the slack between it and the sear. I reduced the thickness of the antler until the hammer would stand at full cock with the barrel tang and trigger plate screws fully down in their seats. Ultimately, I achieved a crisp two-pound pull. Now that the gun had been cleaned and prepped it was time to take it to the range to see if I could develop some useful hunting loads that would meet the state's requirements.

Taming Bouncing Bounty

Twisting and writhing in my hand like a smoke-belching junior dragon, the Bounty pistol left my grasp, did a flip and bounced off the top of my head. It this gun was going to be used to shoot game rather than as a black powder propelled club, I was going to have to do something about that recoil.

Load development had proceeded at a cautious pace. Even though the pistol had a .50-caliber, 16-inch barrel that promised to give the gun big game killing potential, the recommended load was between 20 and 30 grains of FFg black powder and a patched round ball. Clearly, Pedersoli and I had different uses in mind for their outsize flintlock. At first I increased the charge in 10-grain increments. The 40, 50, 60 and 70-grain thresholds were passed, and there were no indications of excessive pressures gauged by the difficulty of withdrawing the threaded clean-out screw – my self-contained crusher gauge.

Switching to 295-grain, .50-caliber CVA PowerBelt bullets, I again tried 70 grains of GOEX FFg. Pressure indications remained normal, but recoil was stout. Charges were now increased in 5-grain increments. At 90 grains my chronograph indicated that I was getting where I wanted to be. This load was developing 1,060 fps. and 736 ft.lbs. of muzzle energy.

After consulting Lyman's ballistic tables for similar bullets, I felt confident that this sleek, protected point Aerotip bullet would meet Georgia's 500 ft.lbs. of energy at 100 yards. There were still no indications of excessive pressures as I disassembled the gun and

cleaned the lock, barrel and vent screw between shots, but there was one small problem.

I could not hold onto the gun. Even with lesser loads it had left my grasp, and I found myself catching the pistol by the cock or some other inconvenient part. When the pistol clobbered me atop the head, it was obvious that something needed to be done. Putting sticky tape on the grips might have helped, but I didn't want to do that. Checkering might have helped, but I did not have that skill.

What the gun needed was a heavier barrel. I considered casting some lead barrel weights and attaching them to the barrel using the screws provided for the gun's rear ramrod pipe. This would be possible as would be having some steel weights machined. Then the solution came to me.

Saddlebags. Yes! A bag of lead shot taped to near the end of the barrel behind the front sight.

Elegant? No. Workable? Yes.

This approach had the advantages of not costing me anything, allowing weight variability, and the saddlebags could be removed without disfiguring the pistol. I already had a shirt pocket left over from my homemade holster, and the other one would do nicely for a saddlebag. I put two pounds of shot into the pocket, rolled it up and taped it onto the barrel. It worked fine.

"Saddlebags?" Thresa asked with an incredulous tone in her voice. "You put saddlebags on a gun. Whatever for?" I assured my wife that that my leather saddlebags were not now draped across the barrel of the pistol. With some further explanation, she hesitantly agreed that there was a sort of logic to my thought process. She was more concerned that I was going to blow this gun up with an overload.

That thought had also occurred to me. Thresa was somewhat comforted when I explained that the barrel had been proofed to the same pressure as Pedersoli's rifles, with a black powder proof of 620 kilograms per square centimeter (8,800 lbs. per square inch), as shown by identical proof marks on both rifle and pistol barrels. In addition, the breeching and touchold vents were exactly the same on the pistol and a similarly-sized rifle barrel used on the company's Kentucky rifle. As a cost-saving expedient, Pedersoli had used identical breeches, barrels and vent hole systems on both guns. It was logical to assume that the guns could be loaded to the same level, despite the disparity in the maker's recommended loads.

Notwithstanding, a very cautious approach was prudent, and this was the reason for my progressive testing with heavier powder charges and bullets. Anyone using this data needs to be similarly cautious, and does so at their own risk; although these loads were safe and effective in my gun. It should be noted that these loads were developed using GEOEX FFg black powder and that finer granulations or other powders may generate dangerously high pressures. These heavy loads should not be attempted with saboted bullets or any other bullet than the copper clad 295-grain BlackBelt or PowerBelt projectiles that I used.

Bounty's rifling twist of one turn in 17 inches stabilizes two types of bullets: low velocity round ball loads and higher velocity elongate bullets. Round balls lose accuracy, suffered when powder charges exceed 50 grains because the patches are destroyed, but elongate bullets become more stable. Poor accuracy with round balls at the velocities needed for a humane hunting load argue against using the lead spheres for hunting big game.

To make sighting easier under low-light conditions, I enlarged the narrow rear sight notch to a wider "V" shape. With my hunting load, the gun shot to the point of aim at 25 yards and about 3-inches high at 50. Sighting in a flintlock pistol is always a balancing act

of determining what effects on accuracy are caused by ignition problems, which encourages a downward-pulling flinch, and what effects are caused by changes in powder charges, bullet weights and the like.

Cleaning the barrel and lock between shots and retouching the flint helped minimize ignition problems. The added barrel weight and two-handed hold also aided accuracy. When everything went right, I achieved 3-inch groups at 50-yards. This was acceptable for deer hunting, but I preferred to take my game at half that distance.

The hunt

Florida's black-powder hunting season instantly appealed to me as it offered the opportunity to take a buck deer with 5 inches of horn, a hog that stood 15-inches high at the shoulder, an Osceola gobbler and small game during the same week. The strategy is to hunt all the time for the Fall gobbler and take whatever else might walk by. Thus Bounty, in its newly fashioned camo holster could go along and be brought out when necessary.

In the vicinity of Lake Okeechobee, there are a large number of cattle ranches. The cattle frequent relatively open grassy bays between the palmetto-choked swampy lowlands. Cattle travel along the edges of these bays as do hogs, deer and turkeys. I spotted a pair of toms working the edge of one bay a previous day from my climbing stand and reoccupied it in hopes they might return. At about 10:00 a.m., I noticed a 6-point deer come out of the brush on the other side of the bay about 200-yards away. The buck was looking for company as it crossed to my side of the open area. When it stepped behind a clump of palmettos, I readied my pistol and found my grunt call. I gave a grunt on the call. The buck stopped, and then slowly walked towards me instead of in the opposite direction.

If the deer stayed on the path he would pass about 20-yards away – an ideal range for the pistol. I silently cocked Bounty, checked the prime and waited. The deer plodded on. I feared that if the buck reached the point where I had walked, it might pick up my scent. The buck briefly hesitated behind another palmetto clump and put its head down to nibble on some vegetation. I decided to try for the animal when I had a clear shot at its shoulder.

I braced the pistol on the stand. When the wide 6-pointer stepped clear of the palmettos, I took aim. When I pulled the trigger the sight picture on the right shoulder looked good. The trigger dropped the hammer cleanly, and flint struck steel. The gun fired instantaneously. Through the smoke, I could see the deer swerve, run to the other side of the bay and collapse. It raised its head once, and died.

Bouncing Bounty and the load that I developed for it had done everything that I might reasonably expect of it. The PowerBelt bullet penetrated the deer. It expanded on entrance and sent bone and bullet fragments through both lungs, into the heart and busted ribs on the way out. Because of the shot angle, the bullet entered the deer through the shoulder on the near side and exited below the mid-line of the chest cavity on the far side.

Because the PowerBelt bullets must upset to expand their pure lead cores to fill the rifling, they require a minimal pressure to work well. This operational threshold appears to be about 85 grains of FFg black powder. An indication that they are working correctly is that the skirts will separate and be found 10-to-15 yards in front of the gun muzzle and be well expanded.

Later in the hunt, I saw several much better deer. Nonetheless, I was very pleased with my “management buck” as it was “big enough to be respectable, but not so large as to inspire envy” on what turned out to be a reduced price hunt. Bouncing Bounty had “bounced” its deer, instead of my head, and taken a reasonable buck.

I had some criticism regarding my development of hunting-level loads for this pistol. Even though I had indications from the proof marks that my loads were safe, I proceeded very cautiously and would suggest that others do the same. Every Pedersoli barrel undergoes proof testing, but this does not apply to all muzzleloading barrels. A balance must be maintained between ignition sources, powder charges, granulations, types of powders, bullet design and bullet weight. Changes in any of these components can adversely increase pressures.

Wm Hovey Smith

Wyatt Earp (1848-1929) was one of the most famous characters of the Western epoch. With a long list of life experiences (from the hunter to the gambler, from the boxer to wagon train leader) before becoming a sheriff in 1869, Earp became famous after the shooting occurred at the O.K. Corral in Tombstone, Arizona (26th of October 1881). The event, inspiration for several Western movies, remembers the gunfight of the brothers Virgil, Morgan and Wyatt Earp, together with Doc Holliday against the brothers Clanton (Billy and Ike), McLaury (Frank and Tom) along with Billy Claiborne. Only about thirty shots were fired and notwithstanding few of the participants were caught, that gunfight is remembered more than many other events of the time.

The “Wyatt Earp” side by side shotgun is inspired by one of the more charismatic characters of that period of American Western history: the gun is a classic 12 gauge side by side shotgun or “Coach Gun” with a barrel length of 510 mm or 201/8” and an overall length of 960 mm or 373/4” with an overall weight of 3,200 kg (7.05 lbs).

With the introduction of this side by side shotgun, the company located in Gardone Valtrompia continues its program of reproducing the guns of the late Western epoch, famous for its legendary protagonists, the Wyatt Earp is part of the second of the three stages of the eighteenth century, the era of many of the mechanical innovations.

The Wyatt Earp side by side shotgun in fact follows the Lightning rifle and the Western trilogy of the Davide Pedersoli Company will be completed by the Doc Holliday revolver, available in the fall of this year. The model is clearly a Colt inspired design in a single action .38 Special calibre with bird beak grips.

The Wyatt Earp barrels are internally lapped and chromed, with lustrous bluing outside and with Imp. Mod. /Mod chokes ideal for Western Action and close quarters hunting. The aiming rib is equipped with a round head brass bead.

The walnut stock offers a rounded pistol grip, checkered, ensuring a comfortable firm grip. Control is also ensured for the forehand thanks to the fuller shape of the forend, which allows for speedy disassembly using the traditional “auget” system. On the tang, there is the usual safety catch release.
The frame, the cross and the lock plates are colour case hardened and on the right lock plate it is engraved Wyatt Earp (on request the gun can be supplied without the engraved name). The butt plate and the trigger guard are blued steel.

The robust hammers, produced according Colt’s style, can be simultaneously cocked, very fast in a simple and safe manner and the short lock time ensures fast ignition for the cartridges. The reloading time to open the breech by pushing the opening lever and the increased opening promotes fast cartridge loading and extraction of the empty shells due to the smooth action.
Since its brief introduction the Wyatt Earp side by side shotgun has won great acclaim already for its aesthetic features that commemorate the original guns used in the “Wild West” in the middle of the eighteen hundreds and in addition to its handy features, it is comfortable to hunt with in close cover and it has many features to make it extremely competitive for Cowboy Action Shooting.

5 at 200 at the NRA Nationals

The 5 AT 200 match was “invented” by Davide Pedersoli with the cooperation of Dick Trenk who ran this events for several years in Raton and not only. Originally proposed as a complementary match the shooters could attend on the waiting times among the long range competitions they were already shooting, without having the need to change the sights setting of their rifles, because the 5 AT 200 match requires the most tight group of 5 shots at 200 yards, therefore no need to set the sights for different distance targets.

After few years seeing only black powder cartridge rifles competing, the match was opened also to muzzle loading rifles and the interest to participate at the 5 AT 200 match increased to the point that in Italy for instance, also shooters with modern rifles are eager to attend this event, as it can be read in the Italian web site www.longrangeitalia.com.
The 5 AT 200 is patented by Davide Pedersoli’s company.

Winners of the US National Long Range Championships:

.40 cal
1st Doug Gazaway 40-65 Browning, 0.836" group
2nd Steve Hubbard 40-65, 2.766" group
3rd Kenneth Campbell 40-70, 2.938" group

.45 cal
1st Randy Duncan 45-70, 2.058" group
2nd Leroy Tanner Pedersoli Sharps Silhouette 45-70, 2.359" group
3rd James Shride 45-70, 4.110" group

Scope
1st Jim Kidwell 40-65Ridge, 2.145" group

Military rifle shooting has beautiful traditions all over Europe. Now we ar travelling to Great Britain, to get a brief picture about the Enfield matches held at long ranges, up to 600 yards. Our guide will be David Minshall in this project.

Long Range Shooting with the Military Muzzle Loading Rifle

by David Minshall

The Volunteer Movement established in Great Britain in 1859 was the catalyst for a great interest in rifle shooting and marksmanship skills in that country. Significant factors in maintaining this interest were the formation of the National Rifle Association (NRA) late in 1859 and the sponsorship by Queen Victoria of a competition in the NRA Annual Rifle meeting first held in 1860.

The Volunteers were a military organisation and their arm of issue was the Pattern 1853 ‘Enfield’ Rifle Musket. Both the Volunteers and the NRA held many competitions which were fired with this rifle, perhaps the most notable being the first stage of the Queen’s Prize, with shooting out to 600 yards.

For many years the Muzzle Loaders Association of Great Britain (MLAGB) have continued this tradition of long range shooting with the Enfield rifle. Their match schedule includes National Rifle Championship matches at 200, 300, 500 and 600 yards. For those seeking a further challenge, the Long Range Rifles Branch of the MLAGB Asquith Cup match is an aggregate fired at 600 and 800 yards with the Enfield.

Mention long range muzzle loading to most shooters today however and the classic .451 match rifle such as those by Whitworth, Henry, Gibbs and Rigby most likely come to mind. Seemingly long range shooting with military muzzle loaders is a particularly British sport, although the author is aware that there are some matches within continental Europe fired at 300m.

For those accustomed to the management of the match rifle with all its finesse, the simplicity of the military muzzle loader will come as a joy. The careful cleaning between shots, the wads and paper patched bullets, and the studious attention to vernier adjustable sights can all be set aside. Anyone who shoots the Muzzle Loaders Associations International Committee (MLAIC) 100m Minie discipline has all the essentials necessary for a foray out to longer

ranges. Powder, lubricated Minie bullets and percussion caps are all that's needed; once loaded, elevation is set on the rearsight slider, one makes an assessment of wind strength, aims off if necessary and fires. Simple!

Well, actually it's as simple as one wants to make it. So perhaps a closer look at typical equipment is called for.

The rifle most commonly used in MLAGB matches is the 'two band' Enfield. The Parker-Hale Pattern 1858 Naval Rifle is popular, as are original versions of this or similar short rifles. The common feature is the 33 inch barrel with 1 in 48 inch twist rifling. The Pattern 1853 Rifle Musket is however seen on the ranges and can perform well. One attribute perhaps accounting for the popularity of the shorter rifle is the sights; the rearsight is placed four inches further away from the eye and this can enable the shooter to gain a clear picture of the sights. There are probably as many original rifles used in competition as reproduction, and no distinction is made between them.

Grease grooved Minie bullets are in general use. Some have experimented with paper patched bullets and there have also been those that have made the hollow nosed bullets which William Metford had competition success with in the early 1860s. Paper cartridges don't feature. Essentially there is no significant difference in loading between short range and long range. An increase in powder charge is generally made and to compensate for this some have modified base plugs on their bullet moulds to cast a thicker skirt on the bullet.

Where the discipline really comes into its own is the ability to aim off to allow for wind. Sights are crude when compared to the match rifle, with just a simple slide for elevation and no windage adjustment. With the rainbow like trajectory of the 540-560 grain bullet, close attention to changing conditions is essential. Slight changes in head or tail winds and the bullet will drop

short of or sail over the target. Point of aim may be several feet to the side of the target if the wind is strong; if one is lucky a clump of grass or other such feature in the butts may provide a point of reference.

MLAGB competitions are 3 sighting shoots and 10 match shots at all distances except 600 yards where there are 15 match shots. Targets used are the standard NRA(GB) type (and as used in the MLAIC World Long Range Championships for match rifle). Details of dimensions can be found at: www.mlagb.com/shooting/rifle/nratargets.htm . All shooting is from the prone position with a two point military sling the only permitted support. Clothing is as per MLAIC disciplines.

One notable exception to the MLAGB competitions is a match run by the Nottingham Rifle Association in the picturesque Derbyshire Countryside. Shooting is on a square target as used in the early days of the NRA and distances fired at are 200, 300, and 400 yards. Course of fire is one warming shot, one fouling shot and five match shots at 200 yards, followed by one sighting shot and five match shots at each of the remaining distances. Shooting is from the prone position and no support (including a sling) is permitted. The author has had the good fortune to win this match twice.

On the national scene the NRA also hold long range matches for the Enfield in their Imperial Historic Arms Meeting (July) and the Trafalgar Meeting (October). A larger 'historic arms' target is used than in the MLAGB competitions and shooters are not permitted to wear modern shooting jackets.

This brief article has hopefully brought to the attention of shooters the greater possibilities of the military muzzle loader. Long range shooting with theses rifles is a challenging discipline, frustrating at times yes, but also immensely satisfying. Beware it is also addictive! Give it a try.

References:

Long Range Muzzle Loader: www.lrml.org
Long Range Rifles Branch of the MLAGB: www.longrangerifles.co.uk
Managing the Enfield by W.S. Curtis: www.researchpress.co.uk/firearms/british/enfield/management.htm
Muzzle Loaders Association of Great Britain: www.mlagb.com
Muzzle Loaders Associations International Committee: www.mlaic.org
National Rifle Association: www.nra.org.uk

The author can be contacted at dbm@lrml.org.

David Minshall is a well know personality of muzzleloading long range shooting, and the Muzzleloading Association of Great Britaim. Editor of MLAGB's quarterly magazine the Blackpowder, and editor of many valuable black powder shooting webpages. he is also member of the MLAIC Long Range Sub-Committee.

Interview with David Minshall, member of the MLAIC Long Range Sub-Committee

BPNo1: What rifle do you use?
DM: I shoot an original rifle that closely resembles the Pattern 1860 Short Rifle; the lock is marked Tower and dated 1866 and the barrel is by Isaac Hollis.

BPNo1: Do you also let other rifles compete (Springfield, Mauser, Zouave, etc...)?
DM: The MLAGB matches are for the most part for Enfield rifles only. Occasionally a shooter will bring along a Springfield or Zouave which being close to the Enfield in calibre are generally tolerated; they are seldom seen though.

BPNo1: What is your favourite load for your rifle (powder, bullet, caps, etc...)?
DM: I use 75 grains of TPPH (UK Proof House powder and close to Swiss No. 4/1.5F) with an RCBS grease grooved Minie bullet with shallow base cavity and RWS caps.

BPNo1: What was your greatest achievement?
DM: With the Enfield I set a 200 yard MLAGB National Record in 2004 but this was beaten in 2007. I did win the MLAGB National 600 yard Championships with the Enfield in 2007, so that was some compensation! I also set an MLAGB National Record of 97 for the 50m offhand Enfield discipline in 2007, which I still hold. I'm quite proud of all of those.

BPNo1: Do you see a chance that long range military rifle shooting is going to be part of the MLAIC international program?
DM: It would be good if the discipline could be included, but I think it dful. The program is already quite full and adding in another Championship would I think be too much. It could perhaps be fired with the existing World Long Range Championships, with competitors electing to shoot free rifle or military rifle, but I am not aware of any of the host nations seeking to add it.

BPNo1: Thank you very much David, we wish you many successes in the future both with free rifle and military rifle.