

From the Publisher's Desk

Welcome to the October/November issue of Bird Dog & Retriever News. Thank you: subscribers, organizations and advertisers for supporting us.

Hello again. It is my favorite time of year, hopefully yours too, time to get in the woods, fields and boats.

This year in a word it is WET! Because of the wetness expect hunting won't be typical. Birds like to be close to water, but then water is everywhere. Places you avoided other years are worth a check now. And your regular hunting honey holes may simply be flooded. If there is ever a starting from scratch season this is the one.

Let's see what do we have in this issues. With the Democrats yelling about Gun Control, I thought I'd give you my two cents. Frank Neumayer talks about checking the pattern of your gun so you can't blame it this fall.

For new products a couple caught my eye: An adjustable toe nail clipper and a paw cleaner. We expect to keep those two around for further study!

For the Buy The Book article, Dr. Joseph C Greenfield Jr, gives us his advice on training pointers. From his great book A Quail Hunter's Odyssey.

In Pet Talk we look at flying your dog and issues getting them to the great hunting grounds. And we have the greatest collection of bird counts and new laws in our state news section.

See you in the field and at the shows & events!

Dennis Guldán

Publisher Bird Dog & Retriever News
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Ramblings

Gun Laws

Do we need more?

By Dennis Guldán

Anyone who knows me or our longtime readers/subscribers/advertisers know I do not hide my opinions. So, with the Democrats on the war path about new Gun Laws, I thought now was a good time for my two cents worth.

Being a history buff I like to start with how we got where we are today. First, twenty-seven words at the base of the debate.

The second amendment to the constitution: A well-regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.

Notice it says nothing about hunting. It talks of a citizen army a Militia.

There are two timely quotes from people that helped write that document that are significant and I think need to be remembered. Thomas Jefferson once said: "a little rebellion now and then is a good thing." I agree it keeps our KEEPERS on their toes. Benjamin Franklin once said: "Those who would give up essential Liberty, to purchase a little temporary Safety, deserve neither Liberty nor Safety." Ben TOO was a very smart man.

I think any good gun control law must fit into those three statements. Add to that, stealing a gun avoids MOST laws suggested by the left.

There are few things that most shooters and people that use guns in a bad way have in common the most important one is being EVIL. Take away their guns, as many have demanded, they will us a Semi-truck or much worse. And just because you can or cannot buy a gun doesn't mean you are going to use it for evil.

It has been estimated there has been 10 million assault weapons

sold. Of that perhaps one to two in a million have been used in mass shootings. Clearly, it's not the guns, we return to EVIL.

So why don't we look at laws that are associated with EVIL. Let's look at the Sandy Hook Shooter. His mother PLEADED with police to do something about him. She locked up the guns. This young man was repeatedly kicked out of school, almost weekly. And was finger shooting people regularly. YET: when he turned eighteen his record would be reset back to zero and the



system lost track of him. He got the guns after shooting his mother and went on the rampage he previously spoke of.

Why are we clearing peoples record at 18? Evil is evil. If you found out someone has been caught drinking booze at 15 would you scar them for life? No, they were 15. If on the other had they killed someone at 15, THAT might be important to know about them.

Let's simply change the law so we don't zero peoples records at eighteen. We all have been youth, we know youth do stupid shit. But not tracking EVIL is a bad thing.

Let's talk about video games. A million people play shooter games every night, I do not. Some of the shooters were shooting people in video games for 12-18 hours a day on a regular basis. I don't have a good answer for that. And I hate government getting involved with regulating games & media, but that is simply not good for society. But perhaps it is time to lock down games and limit people six hours a day.

We have tough gun laws in this country, but I don't think they are over burdensome. The NRA backed 600 new Gun Laws since Sandy Hook. The NRA get VERY bad press from most the press but clearly, they want the streets safe too. If I want to buy an AR-15 for a personal Christmas present a week or weekend wait will not kill me.

But that said, if there is something in someone's past that would keep someone from buying said gun, what is wrong with sending an officer out to the residence to find out if there are issues. We might be amazed what we might find.

There is also talk now of raising the age of the person required to buy assault weapons. Which is supported by the president.

More laws do not necessarily make us safer. If the shooter knows people might shoot back, they typically move to a different target.

So, few would agree if we need more or less laws, every year the problem gets more complicated. More laws might be the solution but ONLY if those laws were focused on EVIL not the average gun owner.

All marriages are happy. It's the living together afterwards that causes all the trouble.



Shooting

The Value of the Pattern Board

By: Frank Neumayer

Success with any shotgun depends on knowing exactly where your gun is shooting every time you take the shot! The only way to truly know this is to physically see what your gun and pattern are doing. This is where your work on the pattern board becomes a value-added effort. Yes, part of the final inspection of every shotgun from the factory is a limited check of its pattern accuracy. However, no two shooters are the same, and when you apply all the ballistic variables of different barrel lengths, loads, chokes, types of targets, and breaking distances... everything changes. If I'm not breaking targets, I want to know it's the shooter and not the gun or load at fault. For me, I simply try to find the lightest possible load that will provide the best possible results, whether I'm in the field or on the range.

The main reason I recheck my pattern each year is to reassure myself that everything is still on target, my guns, chokes, loads, and especially me! I want the confidence in knowing my guns and loads are doing exactly what I expect... and this allows me to put all my focus on seeing and breaking targets. Concerns over my gun, load, and pattern are simply taken out of the equation. I have a number of shotguns I enjoy shooting, and every one of them is routinely proofed on the pattern board. Whether in the field, or in competition, I want to mount my shotgun and know that it's shooting exactly where I expect... without me having to make any unique mental tweaks or adjustments to get the pattern on the bird. This confidence exists because I've done my work at the pattern board and I've dialed-in the gun, the load, and the shooter!

Every year at the start of the shooting season I spend at least one or

two days at the pattern board. I'll check several shotguns I plan on using during the upcoming season. I'll also bring samples of my chosen loads, and any new formulas I may want to check out. I have two tri-pods with me, one for my chronograph and one I use as a standing gun rest. Some of my



guns have fixed diameter barrels, while others allow for a variety of choke inserts. I usually set my patterns at 70/30, or 90/10, depending on the gun. This means that when my gun's pattern intersects the rising target, 70% or 90% of my pattern will be centered above the target. You always want to break a rising target (or bird), so your pattern needs to be set slightly ahead of the target on its flight path.

Fortunately, I have access to a large, permanently installed, steel (10' x 8') pattern board which makes

my patterning efforts easy and accurate, but a marked-up piece of cardboard can do just as well. On the pattern board I'll mark several large (30") crosshairs in the center of each. Standing at my chosen yardage, I'll travel my barrel a few inches up the vertical line until my bead touches the bottom of the oblique target, then I'll take the shot. I then evaluate the density and spread of my pattern within a 24" (effective diameter) circle. By using the crosshair method, I can easily see if my pattern is well centered right and left, and if the 24" effective diameter is positioned at my desired POI elevation. If my pattern is low,

high, or off center, I simply adjust the comb right or left, up or down accordingly. Basically, a 1/8" rise at the comb will raise your pattern 4" at 40 yards.

These suggestions are just some of my basic thoughts and logic on the value of patterning. Mainly to avoid frustration, it's critical that you know exactly what your pattern to target relationship is every time you take the shot. I evaluate my guns patterns based on the actual distance from the end of my barrel to where the target breaks,

which is around 20-25 yards out in front of the trap house. With that in mind, for 16 yard singles I check my pattern at 40 yards; for 27 yard handicap I check my pattern at 50 yards. Remember, your shot charge is roughly cone shaped. At 20-25 yards out, it's about 30" in diameter at the front, and slightly tapers back to over 10' in length. You don't want holes in your pattern for targets (or birds) to escape, so the pattern board is the only means available right now to literally see the size, density, and spread of your shot pattern. With this visual, you can easily adjust your gun accordingly.

I recommend you document all your pattern board work. Keeping accurate records of your various guns, loads, and patterns, will not only help you to build shooting confidence, but it will also support your gun's value if and when you ever decide to sell it. Factory problems do exist! I've seen new shotgun barrels with choke threads machined slightly off, which in-turn pushes the pattern well off-line. I've also come across over/under barrels with misaligned points of impact, both vertically and horizontally. In the field or in competition, pattern board work is extremely valuable in providing the shooter with the knowledge and confidence needed to be successful. Again, the real value of your pattern board efforts is in removing the guesswork, and knowing exactly where your gun is shooting every time you pull the trigger!

If you'd like more information visit my website at www.claybrakn.com, or if you have a specific question send me an email at claybrakn@msn.com and I'll do my best to get it answered.

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