WINGSHOOTER

Magazine of the SA Wingshooters Association

Vol. 29 No. 2 – June/July 2023

SHOOTING – Churchill Method

The Ethos of Wingshooting

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Keep it in the sun…

Let's face it – we all prefer sunshine to rain. Thus far this year it feels like it was mostly cloudy with heavy rainfall inland of the country. In fact, as I write this it is raining and cold in Bloemfontein and it is 28 May! Most unusual for the start of June in the Free State, but serves as an opportunity to do something unusual on this Sunday should you be living in Bloemfontein. Start a cosy fire in your fireplace, open a good bottle of red wine and read a brilliant novel of sorts. A perfect opportunity to spend time with close friends is another option.

We all have friends (well I sure hope so) and for most us, these souls we call friends play a significant role in our lives. Friends enrich our lives on every level. How many hunting stories and hunting trips can you remember from childhood that happened in the hunting field? I bet the majority of them include your friends.

Wingshooting is a group hunting activity in which we participate with our close friends – sometimes 20 or more of them – and the chance is good that you'll make a new friend or two whilst wingshooting… sometimes on every bird hunt you go on. This for me is one aspect that makes wingshooting so fulfilling, enjoyable and memorable. Because of the friends and people involved on every hunt, you tend to remember each trip, no matter how long ago it was. This of course includes our beloved bird dogs, who are part and parcel of our activity. With them it's called wingshooting, which encompasses the entire ethos of the activity – without them it's called "shooting birds".

Thomas Jefferson's quote brings it all together in one sentence: *"But friendship is precious, not only in the shade, but in the sunshine of life, and thanks to a benevolent arrangement the greater part of life is sunshine."*

The season up here in Gauteng has not been gazetted yet, so here we can only hunt doves at this stage. Luckily we have all the other provinces to go to. Get your friends together and go on as many wingshoots as possible before the sun sets on your stone.

See you in the field!

Waidmannsheil ***André –***

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We Have Earned the Right to Speak

SUCo-SA is focused on enhancing the right of our >70,000 members to practice their chosen hunting and wildlife related professions to its fullest potential in accordance with section 22 of our Constitution, and to give effect to our members' section 24 rights to speak and be heard on all relevant aspects of the environment.

The SA Wingshooters Association is

a proud founder member of SUCo-SA and we encurage all our members to get involved and to donate to this much needed non-profit initiative. Details of how to support SUCo-SA will be communicated with members soon.

This past weekend (12 to 14 May 2023) SUCo-SA held its second AGM and conference, at Mabalingwe, Limpopo. As always, at such conferences open the floor to meaningful discussions and ideas, espcially from qualified and incredibaly experienced conservationists, such as Ron Thomson and Barry York, to name a few.

The Coalition is a public, non-government and non-profit Coalition established for the following objectives:

1. To stand in solid, unified, protection of all forms of legal sustainable use including the responsible production and management of renewable natural resources;

2. To strive to ensure that where sustainable use is not legal, but should be, it is caused to be made to become legal;

3. To corelate, create and become a repository for credible scientific and practical knowledge supporting the doctrine of sustainable use;

4. To share to the public useful and educational facts on the benefits of sustainable use, and the resultant importance of habitat conservation;

5. To dispel myths spread against sustainable use whether deliberate misinformation, or inadvertent ignorance from general sources and the media;

6. To support and/or to create specialised Coalition focus groups to manage specific strategic functions furthering the overall Coalition objectives;

7. To ensure strong strategic liaison between Coalition members to maximise strengths, minimise weaknesses, and avoid duplication of efforts;

8. To create capacity to ensure positive influence in every sphere of policy affecting all aspects related to sustainable use, and habitat conservation;

9. To seek broader national, regional, and international liaison, cooperation, and alliances with like-minded entities, and;

10. To create mechanisms to ensure the long-term functioning and capacity of the Coalition.

Please visit the website and find out more on what SUCo-SA does and how you can help. https://suco-sa.org.za/

SUC0-SA – Driving Sustainable Use to Enable Biodiversity Conservation through Species Enhancement and Habitat Conservation.

– SA Wingshooters

Against All Odds

African wildlife conservation faces many challenges

Competing economic priorities, such as poverty reduction and economic development, are high on the list; political leaders prioritize economic growth over wildlife protection. Resources are limited, and conservation efforts require significant financial investment, which can be difficult for countries with limited budgets.

Corruption is a vast and complex issue. Crooked officials often facilitate poaching and the illegal trade in wildlife products, and the proceeds are then used to bribe politicians and other officials.

Human-wildlife conflict is a never-ending issue, and local communities bear the costs posed by these species to their livelihoods and personal safety. There is little interest in conserving wildlife unless there is a tangible economic return. Safari hunting provides such benefits, but the anti-hunting alliance is working hard to remove them.

Image: https://www.patrolling.org

Law enforcement agencies are regularly confronted in court by sympathetic judges who often view poachers as helpless victims of poverty. And then there is the meddling

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of Western governments and animal rights groups who, from behind their keyboards, seem to know what's best for Africa and its inhabitants. On the frontline are the safari hunting operators who, against all odds and with little recognition, take on the grinding, daily challenges of wildlife conservation.

– By Zig Mackintosh. https://www.patrolling.org/editorial-volume07/

Metaldehyde Poisoning in Animals

Metaldehyde poisoning after ingestion of a molluscicide most frequently affects dogs and cats. Clinical signs include neurologic dysfunction, gastrointestinal distress, hyperthermia, and cyanosis. Sedation, administration of IV fluids, and gastric lavage often result in clinical improvement. Diagnosis may be confirmed via analysis of gastric contents.

Key Points

- Metaldehyde poisoning most often affects dogs and cats due to inadvertent exposure to molluscicide baits (rat and slug poisons).
- Acute onset clinical signs are potentially life-threatening, but respond favorably to prompt symptomatic treatment.

Metaldehyde, a cyclic polymer of acetaldehyde, is the active component in molluscicides that are used to control slugs and snails, commonly in wet, coastal areas worldwide. It can cause toxicosis in a variety of domestic and wildlife species, although most reports are in dogs and cats related to careless placement of bait for pest control. Metaldehyde may be combined with other agents such as carbamate insecticides to enhance efficacy. It is not considered a persistent chemical. In typical application circumstances, metaldehyde may remain effective for up to 10 days.

Metaldehyde can be purchased in liquid, powder, granular, or pelleted formulations. The concentration of the active ingredient may vary from 1.5%–5% by formulation. The bait is highly palatable, which often results in consumption of large quantities. Most avian and mammalian species are susceptible; the lethal oral dose ranges from ~100–600 mg/kg depending upon the species.

After ingestion, metaldehyde undergoes partial hydrolysis in the stomach to produce acetaldehyde. Both metaldehyde and acetaldehyde are readily absorbed from the GI tract. The type of stomach contents and the rate of gastric emptying influence the rate of absorption and the onset of clinical signs. After absorption, metaldehyde is rapidly metabolized. Enterohepatic circulation may prolong retention of metaldehyde, but ultimately, both metaldehyde and acetaldehyde are excreted in the urine. Clinical manifestations are attributed primarily to metaldehyde, although acetaldehyde does play a role. Metaldehyde ingestion affects a variety of neurotransmitter concentrations and enzyme activities. Metaldehyde decreases the concentration of gamma-aminobutyric acid, an inhibitory neurotransmitter that causes CNS excitation. Decreased concentrations of serotonin (5-hydroxytryptamine) and norepinephrine in the CNS decrease the threshold for seizures. Monoamine oxidase activity is increased following metaldehyde exposure. Muscle tremors and the production of acidic metaldehyde metabolites cause severe electrolyte disturbances and metabolic acidosis.

Clinical signs are dose-dependent and similar in most species. Neurologic manifestations, which predominate, develop within 1–3 hours after ingestion. Severe muscle tremors, anxiety, hyperesthesia, ataxia, tachycardia, and hyperthermia may be evident initially. As the acidosis becomes more severe, depression and hyperpnea may become more pronounced. With progression, opisthotonos and continuous tonic convulsions such that affected patients are unresponsive to external stimuli (in contrast to patients with strychnine poisoning) are typical manifestations. Vomiting, diarrhea, hypersalivation, abdominal pain, cyanosis, dyspnea, sweating (horses), mydriasis, and nystagmus (cats) are often reported.

No consistent pathognomonic gross or histologic lesions are seen with metaldehyde poisoning. Hepatic, renal, and pulmonary congestion and intestinal ecchymotic and petechial hemorrhages, which may be associated with prolonged hyperthermia, are common. Neuronal degeneration in the brain and hepatic degeneration with cellular swelling are often evident on histologic examination.

Diagnosis of Metaldehyde Poisoning in Animals:

- A history of exposure, with neurologic and gastrointestinal signs progressing to shock.
- Diagnosis may be confirmed via analysis of gastric contents for metaldehyde concentration.

A history of exposure and the presence of typical clinical signs of disease is suggestive of metaldehyde poisoning. Stomach contents often have a distinctive apple cider–like odor. Rapid submission of a frozen sample of gastric contents for determination of metaldehyde and acetaldehyde concentration may be useful to confirm the diagnosis. Analysis of urine, blood or liver tissue specimens may be performed; however, the results are often unreliable.

Differential diagnoses include various neurologic, GI, and pulmonary diseases due to other toxins. These include poisonings from the ingestion of strychnine, roquefortine, sodium fluoroacetate, zinc phosphide, bromethalin, organophosphates, carbamate, organochlorine or pyrethroid insecticides, cyanide, blue-green algae, or compost (tremorgonic mycotoxins). Other diseases such as epilepsy, various encephalitic infections, lysosomal storage diseases, or metabolic derangements such as hypocalcemia also may resemble metaldehyde poisoning. Take your pet to the Vet immediately.

– By Barry R. Blakley, DVM, PhD. https://www.msdvetmanual.com/toxicology/metaldehyde-poisoning/metaldehyde-poisoning-in-animals

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What is the Churchill method of Wingshooting?

by Keith Coyle,
Courtesy of Project Upland

Shooting instructor Keith Coyle explores the history of Robert Churchill and the methodology of the Churchill Instinctive Method of shotgun shooting.

image: www.projectupland.com

During my last 30-plus years as a professional shooting coach, if I had a pound (or dollar) for every time I've been asked, "The Churchill Instinctive method, what is it really?" I could have retired some years ago as a wealthy man.

I remember the first question I was asked by my gun fitting mentor, the great Christopher "Chris" Craddock (friend of Robert Churchill himself), as we sat in the library of his house in the City of Bath, England. "Keith, what is a shotgun?"

As I started trying to come up with some ingenious answer, Chris, observing my brain wheels turning, looked at me with a smile. He said, "I'll tell you what a shotgun is: it's a clever idea thought up by a simple man!"

In his lilting Somerset accent, he explained that one day as a simple man was walking across his field, a rabbit ran across his path. The man simply lifted and pointed his finger, making visual contact with the rabbit as his finger lined up with his eye, all done without thinking. A bit further on, a big fat wood pigeon flew out in front and above. The man again lifted and pointed his finger, which again made visual contact with the bird as his finger instinctively lined up with his eye.

He stopped in his tracks for a moment, realizing that he had the wonderful natural instinct of "pointing ability", which enabled him to make quick, accurate decisions about speed, angle and distance without having to think about it.

Realizing this, he said to himself, "If I had a gun that could do what my finger could do, I could feed my family!" From there arose the birth of the "Shotgun" or more accurately, what could be called a "Pointing Gun."

To this very day, this is the story I tell every pupil coming for their first lesson with me to get them to understand that you just simply point a shotgun, you don't aim it. It's not a rifle. It's just an extension of your pointing finger.

How the Churchill Method came to be…

Robert Churchill, being brought up in the family business of his Uncle Edward (E.J.Churchill) and shooting on the grouse moors and driven game estates of England from an early age, naturally understood, practiced and promoted this simple instinctive method. When combined with a properly fitting gun and, most importantly, the correct gun mounting technique of aligning the eye with the rib of the barrels (the extended finger), this method proved to be consistently effective when shooting all forms of game birds and rabbits.

*"A shotgun is a weapon of movement. **You must swing on to the bird,** trust the unerring ability of the eye to make the necessary forward allowance and leave it to the gun to do the rest!"*

As Churchill states repeatedly, "A shotgun is a weapon of movement. You must swing on to the bird, trust the unerring ability of the eye to make the necessary forward allowance and leave it to the gun to do the rest! Train the eye and front hand to take charge of these matters and learn their job without brain interference!"

Which really sums up what we refer to as the "instinctive method." I guarantee that all of you who upland hunt with your dog in the field, the bird you most often hit is the one that gets up without any warning and surprises you.

That's the one you don't think about, the one you shoot instinctively, the one you just "point at!" As opposed to the bird you most hate, which is the one that gets up some 30 yards away, flying across or towards you, and gives you far too much time to start thinking about the response you are going to have to make to cleanly shoot it. And worst of all, asking yourself the question, "How much lead do I give it?" That's when you start measuring and riding the bird.

In Churchill's style, there is no question of trying to compute muzzle movement, forward allowance, or any other complicated matters. All he asks the shooter to do is look at the bird and by correct gun mounting, shoot naturally. Without constraint or effort, you are making contact with and shooting at the bird, but subconsciously over throwing (swinging on) a little and so giving compensation for flight time. In that way, you are successfully completing what in any other terms would be a complicated mathematical problem.

Leave your calculator at home. The Churchill method is about economy of movement and elegant, efficient gun mounting. Because the swing is based on our natural ability to point, the mount and the movement, though appearing visually slow, are actually highly efficient.

With the flat, diagonal converging approach (which gives the visual impression of shooting directly at the target), it's the increasing momentum of the moving gun (the barrels) that naturally achieves the lead. So as the comb of your stock comes up under your cheekbone and the butt reverses back into your shoulder pocket, that's the moment you simple squeeze the trigger.

A brief history of Robert Churchill

Robert Churchill was born October 23, 1886, in the suburb of Wandsworth, London. His occupation was that of a forensic ballistic expert and expert witness. For the wingshooting world, he is the famed creator of the "Churchill Method" as well as author, shooting instructor and gunmaker.

Robert's uncle, E.J. Churchill, taught his nephew all he knew about gunsmithing, ballistics and the art of craft in English sporting shotguns. His uncle died in 1910, leaving his London gunsmithing and gunmaking business to Robert.

While continuing to innovate in gunmaking, Robert Churchill became one of the foremost authori-

ties of his time on firearms ballistics, testifying as an expert witness for the prosecution in countless cases brought by Scotland Yard against criminal suspects. His expertise was unquestioned, as were his courtroom opinions during the years 1910 to 1920.

He introduced and perfected his newly-designed short barreled (25 inch) game guns. He was "perhaps the last of the great gunmakers of London," wrote his friend, MacDonald Hastings. In addition to being a famous London gunmaker and ballistics expert, he was one of the greatest shooting instructors of his day.

As Hastings further wrote, "The essence of Churchill's Method is that he taught his pupils to swing on to the bird; to trust the unerring ability of the eye to make the necessary forward allowance, and to leave it to the gun to do the rest." *(See the book "The Other Mr. Churchill" by Macdonald Hastings).*

Quotes from Robert Churchill that will help your wingshooting – (From the First Edition of Robert Churchill's book "*Game Shooting*")

"In practice, the shooter should not be conscious of his muzzle, the rib or sight. His eye, or rather his attention, should be fully occupied with the bird and, if he holds his gun properly, he will hit whatever he is looking at."

"Dismiss all ideas of calculated allowances."

"All systems founded on allowances are inherently unstable and unscientific. Indeed, it is only in the sport of shooting that the matter even arises. I have never heard the question raised in any other form of game where the hitting of a moving object, such as a ball, is involved."

"It is high time that the whole allowance system was deposited in the wastepaper basket. It is not practical and it establishes an entirely false foundation of thought at the back of the shooters mind."

"Your job is to keep your eye on the bird; forget all you ever knew about the thousands of different allowance and the thousands of varieties of shots and let your eye and the natural over throw of the gun take care of everything else."

"In my method there is no question of trying to compute muzzle movement, allowance, or any other complicated matter. All I ask you to do is to look at the bird and by correct mounting and body work, shoot naturally without constraint or effort apparently straight at the bird; but subconsciously, over throwing a little and so giving the necessary lead or compensation for time flight"

"When I say 'look at the bird,' I mean it. You must glue your eyes to it, focus on it and see nothing else"

image: www.projectupland.com

Robert Churchill in his book Game Shooting

— Article courtesy of Project Upland: https://projectupland.com/shotguns-and-shooting/shotguns/what-is-the-churchill-method-of-wingshooting/?mc_cid=cdd4ea5358&mc_eid=f4a76f1beb

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Any member that recruits a new member to join full membership, or any two non-member friends who join together new, stands a chance to win R5,000 each! The more new members you sign up – the more chances you have at winning R5,000 each!

Rules:

1. Only current members may be eligible for a prize. 2. There is no limit to how many new members a current member may sign up. 3. The current member and new member pair will stand a chance together. 4. Full membership is our standard membership, and does not include junior or senior membership as per our join form. 5. The recruiting member's initials, surname, and first 6 digits of his/her ID must clearly appear on the new member's join form, or be sent in an email to us. 6. Members of management, their families and relatives are not eligible for any prizes. 7. This membership initiative is open to members of SA Wingshooters Association ONLY. 8. Valid for membership of SA Wingshooters (not LRSC, PSP, etc) only. 9. The draw will take place on Friday 26 February 2024 at 12H00 at the SA Wingshooters office in Randburg. 10. Winners will be contaced via phone and email. E&OE. SA Wingshooters 2023.

Damacus Steel

Image: sportingclassicsdaily.com

Probably as early as 300 BC, in Sri-Lanka and India, the process of laminating strips of iron and steel or differing steels together by forging was invented, and later in the Arab middle east. It was soon apparent that blades forged from such mixtures were more flexible and withstood the shock of combat better than those of plain iron forged and annealed into steel.

by Charles Duff

However, done right, the labour involved was hugely more as the strips were beaten out, folded over and beaten again many times. The concept crept into Europe and before the Viking onslaught began, such blades were being forged. The name of the principal Arabian city got stuck to them and remains to this day. With the arrival of firearms came a problem; initially most barrels were cast and while they remained short, this was acceptable though every now and then one would be overloaded and explode, cast iron being notably brittle.

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It became rapidly obvious that, to exert the maximum effect of the gunpowder, the whole charge must be ignited within the confines of the barrel. However the quality of the gunpowder varied widely from different makers and was such that the rather coarse powder produced for cannon was not effective in small diameter tubes, which required much finer grain powder.

The problem of how to make relatively long small bore was solved by wrapping pre-twisted Damascus steel rods made into strips around a perfectly round straight mandrel and heat forging the strips together. Boring a small diameter hole concentrically into a long steel rod was well beyond the presently available equipment. So as late as the mid-17th century smoothbore barrels were as much as 6 feet (1.83m) long to achieve complete ignition and ensure that no unburnt powder blew out of the barrels. The amount of work involved is shown by the fact that seven feet of the strips were required to form one foot of barrel.

This is the well-known 'Damascus' form of manufacture and at its ultimate devolution, unbelievably pretty patterns were being formed by the colour contrast of the metals used. Some even managed to produce words in the patterns. Names such as 'plain twist', 'skelp', 'two rod' and 'stub twist' abounded in the trade the last being the name for those made from old horseshoe nails, the belief that a modicum of horse hoof improved the final product was current.

Nobody attempted to shoot at moving targets, let alone flying ones. As the powder quality improved so the barrels shortened until by the advent of nitro powders there was little difference in barrel length, at around 30" (76cm). Since then, akin to women's skirts, the fashion has yo-yoed between 25" (63.5cm) and 34" (86.3cm).

Lately there has developed a fashion, in Europe, for very short-barrelled guns, as short as 21.5" (55cm), specifically for woodcock shooting, and at the other extreme, the introduction of extra-long external choke tubes giving overall barrel lengths as much as 36" (91.5cm) long, mainly for the clay target shooting fraternity. Toting such a gun through our bush is not a good idea.

"So as late as the mid-17th century smoothbore barrels were as much as 6 feet (1.83m) long to achieve complete ignition and ensure that no unburnt powder blew out of the barrels."

Image: www.john-dickson.com

Over the years since it has almost entirely been supplanted by 'fluid-pressed steel' barrels introduced by Whitworth. There came about the story that it was dangerous to use Damascus barrels with modern nitro powders. These, unlike black powder, have abrupt pressure curves instead of black powder's much more extended curve and lower peak. The rights and wrongs of this are still being debated and there are manufacturers who have re-introduced new nitro-proofed Damascus barrels.

If carefully and properly made there should be no problems, but back in the last half of the 18th century and start of the 19th century there was a lot of very cheap stuff made, especially on the continent, and it is undoubtedly from this that the story originated. The next step was the introduction of hard chrome linings to steel barrels, immeasurably

lengthening useful barrel life and reducing cleaning chores. Nowadays most barrels are entirely chrome-moly steel.

The argument as to which is better has raged on for years. For blades, low carbon Damascus steel is naturally hardened and has greater sharp edge retention, resists abrasion, returns to shape and cuts precisely but is vulnerable to rust. In barrels, it is much more likely to bend or bulge to excessive pressure, while fluid steel can burst. Though such a bulge can be beaten back into shape, it will remain a weak spot, unlike fluid steel.

I would be so bold as to say that modern Damascus steel barrels are every bit as safe as any liquid steel product, but older guns should be scrutinised thoroughly both inside and out before being used, and cartridge length must match chamber length, lighter charges should be preferred, the heavier steel shot cartridges should be avoided.

The ultimate in barrel manufacture has been achieved by Longthorne Guns in northern England where they make the complete set of barrels, ribs and lumps from one block of steel and the last task is to bore out the barrels. Many years ago Whitworth did the same but started with the barrel boring, this was in pre-CNC days and it was just too expensive and time consuming to succeed.

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The Official Courier for SA Wingshooters

The Ethos of Wingshooting

By Charles Duff

Is there an ethos to the sport of wingshooting? Definitely, and more so than other most other shooting disciplines…

Carry a shotgun open/broken when hunting to keep yourself and others safe.

Ethos is defined as: "*The characteristic spirit of a culture, era or community as manifested in its attitudes and aspirations*" and it never arrives suddenly fully fledged; rather, it slowly accumulates, matures and rolls on.

Pteryplegia, or the art of shooting-flying, was certainly already established as an outdoor activity in the mid-eighteenth century and over the centuries it has developed its own ethos.

In wingshooting this has evolved into the principles of fair chase and the consideration for your fellow hunters, prey, nature and the public.

And along with beliefs, standards, manners and principles, Ethos especially includes Ethics, which is defined as "*The science of morals in human conduct, moral principles, rules of conduct*".

Most rules of conduct are simply common sense and good manners. When it comes to wingshooting, the rules are both moral and pragmatic – they are there for your safety, the safety of your companions, and they are there for the benefit of the prey, the landowner and the sport. And they can change from time to time.

Some of our fellow hunters haven't been given the opportunity to learn better gun manners, others may have grown up in a society with different values to ours.

For these there is hope – if you and I take the trouble to point out the error of their ways… as diplomatically or as forcefully as circumstances demand. There is little hope for the others, those who will not learn – the only hope for our sport is to send them packing and/or have them declared unfit to possess…

Let us consider the question of dress and firearms. Like it or lump it, you are judged by what you wear. Society has norms and if you go outside these, you can expect to be treated accordingly. To put it simply, dress like a slob and you will be taken for a slob and it is then up to you to prove that you are not a slob.

Our hunters should obviously

dress for the weather, the terrain and the prey. Therefore khakis, camouflage, etc. are the norms. I wear khakis when hunting terrestrial gamebirds, but when I am after duck and geese then I go unashamedly into full camo gear. I am not ever going to be seen in camos at a clay target range – from what or who would I be hiding?

On one point I am unshakeable, Blaze Orange gear has no place whatsoever where I shoot. Birds have better colour vision than humans and will spot you from way off. To me it merely advertises the fact that you obviously do not trust the folk you shoot with – time for a change perhaps?

If you are on your own, it doesn't much matter to anyone else what you do, or how you dress and behave. But once you are part of a group, it does. The point is that the actions of any one member of a particular group will always affect that whole group.

How many of us, I wonder, have had shoots spoiled by some jerk arriving in contrasting colours which stick out like a sore thumb? Blue and/or white overalls come to mind…

Competitive shooting has no place in wingshooting, especially with respect to bags. The so-called community shoots so prolific north of Joburg are apparently turning into hotbeds of bad behaviour and the fact that prizes are awarded for the largest bag is deeply and idiotically inane and illegal in most cases. Even prizes for the longest comb on a Guinea-fowl or spurs on a Francolin are unethical, any prizes for killing things are unacceptable. The organisers should tighten up all round, especially with respect to drinking during the hunt.

One should also consider if the gun fits the occasion. I believe that handguns and shotguns do not mix, and I have picked up handgun cases at pigeon shoots, which worries me. But sadly, in this country it is necessary to be ready for trouble at any time. I know of a friend was pigeon shooting with his son on the East Rand and were approached by three men. Thinking they were going to ask if they could pick up the birds, they were allowed to get too close. They produced pistols, shot his son and beat him up. Leave your handgun in your car while bird shooting, have it stolen and you are nostril deep in the smelly stuff. So I now do carry a handgun, but it is kept out of sight.

NEVER carry a shotgun in this manner! There is not one instance where this is acceptable

However, to bring your young son on a bird shoot, armed with a .22 rifle is not only unacceptable, but highly dangerous.

A bird shoot is neither the time nor the place to teach a youngster how to shoot a rifle. If you want to fulfil your paternal duty and teach your son good gun manners and safe practices – go to the local range.

There are many maize and sunflower farms that the owners open up to all and sundry to shoot pigeon and doves in an effort to cut their crop losses. Some of the people who appear on these shoots have to be seen to be believed! Rambos hanging out of bakkies with a beer in one hand and a gun in the other. If that's how I, as a gun owner and user view them; just imagine how the general public sees them!

Many farmers only do this once or twice because of the mayhem these so-called "hunters" cause. It is not acceptable to leave non-biodegradable empty cartridges, beer cans, boxes and rubbish littered the length and breadth of a sunflower field or veld. It is equally unacceptable to sit between flights plucking dead birds and dumping the feathers, another common occurrence. They may be a more biodegradable form of litter but they still make a mess of someone else's property. Take a couple of rubbish bags along with you, how hard is that?

We should all be aware of the damage ingested cartridge cases can cause to livestock, which is why it is so important to pick them all up. It is just not possible to pick up the wads, yet these are just as indigestible.

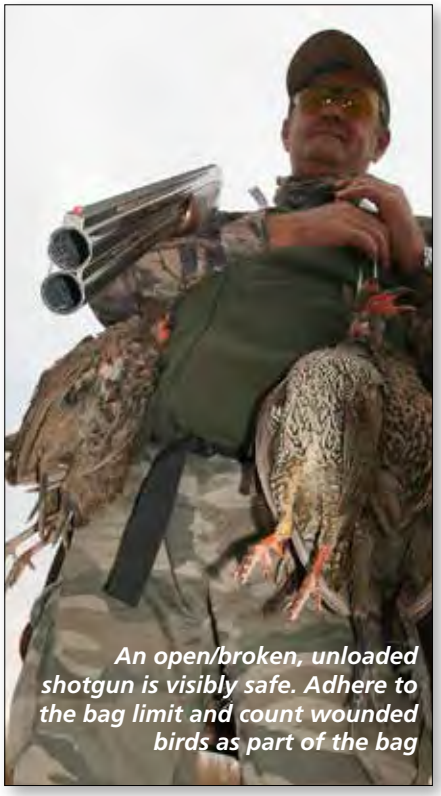
Using a pump or semi-auto shotgun in a group of hunters is also unacceptable, unless everyone is so equipped, or are prepared to take a chance on your gun manners. In other words, they should be asked first. I know that the Americans use them all the time; our norms are significantly different. Our number of bird hunters shot by accident are also significantly (and proportionately) less.

A broken-open empty double is clearly, visibly, safe and the barrels can be continually checked for obstructions.

Many users of double barrel shotguns are very scary as well. All too many casual idiots lean loaded doubles against cars and trees and get badly frightened, or shot, when one gets knocked over. If you are not actually using your gun – unload it and bag it!

Un-bagged guns in vehicles are an absolute no-no. Loaded and un-bagged guns in moving vehicles are an accident waiting to happen.

As for the so-called hunters who charge up and down the edges of sunflower fields in bakkies, shooting on the move at rock pigeons or guinea-fowl, well words fail me!



An open/broken, unloaded shotgun is visibly safe. Adhere to the bag limit and count wounded birds as part of the bag

Any wingshooting from a vehicle, either moving or stationary, is deeply distasteful and in my book, totally unethical.

Many European countries have little to no history of ethics in this field. The moment the hunting season opens in their home countries it is common cause that they go out and shoot at everything with feathers, whether in the air, on the ground or on the water. That is, of course, when they are not shooting at each other and the local cow. How we are going to get them to change boggles the mind. Yet I know many who are total gentlemen in the field, so perhaps all is not lost.

Before I'm accused of racism and xenophobia, let me say that many South African hunters are pretty suspect as well. There is a strong "killer" brigade who only stop shooting when all their cartridges are finished, regardless of bag-limits.

Many take little or no care about what or how they shoot either. If you cannot tell the difference between a raptor and a rock pigeon or a duck and a jacana then you really do not belong in the field.

Our rambos, killers and litterers of the bird hunting field should reflect upon the harm they are doing our cultural activity. They will be the first to whine when there is no longer any free shooting to be had – or any shooting at all for that matter.

Safety and safeties are not to be taken lightly. It can be considered unethical to rely upon a safety catch, unless it is proven to be safe, and how is this to be proved? The hard way? It is a fact that 90% of double-barrelled shotguns have safeties which only immobilise the trigger/s, not the strikers/hammers inside. Drop a loaded shotgun and it is very likely to go off. The only really safe gun is one that is clearly and obviously empty of cartridges.

Another facet more observed in the breach is bag limits. And when you examine the various provinces laws, it is soon apparent that the law in this case is an ass. How can a bird be considered vermin or near-vermin with an open limit and a year-round season in one province, and in the next door province it has a small bag limit and couple of months' season. But, the law is the law and ethically must be obeyed until we take steps to rectify the inconsistencies.

A really ethical hunter will always count wounded game as part of the bag. Game ranches charge for any wounded game as a matter of course. Why then should we ignore wounded birds? Yet I know that very few bird hunters count them into their bag. In my experience all too many wingshooters shrug off wounded birds far too easily. Given the incredible ability of our gamebirds to conceal themselves, especially when wounded, it could be successfully argued that it is unethical to go hunting birds without a trained dog.

To be ethical, if you knock a bird down out of the sky and cannot find it you must include it in your bag. Its chances of ever flying again are minimal at best.

It is also definitely unethical to shoot ducks and geese over water without a retriever. If you are going to shoot birds, knowing that little or no attempt will be made to fetch them, then please pack up your shotgun and go away. My activity really cannot afford to have you around.

Is it really necessary to stress that alcohol and guns do not go together? I guess so, as all too often one sees people who should know better tucking into beers or hardtack out in the field. Here there is no line to be drawn. It is just not ethical nor legal to drink alcohol and shoot in South Africa.

From time to time we should all indulge in some quiet reflection. Take stock of what we are doing and if necessary, modify our behaviour. Learn from your mistakes, and if you as an experienced and ethical bird hunter, invite a newcomer to the sport, please take the time to explain what is expected of him. If you are invited on a shoot and are not told what's what, confess your ignorance and ask your host… That way you might be asked again.

We must acknowledge that there is now little to no control over our sport, the authorities promulgate laws but lack either the incentive or the means to enforce the same, thus we must become the enforcer, else chaos reigns. Ask yourself – are you totally ethical in your bird hunting?

The ethical wingshooter:

- Obeys all laws pertaining to gamebird hunting.
- Does not drink and shoot.
- Is at all times constantly aware of the need for safety.
- Never loads a weapon until it is about to be used.
- Never puts his finger onto the trigger until he is about to pull it.
- Never relies solely upon a safety catch for a gun's safety.
- Unloads and bags all firearms when they are not in use.
- Never shoots from a vehicle, either stationary or in motion.
- Desists from taking long (and probably wounding) shots.
- Uses trained dogs in the field.
- Makes every possible effort to retrieve wounded game.
- Includes any wounded or un-retrieved birds in the bag.
- Goes out of his way to help young wing-shooters.
- Is at all times courteous and considerate of companions and other hunters.
- Always ascertains from the landowner what can, and can't, be shot.
- Never poaches someone else's shoot.
- Always puts something back into the sport.
- Leaves only footprints.

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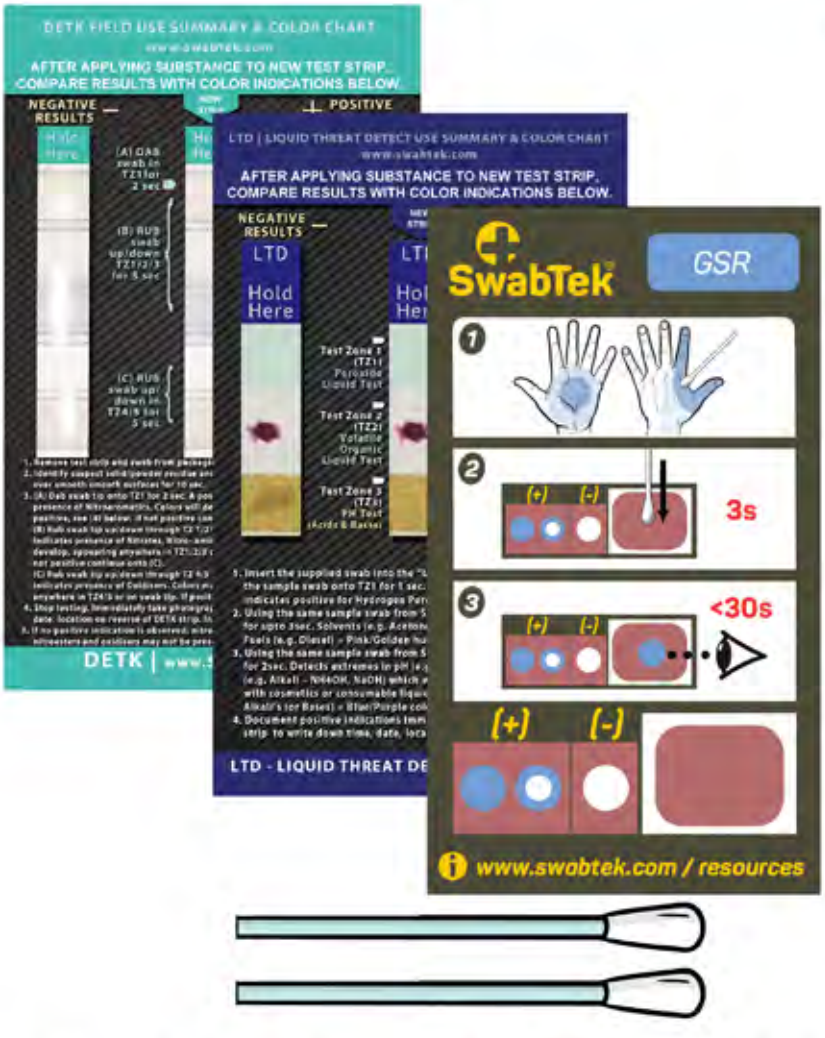

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What makes the perfect shooting TEAM?

Shooting is all about the people, but who are the characters that make up the perfect shooting party?

by George Browne
Courtesy of Guns on Pegs
Photographs courtesy Guns on Pegs

It is a truism that shooting is about spending time with like-minded people with a shared passion. Being with the right crew can make a mediocre day's shooting a memorable occasion, while being with the wrong people can make even a day at the most prestigious estate and showing the very highest of birds one that is best forgotten. But what does the 'perfect' shooting team look like, and who are the characters every eight gun team should contain?

The One Who Can Really Shoot

Every team needs one, and no more than one, truly excellent shot. Not only does their ruthless ratio make that of the whole team look that much better, but we only improve by learning from those better than us. It is important, however, that this hot-shot is humble about their abilities, not cocky, lest they find themselves becoming an object of hatred rather than admiration.

The One Who Really Can't Shoot

Just as we all need someone to learn from, we all need someone to make us feel better about our failings. Watching this gun blaze away in a

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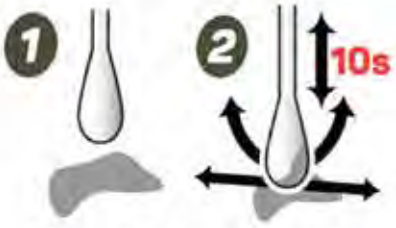

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cascade of empty cartridges without significantly contributing to the bag can put even our worst performance into perspective and allow us that comforting thought: "At least I'm not that bad." Ideally this bad shot should be equally carefree about their ineptitude as the good shot is about their skill, unless their rage is of a kind as to be humorous rather than embarrassing.

The Funny One

Being the joker of the pack is a tough gig because there's a fine line between wit and oafishness, hilarious and tiresome. This means that when you find a good one, make sure you always invite them on your days, lest they're poached by someone else.

What you're looking for is great judgement - not telling filthy jokes in front of the Duchess, unless she's that kind of Duchess - and a large enough repertoire of anecdotes and jokes to last a season's worth of lunches and gunbus rides. Even the best stories are ruined by poor oratory, so the ability to structure a tale and captivate the room is a vital skill.

The Other One

The greatest comedy often comes in the form of a double act: Morecambe and Wise, Laurel and Hardy, Vic and Bob, Harry and Paul, French and Saunders. It is frequently the case that The Funny One won't perform at their best if they don't have their partner in crime alongside.

Sometimes The Other One is little more than an external memory bank, prompting The Funny One with "Do you remember that time when…", but sometimes the Other One is part of the act, throwing in quips or setting up punchlines. Either way, they're indispensable.

The Oenophile One

Look, some people just shouldn't be trusted with a wine list. To avoid having to drink something at the shoot dinner with more in common with paint thinner than pinot, it pays to have someone who knows what's what when it comes to plonk.

The good news is that Oenophiles abound, and while you may have to listen to them droning on about gravelly soils or the relative merits of

different grape varieties, they usually have quite good chat if you can get them off the topic of fermentation.

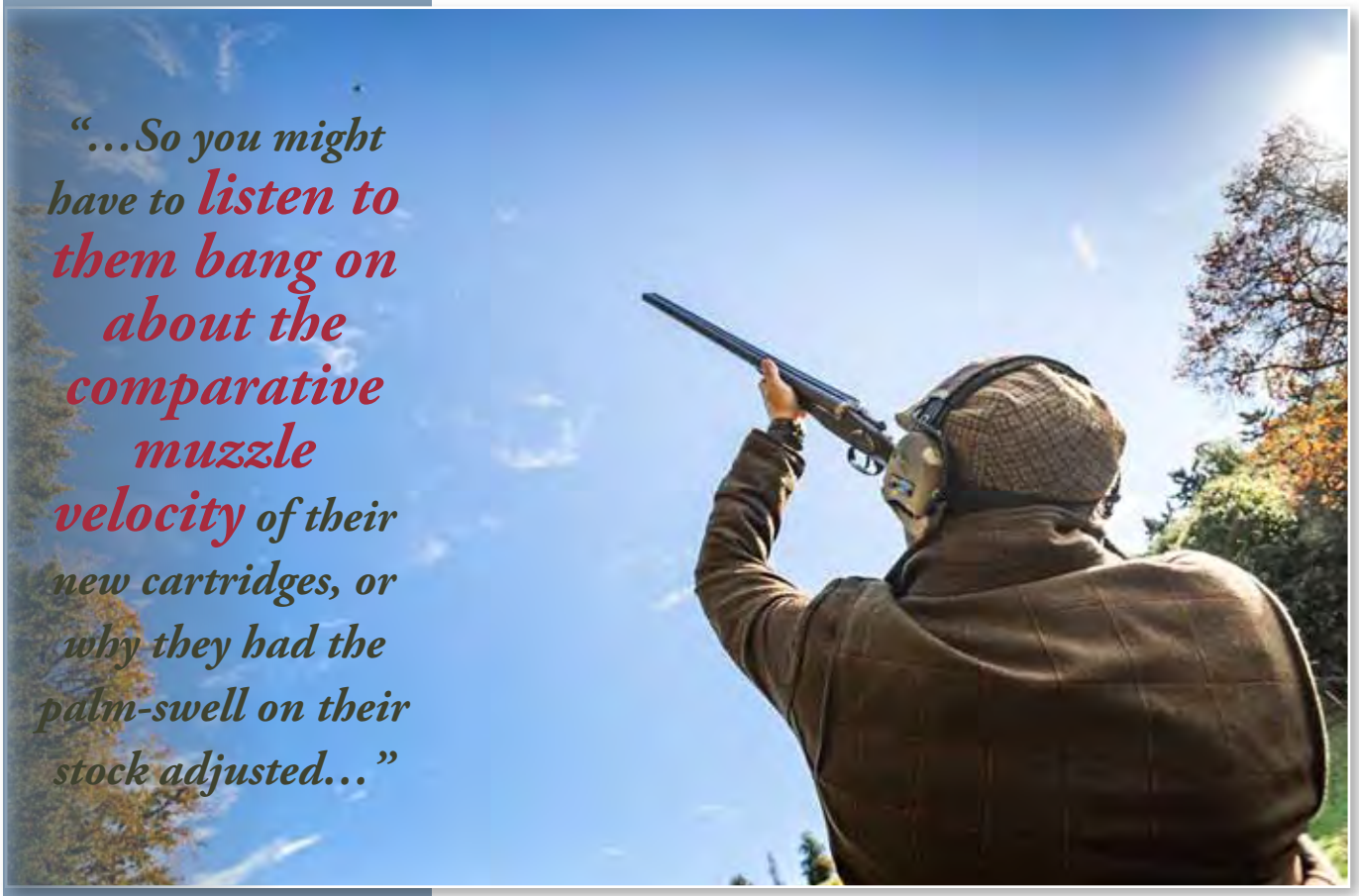
The Homebrewing One

If there's anything worse than bad wine, it is bad homemade sloe gin, and if there is anything worse than bad homemade sloe gin, it is [shudder] shop-bought sloe gin. Make sure your team has a sloe-enthusiast in the line up and you'll never again have to force back a slug of pinkish neat gin and pretend that you're enjoying it. Beware, however, that even the greatest sloe gin producer can go off-piste and start experimenting with bramble rum or strawberry tequila or some such filth. If this happens, the best course of action is to have them put down: it is the kindest thing.

The One With All The Gear

Another vital member of any shooting party is the one who can be relied upon to have about their person or in the car a spare set of ear defenders, wellies, shooting coat, dog lead or any of the other myriad pieces of kit that one might conceivably have left by the front door as you dashed out in the dark. These types usually have a car boot groaning with enough cartridges to start a small war, at least two guns, and all sorts of extraneous items 'just in case'.

They're nearly always obsessed with kit, so you might have to listen to them bang on about the comparative muzzle velocity of their new cartridges, or why they had the palm-swell on their stock adjusted, but on the other hand they probably have a first aid kit, corkscrew and bottle opener, so it is swings and roundabouts.



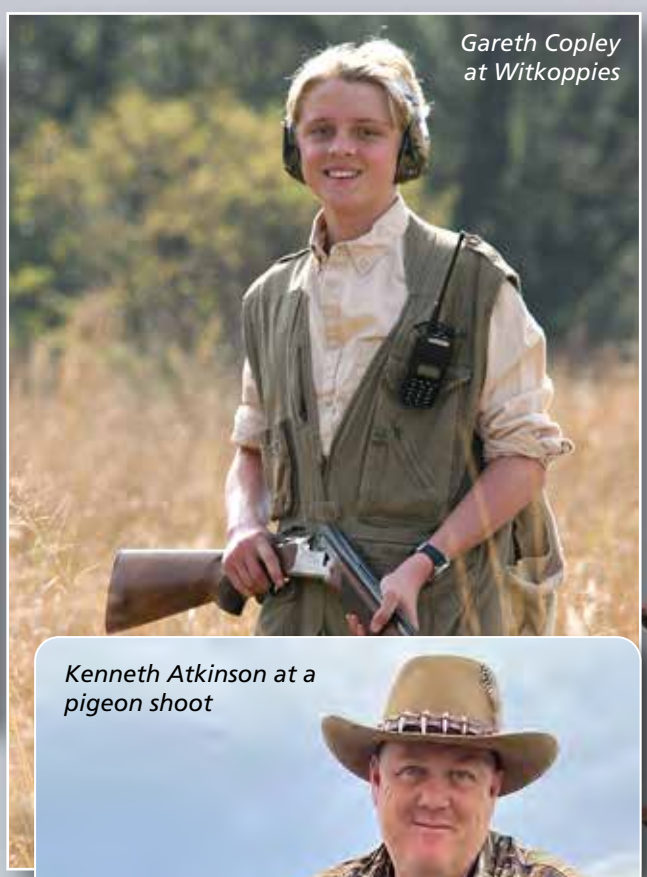
The Organised One

Every team needs someone to marshal the troops, make the arrangements and generally get the show on the road.

For roving teams they find the shoot, make the enquiries, and run the WhatsApp group, as well as issuing joining instructions, booking hotels and sorting out the financials. Meanwhile for static syndicates they organise the work parties, collect the subs, keep the landowner on side and organise the beaters. Without someone like this in the team you might as well give up now.

Members in the Field

Juan Botha at Witkoppies

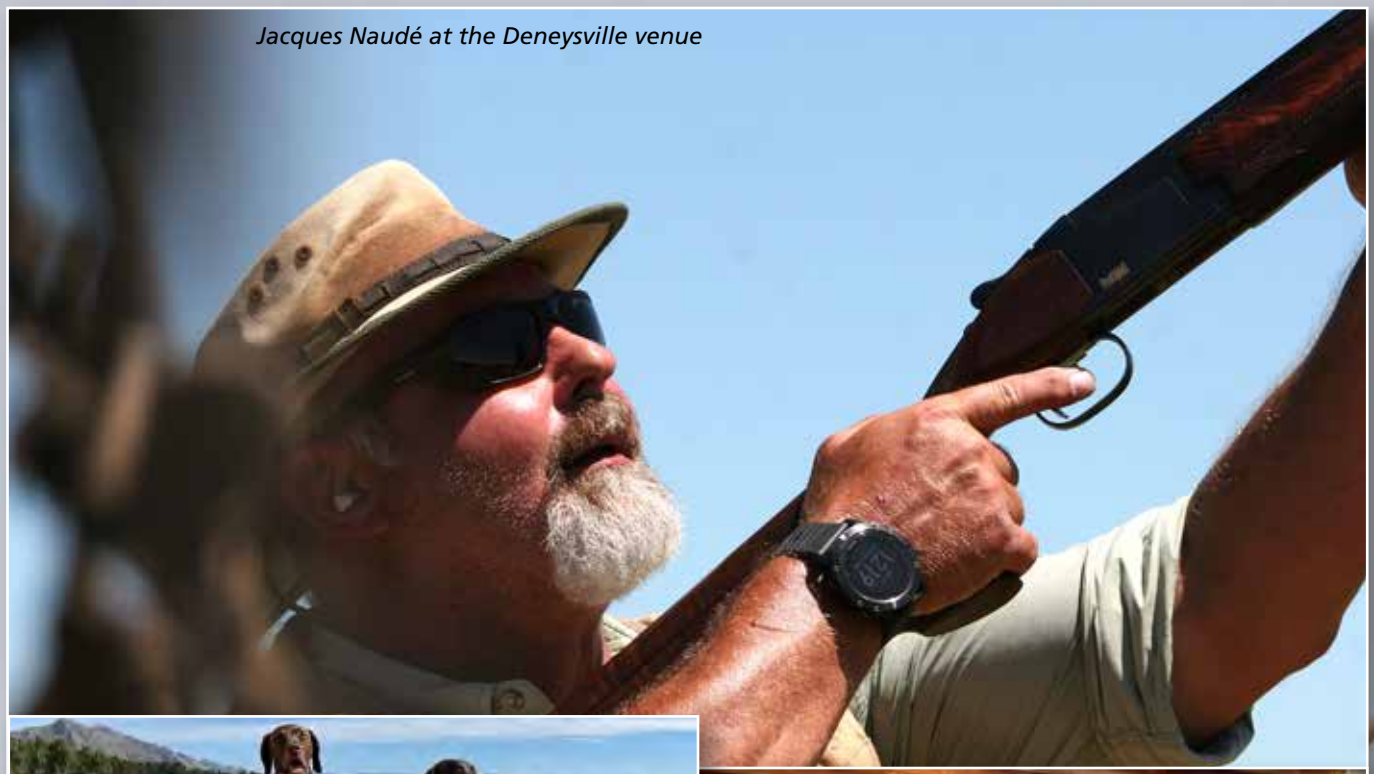


Gareth Copley at Witkoppies

Kenneth Atkinson at a pigeon shoot

Armen Kassardjian & Marcello Kassardjian (left) at Erdzak venue

Henni Boudjelthia



Jacques Naudé at the Deneysville venue

Wynand Visser's Patrys en Sneller at the Ceres shoot

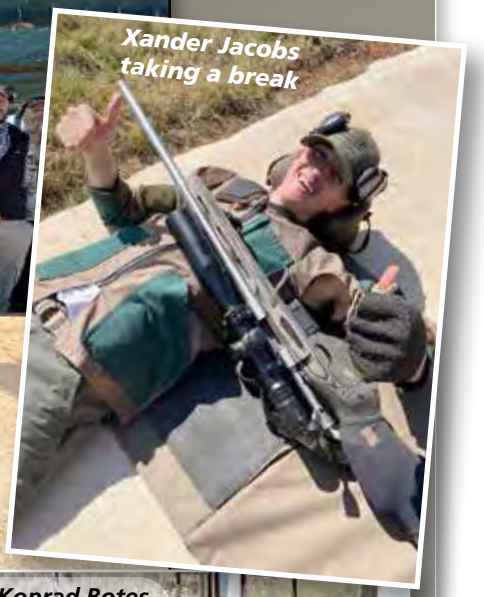
The Western Cape member get together

Image: Desmond Louw at dnapix

From left: Craig Sweet, Gerick Terblanche, Philipp Schulz, Ross Cowlin and Neil Swart at a West Coast shoot

LRSC Members on the Range

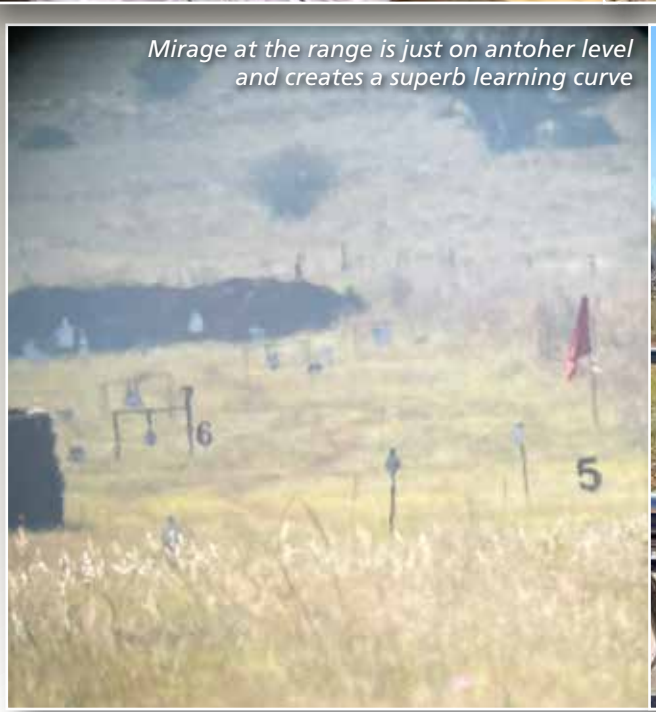
Members before the start of Match 2



Xander Jacobs taking a break

Ben Richardson and son Matthew

Friedel Kirstein, Konrad Botes and Shaun Ellithorne.



Mirage at the range is just on antoher level and creates a superb learning curve

Bernard Cilliers, Christiaan de la Rey and Tony Ernst.

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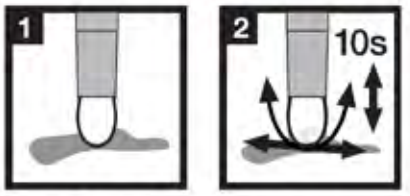
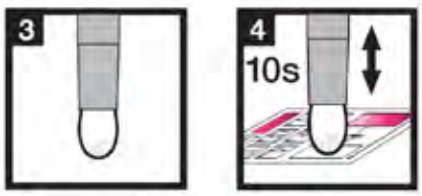


Dab the pen in the substance you're testing



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How to introduce a dog to WATER WORK

Keep these tips and ideas in mind when introducing your dog to water training…

by Jason Carter
projectupland.com

Sweat beaded on the handler's forehead as I gave my instructions on the water. A cloud of nervous energy consumed him in anticipation of the day's last event. After all, a prize one score was on the line. His young Brittany gave a stellar performance in both the field work and tracking portions of its test. Now, the pup excitedly pulled at the end of the lead, giving the handler a glimmer of hope that it would swim.

The NAVHDA Natural Ability test (a USA test) requires a young puppy to swim twice to show its affinity for water. It quickly became apparent this would be a challenge for this pair. The water's edge was thick with black mud and decaying leaves, and it gradually got deeper.

After my instructions, the handler splashed wildly in the mud while encouraging the pup in falsetto tones, desperately trying to get the dog into chase mode. We all skeptically prayed for the best as the pup, and its handler, darkened themselves with pond debris. We were awed by the commitment and sheer athleticism in their movements as they both somehow remained on their feet during the mud dance.

The handler dropped into a low stance and twirled in consecutive circles. The puppy's eyes lit up. He

Photograph from projectupland.com

began to chomp at the end of the bumper eagerly. Faster, faster they turned, but the bumper was not being thrown.

"Throw the bumper!" I pleaded. However, he apparently had a plan and continued to spin, but now with a bit of a wobble. Again, I begged, "Throw the bumper!" Unfortunately, he was at a point of no return. The bumper slipped from his fingers. The once-athletic maneuvers had turned towards what I could only describe as an out-of-control spinning starfish.

With one leg straight out, the handler crashed face-down into the mud. The handler rose from the muck to see his pup swimming for

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Photograph from projectupland.com

the bumper. Concerned for him, I asked him if he was okay.

"Okay?" he questioned. "I'm more than okay! That's my pup's first swim!" He wiped the mud from his grinning face. He called his pup back, and, to our amazement, he went straight back into twirling about the mud like a gleeful toddler. The crowd of friends and chapter members cheered as the pup made its second swim, elated by the team's effort and success. It was obvious to everyone that this would be a turning point for the pup and its love for the water. It was an unforgettable day for both the young dog and its handler.

We all were excited to read him his prize one score. Our tradition for the prize one recipient is to provide the iconic Gatorade bath with water. However, since he was already soaked, we thought it was best to hand off a bucket of soapy water to help clean him up.

Cheers and laughter erupted amongst the NAVHDA chapter. A weekend highlight for all of us and a memory we'll never forget.

Water is Connected to Either Pleasure or Fear

Summer provides us with many sunny opportunities to relax and play. It's also a great time of year to introduce a young dog to the joys of water work. When I reflect on that handler and his Brittany, I wonder how his introductions to the water went earlier in the pup's development. Had there been much water exposure? Was it done properly? Handlers must understand that we can connect water to either pleasure or fear.

Without proper introductions, a puppy initially does not understand what water is. It believes it is something it can run on. The pup's temperament dictates the experience when it falls into the water. Was it overwhelmingly negative, which might set you back in your dog training? Or was it overwhelmingly positive?

From day one, we develop a relationship of trust with our pup. The last thing we ever want is to betray that bond and delay its development. A successful swim is a culmination of many prior positive experiences while bonding. Many folks carry their pup into the water, letting it swim back or dragging it out by its lead. Again, depending on the nervousness of the pup, this could lead to a negative experience.

Some throw their dog into the water out of frustration or ignorance, which is the worst experience possible for your pup. Using enjoyable tangibles like food, toys, or games to build drive are great incentives to make the water fun and encourage the pup to overcome its fears. A pup can be encouraged to swim using what drives them.

Once they get over the initial shock of their feet leaving the ground, puppies become more and more comfortable in the water. The challenge is getting the pup to decide to swim on its own.

This requires us to build drive through positive associations and plenty of patience. Here are a few ways I use drive to develop a love for the water.

Using Food Drive When Training in the Water

Water development depends on various high-drive activities that help encourage a pup to overcome its insecurities. One of these activities is food drive. Food drive is built using edible rewards, which help us shape behaviors for our young pups. Trainers use food drive during training, and we reward pups with the highest-valued treats when teaching the most difficult skills, like swimming.

My go-to treat is a cheese puff when encouraging a love for water. They are bright, stinky, floaty, and puppies love them dearly. Initially, it's just a few cheese puffs in a kiddie pool. Puddles and kiddie pools are my introductory water sources.

Once the pup becomes comfortable, which usually takes a few weeks, I introduce new puddles, shallow brooks, and small ponds. I begin these introductions by tossing the puffs close to shore. Then, I slowly work my way out. After the pup

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acclimates to new waters, I move the treats away from the shore and towards swimmable depths, depending on the pup's comfort levels.

Using Toy Drive to Encourage a Love for Water

Toy drive is using toys to encourage behaviors in dogs. It's built through the use of enjoyable items such as pet toys, paint rollers and bumpers. We encourage the puppy to grab, carry, and even come to us with its favorite toys by playing and chasing with these types of toys. Be sure to encourage your dog to really love bumpers with lots of low-pressure activities.

Avoid using tug and squeaky toys to build toy drive because they encourage hard mouthing. Having a hard mouth is a big issue when retrieving birds. Dogs with hard mouths crunch game to the point that it's no longer fit to eat. Tug-of-war games and squeaky toys reward pups for aggressively chewing and chomping, which can carry over to retrieving birds later on. However, when retrieving toys are used properly and play behavior is driven high enough, you can develop positive experiences on the water and encourage your dog to swim. You'll use the same process of starting with puddles or a kiddie pool and progressing incrementally to deep water.

Using Prey Drive and Pack Drive to Encourage Water Love

Using game birds in the water is the most influential and exciting way to get a pup to swim. When the pup's prey drive is triggered, it will be encouraged to take higher risks. Game is great to use initially, however, we will need the dog to love bumpers. You'll use various bumpers and training dummies to teach future water drills. We want to avoid making game-dependent swimmers.

As a puppy's love for retrieving and chasing bumpers grows, I may use other dogs that swim to encourage the pup to follow or compete. This is called using pack drive. Some pups will simply follow the other dogs into the water, whereas others

Photograph from projectupland.com

may require a frenzy of dogs chasing a tethered duck. The competitive nature of the pup will encourage it to swim.

It's important to be cautious not to use older dogs that could hurt or run over the pup when using pack drive; it's best to keep similar-aged pups together for this approach. I will also walk out into the water myself and encourage the pup to come to me for praise and support.

Be Patient and Let Your Dog's Water Love Evolve Naturally

When a puppy first starts swimming, it'll look like a splashing motor. The front legs reach out of the water, its head is high, and the back legs are trying to touch the bottom. Eventually, the pup learns to plane itself out, which usually happens in conjunction with retrieving. Soon, the swim matures, and the pup becomes comfortable on the water. Once this happens, I change locations. I start acclimating pups to various entries, such as steep banks and drop-offs. It's also important to vary the types of bottoms like sand, rocks, or mud, providing pups with plenty of exposure to be comfortable around all water.

During training, we teach pups how to get the things it enjoys in life: by following our lead. Through reading the attitude of our pup around water, we decide when and how we make the next introduction. We introduce the water only when we have developed a high-drive working relationship with our pup. Every trainer hopes that a pup will decide to learn to swim and become comfortable in the water on its own. Through making its own decisions, the pup won't connect its concerns to you or its retrieving. Forcing pups to swim is when they become hesitant, which may encourage them to avoid swimming altogether.

Though there may be times you feel like making it swim, let your pup evolve naturally. Stick with the water training, keep things fun, and your pup will get there. A positive approach and association with going from land to water makes all the difference.

With enough time and experience, your pup will launch itself into the water to get that retrieve. That being said, this obviously requires many sunny hours hanging out by the water's edge, toes in the sand, and a choice beverage in hand, a sacrifice we must all make as trainers.

– Article courtesy of: https://projectupland.com/hunting-dogs/dog-introduction-to-water-work

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SHOOTING TIPS

Some tips to help you shoot better – clays or birds…

by Don Currie

Question: Chandelles are giving me trouble. I think I'm shooting over and end up chasing them. Can you give me advice on shooting chandelles?

Answer: If you are having trouble breaking chandelle targets, or arcing targets, it is likely because of the unique characteristics of the chandelle that differentiate it from other target presentations:

- it is showing either all belly or all face, which tricks the brain into believing that it is moving slower than it really is;
- it is arcing and thus changing trajectory throughout its flight path; and
- it is in transition, changing speed throughout it entire flight path.

Since most shooters choose to break a chandelle at the apex or, more often, at some point after the apex, the target is almost always in transition at the break point. To increase your percentages with these sometimes-tricky presentations, follow these simple steps:

Select and commit to a break point. In other words, pick your break point and execute the shot where you planned to break it.

Select the focal point on the target (the leading edge of the target at the break point) and make sure you are focusing on that point through the break point. Don't focus on the whole target! Focus small.

Achieve good flow with the target. Matching gun speed with target speed on this target will actually help you achieve better target focus.

Approach the break point at an upward angle so you don't get the gun between your eye and the target. For chandelles, and any other type of target that is descending at the break point, it's easy to miss a target over the top and behind by moving your gun into the target line and interrupting the connection between your eye and the target just before you execute the shot. Whatever you do, don't follow the line of the target with your shotgun. This is a recipe for frustration with any transitioning target.

So, you step onto a sporting clays station and come face-to-face with a trap shot followed by a fast left-to-right chandelle at about 35 yards. You determine that you'll break the chandelle about 5 feet below and to the right of the apex of the arc, so the leading edge of the target will be at about 4 o'clock at the break point.

Because the target is descending, it will be crucial for you to move the gun barrel at an upward angle to the break point – in this case, along a line that's about 8 o'clock to 2 o'clock (lower left to upper right direction). This will help you to avoid any interruption of visual focus on the leading edge of the target through the break point. This also means that your hold point will be a bit lower and farther away from the visual pick-up point and closer to the break point than for a crossing target – let's say halfway to the break point. For a quartering chandelle, your hold point will be even closer to the break point to avoid excessive gun speed when you execute the shot.

You establish your ready position, call for the pair and break the first target with ease. The chandelle launches, you match gun speed with target speed, move the gun up to the break point while maintaining sharp visual focus on a dime-size piece of the target at the 4 o'clock position. Dead bird.

– Don Currie is NSCA's Chief Instructor, an Orvis Wingshooting School instructor, and Master Class competitor. You can also see more tips from Currie at www.doncurrie.com..

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The SA Wingshooters Association has been accredited by the CFR as a Dedicated Hunting Association, since 2004. In fact, we are the second oldest accredited association in South Africa.

We have current members, many of whom regularly participate in the various sport shooting disciplines available and thus have a definite need to be able to grant such members the Dedicated Sport Shooting status, in order to enable them to fully participate in their chosen sport.

So, we are both an accredited sport shooting and hunting association, as we have members who want dedicated status, but who do not hunt.

We currently offer the following sport shooting disciplines to our members, either at our own facilities/ranges, or at any range country-wide and internationally:

PSP (Postal Shooting Programme) target shooting for handguns, manual rifles and self-loading rifles. Various target shooting tables/disciplines are offered, which can be practiced at any range world-wide. All our targets are available on our website.

Clay Target Shooting – all members have access to Clay Target Shooting using shotguns at any accredited clay target range or club (CTSASA, COMPAK, etc.) country-wide.

Long Range Rifle Shooting – we have our own dedicated long range rifle shooting range in Gauteng, where members compete over shooting distances ranging from 100m to 1900m. This range also affords us the opportunity to offer a 2-gun sport shooting discipline (handgun and rifle combination shooting with movement and transitions), starting at 10m for handguns, to 100m and then up to 600m for self-loading rifles, with official division categories for calibres and types of rifles.

Handgun Shooting – we offer handgun shooting, again at our LRSC range, or any other range world-wide via the PSP, on our 17 target steel pistol range with targets from 10m to 100m, and includes a 6-plate duelling tree.

Multi-gun (3-gun & 2-gun) sport shooting – we offer multi gun events, where self-loaduing rifles, handguns and bolt action rifles are used, at our LRSC range and elsewhere

Membership of the LRSC gives you additional membership of the following sub-clubs:

• The LRSC (Long range shooting club for rifles in both Bolt Action and Self-loading rifle, which are to distinct separate divisions).

• The .22PSBC (Precision Small-Bore Club)

• The TPS (Tactical Precision Shooting) multi-gun club for 3-gun and 2-gun shooting and competition

• The LR Open Sight club (Open Sight rifle division)

• The LR Handgun and Revolver sub-club – for handgun shooting in various divisions.

The Long Range Shooting Club (LRSC) and the PSP (Postal Shooting Programme) are part of SA Wingshooters and are subject to its constitution, disciplinary codes and rules of ethical conduct.

Lastly, as you know, the SA Wingshooters Association has R20-million liability insurance to cover the Association, with each individual member also having R20-million liability insurance as individual cover, for all shooting-related activities.

We are proud to be an association that offers all forms of shooting and hunting to our members. Thanks for your support!

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Hunting Seasons 2023

SA Wingshooters Update: 2023/05/31

PROVINCIAL BIRD HUNTING SEASONS (and bag limits in brackets)

MPUMALANGA – Gazetted 2023

All year	Rock pigeons (need licence).
1 May-31 Jul	Yellow-billed duck, red-billed teal, Egyptian goose, Spurwing, Guineafowl, Spurfowl, Crested francolin, Coqui francolin, Orange River Partridge, Shelley's.
1 June-31 Aug	Grey Wing, Redwing

FREE STATE – Gazetted NEW dates for 2023!

All year	Rock pigeons, Cape turtle dove, Laughing dove, Red eye dove.
15 May-15 Sept	Greywing & O/River partridge, all Spurfowl, common quail, guineafowl, all Francolin (except Redwing), yellow-billed duck & red-billed teal, Egyptian goose, spurwing, Red KnbKoot
1 Jan - 30 Apr	Shelduck (1)
Note:	(maximum 10 land & 10 water birds pp per day)

GAUTENG – Not yet gazetted !!!

1 May-30 April	All year. Rock Pigeons (need licence) (20).
1 May-31 Jul	Egyptian geese (5); Red-bill teal (5); Yellow-bill duck (5). Note: Spurwing remain closed!
1 Jun-30 Sep	Swainsons francolin (5). Helmeted Guineafowl (5).

N-WEST PROVINCE – Gazetted – Same as 2022

All year	Rock pigeons (No limit), Red eyed dove (20), Cape turtle dove (20), laughing dove (20) (licence required).
1 May-30 Sep	Francolin: Red-billed (3), Crested (5); Partridge: Coqui (5), Guineafowl (10).
1 May-30 Aug	Partridge: Shelleys (5), Redwing (5); Quail: Harlequin (5), Common (10); Rameron Pigeon (5).
1 Apr-31 Jul	Partridge: Orange River (5).
1 Apr-15 Jul	Namaqua Sandgrouse (5).
1 Nov-31 Apr	Sandgrouse: Burchells (5), Double-banded (5).
1 May-31 Jul	Duck: White-faced (4), Yellow-bill (4), Cape Teal (4), Red-bill (4), Cape Shoveler (4), Southern Pochard (3), Knob-bill (4), Spurwing (4).
1 Jun-30 Sep	Swainsons Francolin (5), Natal Francolin (3).
1 Jan-31 Jul	Egyptian Goose (4).
1 Jan-31 Mar	Shelduck (2).
Note:	A Maximum combined total of 10 land birds & 10 waterfowl per day.

LIMPOPO – Gazetted 2023

All year	Rock Pigeons (licence) (50), Red-eyed Turtle Dove (50)
1 May- 30 Sep	Guineafowl (10), Crested Francolin, (6), Shelley's (2); Natal francolin (6).
1 May - 31 Jul	Egyptian (6) & spurwing (4), white-faced whistling duck (6), Yellow-bill duck (4), red-billed teal (4).
1 Jun- 30 Sep	Swainson's francolin (8).
Note:	Total combined daily bag of (10 land & 10 water birds)

WESTERN CAPE https://www.capenature.co.za – Gazetted

1 Jan-31 Dec	Spurwing (3) & Egyptian goose (10), rock pigeons (and Cape turtle dove, Laughing dove, Red eye dove, Speckled Pigeon) (40 in total), guineafowl (10),
1 Jan-30 April	Yellow-billed duck, red-billed teal, shelduck, Cape teal, Cape shoveler, southern pochard (5 in all total combined).
1 May-31 Jul	Greywing Partridge (3); Red-necked Francolins (3); Cape Franc. (6). 1 March-30 April – Common quail (2).

NORTHERN CAPE PROVINCE – Gazetted Same as 2022

All year	Egyptian Goose (10); Red eyed, Laughing, Cape turtle Doves (10 each) and Rock Pigeons (50).
1 April-31 Dec	Helmeted Guinea-fowl (10);
1 Jan-31 Mar	Shelduck (5).
1 May-31 Aug	Spurwing (5).
1 May- 30 Jun	Orange River Partridge (5), Red-billed Francolin (5), Cape Francolin (5), Natal Francolin (5), Swainsons Francolin (5), Grey-wing Partridge (5).
1 May-31 Aug	**Northern Cape Excluding Namaqualand Magisterial District** Yellow billed duck (10), Red-bill Teal (10), Cape Teal (10), Cape Shoveler (10), Southern Pochard (10).
1 Apr-15 Jul	Namaqua Sandgrouse (10).
1 Jan -31 Mar	Burchell's Sandgrouse (5).
1 Jan-30 Apr	**Namaqualand Magisterial District** Yellow-billed duck (10), Red-billed Teal (10), Cape Teal (10), Cape Shoveler (10), Southern Pochard (10).
Note:	A maximum combined total of 10 land birds & 10 waterfowl per day.

EASTERN CAPE – Gazetted – Same as 2022

1 Jan-31 Dec	Red eyed, Laughing, Cape turtle Doves and Rock Pigeons. (need licence).
1 Jun-31 Jul	Rameron Pigeon (Olive Pigeon) (5).
1 Jan-31 Mrt	Shelduck (4).
1 Feb-30 Sept	Egyptian Goose (15).
1 Mrt-30 Sept	Spurwing (5).
1 May-31Aug	Red-billed Teal (3), Yellow-billed Duck (3), White-faced duck (2), Southern Pochard (2), Cape Teal (2), Cape Shoveler (2).
1 May-30 Sept	Guineafowl (5).
1 Oct-30 Nov	Quail (10). (Note: Different in former Ciskei)
1 May-31 Jul	Red-Wing Partidge (2).
1 May-31 Jul	Grey-wing (4), but in Queenstown (2), Orange River Partridge (4), Red-Necked Francolin (4).
1 Jan-31 Dec	Exotic Anseriformes

KZ-NATAL – Same as 2022

31 May-31 Aug	Ordinary Game Licence Required for all. Common Quail, White-faced Duck, Red-billed Teal, Yellow-billed Duck, Egyptian Goose, Spurwing, Helmeted Guineafowl, Rameron Pigeon. Francolin: Red-necked, Natal, Swainsons. Partridge: Grey-wing, Red-wing, Coqui, Crested & Shelleys.
Note:	A Maximum combined total of 10 land birds & 10 waterfowl per day.
	Other game birds can be shot under a SPECIAL PERMIT during the open season, please contact KZN Hunting & Extension Department on 033 845 1652.

PLEASE NOTE that all members must still consult the respective provincial ordinances, as we do not list species that are not traditionally gamebirds. All exotic Anseriformes are open all year. Contact the office for gazettes.

Please Note: You have to return your licence to the respective provinces, after each season, stating on the licence all the relevant details as asked. This applies to provinces who require this, such as NW Prov, and is stated as such on your licence.

DEDICATED ACTIVITIES (Act 60/2000) - ANNUAL MEMBER'S REPORT
Fax to: 086 211 5111 or e-mail to: anel@wingshooters.co.za

Year of Report:	**PROVINCE**			
Member's Surname:				
	DISTRICT			
First Name:				
Initials:	**FARM / CLUB**			
ID Number:				
Signature or e-mail	**DATE**			
RIFLE SHOOTING		☐	☐	☐
HANDGUN SHOOTING		☐	☐	☐
SHOTGUN SHOOTING		☐	☐	☐
GAMEBIRD HUNTING		☐	☐	☐
PLAINS GAME HUNTING		☐	☐	☐
OTHER HUNTING or RELATED activities also count towards activities, such as reloading, HuntEx show visit, etc.				
Activity Description 1:				
Activity Description 2:				
Activity Description 3:				

Please note that this report completed by you is an affidavit under oath ☐

Which rifle to choose?

Choosing the right setup for your first, or next rifle, for that matter, is never easy, especially in South Africa. Due to our restrictive firearm laws you have to choose right the first time, as there are no easy, cheap or quick redos…

by André van der Westhuinzen

Whether you are in the market for a hunting rifle, or something you can use as a dual purpose hunting and sport target shooting rifle, or a flat-out long range target shooting rifle… many of the considerations remain the same, or similar at least.

Questions, such as what make of rifle to get, what calibre, which brand of scope should I get, which scope mounts and rings and bases, the list keeps on going… is not always easy to answer. Then we have not even looked into the plethora of chassis (new age stocks) out there to choose from.

Much of the decision would be based on what you want to do with the rifle and where you'd mostly use it. If, for example, you mostly hunt on foot in the Limpopo bushveld, then having a heavy, target-type rifle is not what you want, and one would rather opt for a light build rifle, with

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a shorter barrel, wood stock and sporting a medium power (3-12x) telescope on top. Even a nice Stutzen (full stock) such as a Blaser K95 (pictured above) would be a perfect choice – I'd gladly take one in .30-06 Springfield please!

For general hunting across the country and in various types of terrain and recreational target shooting, a good quality standard factory rifle is more than sufficient. There are too many good brands out there to mention. If you are new to rifles and calibres, you are welcome to call the office and we would be happy to advise you.

Setting up a rifle, or a "weapon platform" as the cool people call it, for say long range sport target shooting, is a little more specific.

Here the right equipment makes the difference between first place and seventh place. Right from the start, here distinction need to be made between various types of long range target shooting… we do long range shooting out to 1200m, sometimes 1500m, with fairly stock rifles on smallish targets. We do not shoot extended distances, nor do we use rifles that we cannot use for any other purpose. Now that we have that out of the way…

You can either buy a factory rifle, or have a rifle built for you from scratch, or buy a factory rifle and slightly customise it. The latter is by far the most popular option and one we would suggest. Good factory rifles these days are very accurate and shoot sub half MOA without too much effort. Better than that is not necessary for any shooting out to 1500m – the wind will always wreak more havoc on your shooting than anything else, I promise you.

So, what to buy is the question?

I'll try and simplify it to a few choices from entry level to top of the line-ish options:

Entry level –

Rifle would be a Howa, Bergara, Remington 700 or Savage – all heavy barrels. If you buy a Howa and the model is anything other than one with a Euro-varmint stock, then you would want to replace that first thing. There are too many stock (and chassis) options and brands to choose from, but if you choose a wood or composite stock, have it bedded by a professional. A Howa trigger is actually very good, just tune it a bit and install a spring kit.

Put a 20 MOA picatinny scope base on, such as AREA 419 and use Warne Mountain Tech rings. A good entry level scope is a Vortex Strike Eagle 3-18x44 or the 5-25x56, or the Vortex Venom 5-25x56 or Sig-Sauer. Preferably get one with a MRAD reticle. Now you are ready to go!

Mid-level –

Rifle would be a Tikka, Sako, Sauer 100 FieldSport with heavy barrels and made for varmint or long range shooting/hunting.

Again, put a 20 MOA AREA 419 picatinny base on and use Spuhr scope mounts. Throw a Leupold Mark 5 HD on top and you are good to go.

Top-end –

Rifle would be any of the mid-level rifles or elevate and go Accuracy International, Barrett, Sako TRG, Victrix, to name a few.

As always, mount the 20 MOA AREA 419 picatinny base and tighten the Spuhr mount to a Kahles K525i DLR with SKMR4 reticle, or certain US Optics and Zero Compromise scope models. Perfect setup!

Once you've decided on the rifle setup of your choice, remember to add these crucial accessories, such as:

- A bipod, such as a Harris S-BRM 6-9" bipod, MDT GRND-Pod, CKYE-Pod or Atlas. Do not waste your time and money with knock-offs.
- A bubble level on the scope, to prevent canting.
- A proper shooting bag is the Armageddon Gear "Shmedium Game Changer". Yes, that's it. Buy this one.
- A Shooting mat, such as the Legionnaire TULS Mat.

Lastly, a tripod is not crucial right from the start, but at some point you're most likely going to use one, in which case get a Leofoto Summit LM-404C or similar.

One can write a book on what rifles and equipment are available globally, but this short article focuses on what are good options for South Africa and what is generally available here. No use mentioning superb international custom brands, as these aren't readily available at every gun shop here.

Should you have questions on anything firearm and hunting related – call the office and we'll be happy to help.

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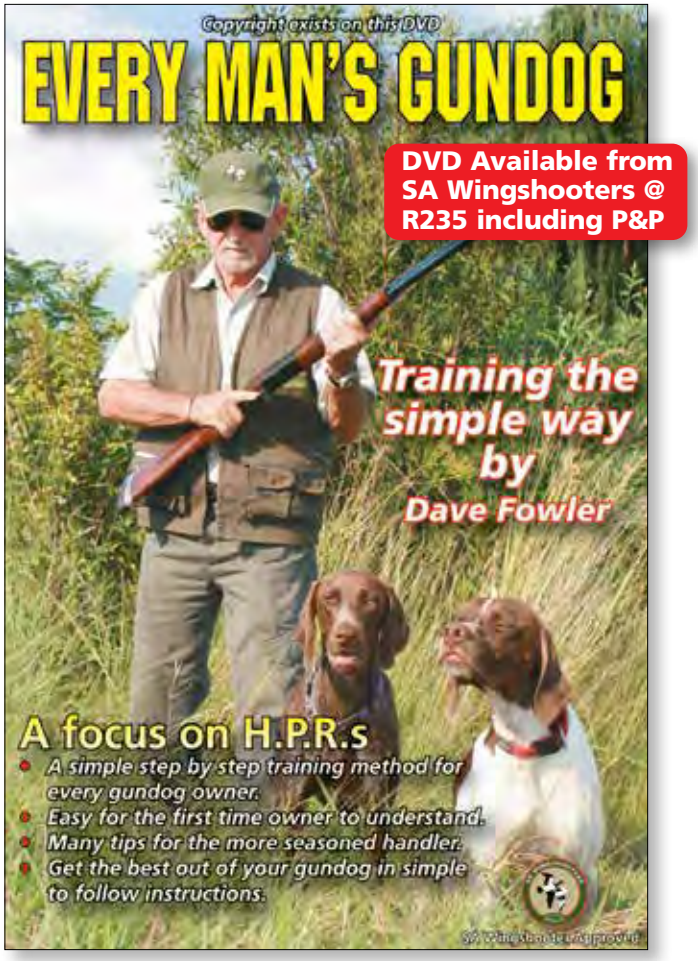

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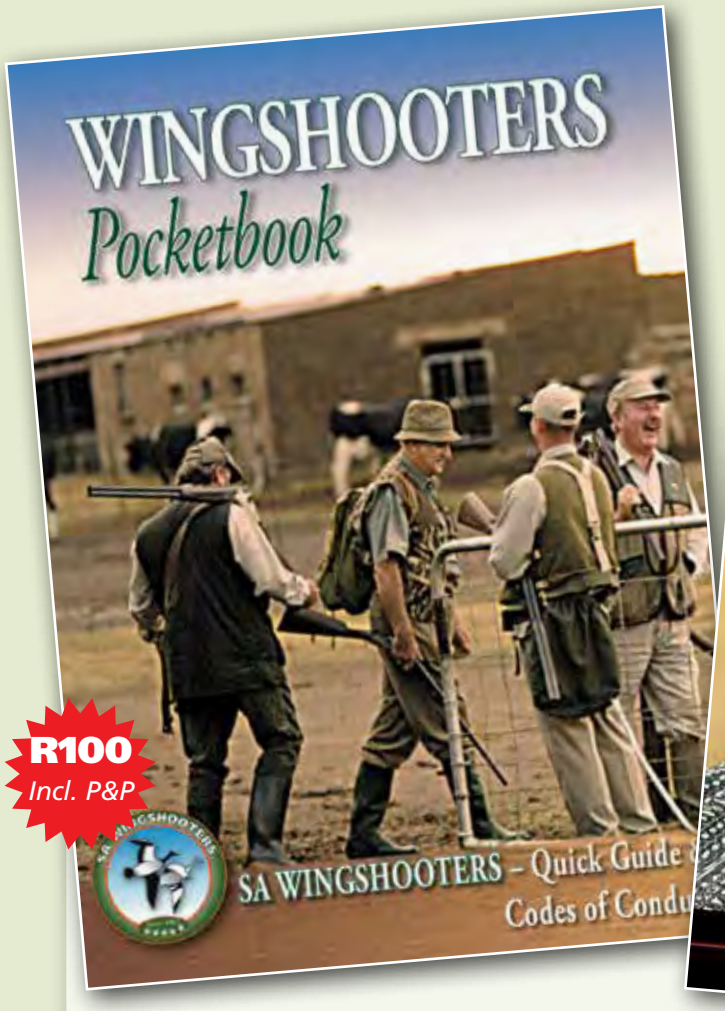

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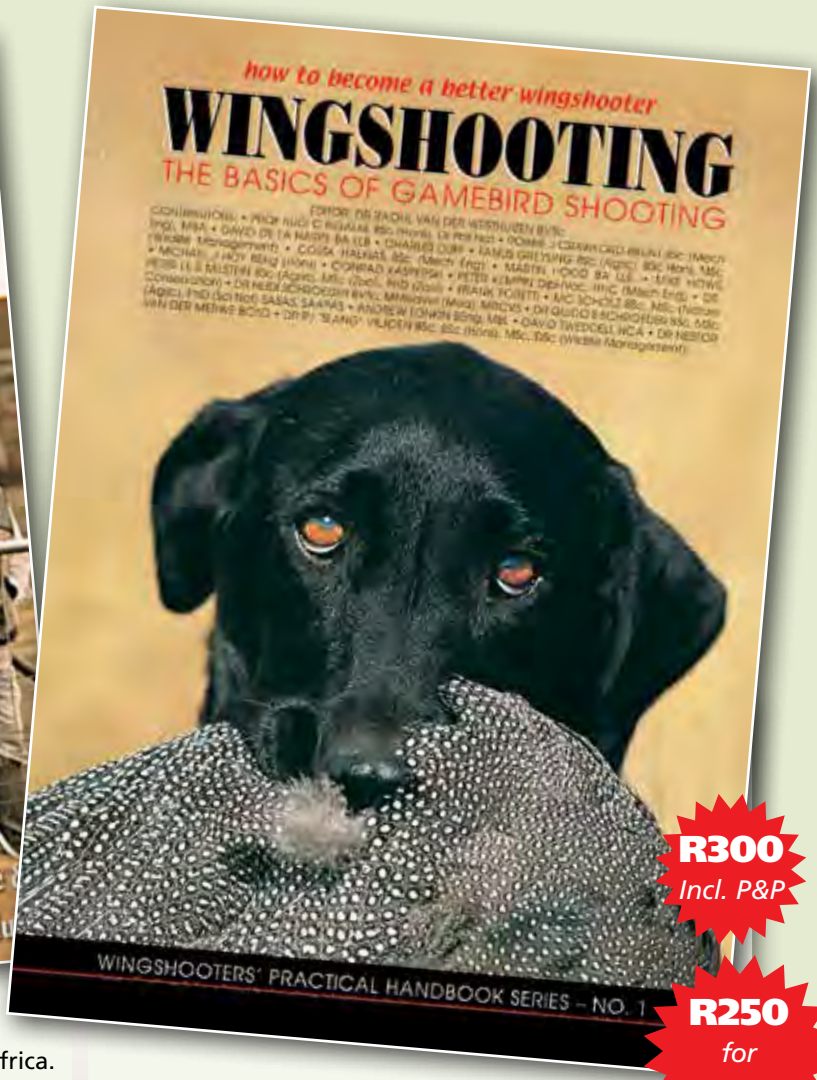

R300
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for members

This pocketbook is the first of its kind in South Africa. It is an essential 'must have' for every wingshooter, particularly *Dedicated Hunters,* and contains:

- The Wingshooters Codes of Conduct, including the codes for bird dogs, shoot organisers and wildfowlers,
- A guide to the identification of gamebirds in the field,
- The combined shooting and hunting log for use by dedicated hunters to comply with the regulations of the Firearms Control Act, incorporating the landowners' hunting permission form… And much more…

'Every Wingshooter should have one'

'In today's world, where it is so important that all hunters act in a responsible and ethical manner, this pocketbook is an essential part of the field hunting gear of every gamebird shooter. We are pleased to support this pocketbook and I strongly recommend it to all who wish to hunt more responsibly. Every Wingshooter should carry it on him in the field'

— Dr Alan Kloeck
MD: MSD

'Respect for all Creatures, Great and Small'

'There are very few, if any, hunters who can say they have never shot the wrong quarry by mistake or have committed some thoughtless act, which they, in hindsight, would like to undo. This pocketbook will help all of us to prevent such mistakes and to embody the Wingshooters motto of Respect For Life. '

— Dr Raoul van der Westhuizen
Late Chairman: SA Wingshooters

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• Shotguns • Gun fit • Gun care • Gauges & shot sizes •-Shotshells and ballistics • Shotgun marksmanship • Safety • Game bird identification • How to shoot francolin, guinea fowl, geese, ducks, sand grouse, rock pigeons, etc. •-Gun dog breeds • Training your gun dog • Gun dog nutrition and health •-Shooting ethics and etiquette • The Gun Control Act • How to get a hunting licence • Game birds for the dinner table • Field trial clubs & associations

For the first time, this book brings together the collective know-how and experience in game bird shooting of many of the leading wingshooters in Southern Africa — be they scientists, field triallists, gun dog experts, veterinarians or lay people — who all share the passion for wingshooting and the joy of the great African Outdoors. The section on shotgun marksmanship alone makes the handbook worth having. In this section the greatest South African sporting clay shooter ever and 20 times Springbok tells how to shoot any target under any condition. The handbook is edited by the co-founder and first chairman of the SA Wingshooters Association, Raoul van der Westhuizen.

To order your books today, call the SA Wingshooters Assocaition office: 071 132 5450.

Dedicated REPORTS

Go to:
https://members.wingshooters.co.za
and register to create your own profile for your dedicated reports & firearm licence renewal reminders

YOUR ANNUAL DEDICATED ACTIVITY REPORT (Hunt & Sport) – What to do:

How you can send us your report:

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Complete a report (you can download it from our web-site: www.wingshooters.org.za) and e-mail to: anel@wingshooters.co.za or fax to 086 211 5111, or you can email us a report listing 2 activities you did during the year. Dedicated activity reports are mandatory, by law, for all qualified dedicated members!

New Member Online Portal

For Dedicated Activity Reports & Firearm Licence Renewal Notices –

Firstly, It's nearing the end of the season, thus all Dedicated members need to send in their dedicated hunting activity report. **It's a legal (Firearms Control Act 60 of 2000) requirement for Dedicated Hunters and Dedicated Sports persons.** You can send any hunting activities report, whether it was plains game, bird hunting or range shooting and includes rifles, shotgun, handgun use, etc. You only need to list two (2) activities for the year. Remember to send us a report before end October, as we have to send a 'members activity report' to the SAPS every year in November, listing all the members who did not send in a report.

Our online member portal –

You can do it on our new member online portal. Please go to our our online member area and 'Register' with us:
https://members.wingshooters.co.za

Once we've approved your registration request, you can 'Login' and start to use this service for your dedicated reporting and to list your firearms renewal dates for our renewal reminder service. Call the office if you don't know what to do! Tel: 071 132 5450.

You can also enter your dedicated hunting/sport shooting activities report online, on our website! Go to www.wingshooters.org.za and click on the "Dedicated Hunters" menu and complete the form right at the bottom of the page. It's quick and easy!

Or, if you prefer to remain old school you can download the form from the "All Downloads" page on our website. You can fax it to 086 211 5111 or 071 132 5450. You can also send us the same one you might have done for another association you belong to... it needn't be our form.

www.wingshooters.org.za

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Some of the great benefits:

- Exclusive members-only access to the Gun Licensing Help-line
- 'Bona-fide Hunters' recognised as credit to Dedicated Hunters, or
- Option to qualify as Dedicated Hunter/Sports Person in terms of Act 60
- Membership of Police-accredited Hunting & Sport shooting Association
- Exclusive hunting rights and shoots for members only
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- Free advice on shooting seasons, gundogs, shotguns, rifles, handguns, etc.
- Free firearm ENDORSEMENTS for any type of firearm.
- R20 million wingshooters' liability insurance included
- Option to join PSP – Postal Shooting Programme for Handguns & Rifles
- Option to join the Long Range Shooting Club and TPS 2-gun/3-gun, etc.

YES! **Sign me up and rush me my membership documents**

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SA WINGSHOOTERS 2023

Deposit your subscription by means of Internet banking (EFT) or deposit it in our bank account as per the details below (email us the proof of payment with the application form) to:
anel@wingshooters.co.za

Bank: ABSA Brooklyn
Branch Code: 335-345
Account Name: SA Wingshooters
Account Number: 1500165460

* If you are a dedicated hunter at any other association please attach a copy to receive a credit towards decated hunter status.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION: (Tick all appropriate boxes)

1. I wish to join for	☐ 1 Year	☐ 2 Years
Join Fee – Once off, plus:	R 350.-	R 350.-
Subscription – Annual*	R 1,362.-	R 2,650.-
*Subscription – over 70's:	☐ R 903.-	☐ R 1,700.-
*Subscription Junior U/21:	☐ R 253.-	☐ R 500.-

You can also join the PSP (Postal Shooting Programme) for rifle and handgun shooting. The PSP offers participation in our annual target shooting competition in various divisions for rifle and handgun shooting:

2. I also wish to Join the PSP	☐ R 100.-	☐ R 190.-

3. I also wish enroll in the Dedicated Hunter Course and/or Dedicated Sport Shooter course:

Dedicated Hunter Manual & Test:	R 570.-	☐
Dedicated Sport Shooter Test:	R 570.-	☐
TOTAL	R .-	R .-

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You can also pay in person with a card at our offices.

Your Signature .....
Date .....

I agree to honour the constitution and I do not have a criminal record. You hereby confirm that you are subscribing to SA Wingshooters Association for a period of one year or two years, depending on your option.

2023

*** The entry fee of R350 is not payable by younger than 21. The annual subscription fee for Juniors (persons younger than 21) is a nominal R253.- (VAT incl), and for persons 70 and older is R903.- Incl. Family memberships do not pay any once-off join fee.**

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- **Challenging targets**
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- **Exclusive range open to members only!**
- **Match days and competitions**
- **Training & fun shoots, etc.**

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LRSC
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Membership of LRSC includes:

Multi-Gun TPS TACTICAL PRECISION SHOOTING

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PSP POSTAL SHOOTING PROGRAMME

RPOS Revolver - Pistol LR OPEN SIGHT

The LRSC is a sub-club of the SA Wingshooters and requires an additional membership to SA Wingshooters

www.longrangeclub.com
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DAVE SHEER COUNTRY RANCH PLATTELAND

IRENE ARMS & OUTDOOR

MENU SAMPLES:

RATIONTECH MENU 1: Breakfast Pack 1200kcal			
Food Item	per serving (grams)	Quantity	kcal
Tropical Granola	170	1	740
Isotonic Drink: Orange	50	1	194
Digestive Biscuits	50	1	230
Water Purification Tablets		2	
Tissues		1	
Spork	9	1	
	294	8	1205

RATIONTECH MENU 2: Breakfast Pack 1200kcal			
Food Item	per serving (grams)	Quantity	kcal
Oats - Vanilla and Banana	170	1	672
Isotonic Drink: Tropical	50	1	194
Nut Butter	25	1	148
Digestive Biscuits	50	1	230
Water Purification Tablets		2	
Tissues		1	
Spork	9	1	
	304	8	1244

RATIONTECH MENU 3: Breakfast Pack 1200kcal			
Food Item	per serving (grams)	Quantity	kcal
Berry Granola	170	1	699
Isotonic Drink: Orange	50	1	194
Nut Butter	25	1	148
Wholeweat Crackers	50	1	214
Water Purification Tablets		2	
Tissues		1	
Spork	9	1	
	304	8	1255

Note: 1 Water tablet cleans 1 Litre of water as directed on package

KEY POINTS:

- 60 Month shelf life
- Delicious and tasty meals (Halaal approved)
- No energy needed for cooking, heating device included
- Sectors: outdoors, hiking, camping, mining, military, police, anti-poaching, hunting, security, game rangers, metro police, farming, on ships, in aircrafts and at home and the office during loadshedding.
- The manufacturer has supplied multi million x 24 hour ration packs per annum over the last 5 years to countries in Africa, the Middle East and the whole of Europe to various government departments and organisations
- Water purification tablets included

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MANUFACTURED IN SOUTH AFRICA

HUNTER'S MEAL PACK - LUNCH

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DAVE SHEER COUNTRY RANCH PLATTELAND

IRENE ARMS & OUTDOOR

MENU SAMPLES:

RATIONTECH MENU 1: Lunch Pack 1200kcal			
Food Item	per serving (grams)	Quantity	kcal
Vegetable & Chicken Curry	300	1	360
Isotonic Drink	50	1	203
Granola Fruit Snack	60	1	235
Mixed Fruit Jam	15	1	41
Digestive Biscuits	100	1	460
Water Purification Tablets		2	
Flameless Heater: 1 Heater Bag, 1 Pad		1	
Gum		1	3
Salt	1	1	<1
Pepper	0,4	1	1
Tissues		1	
Spork	9	9	
	535	13	1303

RATIONTECH MENU 2: Lunch Pack 1200kcal			
Food Item	per serving (grams)	Quantity	kcal
Tomato Beef Pasta	300	1	369
Isotonic Drink	50	1	203
Fruit Cubes	60	1	218
Nut Butter	40	1	247
Wholeweat Crackers	50	1	214
Water Purification Tablets		2	
Flameless Heater: 1 Heater Bag, 1 Pad		1	
Gum		1	3
Salt	1	1	<1
Pepper	0,4	1	1
Tissues		1	
Spork	9	9	
	510	13	1255

Note: 1 Water tablet cleans 1 Litre of water as directed on package

KEY POINTS:

- 60 Month shelf life
- Delicious and tasty meals (Halaal approved)
- No energy needed for cooking, heating device included
- Sectors: outdoors, hiking, camping, mining, military, police, anti-poaching, hunting, security, game rangers, metro police, farming, on ships, in aircrafts and at home and the office during loadshedding.
- The manufacturer has supplied multi million x 24 hour ration packs per annum over the last 5 years to countries in Africa, the Middle East and the whole of Europe to various government departments and organisations
- Water purification tablets included

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RATION PACKS RANGE

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HUNTER'S MEAL PACK - DINNER

AVAILABLE AT:

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DAVE SHEER COUNTRY RANCH PLATTELAND

IRENE ARMS & OUTDOOR

KEY POINTS:

- 60 Month shelf life
- Delicious and tasty meals (Halaal approved)
- No energy needed for cooking, heating device included
- Sectors: outdoors, hiking, camping, mining, military, police, anti-poaching, hunting, security, game rangers, metro police, farming, on ships, in aircrafts and at home and the office during loadshedding.
- The manufacturer has supplied multi million x 24 hour ration packs per annum over the last 5 years to countries in Africa, the Middle East and the whole of Europe to various government departments and organisations
- Water purification tablets included

MENU SAMPLES:

RATIONTECH MENU 1: Lunch Pack 1200kcal

Food Item	per serving (grams)	Quantity	kcal
Biryani Chicken	300	1	375
Isotonic Drink	50	1	203
Chocolate Brownie & Sauce	100	1	263
Nut Butter	40	1	247
Digestive Biscuits	50	1	230
Water Purification Tablets		2	
Flameless Heater: 1 Heater Bag, 1 Pad		1	
Gum		1	3
Salt	1	1	<1
Pepper	0,4	1	1
Tissues		1	
Spork	9	9	
	550	13	1322

RATIONTECH MENU 2: Lunch Pack 1200kcal

Food Item	per serving (grams)	Quantity	kcal
Vegetable & Chicken Casserole	300	1	333
Isotonic Drink	50	1	203
Chocolate Energy Bar	45	1	180
Fruit & Nut Snack	60	1	326
Caramel Cake Dessert	100	1	239
Water Purification Tablets		2	
Flameless Heater: 1 Heater Bag, 1 Pad		1	
Gum		1	3
Salt	1	1	<1
Pepper	0,4	1	1
Tissues		1	
Spork	9	9	
	565	13	1285

Note: 1 Water tablet cleans 1 Litre of water as directed on package

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DAVE SHEER COUNTRY RANCH PLATTELAND

IRENE ARMS & OUTDOOR

MENU SAMPLE:

RATIONTECH MENU: South Africa			
Food Item	per serving (grams)	Quantity	kcal
Pasta with Peppersteak	300	1	363
Biryani Chicken	300	1	375
Sorghum Original	80	1	295
Peach Shake	50	1	220
Isotonic Drink	50	2	388
Coffee	2	2	12
Rooibos Tea / Black Tea	3	2	0
Granola Fruit Snack	60	1	235
Chocolate Energy Bar	45	1	180
Nut Butter	40	1	237
Crunchy Oaties	100	1	453
Chocolate Brownie	120	1	534
Salt Sachet	1	2	<1
Pepper	0,5	2	3
Sugar	10	4	163
Creamer	8	4	166
Gum	2	5	10
Water Purification Tablets		4	
Heating Kit: 3 Flameless Heaters & 1 Hot Water Bag	40	1	
Spork		1	
Clear Plastic	8x30 cm	4	453
Tissue		2	
Wet Wipes		2	453
	1211,5		3634

Note: 1 Water tablet cleans 1 Litre of water as directed on package

KEY POINTS:

- 60 Month shelf life
- Delicious and tasty meals (Halaal approved)
- No energy needed for cooking, heating device included
- Sectors: outdoors, hiking, camping, mining, military, police, anti-poaching, hunting, security, game rangers, metro police, farming, on ships, in aircrafts and at home and the office during loadshedding.
- The manufacturer has supplied multi million x 24 hour ration packs per annum over the last 5 years to countries in Africa, the Middle East and the whole of Europe to various government departments and organisations
- Water purification tablets included

DAVE SHEER GUNS

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FOR ENQUIRIES: **rationpacks@davesheer.com**

Stock up and be prepared for any eventuality

RATION PACKS
RANGE

MANUFACTURED IN SOUTH AFRICA

72HR EVACUATION / PREPPA FOOD PACK

AVAILABLE AT:

DAVE SHEER GUNS

WATERFALL ARMS & OUTDOOR

DAVE SHEER COUNTRY RANCH PLATTELAND

IRENE ARMS & OUTDOOR

BOX CONTENTS:

Meals, snacks and drinks for 1 person for 72 hours (3 days).

Inside the box are the following:

- **BREAKFASTS:**
  3 x different dry breakfasts (add water before eating): Tropical muesli, Chocolate granola, Granola mix.
- **MAIN MEALS (for lunch & supper):**
  6 x different cooked wet meals (heat and eat): Spaghetti bolognaise, vegetable & beef casserole, beef biryani, chicken biryani, vegetable & chicken casserole, vegetable & chicken curry
- **BREAD:**
  3 x servings of seeded wholewheat bread
- **SNACKS**
  6 x different types of snacks: chocolate chip biscuits, crunchy oat biscuits, wholewheat crackers, fruit cubes, vitamin C sweets, chocolate nut energy bar
- **DRINKS:**
  6 x tea bags, 3 x coffee sachets, 9 x creamers, 3 x hot chocolate sachets, 6 x isotonic drinks (assorted flavours)
- **CONDIMENTS:**
  6 x sachets each of salt and pepper, 9 x sachets of sugar, 3 x sachets each of nut butter and mixed fruit jam
- **ACCESSORIES:**
  9 x wet wipes, 12 x water purifying tablets, 9 x sporks, 1 x heater kit (containing 6 hexamine fuel tables, 1 mini-stove, matches) for heating drinks, 3 x flameless heater kits (each kit containing 2 heater pads and 1 outer bag) for heating meals.

Note: 1 Water tablet cleans 1 Litre of water as directed on package

KEY POINTS:

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- Water purification tablets included

DAVE SHEER GUNS

DELIVERED ANYWHERE IN SOUTH AFRICA AND AFRICA

FOR ENQUIRIES: **rationpacks@davesheer.com**

Stock up and be prepared for any eventuality

RATION PACKS
RANGE

MANUFACTURED IN SOUTH AFRICA

72HR FAMILY EVACUATION / PREPPA FOOD PACK

AVAILABLE AT:

DAVE SHEER GUNS

WATERFALL ARMS & OUTDOOR

DAVE SHEER COUNTRY RANCH PLATTELAND

IRENE ARMS & OUTDOOR

BOX CONTENTS:

This pack contains meals, snacks, and drinks for a family of 4 people for 72 hours (3 days). Most components are available to order separately:

- **12 BREAKFASTS:**
  Selection of dry breakfasts (add water before eating), including Tropical muesli, Chocolate granola, Granola mix, Vanilla, and banana oats porridge.
- **24 MAIN MEALS (for lunch & supper):**
  Selection of various cooked wet meals (heat and eat) including spaghetti bolognaise, vegetable & beef casserole, tomato beef pasta, beef biryani, chicken biryani, creamy pasta with chicken, vegetable & chicken casserole, vegetable & chicken curry, Tomato chicken pasta, Alfredo chicken pasta.
- **12 BREAD SERVINGS:**
  1 slice of seeded wholewheat bread per person per day.
- **VARIOUS SNACKS:**
  Selection of snack servings (sufficient for 2 snacks per person per day) including chocolate chip biscuits, chocolate choc-chip biscuits, crunchy oats biscuits, fruity oats biscuits, digestive biscuits, wholewheat crackers, granola fruit mix snack, fruit cubes, vitamin C sweets, chocolate nut energy bar, salted peanuts.
- **DRINKS:**
  Selection of hot and cold drinks (sufficient for 2 teas, 1 coffee, 1 hot chocolate, 3 creamers and 2 isotonic drinks per person per day) including 24 tea bags, 12 coffee sachets, 36 creamers, 12 hot chocolate sachets, 24 isotonic drinks (assorted flavours)
- **CONDIMENTS:**
  24 sachets each of salt and pepper, 36 sachets of sugar, 12 sachets each of nut butter and mixed fruit jam
- **ACCESSORIES:**
  This pack contains 36 wet wipes, 36 water purifying tablets, 36 sporks, 4 heater kits (each kit containing 6 hexamine fuel tables, 1 mini-stove, matches), 12 flameless heater kits (each kit containing 2 heater pads and 1 outer bag).

Note: 1 Water tablet cleans 1 Litre of water as directed on package

KEY POINTS:

- 60 Month shelf life
- Delicious and tasty meals (Halaal approved)
- No energy needed for cooking, heating device included
- Sectors: outdoors, hiking, camping, mining, military, police, anti-poaching, hunting, security, game rangers, metro police, farming, on ships, in aircrafts and at home and the office during loadshedding.
- The manufacturer has supplied multi million x 24 hour ration packs per annum over the last 5 years to countries in Africa, the Middle East and the whole of Europe to various government departments and organisations
- Water purification tablets included

DAVE SHEER GUNS

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Stock up and be prepared for any eventuality

GLADIATOR SOLUTIONS

MADE IN USA

CRIXUS

DURABLE, LIGHTWEIGHT, VERSATILE
FOR ULTIMATE PERFORMANCE.

ENDORSED BY: KRIS "TANTO" PARONTO

Former U.S. Army Ranger, Paramilitary Contractor and CIA Contractor, one of the heroes of the 2012 attacks on the CIA Annex in Benghazi, featured in the film 13 Hours: The Secret Soldiers of Benghazi. United States Secret Service Academy. Founder of highly acclaimed Battleline Tactical in USA.

CRIXUS

MULTI-THREAT CARRIER SYSTEM

- Light weight, durable multi-mission tactical plate carrier system
- Material 1000 Denier CORDURA® water-resistant Nylon
- Exterior covered in MOLLE for modular customization
- Interior air cushion system for comfort and breathability
- Fully adjustable high density Velcro shoulder straps
- Fully adjustable high density Velcro cummerbund
- Front, back and side pockets for ballistic armor rifle plates
- Front pouches to accommodate up to 8 mags
- Rear side pockets for utility and med/IFAK
- Heavy duty rear drag handle
- Also available with NIJ Level IIIA inserts

Available in the Following Colors:

GET YOURS TODAY:

Ukraine Certified. Proudly endorsed by Ukrainian Military and Special Forces

Exclusively distributed in South Africa and the SADC Region in Africa by: Dave Sheer Guns / www.davesheer.com

GLADIATORSOLUTIONS.COM

Contact: gladiator@davesheer.com

GLADIATOR SOLUTIONS

MADE IN USA

SPARTACUS

DURABLE, LIGHTWEIGHT, VERSATILE
FOR ULTIMATE PERFORMANCE.

ENDORSED BY LEO PRINSLOO

Former Captain in the South African Police Special Task Force 11 year veteran – thwarted attempted cash-in-transit robbery on the N4 highway in Pretoria, SA under hale of AK-47 gunfire – owns and operates The Edge Shooter Training Academy – author of Leo's Guide to Not Becoming a Statistic.

SPARTACUS

MULTI-MISSION ANTI -BALLISTIC VEST SYSTEM

- Durable multi-mission tactical plate carrier system
- Wrap around Level IIIA protection
- Material 1000 Denier CORDURA® water-resistant Nylon
- Exterior covered in MOLLE for modular customization
- Comfortable and breathable
- Fully adjustable high density Velcro shoulder straps
- Fully adjustable high density Velcro cummerbund
- Front, back and side pockets for ballistic armor rifle plates
- Front pouches to accommodate up to 3 mags
- Heavy Duty Drag Handle
- Sizing: S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL
- **Without hard armor rifle plates, defends all common handgun rounds including 9mm, .357 all the way up to .44 magnum and 12 gauge shotgun**

Available in the Following Colors:

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GLADIATOR SOLUTIONS

MADE IN USA

PROELIUM

DURABLE, LIGHTWEIGHT, VERSATILE
FOR ULTIMATE PERFORMANCE.

ENDORSED BY JIMMY WATSON

10 year U.S. Navy SEAL veteran with 12 combat deployments across Afghanistan and Iraq, Agent in Charge in Kabul and Counter Assault Team Leader in Baghdad, multiple missions across Nicaragua, El Salvador, Colombia, Pakistan, Thailand, Indonesia and African continent.

PROELIUM

DURABLE BATTLE READY TACTICAL FULL BODY ARMOR PROTECTION SYSTEM

- Durable battle ready tactical plate carrier system
- Wrap around Level IIIA protection with detachable neck, shoulder and groin coverage
- Material 1000 Denier CORDURA® water-resistant Nylon
- Exterior covered in MOLLE for modular customization
- Comfortable and breathable
- Fully adjustable high density Velcro shoulder straps
- Fully adjustable high density Velcro cummerbund
- Front, back and side pockets for ballistic armor rifle plates
- Removable utility pouches for magazines, medical supplies, ammo
- Heavy duty drag handle
- Sizing: S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL
- **Without hard armor rifle plates, defends all common handgun rounds including 9mm, .357 all the way up to .44 magnum and 12 gauge shotgun**

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GLADIATOR SOLUTIONS

MADE IN USA

IMPERMUS

DURABLE, LIGHTWEIGHT, VERSATILE
FOR ULTIMATE PERFORMANCE.

ENDORSED BY JIMMY WATSON

10 year U.S. Navy SEAL veteran with 12 combat deployments across Afghanistan and Iraq, Agent in Charge in Kabul and Counter Assault Team Leader in Baghdad, multiple missions across Nicaragua, El Salvador, Colombia, Pakistan, Thailand, Indonesia and African continent.

IMPERMUS

INCLEMENT WEATHER SYSTEM

- Water and wind resistant
- Comfortable and breathable (light and soft)
- Shell fabric 70D 100% Nylon+PU membrane +30D 100% Polyester Tricot 70D
- 10000mm/5000mm water resistant down-like padding
- 100% Polyester, 20D 380T 100% nylon
- Antistatic, 3 layer tape/resists water permeating from the seam
- SBS Nylon coil waterproof reversed zipper
- Protects against temperatures of -10° F / -23° C
- Sizing: S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL

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Contact: gladiator@davesheer.com

GLADIATOR SOLUTIONS

MADE IN USA

LORICA

DURABLE, LIGHTWEIGHT, VERSATILE
FOR ULTIMATE PERFORMANCE.

ENDORSED BY DANIEL LOMBARD

Former South African Police Officer - current 12 year veteran Police Officer with Chicago PD (9 years in Gang Unit), graduate firearms instructor United States Secret Service Academy, FBI Ballistic shield instructor. More than 15 instructor & armored certifications. Founder of highly acclaimed DAVAD Civilian Defense in USA

LORICA

CONCEALABLE VEST SYSTEM

- NIJ 0101.06 Level IIIA wrap around protection
- Bullet, slash and strike resistant
- For overt or covert use
- Comfortable and breathable
- Front and back pockets with Ballistic soft armor inserts
- Complete side protection - 17.5% more coverage
- 2 Hidden pockets for up-armor capability with Level III or Level IV rifle plates
- Adjustable shoulder straps and waist cover
- Water resistant fabric (Poly-Cotton blend)
- Weight: 2.75kg (+/- 5%)
- Sizing: M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL
- **Without hard armor rifle plates, defends all common handgun rounds including 9mm, .357 all the way up to .44 magnum and 12 gauge shotgun**

Available in the Following Colors:

GET YOURS TODAY:

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GLADIATOR SOLUTIONS

MADE IN USA

VIGILES

DURABLE, LIGHTWEIGHT, VERSATILE
FOR ULTIMATE PERFORMANCE.

ENDORSED BY DANIEL LOMBARD

Former South African Police Officer - current 12 year veteran Police Officer with Chicago PD (9 years in Gang Unit), graduate firearms instructor United States Secret Service Academy, FBI Ballistic shield instructor. More than 15 instructor & armored certifications. Founder of highly acclaimed DAVAD Civilian Defense in USA

VIGILES

FIRST RESPONDER ANTI-BALLISTIC VEST SYSTEM

- Wrap around Level IIIA protection
- Interior pocket compatible with Gladiator Solutions ballistic panels
- Font, rear and side rifle plate pockets for up armor
- Fully adjustable Velcro shoulder straps, Fully adjustable cummerbund
- 1000 Denier CORDURA® water-resistant Nylon
- High visibility reflective strips
- Recessed Velcro for low profile identification patches
- Includes 2 patches (Rear & front)
- Engineered for extreme comfort, maneuverability and durability
- Utility/Med Pocket: 6"w x 7"h x 3"d
- Flashlight Pouch: 1.2"w x 6"h x 3"d
- Radio/Magazine Pouch: 3"w x 6"h x 3"d
- Heavy duty rear drag handle
- SIZING: M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL
- **Without hard armor rifle plates, defends all common handgun rounds including 9mm, .357 all the way up to .44 magnum and 12 gauge shotgun**

Available in the Following Colors:

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GLADIATOR SOLUTIONS

MADE IN USA

GALEA

DURABLE, LIGHTWEIGHT, VERSATILE
FOR ULTIMATE PERFORMANCE.

ENDORSED BY: KRIS "TANTO" PARONTO

Former U.S. Army Ranger, Paramilitary Contractor and CIA Contractor, one of the heroes of the 2012 attacks on the CIA Annex in Benghazi, featured in the film 13 Hours: The Secret Soldiers of Benghazi. United States Secret Service Academy. Founder of highly acclaimed Battleline Tactical in USA.

GALEA

HIGH CUT TACTICAL HELMET SYSTEM

- Ballistic Protection level: NIJ IIIA
- High cut design, compatible for communication device
- Rear-mounted dial allows the user to adjust tension of the CHINSTRAP band around the circumference of the head
- Velcro on the top for attaching IR lights or other accessories
- Side rails for flashlight, camera, comm units, etc.
- Front designed night vision (NVG) mount
- Material: Aramid
- Rigid plastic accessories
- 1 piece, 5 section cushion foam padding, EPP memory foam sponge
- Weight: approx. 3.08 – 3.30lbs (1.4-1.5kg)
- **Defends all common handgun rounds including 9mm, .357 all the way up to .44 magnum and 12 gauge shotgun**

Available in the Following Colors:

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GLADIATOR SOLUTIONS

MADE IN USA

MAXIMUS

SECURE, LIGHTWEIGHT, THIN
FOR ULTIMATE PROTECTION.

ENDORSED BY LEO PRINSLOO

Former Captain in the South African Police Special Task Force 11 year veteran thwarted attempted cash-in-transit robbery on the N4 highway in Pretoria, SA under hale of AK-47 gunfire owns and operates The Edge Shooter Training Academy author of Leo's Guide to Not Becoming a Statistic

Front/Back Plates Side Plates

MAXIMUS

ANTI-BALLISTIC RIFLE PLATE

- Level III(++) Stand Alone Ballistic Hard Armor Plate
- Constructed with Ultra High Molecular Weight Polyethylene and Ceramic
- Shooters cut for increased range of motion
- Single curved for optimal fit and comfort
- 600D waterproof nylon
- RDT® Round Dispersion Technology – evenly disperses kinetic energy from a round's impact to reduce compromise and blunt force trauma
- Sizes:
  a) Chest/Back Plates. 10.0" x 12.0" x .90" | Weight: 5.9lbs (+/-5%)
  b) Side Plates. 6.0" x 8.0" x .90" | Weight: 2.2 lbs (+/- 5%)
- Also available in multi-curve, especially used by females for comfortable fit over female breasts
- **Defends 5.56x45 M193, 5.56x45 M855, 7.62x39 125gr, 7.62x51 149gr M80 Ball, 7.62x63 166gr Armor Piercing (30-06 hunting caliber)**

Ukraine Certified Level VI (GS-TPCAMT and GS-4SC/MC-SC) proudly endorsed by Ukrainian Military and Special Forces

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PakProtect™

We've Got Your Back

A GLADIATOR SOLUTIONS PRODUCT

MADE IN USA

PAKPROTECT

ENDORSED BY DANIEL LOMBARD

Former South African Police Officer - current 12 year veteran Police Officer with Chicago PD (9 years in Gang Unit), graduate firearms instructor United States Secret Service Academy, FBI Ballistic shield instructor. More than 15 instructor & armored certifications. Founder of highly acclaimed DAVAD Civilian Defense in USA

PAKPROTECT

ANTI-BALLISTIC SHIELD

- Converts any school backpack | briefcase | travel bag into a Anti-Ballistic shield.
- Sizes:
  - a) 10.0" x 12.0" x .25" | Weight: 15oz.
  - b) 11.0" x 14.0" x .25" | Weight: 18.5 oz.
- Protection Level: NIJ Level IIIA
- Materials & Composition: Ultra High Molecular Weight Polyethylene – UHMWPE (buoyant) with a Polyurea coating
- Shape: Rectangular with rounded corners
- Curvature: Flat
- Safe for Air Travel
- **Defends all common handgun rounds including 9mm, .357 all the way up to .44 magnum and 12 gauge shotgun**

GET YOURS TODAY:

PAKPROTECT.COM

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