

THE AMERICAN GUN OWNER

IN THIS ISSUE #19

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The American Gun Association (AGA) provides information, tools, training, and support for gun owners throughout the USA.

The AGA stands for and advocates responsible gun ownership, as well as protecting our right to bear arms. Our mission is simple: **protect our guns, protect ourselves.**

SUPPORT YOUR STATE RIGHTS



Right now, unconstitutional gun control is at the fore of political debates leading up to the 2020 Presidential Elections.

Often, those of us who support our nation's Second Amendment and the rights it bestows upon us think no further than taking to social media. At

most, many of us might choose to give support an organization advocating for our rights.

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American Gun

A S S O C I A T I O N

The **American Gun Owner** is the official monthly publication of the **American Gun Association (AGA)**. We provide you with **information, tools, training, support, and an active online community**.

WHY WE EXIST

There are many threats to your safety and security, and gun ownership is being challenged more than ever before. We support and defend the rights of responsible gun owners throughout the USA.

OUR MISSION

Over the years, AGA has helped over **85,000 gun owners** stay safe and secure.

We help to educate and inform you about how to stay safe. Our goal is to provide you with at least **10x the value** of your modest membership fee.

OUR MEMBERS

Our members are hard working Americans like you, from all walks of life, backgrounds and locations, united in advocating the right to own firearms to defend themselves and their family. Our members are aware of the serious responsibilities that come with owning guns, and safety is their #1 priority

YOUR AGA ELITE MEMBER BENEFITS:

* The option to **test and keep gear** valued at up to \$85.00 for FREE (just cover the shipping and handling). Look out for the emails and text messages, as well as announcements in the Facebook Group

* Thousands of **discounts, savings and giveaways** on movie tickets, oil changes, pizza, car rental and much much more. Many members tell us they're saving in the region of \$150.00+ every month! Go to <https://gunassociation.memberdiscounts.co/perks/register> to access your benefits instantly!

* This **monthly printed publication** delivered to your door, with **articles, tips and training on developing new skills**, along with a **test** to evaluate your progress.

* The **online community** on Facebook, where our members share ideas and tips about family protection. To join, visit www.Facebook.com/groups/AmericanGunAssocation/ and click on the **+Join Group** button. Please allow 24 hours for approval, although it's often much faster.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS? CONTACT US:

Email: support@gunassociation.org

Call: 512-782-4624 (7am-11pm CST M-F, and 10am-7pm Sat)

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MEET THE EXPERTS

CRAIG CAUDILL



Craig Caudill has spent a lifetime practicing and teaching survival, preparedness and self-reliance, skills. He is the director of the Nature Reliance School and teaches these skills in the midwestern and southeastern U.S.

He is an incredibly active blogger and writer for several different blogs and self-reliance magazines. He has appeared on educational television teaching self-reliance skills multiple times.

He has a worldwide student base who study with him through his online self-reliance school. Craig considers himself a student in all things and is regularly studying with other instructors, thinking and practicing outside the box of conventional wisdom, and honing both his abilities and teaching methods.

His students have included military operators, law enforcement special response units, and many average ordinary law-abiding citizens.

JEREMY PARSONS



Jeremy Parsons is a former Marine sniper with multiple combat deployments overseas. He is truly a world-class expert at handling firearms.

Jeremy is a native of Austin, Texas. He joined the Marines at the age of 20 and quickly realized his passion for both the military and for shooting.

His passion for helping and instructing other gun owners led him to open a business where people can learn to be proficient with their firearms and feel more comfortable owning them.

Once hitting his unit he signed up for the scout sniper indoctrination and made his way into the platoon.

After a deployment to Iraq, he attended and graduated from Scout Sniper School and gained the title of **Marine Scout Sniper**.

Following a deployment to Afghanistan and starting a family he decided to leave the Marines and spend more time at home.

When returning to Austin his passion and skill lead him to start a company that would allow him to do what he loves to do, namely instruct and shoot.

CHRISTINE ZÁDOR



Christine Zádor is the President & CEO of San Joaquin Rifle and Pistol Range, Inc. (SJRPR) located in Linden, CA. Her parents opened the range in 1979. Christine has dedicated herself to carrying on her parent's legacy by continuing to operate and develop the range today. Christine's dream is to make San Joaquin Rifle and Pistol Range a top-notch shooting facility.

Christine Zádor has created a long history of success in several different industries, however her true passion is in the firearms industry. Before taking ownership of SJRPR she attended the University of Southern California, where she played water polo and won an NCAA Women's Championship. She later co-founded a water polo board company named Zaqua Boards, and has been coaching water polo for many years.

Ever the adventurer, Christine also enjoys swimming, hiking, horseback riding, and traveling to meet and learn stories of Veterans in determination to make a difference in their healing process.

Christine is an avid shooter and currently competes in the USPSA, American Marksman, and competes in nationwide competitions.

Support Your State Rights! *Continued from page 1*

But we also need to give our support to the state-level groups doing as much (and sometimes even more) than the usual players.

Recently, we saw Virginia's "Lobby Day" event taken over by upwards of 22,000 citizens taking a stand for their Second Amendment rights.

Approximately 6,000 people lobbied in Capitol Square, while another 16,000 remained outside in a show of support. New gun control legislation sparked the movement, with Virginia Democrats voting on stricter limitations against handgun purchases, banning open and concealed-carry in public spaces, and imposing background checks on all firearm transfers.

But the event would not have been possible without the organizational efforts of the Virginia Citizens Defense League (VCDL), a state-level group working tirelessly to do exactly that - defend Virginian citizens and their constitutional rights.

Similarly, the State of California is rolling out a slew of new gun control bills intended to make it even more difficult for citizens to purchase and own firearms.

California is already one of the most restrictive states in the nation, with an ever-shortening list of "permitted firearms" and Unconstitutional taxes on ammunition purchases.

Right now, the most important state-level group fighting against these changes in the state is the California Rifle and Pistol Association.

However, much like other state-level organizations, it's dangerously underfunded, curbing its efforts in what seems to be a losing war against anti-gun tyranny.



WHAT ARE WE FIGHTING FOR?

In December, an armed parishioner took down a mass-shooter in his Texas church. Jack Wilson has since spoken against the anti-gun movement, pointing out if he had not taken action, the criminal would have won, with 7 live rounds left in his weapon and 3 more in his pocket.

Wilson was able to take his stand because of his Second Amendment rights and the efforts of groups like the Texas State Rifle Association, who helped curb the encroachment of anti-gun legislation in the state.

It's time we all take a stand and start giving our support to such groups. Every state has at least one - the

Alabama Gun Rights Network, for example, or the Iowa Firearms Coalition, Grassroots North California, and many more besides.

Seek these groups out. Become active members. Your membership fees and donations go a long way in helping them defend your rights on a state-level, just as much as groups like the Second Amendment Foundation do on a national level.

If you're unable to donate money, donate your time instead. For example, attend meetings, join discussion forums, or volunteer to help organize and manage events.

It's time to support your state rights by supporting those fighting for all of us.





Cold weather may have arrived at your doorstep. In the spirit of winter, what better topic to revisit than winter guns?

WHY WINTER PREPARATION IS KEY

Cold weather presents a host of challenges to properly maintaining your firearm and ammunition.

If you're using your firearm in the rain, sleet, or snow, it's guaranteed to get wet at some point. It's imperative

to break your weapon down and use a dry, lint-free cloth to clean it before and after each use.

But condensation can be just as dangerous. Moving your firearm from the cold outdoors to a warmer interior can lead to condensation build-up. So even if you're not getting wet in obvious ways, your gun might still be.

Lube – which is typically used very generously – can also be your enemy here.

Before winter sets in, get into the habit of cleaning away all the lube and only using the smallest amount you can get away with. Otherwise, the cold can all too easily turn it gummy and create a slew of new problems.

Give your ammunition the same treatment.

Carefully store it in a temperature-controlled space and take extra caution during transport. Make it a habit to regularly check for corrosion, rust, or cracks (which happen when moving between extreme temperatures especially).



CONSIDER USING A WINTER GUN

Let's focus on handguns here, especially your everyday and/or concealed carry.

There's nothing wrong with using the same gun throughout the year. However, there are a few special considerations you might want to contemplate for dealing with the change in temperature.

For starters, you aren't going to be

wearing the same clothes. A warm-weather concealed carry handgun is likely to be more compact to account for wearing fewer layers.

Your winter wardrobe, on the other hand, is more likely to be bulkier and comprised of more layers, which means you'll be better able to effectively (and comfortably) conceal a larger handgun.

Of course, there are more practical considerations to take into account. It's not all about the ability to go bigger for



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its own sake. In fact, if that's your only reason, then you shouldn't be carrying a more full-sized handgun in the first place.

After all, carrying a different firearm means becoming accustomed to using it.

No two guns handle exactly the same way, so you need a better reason than “because I can” for switching weapons and needing to spend time at the range reacquainting yourself with the larger handgun.

Luckily, there's a very good reason for doing so: practicality.

More layers mean more “obstacles” when drawing your firearm if SHTF. So having a larger winter handgun (at least, larger than your summer firearm) can make it easier for you to locate and draw your weapon.

This is especially true if the grip frame is longer.

FINAL CONSIDERATIONS

The biggest part of preparing your winter gun is considering all angles. Find something that works specifically for you, the clothes you wear, and the life you live.

And if you're smart about the winter handgun you choose to carry (if you do choose to switch with the weather), then you're already halfway to having a winter-ready firearm!



TOP FACEBOOK GROUP CONTRIBUTORS THIS MONTH

-  Eddie Harvey
-  Michael Venia
-  Seth Roeder
-  John Knopp
-  Sherry Smith

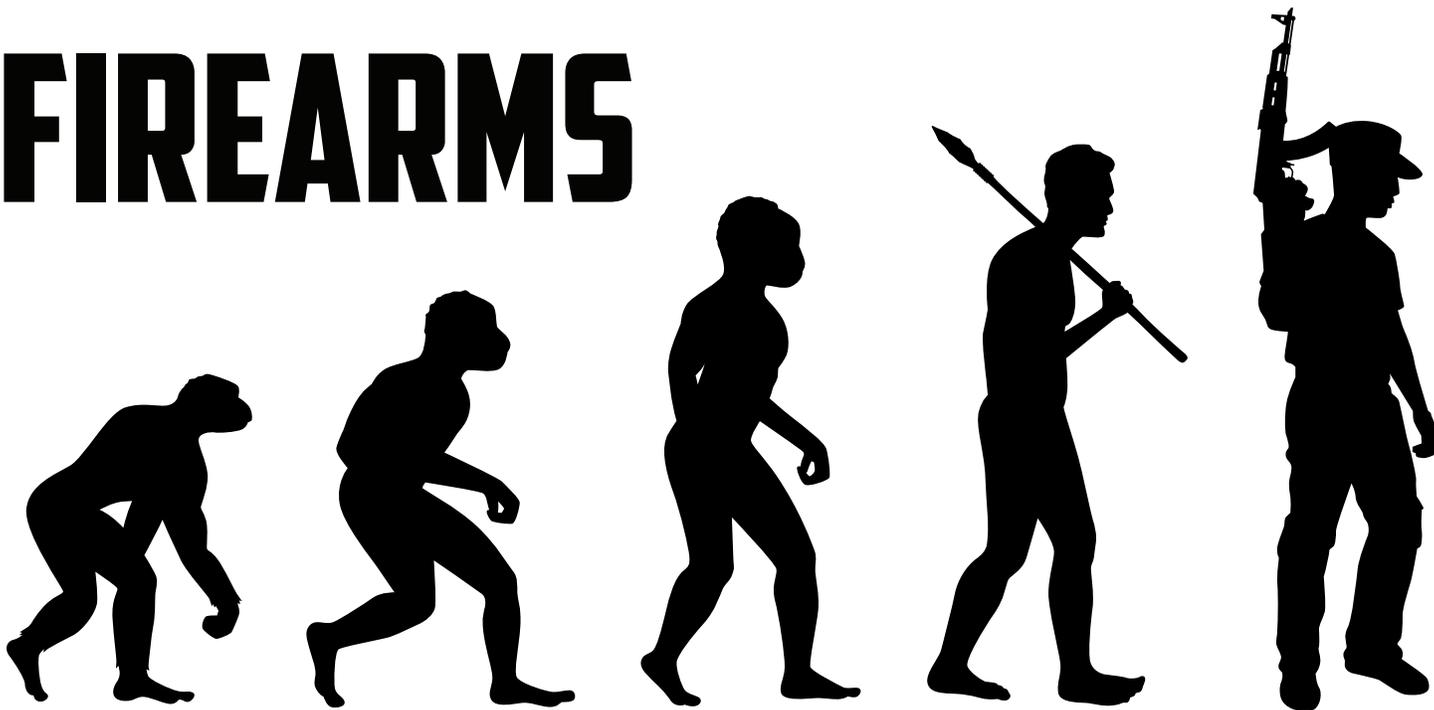
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EVOLUTION OF FIREARMS



Sometimes, we forget just how far firearms have come (unless anti-gun folks try arguing the Second Amendment should only apply to muskets).

Not only do firearms have an interesting history worth revisiting from time to time, but that history is key in understanding firearms themselves.

So let's take a stroll through history.

THE BEGINNING: SMOKE & FURY

Until Paul Eugene Vielle, a French chemist, developed the world's first high-energy, progressive-burning propellant in 1884, firearms let off a smokey cloud every time they were fired.

The black powder residue in use before this was predominantly particulate, so

the rifleman's position was instantly given away when he fired. It also had the tendency of fouling firearms.

Vielle's smokeless propellant residue, by contrast, was almost entirely gaseous. This meant the smoke it released was practically invisible, rendering black-powder virtually obsolete.

In 1887, the French Lebel first made use of the new technology by replacing their breech-loading, single-shot French Gras and Chassepot bolt rifles.

Within a decade of Vielle's discovery, the technology managed to spread.

While the French Lebel used a tube magazine, German innovator Paul Mauser developed a far superior box-magazine and stripper-clip-fed rifle.

If Mauser's C96 – the world's first

semi-automatic handgun, commonly known as the "Broomhandle" – is anything to go by, you can understand why Vielle's gaseous propellant spread so quickly.

Mauser manufactured upwards of a million Broomhandles, while China turned out tens of thousands of unlicensed clone copies.

But Vielle's invention didn't just solve the issues of smoke and weapon-fouling common to its black powder predecessor – bullet diameters were also gradually reduced and their shape became more streamlined.

As a result, accuracy, penetration, range, and velocity were all virtually tripled – which only further propelled the invention's popularity.



WORLD WAR I

The Chassepot and Gras both used 11mm ammunition, known as the “11mm Gras.”

In 1886, under pressure from the War Minister, the French arsenal designers (all of whom either worked for the government or were forced to sell their weapons to them exclusively) necked-down the 11mm Gras to 8mm.

After adding a more aerodynamic spitzer bullet, the new ammunition – designed specifically to take advantage of Vielle’s smokeless powder – was christened the “8mm Lebel.”

But the War Minister was too impatient to wait for a firearm designed around the 8mm Lebel. As a result, the Kropatschek rifle was modified into the French Lebel.

Already considered an upgrade to the Gras as a result of it being tube-magazine-fed, the Kropatschek seemed the perfect choice.

All the French designers needed to do was re-chamber it to accommodate the 8mm Lebel and bolster the locking system (to better handle the greater chamber pressure of Vielle’s smokeless powder).

With a few other minor changes to boot, the new French Lebel went into full production by 1887. Nearly 3 million were manufactured by 1893.

But the French miscalculated just how secretive they’d been. Their military was still using the Lebel Rifle with 8mm Lebel cartridges by the time World War I started in 1914.

By international standards, it was already an obsolete weapon.

The shortened, carbine-length Lebel made it even more difficult than before to use from horseback, as the magazine capacity was reduced. It was also unreliable, as the tube magazines had to be recharged more often.

Around 1916, in the middle of the war, the box-fed Berthier Carbine was hastily pushed into mass production.

The Berthier quickly became the rifle of choice, as the 3-shot box magazine clip would drop out as the last empty case was ejected.

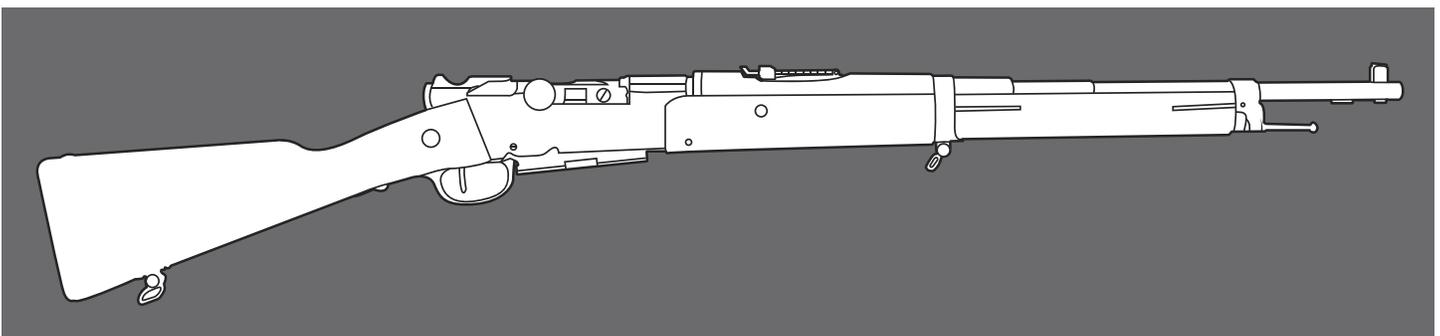
It was also much easier, faster, and cheaper for the French government to produce or purchase.

(The US manufacturer Remington was the only company to produce the Berthier Carbine outside of France.)

Three rounds were obviously too few, of course, so the 1916 Berthier model featured a small upgrade to a 5-round en-block clip.

And, due to complaints that the original sights were too tiny to be picked up during an active battle, the 1916 Berthier also sported a wider front sight.

The French Lebel – although already technically obsolete by the time Mauser developed their box-magazine and strip-fed-clips – was only officially





declared obsolete in 1920.

However, colonial areas continued to use it in active service for much of the 20th century.

WORLD WAR 2 AND BEYOND

In 1936, the French finally pushed through their MAS 36 bolt-action rifle, largely because of growing tensions in Europe due to Hitler’s rearmament of Germany.

Originally intended as a second-tier rifle, France was forced to completely rely on the MAS 36 (due to an inability to get their planned auto-loading rifle into production) when Germany successfully invaded the country.

Ironically, France was technically still ahead of the rest of the world when it came to auto-loaders since World War I’s French RST.

Still, it took American troops liberating the MAS factory from the Germans in 1944 for the French to get back in the game. Mass production of the MAS 36 picked up almost immediately after, with more than a million produced.

The Allied Forces also suffered a

similar drawback.

Lulled into a false sense of security, they continued to use virtually obsolete weaponry until it became obvious Hitler was re-growing the German military.

They scrambled to salvage the already-obsolete WWI firearms, while Germany – having been forced to destroy theirs following defeat in 1918 – was arming themselves with modern weaponry.

Even at the end of World War II, the French were still behind on modern weaponry. First, they ran into trouble when trying to modify the MAS 49/56 to accommodate the NATO standard 7.62x51 cartridge.

Of course, the 7.62x51 wreaked havoc on the converted MAS, as they were better suited for the French 7.5x54.

The idea was ultimately dropped, but not before hundreds (if not thousands) of firearms were irreparably damaged by slam-fires, parts breakage, and a host of other issues.

Unfortunately, it took until 1990 before the MAS auto-loaders were officially recognized as obsolete. On the bright-side, the evolution of firearms was only at its beginning.

CONCLUSION

Slow as the evolution of the firearm might seem, compared to its predecessors, its growth has been astronomical. To this day, we’re seeing leaps and bounds in firearm design.

Hopefully this history lesson gave you a brief introduction to the evolution of firearms.

At the American Gun Association, we encourage you to further educate yourself by reading our articles, studying our courses, and engaging with the community!



TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

After studying this training, we encourage you to test your knowledge with this quiz. The answers can be found at the bottom right hand corner of this page.

1: Which was NOT an issue with black powder propellant?

- A. It fouled up the firearms
- B. It gave away the rifleman's position
- C. Its production was considered a state secret

2: In what year was Paul Eugene Vielle's smokeless, gaseous alternative invented?

- A. 1883
- B. 1884
- C. 1885

3: Which French rifle was the first to take advantage of the new propellant?

- A. The Lebel
- B. The Chassepot
- C. The Gras

4: What was another step in firearm evolution that Vielle's propellant led to?

- A. Manual safety mechanisms
- B. More accurate ammunition design
- C. Wider front sights

5: Which weapon manufacturer rendered the French rifle from question 3 practically obsolete nearly 3 decades before the French officially declared it so?

- A. Remington
- B. MAS
- C. Mauser

6: Which weapon was modified in 1916 to solve the issues caused by the French rifle from question 3 during World War I?

- A. The 5-round Berthier Carbine
- B. The Kropatschek Rifle
- C. Mauser's C96

7: Which rifle did the French develop in response to German rearmament under Hitler?

- A. The MAS 40
- B. The MAS 36
- C. Neither of the above

8: Which MAS autoloader entered production in secret?

- A. The MAS 36
- B. The MAS 40
- C. The MAS 44

9: Why did the conversion of the MAS 49/56 fail in the 1970s?

- A. NATO Standard 7.62/51 ammunition caused slam-fires and other issues
- B. Manufacturers were unable to successfully alter the design from the French 7.5/54
- C. The rifle was already too obsolete for the conversion to be popular enough to take hold

10: What led to a rapid modernization of firearms leading up to World War II?

- A. A necessary response to the mass production of older model clones by China
- B. Germany's forced disarming following World War I creating a vacuum in the nation's ability to reproduce older models
- C. Both of the above

QUIZ ANSWERS

1c, 2b, 3a, 4b, 5c, 6a, 7b, 8c, 9a, 10a

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