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by Henry Quinlan

Pedal the Pond set sail about two years ago ... in a London pub as so many of these things do! A few of our friends had just set the World Record for rowing the Atlantic in the Talisker Whiskey race. This was amazing and inspired us but we wanted to put a slight twist on it, something that had never been done before. A PEDALO...So, with my fellow Peddallars Max Mossman, Hec Turner and Paddy Johnson it began.

After some toing and froing we met our eventual boat maker, Charlie from Rannoch Adventure, at the London Boat Show. Yes, he could indeed convert the design of an ocean rowing boat they have into a Pedalo, Bingo...we were off. It wasn't until the boat was finished that Charlie informed us of his approach to boat making, saying YES now and working out the HOW later. Typical salesman, He wasn't wrong though.

When it came down to choosing a charity it was easy to know that The Charlie Waller Memorial Trust was the one for us. Mental Health is something that we all have noticed within our friendship groups and family friends. We could see our peers suffering inside and knew that they felt alone in this battle and most were not willing to talk about it. On top of that, there are so many sad stories of young men and women taking their own lives these days. It is something that we felt we could help with and we have noticed a change in our immediate surroundings already.









Attempting to do something that hadn't been done before became a bit of a challenge during the very early stages. Contacting and pitching to sponsors was one of our hardest parts. We had some pretty amusing replies and many sturdy NO's. So, we are eternally thankful for the sponsors that did believe in us from the very beginning. It also meant that when we should have been doing some vigorous testing on the system we were still hunting funds... but as the funds came late, so did the 'Reveller'. Therefore, we only had one 4-day weekend out on 'Reveller; in freezing cold December weather before it got shipped off to Gran Canaria.

On our first trip up the east coast from Burnham on Crouch up to Harwich (a 70-mile round trip), we found ourselves in a spot of bother. The pedal system had a breakdown leaving us with no power from the pedals. We got out our back up oars, but with only one set of oars a nine meter, one ton boat was difficult to move. The winds and tides were strong and we were drifting into a shipping lane. So, that day we had to be rescued by the Royal Navy Lifeboat Institution - not a great start. We got towed into Harwich, fixed the system and were ready to go back to Burnham. This was our secret which we revealed to our Mum's only when we got to Antigua.

We did however have a week's worth of solid training in Gran Canaria with Angus and Charlie, who were recent world record holders for rowing '4 man' and 'single man' on the same route. The week consisted mainly of strengthening the pedal system as we had problem after problem because we did not have a chance to robustly test it before we left. It was a blessing in disguise that all of the problems happened this week as we managed to excite the locals with our story and they kindly helped us modify our system putting bolts through every cog and shaft to help prevent any issues once out at sea.







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NEW US Importer: euroline inc. 5 Old Town Park Road, Unit 51 New Milford CT 06776 www.eurolineusa.com phone: 860-354-1177 At the same time, we managed to cover all the drills necessary to leave port. This was hardly the best preparation..... only 4 full days out in the boat as training in flat seas with no previous boating experience and we were about to cross one of the toughest oceans in the world. Were we mad! However, we had to leave by the 10th of January otherwise we would have a ton of complications. If we left any later, the winds would be going the wrong way and there was a much higher possibility of getting caught up in some ghastly storms and I for one was certainly not going to wait another year.

We left on the 7th of January at 12:00 precisely with the sun shining. Within the first 6 hours of leaving Puerto Morgan we began to experience waves of about 20 feet which definitely raised some querying eyebrows and had us wondering what sort of size they were going to get up to. Learning to surf these waves needed to be done quickly to prevent us rolling down the wave sideways with the possibility of capsizing. It was exhilarating though, and we were getting up to speeds of 10 knots which was a little more than our previous top speed of 5 knots. There were a few hairy moments but we did pick it up pretty quickly.

This was nothing compared with a few moments during the last week. For most of the trip we had been experiencing 15-22 knot tail winds towards Antigua. On day 34, we had been informed to "batten down the hatches" as 25 knot winds are coming at 8 am

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tomorrow morning. We were excited as we were keen to get to Antigua at this point but at 8:30 am an absolute monster wave picked us up to about 30 foot and sent us crashing down after reaching the top. Hec was literally directly above me at this point, this was unlike every other wave we had conquered where you surf the steepness of the wave and come out the bottom unscathed. We picked up so much speed that we went straight down into the bottom of the wave and the front



cabin fully submerged. All of the water that the boat pushed from its path flew over the rest of

the boat and there was nothing but white around us. The boat had so much water in the footwell, and anywhere else it could collect it, that it looked only inches from sinking. Exactly the same thing happened about 20 minutes later and at this point I was in the cabin trying to rest and seriously concerned that we could die out here. If we drift out of control down a wave like that we would topple over. Spirits stayed high and emotions were well controlled about how we felt about this moment, but days later when it had all died down we laughed about it and the fact that we were all really scared.

The hardest part of the whole trip was the sleeping. Knowing that every time you came off for a rest, the maximum amount of sleep you were going to get was about an hour and a half. The quicker you could get changed, eat your food and all the other faffing that you needed to do the better. There were multiple times where I found myself in the cabin with my alarm going off, not knowing how I got in there in the first place. The last thing I remembered was being out on shift turning the pedals and now I am in the cabin waking up to that excruciating sound of my alarm. I didn't get the chance to appreciate the rest and 40 days and 40 nights of this wasn't easy, it was purgatory.

We are very proud to say that we managed to pedal the whole way across the Atlantic. Four completely untrained mechanics managed to fix the system in some seriously rough seas. The gear box ripped up from the hull at one point and we had to resurface the boat and screw the gearbox back in the exact same place to prevent any grating. We had to change cogs, chains and many other bits of the system, including a propeller because it got damaged. We had two quick propellers that needed more force and two slower ones which were easier to turn. On day 11 our prop got damaged, so Max and Paddy swam under the boat to change it. Suddenly a wave slammed the boat down and knocked the propeller out of their hands. Our best propeller sank to the bottom of the sea. This added quite a few days onto our trip, but that was just part of life in the Big Blue!

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There were many highlights of the trip including completing this epic adventure with three amazing mates. We were extremely lucky with the amount of wildlife we got to see. We saw a shark and 8 or 9 whales who were extremely interested in this slow moving white lump that produced bubbles out the back. But the highlight was the Dolphins. We got in to swim with a pod of dolphins and could see and hear them swimming below. Suddenly they were jumping metres out of the water all around us. It was absolutely incredible, a once in a lifetime moment.

Forty days sounds a bit biblical. This was the hardest thing I have ever done, but it was also the best. I couldn't have managed another day and I don't think our pedal system could either, but I loved every minute of it. So, if

you want to get tanned and toned in 40 days whilst eating like a horse on an all-inclusive cruise, I would recommend crossing the Atlantic in a Pedalo.

Crawling over that finish line was completely surreal. We had great support from our family and friends, who were put through hell over these 40 days as well as a following of completely random people, who had heard about us on the island. The welcoming was phenomenal and the party and celebrations continued for days. Antigua is a magical place for us for now, and I can't wait to do it again! AW





Tips to Make Cold Water Surfing

photos by Red Bull Content Pool

Who cares if the water is a little chilly? The waves are pumping and the cold keeps the crowds away, which means you can often score achingly perfect waves without competition. Whether you're going to Norway, Ireland, New England, surfing at home, or even heading down to Chile, embrace the cold: it's your ticket to some of the best waves of your life.

Having spent several years living on the wild and windy cost of North East Scotland (and more recently surfing some glacial-melt river waves in the Alps), I like to think I know a little about cold water. Most of the world gets better surf in winter than summer, and Scotland is no exception. Sure, given the choice, most of us would opt for a surf destination warm enough to surf in board shorts, but there's a actually lot to be said for the chillier oceans on this planet. When you walk down the beach at Aberdeen in a blizzard, with -13°C/ 8°F air temperatures and a distinctly slushy tinge to the shore break, you know you're not going to have any crowds to compete with!

A little cold is no excuse to skip your dose of surf stoke, so here are 7 tips to help make cold water winter surfing more enjoyable.





#1 Kit

Neoprene. There's no way around it: if you want to actually enjoy those frigid waves, good rubber is absolutely essential. Buy the best 5mm suit you can afford. Liquid-sealed seams are key, and ideally go zipper-less or chest zip to minimise flushing. Likewise, repair any rips or tears – while a couple of holes aren't a big deal in summer, you'll really notice the cold water flooding in. Look for a suit with a good warm lining, and consider a quick dry lining – nothing puts a damper on a session liking struggling into a soaking wetsuit in a windy car park.

Pay attention to sizing and fit too: though wetsuits are getting more and more flexible, if your suit is too tight it will restrict blood flow, making you feel colder quicker. If you're surfing really cold water, maybe even consider a heated suit or vest.

Forget the macho banter and get a good pair of boots, gloves and a hood too. You can't surf if you can't feel your feet, and stubbing clumsy toes on sharp rocks somehow hurts even more when your feet are useless lumps of frozen flesh. When it's really cold, consider slipping a couple of reusable hand warmers into your boots (on top of the foot) and gloves too. A good hood will help prevent both ice cream headaches on duck dives and the dreaded exostosis... No one wants a drill in the ear canal!

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#2 Set Your session up for success

Don't set yourself up for failure before you've even started. Fuel yourself properly before your imminent oceanic gladiatorial contest with a good dose of complex carbs, protein and water. Make sure you're warm before getting changed – blast the heaters in the car on the way to the beach and layer up with a good down jacket for the presession surf check.

Stretch and warm up on the beach before getting in the water. When you immerse yourself in icy water, your body's natural defence mechanism is to reduce blood flow to your skin and extremities; the aim is to reduce heat loss from the skin and keep warm blood in your core to protect vital organs. Unfortunately, this can also make your hands and feet near-unusable – which rather defeats the whole point of going surfing. Warming up before heading into the water gets your blood pumping strongly right from the start, extending the amount of time you can feel your toes. This is also one of the benefits of heated suits – when your core is warm, your body feels less need to shut off blood flow, so your feet stay warm and functioning for longer.



#3 Moisturiser and Vaseline

Spending a lot of time in cold water and strong winds is pretty disastrous for your skin and lips. No one likes dry cracked lips, so do yourself a favour and rub in a liberal amount of moisturiser – the thicker and denser the better – before your session. Put a layer of Vaseline over the top to lock the moisture in, and repeat after your post-surf shower. Your boy/girlfriend will be thankful.

#4 Board

Winter normally brings bigger and better waves – why else would you brave the hypothermia and ice-cream headaches? There's also a theory that cold water is denser, heavier and more powerful than warm, which when combined with your heavier and less flexible wetsuit, means you're going to need a little extra help to get into the waves. Pick something a little bigger and with more volume than your normal summer board, and your sessions will involve more stoke and less beat downs.

#5 In the water

Keep moving. The more you move and paddle, the warmer you'll stay, and the more warm blood your body will pump around to your hands and feet. Race to make it over the top of clean up sets and try to avoid duck diving as much as possible.

When you're sitting on your board, try tucking your hands into your armpits to keep the warm. Alternatively, hold your arms down at your sides with your hand turned out like you're trying to emulate a penguin, and shrug your shoulders up and down: you can really feel how this forces warm blood down into your hands.

If all else fails, remember all that water you drank earlier to avoid dehydration can double up as your very own mobile heating device... Yep, there's something weirdly satisfying about peeing in a wetsuit (just don't forget to wash it after!).

Don't stay out too long! Surfing in really cold water is very tiring, as your body expends a lot of energy trying to stay warm. Head in while you still have some energy left to navigate the shore break. Always surf with a buddy, and keep an eye on each other. Watch out for signs of hypothermia.

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#6 Getting changed

Getting changed after your session is probably the worst part of the whole experience, as the wind knifes into your exposed skin across some blustery car park... In a perfect world we'd all have a van to get changed in, but there are a few cheaper methods to make it less miserable.

Try filling a big water bottle with boiling water before you leave the house. By the time you've finished surfing the water will be a more manageable temperature, and you can use it rinse the sand and salt off in reasonable comfort, while warming your feet up again.

Use a neoprene mat or a bit of foam (camping mattresses work well and are cheap) to stand on – it'll help keep your feet warm(er), and protect you from rock cuts.

Organise your towel and clothes before getting in the water, so everything is at hand in the right order to pull on quickly. Use the hot water bottle to warm up your underwear and t-shirt so they're nice and toasty.

Plan your changing process. Some people prefer to rip off their suit quickly and jump straight into warm clothes, while others prefer to do it half by half: pull your suit off down to your hips and jam on a t-shirt, jumper and coat before attending to the lower half. Which works best for you?

#7 The post-surf high



Getting warm and toasty after prolonged exposure to the cold is one of the most exquisite feelings in the world, so make the most of it! Wrap up warm in thick wool jumpers and a down jacket, build a fire on the beach, head to the pub for a pie and pint... Everything feels better after a good surf, and you've earned some creature comforts!

Check out LUEX for their top picks for both warm and cold water surf trips - www.LUEX.com!

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by Lawrence Dreyfus

April in Kansas can bring everything from warm, windy, and typically Spring-like weather, to thunderstorms, hail, and the real chance of a tornado passing through; but only occasionally do we have ice, snow, sleet and freezing rain in the forecast. But, the weather projection leading up to the USECF Gravel Grinder Nationals race in Lawrence, Kansas on April 7, indicated that we were definitely in for some of the latter. When the 2-3 inches of snow forecasted for the night before the race failed to materialize, race organizers and riders alike let out a collective sigh of relief; but, the tradeoff was record-setting cold temperature and arctic-like wind chills. In fact, that morning's low temperature of 16 degrees set an all-time record low for April 7 in Lawrence. These cold temperatures resulted in frozen CamelBak hoses even before the race started, and electrolyte bottles turning to slush then solid ice soon thereafter. To say that weather conditions were a significant factor in the second USECF Grinder Nationals race was an understatement.

Turning back the calendar to June 24, 2017 (if for no other reason than to warm up a bit), riders from around the region were all abuzz with news of the first USECF Grinder Nationals to be held in Northeast Kansas. This region boasts not only some of the best gravel roads around, but also hordes of talented gravel cyclists. The inaugural race came off without a hitch. The course, the planning, the organization and the family-friendly party-like atmosphere all made for an excellent event. So, the announcement that the USECF would return to Lawrence for the second annual





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event was welcome news. In addition, this year, the USECF entered into a partnership with the locally organized Gravelleur's Raid race, now in its 4 year, and held on the first Saturday of April. The Lawrence based 100-mile Gravelleur's Raid has grown rapidly since launched in 2015 by local rider, racer, and all around great guy, Roger Williams. The Gravelleur's Raid name, by the way, is a tongue-in-cheek homage to Quantrill's Raid, the historic 1863 sacking of Lawrence at the hands of Confederatebacked slave-state marauders, a pivotal event leading up to the Civil War. Many of the gravel roads around Douglas and Jefferson Counties, the site of the second Grinder Nationals course, are the same roads used by settlers, Quantrill's raiders and the local Free State defenders of 155 years ago.

The 2018 race offering included the premiere 104-mile Grinder Nationals race and a 50-mile noncompetitive version of the Gravelleur's Raid. The start of the 2018 race included a controlled escort heading north out of downtown Lawrence via Massachusetts street, straight into a 10-12 mph north wind and 18 F temperature. That combination computes to a brutal wind chill of 5 degrees! And it felt every bit that cold! After being escorted for a few miles north then east on pavement the race started with a turn heading north onto Wild Horse Road and up past the Kansas University Field Station. Though a bit of leg and lung burner, the "Field Station climb" early in the race was actually a welcome and much needed warm up. That climb also separated the pack a bit as rides settled into pace groups that lasted to the 25-mile checkpoint and way beyond.

The 104-mile race included two mandatory timed checkpoints at 25- and 75 miles. Both checkpoints were at a Casey's convenience store in McLouth, Kansas, a tiny farming





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TIGER BALM Works Where It Hurts community in Jefferson County, Kansas. McLouth is well known to local riders as a convenient mid-ride oasis having paved and gravel roads in and out of town leading to Casey's store on the main drag. Leading up to the race I questioned the rationale for a checkpoint so early in the 104-mile course, but on this frigid morning it was a more than welcome chance to thaw your water bottles, get some food (Pro tip: eating while wearing lobster claw gloves is seriously challenging), and insert more hand and foot warmers where needed.

The course route left McLouth and continued mostly north deeper in Jefferson County with riders still buffeted by a northeast head wind for another 10 miles. Gravelleur's Raid riders circled back to Lawrence to complete their 50-mile course while the Grinder National racers made a 50-mile loop north almost to the town of Nortonville and then back to McLouth for the second checkpoint. As a general rule, cars and trucks do not heavily travel the gravel roads in this part of Kansas, this being one of the attractions to gravel riding. In fact, while on the gravel sections of the course, I saw fewer than 5 cars during the entire race, not counting the rescue crew Jeeps. Having ridden many of these roads on previous occasions, you get to know the farms and the farm dogs along the way and several of those dogs have no patience for cyclist and make every effort to find an ankle or calf to snap onto. But, on this day, a silver lining to the harsh weather was fewer chasing dogs! They were either hold up in warmer guarters or exhausted from chasing the lead pack of riders thus paving the way for smooth passage of the middle and tailing groups that followed.

One of the real pleasures of riding gravel in northeastern Kansas is the variety of scenery and topology. The rolling terrain,





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Once we hit the 75-mile checkpoint the pace of our pack picked up as we could feel the finish line just a routine morning ride's distance away. From a personal standpoint I had been playing cat and mouse with another local rider in my age group all day. He had this uncanny knack for appearing out of nowhere each time I had convinced myself that he was dropped for good. We played this game until about the 80-mile mark when I no longer saw him and sensed, correctly, that I wouldn't see him again. Then around mile 90 we caught another rider in my group who was content to slip in with us to make a fifth to our pack of four. I didn't know if I had a shot at the podium, but I knew I'd have to best our new ride companion if that was even a remote possibility. We were keeping a solid pace and the terrain was flattening out as we dropped into the Kansas River bottom for the last stretch of the race. I felt strong, but we still had nearly 10 miles to the finish. Without a word the rider pulled away with a head of steam that I sensed might be tough to match. Without hesitation one of my riding buddies made chase, caught him, and started chatting him up. Just that little bit was enough to hold the rider at bay and once we hit the levee for the final 3 miles to the finish, led out by another of my riding mates, I hit the gas and never looked back.





The finish line was the same location as previous Gravelleur's Raid races - up on the river levee behind Johnny's Tavern one of the iconic local bars and a race sponsor. As with the inaugural 2017 Grinder Nationals race, the field was competitive boasting strong riders in each of the race categories. The top overall finisher, Mat Stephens, riding in the Pro category, finished in a blistering 5:21:45 - which by my calculation is averaging 19.4 mph over 104 miles and 7,000 feet of elevation. Right behind Mat was an all-out sprint for second place between Brandon Melott in the male 30-34 division (5:26:23) who nipped Rob Bell of the Pro division with the same time. Each finish was exciting and each rider came away with a real sense of accomplishment given the challenging conditions and the course. (Results can be found at www.GrinderNationals.com).

A memorable thing about the USECF Grinder Nationals was the post-race awards ceremony. The raffle, wherein no one goes home empty handed, the party-like atmosphere, the free slice of pizza and Sierra Nevada at Johnny's Tavern and the awarding of the national championship jerseys. Maybe it was the post-race endorphins, or the exhaustion, or the combination of both, but the post-race was a truly special event. And best of all, the USECF Grinder Nationals will be coming back to Lawrence in 2019 for the third year in a row along with the 50 mile Gravelleurs Raid. This new relationship between the USECF, the Gravelleurs Raid and the town of Lawrence, Kansas has the potential to become a signature gravel race event on the calendar of national gravel races! By the way, and for the record, I didn't make the podium, but I did finish 5th in my age category and I came away with a better sense of what it will take and a deeper desire to get there in 2019!





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Product Reviews

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SUMMER 2018

Lupine had a specific goal in mind when they developed the Piko R4, design a headlamp that was light enough that it could be comfortably worn for hours and was bright enough for any situation including

fast descents. The Pico R4 nailed it! This helmet or bar mounted and comes with battery that will provide 1:15 – 80 hours of

WPINE

55 gram, 1800 lumen flame thrower can be a Bluetooth remote, a 3.3 Ah SmartCore run time and a charger. Capable of lighting up the darkest night with an amazing 1800 lumens or providing 80 hours of light on a lower setting, the light weight Pico R4 will be your go to light for any situation. www.lupinenorthamerica.com

TOGS

Togs thumb grips add a control point to the top of your handle bars while providing a change of position for your hands and wrists. The change of hand position minimizes fatigue on longer rides due to a decrease in wrist flexing and hand clenching during the ride. It is easy to access your shifters and brakes from the Togs and they provide excellent climbing leverage without clenching the handle bar. The made in the USA Togs are available in a flexible tip with a 17° rotation or a carbon non-rotation model and can easily be installed without removing the grips. Get yourself a set of Togs and save your hands on your next long ride. www.togs.com





Will Light Fire Starter

Will Light took a different approach to starting campfires. Instead of starting with a small flame that is gradually built into a fire that is hot enough to sustain itself, the Will Light Fire Starter utilizes 4000 degrees to provide a hot core for your fire in mere minutes. This allows you to use less flammable materials such as wet wood in poor conditions like rain and wind and still be successful at building a fire. The Will Light Fire Starter is so easy, just extend the fuse, pile on wood and light. The 4000 degree burn will ignite materials and it is virtually impossible to smother the Will Light. Available in 3 different sizes, the Will Light Fire Starter is an easy and dependable method of starting a fire quickly even in poor conditions. www.willlight.com



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TROOPER

* * * * The Bobcat Who Came in from the Wild

FORREST BRYANT JOHNSON

Product Reviews

SUMMER 2018

Trooper

Trooper is a heartwarming story about desert tour guide Forrest Bryant Johnson and his best friend Trooper the bobcat. One day Forrest went out on his daily walk into the Mojave and heard a cry of distress. Following the cries, he came upon a small bobcat kitten, injured, orphaned, and desperately in need of help. Forrest took his new feline friend home for a night, which turned into two nights, a week, and eventually nineteen years. Relive the excitement as Forrest and Trooper share a lifetime of joy and adventure in this wonderful story. www.skyhorsepublishing.com

KUHL Stealth Shirt

The KUHL Stealth Shirt is both stylish and functional and will keep you cool and dry in just about any atmosphere. The Stealth features a pair of angled chest pockets that give it a western flair, metal buttons and an interior security pocket to keep your important documents safe. KUHL uses a 100% polyester microfiber which makes the 30 UPF Stealth a wicking, quick drying, wrinkle resistant dynamo. The square cut bottom hem allows the Stealth to be worn tucked or untucked in a casual setting. The super comfortable KUHL Stealth can keep up with your adventurous demands and keep you looking good while doing them. www.kuhl.com

KUHL Renegade Shirt

The KUHL Renegade Shirt was made for adventure and is the perfect match for the Renegade shorts or pants. Featuring the same breathable, quick drying stretch fabric that made KUHL's Renegade pants

a hit, the Renegade shirt is a super comfortable companion. Metal buttons, a left chest pocket, square cuthem and UPF40 sun protection tell you the Renegade has you covered in just about any situation. And don't worry, the Renegade is available in 6 different colors, so once it becomes your favorite shirt you don't have to wear it day after day. www.kuhl.com



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by Troy Farrar

The Harlem Globetrotters are a world-famous basketball team that has been bringing smiles to the faces of fans for almost 100 years. Founded by Abe Saperstein in 1926, the Globetrotters played their first road game in Hinckley, Illinois, on Jan. 7, 1927. Since the initial game, the Globetrotters have entertained over 144 million fans in 122 different countries.



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Some highlights during the Globetrotters illustrious history were two shocking wins over the World Champion Minneapolis Lakers in 1948 and 1949. The victories over the Lakers accelerated the integration of the NBA, and Globetrotter Nathaniel "Sweetwater" Clifton became the first African-American player to sign an NBA contract, joining the famed New York Knicks in 1950.

The Globetrotters set off on their first international tour in 1950 and they played before 75,000 fans at Berlin's Olympic Stadium in 1951. Hall of Famer Wilt Chamberlain even played a full season with the Globetrotters in 1958-59 before joining the NBA. Chamberlain continued to play partial seasons with the Globetrotters for several years between NBA seasons saying that some of the most pleasant days of his life were spent playing for the Harlem Globetrotters.

The 70's and 80's were a great time for the Harlem Globetrotters and they even had a cartoon on CBS which earned some of the highest ratings in the history of Saturday morning television. This is when I had my introduction to the Harlem Globetrotters and I have been a loyal fan since those days.



I grew up watching the Harlem Globetrotters Saturday morning cartoon, watching them on ABC's Wide World of Sports and even getting to see them in person a couple of times when they put on shows in my hometown at Texas A&M University. I still remember the crazy antics and amazing skills of players like Sweet Lou Dunbar, Hubert Geese Ausbie and Meadowlark Lemon. And who could ever forget the king of dribbling, Curly Neal. I still remember spending hours in my driveway trying to perfect some of Curly's signature moves.

When I was in college I worked at the Texas A&M Sports Camp and became friends with former Harlem Globetrotter Willie Sky Foreman. I really enjoyed hearing about some of Willie's amazing experiences as a Globetrotter. I recently gave Willie a call to ask him a few questions about his eleven years with the Harlem Globetrotters.

Willie said that after playing competitive ball for so long one of the toughest things was learning the rings (those are the tricks the Globetrotters do in the show). The experienced players would show them some rings and then the new Globetrotters would have to remember them and come up with their own rings for the show. Willie said there were some key veteran players like Marques Haynes who really mentored the younger players on the team. Willie credited Marques with teaching all the ball handlers his rings, including Curley Neal. Willie recalled a game where Meadowlark Lemon was performing at one end of the court and Curley Neal was performing at the other end of the court – the

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crowd was divided. At half time Marques Haynes said we should only do 1 ring at a time so everyone can see all of the show and the Globetrotters have been doing it that way every since that day.

Willie really loved the travel and his fondest memories were performing for different people all over the world including a show for Queen Elizabeth. He said the Globetrotters were always accepted and no matter where they went the people didn't want them to leave.

I had recently introduced my 2 children to the Harlem Globetrotters by watching a game together on TV. As 9 and 11 years old's they were amazed with the skills and captured by the comedy of the show. It was fun to see the same excitement over the Harlem Globetrotters that I had experienced as a child and I was happy to be able to share the experience with them. I imagine there are millions of fans who have passed down the joy of seeing the Harlem Globetrotters to their children and I would guess the tradition will continue as long as they keep playing games. When I heard that the Harlem Globetrotters were coming to town, I knew it would be a fun family adventure and decided we must go to the show.



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We opted to get a Magic Pass which lets you go to a pregame show where you can shoot baskets, learn a few tricks, take pictures and get autographs from some of the Harlem Globetrotters. The magic Pass was a bonus and the kids really enjoyed the personal interaction with the Globetrotters before the game. Then came the game, which was a blast. The Harlem Globetrotters put on a great show just as they have been doing for almost 100 years. We

saw some awesome basketball skills mixed with the famous Globetrotter humor culminating in a win. When I looked around at the audience during the game, everyone had something in common – huge smiles! That is the constant you can count on from the Harlem Globetrotters and the reason they will continue to capture the hearts of fans worldwide. If you have never seen a Harlem Globetrotter's show, I encourage you to put it on your bucket list as you can count on a fun filled show that will become one of those life long memories that will always bring a smile to your face.



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My First Hunt

by Troy, Izzy and Luke Farrar

I grew up in an outdoor family. My grandfather was a game warden in Louisiana and some of my fondest memories of him are when I was around 9 years old. We would drive over for a weekend visit and he would tell me about this really big squirrel he had been trying to shoot but that was just too elusive for him. He would tell me how he had been hunting that squirrel for months with no luck. We would load up and head to the ranch and sure enough Papaw would find "that big squirrel" and I would get a chance to hunt the squirrel. The hunt was always followed by one of Mamaw's famous squirrel and gravy meals, enjoyed by a proud 9-year-old who had helped provide for the family. My epic hunting trips continued and a few years later I started going to New Mexico and Colorado every year with my Pop on his elk and mule deer hunts. I would miss school for a couple of weeks as we backpacked, camped and hunted elk and I got to take this adventure every October. I believe those trips were the foundation that built a love for hunting, exploring the outdoors and seeking adventure that has molded my adult life including my career.

I started laying the same foundation for my 9-year-old son Luke and his 11-year-old sister Izzy by teaching them to shoot with my old open sight Daisy BB gun and taking them with me on deer and hog hunting trips. Both were good little shots, but up until this point neither one had been the one pulling the trigger on a hunt. When I came up with the idea for the "My First Hunt" Article the first thing I did was call the guys over at Sitka Gear and TenPoint Crossbows to see if they could help outfit us for the adventure. They were excited about the first hunt and the next week the kids were decked out in some awesome Sitka hunting gear along with plenty of TenPoint bolts for the hunt. Getting good gear for the little ones is an often overlooked but crucial point if you want them to have an enjoyable experience. I have seen the following scenario too many times, where dad has good gear and is nice and warm while junior is freezing his tail off because he does not have the proper clothes for the weather. Then dad can't figure out why junior does not want to go on the next hunting trip. Remember, most little ones have a lot less body fat than dad and secondly freezing for hours in a blind is not fun for anyone. I guarantee you it is one of the quickest ways to turn your youngsters off to hunting – so get them the proper gear.

We started by practicing on a target in the back yard and quickly moved to a 3D hog target. Both kids shot off a Primos Trigger Stick because the crossbow was too heavy for them to hold and the Trigger Stick provided a perfect stable platform for them to shoot from. After a little coaching on breathing and squeezing the trigger I was excited to see them both consistently putting the bolts on target. We practiced for weeks and saw their consistency improve. Finally, it was time to load up and head to my friend Billy Reeves Texas hog hunting ranch - Hog Wild. Billy's ranch is a great place to hone your archery skills as there are tons of hogs and you are virtually guaranteed to get a chance at a hog if you are patient.

We will continue with the story in a little while but first I wanted to share with you my kid's thoughts before the hunt. Luke wrote, I am excited to go hunting, it will be



fun. I am going to shoot a hog and eat it. Izzy wrote, I am very excited about the upcoming hunting trip. I am excited because it will be my first time to go hunting. I think it will be very fun because I get to shoot a live target. I think it might also be a bit boring because I have to sit for a while in the blind. It was good to see that they were excited, and I understood the concerns about being board. Luckily my kids are both big readers, so I knew that if we brought books they would be happy in the blind. I also like to go to the dollar store and get them each a "movie theater size" box of candy – it adds to the experience helping make long hours in the blind more fun.

We headed out to Hog Wild on a Monday morning and would have our first hunt that afternoon. Luke would be the first one to hunt while Izzy sat with us and watched. I'll let Luke give his version of the hunt. Luke said, when we got there the first thing I thought was this ranch is really big. We saw some hogs on the way to the blind and I thought, there are hogs everywhere. We sat in the blind for a while, but the hogs were all going in a different direction. Poppa said let's sneak over to that wood pile and I think we will get a chance to shoot a hog. So, we crept over to the wood pile really slow and sat down on a log. Finally, some hogs came along, and we picked out one that I could shoot. I kept getting it in my sites and then it would move. So, I would move the crossbow to get it in my sites and then it would move again. Finally, the hog started drinking from a stream and I got it in my sites and pulled the trigger. The hog fell over into the stream and kicked around for about a minute and then it stopped. Poppa said great shot Lukey and gave me a high five and later I got my stripes.



I was really proud of Lukey. He had been patient, waited for a good shot and now he was reaping the benefits of killing a 100 plus pound hog. Right after he made the shot I looked down and saw his little eyes starting to water up a little. I asked him what he was feeling and Luke replied, I'm a little sad but I'm also excited! I told him that was O.K. and that it was good to feel compassion for the animal. I also gave him a big hug and told him what a great shot he had made, he was immediately grinning from ear to ear. Getting stripes on your cheeks is a family tradition and Luke couldn't wait to have his stripes painted on. Later that night Luke asked me if he had to wash them off because he really wanted to keep them on for the next day – it was really cute.

We settled back into the woodpile and now it was Izzy's turn to hunt. She did not get a great chance that evening, and we knew her big hunt would come the next day. We went back out on Tuesday afternoon and decided to start our hunt at the woodpile. Izzy wrote the following; the ranch was so cool and Mr. Billy was really nice. Luke shot his hog on the first day and we didn't have to wait too long. I had trouble focusing on the first day because there were a lot of cows around us and they made me nervous. Poppa kept telling me to just ignore them, but I couldn't, and I let them mess up my first day of hunting. That night me and Poppa talked about it and I decided that I would focus on hunting the hogs the next day and forget about the cows. We had to wait along time and finally a bunch of hogs came into our area. I aimed and shot, and the hogs ran way. We crossed the creek and Poppa told me to go and get the arrow which was kind of gross because it had blood all over it. We tracked the blood for a while but could not find the hog. Later we got to cook hot dogs on the fire, it was a fun trip.

I was so proud of Izzy. She was quickly able to help me identify male and female hogs and could even tell the right size that we wanted to hunt. She had a rough start because the cows got her shook up the first day, but she did a great job of ignoring them the second day and focusing on hunting. We had a long wait, over 4 hours, before she had a shot and she did a great job of being patient. At one point a couple of hogs were headed our direction on a trail when all of a sudden, they stopped, alerted and headed the other direction. The hogs were still a pretty good ways out and I could not figure out what had scared them until I turned around. There was Lukey behind us in the middle of an epic imaginary sword fight with a stick he had found. Me and Izzy cracked up. One thing you need to



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remember when hunting with kids is that they have different fears than adults, get bored much easier and that they are kids. So, when your kids act like kids, just laugh and go with the flow. We got Luke settled back down and finally a sounder of hogs came into our area. Izzy would line up a shot and then the hog would move out of her shooting lane. She would line up another and it would happen again. Her shooting lane was limited because the crossbow was too heavy for her to hold and she was shooting off a tripod. This pattern continued and I was amazed at how patient she was, as I figured most kids would be more inclined to rush a shot. Finally, she got the bead on a hog and let the arrow fly. She was just a little bit further back than it needed to be and unfortunately the hog ran away. We tried to track the hog but could not find it.

Looking back, it was a really great hunting trip, one of my all-time favorites. We had a great time hunting together as a family and we all learned a few things. The kids learned that we do not always get our quarry on a hunt, but that the hunt can still be lots of fun. They also learned that it takes practice and patience to be a successful hunter. I learned that they may not have the ability to sit still for 5 hours and something like an imaginary sword fight should be expected from a 9-year-old little boy - if it happens have fun with it. Most of all we learned how much fun hunting together can be as a family. A couple of new hunters have joined the tribe after having their first hunt and we all are looking forward to many more family hunts together, sword fights and all.

We utilized some great gear on the hunt which you should consider for upcoming hunts or camping trips.

TenPoint Pro Elite Carbon Arrows with Omni Brite Lighted Nocks

The TenPoint Pro Elite Carbon Arrows with Omni Brite Lighted Nocks are a great choice for your next crossbow hunt. These 20 inch arrows come with a 68 grain insert providing a 13% front of center and an Omni-Brite lighted nock. TenPoint` actually inspects the straightness of the arrows to .003 and hand sorts them for weight tolerance to within two grains per dozen which translates into the possibility of shooting 2 inch groups at 50 yards. The easy to see Omni-Brite lighted nock provide a great in-flight and point of impact visual and aid in arrow and game retrieval in both the day and night time conditions. I have been using these bolts for years and find that they provide dependable and repeatable accuracy which made them the perfect choice for my kids first hunt. www.tenpointcrossbows.com

Sitka Youth Cap

The Sitka Youth Cap is the perfect way to round out your youngsters hunting gear. The water resistant breathable cap is made from a 4 way stretch material that makes it comfortable to wear all day long. The Sitka Youth Cap has the same great quality as the adult cap in a smaller size. Available in 3 patterns, the smaller fitting Sitka Youth Cap is perfect for that weekend in the mountains or just beating around at your local trails. www.sitkagear.com



Sitka Youth Rankin Hoodie

The Sitka Youth Rankin Hoodie is a great cold weather jacket that will provide maximum protection for your little hunter. Sitka uses Primaloft insulation for the base protection and added venting side stretch panels to keep them from overheating during times of exertion. The polyester rip stop Youth Rankin Jacket features dual zippered hand pockets, a zippered chest pocket, elastic wrist cuffs and a hood to keep their noggin toasty on the coldest of days. Give your little hunter the cold weather protection they need with the Sitka Youth Rankin Hoodie. www.sitkagear.com

Sitka Youth Scrambler Pant

When I unpacked the Sitka Youth Scrambler Pant I was surprised because they look like something a serious outfitter would use daily. The articulated Youth Scrambler Pants feature reinforced knees and seat, zippered expandable legs and an elastic waistband with a built-in belt. Sitka's soft-shell Scramblers feature a moisture wicking micro fleece lining combined with GORETEX protection that make them comfortable and quiet when worn alone or as a tough outer barrier when layering. The heavy-duty Sitka Youth Scrambler Pants will take anything your little hunter can dish out while protecting them from windy and wet weather. www.sitkagear.com









Primos Trigger Stick Gen 3 Tall Tripod

The Primos Trigger Stick Gen 3 Tall Tripod is the perfect hunting accessory with multiple uses for just about any shooting scenario. Primos built the foundation around a contoured sure gripped one hand trigger pull that adjusts the height of the tripod and provides a solid shooting foundation on any terrain. The legs independently deploy with the pull of the trigger providing a 24" to 62" stable base on uneven ground. The Gen 3 Trigger Stick Tall Tripod features new locking leg angles that deploy with a simple twist of the ring and provide stability with an unlimited combination of leg angles. Switch from gun to binos to spotting scope in seconds with the lockable quick detach yoke system and enjoy smooth panning with a strengthened rotating joint. The Primos Trigger Stick Gen 3 Tall Tripod has everything you could ask for in a tripod providing a quick, stable and adjustable base on any terrain. www.primos.com

Sitka Youth Stratus Jacket

The Sitka Youth Stratus Jacket is the perfect companion to the Youth Stratus Pant. Providing the same GORE WINDSTOPPER protection surrounded on both sides by microfleece, the Youth Stratus Jacket will protect your young'uns from wind and cold weather while remaining stealthy silent. The Stratus features a zippered chest pocket, dual zippered hand pockets and a safety harness pass through that is covered by a flap when not in use. Perfect as a layering piece or as a stand-alone jacket, the Sitka Youth Stratus Jacket will keep them warm and in the field for longer periods of time. Pick up a Stratus for yourself as well as they are available in adult sizes too. www.sitkagear.com

Sitka Youth Stratus Pant

I don't know about you, but my little guys are lean which is a good thing except when sitting out in cold weather because they get cold easy. The solution to this problem are the Sitka Youth Stratus Pant which are guaranteed to keep your youngster toasty warm during your next outing. The Stratus Youth Pant uses a GORE WINDSTOPPER layer between two micro fleece layers which provides both wind and cold weather protection. These Sitka pants feature dual hip pockets, a cargo pocket and an elastic waist band. Sitka has hit the trifecta with the Youth Stratus Pant by creating a warm, comfortable and quiet hunting pant. By the way, the Stratus is available for adults as well. www.sitkagear.com

Alps Outdoorz Stealth Hunter Deluxe

The Alps Outdoorz Stealth Hunter Deluxe chair is a comfortable, adjustable and functional chair that will make your time in the stand a lot more enjoyable. Alps started by providing a solid reliable base that utilizes 4 large swivel feet and independently adjustable legs to provide a stable shooting platform on any terrain. The powder coated steel frame is weather resistant and the mesh back and seat material will help keep you nice and cool. The Alps Outdoorz Stealth Hunter Deluxe features a 275 pound weight capacity, high seat back, removable and adjustable armrests and an adjustable seat height to get you set up just right and keep you comfortable for hours. When you are finished hunting, remove the legs and store with provided straps, then slip on the shoulder strap and hike back to base camp. www.alpsoutdoorz.com

Alps Outdoorz Stealth Hunter Cover

The Alps Outdoorz Stealth Hunter Cover is the perfect accessory for your Stealth Hunter Deluxe Chair. The tough and durable 600D insulated fabric adds a layer of warmth and padding to the already comfortable Stealth Hunter Chair. Install or remove the cover in less than 10 seconds and you can easily store the cover by leaving it installed on the chair as it does not interfere with closing. Add a little extra padding and keep warm on that cold winter day with the Alps Outdoorz Stealth Hunter Cover. www.alpsoutdoorz.com

Rage Crossbow X Broadhead

The Rage Crossbow X Broadheads are the perfect broadhead for hog or deer hunting. The machined aircraft-grade aluminum body fly like a field tip due to the shock collar design that holds the blades back until impact. When deployed, the razor sharp stainless-steel blades leave a 2 inch plus cutting diameter that is plenty big enough to incapacitate your prey. The Rage Crossbow X Broadheads are easy to repair and easy to clean after the hunt providing a long use cycle. The 3 pack of Rage Crossbow X Broadheads come with a free practice head and will provide you with the knock down power you need on your next hunting trip. www.feradyne.com





Wiebe Vixon

The Wiebe Vixon has a motto that is reassuring when processing an animal - Don't fight the knife. Accidental cuts happen when we are fighting the knife and a trip to the emergency room can really ruin an otherwise perfect hunting trip. The Vixen uses a replaceable surgical-grade scalpel which provides a sharp and consistent edge for reliable performance every time. The 7.5 inch foldable knife has an ergonomic handle and comes with a nylon belt holster and 24 replacement blades. The replacement blades are inexpensive making it easy to keep a razor sharp edge at all times. The Vixon is a great tool and a must have for every hunting camp. www.wiebeknives.com

Kelty Horizon 2

The Horizon 2 is Kelty's lightest tent, but this lightweight is not light on features. The hubbed pole design combined with the hug clips make pitching the tent a snap and the no see um mesh ceiling provides great ventilation and a constant view to the stars. The dual zippered vestibule can be converted into an awning and there is an attached rain fly that can't be lost left behind. The Horizon 2 also comes with a storage cube, wall pockets and the door tucks into a handy pocket keeping it out of the way. The Kelty Horizon 2 is a great 2 person 3 season tent and will provide a perfect shelter for your next adventure. www.kelty.com



Kelty Bestie Blanket

The Kelty Bestie Blanket is great for lounging around the house or campfire and also makes a great ground cloth for a picnic. The Bestie features Cloudloft insulation, a polyester taffeta outer shell and a super soft poly pongee liner. Kelty includes a stuff sack with a handle so you can easily carry along your Bestie wherever you go. www.kelty.com

Shooting Reviews

MagPump 9mm Luger Magazine Loader



The MagPump 9mm Luger Magazine Loader is a welcomed addition to the MagPump family and a real thumb saver. Just dump your ammo into the 50-round hopper, insert your magazine and start pumping – in less than 30 seconds your magazine is loaded. MagPump's self-sorting hopper aligns the ammunition and the loader comes with 6 adaptable retainers for GLOCK, SIG, Smith & Wesson, Springfield Armory, CZ and Ruger double stack magazines. The made in the USA MagPump will mount to a weaver or picatinny rail and features a lifetime transferrable warranty. Give your hands a break and load faster and easier with the MagPump 9mm Luger Magazine Loader. www.magpump.com



Clinger Stingray

Clinger Holsters specializes in absolute concealment and the Clinger Stingray will provide that absolute concealment no matter what you are wearing. Clinger does this by mounting the belt clip close to the grip which pulls the grip of your pistol close to your body. Clinger also focuses on making small holsters without sacrificing functionality which conceal

better than larger holsters. The Kydex on a Clinger Holster is only .08 inches thick which adds very little size to your handgun, allowing you to carry a full-sized gun. The Clinger Stingray also features a wide belt clip, 0 or 15 degree cant, fully adjustable firearm retention, right or left hand models and a full sweat shield to protect your firearm. Clinger rounds out their features with a no questions asked lifetime warranty. We loved the fit, feel and concealment of the fully customizable Stingray and encourage you to get your hands on a Clinger. www.clingerholsters.com

Decibullz Custom Molded Percussive Shooting Filters

The Decibullz Custom Molded Percussive Shooting Filters have taken thermo molded earpieces to the next level. Decibullz is known for their high quality DIY custom earpieces that are as simple as heating in water and molding to your ear. Now Decibullz is offering a Percussive Shooting Filter that allows you to talk and hear in your normal environment but also protects you from hearing damage produced by peak sound pressures such as shooting. And get this – no battery is needed! These filters

are always ready to go. Decibillz achieves this by suppressing the peak sound pressures to safe levels (up to 166 dB with a max NRR of 31). The Decibullz Custom Molded Percussive Shooting Filter Earpieces come with multiple sizes of foam tips and silicon tips, 2 sets of moldable earpieces, 2 Percussive Filters and a hard carrying case. www.decibullz.com



Unique AR's Unique Grip

The Unique AR's Unique Grip is a fully customizable hand grip that conforms perfectly to the shooters hand. The 4.2 ounce Unique Grip uses movable polymer plates and works on righty's or lefty's regardless of the size of the shooters hand. Just loosen the bolt, squeeze the grip and then tighten the bolt to hold your custom grip in place. The adjustable grip reduces fatigue and improves performance while compensating for shooters natural twist. So what are you waiting for, grab a Unique Grip, literally, and feel the difference of a custom grip molded perfectly to your hand. www.unique-ars.com



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Breaking in a Barrel

by Troy Farrar

You have saved up for that new rifle and are excited to get it out on the range the day it arrives. But without a proper break in process it may never shoot the small MOA groups that you have been dreaming about. You imagined that you and your new rifle will be a modern-day Sergeant York but without the proper break in you may end up disappointed because instead you are shooting groups like a Russian soldier who has had too much Stoli. Taking the time to properly break in your new rifle is one of the most important things you can do and once you have performed the sequence, you will enjoy the benefits for the lifetime of the barrel.

Christensen Arms makes some of the finest custom barrels on the planet which are known for their consistent accuracy. We reached out to the experts at Christensen Arms to learn a little more about the proper way to break in a new barrel.

Essentially barrel break in is the act of smoothing or burnishing the bore and groove of your barrel. This creates better consistency of the bullets travel through the barrel. Today with the shooting industry's demand for accuracy, most high-quality barrel makers lap their barrels to remove minor tooling marks and create as uniform a finish as possible. This is generally done when the barrel is at the "blank" stage before the barrel has been contoured, crowned and chambered. While this technique of lapping does give a great result, the post lapping machining done during the chambering process adds more tooling marks. Now you may wonder, why not just lap the barrel during the chambering machining? While this can be done it is extremely difficult to do without damaging the barrel. What generally happens, if this is not performed perfectly, is material is removed from the crown unevenly as the lap passes back and forth through the muzzle causing uneven gas venting behind the bullet and deteriorating accuracy. Also, if special care is not exercised scratching and gouging of the throat is possible. We have found that live fire barrel break in can minimize these problems and of course is much more fun!

Breaking in a barrel properly consists of a series of shooting and cleaning sequences. There are lots of different sequences out there to choose from, but when done properly, the end results are usually the same – a great shooting rifle. The sequence that Christensen Arms has developed over the past 15 years is very simple and has given good consistent results. This process will give you the best start for the life of your barrel and prepare or break in your barrel for a future of accurate shooting.

Supplies



SOLVENT **Copper Solvent**

Recommend: Bore Tech Copper Remover

GUN OIL To lubricate and neutralize solvent

> Recommend: Bore Tech Friction Guard XP Gun Oil



BRUSHES

Nylon bore brushes - one the correct size for your caliber, a second brush 1 or 2 sizes smaller

> Recommend: Bore Tech Proof Positive Nylon Brushes

PATCH JAGS Bore specific patch jag

Recommend: Bore Tech Proof Positive Patch Jags

Manna



BORE GUIDE To protect the bore throat and

keep solvent from entering the trigger mechanisms.

> Recommend: 21st Century Chamber Specific Bore Guide

CLEANING PATCHES 1 3/8" cotton cleaning patches

> Recommend: Bore Tech Cotton Flannel Patches

PATCH CATCHER 1 3/8" cotton cleaning patches

> Recommend: MTM Case-Gard Gun Cleaning Patch Catcher

CLEANING ROD High quality cleaning rod with ball-bearing handle

Recommend: Tipton Max Force Cleaning Rod

BENCH STAND

Recommend: MTM Case-Gard Portable Rifle Maintenance Center







3 INCH SQUARE



HARNESS THE FUTURE. V SEVEN STRONG.





Break-In Procedure

CLEAR BORE

First make sure that the barrel is clean and free of any oil or solvents from the manufacturing process. Once clear, fire (2) three-shot groups for a total of 6 rounds.

BOREBRUSH

With the bore guide inserted, run a solvent-soaked patch through the barrel, breach to muzzle, removing it at the muzzle. Repeat this with a new soaked patch 3 times or until no black is showing on the patch. Then, using the correct- for- caliber size nylon brush soaked in solvent, scrub the barrel back and forth making sure the brush completely exits the muzzle and chamber before reversing direction. Repeat this step 20 times for a total of 40 passes through the barrel. Follow this with a dry patch removing as it exits the muzzle. Repeat this until the patch comes out clean and dry.

UNDERSIZED BOREBRUSH

Next, using the smaller nylon brush, run a soaked patch through the barrel scrubbing back and forth for a total of 20 passes through the barrel. Again, make sure that the patch exits the barrel on both ends before reversing direction. You will notice a blue tint on the soaked patches, this is from the copper being dissolved. Repeat this process until the soaked patches show no blue coloration. Follow with dry patches until the patches come out clean and dry. Note: The small- for- caliber nylon brush is meant to be used with a cleaning patch wrapped corner to corner like a diamond in place on a standard jag. The bristles of the brush keep the patch pressed tight against the bore and groove and increase the surface area of the patch to barrel contact.

SHOOT AGAIN

Fire another (2) three-round groups for a total of 6 rounds.

REPEAT

As you repeat this sequence, you will begin to notice that your patches start to become clean quicker. This is because the rough surfaces that are holding brass are being smoothed out a little at a time. 50 rounds on average is the sweet spot for most barrels.

Note: After each cleaning sequence, you will want to make certain that there is no solvent or oil residue left in the chamber.

GO SHOOT

Once you have been through the break in period do not clean the barrel for 200-300 rounds on a custom barrel and 50-100 rounds on a factory barrel or when the accuracy starts to fade, whichever comes first. The barrels true accuracy will usually come between 150-250 shots.

Bore Tech Cu+2 Copper Remover

Bore Tech Cu+2 Copper Remover is an ammonia free formula that rapidly removes copper fouling from your barrel. The Cu+2 Copper Remover quickly loosens and removes any heavy copper deposits left by jacketed bullets as they pass through the bore without a ton of scrubbing. Bore Tech Cu+2 Copper Remover is 100% barrel safe, biodegradable, and odor free providing you with a great made in the USA copper remover. www.boretech.com

Bore Tech Friction Guard XP Gun Oil

Bore Tech Friction Guard XP Gun Oil is a blend of oils, penetrants and friction reducing additives combined with enhanced rust and corrosion inhibitors specially formulated for the high volume, high heat and friction that firearms produce. Friction Guard XP penetrates the metal's pores and bonds to the metal's surface forming a rust and corrosion barrier that also decreases friction and wear by 95%. Made in the USA, Friction Guard XP will keep your firearm protected from -100°F to 600°F ensuring that it will not burn off during extended strings of fire. www.boretech.com

Bore Tech Proof-Positive Nylon Brushes

Bore Tech has taken cleaning to the next level with their proof-positive nylon bore brushes. Bore Tech uses non-brass cores and threads on the Proof-Positive Nylon Bore Brushes which eliminates blue patches and the false indication of copper fouling that is common with brass bore brushes. The rigid, 100% barrel safe Bore Tech Proof-Positive Nylon Bore Brushes feature twice the amount of oversized bristles, double wound cores, looped ends and barrel safe studs that combine to provide you with an exception bore brush. www.boretech.com

Bore Tech Proof-Positive Rifle Jag

The Bore Tech Proof-Positive Rifle Jags follow in the same footsteps as their Proof-Positive nylon brushes by eliminating the false indication of copper fouling that is common with all traditional brass jags. Bore Tech does this by using a proprietary alloy combined with a secondary treatment process, making their jags 100% brass free and 100% barrel safe. The US made Bore Tech Proof-Positive Rifle Jags will help you determine when your bore is truly copper free. www.boretech.com

21st Century Chamber Specific Bore Guide

The 21st Century Chamber Specific Bore Guide seals your chamber preventing the possibility of any cleaning chemicals going where they do not belong. 21st Century does this by using O-rings which provide a snug fit that protects your trigger, action and pillars while cleaning. The guides are long enough to stick out well beyond the scope which keeps your cleaning rod handle from hitting the scope and they have a cut out for applying solvent or oil to your patches. The 21st Century Chamber Specific Bore Guide are a must have for any serious shooter. www.xxicsi.com/home-keep.html

Bore Tech Cotton Flannel Patches

Bore Tech Cotton Flannel Patches are made with the highest quality, double napped, non-fraying, 100% cotton flannel available. The patches are available in a variety of sizes for both the round or square patch and are proudly made in the USA. Available in resealable bags ranging from of 100 – 1000 quantities, the high quality Bore Tech Cotton Flannel Patches provide maximum solvent absorption giving the serious shooter maximum cleaning ability. www.boretech.com

MTM Case-Gard Gun Cleaning Patch Catcher

The MTM Case-Gard Gun Cleaning Patch Catcher saves your clothes, carpet and anything else from solvent and oil splatter during gun cleaning. Designed to fit .22 caliber up to double barrel shotguns, the Patch Catcher is attached by simply tightening and hooking the strap. No more chemical spray, no more nasty smells and no more patches blowing away at the range. The compact MTM Case-Gard Gun Cleaning Patch Catcher makes clean up a snap and will protect you and your environment whenever you are cleaning your guns. www.mtmcase-gard.com

Tipton Max Force Cleaning Rod

The Tipton Max Force Cleaning Rod has taken one of the best cleaning rods on the market and made it even better. The sliding handle virtually insures you will never bend or break a rod again and allows you to put maximum force on the cleaning rod. Simply push the lever down with your thumb to lock the handle in place and release the handle to slide down the cleaning rod. Available in 2 calibers, when clamped the solvent resistant rod will still rotate freely allowing your brush or patch to follow the lands. Grab a Tipton Max Force Cleaning Rod and feel confident in applying as much force as necessary to push through a barrel. www.btibrands.com/brands/tipton

MTM Case-Gard Portable Rifle Maintenance Center

The MTM Case-Gard Portable Rifle Maintenance Center is an easy and organized way to clean and maintain your rifles. MTM provides a sturdy, easy to clean plastic base and a removable set of rubber over molded forks for holding your rifle during cleaning and repair work. The forks can be stored in the case along with tools and cleaning supplies when not in use. Sliding dust covers protect your equipment and keep it secure on windy days at the range. The MTM Case-Gard Portable Rifle Maintenance Center is a perfect base station for all of your rifle maintenance. www.mtmcase-gard.com