



LSA QUARTERLY



The Louisiana Shooting Association

CONTENTS

- The Art of Smithing - page 3
- The J Frame - page 5
- In the Public Eye - page 6
- Legislative Summary - page 7
- Announcements - page 9

The Art of Smithing



I didn't really know what to expect, but the entire drive up to Tishomingo, Oklahoma was spent knowing that I could only learn more than I already knew. Having never taken a machining lesson, or worked with metal cutting outside of a welding shop, the art of gunsmithing on a vertical mill and lathe was foreign to me. In the past I've stood by while watching Don Geraci thread a barrel and make it appear to be an effortless task worthy of a thought or two, but after attending the NRA summer gunsmithing program at Murray State College I have developed a new-found respect for the precision rifle builders amongst us and the tack drivers they put together!

My intentions of outfitting my home workshop with a lathe and mill suitable for performing my own rifle building has been a thought I've entertained for a couple of years now. My severe lack of experience has left me hesitant and foreign to the idea though. That is until I stumbled upon a program sponsored by the NRA. Murray State College in Tishomingo, Oklahoma offers a full gunsmithing degree and turns out some of the best gunsmiths in the country. During the summer, week-long classes are offered and provide both classroom instruction as well as hands on experience. Experts from all over the country are brought to the college for a week to share their knowledge and ways of the craft. From Brownells coating specialists to the owner of Miller Precision Rifles to established 1911 masters, they all take a turn teaching their specific skill.

The first week of my summer vacation I opted to take "Basic Mill" with Charlie Branch as the instructor. Charlie's vast knowledge of the lathe and mill has been honed for over 34 years as a

machinist for Michelin. Retired now, Charlie maintains the toolroom at the college and teaches in his free time. By the end of the first day I was familiar with all of the safety aspects and controls of the Bridgeport vertical mills we were using and was well on my way to finishing our first project, a 1911 slide jig. By day three I was running the mill quite confidently, had fabricated a 1911 barrel alignment jig, as well as a tailstock spindle bar for use on the lathes. By the end of the week, I added a barrel vise and a Remington 700 action wrench to my list of tools made in class.

For week two I signed up for "Basic Lathe" taught by John Bohon. John has been teaching at the school for over 20 years in metal finishes, stock making, and rifle building as well as the lathe class. The information flowed like a river as he very tactfully tried to incorporate an entire semester worth of information into a five day course. I LOVED IT! By the end of the week we had blasted through lathe safety, grinder safety, tool grinding, lathe operation, abrasives, threading, and the general aspects of turning metal. The South Bend machines we used were easy to understand and made the introduction to this new skill a pleasure. With Charlie's supervision I was very fortunate to spend some time on Grizzly's big gunsmithing lathe since it's the model I'm most likely to purchase. The projects allowed us to work with the more common work holders and cutting tools used such as 3 jaw chucks, 4 jaw chucks, face plates, and how to work between centers. I came away very pleased with the value of the courses.

Brandon Miller is the NRA coordinator as well as a graduate of the program. He is the owner of Miller Precision Rifles and brings a vast array of knowledge to the table in rifle and pistol smithing. Every Thursday he arranged shooting at the range and a catered Bar-B-Q dinner which is worth the price of admission in and of itself! With such great instructors and hosts it was truly a pleasure to spend two weeks of vacation in "school" learning a fading art form. I highly suggest looking at the program and/or getting in touch with Brandon to line up a class or two for next summer if you have any interest in gun smith work. As I did, you may just find the sweet reward in being able to build your own.

Ted Torres

**The NRA Gunsmithing program website and information may be found and downloaded at <http://www.msoc.edu/images/stories/gunsmithing/NRA2011.pdf>

DID YOU KNOW?

Q - Why is .30-06 called .30-06?

A - On October 15, 1906, the Small Arms Board signed off declaring the "Caliber .30 Ball Cartridge, Model 1906" as the U.S. military's official cartridge.

Q - What round was the 1903 Springfield originally chambered to fire?

A - .30-03 - .30-03 was introduced by the famous U.S. arsenal whose name it bears in 1903.

Q - What future president was the only U.S. senator from a Confederate state to remain in Congress after secession?

A - Andrew Johnson

Q - Where did the word "shrapnel" come from?

A - A British second lieutenant who got the idea to fill a canister shell with musket balls and a charge of gunpowder named Sir Henry Shrapnel.

The J Frame

I am always amused by the Chinese curse – “May you live in interesting times” – and we certainly do. America is a nation without precedent with an ever changing population and the lines between “safe” places and “dangerous” places is harder than ever to distinguish. Acknowledging this reality, millions of Americans carry a concealed weapon every day to accompany them - just in case. In my experience, once someone recognizes that there are bad people in their world and that they might need to defend themselves, it is a pretty simple concept to grasp – it is better to have and not need than need and not have.

All that said, carrying a concealed weapon every day isn't as simple as carrying your American Express card. As a pistol competition enthusiast and collector I've tried almost every carry method and many of the popular carry guns on the market. At the end of the day there is one particular gun that still shines, even after six decades of service.

An icon for decades, the Smith & Wesson J Frame is the standard by which all other compact revolvers are judged. In 1950, Smith & Wesson introduced the Model 37, a light weight version of the Chief's Special. Over time the J Frame has evolved and the S&W 642 (15 oz) is probably the most common of the modern J Frames that people carry and it was the first J frame I carried as well. I've since moved on to the even lighter 342 (10.8 oz). A close friend of mine who is a State Trooper with a lifetime of practical experience insisted that I try carrying a lightweight revolver in my front pocket. Not six months later as I was getting gas in New Orleans one evening, three street thugs appeared and that little guy saved my bacon. I didn't even have to pull it out – as soon as I got a grasp on it in my pocket and began my draw, they broke and ran. Since then, I have always carried something in my front pocket. For what it's worth, I've tried many pocket holsters for revolvers, and I've found that the \$10 Uncle Mike's works better than any other but needs to be replaced every couple of years.

Lightweight revolvers are not without some drawbacks. I firmly believe it is critical to actually shoot what you carry and become proficient with your chosen carry weapon. The lightweight 38's are not easy to shoot – it drives me crazy when men force them on their wives, as they aren't fun to shoot and new shooters are particularly unlikely to happily go to the range and work on their skill set with these pocket rockets. Some other concerns can't be ignored. In addition to having a longer learning curve, they are also low capacity and slow to reload.

Many contend the current crop of polymer subcompacts will eventually replace the J Frame. I have been known to carry a polymer subcompact as well, and prefer to when I can dress around the gun. That said they haven't replaced my J Frame yet, and I doubt they ever fully will. The primary reason is that the revolvers are so light, reliable, and easy to carry. A loaded J Frame like the 342 can weigh less than a pound in the pocket. A one pound gun can slip into any pocket from light shorts to loose cut jeans or a suit and virtually disappear. The .38 Special is an adequate defensive round, especially with modern high performance ammunition. My personal preference is Speer 135gr +P Gold Dot. Finally, while luck is no replacement for skill, FBI statistics bear out that 29 out of 30 times the presence of a firearm leads a criminal to seek out easier prey. I would personally never present a firearm unless I believed my life or the life of a loved one was in danger, but it is a truism that if you are forced to do so no one wants to get shot, even by a tiny .38.

If you are that individual who carries a “real gun” every day, without fail, 365 days a year – I congratulate you in your dedication to being prepared should someone try to do you harm. If you aren't that person, I encourage you to go to your local gun shop and try out a lightweight compact .38 in a plain Uncle Mike's pocket holster. You might be surprised how easy it is to carry a readily accessible gun... just in case.

Paul Angrisano

In the Public Eye

In May the LSA was invited to put up a booth at Cabelas Outdoors in Gonzales, Louisiana during their promotion of shooting sports weekend. We were able to sell a few raffle tickets for the Junior shooting programs, and inform many of the outdoor enthusiasts about the interactions and presence that the LSA has in Louisiana shooting sports and politics. Some examples of competition pistols and rifles were on display as well as LSA volunteers who represented a wide cross-section of the different shooting disciplines. Members of the board answered questions, handed out membership forms, and spent two days promoting the organization and the sports we support. All in all it was a successful weekend and you can look forward to seeing the LSA represented at future events such as this one.



2011 Legislative Session Final Firearms Summary

It was another successful year on the legislative front as every Louisiana Shooting Association supported bill except for concealed carry on campus passed and those bills which were opposed by LSA were defeated. But rather than dwell on past successes between now and the start of the next legislative session on March 12, 2012 we need to improve our grassroots response. This is doubly important with the departure of Rep. Ernest Wooton as chairman of the House Administration of Criminal Justice committee since he has been robust and unwavering supporter of firearms rights. We won't know the final composition of this influential committee until next Spring but Rep. Wooton's absence will be noted and we may not be so fortunate to have such another staunch supporter.

For those not familiar with the legislative process, any bill listed below which also includes an "Act" number means that the bill has been signed by the governor though this does not necessarily mean the new law is immediately effective.

HB 8/HSR4 – LaFonta. While appearing on the surface to "only" require an ammunition retailer to compare the serial number of a customer's firearm against an unknown database to confirm that the ammunition being sold will be used in a firearm which has its serial number removed or modified, the bill in effect will prohibit the sale of ammunition. No retailer can ensure the ammo sold will only be used in "clear" firearms unless they retain custody of all of the customer's firearms or simply don't sell ammo. The bill provides for criminal prosecution of retailers who are unable to guarantee this exclusive use of the ammo sold, consequently no retailer will risk such a sale to any party. Opposed by LSA and NRA, the bill was turned into a study request which asks for a report in 2012 on the relationship if any between ammunition sales and crime.

HB 11 – McVea. Would remove the requirement that concealed carry permit holders complete one-half day renewal training course once every five years. Currently the renewal course exposes permit holders to changes in the law since their last training and requires them to demonstrate minimal competency with a handgun through live-fire. The bill was defeated in the House Administration of Criminal Justice Committee.

HB 64/Act 27 – Badon. Allows additional listed "nuisance" animals to be taken without permits around wildlife and crawfish ponds by the landowner. Supported by LSA and NRA, effective August 15, 2011.

HB 169/Act 29 – Henry. Allow those eligible to possess sound suppressors to use them while taking nongame nuisance quadrupeds. Supported by LSA and NRA, effective August 15, 2011.

HB 294/Act 95 – Thibaut. Removes the caliber restriction when taking outlaw quadrupeds, feral hogs, nutria and beaver on one's own land or land for which a person has written permission on their person and it retains the use of night vision devices. The bill was amended in committee to

require notice be given to the sheriff within 24 hours of the proposed taking. The bill was supported by LSA and the NRA, effective August 15, 2011.

HB 413 – Wooton. Would allow for permitted concealed carry at vocational schools, colleges and universities. The bill was defeated in the House Administration of Criminal Justice Committee.

HB 489/Act 242 – Seabaugh. Allows a person who moving to Louisiana to apply for a Louisiana concealed carry permit upon the establishment of domicile in Louisiana. This does away with the former six month delay before an application could be submitted but retains all other training and eligibility requirements. Supported by LSA and NRA, effective August 15, 2011.

SB 39/Act 130 – LaFleur. Repeals an outdated section of Louisiana law and brings state law into conformity with federal law allowing the resident of any state to purchase a long-gun in person from a federal firearms licensee in a face-to-face transaction while in Louisiana. Louisiana sales of handguns would remain limited to Louisiana residents. Supported by LSA and NRA, effective August 15, 2011.

Paul Angrisano is the LSA's grass roots coordinator and can be reached at paulangrisano@gmail.com if you would like any information about participating in either LSA or NRA grass roots matters.

M1 Garand Raffle

All Proceeds Support Junior Shooting Programs in Louisiana



Donations are \$1.00 per Chance at Winning this Rifle!



To obtain raffle tickets, please complete the form, make a check payable to the Louisiana Shooting Association, and mail to:

Louisiana Shooting Association
c/o Jay D. Hunt, Treasurer
350 Quill Ct.
Slidell, LA 70461

Drawing to be Held on **October 15, 2011**
Winner need not be present at drawing to win
Please \$5.00 minimum purchase for mail orders.



M1 GARAND RAFFLE TICKET REQUEST FORM



Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ ST _____ Zip _____

E-mail Address _____

Daytime Phone Number _____

Please send me _____ tickets at \$1.00 per ticket. Total Enclosed \$ _____



The Louisiana Shooting Association

An NRA-Affiliated State Association

Membership Application

Louisiana Shooting Association
c/o Jay D. Hunt
350 Quill Court
Slidell, LA 70461

New Member

Renewal

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City, ST Zip Code _____

E-mail Address _____

Daytime Telephone _____

Evening Telephone _____

FAX _____

PLEASE PRINT!

It is the policy of the LSA to only use E-mail addresses for official, important LSA communication. You will not receive junk mail, offers, jokes, or any other non-essential e-mails from the LSA, nor will you name, address, telephone number, or e-mail address be shared with any outside party.

LSA Number (Renewal, if known) _____

NRA Number (optional) _____

USA Shooting Number (optional) _____

Shooting Club Memberships _____

NEW POLICY: Memberships will be valid for a period of 1 year from the date of application.

Individual: \$10.00/year _____ years

Junior: \$5.00/year _____ years
For those under age 20 only, Date of Birth _____

Individual Life Membership: \$200.00

Club: \$25.00/year _____ years

Club Life Membership: \$250.00

Signature _____

Date _____

Membership Amount	_____
Convenience Fee (3% only if paying by credit card)	_____
Total	_____
Make Check Payable to Louisiana Shooting Association	

Name of Referring Member, if any (PRINT!) _____ _____

Credit Card No.	_____
Expiration Date	_____ CV2 _____
Name on Card	_____
Signature	_____

DID YOU KNOW TIDBITS

If you have any interesting tidbits or little known facts that you'd like to share with the rest of the organization we invite you to submit them for use in following newsletters. Submissions can be emailed to thetedeo25@yahoo.com.

CREATE AN ACCOUNT

If you joined LSA using a paper application form, please go to the LSA website, <http://www.louisianashooting.com> and create an account. By doing so, you will greatly assist the Association's secretary in getting information to you. You will also be sent automatic renewal announcements. You must have an account to join or renew online or to purchase LSA merchandise from the LSA online store.

