

# CARTRIDGE

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 1 JAN. 2023 - MARCH 2023

## HUNTING

THE IDAHO BACKCOUNTRY  
FOR PUBLIC LAND BUCKS

## TEXAS

PANHANDLE  
WHITETAILS

## 2022

HUNTING SEASON  
RECAP

## THE LONGS

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

## DOMINANT DISTANCE

WORLD RECORD HOLDER STAN CUTSFORTH  
GOES ON THE RECORD

## PLUS

NEW FOR 2023 PRODUCTS  
2022 PRS HIGHLIGHTS  
AND MORE

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL  
OF  
PETERSON CARTRIDGE

# THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS



Greetings everyone!

I hope all of you had an enjoyable holiday. All of us here at Cartridge enjoyed some much-needed time with our families and took advantage of the respite to recharge the batteries. But the break's over now and we are back up and running at full speed. This time of year always makes me take pause and look back at what we've accomplished over the past year while also turning an eye to the future and what we have yet to do.

2022 was a big year for us at Peterson Cartridge. Our production numbers were higher than ever. We launched several new calibers, including completing our offerings in the Weatherby and Nosler families. Our 6 Dasher underwent a new revision that has proved to increase accuracy and performance. Our hunting calibers saw a lot of success in the field this past fall. And we added more staff to the growing Peterson family.

As we move into 2023, you'll notice we've made some changes. One of those changes is right here in the Peterson Cartridge newsletter. We've made the decision to go from a monthly issue to a quarterly one. We believe this will allow us to provide our readers with better, more informative and more entertaining content. Our management team felt it was time for us to create a more professional and relevant publication. We've settled on the name "Cartridge" for this journal. Each issue will feature news and events, articles, interviews, and opinions. It will continue to arrive to your inbox, free of charge, via email. We are excited about this new venture, and we sincerely hope you enjoy reading it.

Our journal isn't the only addition for 2023. We've designed and proved out some new tool packs for calibers that many of you have been requesting for quite a while, and we have a few more in development. We are putting some new machinery and procedures in place that will allow us to ramp up production and better meet the demands of our consumers. And we are pleased to announce that beginning this year we will be offering loaded ammo in some of the most popular western big game calibers.

We have set the bar high for ourselves, and we promise to do our best to meet it. We owe all of you nothing less than our very best. With that, I invite all of you to follow along as we head down new paths. Without your continued support and encouragement, neither our journey nor our destination means all that much.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Derek Peterson". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Derek J Peterson





# IN THE NEWS



We are excited to announce that, for 2023, we will be launching a brand new line of loaded ammo designed for western big game hunting and long-range tactical shooting. We will be loading twelve calibers, releasing them as the year progresses. They will be made in small batches to assure the best tolerances possible. This small batch model will also allow us to have greater control over our inventory and delivery times, providing a more consistent in-stock presence..

One of the newest and most highly anticipated cartridges on the market right now is the 7mm PRC. Designed to fill the gap between 6.5 PRC and 300 PRC, the 7 PRC follows in the footsteps of its older brothers. It fires long, heavy for caliber bullets, 160gr to 180gr. The 7 PRC round fits in a standard long action and boasts more consistent velocities and longer barrel life. There is a long list of gun manufactures making the 7 PRC or you have the option of switching out the barrel on your 7mm Rem Mag or .300 Win Mag. The 7 PRC is in development for 2023 at Peterson Cartridge.



6MM ARC



Designed and introduced in 2020, the 6mm Advanced Rifle Cartridge, or 6 ARC for short, was made for the U.S. DoD as a low-recoil, high-accuracy long-range cartridge. The appeal of the 6 ARC is that it uses 6mm bullets known for their high ballistic coefficients and down range energy retention. By doing so, the 6 ARC is able to offer velocities and ballistic performance comparable to larger 6mm cartridges but with less recoil. Watch for the 6 ARC, in development for 2023 from Peterson Cartridge.

Introduced by Remington in 1999, the .300 Remington Ultra Mag, also known as the .300 RUM, is one of the largest commercially available .30 caliber magnums. It is second only to the .30-378 Weatherby Magnum in case capacity. It features a beltless, rebated rim and is capable of handling all North American big game.

“The demand for this cartridge made it impossible to ignore,” explains Derek Peterson, president of Peterson Cartridge. “The growing number of hunters who want to be able to shoot accurately at further distances and bigger game in western settings is growing. We believe this cartridge will fit their needs perfectly. Pick up some for yourself and let us know your thoughts”.



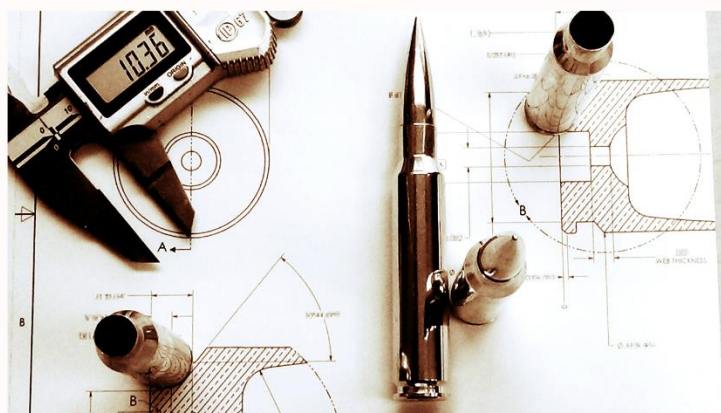
Beginning in 2023, Peterson Cartridge will be coming on board as a season sponsor for the NRL Hunter Series. The calibers used in these competitions and the quality of the competitors make the NRL Hunter Series a perfect partner for Peterson Cartridge. For more information on the NRL Hunter Series visit [www.nrlhunter.org](http://www.nrlhunter.org)



Be sure to pick up the 2023 Tactical Life Complete Book of Reloading and check out the newest article on Peterson Cartridge. It is titled, “The Rise of Peterson Cartridge” by Jay Langston. In it Jay talks about how “Strict precision in manufacturing creates some truly kickass brass”. He also calls out how Derek Peterson’s commitment to consistency and determination has lead to Peterson Cartridge becoming a player in the industry.

# TECH TALK

WITH  
ZACK AND NICK



Peterson .300 Win Mag Long

Rarely does a week go by that we don't get at least one phone call or email asking what the difference is between .300 Win Mag and .300 Win Mag Long. The short answer is that the Long corrects the problem with the standard belted magnum casing.

The long-standing issue, as many may know, with the belted magnum family of cartridges is that they headspace off the belt and not the true shoulder of the case, as most other bottle-necked casings do. Therefore, when they designed the cases to headspace off the belt, they shortened the true length to shoulder dimension relationship between the chamber and the brass case specs by 0.014 instead of the normal .002 to .003. This created the problem that when the casing is fired, instead of just blowing out the shoulder to fit the chamber as was intended, the casing starts stretching at about .100 above the belt. Stretching the case that much, at that junction, causes premature case head separation. This inherent issue with belted magnum casings is well documented. It causes the reloader to get fewer firings from their casings. There are steps you can take to help with this, but most of the damage is done to weaken the case head to body junction in the initial firing.

Derek Peterson, president of Peterson Cartridge, came up with the idea of increasing the true length to shoulder by .011 and creating a "long" case. This allows the "long" case to still chamber as normal in any SAAMI spec .300 Win Mag or 7mm Rem Mag (also available in a Long). This also brings the chamber spec and the casing true length to shoulder relationship back to normal. In doing so, it keeps the case from stretching as much and causing the premature case head separation that is so common in the belted magnum family.

When getting Peterson Cartridge "Long" casings, it is important to NOT full-length size new casings or fired casings back to full length size dimensions. There are two ways to do this. You can use a neck sizing die only or raise the full length die high enough off the shoulder as to not bump it while sizing. On Peterson "Long" casings the shoulder should not be bumped unless chambering a sized casing becomes difficult. If this happens you should bump the shoulder approximately .002 to .003, either with your full length die or a shoulder bump die.

Using Peterson "Long" casings, and sizing them in the manner described above, will dramatically increase case life and the number of firings you will get from your belted magnums.

Happy Shooting,

Zack Moran  
Customer Service Manager



Peterson 7mm Rem Mag Long



# Beyond the Kill

By Craig Gillock

The sweeping views of the Texas Plains can conjure images of big bucks.

When I was a kid, I thought traveling to hunt with an outfitter was the coolest thing you could do. Every fall, my dad and his friends would load up one of their trucks or board an airplane and head off to have glorious adventures in the wilderness of the American west or Canada. I would eagerly await his return, anticipating the pictures and stories from his travels. For me it was like growing up with Chuck Adams or Randy Ulmer. I swore to myself that one day I would have adventures like these of my own. Nearly four decades later I've managed to keep that promise to myself. I've spent most of my adult life making a living in the outdoor industry, and while I may not be as well off financially as if I had become an ophthalmologist or an attorney like my father wanted, it's a life I wouldn't trade for the world.

Given the experience I have with outfitters I can tell you that picking the right one can make or break a hunt. Over the years I've known some truly great guides, men and women who elevated every aspect of the hunt. I've also employed the services of what I will kindly call less than Grade A individuals. A hunt is so much more than the actual kill itself. To be honest, harvesting an animal is the shortest, least involved piece of the experience. A hunt is the travel to and from your destination. It is the conversations shared with traveling companions. It is the meals enjoyed amongst friends, old and new. It is the anticipation of waking up early and wondering what the day will bring. A hunt is a series of events, strung together, that will remain a powerful memory long after the appeal of a new mount wears off and the taste of the meat you put on your plate leaves your lips. My most recent adventure, a whitetail hunt in the panhandle of Texas with my dad, illustrates both of my points perfectly.



The author and his 2023 Texas 8-point.

My father started hunting with Ron Bivens, the owner of Sledgehammer Outfitters, in 2018. His brother and a couple of their friends went with him on that trip. Four of the five came home with bucks and Dad has returned every year since. I had not hunted with Ron before this year, but on our way to New Mexico to hunt mule deer last fall, we made a small detour to have dinner





The author's father, Mike, and his 2023 Texas buck.

with Ron and his family. The meal was delicious, a welcome respite from the twenty-eight hours of driving. And even though Dad was the only one of our party who had ever hunted with Ron, every one of us was made to feel at home.

After we returned from the Land of Enchantment, Dad asked me if I had any interest in hunting with Ron this fall. I'm always up for returning to my roots and going on a good old-fashioned whitetail rifle hunt, so of course I said yes. We phoned Ron, made the arrangements, and waited for hunting season to arrive.

If you're a hunter from Pennsylvania, the week after Thanksgiving is a sacred time. It is the opening of the PA rifle season. It is probably the most requested week off from work every year.

Hunting camps that sit dark and empty from January through October spring to life as the "Orange Army" assembles. Past hunting tales are told around tables covered with decks of playing cards, while an ever-present pot of chili simmers on the stove. Schools are closed and sleepy little mountain towns temporarily turn into bustling metropolises. It's deer season, and it's a tradition that reaches back generations.

That's why, when I woke up on the final Friday morning of November, it felt surreal that I wasn't headed to the mountains of my home state. Instead, I had my Silverado loaded down with coolers and two sets of hunting gear, following my GPS as it guided me west on Interstate 70, bound for Texas.

We made it from Pittsburgh to Oklahoma City our first day, with only a few stops for fuel and a quick dinner at a Golden Corral in Illinois (Dad never has been one to pass up a good buffet). The drive was long but enjoyable. In the way life does, mine has become very busy and I don't get to talk with my father as much as I used to. This trip allowed me to rectify that for a few days. After a good night's sleep, we jumped back in the truck and finished the drive to Amarillo under wet, cloudy skies. Our reward for making it there by noon was a 42oz ribeye from the Big Texan Steak Ranch, home of the 72oz Steak Challenge. If you've never seen someone take on this feast of meat, potatoes, and bread then you haven't witnessed one of life's great spectacles. I am a large man and I've shied away from it both times I've been there. Honestly, I'm a little embarrassed by that and I don't want to talk about it.

We finished our meal, somehow managed to waddle back to the truck, and drive the rest of the way to Hedley. Ron was waiting for us when we pulled in and helped us unload the truck and get our stuff into the lodge. Before we even had a chance to unpack, Ron told us he had some good bucks on camera at his two closest farms and if we hurried, we could be on stand to hunt the last hour of the day. You don't tell my dad he has a chance to squeeze in a little extra



Hunting the Texas Panhandle can mean sitting for hours and watching nothing but wide open country





When hunting terrain like this you constantly need to utilize your optics. Deer can appear seemingly out of nowhere.

hunting time and think he's not going to take you up on it. We were changed and out the door in twenty minutes.

Dad got dropped off first. It was a farm and a stand he had hunted before. My destination that evening was a small box blind positioned above a wooded creek bottom, overlooking a small pond and an expansive alfalfa field. Now, when I say small, I do mean small. When I sat down on the folding chair in the blind the shooting window was at chest level, forcing me to sit bent over to look out of it. Fortunately, I didn't have to sit there very long. About ten minutes before last light, I caught movement in the brush that lined the right



Signs of success.

side of the field. Even at a distance of a hundred and eighty-three yards I could tell that it was a buck. I just wanted to verify how good of a buck. It's for times exactly like this that I always recommend you spend as much money as you can afford and buy the best optics your budget allows. Clarity and light-gathering ability in low-light conditions, such as right after dawn and just before dusk when game is most active, can be the difference between a punched tag and a missed opportunity.

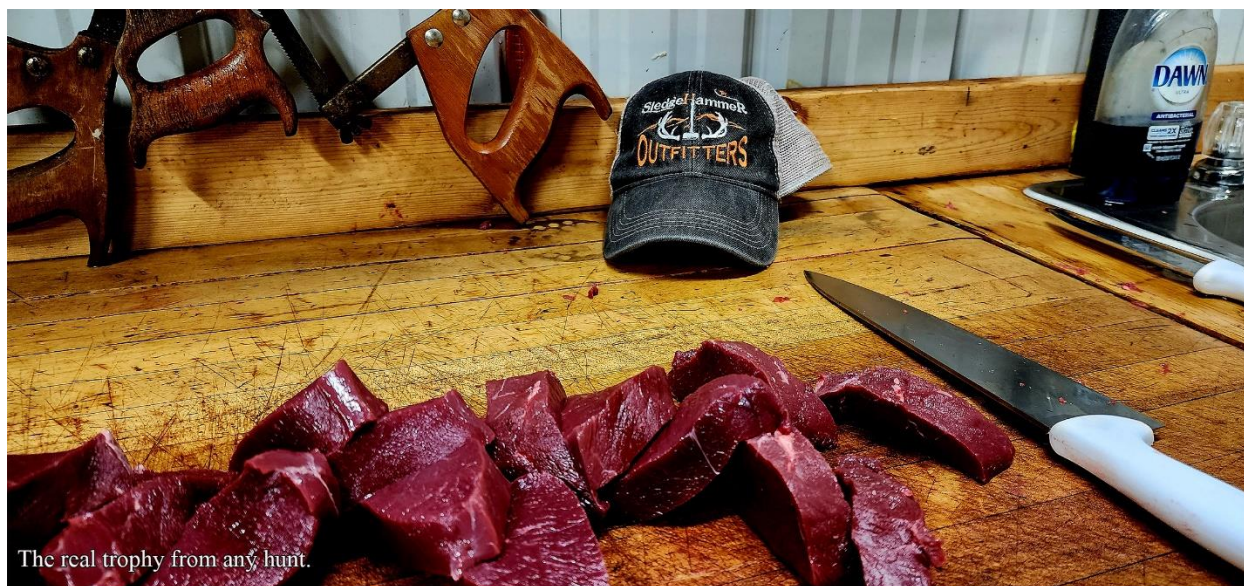
A quick study through my binoculars showed me that this guy fit the bill. I had already decided I wouldn't be able to shoot from the chair. My plan was to fold the chair, lean it against the wall, and shoot from my knees. The only hitch in my plan was that I had to get through all of it without alerting the buck to my presence. The blind concealed most of my movement, but in the agricultural fields of the Texas panhandle, if there's no wind, noise is always a concern.

I got the chair folded up just fine but when I leaned it up against the wall the legs slid slightly on the plywood floor. In an office or sitting at home watching TV the sound would have been inaudible. But here, with only alfalfa and a few pear thickets for thousands of yards in any direction, it sounded like a big rig riding its jake break down a hill through a suburban neighborhood at 3am. The buck went on alert, and I cursed myself for being so careless.

For the next few minutes neither of us moved. He stood staring at my blind while I knelt on the floor, waiting for the opportunity to slide my rifle out the window. The buck finally made a fatal mistake when he allowed his stomach to get the better of him and he went back to grazing. That was my cue. I positioned my rifle and tried to settle the crosshairs. I'd like to say that my hold was steady but that would be a lie. A big buck walking in front of me still gets me excited and I had to force myself to calm down. I got my nerves under control, aimed, and squeezed the trigger.

The buck took off in a dead sprint, headed straight away from me. He disappeared over a small rise in the landscape and doubt immediately settled in on me. I texted Ron, telling him what happened, then began to gather up my things. Ron texted back right away. He was parked at the barn back by the road and had watched the whole thing unfold. A few minutes later I was standing outside the blind watching Ron pull up in his truck. We did a quick search of





The real trophy from any hunt.

the area where the buck had been standing. We found some hair, blood, and a few chunks of bone and tissue but it was now dark, and Dad would be waiting to get picked up. We decided to give the buck some time, go retrieve Dad, then come back and resume our search.

Another thing you should know about Dad is that he loves his toys, gadgets, and gizmos. When we got back to where we had found last blood, he proudly produced a thermal blood tracker and put it to work. Dad and I began following his tracker while Ron went to check out a trail he said the deer like to run. The tracker was working but less than a minute later Ron called out that he had found the buck. I hurried to his location, anxious to get my hands on my deer.

The buck was a tall, massy eight point. By no means was he the biggest buck I've ever taken but I was thrilled. That's one of the great things about hunting, if you do it because you genuinely love the chase and the experience then the size of your harvest never truly matters. The rest of the evening was spent field-dressing and preparing the deer for processing. The next day, while Dad was hunting, Ron and I finished taking care of the deer and tackled a few chores back at camp. Dad tagged out that evening with an eight point of his own and the whole process started again. That was it. Less than twenty-four hours after arriving the actual hunting was done.

We finished Dad's buck around noon the following day. Once the work was done, Ron invited us to go out to dinner with he and his family. We were treated to some mouth-watering barbeque and got to go shopping at an honest to God real cowboy boot store. What could be more Texas than that?

We spent a couple more days with Ron, just relaxing and helping him get ready for the next group of hunters he had coming in. I know this last part doesn't have much to do with hunting, but it illustrates the points I was making at the beginning of this article My hunt lasted less than an hour, Dad's less than a full day.

Ron could have let us leave or sit around camp with nothing to do but watch TV, but that's not the kind of guy he is. He made sure that our time with Sledgehammer Outfitters was fun and full of experiences. Thanks to him, and the time I got to spend with my father, the week away from home and the Pennsylvania hunting traditions I'd grown up with will be a time I shall always remember with a smile. - CG



Backstraps for days.



## 2022 HUNTING SEASON RECAP

Well it's January, the start of a new year. It is a time when people start to think about new possibilities and new beginnings. But for those of us who call ourselves hunters, January signals the end of another season afield. As this year closes, we at Peterson Cartridge would like to take a look back at the 2022 hunting season.

Over the past twelve months hunters using Peterson Cartridge brass and ammunition have taken whitetails, mule deer, elk, black bear, caribou, axis deer, and predators. They've hunted everywhere from the bogs of Newfoundland to the high desert of New Mexico. They climbed mountains in Idaho and stalked the hardwood ridges of Pennsylvania. No matter the location or the game they were pursuing, we are very proud of the fact that they chose to take Peterson Cartridge with them.



Chrystal Watts



Mike Gillock



Doug Dearinger



Mason Mushaney



Chrystal Watts



Bart Van Der Stappen



Mason Mushaney



Zack Moran



Tye Loy



Chrystal Watts



Brady Oldfield



Bart Van Der Stappen



Bob McCord



Gaitlin Cooke



Chrystal Watts



Mike Gillock



Chrystal Watts



Greg Claypoole



Doug Dearinger



Bart Van Der Stappen



Hannah Claypoole



Blake &amp; Jase Popelas



Hunter Claypoole



# PUBLIC LAND PURSUIT

BY CRAIG GILLOCK



The views from the top of Black Mountain can be awe-inspiring

Sometimes things just don't work out. You can plan in detail. You can study maps, stake out water sources, and glass for days. And still, sometimes things just don't work out. Hunting public land in the western United States is one of the most challenging endeavors a hunter can undertake, especially if you live half a continent away and the only scouting you can do is with OnX or a similar app. No amount of e-scouting can replace being there with boots on the ground. A treadmill or elliptical machine cannot adequately prepare you to haul yourself and your gear up the side of a mountain that is trying its best to keep you at the bottom. Loose rocks, thick brush, ankle-busting holes, and steep, lung shredding inclines await you on your journey to a good glassing spot. Even if you do reach your elevated observation perch there's no guarantee you will see anything. String together more than a couple days like this and it starts to take a toll on you, physically and emotionally. But does that mean you should stay home and save yourself the aggravation? Hell no! Public land hunting can be grueling, but it can also be very rewarding. And if you only measure success on a hunt by whether or not you make a kill, you're missing a major reason for hunting.

When Aaron Kochick, the General Manager here at Peterson, first approached me about wanting to go on a western mule deer hunt my thoughts immediately turned to Idaho. I know quite a few guys who have hunted there, some have harvested an animal, some have not. All of them return home and start to plan their return trip. I had not hunted Idaho, and Aaron had only hunted here in Pennsylvania, but my father and my cousin had, so I turned to them for some advice. Both

provided me guidance on which units to consider, how to apply for the tags, and various waypoints on OnX. With that information at hand, Aaron and I began to plan our hunt.

Not long into the process, two of our coworkers asked about joining us. We readily agreed and resumed our planning, now for four instead of two. A few weeks later we were going over some things for the trip when the question was asked, what was the likelihood of all four of us drawing a tag for the same unit. We discussed it and decided that we should look for a hunt that was a guaranteed over-the-counter tag. We settled on a Colorado elk hunt during the second rifle season. We shifted gears and for the next few months we studied everything we could about hunting OTC in Colorado. We looked at success rates, animal population figures, accessible public land, migration patterns. If it was able to be looked up, we looked it up. We felt prepared. We felt confident. Then life delivered our group a kidney punch. One of our guys had a major home repair come out of nowhere and less than two weeks later we lost our other companion when his wife informed him they would be otherwise engaged during that same time.



Just another autumn morning in Idaho.





Aaron and I discussed it and thought about canceling the trip. The loss of the other two meant all the expenses would now be split two ways

instead of four. Kind of a hard pill to swallow so close to when you were planning to leave. I was on the phone with my dad a couple days later and explained what happened. He suggested we try to get tags in Idaho's second chance lottery and go back to our original plan. If we got drawn, we could go with he and my cousin. Aaron and I spoke to Phil Snoke, one of our cell operators, who had expressed interest in joining us. He still wanted to, so three days later we logged into the Idaho Department of Fish and Game's website hoping to draw a low enough number to buy a leftover tag.

Idaho has a good system in place when it comes to purchasing a tag to hunt deer or elk. The general application deadline is the 1st of December in the year prior to when you want to hunt. If you want to hunt in the fall of 2023, you could buy your tags starting December 1st, 2022. When the tags first go on sale they are over the counter and sold on a first come, first served basis. If you are a non-resident, however, there are a limited number of tags available. If they sell out you must wait until the following August to enter the leftover tag sale. You're probably asking how can there be a leftover tag sale if all the tags sold out in December? Well, this is where I feel Idaho does a great job of supporting out-of-state hunters. Every year, the state sets aside a certain number of tags for outfitters. These are for the outfitters to use if they book a client or clients who didn't get a tag in the December sale. As the fall hunting season approaches the outfitters must return any of their unsold tags. The state then puts these licenses up for grabs in the leftover sale. Additionally, anyone who did purchase a tag but can no longer use it, for whatever reason, can also return it to the state and it gets put in the leftover sale.

August 4th, 2022 found Aaron and I sitting in a conference room at Peterson HQ and Phil at home, waiting for our turn in the leftover tag queue. Phil and Aaron both drew low numbers, they were sure to get a tag. I drew in the three thousands. I didn't have much hope for my odds. I was still going to go on the trip, I would just serve in the role of photographer and camp cook, not hunter. The gods of the hunt smiled down on me, however, and I did manage to get a tag. We were set. We all had our license, my dad was booking our lodging, and come October we would be headed to Idaho.

The day of our departure took forever to get here, yet somehow arrived before we knew it. We all met at Phil's

house before dawn, loaded Arron's Tacoma, and hit the interstate. It was two very long days of driving, with an overnight stop in Lincoln, Nebraska, but when we saw our first mule deer as we were pulling out of the parking lot of a little diner in Pinedale, Wyoming, we forgot about how tired we were. We drove the remaining few hours to camp, excited and joking around, filled with anticipation of what the next week would bring.

My dad and my cousin, George, had driven out a few days ahead of us so when we pulled into our cabin at the Rockin M Ranch they had everything set up and ready to go. All we had to do was unpack our things and sit down to dinner. We spent the next couple days scouting the area. Dad and George showed us a few spots and we made our plans for opening day.

As the sun crept over Black Mountain and chased away the darkness covering the valley I had decided to glass that first morning, I found myself sitting at an old campsite my dad called "The Lookout". There was still an old stone fire ring on the ground and a couple of weathered benches. I was informed that one of the local ranches offers horseback trips and will sometimes use this place to stop for lunch. I understood why my dad named it what he did and why the horse riders would pause here, the view was magnificent. Three different drainages came down the mountain and converged on two aspen and fir lined valleys. One valley lead straight away from me for several thousand yards, climbing to a saddle on one of the small ridges that ran perpendicular to Black Mountain. The other valley lead further down the mountain and served as the pathway for a small, beaver-pond-fed stream that wove its way to the Salt River. If ever there were a place you could expect to see high alpine mule deer, this was it.

The morning air was frigid and more than once I thought about trying to find some wood to get a small fire going. I liked the spot I was in and intended to stay there until at least lunch. Sometime around 9:00, I thought I caught movement in the saddle at the other end of the valley. I pulled up my bins and scanned the area. At first, I didn't see anything and







The author watched this bull work his cows down a chute for most of the morning.

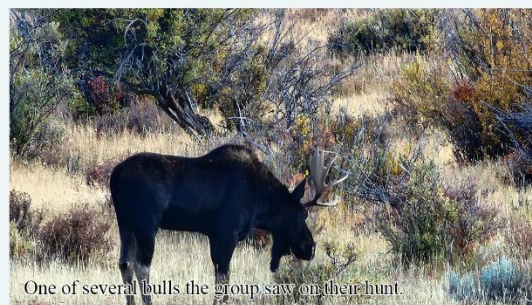
figured my eyes were playing tricks on me. Just as I was ready to put down the binoculars a cow elk stepped out of the timber lining the right side of the valley. Then another joined her, and another. Soon, there was a sizable herd of elk feeding their way down to the pond. I kept looking for a bull. Surely there had to be a herd bull or at least one or two satellite raghorns. Then I heard it. It was barely audible above the wind but there was no mistaking the sound. A bugle had made its way to me, and somewhere in the dark cover of the fir trees, a bull was hiding.

I know I wasn't here to hunt elk, but I challenge anyone who's ever hunted out west to ignore an elk herd when they step into the open to feed and warm themselves after a cold night in the mountains. Half an hour later the bull stepped from the trees. His hesitation had allowed me to get the spotting scope set up. He was a good bull. Not a monster by any means, but had I been elk hunting it would have been game on. I watched the elk for the remainder of the morning. The bull would run the herd into the trees then some cows would feed their way back into the meadow. The bull would then trot out and move the herd again. They were the only wildlife I saw that morning. When I got up to go meet my dad and cousin for lunch, they were still running the floor of the valley, unaware of the hunters who had invaded their domain.

That afternoon passed without anything of note happening, as did the next morning. Aaron and Phil had caught a glimpse of something moving through the trees

while they were hiking up the trail that ran along Squaw Creek, but it was out of sight before they could get a good look at it. We had been putting ourselves in good positions and the area we were in definitely looked like mule deer country. We just weren't seeing any mule deer. On the afternoon of day 2 Dad, George, and I decided to drive to the other side of our hunt unit and try our luck there. Aaron and Phil elected to hunt the ridge on the opposite side of the national forest road from where they had been hunting. No one saw any deer, but Aaron and Phil did get a close look at a monster Shiras bull moose.

George hiked back into a remote meadow the next morning and had an encounter with two small bucks locked in battle. He watched them for a few minutes before deciding to let them go about their business. Aaron and Phil saw four bucks that evening, one of



One of several bulls the group saw on their hunt.



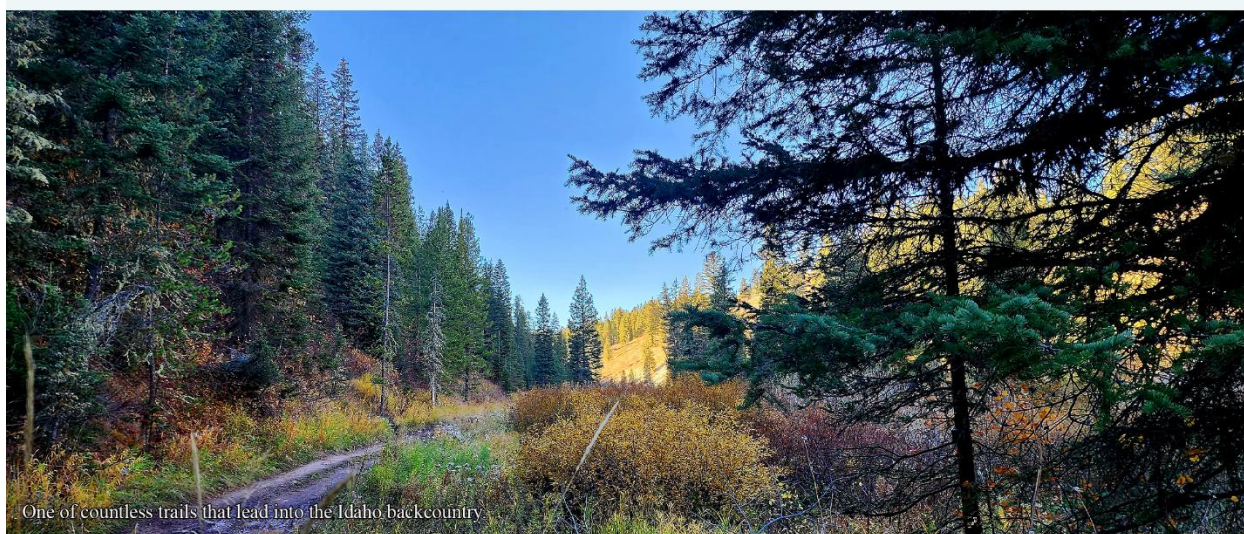


Meadows and views like this one are the norm when hunting in Unit 667A.

which was undoubtedly a shooter. The problem, however, was that all four were smack dab in the middle of several hundred acres of private property. Things didn't get any better over the next few days and the lack of deer was starting to take a toll psychologically. It's not easy to convince yourself to get out of bed and go climb a mountain when all you're seeing is trees and animals you don't have a tag for. I'd like to say things worked out in the end and we brought some meat home in the cooler and at least one set of antlers strapped down in the back of the truck, but it wasn't in the cards this trip.

Some people would argue that this hunt was a bust, but I'm not one of them. Neither are the guys I went hunting with. Granted we didn't harvest any animals, but we shared an adventure and we got to spend a week in some

beautiful country. My co-workers and I got to spend some time together as friends without having to worry about the daily stresses of our jobs. And based on the conversations I've had with Aaron since we got home, this trip lit a fire inside of him that I suspect will fuel a desire to return to wild places like this for years to come. Isn't that one of the things that we hope for as hunters, to share our passion for the outdoors with others and hope that they feel that same energy. That's how hunting turns into tradition and continues to exist in a society that more and more often tells us what we do is barbaric and that it needs to be stopped. When you take that into account and add to it all the laughter that was shared, and the memories that were created, I would say that harvesting an animal had very little to do with how you should measure success. - CG



One of countless trails that lead into the Idaho backcountry



# ON THE RANGE WITH PETERSON



The 2022 PRS Finale was held on November 5-6 at the K&M Precision Rifle Training Complex in Finger, TN. Peterson Cartridge was excited to once again be one of the on-site vendors for the event. We were also pleased to see so many of our customers join our factory shooters at the range.



PRECISIONRIFLE SERIES		K&M KAHLES	
2023 PRS PRO SERIES SCHEDULE			
JAN 20	LEUPOLD STEEL CLASSIC	JUN 9	HOOBOON PUNISHER POSITIONAL
FEB 03	HOT FROSTBITE	JUN 15	TWISTED BARREL SCORCHER
FEB 25	FRONTLINE FURY	JUN 15	THE STEEL CHALLENGE
MAR 6	SNAKE RIVER STANDOFF	JUN 22	SHEEPDOG SHOWDOWN
MAR 6	CLAY'S CARTRIDGE CO.	JUN 22	BLUE MOUNTAIN PRECISION
MAR 14	HOKA SPRING SHOOTOUT	JUN 26	GREAT LAKES STEEL CHALLENGE
MAR 16	CENTRAL COAST CHAOS	JUN 26	OKIE SUMMER SHOWDOWN
MAR 25	WSPC BIFLEMAN'S REVIVAL	JUN 26	PETERSON CARTRIDGE CHALL.
APR 6	BOYD THE LLC BOX CANYON	JUN 26	ICGS RUMBLE
APR 15	HORNERS-RUGER PRC	JUN 26	HANNING RANGELAND MELTDOWN
APR 22	ALABAMA PRC	JUN 26	IMPACT FOUNDATION PRC
APR 29	LEUPOLD BEST IN TEXAS	JUL 2	ALPHA MUNITIONS HUT CRASHER
MAY 6	OKIE SPRING SHOWDOWN	JUL 2	W.A.R. RIFLES SHOOTOUT
MAY 6	VORTEX VENGEANCE	JUL 2	MEAFORD LR STEEL CHALLENGE
MAY 13	FEDERAL KING OF COAL CANYON	JUL 2	FEDERAL GOLD MEDAL MATCH
MAY 20	PARMA PR RUMBLE	JUL 2	ROAD TO REDEMPTION
MAY 27	K&M KAHLES PRC	JUL 2	THE LEAD FARM BARREL BURNER
JUN 3	PIGG RIVER PRECISION H.A.M.	JUL 2	BUSHNELL GAP GROUND PROGRAM
JUN 10	SAC BLUE RIDGE RUMBLE	JUL 7	CA SHARPSHOOTER SHOWDOWN
JUN 23	HORNADY PRC	JUL 7	MPA FALL SHOOTOUT
JUL 8	CANADIAN SHARPSHOOTER	JUL 7	PRS PRO SERIES FINALE

We are also pleased to announce that for the 2023 season, the Peterson Challenge, held on August 12th and 13th at MKM Precision in Kennerdell, PA, will be an AG Cup and PRS Pro Series qualifier. More details about the event and how you can register will be coming soon. Keep checking the Peterson Cartridge Facebook page for updates.



# TWENTY QUESTIONS

WITH

## STAN CUTSFORTH

ELR Shooter and #2 Finisher in the 2023 King of 2 Mile



Stan (left) and Spotter John Snodgrass with their ELR World Record trophy.

**PC: WHAT GOT YOU STARTED IN THE LONG-RANGE SHOOTING SPORTS?**

SC: Just a hand full of friends shooting our hunting rifles and pushing the limits on them because we couldn't get very close to the bucks during hunting season. Where we live the bucks seem to run from hillside to hillside and they just keep going, so we were taking our shooting level to new distances. Then one of my buddies and teammate, Kasey Jones, said we should build some long-range rifles and go shoot with the guys in ELR. Within about 3 months we had built our 1st ELR rifles chambered by Tanner at Eastern Oregon Cerakote and Gunsmithing in a 375 Lunatic. That's when the ELR world started for us.

**PC: WHAT DREW YOU TO PETERSON CARTRIDGE BRASS?**

SC: Peterson brass makes the best 375 CheyTac brass on the market and with us blowing out the cases to a 375 lunatic it was the only brass on the market that we wanted to use! I had used their brass in the past and I truly get more reloads and better SD's/ES's with their brass than any other brass I have used.

**PC: HOW IMPORTANT DO YOU THINK IT IS TO USE QUALITY BRASS?**

SC: Brass is very important, especially in this game. You must have consistency in your brass to be able to even try and attempt to hit a target past 2500 yards or so. You need very low, single digit SD's (1-3 range if possible). This all comes down to wall thickness, necks, primer pockets etc. You get all that with Peterson brass.

**PC: WHAT CALIBERS DO YOU USE?**

SC: I'm now using a 33XC and 338 Lapua for the light class. Followed by 375 CheyTac and 416 Hellfire for Heavy class.

**PC: WITH ALL THE ANTI-GUN, ANTI-HUNTING SENTIMENT IN MODERN U.S. CULTURE, DO YOU EVER FACE CHALLENGES FROM THESE GROUPS? HOW DO YOU HANDLE IT?**

SC: This one is very touchy. You get some real jerks and then you get some that just ask questions and say, "Well whatever works for you". I like the ones that think it's awesome and want to hear about it. For the others, I just try to answer the questions they ask and then hold my tongue on the rest.

**PC: IF YOU DIDN'T COMPETE IN LONG-DISTANCE COMPETITIONS, WHAT OTHER SPORT DO YOU THINK WOULD OCCUPY YOUR TIME?**

SC: We are a very busy family with 3 girls ranging from 10 to 19. They play sports, hunt, and shoot competitions with me. I would say I would do more sportsman's challenge shoots and NRL hunter competitions with my kids.



Stan prepping for his next shot.





Stan selecting the next round to load in his rifle.

**PC: WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR BEST DAY BEHIND THE TRIGGER? WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR WORST?**

SC: I would have to say one of my best days behind the trigger was Raton, New Mexico's Spring Canyon ELR match 2022, finishing 1st place and breaking the ELR Central world record. One of my worst days was Ringneck ELR in Kansas. I just couldn't hit the plate. I was all over them, just couldn't get anything to connect.

**PC: I KNOW YOU GET YOUR DAUGHTER INVOLVED IN HUNTING, ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT HAVING HER FOLLOW IN YOUR FOOTSTEPS IN ELR?**

SC: All three of my daughters and my wife love hunting and shooting, I have taken my middle-aged daughter Morgan to King of 2 Mile with me, and she has competed in a few shoots doing very well. She really likes competing. I plan on having her compete in a few ELR shoots this year and hopefully we can get that going. I think my little one, Paisley, is going to want to do it also. While my oldest Alexis is at college now, she has the best hunting shot in the family at 1008 yards on her bull elk right in the heart! She didn't get the chance to go to shoots with me, but I know she would love to do it also.

**PC: DOES THE CIRCUMSTANCE EVER ARISE WHERE YOU MUST CHOOSE BETWEEN COMPETING AND HUNTING? WHICH WAY DO YOU USUALLY LEAN?**

SC: Not really. We go hunting as a family, so it comes first. I do have some hard times with making shoots during the year due to kids sports and missing out on family time. There are shoots I would really like to make but most of time I can find a different shoot to make and not miss out on family stuff.

**PC: WHAT ARE SOME THINGS YOU WISH YOU HAD KNOWN BEFORE GETTING INTO THIS SPORT?**

SC: All of it, hahaha! Just being relaxed and keeping everything that you do when you shoot, the same each time you squeeze the trigger.





Lining up your shot is critical in ELR.

**PC: HOW DID LAST SEASON PLAY OUT FOR YOU?**

SC: Last season went very good for me. I placed in the top 5 in all the shoots I went to with four 1st, two 2nd place, including KO2M and 5th at our “Best of the West” shoot we put on each year.

**PC: I KNOW YOU SET A FEW RECORDS LAST YEAR, TELL ME A LITTLE ABOUT THEM.**

SC: I was lucky enough to break the ELR Central world record with the help of my spotter John Snodgrass and good friend Walker Daugherty. This was 3 consecutive shots from a cold bore rifle at a distance of 2560 yards. During that shoot I also had 1st and 4th round impact at 3700 yards. I believe I’m still the only ELR shooter with a 1st round impact at that distance.

**PC: WHAT IS THE ONE PIECE OF EQUIPMENT, OTHER THAN YOUR RIFLE, THAT YOU ABSOLUTELY CANNOT DO WITHOUT?**

SC: Other than rifle, scope, bipod and adjustable bag rider I would say the most important piece is the AB Ballistics program! It doesn’t matter what device you have it on, this program along with a personalized drag model from AB is a must have in my book. I now use the Applied Ballistics on my Garmin Tactix 7.

**PC: HOW FAR DO YOU TYPICALLY TRAVEL TO COMPETE?**

SC: Besides the “Best of the West” shoot that we put on, its about a 20 + hr drive or I have to fly to all other shoots out there.

**PC: WHAT EVENT HAS BEEN YOUR FAVORITE?**

SC: It’s hard to say, but I would have to pick Raton Spring Canyon. That range is just something else. I love them all, from the Castle in Texas, Spearpoint in Kansas, Sand Creek, Georgia, and Poke the Bear in Virginia. They are all so much fun!

**PC: DOES ALL THE TRAVEL EVER CAUSE STRESS FOR YOU WITH YOUR FAMILY OR WORK? HOW DO YOU DEAL WITH IT?**

SC: Yes, it does. I have you be very selective on the shoots that I want to go to. I only have so much vacation time and with working a rotating shift at the power plant I have to pick the shoots that fall on my days off or the ones where I can minimize the use of my vacation time. I also have some times during the year I just can’t take time off or can’t leave the home life.

**PC: WHERE DO YOU SEE ELR BEING IN FIVE YEARS? WHAT ROLE DO YOU SEE YOURSELF PLAYING IN THE FUTURE OF ELR?**

SC: I hope to still be shooting in it but if the economy keeps going the way it is I don’t see the sport getting to grow much in the Heavy class. I can see the Light class getting a little more attention due to cost.

**PC: ARE THERE ANY OTHER DISCIPLINES OF COMPETITIVE SHOOTING YOU’VE THOUGHT ABOUT PARTICIPATING IN? WHY OR WHY NOT?**

SC: NRL Hunter and Sportsman Challenge. I have shot in the Sportsman Challenge and really like it. I would love to get a chance to go with friends and have some fun shooting the NRL matches. We have a pretty good selection of NRL matches on the west side of the country.

**PC: HOW IMPORTANT DO YOU THINK IT IS TO RELOAD VERSUS BUY FACTORY AMMO? IS THERE ANY FACTORY AMMO YOU WOULD CONSIDER USING?**

SC: For ELR shooting its reloaded ammo all day. The only one out there I know of that makes factory ammo that I would try in the ELR



Stan (right) and his teammate Kasey Jones.





Stan (top) giving advice on an upcoming shot.

world is Peterson. I have tested their 375 CheyTac ammo and its very good. But other than that, NO I would not attempt or use factory ammo.

**PC: WHAT CALIBERS WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE PETERSON DEVELOP?**

SC: 416 Hellfire, 375 Hellfire, 416 Vestal & 458 Vestal. Would like to see the Hellfire line. It's getting very popular.



Stan (left) and teammate Kasey Jones at the 2023 Ko2M match.



# THE CASING AT HAND



“Children are the future of our sport”. “Women are the future of our sport”. These are two statements that get muttered so often in any discussion dealing with the future of the shooting sports that they now border on being cliché. However, there is a legitimate reason they get said so frequently, they are both true.

Fifty years ago, 10% of Americans participated in the shooting sports. Today that number has fallen to around 5%. Several key indicators have been identified as probable causes for this trend. They include a changing view of hunting being cruel,

an aging population that grew up being active in the outdoors, and a rising concern over gun control by those between ages 13-35. There are certainly facts to back up these claims. According to Statista, a leading research firm that gathers insights and facts across 170 industries in over 150 countries, the number of U.S. citizens that annually engage in hunting and target shooting has remained fairly consistent over the past two decades at around 15 million. The concerning figure in their findings, however, is that the largest group of individuals who participate are between the ages of 55 – 65 while the smallest are between the ages of 17-24. The concerning part of numbers is that after age 65 the number of people who participate begins to drop off dramatically due to factors such as physical limitations, health issues, and death. And with fewer kids getting involved there is no one to replace them.



Why is this important? Why make such a big push to protect the shooting sports? Some would argue that not doing so would erase centuries of American tradition. Others would say that the resulting lack of game management would cause disease to endanger wildlife populations. And another group would claim that a drop in the numbers of Americans participating in the shooting sports would lead to making the 2nd Amendment even more vulnerable to attack from those groups that want to see it repealed.

These figures have led many companies in the outdoor industry to adopt what are called the R3 approach to solving this problem. R3 stands for recruitment, retention, and reactivation. A study conducted by the National Shooting Sports Foundation found that of the roughly 100 million gunowners in the United States, less than half participate in the shooting sports. That same study shows that fear of learning a new skill on their own is the largest obstacle to more people getting involved in these activities. This has led to the creation of the “Let’s Go Hunting” and “+One” initiatives. Both of these programs are aimed, no pun intended, at getting hunters and shooters to introduce someone new to the sport as often as they can. The hope is that by exposing them to our industry, we can remove some of the stigma associated with guns and hunting.



The good news is that these efforts seem to be working. Over 40 states have now passed apprentice license laws which allow a licensed hunter to take a youth hunting at little to no cost and at an age when they may still be too young to obtain a license of their own. Since these programs were initiated over 2 million of these licenses have been sold. In a 2022 special report on Hunting and the Shooting Sports presented by the Council to Advance Hunting and the Shooting Sports and the Outdoor Foundation, 6% of the U.S. population ages 6 and over went hunting at least once in 2021. During that same time 2% of that same demographic participated in competitive shooting activities at least once. In each case, the largest increase in participation was with women. Twenty-seven percent of the participants who hunted were women, up from 16% ten years ago. In competitive shooting the number rose from 25% to 32%.



These numbers give us cause for hope, but we have to keep pushing to maintain this momentum. Recruiting new participants, regardless of age or sex helps to grow our numbers. Retention ensures that as we lose members of our community someone is waiting to fill the void left in their absence. Reactivation encourages those who may have left for one reason or another to become involved again. At a time when society doesn’t hold hunters and shooters in the highest regard, the more people we can bring over to our side, the better chance we have of protecting the sport we love and preserving it for the generations to come. - CG



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