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Citizens Association for Responsible Gun Ownership = CARGO

www.cargogunclub.org

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Hello Fellow CARGO Members,

The next meeting will be held at Community BBQ on Thursday, January 16th.

Community BBQ
7010 TX-78
Sachse, TX 75048

For the dinner portion of the meeting, we will be in the meeting room between 5:30 and 6:15 for food and fellowship.

The meeting will begin at 6:15 PM and run until about 8:00.

Under the Texas Open Carry Law, you could be committing an offense if you remove your pistol from its holster while open carrying. While at Community BBQ, DO NOT remove your pistol from its holster unless it is an emergency.

Gun topics for this month:

Get something new for Christmas? Please share any gun, knife, open or concealed carry related that you got for Christmas (this year, last year or 50 years ago).

With all of the anti-2nd amendment rhetoric threats of firearms owner registration, confiscation and even direct threats against firearms owners coming from all sides, what options would we have left?

Please bring anything that you think might pass the California or Virginia laws of the future. Revolvers, bolt, pump and lever actions, single shot etc.

We are in the southern most meeting room, please bring in all firearms in cases through the southernmost door at the side of the building. We want to make as little disturbance as possible.

Jim Grant - December 06, 2019



Source: Jim Grant

In response to the wave of proposed anti-gun legislation in Virginia, many of its cities and counties have declared themselves Second Amendment Sanctuaries. One county, in particular, took it a step further at their [December 3rd County Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting](#).

In addition to passing their Second Amendment Sanctuary Resolution, the county also passed a Militia Resolution. This resolution formalizes the creation, and maintenance of a defacto civilian militia in the county of Tazewell. And to get a better understanding why the council members passed this resolution, *Firearms News* reached out to one of its members, Thomas Lester. Mr. Lester is a member of the council, as well as a professor of American History and Political Science.

Firearms News: *Councilman Lester, what are the reasons behind passing this new resolution, and what does it mean for the people of Tazewell County?*

Tom Lester: *We understand the implications of this new resolution are potentially enormous, but we also understand the political importance of making the county a Second Amendment Sanctuary.*

Declaring our county a Second Amendment Sanctuary is a great first step, however, Virginia is unique because of its constitution. Under Article 1 section 13 of the VA Constitution, VA must maintain a well-regulated militia composed of its people to validate its authority.

This is the political subdivision of legislature from which VA politicians derive authority - an authority expressly stated in the VA constitution.

This subsection makes it the responsibility of counties to maintain a militia, not a National Guard or other standing army.

This is because the purpose of the militia is not just to protect the county from domestic danger, but also protect the county from any sort of tyrannical actions from the Federal government. Our constitution is designed to allow them to use an armed militia as needed. If the (Federal) government takes those arms away, it prevents the county from fulfilling their constitutional duties. But, this is not limited to just our county, but also as part of a network of sister counties showing solidarity for both Virginia's, and the American Constitution.

As for the people, our Militia Resolution will be funding firearms safety and training for our county's citizens, the ROTC and the public school systems - as well as the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. These preparations are done to prepare our citizens to be able to become de facto militiamen if need be.

Constitution of Virginia

Article I. Bill of Rights

Section 13. Militia; standing armies; military subordinate to civil power

"That a well regulated militia, composed of the body of the people, trained to arms, is the proper, natural, and safe defense of a free state, therefore, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed; that standing armies, in time of peace, should be avoided as dangerous to liberty; and that in all cases the military should be under strict subordination to, and governed by, the civil power."

This is incredible news coming from Virginia, and is likely a move that anti-gun lawmakers and politicians did not expect. While the coming days will likely be difficult for defenders of the Second Amendment in Virginia, it's reassuring to know there are still staunch supporters willing to stand up the tyrannical actions of anti-gunners in the government. Multiple attorneys are on board, as well as a professor of U.S. government and history.

Look for an expanded article, by Mark Chesnut, on the situation in Virginia regarding over 40 gun-sanctuary counties, as well part two of the story [*Ignoring Core Purpose Makes 2nd Amendment More Vulnerable to Infringements: The Militia Aspect*](#) written by David Codrea.

First Look: Colt Python Relaunched For 2020

By **Elwood Shelton** - January 1, 2020



Long anticipated, the Colt Python relaunch has finally come and looks well worth the wait.

How Has The 2020 Version Of The Colt Python Been Enhanced:

- More consistent trigger pull shot to shot
- Stronger stainless steel construction
- Beefed-up frame above the cylinder
- Hex-screw attached user-replaceable front sight
- Recessed target crown on a one-piece barrel

Day one of the return of Colt's "snake guns" the lingering question has been: *When will the gunmaker bring back the Python?* For many, the belief was never. Sure the market interested was there for perhaps the greatest double-action revolver ever created, but there was no way they could produce one affordable enough. Color the naysayers (me included) wrong.

The New Year has been kicked off with the relaunch of the Colt Python, a version the company promises stays true to the original, while offering some need enhancements. To that end, where those familiar with the line will notice the biggest difference is in the 6-round .357 Magnum's trigger pull. While smooth, the old Python tended to have a somewhat capricious trigger pull shot-to-shot, due to the high amount of hand fitting the handgun required. The Colt solved this by re-engineering the fire-control so it has a predictable and consistent break both in double- and single-action.

In addition to an improved trigger, the new Colt Python also boasts a beefed-up frame above the cylinder, a user-replaceable front sight from the Colt King Cobra (hex-screw attached), a redesigned target rear sight and a recessed target crown on a one-piece barrel. The company also said it's using stronger stainless steel in the gun's construction. Outside of that, the Colt's new king snake has the same look and feel of the original. It's fairly obvious the company tried to stay true with the gun's aesthetics, especially with full underlug and a vented rib on top of the barrel.

As to the tale of the tape, the Colt Python will be available in two barrel lengths: 4.25 and 6 inches. The 6-inch model measures out at 11.5 inches in overall length, 5.5 inches in height and tips the scales at 46 ounces. The 4.25-inch barrel model is 9.75 inches in overall length, 5.5 inches in height and 42 ounces in weight. As to trigger-pull weight, the revolver trips at around 7 to 9.5 pounds in double action and it has six-groove rifling features a 1:14-inch twist to stabilize a majority of .357 bullet weights. The Python is finished off with checkered walnut grips, topped with a Colt medallion.

The big question that remains is the price. As expected, Colt isn't handing them out, but an MSRP of \$1,499 shouldn't prove a major obstacle for those champing at the bit to add a Colt Python to their collection.

More From Colt:

WEST HARTFORD, CONN., (January 1, 2020) – After years of research and development, Colt releases a refined and upgraded Colt Python. The legendary double-action revolver, which originally debuted in 1955, returns in stainless steel in 4.25" and 6" barrel lengths. "We know the Colt Python is one of the most beloved and collected firearms in American history, and its re-release has long been demanded by enthusiasts," said Justin Baldini, Product Director at Colt. "We took our time on R&D – we needed to be sure the look and performance of this redesign lived up to its legendary name and kept its impeccable reputation for quality and accuracy. This new Python lives up to the legend in every way."



The Colt Product Innovation Team refined the design of the new Colt Python and performed rigorous testing, ensuring it meets the demands of shooters and collectors. Numerous improvements were made to reinforce the revolver, including the use of stronger stainless steel alloys and a re-designed rear sight which allows for a 30% increase in the cross-sectional area of the top strap — meaning more steel beneath the rear adjustable target sight, for a stronger revolver and more robust shooting experience. Minimizing the amount of parts in the trigger action has simplified the mechanism, elevating its reliability and allowing for more straightforward maintenance. The testing process included over 40,000 trigger pulls on a single Python. Trigger pull scans show lighter trigger pull weights, less friction and increased consistency, re-enforcing the Python’s reputation as a gun that can be heavily used and passed down through generations.

Finally, Colt builds on the modern Snake Gun legacy by adding features such as a recessed target crown, user-interchangeable front sight, and an updated Walnut grip to make this the most user-friendly Python ever. The DA revolver is chambered in .357 Magnum and also accommodates 38 Special cartridges.

The Python has been extremely popular with both target shooters and law enforcement, and featured in countless TV series, movies and video games including “The X Files,” “The Walking Dead,” “Hawaii 5-0,” “Starsky and Hutch,” “John Wick” (2014), “American Gangster” (2004), “Fight Club” (1999) and “King Kong” (1976).

The new Colt Python .357 Magnum is available now through Colt stocking dealers for \$1499 MSRP.

Colt Python Specs

Barrel Description: 1:14 LH, 6 Groove

Barrel Length: 6 in., 4.25 in.

Finish: Semi-Bright

Frame Material: Stainless Steel

Grips: Walnut Target Stocks

Height: 5.5 in.

Overall Length: 11.5 in. (6-inch barrel); 9.75 in. (4.25-inch barrel)

Weight: 46 oz. (6-inch barrel); 42 oz. (4.25-inch barrel)

Width: 1.55 in.

Capacity: 6 rds.

For more information on the Colt Python, please visit www.colt.com.

Patrick Sweeney - January 06, 2020

9 Red Dot Sights for Every Price Point

Most all red dot sights have the same basic function, though not all cost the same and are a fit for all shooting applications. To help narrow the search, here's a list of nine red dot sights for various budgets and shooting styles.



You know, there was a time when real men used iron sights and only iron sights, right? That optical sighting systems in the Neolithic era were fragile and expensive, used only on sniper rifles, and oh, they were fragile and expensive? So fragile and expensive that we used to joke about it at the gun shop. The standard hunting rifle was a Remington 742, in .30-06, with a 3-9 scope on it, in see-through rings, because scopes broke. But it had to be zeroed to 200 yards, for those times when you could see more than 40 yards through the swamps and thickets.

That optical sighting systems were so awful was such a “known fact” that military rifles were not even made with the option of mounting optics. That made sniper variants of them extremely rare, and collector’s items as soon as they were known. The M14 did” you point out? You call that a mounting system? A first-year engineering student who came up with an idea so crap-tastic would be told he signed up for the wrong degree. Go back to Architecture.

Optics on handguns? What are you, crazy? That will never happen. Give up on glass.

Two things changed the situation: 3-gun competition, and Jerry Barnhart kicking the stuffing out of us with a red-dot mounted on his handgun at the USPSA Nationals in 1990.

Competition shooters want every advantage, real or imagined. If the rules allow it, or don’t dis-allow it, they will experiment with everything under the sun. And moon. And stars. If a scope gave an advantage, they’d use it. If a scope was fragile, they’d find a way to make it stronger. And that’s what we did with red-dot optics. In the early days, there were guys who would take your red dot apart, and re-solder connections, anchor boards and chips, and make it durable. For a fee, of course. The moment word spread that a new-to-the-market “dot” was tougher than the old ones, we’d all ditch what we were using and switch to that one. That’s

how, and why, you now have ultra-durable red dots, with long-lasting battery use. That's also how some of us ended up with competition guns with two or three scope-mount pattern holes drilled in the frame. And it was competition shooters chopping the carry handles off of ARs that got us flat-top upper receivers.

You're welcome.

But it took the military a while to come around.

We basically fought in Iraq and Afghanistan with rifles and carbines that would have been kinda-OK 3-gun rifles the decade before. Those who could do better, did. And now? Now we have red-dot optics that make the originals look pretty tired.

Why red-dot optics? Simple. For a whole lot of shooting, you do not need magnification, because the target is close enough, or large enough, that the naked eye works. The optics of a red dot aiming system are simple to grasp and use: put the dot on the place you want the bullet to go, and press the trigger. Repeat as necessary. Your field of view is essentially unhindered, and you can remain aware of things next to, or to the side of, your main focus. Magnifying optics essentially "suck in" your attention, and you don't see what's next to or the side of the target. And because of the non-magnification and the open field of view, you can be blazing fast with a red dot when you need to be.

So, which one is best? An un-answerable question, because we all have different needs, eyes, and tasks to perform. So, pick one, use it, learn it, and learn what you like and don't like. Then adjust. "But, I don't want to do anything but buy the best, and never have to buy again." Too bad—real life doesn't work that way. Besides, what is best today will be second-best next week, and all but obsolete in a couple of years, right? I mean, just look at battery run-time expectations today. When we were new at this, if you had predicted a 50,000-hour run-time from a battery in a red dot, we'd have laughed ourselves silly.

So, to give you an idea of what your options are, I've gathered up the red-dot optics that are here at Gun Abuse Central, for some good old-fashioned tire kicking and stick poking.



Compact, lightweight, easy to use, the Bushnell MINI CANNON might just be the red-dot for you.

Yes, the product name is in all caps. I even asked my contact at Bushnell about this, and that was made clear. All caps. And, the product specs just might get you on board with the name. First off, the complete unit, with its included riser mount, weighs a mere 6.5 ounces. The adjustment dial caps have long thread sections, to keep the outside environment as far from the adjustment dials as possible. One of the caps has a rail section in it, a rail you use to turn the adjustment dials. No more searching for the correct-sized screwdriver, failing, and using a coin that is almost proper. Speaking of screwdrivers, the battery compartment is on the left side, below the controls. It is held in by means of two screws. This may not be the most tacti-cool way to do it, but I'm here to tell you that this is proper engineering. The cover has an "o" ring inside, and when you tighten the screws to compress the o-ring, you seal the compartment.

The Bushnell logo is the only thing on the MINI CAN-NON that isn't low profile, and even it isn't gaudy.

Then, use dabs of paint to lock the screws in place and provide a visual indication they have not moved. When, some tens of thousands of hours of use later, when you need to change the battery, unscrew, replace, re-screw and re-paint. Clearly, Bushnell is a fan of the keep-it-simple concept.

The controls are two triangular buttons, up and down. Up turns it on, down turns it off. Up increases intensity, down decreases it. Once it is on, press both at the same time to change reticles. Change reticles? Yes, you have your option of a dot, dot with ring, dot with dashes, and dot with ring and dashes.

All this for an MSRP of \$358.45.

Bushnell.com

SIG Romeo 4



If I ever manage to break the Romeo, SIG will prob-ably fix it under warranty. And if they don't, I will have been well-served for many years by this red-dot optic.

SIG makes the Romeo 4 in four different configurations: H, S, T and M. The basic (if you can call any of them that) Romeo 4 is a compact, 1X red-dot sight, with sealed controls and a 50,000-hour battery life. For those still counting on fingers and toes, that is five years, eight months and two weeks of battery life at constant on. Change batteries at each presidential election, and you're covered. It won't be constant on, because of the MOTAC system, the motion-sensing on switch. It goes to sleep in the rack, but when you snatch it out, it wakes up. That's the H model. The S model adds a solar panel charging array on the top, and with that, you can get 100,000 hours out of a battery. That's almost insane, and eleven and a half years.

The T model adds submersible-to-20-meters sealing, and the M goes back to basics, without the solar array, but with the compactness you'd want if you were mounting a red dot on, say, a shotgun.

The solar panel on the Romeo 4, which uses the power of the sun to run your dot. That's part of how you get 100,000 hours of run time from a battery no larger than a coin.

They all can be had with a one- or two-MOA dot, and you can toggle among the four different reticle patterns SIG offers. MSRPs vary from \$420 to \$660. SIG of course offers various mounts, QD or bolt-on, and heights, and its electro-optics come with a five-year warranty on the electronics and an unlimited warranty on the rest of the Romeo parts.

I've dealt with SIG, and my experience has been short of tire tracks or hammer marks, if it breaks, they'll fix it.

One last part: A solar panel on a red-dot recharges it when there is enough light. So, when you are outside, but if there hasn't been enough movement to turn it on, you are basically not losing power time. And even when it is on, the draw by the LED on the battery is greatly offset by the charge from the solar array. Hey SIG, make the unit just a bit bigger, with more solar, and we'll never have to change batteries.

SigSauer.com

Hi-Lux Micro-Max



The Hi-Lux line offers good optics at a really good price, with red-dot optics that fit right onto Aimpoint bases and risers. So, you can fit this to a rifle, shot-gun, whatever.

The Hi-Lux Micro-Max is one of my go-to red-dot optics as a beater and loaner. It fulfills the Sweeney Law of Good-Enough Gear. That is, it works well enough to get you through a lot of practice and competition without breaking the bank. Good enough to learn what you do and don't like about it, and if you break it, it won't cause you wallet pain. Would SEALs carry it? No, it isn't expensive enough, and the Micro-Max probably wouldn't like exiting a submarine on the scuba part of an insertion.

As a basic red dot, the Micro-Max comes with flip-up caps, the power buttons are rubber-sealed, the adjustment caps are wired to the body and have a ridge for turning the knob, and works with your bog-standard CR2032 battery. It has coated glass, but there's no tint to it, so you don't have the slight color shift that some optics present to you. It has one choice only of reticles, a two-MOA dot, but if that's all you need or want, then you're all set.

It has the expected 50,000 hours run time, it is nitrogen filled, and it has the ½-MOA click adjustment goodness that modern consumers now expect.

If you are looking for mounts for the Micro-Max, it is compatible with all Aimpoint T-1 mounts, so the world is your oyster there. Hi-Lux makes mounts as well, so you don't have to break the bank on a mount.

For an MSRP of \$249, I don't have any qualms about handing it to someone in a class, someone who has to get a feel for red dots, but hasn't tried one yet (or who can't talk the department into it)

Hi-Luxoptics.com

Primary Arms MD-06L



You would be forgiven if you mistook this for a much more expensive Aimpoint. The Primary Arms red-dot line is proof that competition improves the breed. Good dots at a reasonable or better price, what's not to love?

The Primary Arms Micro Dot classic, the MD-06L, is the current king of Sweeney's law. It comes with screw-on covers using O-ring seals for the adjustments. It has a power dial, inside of which is the CR2032 battery powering it. In form, it looks like a clone of the Aimpoint T-1, and that makes it compact. It also fits on any Aimpoint riser or mount, so you can get it up to 1/3 witness or co-witness with a plethora of mounts available. The good news was that it retailed for less than \$100. The bad news was it had a three-MOA dot, and the run-time on the battery was short: a thousand hours.

But, a thousand hours, when you have to turn it on to use it, means a year or more of range time. I still have several on hand, in part because they came with mounts already attached, and also because I haven't broken them yet, which is a miracle in and of itself. It did come with a rubber bikini lens cover. I say did, because they no longer make it, they make newer and better replacements.

Primary Arms has since updated the line, and the new red dot, the MD-ADS, has the expected 50,000-hour run time and two-MOA dots, for a modest MSRP increase of only \$150.

I don't want to sound profligate, but if I took one of my rifles to a class with a pair of Classic MD-06Ls—one on it, and one a spare—and finished the class with only one still working, I'd be happy. That I haven't broken one yet, as I said, is either a miracle or proof of good engineering. I don't believe in miracles.

PrimaryArms.com

UTG SCP-RDM20R



The UTG threatens to displace the Primary Arms as King of the G-E-G hill. Its SCP-RDM20R (the name is almost bigger than the sight) is a full-featured red-dot optic, but unlike the ones mentioned so far, it isn't a tube design. It has a vertical screen in a hood, with the transmitter behind it. The dot is four MOA, which is small enough for precise work, and can be dialed bright enough to work in the summer sun. There are six settings, and when you click it off, it remembers the last setting. When you click on, it automatically reverts to the last setting.

UTG also makes mounts for its optics, so you can get a co-witness, 1/3 witness, or, and this is the best part, you can use an adapter plate to mount it on a Glock or S&W that has been factory-machined for red-dot optics.

Small enough to fit on a handgun or shotgun rail, tough enough to withstand their recoils, and adaptable to ride on top of an AR. And this, with an MSRP of \$90. No, not a typo, there isn't a numeral missing, ninety bucks.

I'd tell you to go out and buy a box full of them, but I have not yet had a chance to break one yet. If it survives the usual range sessions at Gun Abuse Central, then we have a new king of the G-E-G hill.

Leapers.com

Aimpoint M68 CCO



The CompM2, or M68 CCO as the Army called it, served well and long, and can still serve you. You just have to accept that you will not have the compactness and battery life of more-modern designs.

Aimpoint started all this. It was an Aimpoint that Jerry used on his pistol, to beat us silly, all those years ago. And it was an Aimpoint that the U.S. Army adopted, named the M68 CCO. (Known to the rest of us as the Aimpoint CompM2.)

Adopted at the dawn of the 21st century, the M68 CCO had what now seem like drawbacks. It weighed 7.8 ounces even before you clamped it into a mount, and a mount could easily add another five or six ounces to the full-up weight. It used a three-volt lithium battery, the 2L76 or DL1/3N, not exactly common, and a bit large for the power they put out. But boy was it good for the time, and boy did both the government and the rest of us buy a metric buttload of them.

All good things run their course, and the M68 CCO was no different. Battery, LED, and optics advances made it possible to produce a smaller, lighter optic, and that's what Aimpoint did. The last CompM2 left the factory in 2012. Before that happened, it had introduced the Micro T-1. At half the weight, even with the riser attached, it was the must-have for a number of years. But, Aimpoint did better.

The Aimpoint Micro T-2 is the apex red-dot. It is compact, easy to use, it has incredible battery life, and it looks good.

The Micro T-2 improved the optics, the crispness of the dot, and it even made the body of the optic more rugged. Adding even more ruggedness, Aimpoint built in fillets to the housing; ramped shoulders that protect the adjustment knob on top. No more busted optics from having the adjustment knob get caught on a doorframe or window sash.

The mount has a throw-lever clamp, and the lever is slick, in that you have to press the lever down to unlock it before you can rotate it to unlock the clamp. This isn't going to happen accidentally.

The power settings are "off," four settings for NVG optics, and eight daylight settings. All this and 50,000 hours of operation.

The Micro T-2 is so small that you can mount it on a carbine, forward of the regular optics position, and then easily mount a magnifier or NVG behind it. The 3.7 ounces of extra weight of the T-2 is less than the weight of the ammo in your magazine—heck, less than the empty magazine weighs.

Aimpoint.com

EOTech Holographic Sight



The EOTech Holographic Sight is a solid, effective, durable and easy to use dot sight. The 65 MOA ring makes it wicked fast at close range, and the pip in the center allows you to drop 300 meter targets, if you do your part.

OK, it is fashionable in some circles to bash EOTech. If you want to bash it, or ditch your Holographic Sight, that's OK. I know lots of shooters (myself included) who will be more than happy to take your "undesirable" Holographic Sights off of your hands.

The Holographic Sight works differently than your basic LED-driven red dot. The Holographic Sight uses an actual laser to project a 3-D image of the reticle onto the screen in the housing. If there is any part of the screen that is intact, there is an image to be seen, and no problems with parallax.

The method makes it possible to design and project any shape image you want. The basic EOTech reticle is a 65-MOA ring with a center "pip."

The advantages of the Holographic Sight are that the larger screen allows you greater situational awareness. You are much less likely to get "sucked into" the screen, than a narrow tube. The huge ring makes it easy to find the pip in the center, as the ring tells you in which way to correct. If you lose the dot in a narrow tube, it can be a very anxious few seconds until you find it.

The drawbacks of the Holographic Sight system are the larger, and thus heavier package, and that lasers draw more power than LEDs do. The run-time of the Holographic Sight can be between 600 and 1,000 hours, depending on model, battery size and type. Six hundred hours is eight hours of "on" time at the range once a week, for a year and a half.

There is a host of models (14 for firearms at last count) with MSRP's ranging from \$479 to \$699, and three of the 14 are paired with magnifiers, and the paired ones list for a bit over \$1,000, magnifier included.

What was the problem with the Holographic Sight that got EOTech in trouble? A small zero shift, at extreme temperatures. By small, not enough to miss a person, and by extreme, we're talking temps like 40 below zero, or 140 above. Personally, if I'm missing people at those temps, I'm not going to be blaming the sight, I'm going to be worried about surviving the weather I'm in. So much so that when EOTech announced that it would refund money to Holographic Sight owners who sent their sights back, *none of mine went back*.

Take the gospel of the gun shop commandos at your peril.

One detail of red dots that some shooters just can't get over is the 1X power. "No magnification?" Well, if you have to have power, there's a solution. The design of red-dot optics makes it a relatively simple task to add magnification. (Says the guy who isn't an optical engineer.) All the makers of red-dot optics offer a mount and

magnifier to let you have a 2X or 3X magnification, along with the red dot. Some are flip-overs, some are removable, but they all offer power.

The drawback is that you have to build your setup from the rear. You have to mount the magnifier so it has enough eye relief for recoil, but close enough to see the whole field of view. And, it has to clear your BUIS. Then, you have to place your red dot in front of that, with enough room to work the controls, and not bridging the gap between receiver and handguard.

Finally, it has to play well with the ejection port (powder residue, smoke, and oil are bad for optics) and whatever other accessories you may have mounted. It can get crowded on a compact carbine if you try to bolt on too much stuff.

EOTechinc.com

Co-Witness



Co-witness is an administrative process. It allows you to check red-dot and iron-sight agreement, without having to fire for re-zero every time something gets bumped.

OK, we still get the occasional confused shooter, trying to co-witness sights while shooting. It does not mean to both use the iron sights and put the dot on top of the front blade when aiming. When we get a new shooter in a class, who is using a red dot and taking longer than usual to aim and fire, that's the usual cause.

Co-witnessing is not a marksmanship exercise, it is an administrative exercise.

Your iron sights and your red dot must both be zeroed (and the distance for zero is one of great debate), then, when you have the sights up and the dot on, your dot will appear to ride on the top, dead center of your front post when you are aiming with the irons.

This is just a non-shooting check that they agree.

Let's say you have zeroed your rifle or carbine. The dot and sights agree. Then, one day your rifle falls off the patrol car, out of the rack, off the tailgate of your pickup, whatever. You simply (and in a safe direction) turn on the red-dot, stand up your sights, and aim. If the dot still rides top dead center on your post, nothing has changed. If it doesn't, one or both have been jarred enough by the fall to have shifted, and you need to find out which. That means re-zero your rifle.

That's The Only Reason For Co-Witness.

When you are shooting, you ignore the iron sights, use the dot, and anytime you see the dot anywhere in the tube of screen, you have your aiming point. Don't use both at the same time.

Red-Dot Mountings



You have to plan, to get a red-dot and a magnifier onto your rifle.

OK, you've got a red-dot optic for your carbine, where on the rail does it go? First rule: It goes far enough forward to clear your folding rear iron sight. You do have a back-up iron sight (BUIS) on your carbine, don't you? Don't you? So, forward of where that will be when it stands up. If you are going to be using a magnifier, then forward of that, with enough clearance to work the controls.

It used to be a cardinal sin to mount an optic, any optic, across the gap between the handguard rail and the upper receiver. With so many handguards now incorporating some sort of anti-tilt feature, I'm less worried. Well, I'm less worried when the handguard has an anti-tilt tab or screw. If it doesn't, I'd rather keep the optic entirely on the receiver.

Also, if you are going to be pairing your red dot with a magnifier, the RDS has to be far enough forward that you can use the magnifier. So then, you start from the back. (Make sure your magnifier will clear your folded BUIS.) Mount the magnifier so you have proper eye relief. Then mount the RDS ahead of it with clearance to work the controls.

Try to avoid having the lens of the RDS right over the ejection port, or you'll occasionally get powder grime on your lenses.

Other than that, put it pretty much any place that works for you. And practice.

Why Buy A 6.5 Grendel?

By Elwood Shelton - January 8, 2020



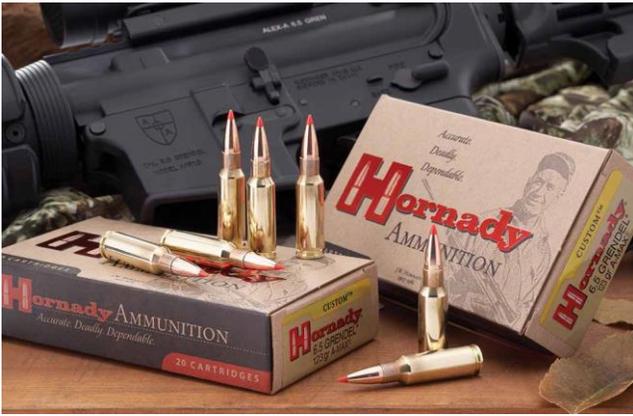
While it seems its days are numbered, the 6.5 Grendel still holds its ground as a top-notch hunting option for the AR-15.

What Makes The 6.5 Grendel A Dandy Hunting Caliber:

- [Allows You To Use The AR-15 To Hunt](#)
- [Hits Harder Than Most Other AR-15 Options](#)
- [Respectable Accuracy](#)
- [Relatively Inexpensive](#)
- [Damn Pleasurable Shooter](#)

Outside a dedicated cadre of shooters, the 6.5 Grendel often gets overlooked nowadays. The reasons are obvious. The 6.5 Creedmoor owns the long-range end of things, particularly out of bolt-action rifles. For those looking to go the distance with an AR-15, well you can't do much better than the small-bore laser .224 Valkyrie. So, the 6.5 Grendel's days are numbered, right?

Not so fast. Other cartridges certainly have an edge on the 6.5 Grendel at and past the 1,000-yard mark, but the sun does not rise and set on ringing steel plates. Counter to gun media hoopla, there are other pursuits outside pure long-range shooting, among those hunting. And when it comes to a cartridge tailored to putting down medium and large (within reason) game at intermediate ranges with an AR-15, few hold a candle to the 6.5 Grendel.



Designed to work nearly seamlessly in the AR-15, the 6.5 Grendel opens the rifle to the hunting fields from coast to coast.

That's what Bill Alexander and Janne Pohjoispää envisioned when they cooked up the cartridge in 2002. Nearly 20-years later, it's what the 6.5 Grendel continues to do with hemoglobin-chilling consistency. And is why, if you're in the market for a practical AR option, you need to consider the Grendel.

Don't believe me? Consider these five advantages of the 6.5 Grendel compared to its biggest competitors in the arena of hunting.

Allows You To Use The AR-15 To Hunt

On the surface, this might seem an obvious copout, but there are some nuances to it. While the 5.56 NATO/.223 Remington (among other .22 calibers) is a legal deer cartridge for nearly half the country, in many states it's verboten.



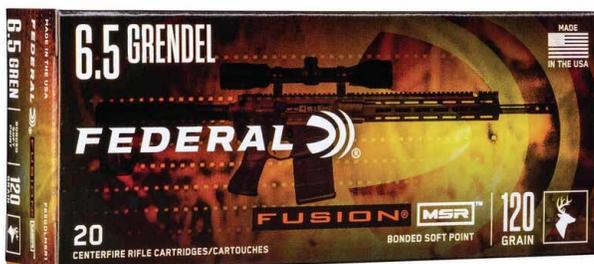
Want a top-shelf 6.5 Grendel? Look no further than Wilson Combat's Recon Tactical.

Colorado, for instance, requires a .243 caliber or larger for big game. On top of that, it must deliver 1,000 ft-lbs. of energy at 100 yards. The 6.5 Grendel hits those marks in spades.

Why not gun up to an AR-10 then and get a tried-and-true big-game caliber, such as .308 Winchester or 6.5 Creedmoor? While the two ARs are similar in operation, they are different rifles. AR-10s are larger, more difficult to upgrade and generally more expensive than AR-15s. This isn't to say the AR-10 isn't an excellent choice, just that you lose many of the desirable qualities you get in the AR-15. Size is a big one in my book, given the smaller rifle is a second thought to tramp into the backcountry or up into a tree stand.

Hits Harder Than Most Other AR-15 Options

The 6.5 Grendel has greater velocity than the .300 Blackout and heavier bullet weights than the 5.56 NATO/.223 Remington. What this delivers is more energy on target at most ethical hunting ranges.



The 6.5 Grendel excels at close to medium hunting ranges, delivering more energy on target than the most common AR-15 cartridges.

Take three of Federal Premium's deer hunting rounds for example: the 62-grain Fusion for the .223, the 150-grain Fusion for the .300 BLK and the 120-grain Fusion for the 6.5 Grendel. At 100-yards, the Grendel drops nearly 500 ft-lbs. more energy on the target than the Blackout and 600 more foot-pounds than the .223. This is substantial.

Even the .224 Valkyrie—designed to shoot heavy-for-caliber bullets—has difficulty keeping up at close range. From the Fusion line again, the 90-grain Valkyrie round is nearly 200 ft-lbs. the Grendel's inferior at 100 yards.

In fact, 400-yards in, few dedicated AR-15 cartridges hit harder. In turn, you have more oomph to smash a deer's scapula, ensure proper bullet penetration and expansion.

Respectable Accuracy

If you only have eyes for a range queen AR-15, you should look Valkyrie every day of the week and twice Sunday. The newish cartridge's downrange performance is exceptional, in many respects mirroring or surpassing the storied 6.5 Creedmoor 1,000 yards and beyond. That said, the 6.5 Grendel isn't a slouch.



While 1,000 yards is pushing the 6.5 Grendel, nearly everything in—including this whitetail—is fair game.

From 800-yards in, it proves extremely flat shooting and displays excellent ballistic characteristics. And with some patience and understanding, it's more than capable of connecting at 1,000 yards.

An easy task? Most certainly not, but if you felt the need to bang steel that far out and were willing to take the time to work out your dope, the Grendel will respond.

Relatively Inexpensive

This is a big selling point for the 6.5 Grendel. Not only is it inexpensive to feed—in many cases as cheap as 5.56 NATO—but also to get into.



Want to test the 6.5 Grendel waters, Palmetto State Armory uppers are an affordable entryway.

If you have an existing AR-15, all you need to is an upper and cartridge-specific magazines and you're on your way to shooting Grendel. Maybe you're looking at a \$350 to \$400 expenditure going that route. But, if you shop a fully built Grendel AR-15 won't break you.

Diamondback and Palmetto State Armory both have economical options that come in around the \$600-\$700 mark. Though, if you're looking for the most cutting-edge rifle out there, the sky's the limit on what you can spend. Alexander Arms rifles come in around \$1,500 and Brenton USA and Wilson Combat 6.5 Grendels start north of \$2,000.

Damn Pleasurable Shooter

Recoil. As distances have extended shooters have become more conscious of this factor pertaining to accuracy. Flinch shatters accuracy like fine China against a wall and slows shooting to a snail's pace.



Excellent sectional density, the 6.5

Grendel provides exceptional penetration on game animals.

Even the relatively manageable .308 Winchester can prove too much for the recoil sensitive. But the 6.5 Grendel is about as mild-mannered as they come. Certainly, there's more "kick" to the Grendel than the 5.56 NATO, but not so much as to decay accuracy or shot-to-shot swiftness.

Is Red Dawn Really Just Ridiculous? If Not, Who Would Citizen Disarmament Help?



When *Red Dawn* was released in 1984, film critics seemed like they were trying to outdo each other to convince the movie-going public that the film was not only bad, but also ludicrously improbable.

“As it stands, the film is simply too ridiculous for words,” wrote one. “[I]f nothing else, *Red Dawn* plays like a Reaganite masturbatory fantasy,” sneered another.

For some reason, many “progressive” male movie reviewers can’t seem to just talk about a movie without imposing sexual fantasies of their own (one *Red Dawn* review I looked at actually had a sub-section titled “Homeroetica”). Without getting too deep into psychoanalysis, I liked the movie for what it was and know plenty of others who did as well. And while we don’t pretend it’s the greatest cinematic masterpiece ever produced, it’s managed to retain a lasting place in the public consciousness and garner enough interest to produce a 2012 remake.

“*Red Dawn* is a sloppy, stupid, jingoistic mess of a film,” a reviewer of the reboot charged. “Delusional right-wing porn,” assessed another reviewer who nonetheless added “You can recognize that this is a perfectly ridiculous movie while still having fun.”

Mockery with Motive

“Ridiculous” seems to be a ubiquitous word for reviewers of both the original and the remake, and it’s fair to wonder what their opinions would be on the Founding intent for the Second Amendment as well as what they really know about geopolitics and non-state actor warfare. If, as seems likely, we’re dealing with snotty, anti-gun metrosexuals who consider themselves smarter and more sophisticated than flyover “rubes,” chances are we’re dealing with writers versed in Hillary mentor Saul Alinsky’s [“Rules for Radicals,”](#) specifically the fifth rule:

“Ridicule is mans most potent weapon. It is almost impossible to counterattack ridicule. Also it infuriates the opposition, who then react to your advantage.”

Is the premise of *Red Dawn*, that the U.S. could be invaded by foreign hostiles and that an armed citizenry would be useless at resisting truly ridiculous, or are our more urbane social commentators whistling past the graveyard of history? Unsurprisingly, those laughing the loudest have failed to make their case, and some questions are in order.

Is the United States invulnerable from foreign attack? Will it forever be so? And would upwards of 100 million armed Americans embedded throughout the Republic make it more or less difficult for invaders to advance through, conquer and occupy territory?

If only, say, [three percent](#) of those gun owners felt motivated enough to take to the field, they'd outnumber the entire People's Liberation Army which currently tops two million active duty personnel, most of them being non-combatants.

A Militia of the Whole People?

OK, but I'm getting ahead of myself. We have a military, one we're spending over \$718 Billion on in FY 2020. If nothing else that's proof that yes, the threat of foreign invasion is not just the stuff of "delusional right-wing porn." The question then becomes would [the "unorganized militia" of U.S. Code](#), which "consists of the members of the militia who are not members of the National Guard or the Naval Militia," come into play?

We have no current provision for that outside of [the Constitution](#), and who in government follows that old thing these days? True, Congress has the delegated power "To provide for calling forth the Militia to ... repel Invasions [and] To provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining, the Militia, and for governing such Part of them as may be employed in the Service of the United States." And "The President shall be Commander in Chief ... of the Militia of the several States, when called into the actual Service of the United States." But face it; they're all too busy cooking up "red flag laws" and banning "bump stocks" to worry about "the security of a free State."

Besides, as California Democratic Rep. and self-styled presidential contender Eric Swalwell (a silly creature of no career "achievement" that has not taken place at the public trough) is quick to remind us, [the government has nukes](#). Like *Star Trek's* Borg, he would have us believe resistance is futile.

In the *Red Dawn* scenario, the Wolverines are pretty much on their own in their AO, with remaining U.S. military occupied elsewhere. Assuming for the sake of this exercise in speculation we're not talking total annihilation but conquest, the rule that a battle isn't won until a man with a rifle occupies the field would still be in effect even if that man were an "insurgent" and regulars were not part of the equation.

That could be all that's left.

A House Divided

If things got bad enough, political "leaders" would be looking for ways to salvage what they could, save their own skins and even position themselves within a new order, and their ability to order cessation of "hostilities" could be an attractive bargaining chip. Does anyone really think Ilhan Omar or Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez wouldn't fit right in as provisional mandarins?

As for the military, they are subordinate to civilian leadership. Controlled at the top by what the late Col. David Hackworth called "the perfumed princes," it's difficult to imagine the majority of them refusing a call from President Kamala Harris ordering a cease fire. That so many high-ranking "insider" retirees have [joined with Gabby Giffords'](#) Second Amendment-shredding Veterans Coalition for Common Sense tells us much about what to expect from them.

One thing's for sure: They don't want you and me having "weapons of war" now, and there are no signs that would change. And neither does Kamala, who pledges to [grab 'em by executive order](#) if elected.

We also can't forget populations that would vote for damn socialist Democrats in the first place. As military theorist and Prussian General [Carl von Clausewitz taught](#), gaining public opinion is one of the three main

objects of warfare. Who thinks urban Democrats and foreign nationals, especially untold millions of illegal aliens, are up for the same sacrifices and casualties Londoners suffered during Germany's V-1 and V-2 attacks? As for the "legal" ones, most are here for the economic opportunity. Even new "citizens" are free to maintain dual nationalities (and loyalties). Add to that the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services announced a change in policy regarding the oath taken by naturalization candidates: They are [no longer required](#) "to declare that they will 'bear arms on behalf of the United States'."

The Enemy Within and Without

It's not that difficult to imagine domestic enemies within the population and the government, that is, traitors, "colluding" with foreign enemies. It's also not hard to imagine some of these hostiles within government pushing for citizen disarmament to defang Americans who will bear arms, preemptively now, and also after the fun starts. Want three hots and a cot in a "safe zone" FEMA camp? No guns allowed. *Molon Labe* that with your starving kids.

No one is pretending that hostile foreign countries don't have plenty of reasons not to want to start World War III, but there were plenty of good ones not to start I and II as well, and they did. It would be in their interests to not have to deal with armed resistance, especially when and where they least expect it.

We could go through all kinds of speculation on how they'd get here – the parachute troop drop that started *Red Dawn* was just one option for one area. Maybe it's just a coincidence, but the whole West Coast where beachheads would need to be established is gun-grabber territory, with California especially doing what it can to eviscerate as much of the gun culture as it can get away with. Likewise, much of the Northeast is hostile to an armed citizenry, Florida is becoming increasingly so, and even Texas looks like it's not that far from going "blue." And anybody see a wall yet?

Implausible? Ridiculous? I thought we'd already recognized earlier that invasion is a possibility, and it's those who deny that who are ignoring all of human history and relying on some kind of magical thinking that says "it" can never happen here."

We know that likely foreign enemies are hostile to armed citizenries based on how they treat their own people, and we know they don't care much for armed Americans either. Communist China actually [condemned U.S. gun ownership](#) as a "human rights violation."

We also know that, [Monroe Doctrine notwithstanding](#), Russia has stepped up its presence in the Western Hemisphere sending two nuclear-capable bombers to Venezuela to help prop up the Maduro regime, "revitalized" relations with Cuba and is strengthening ties with Argentina, Brazil and wherever else they can make Latin American inroads. We know that a [Russian spy ship](#) and [nuclear attack submarines](#) have been spotted off the U.S. coast. We know that in addition to an expanding Russian presence, [the U.S. military is concerned](#) about growing Chinese influence in Latin America, including its [growing arms sales](#). We know that China has "[a stranglehold on the Panama Canal](#)."

We know that there are those who have not made a secret of wanting to [invade the U.S. through Mexico](#), and not just with "migrant caravans," although you do have to wonder about just who is embedding themselves in those. Back in 1985, The Washington Times quoted Nicaraguan Interior Minister Thomas Borge, who advocated:

"We have Nicaragua, soon we will have El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Costa Rica, and Mexico. One day, tomorrow or five years or fifteen years from now, we're going to take 5 to 10 million Mexicans and they are going into Dallas, into El Paso, into Houston, into New Mexico, into San Diego, and each one will have embedded in his mind the idea of killing ten Americans."

His timing was off, but totalitarians are in it for the long march. And as with all murders, or in this case, genocide, the perpetrators need three things to pull it off: Means, motive and opportunity.

We've seen some of the means and the motives should be obvious: Tyrants gonna tyrannize. What's left is opportunity, and theirs would be a lot better if millions of Americans didn't have all those guns.

That [“rifle behind every blade of grass” quote](#) supposedly pronounced by Japanese Admiral Yamamoto as his reason for not invading the mainland U.S. is probably bogus, but the sentiment is nonetheless true. Here's one that's substantiated, from Abraham Lincoln's [Lyceum Address](#):

“All the armies of Europe, Asia and Africa combined, with all the treasure of the earth (our own excepted) in their military chest; with a Buonaparte for a commander, could not by force, take a drink from the Ohio, or make a track on the Blue Ridge, in a trial of a thousand years.

“At what point then is the approach of danger to be expected? I answer, if it ever reach us, it must spring up amongst us. It cannot come from abroad. If destruction be our lot, we must ourselves be its author and finisher. As a nation of freemen, we must live through all time, or die by suicide.”

A disarmed citizenry would be national suicide. It would invite invasion. It would make the risks of a *Red Dawn* scenario more likely. Subversives who undermine what the Founders knew to be “necessary to the security of a free State” are quite literally giving aid and comfort to America's enemies.

It doesn't have to come to that. Just as arms in private hands discourage individual aggressors, so too does that work on a societal scale.

One more quote, [from Thomas Paine this time](#):

“The supposed quietude of a good man allures the ruffian; while on the other hand, arms like laws discourage and keep the invader and the plunderer in awe, and preserve order in the world as well as property. The balance of power is the scale of peace. The same balance would be preserved were all the world destitute of arms, for all would be alike; but since some will not, others dare not lay them aside. And while a single nation refuses to lay them down, it is proper that all should keep them up. Horrid mischief would ensue were one half the world deprived of the use of them...”

If you want to keep the peace, keep and bear arms. Don't give up your guns. Any other choice would be ridiculous.

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Thank you,
Paul Curtis
President - CARGO
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"If you can read this, thank a teacher. For the fact that it is in English, thank a Veteran."

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