

CARNIVORE

RECOIL

HUNTING LIFESTYLE: GEAR • TRAVEL • COOK • EAT

TRUE GRIT:
RACHEL AHTILA
UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL
WITH AN
EXPERT
GUIDE
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+ 6.5 GRENDEL
NOT JUST FOR ARs
ANYMORE
PG. 46

+ BARRETT FIELD CRAFT

LIGHTWEIGHT
CONTENDER
FROM THE HOME
OF THE .50 BMG
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TRANSPORT:
ALL-IN-ONE HUNTING
VEHICLE AND DAILY DRIVER
AEV PROSPECTOR
XL TRAY
BED
PG. 24



FIELD TO TABLE

JOIN THE REVOLUTION

- + NEW HUNTING GEAR**
- UNUSUAL RED WINES TO PAIR WITH GAME
- PUBLIC LAND BATTLE
- OFF-SEASON HUNTING PRACTICE TIPS
- JAPANESE WATER STONES
- ELK HUNTING IN ARIZONA'S HIGH COUNTRY
- USING THE WHOLE ANIMAL
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BUYER'S GUIDE:
LEAD-FREE AMMO



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1 MYSTERY RANCH METCALF PACK

CAPACITY:
4,300 cubic inches

PRICE:
\$525

COLORS:
Coyote, Foliage, MultiCam,
Dissolve Bare

INFO:
www.mysteryranch.com

NOTES:
Mystery Ranch cut its teeth making hard-use packs for the U.S. military, so it's no surprise it also makes some kick-ass hunting packs. The new Metcalf has the capacity of a minivan, the utility of a pickup, and the comfortable ride of a family sedan. With 3,700 cubes in the body and another 600 in the detachable lid, there's room to ruck a week's worth of gear to camp. Use the detachable lid as a day pack, or ditch it and cinch down the main pack for a smaller load. When it comes time to field dress and pack out, the pack's Overload Shelf holds your game bag between the frame and pack body, keeping the load centered and your pack contents clean. Other features include a top-loading shroud plus full-length side-zip for easy access, compression straps for carrying a rifle or bow, and extra pockets for smaller items. It's made of light-yet-durable 500D Cordura.

2 MUCK BOOT COMPANY WOODY ARCTIC ICE

RATING:
-60 degrees F

PRICE:
\$200

INFO:
www.muckbootcompany.com

NOTES:
It's warm out now; the frozen toes of last year's November rifle season seem so distant that the memories could almost be described as wistful. Don't spend another cold-toed season in the stand wishing you had one more pair of dry socks. Muck Boot's new Woody Arctic Ice boot starts with the company's solid foundation of uncompromising waterproofness and features 8mm foam walls, up from 5mm in the standard Woody boot, with a fleece lining and adds more thermal foam underfoot. Muck says the boot is rated for -60 degrees F, but we're not willing to test that claim. The molded outsole is designed to grip wet or dry ice and the Mossy Oak Country camo is bound to be a hit with your new, four-legged forest friends.

3 TIMNEY CALVIN ELITE CUSTOM REMINGTON MODEL 700 TRIGGER

PULL WEIGHT RANGE:
8 ounces to 2.5 pounds

PRICE:
\$260

INFO:
www.timneytriggers.com

NOTES:
It's just a few years old, but Timney's Calvin Elite trigger has quickly become a popular drop-in replacement for the Remington 700 series rifle. Not resting on its success, Timney just released a new version of the trigger with a customizable shoe. The guts are the same as the standard Calvin Elite, but the new Custom version lets you choose between the included curved, flat, heeled, and knurled shoes and also lets you adjust the length of the trigger pull, cast, and height with the turn of a couple screws. As with the standard Calvin, its wear parts are made from A2 tool steel, and the sear surfaces and sear engagement, over-travel, and pull weight are all adjustable to your liking.

4 AIMPOINT MICRO S-1

FITS:
Mossberg 500/835/9200 and
Remington 1100/1187/870 at
press time

PRICE:
\$804

INFO:
www.aimpointhunter.com

NOTES:
Eff-Your-Bead-Sight, says Aimpoint with the introduction of its Micro S-1 red-dot sight. It's a venerable Micro H-2 sight with a 6 MOA dot and a new base designed to sit as low as possible atop a shotgun, mounting directly to the vent rib. Aimpoint tells us it'll have four interchangeable baseplates to fit the most popular shotguns, but at press time, it's only listing Mossberg 500/835/9200 and Remington 1100/1187/870 compatibility. We can already imagine the tailgate ribbing over the use of a red-dot on a shotgun, but whether you're in for wing, water, game, or clay, the enhanced field of view and sighting confirmation that comes with a red-dot is worth checking out.



a regular rifle and didn't notice until all our ammo had gone that no change in approach were needed.

While we liked the Fieldcraft, it's not without its niggles. Regarding performance, we managed to get the bolt to bind at the end of its throw, so a little more polishing in the raceways under the rear receiver bridge wouldn't go amiss. And at an MSRP of \$1,700, it's a big chunk of change for such a little rifle. Still, as with most consumer goods, losing weight costs a lot of money, and it's certainly cheaper than paying a 'smith to come up with an alternative.

The closest factory option to our test model in terms of specs is probably the Remington Model Seven stainless in .260 Rem. In order to fit a suppressor, its barrel would need to be cut back and sleeved, assuming you were to thread it 5/8-24. Figure on a bill of around \$250. After all that, you'd still wind up with a rifle that was a pound heavier and wore an ugly Tupperware stock that feels like it's made from 72 cents worth of plastic. Because it is.

Although you'd try to convince yourself life was just fine, you know that living a lie would eventually wear you down, and you'd have to replace it. Figure another 500 bucks for a McMillan, add 50 for the Talley rings that Barrett includes, and you've doubled Remington's asking price. In fact, you're now within range of a decent lunch of what Barrett charges without the wait.

We'd consider this rifle to be a "one and done" affair. You could buy it, hunt with it for the next 30 years, and not ever feel like you'd need to upgrade. The 6.5 Creed is capable of taking any species in North America up to brown bear, and in the Fieldcraft, it's as close to a one-gun solution as you're likely to find. ¶

BARRETT FIELDCRAFT

CALIBER:
6.5 Creedmoor

BARREL LENGTH:
18 inches

OVERALL LENGTH:
38 inches

WEIGHT, EMPTY:
5.1 pounds

MAGAZINE CAPACITY:
4

MSRP:
\$1,700

URL:
www.barrett.net

ACCESSORIES

SIG Tango 4

4-16x44 Scope:
\$1,100

PRICE AS FEATURED:
\$2,800

