

Grrr! Gear NEWS

Give it your best shot.

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Grrr Gear is Grrrowing!

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the inaugural issue of Grrr! Gear's newsletter. We are very excited about our recent expansion, as we prepare for the August 22nd **Grand Opening** of our new retail location at 334 East Main St. in Orange, Massachusetts. If you're in the area, you don't have to wait until then to pop in and check out our wide selection of apparel and accessories, including custom-designed sporting clays and FITASC apparel as well as our one-of-a-kind shooting aprons. While you're here, we can answer any questions you may have about shooting equipment, sporting clays, or anything in between! We cherish our customer connections and just love talkin' clays. Until then, happy shooting!

Chris and Al Noyes

Chris and Al Noyes, Proprietors



Congdon's antique 12-gauge shotguns include, front to back: his Robert Adams hammer gun, converted from percussion in 1864, an 1880s Holland & Holland sidelock hammerless, and a 1920s Holloway & Naughton boxlock hammerless.

Grrr! Gear Spotlight Interview:

Kris Congdon, Petersham Gun Club

By John W. DeWitt and Jake Ware

If you're looking to get into sporting clays, there's no better place to start than the Petersham Gun Club in Petersham, Mass. Aside from offering trap shooting on Fridays, Sporting Clays Sundays at 10:00am, and a summer archery league, they also boast Kris Congdon as their sporting clays director. Anyone who knows Kris knows his passion for antique shotguns. We recently talked to him about this very subject.

Q: Talk about the art and sport of collecting antique guns?

A: Most of what I go after are the old English side-by-side doubles, hammer or hammerless. Usually the ones I get are old and dirty and may have broken parts. I can get them for the right price, or at least I used to. Prices keep going up. I bring them home and try to refurbish them. Usually when I buy them, they're not pretty, but they work. Sometimes I have to have them be made to work. Usually they're OK mechanically and cosmetics are the problem. I am not very mechanically inclined, so if I have to have gunsmithing work done, I have to pay for it. But I try to avoid that.

(Interview continued on page 2)

News & Events

Lobster Classic

Aug. 6th-9th, 2009
Addieville East Farm
Mapleville, RI

Visit our booth at one of our favorite New England tournaments.

Grand Opening

Grrr Gear Retail Store
August 22 in Orange, MA

Although we are already up and running at our Orange, Mass., location, our Grand Opening will be a great chance to see you and send you home with just the right gear.

Featured Products



Men's and Women's Rapid Dry Sport Shirts – Wicks moisture away from the body, keeping you dry and comfortable. \$49-\$55



Grrr Gear Glasses by SunBuster
The frames are lightweight enough so you can comfortably wear our glasses all day long. \$95

www.GrrrGear.com | Apparel & Accessories for Shooting & Outdoor Sports | Specialists in Sporting Clays & FITASC

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(Interview with Kris Congdon, Petersham Gun Club, continued from page 1)

Q: How do you know what you're buying?

A: Usually, all you have to know is what the proof marks mean. There are marks underneath the wood. They tell you the barrel size, how much pressure it was built to take, how long the chambers were and whether it has a choke or not.



With our precision measuring tools, I can find out the relationship of the original dimensions to the current dimensions. Lots of the time, the barrels have been bored out to get rid of rust pits, etc. Since we know what the dimensions were, we can tell if they're the same or bigger. Proof marks go back to the 1600s. Nobody wanted guns blowing up in their faces, even back in the 1600s, so their use goes back to flintlocks.

Q: How does somebody get started collecting antique shotguns?

A: Start going to auctions and look at everything. As you see more and more things, you'll have an idea of what's out there, what they go for – and you'll learn what you like also. You can go to auctions and gun shows and stores without buying everything, and when you have more of an idea of what you want, then you can spring.

Q: How do you take care of these guns?

A: Keep them clean and oiled and they will keep going for a hundred years. The one I use frequently is 145 years old, made by Robert Adams, who sold guns to both sides during the Civil War. (He was a British guy and didn't care who won.) It's a side-by-side hammer gun. It was converted from percussion – it had been a muzzle loader before, and they didn't waste anything back then. As time progressed, the owner brought it in to Mr. Adams, and for a price Mr. Adams converted it to breech loading gun like we use now. It's got an unusual lever for opening the breech, but in 1864 they hadn't really standardized anything. I've been shooting it for a couple of years, and I really like it. It fits me well, and didn't cost much because Adams wasn't a big name maker. But I'm really happy with that gun.

For more information, e-mail Kris Congdon at kris17755@msn.com.

Chris' Recipe Corner

Bear Burgers

1 ½ lb. ground bear (or beef)
2 T. beer (lager or ale)
½ t. hot pepper sauce
¼ t. Worcestershire sauce
salt and pepper to taste

Combine all ingredients, form into patties. Refrigerate up to several hours. Can be grilled or pan-fried.

Beer Braised Onions

Melt 1 T. unsalted butter over medium-high heat. Add 1 large sliced onion and cook, stirring frequently until tender. Add ¾ cup beer, 1 t. sugar and ½ t. salt. Cook until beer is absorbed by onions and begin to brown – 16-18 minutes. Stir in ¼ cup beer and simmer.

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