

## ***“News From The Den!”***

(#1 November 17, 2008)

Greetings to everyone and welcome to our very first “News From The Den” - the very latest and greatest information on small caliber and varmint shooting! Our goal with this news update is to bring you up-to-date information on what’s happening around The Woodchuck Den. As many of you know, we are the industry leader in small calibers when it comes to design, testing, and bringing forth many of the current small calibers. In fact, we were the folks who brought the “terrific twenties” back from almost extinction or as some may say, the “rebirth” of the 20 calibers started right here! We started testing and working on the 20 calibers well over a decade ago and convinced many of the barrel and bullet makers to introduce many new 20 products. It has been a long journey to get to where we are today. We currently offer a wide range of the finest 20-caliber products available and the only dedicated 20 caliber manual - the ***“Terrific Twenties”*** (the third edition)- on the planet! Our 20-caliber manual will get you off to the right start and save you time and money in the end. Please see our catalog here online or give us a call if we can help on you 20-caliber needs.

The “sensational seventeens” helped establish The Woodchuck Den as we felt the 17 calibers are just fantastic on summer varmints and just superb on wintertime predators. We have always specialized and stocked the best 17-caliber forming and reloading dies, offer custom formed brass for many 17 caliber wildcats, high B.C. boat-tail bullets, and cleaning equipment for the seventeens. We also offer the Fifth edition of the ***“Sensational Seventeen’s”*** the finest 17-caliber manual on the planet! It encompasses well over 15 years of our work on the “sensational seventeen’s” with stories, load data, and reamer prints. Our 20-caliber manual will get you off to the right start and save you time and money in the end.

With that introduction, it is time to tell you what’s new around the den. We hope to update this every week or so as time permits. The “News From The Den” will also be archived here so you can go back to each edition if needed.

### ***My Remington Model Seven in 17 Fireball for Winter Predators***

Many of you have asked what I am up too, which really translates to what are you working on now. Right now, I’m finishing the summer and fall testing and trying to get my wintertime predator rifle tuned in and ready to go. A lot of this is really getting me tuned and ready to go as well. Early this year, I purchased one of the new Remington Model Seven Predator rifles in 17 Fireball for wintertime fox and coyote hunting. I worked on it during the late spring and summer months by doing simple, but very effective bedding and relieving the forend pressure. I adjusted the new trigger to about 2 pounds and put in a brand new Gre-Tan Rifles’ firing pin and matte black shroud assembly. I then thoroughly lapped the barrel with USP paste to smooth it up before working up my loads. My goal with this rifle is to move our very high B.C. (.270) Woodchuck Den 30-grain Gold bullets at 3700-3800 fps. This bullet has proven

to be the top choice of many 17-caliber shooters on bobcat, coyote, fox, and Alaskan wolfs! The 30-grain gold takes a 1/9 twist barrel, which the Remington rifles have. ***(Just a side note: I recommend a 1/9 twist on all 17-caliber rifles today. A 1/9 twist will shoot all 20 to 30-grain bullets very well indeed and the higher rotational spin on the bullet dosen't hurt the killing performance either!)***

The powder I chose for the 17 Fireball and our 30-grain Gold bullets is Reloder 10X. I worked up my loads carefully eventually settling on a load moving the 30 Gold at 3700 fps. I hoped for 3800 fps, but with only a 22-inch barrel, I was satisfied. I just tested the rifle and myself using a quality Harris Bi-pod out to 400 yards. I zeroed about 1.5 inches high at 100 yards, which puts it just a little high at 200 yards and dead on at 250 yards. This makes it basically a "point & shoot" predator rifle out to 250 yards where most predators are taken. At 300 yards, I need to hold high on their backs and at 400 yards the thick part of the duplex is dead on. Oh, I forgot to mention, I'm using the matte finished Leupold 3x9 Rimfire scope with an adjustable objective. It is very compact and has a wide field of view at 3 power where I keep it set while calling. I can always turn the power up for a long shot if time permits. By the way, I asked the pro's at Leupold if their 3x9 rimfire scope could be used on small caliber centerfires, and they said absolutely. I also have one on my 20 Tactical wintertime predator rifle, and it works very well. Remember field of view is very important when the action begins, and like I said before you can always turn the power up if time permits!

How did the Predator shoot off the Harris Bi-pod with our 30 grain Gold? I'm glad you asked .....very well indeed with a 3-shot group - just under 2 inches at 300 yards! It was quite windy and chilly, but I wanted to test the rifle and gain experience for the upcoming predator season. As you may know, this is a very lightweight rifle and I didn't use a rear bag, just laying prone using the Harris bi-pod. Everyone should perform this great practice; so when a wily fox or coyote appears on the distant ridge, you can be ready!

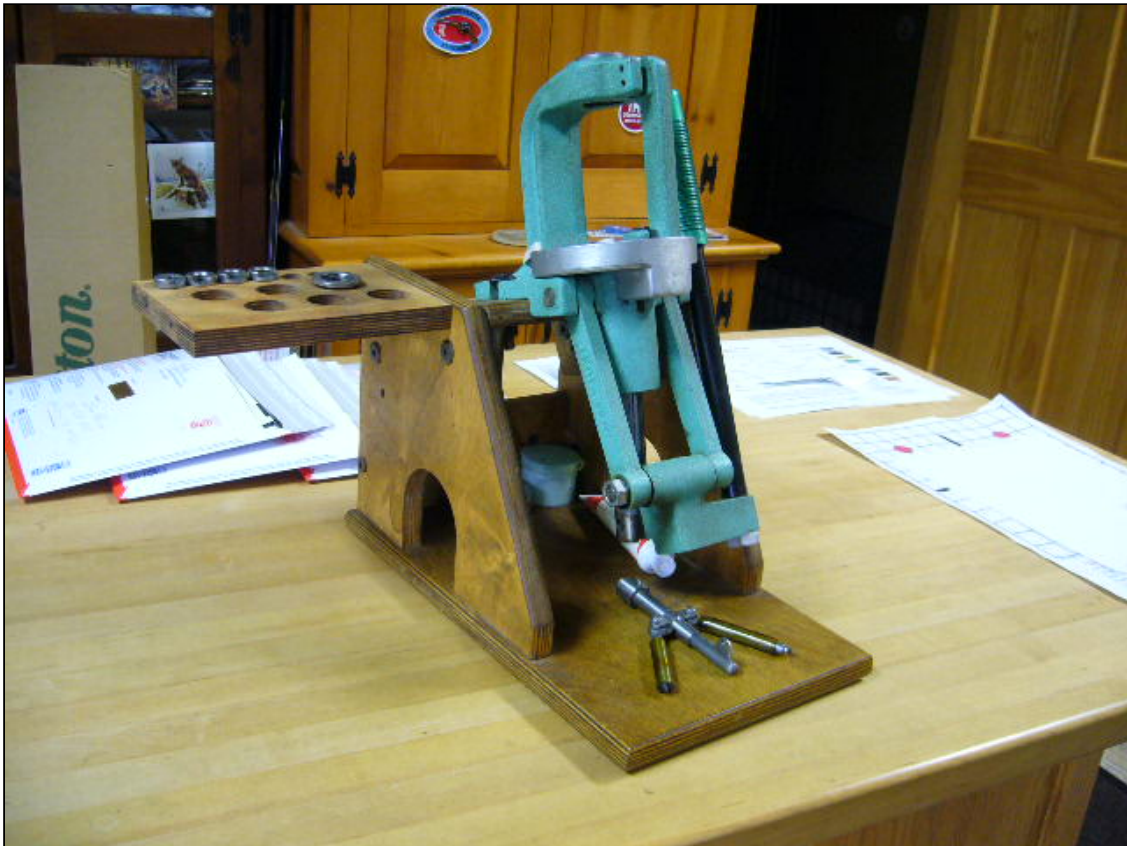
**You can order the 30-grain Gold bullets from The Woodchuck Den at 330-897-0614.**

**Contact Greg Tannel at Gre-Tan rifles for the firing pin/shroud assemblies at 970-353-6176.**



## **Our Current Hot Product is The Woodchuck Den Portable Reloading Stand!**

This past summer the *American Rifleman* did a very nice product review on The Woodchuck Den Portable reloading stand. Since the product review, we have been shipping stands all over the country and a few international orders as well. We have sold this compact and lightweight stand for well over 13 years now and ours here at The Woodchuck Den our actually used on a commercial basis forming brass and making precision 17 caliber bullets for customers. Besides a few oil stains, they are like new holding up to the hard work of the press. I tell customers all the time, please don't tie yourself down to your bench in your loading room when you can load at the range, in your living room or on the deck; anywhere you have a solid table or your tailgate! The tabletop portable press stands can accommodate almost every press on the market and can be put in the closet or under your shooting bench when you're done loading. Then you have a clean bench to work on guns or other projects. They are in stock and make wonderful gifts too. **Call The Woodchuck Den at 330-897-0614 today!**



***The new Redding 17, 20 & 22 Mink forming and reloading dies are now in stock!***

We are happy to announce that we finally have in stock top quality Redding 17, 20 and 22 Mink forming and reloading dies. For you who have not heard of the Mink cartridge line let introduce them to you. The Mink cartridges were designed by small caliber shooting expert Kevin Harrington. They are all based on a shortened and improved 22 Hornet case. Kevin's goal was to achieve maximum efficiency with reduced noise and recoil for all types of small game hunting. Whether you're a fall squirrel hunter or a varmint shooter you will really like these three new Mink cartridges. With the outstanding powder selection we have available today the reduced capacity Mink cartridges can achieve almost the same level of performance of the full length Hornet variations but again with less noise and recoil. The Mink cartridges look just perfect if you ask me. They are somewhat midway between short Squirrel version and the full length Hornet case. If you're interested in trying something new that's fun and very effective to moderate ranges give the Mink a try. I'm planning on building a 17 Mink soon for a short range calling rifle and to use on summertime crows. Cases are easy to make and load with the quality Redding dies that we now have in stock!

In our next ***"News from the Den"*** we will discuss the 17 Mink so please stay tuned!

