

## H.A.C.S Newsletter – March 2023

### IT'S A HOOT TO SHOOT

A few months ago I quit my employment which was not by planned design. This meant that I had no plans for what some refer to as retirement. One day I took stock of a few Webley revolvers I had accumulated and never fired. On reflection that was a wonderful happening, as I discovered some things that could have proven injurious.

The first Webley was acquired in 2008 from my friend Joe Cooley and was the Webley Mark VI. It was in .455 Webley but had been shaved on the cylinder to accept half or full moon clips to take the 45 ACP ammunition. I never shot it; but being a "purist;" I lusted for a Webley in the Mark VI .455 caliber that took the original ammunition. In 2011 I had my chance with a trade and a set of dies to roll my own ammunition. But it wasn't until 2016, after my independence, that I started to look into shooting these Webleys.

The Webley is a top break revolver which was of WWI vintage. The two I now have been marked 1917 and 1918. Cases and bullets were difficult to find until a friend came to the rescue with an ample supply of both. I also had a cast bullet mold to cast the 250 grain lead bullets and a sizer that sized to .454 for the .455 bore of the Webley. But then a big bell rang that caused me pause. The 45 ACP bullets were .452 diameter which would cause the bullet to hop and skip down the barrel and would presumably shoot like poop. But worse than that was the mark on the side of one of the revolvers that said the gun was rated for six long tons (UK). That equates to 13,440 psi (pounds per square inch) whereas the 45 ACP rounds are rated from 18,000 to 23,000 psi. That means that every shot fired would be a proof load in the Webley using factory 45 ACP ammunition. A tour on the Internet revealed several blown up firearms because of this.

The shaving of the cylinders was a selling feature for the cheap importation of surplus firearms, and I am thinking a scheme to make a fast buck suggesting 45 ACP ammunition would work. It would for the most part, but then there is always that risk. This shaving by the way was done in the early 1950s. Bedside arms protection with typical factory ammo would be stout but beyond that ..... Oh Oh.

So a bit of research which suggested loads that were in the 12,000 psi range gave a start to reloading. The English felt that a heavy bullet moving at 600 – 700 fps was adequate for stopping power. I took my hand loads in both .455 and 45 Auto Rim and proceeded to shoot my Webley firearms and test the results. They both shot

spectacularly well, very accurate; and the recoil was pleasant and not at all abusive. They were a hoot to shoot. Just a note: The Webley revolvers started out as model Mark I through Mark VI. Everything prior to the Mark VI are black powder handguns only. This relates to the metallurgy of the firearms themselves. Although tempting to shoot using smokeless powder, it will never happen for the Mark I and Mark II revolvers I have. No need to get a boot from the shoot.

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## **ANTIQUES ARMS GAZETTE**

**Newsletter of Old Guns Canada, Delta BC**

**Volumes 1, 2 & 3**

<https://www.oldgunscanada.com/antique-arms-gazette-archive>

**All Members please note:**

**HACS Membership & renewals are \$40 per year available at the Membership Desk at all our shows.**

**Memberships may be renewed by mail with a \$40 cheque and self addressed and stamped return envelope but there could be up to 3 months delay depending on when you mailed it as they will not be processed until the next show. Our one-day shows are bi-monthly on Sundays from 9am to 2pm.**

**Check out our website for show dates**     [hacsbc.ca](http://hacsbc.ca)

**IMPORTANT NOTICE Please read...** I'm sure there are members who are not getting the newsletter because I don't have their email addresses. If you know of a

member in this situation, please tell them to email me [crescentknifeworks@gmail.com](mailto:crescentknifeworks@gmail.com)

HACS NEWSLETTER AD SPACE Send Ads to [crescentknifeworks@gmail.com](mailto:crescentknifeworks@gmail.com)

CLASSIFIED ADS.

For sale – Sako Av Rifle 7mm rem. mag. Made in Finland, 22" barrel, Leather sling.

Leupold 3-9 Vari-X Scope—no lens caps.

Excellent Condition

\$1200

For sale – Browning Superposed Shotgun

30" barrels

Nice condition

Note: Shotgun is originally 2 3/4 in. However, previous owner had it rechambered for 3"

Manufactured in 1951—I believe this is the first year of manufacture.

\$1050

Email: [mulders@eastlink.ca](mailto:mulders@eastlink.ca)

Canadian Firearms Safety Courses & Conservation Outdoor Recreation Education Courses & Exams. – Certified Examiner – Contact Al Simmons 604 291-1952.

OLD GUNS CANADA (<https://www.oldgunscanada.com>) is Canada's largest website for antique handguns. My newsletter reaches over 1000 collectors across the country, and the website gets over 15,000 visits each month. I am trying to compile a directory of services specifically for collectors of antique guns:

- Parts
- Repair & restoration service
- Expertise / expert advice
- Obsolete ammo
- Buy, sell, trade

If you want to be included in this directory, please contact me at [cakluftinger@gmail.com](mailto:cakluftinger@gmail.com) or call me at 778-386-6686.

Wanted – Pocket Knives made in the U.S., England, (Sheffield) Germany, Italy Sweden, or France. Need to be in excellent to good condition. Fair prices paid in cash. See me at the show or send pictures. [crescentknifeworks@gmail.com](mailto:crescentknifeworks@gmail.com)

HACS Show dates for 2023.

Jan 22 9AM – 2PM Evergreen Hall, Chilliwack. Busy show with a great turnout!

Mar 18 9AM – 5PM Heritage Park, Chilliwack.

Mar 19 9AM – 3PM Heritage Park.

May 28 9AM – 2PM Evergreen Hall.

July 16 9AM – 2PM Evergreen Hall.

Sept 10 9AM – 2PM Evergreen Hall.

Nov 18 9AM – 4PM Evergreen Hall.

Nov 19 9AM – 2PM Evergreen Hall.