

L. E. JURRAS' AUTO MAG

VOL. 1, NO. 5 / AUG. 1974

# NEWSLETTER

Official Publication of the Club de Auto Mag Internationale, Inc.

## WHEN THE GOING GETS ROUGH . . .

by **GEORGE C. NONTE** #007

If you're thinking of the 15 to 40-yard shots taken so often at Eastern American whitetail and similar game, you'll not find things so easy in South Africa - at least not where Lee Jurras and I hunted with handguns last June.

The country is open and rolling with no few ridges and cuts slicing across it. There is bush, to be sure, and wait-a-bit thorn to claw your hide, but the shooting you'll get is generally in the open.

More or less typical is the very nice brown bushbuck Jurras took on Rory Reider's holdings called "Watersmeet" near the coast. Bushbuck exist there in plenty, but aren't usually seen in the open during daylight. They are hunted with dogs in deep thickets, or in the half-light of dusk and dawn when they creep cautiously out to feed.

Nevertheless, while out mainly just for some fun shooting near good bushbuck cover, Lee's .357 AMP laid low a fine buck. It happened like this.

Strolling along the river with a scattergun for fowl, he still carried the Auto Mag "just in case", holstered and unloaded. It was hot, and after a time, he divested himself of Auto Mag, holster, sweater, and other gear to better take a break and enjoy the scenery. The noise and movement would have normally spooked even lesser game in the immediate area, but not this time. While engrossed in cigarette, binoculars, and camera, Jurras drifted a few yards away from gun and gear - then suddenly, scarcely 40 yards away, a proud bushbuck, who could stand the intrusion no longer, sprang from his invisible bed and streaked for sanctuary.

Mouth agape, mind jumping, eyes darting from buck to distant gun, Lee first hesitated, certain the buck would be away before he could get into ac-

tion - but then, he said silently (?) "Hell with it!" and leaped for the gun, loading and chambering a round as he spun back toward the fleeing buck, now running flat-out a full 100-yards away.

No rest available, so just a standing, two-hand shot, with heart thumping like an imprisoned drum, swing, shoot and miss! Not even a puff of dust to shift from, since grass underfoot absorbed the speeding 137-grain JSP bullet.

The buck turned and headed for a bushy clump and safety, now heading directly away from the gun, what an artilleryman would call a "line shot".

Sweating, gritting teeth, and straining to calm the pitching sights, Lee wished the crashing shot off just as the buck disappeared into or behind the bush. No chance to see evidence

of the shot, and no certain perception of the "whock" of a striking.

More than half-certain he'd missed, sick with disgust at having split from his gun at such a time, Lee half-heartedly walked up to look for blood or tracks behind the bush.

There he lay, the 13 inch bushbuck, downed instantly when the speeding bullet smashed dead-center through the back of his neck, just below the skull. Exactly the same place Lee had hit a lesser and closer buck some days earlier, many miles away.

- See Photo, Page Four -

Moral of the story? Never part with your gun, and never quit when the going gets rough. **GCN**

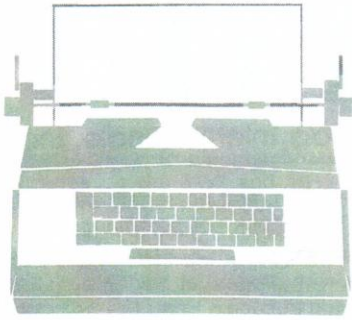
**EDITOR'S NOTE:** George has a tendency to become a bit literary at times.



**A GATHERING OF THE CLAN** Left to right kneeling: Phil Forbing, Kent Lomont-Lomont Precision Bullets, Mike Barach, and John Ross. Standing are: Dan Yaich, Graves Gladney, Buzz Chamblee, and J.D. Jones - handgun editor for *Gunsport Magazine*. A total of 22 Automag handguns were represented during the weekend gathering at the Super Vel facility.



# Letters



Dear Major Nonte:

I read your recent article in Gun Week on the .357 Auto Mag. I noticed you used a 6½" barrel. I would like to buy a .44 Auto Mag with an extra .357 Auto Mag barrel assembly. I see that they are available in three barrel lengths; 6½", 8½", and 10". Which barrel length is best? It looks like the 6½" barrel would be handiest but what am I sacrificing over the 8½"? Can a person really shoot a 10" barrel easily? Does the rib do anything for the gun? (I may be only able to get a ribless model). What modifications are necessary to prevent the .44 Auto Mag feeding problem and how much does it cost? Where can I get it done?

What type of scope will take the recoil? Would you use this gun without

a scope and in that case which barrel length would you use?

Thank you very much for your help. I enjoy your articles very much. I'm sending a stamped self-addressed envelope to speed up the return as it does not appear that there are many .44 Auto Mags left.

Ken Siegenthaler, #193  
3810 Berryleaf Court,  
Dayton, OH 45424

Dear Sir:

Please don't think I'm being facetious when I say that asking a man what barrel length you should obtain is like asking a man what kind of woman he prefers - it all depends on whether you want flashy performance, staying power, or some mixture of the two.

All other factors being equal, you'll get the least velocity from the 6-1/2 in. barrel, perhaps 100 fps more with the 8-1/2 in. barrel, and an equal or greater amount more going to the 10-inch tube. If the velocity is what you seek, then by all means get the 10-inch. If handiness is of more importance to you than velocity, then the 6-1/2 inch tube is the way to go. At the 8-1/2 in. length inbetween, you'll have some of the best of both extremes.

While the individual who has never handled a heavy, long-barreled pistol may have some problems with a 10-

inch tube in the beginning, a bit of practice soon overcomes this, and I feel the added sight radius and velocity is more than ample return for the greater length.

As far as the rib is concerned, I feel that the gun looks much better with it, and it does certainly provide a single-plane sighting surface free from obstructions or distractions.

Feeding problems in early Auto Mag pistols can normally be eliminated with an overall tuneup. This involves a number of operations, some of them rather time-consuming. Unless you've had a bit of experience in tuning auto-loaders, I don't recommend you try it yourself. On the other hand, at this time, I do not know of any particular shop or individual which specializes in such services.

Personally, I am not enamored with telescopic sights on handguns of any sort. If I want to carry that much weight and bulk around, I prefer a very short light rifle. However, any of the better long-eye-relief scopes of light weight and low magnification should withstand the recoil of the AMP satisfactorily if properly mounted. After all, most of the better scopes manufactured in this country today are made to withstand the recoil of a .458 Winchester Magnum rifle weighing only 8 pounds.

GCN

## RETAIL PRICE LIST

## Auto Mag Parts List

Effective September 1974  
Prices subject to change  
without notice.

1.	Barrel & Extension Assy.	175.00	26.	Extractor Spring	.85
2.	Accelerator Block Pin	1.25	27.	Ejector Retaining Pin	.40
3.	Accelerator Block	13.65	28.	Ejector	.70
4.	Accelerator	13.90	29.	Ejector Spring	.15
5.	Rear Sight Pin	1.25	30.	Retaining Ring	.15
6.	Rear Sight Platform	14.15	31.	Safety Plate Spacer	3.75
7.	Rear Sight Elevation Spring	.25	32.	Safety Plate	6.55
8.	Elevation Adjustment Screw Assy.	4.40	33.	Trigger Adjustment Screw	.90
9.	Windage Adjustment Screw Assy.	4.70	34.	Holdopen Assy.	8.75
10.	Rear Sight Blade	13.70	35.	Holdopen Spring	1.25
11.	Rear Sight Windage Spring	.25	36.	Trigger Bar	6.55
12.	Grip Screw	.15	37.	Trigger Bar Spring	.60
13.	Left Grip	6.55	38.	Trigger	8.30
14.	Right Grip	6.55	39.	Trigger Bar Pin	1.25
15.	Magazine Assy.	15.00	40.	Trigger Spring	1.50
16.	Recoil Rod	4.15	41.	Sear Pin	1.25
17.	Recoil Spring	2.00	42.	Sear	14.60
18.	Cocking Piece	16.55	43.	Sear Spring	.35
19.	Firing Pin	3.15	44.	Bolt Safety Tappet	3.75
20.	Firing Pin Spring	.45	45.	Safety Lever	18.10
21.	Bolt Rotation Pin	6.70	46.	Safety Lever Detent Plunger	3.75
22.	Bolt	43.75	47.	Safety Lever Detent Spring (Outer)	1.00
23.	Bolt Rotation Spring	.65	48.	Safety Lever Detent Spring (Inner)	1.00
24.	Extractor Retaining Pin	.40	49.	Hammer Pin Retaining Ring	.15
25.	Extractor	10.15	50.	Hammer Pin	3.75

All Auto Mag Club members will be allowed a 10% discount on the above parts. Minimum order is \$ 5.00, post-paid. Dealers, less 25%. Parts may be ordered thru L.E. JURRAS & ASSOC., P.O. Box 163, Shelbyville, IN 46176



# Classified

Use of the Classified Ad Section is free to all Club de Auto Mag Internationale members. Non-members may advertise at the following rates: To 15 words per issue - \$4.00, To 30 words - \$7.50. Please contact our Advertising Dept. for multiple issue or special display advertising rates

## STOLEN

Mod. 180 S/N A00656. \$100.00 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of person or persons who stole the gun (and others) on Apr. 10, 1974. Can identify even w/o S/N Contact: John W. Butler (#194) - 2061 Rhoda St. - Simi Valley, CA 93065

## WANTED

BUY, SELL, AND TRADE THROUGH THE AUTO MAG NEWSLETTER'S CLASSIFIED AD SECTION.

## FOR SALE

Original .44 AMP, stamped Auto Mag., Pasadena, CA, low three digit S/N, excellent condition. Price is \$ 550.00. Write: Maj. Buzz Chamblee (#2) - 11 Fay Dr. - Enon, OH 45323

Pair, T.D.E. Auto Mags, consecutive serial numbers, 6 1/2 inch .44 AMP, 8 1/2 inch .357 AMP; never fired. \$1,000 or best offer by Sept. 15, '74. Write: B.J.B. Enterprises - Benj. J. Burroughs (#0016) P.O. Box 577 - Brentwood, CA 94513

ORIGINAL AUTO MAG PLASTIC CARTRIDGE BOXES Postpaid at \$.75 each: Lomont Precision Bullets - 4421 S. Wayne, Ft. Wayne, IN 46807

ZIPPO LIGHTERS Auto Mag Club emblem. Postpaid at \$7.50 each. Order from: Club de Auto Mag Internationale, Inc. - P.O. Box 400 - Shelbyville, IN 46176

AUTO MAG CLIP DEPRESSOR Postpaid at \$6.95 each. Available thru the following locations:

- J.C. Enterprises - 907 W. Mill St. - Ossian, IN 46777
- Lomont Precision Bullets - 4421 S. Wayne - Ft. Wayne, IN 46807
- Club de Auto Mag Int'l, Inc. - P.O. Box 400 - Shelbyville, IN 46176

LAMINATED WOOD GRIPS FOR AUTO MAG These are the same type grips used on the L.E. Jurras, Custom Mod. 100 Series. \$35.00 per pair Available thru: J.C. Enterprises - 907 W. Mill St. Ossian, IN 46777

AUTO MAG SHOULDER HOLSTER We had "Safariland" make a special run of their excellent Mod. 101 Shoulder Holster for the Auto Mag user. Both holster and clip pouch are stamped with the L.E. Jurras trademark. Mod. 6 1/2" bbl. - \$24.95; Mod. 8 1/2" bbl. - \$30.95; Clip Pouch - \$8.50. Less 10% discount to Auto Mag Club members! Send check or M.O. to: L.E. Jurras & Assoc. - P.O. Box 163 - Shelbyville, IN 46176

New empty, un-primed CDM .44 AMP cases are \$11.00 per C - Dealers \$90.00 per M. Write: L.E. Jurras & Assoc. - P.O. Box 163 - Shelbyville, IN 46176

Ammo for .357 AMP and .44 AMP; nine loads for each caliber, Guns, Parts, Repairs, Accessories, and Tuning. Write for brochure: Beal's Bullets - R.S. Beal, Jr. (#0152) - 170 W. Marshall Rd. - Lansdowne, PA 19050

.44 Auto Mag, orig. mfg., unfired, orig. case, papers. #A04564. FFL and Cashiers Check of best offer. Bid closing last day of the month. Contact William Schuchter - P.O. Box 1564 - Ft. Lauderdale, FLA 33302

TAPER CRIMP DIES for the .357 handloader makes existing RCBS 4-die set. Same specs as Super Vel factory die. \$7.50 each, postpaid. Write Club de Auto Mag Internationale - P.O. Box 400 - Shelbyville, IN. 46176

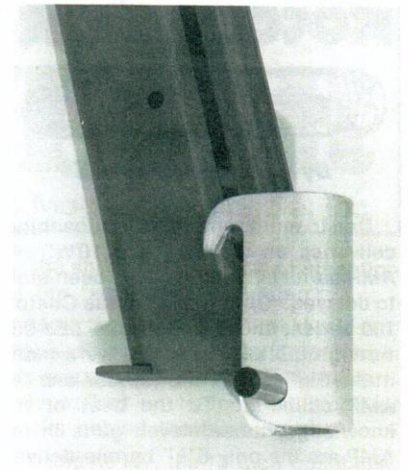
## SERVICES

Pressure and velocity - test your favorite .357 or .44 AMP handload. Write for particulars: L.E. Jurras & Assoc. - P.O. Box 163 - Shelbyville, IN 46176

BUY, SELL, AND TRADE THROUGH THE AUTO MAG NEWSLETTER'S CLASSIFIED AD SECTION.

COMPLETE TUNE-UPS .357 & .44 AMP Pasadena, N. Hollywood or El Monte Auto Mags. Write for particulars - L.E. Jurras and Associates - P.O. Box 163 - Shelbyville, IN 46176

## NEW! AMP CLIP DEPRESSOR



Locks the clip spring down for easy loading. Strong, lightweight, stainless-steel & aluminum construction; the clip depressor is a must. Postpaid at just \$6.95 ea. Send check or money order to:

CLUB de AUTO MAG INT'L, INC.  
P.O. Box 400 - Shelbyville, IN 46176

G.C. Nonte & Associates  
- FIREARMS CONSULTANTS -

1227-D W. Glen Ave. Telephone  
Peoria, Ill. 61614 309-691-9612



J.D. Jones, #005 fires Kent Lomont's .357 AMP with Leupold M2-8X scope. Note the bolt in recoil and fired case. This gun/scope combo has been fired over 1500 rounds with no ill effects to the scope. (See May issue for scope mounting)



# Rotary Bolt



by LEE E. JURRAS

Due to minor problems in broaching, deliveries on the 8½" and 10½" .44 AMP barrel extensions have been slow to delayed. On the L.E. Jurras Custom 100 series, those serial no's LEJ-080 through LEJ-090 inclusive were made in the 8½" length in both .357 and .44 AMP calibers. To the best of my knowledge, those eleven guns in .44 AMP are the only 8½" barrels delivered as of this date.

My favorite hunting gun in the .357 AMP caliber, carries the 6½" tube, however during function and test firing those eleven 8½" .44 AMPS, the longer barrels seemed to handle and point smoother than their counterpart in the .357 AMP. The 245 grams additional weight forward might possibly be a moot or psychologically shoots better. For the pistolero who goes after moose, elk and bear with this combo, a 180 grain JSP at 2000 f.p.s. is no slouch.

In Jeff Cooper's new book "HAND-GUNS" (Petersen Publishing Co.) in the chapter on Hunting, Jeff makes mention of the Auto Mag as a hunting handgun. Make no mistake, that is what the Auto Mag is, a "Hunting Handgun". It was never designed for law enforcement or mid-range target work. I personally feel Jeff is a bit fa-

## DOWNED AT 125 YARDS

L.E. Jurras, international handgun hunter, is pictured here with his 13-in. bushbuck taken with the AMP during June's South African hunt.

cetious on some points concerning the Auto Mag, but to each his own.

Nobody has ever claimed the Auto Mag bug free; it's a specialty handgun for a specialist. Before we all get so self righteous about it's shortcomings, lets give a moments thought to how many of us ever pioneered a project this sophisticated in today's fire-arms industry.

Now, I have been accused of being overly defensive in behalf of the Auto Mag, t'aint necessarily so. As a hunting handgun in the past, I have been very fond of the Rger Super Blackhawk and the S&W Model 29 in the 8-3/8" barrel, and have taken 65 head of medium and large game with these guns. But, telling it like it is, I am an Autoloader fan, and the Auto Mag is the first autoloader to step forward in the big game hunting category. I do my own tuning on my personal Auto Mags and have yet to have a malfunction in the field that cost me a trophy.

We get many letters from Auto Mag club members and individuals, on questions pertaining to the history of the Auto Mag. "THE AUTO MAG STORY", (Guns & Ammo - July '74) by Howard French gives the most comprehensive coverage of Auto Mag history we have seen to date. The Club de Auto Mag Internationale has had 1500 reprints made, free for the asking.

-LEJ



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