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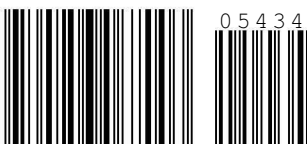
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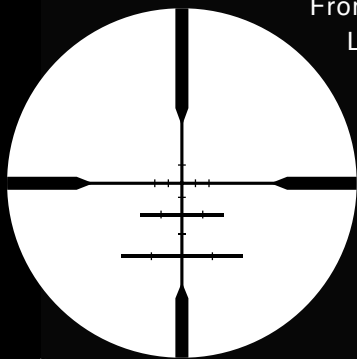
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08



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VOLUME 40
NUMBER 5
MAY 2015

ON THE COVER:
Bird season means sunflowers and shotguns. The Yildiz SPZM over-and-under is a decent shotgun for a very good price. Read our test report on page 28. Photos by Phillip Hayes.

Features

- 08** **WHICH .416?** Sam Fadala
You have twelve to choose from...
- 14** **SELOUS CROCODILE HUNT** Geoff Wainwright
Stalking Africa's deadly leviathan
- 17** **A MAGNUM KNIFE FOR THE MAGNUM MAN**
Order a hand-made custom knife exclusive to Magnum Phillip Hayes
- 18** **MEN STICK TOGETHER** Bielie
Foepie falls prey to feminine wiles
- 21** **HS .45ACP TACTICAL** André Grobler
A high-capacity .45 with all the bells and whistles
- 28** **SHOTGUNS FOR BIRD SEASON** Phillip Hayes
Low-budget guns work as well as any
- 32** **KAROO 'BRANCHBUCK'** Tim Murray
Fallow deer: challenging to hunt, great to eat
- 36** **UME RIVER BUSHBUCK** Kevin Thomas
...hard work, wilting heat, cunning quarry
- 40** **PAGES FROM THE PAST** Robin Barks
Journey back through a long-lost notebook
- 44** **CERAKOTE – NUWE LEWE VIR OU KALANT** Bert Kirsten
Gee nuwe lewe aan 'n ou staatmaker
- 47** **GREYWING FRANCOLIN** André Grobler
High country, high velocity, high class...
- 48** **A FRAGMENT OF HISTORY?** Gregor Woods
What tales might a tiny scrap of metal tell?
- 54** **BULLET CASTING PART II** Roger Ingle
Lead mixes and moulding methods
- 64** **GETTING IT STRAIGHT** Malcolm Cobb
...that all-important bullet alignment

Departments

TRAIL TALK – 6

Trial and Tribulation

READERS' LETTERS – 12

From Scrap Heap to Museum Piece

Tarentaaljag

Subscription

Colour Breeding

Newcomers to Hunting

Subsonic .303

Shot size for Pig Hunting

Windpump

HUNTEX SPECIALS

Light on the Subject – 24

HuntEx Happiness – 26

Cowboy Guns – 51

TECH TALK – 58

Bore-Slugging

TEST REPORT – 60

Nikon Laser Rangefinder

CLINIC – 63

Ream those Necks

MAGNUM'S MARKET – 66

TRADING POST – 67

SUBSCRIPTION – 68

GALLERY – 69

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Trial and Tribulation

IN MAY 1985 Robin Barkes had his first article published in *Magnum*. That was 30 years ago. For 3 decades it has been our privilege to share in his exploits as black powder fundi, mountain man and a hunter gatherer. I am sure Robin does not chew tobacco, nope, as a mountain man he would much rather sniff home-made black powder and mix his home-brew with puff-adder venom to add a bit of mule-kick to his 105% proof. (We prefer the United Kingdom method of proof, where the alcohol percentage is only multiplied by 1.75, unlike the Americans who multiply by 2.)

Men like him are rare, for which we are thankful. Those hardy Eastern Cape frontiersmen are made of pure buffalo hide and give new meaning to the words 'as tough as nails'. Robin being of this ilk excelled in enjoying what others would call the hardships of outdoor life. This in turn led to unique experiences that could be shared with our readers.

Time, though, has not been standing still, and Robin is now on the other side of 70; on top of that he and his wife recently lost most of their earthly possessions in a fire that destroyed their home.

I was afraid that this setback would result in his putting down the pen. He, however, refused to let the world get him down and after a short spell to regroup was back at writing again. In this month's issue he writes about the memories a notebook brought back. A notebook only found because he had to sift through the rubble of his ruined house.

Life works in mysterious ways, sometimes forcing us to find a long lost jewel in the ashes of devastation. In this tragic instance it added to our reading pleasure and for that we are thankful. I only hope that our good will eventually makes up for the losses he and his family suffered.

In 1985 Robin started with: *Hunting with Black Powder* with the teaser "Taking

to the field with a muzzle-loading shotgun has added a new dimension to Robin Barkes' wingshooting forays".

Now, 30 years later, that first article is just as relevant as it was back then. Therefore *Magnum* will this month make it available as a bonus article via our QR codes.

We wish Robin and his family the best, especially with a slow recovery after losing everything. We hope to see his articles running well into the next decade.

It is time for HuntEx and this year *Magnum* will be there. You'll find us in Hall 2 under the shade of an acacia tree. It is important for us to meet our readers and to hear what you want. After all, it is your magazine. So use the opportunity to speak to us. Together we will determine the future.

Magnum is also offering readers a unique opportunity at HuntEx to subscribe to the magazine at a reduced price and to benefit from two retailers when buying from them. Zimbi and Jetbeam exhibit in the same hall and readers will be eligible for discounts from 10% to 15% on certain items. More of that later in the magazine, suffice to say -10% on anything Jetbeam stocks and the same for semi-autos at Zimbi.

For the first time in decades we will also offer custom-made hunting knives to our readers. These knives, both hunters, one in a classic style and the other with a tactical look, will be on display at HuntEx.

Order yours early. They are hand-made, so a waiting period will be involved. The knives are very similar in design, hopefully small enough to carry easily, large enough to get the tough jobs done, beautiful enough to envy and, like most good practical knives, have the ability to become a lifelong companion.

We are working on several plans to give our readers more benefits that will enhance their hunting and shooting experience. In the end we would like it to pay in more ways than one to be a *Magnum* Man.

Talking about benefits, it is bird hunting season again: for me the best time of the year. There is nothing like the air of a crisp frozen morning while waiting for the geese to come in over my hide – mostly a bale or two stacked to conceal my boy, dog and me. Just seeing the excitement in the young face and the shivering (with excitement) body of the dog is worth the effort.

I am determined to make it my best bird season ever, shooting less, taking more photos and savouring every moment. Remember hunting is about the total package, the birds in the bag are only part of the success. So savour the experience, but remember to be fair to the birds and yourself, shoot within your capabilities to avoid wounding. Stick to the bag limit, leave birds for another day and treasure the hunt. ■

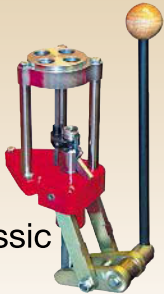


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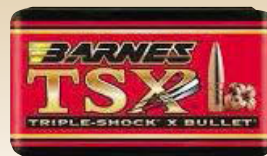
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Which .416?

by **SAM FADALA**



A hunter facing a Cape buffalo would do well to carry a .416 launching a 400gr bullet at up to 2500fps.



THE .416 FAMILY TREE has many branches. Since each cartridge in the dangerous game clan has similar potential, we must pause to wonder why there are so many variations on the theme: essentially a 400gr bullet at 2400fps for 5100ft-lbs of muzzle energy. The norm is challenged by certain handloads, some factory fodder, and the super-magnums, such as the .416 Dakota and .416 Weatherby Magnum. Why so many .416s? Because, in its various applications, the .416 is an amazingly effective and versatile bore-size, and a magnet to cartridge designers.

.416 Rigby. Thinking with the eye rather than the mind, this favoured child was *numero uno* with me, based on history and performance, though I ended up never owning a rifle in this chambering. The British house of John Rigby introduced this cartridge in 1911, perhaps inspired by the .404 Jeffery. In 1989, Federal Cartridge Company

added the Rigby to its line-up, and in 1992, Ruger chambered it in a 'dangerous game rifle'. Original Rigby loads operated in the 40 000 pounds-per-square-inch range for double rifles, the large case being ideal for cordite propellant with mild pressures. Today, the Rigby is treated to 50 000 psi-plus pressure ranges. *Nosler Reloading Guide Number 7* lists a maximum load of 104.0gr of RL-22 for 2515fps, 5600ft-lbs muzzle energy, certainly enough pasta to discourage the charge of an enraged springhare.

Upside: The Rigby can do it all. And if you have a penchant for aesthetics, it is a very handsome beltless cartridge.

Downside: A highly respected African outfitter and champion of the Rigby, Tokkie van der Merwe of Three-Ways Safaris, Zimbabwe, warned me that although its powder load was greater than the .416 Rem Mag, the Rigby performed no better. Tokkie now has two

Above: The famous .416 Rigby, left, with .416 Taylor centre, and on the right, factory .416 Remington Magnum with 400gr Woodleigh Hydro Solid bullet, Federal Premium Cape-Shok load.

.416 Remington rifles in his battery, burning approximately 75% of the Rigby powder load for the same ballistics. That aside, this grandfather cartridge remains suitable for felling the most ponderous beasts on earth. John Pondoro Taylor wrote, "Firing its plain soft-nose slug, it crumples a charging lion as few other weapons are capable of doing."

.416 Taylor. This is not 'Pondoro' Taylor, the elephant guy, but Robert Chatfield Taylor, who hatched his .416 design in 1972. Simple can be grand. Taylor simply necked the .458 Winchester case down to .416 calibre. American gun-maker Frank Wells and worldwide hunter John MacIvor, consider the .416 Taylor one of the better ideas to



Above: The Kimber Caprivi comes in .375H&H, .416 Remington Magnum and .458 Lott. The author chose the .416 for both its near and far performance. The author's rifle has dual opposed locking lugs; full length claw extractor; three position wing safety; hinged floor plate; folding three leaf open sight; hooded front sight on 24-inch barrel; straight comb AA French walnut stock for recoil management; front barrel band sling swivel; Decelerator recoil pad; hand checkering. The author's original Swarovski 1x-6x was replaced with a Swarovski 2x-12x for both close and longer-range shooting.

come down the path of cartridge development, operating in standard-length actions. The Taylor delivers a 400gr bullet at the magical 2400fps, according to experimenter Ken Waters. Ken achieved higher velocity experimentally, but settled on 2400fps as his maximum load.

A-Square legitimized the wildcat Taylor with a commercial load pushing a 400gr bullet at 2400fps for over 5000ft-lbs of muzzle energy. During my PH course, now some time ago, the professor informed us that a minimum 4000ft-lbs for dangerous game was, while not chiselled in the granite of law, a command of wisdom. Obviously, the .416 Taylor is right for anything that walks the earth, including Tyrannosaurus Rex, should one be roaming your neighbourhood. **Upside:** The .416 Taylor can operate in .30-06 length actions. **Downside:** Ammunition is not available at the local sporting goods store, and while some consider a shorter bolt-stroke important, there is no trouble cycling the longer actions of more readily available .416s.

The .416 Hoffman. A-Square also adopted this wildcat. George L Hoffman of Sonora, Texas, developed this cartridge about a decade after RC Taylor came out with his .416. The Hoffman is essentially a .375H&H Magnum necked up to .416 calibre with a straighter wall

– another ballistic clone launching a 400gr bullet at 2400fps with 5000+ft-lbs muzzle energy: a world-class cartridge. **Upside:** It's possible, due to a smaller base diameter than 'fatter' .416s, to squeeze an extra round into a magazine. **Downside:** The .416 Rem Mag, and even the greybeard .416 Rigby, are commercially available.

.416 BGA. This unique cartridge developed by Raymond Oelrich of *Big Game and Adventures* magazine is chambered in high-class custom rifles. Its parentage is the 9.3x64 of European fame. Velocity is 2200fps with a 400gr bullet for 4300ft-lbs of muzzle energy, making the critical dangerous-game power-zone. **Upside:** Ammunition is offered through A-Square and Superior Ammo (USA), and for a hunter who desires a special rifle chambered for a special cartridge, the .416 BGA is a hot cup of tea in standard .30-06 length actions. The last I heard, beautiful rifles are still handmade by Serengeti Rifle Company in Canada. **Downside:** Ammunition will not be seen on your local dealer's shelf, and hand-loading is not encouraged due to unique BGA finished cartridge dimensions.

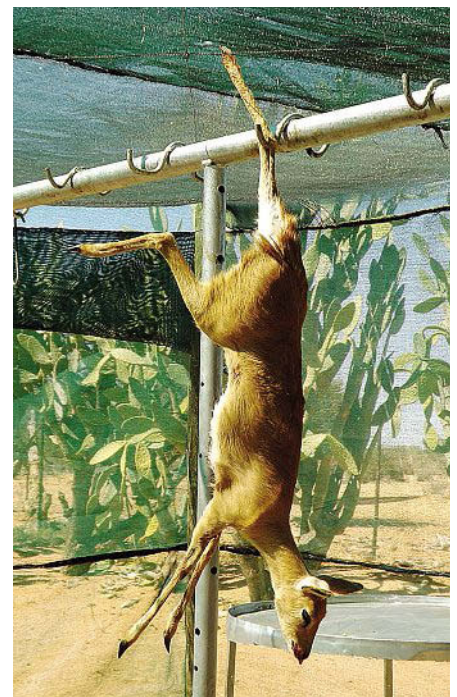
.416 Rimmed. A-Square came to the rescue again with a .416 cartridge that sends a 400gr bullet away at 2400 fps.



The author did not want a 'lump' on the end of his handsome Kimber Caprivi .416. The Mag-Na-Brake is a reasonable compromise. Not terribly obtrusive, but decidedly functional.

This is a big-capacity case, holding powder charges in the 112gr range. It came about as a somewhat lengthened .416 Rigby, rimmed for use in double rifles. The .416 Rimmed matches the original .416 Rigby energy-wise. Wouldn't you know it? The 400gr bullet leaves the muzzle at a flat 2400fps with the A-Square factory load. **Upside:** The double-rifle fan has, in effect, a rimmed .416 Rigby. **Downside:** This is a proprietary cartridge, so order a good supply for that beautiful double rifle, as you will find no ammunition locally. (Well, not likely anyway.)

The land manager in the Kalahari told hunters to take any and all steenbok encountered, as well as warthog. Carrying only the Kimber .416 Remington Magnum rifle, I followed the instruction.



.416 Aagard. An honoured name rings loudly: Finn Aagard. Fred Zeglin of Z-Hat Custom Shop USA, created a .416 that duplicates .404 Jeffery ballistics in a medium-length action by necking up Hornady's .376 Steyr to .416 calibre, then fire-forming in the new chamber. The .404, a highly honoured round in its day, with pretty much the same authority as the .416 Rigby, has been slowly overshadowed by today's .416s. Z-Hat Custom Shop provides rifles, dies, and reloading information. Ballistics: 400gr bullet at 2300fps for 4700ft-lbs muzzle energy – more than enough to satisfy the desired minimum. **Upside:** Standard length actions for nicely crafted rifles. **Downside:** Ammunition will not be on the shelf of Crook's Corner Gun Shop in Musina, South Africa where I shop, whereas they have plenty of Rigby and Remington.

.416 Ruger. I happen to know that with a hefty charge of H-380 this shapely cartridge hand-loads at 2400fps. Factory ammunition achieves the same magical 2400fps muzzle velocity. Ruger logically necked up that company's .375 to accept .416 bullets. It turns out to be dynamite in a small package, such as Ruger's Hawkeye Model 77. **Upside:** the .416 Ruger remains a good idea. The hand-loader, while

Nick Fadala, right, with elephant taken with one shot using the author's Kimber Caprivi .416.



always obligated to be precise and careful, can cook up .416 Ruger ammunition to challenge the Rigby, for example 80.0gr 2000-MR for 2424fps. Cartridge compactness allows super potency in a great-handling rifle. **Downside:** Can't think of one. I really like this cartridge.

.416 JDJ. JD Jones, that great marksman and shooting innovator, came up with this interesting number. The .416 JDJ on the .444 Marlin case is capable of pushing a 400gr bullet at a little over 1800fps for muzzle energy of 2878ft-lbs – from the 14-inch barrel of the Contender handgun. While this falls short of the dangerous game minimum, it isn't exactly a cap pistol. **Upside:** A powerful handgun round for all non-dangerous game. However, also suitable



Bullets dislodged after penetrating four feet of hardwood. Left, Nosler noted in article; right, Woodleigh, after shedding its rounded cap, used to facilitate feeding from magazine to chamber.

for leopard, which, though potentially deadly, has a relatively small body size and a soft hide. **Downside:** There is no downside to the handgun hunter who knows both his and this cartridge's limitations. It is what it is.

.416-06 JDJ. Another Jones cartridge, this one based on the .30-06 case, designed for handgunners who admire the Thompson/Center Encore pistol. Cases are formed from readily available .35 Whelen brass – but not with one simple thrust into a sizing die. The owner of a pistol chambered for this cartridge should consider acquiring special knowledge and attention to creating ammunition. Bullets of 300gr and 400gr are the norm. Considering it's a handgun, the authority is certainly there. The 400gr bullet can fly at close to 2100fps for 3900ft-lbs muzzle energy – right on the fringe of African PH acceptability. **Upside:** Plenty of pistol power. **Downside:** Not for the shooter who wants to buy his ammunition in town.

.416 Barnes. Another major name synonymous with gunlore and savvy stands behind this cartridge – one of a long line of Frank's special creations. Frank was not seeking a cartridge for dangerous game, but one in the .40 calibre family that would provide a real wallop for American big game such as grizzly bear, as well as for African plains game. Based on the .45-70 case, its 300gr bullet at over 2300fps, with muzzle energy right at 3700ft-lbs, has plenty of steam for kudu-size fauna. While lever-action rifles are as rare in Africa as hens' teeth, Marlin's Model 1895 (on a 336 action) is well-suited to this number and does make a snappy-handling piece. **Upside:** Plenty of punch. **Downside:** Same old story, no ammunition readily available.

.416 Dakota and .416 Weatherby Magnum. Lumped together as larger-than-normal .416s, these two are for the hunter who wants a boost in .416 delivery and can handle the extra push. **Upside:** A lot of power. **Downside:** Negative choice for hunters who do not feel a need or desire for battleship authority. However, to give the rounds their due: 400gr bullets at 2600 to 2700fps for energy ratings well beyond the 6000+ft-lbs range.