

November 1, 2011



*Happy Thanksgiving
to everyone*

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.Oh Boy!, Northeast Ohio in November. We are buttoning down the hatches as we prepare for another cold winter. I will be traveling to North Carolina for my first ever fitting seminar and I am looking forward to this first event. I will let everyone know how it goes next month after I get back.

I want to let all of our readers know a little of what is going on here at home. As all of you know my best friend Dean DeBow has been a little under the weather for about a year now and I called him to get his permission to write about this. Dean has been suffering with seizures for two years and at first they thought he had a mild case of epilepsy. In September of this year he finally found out what is wrong. Dean has a tumor in the left front lobe of his brain. According to the doctor 95% of the time these types of tumors are non-cancerous. We are asking for prayers and well wishes for Dean. Also a speedy recovery so he can return to the sport that he loves so much. If you have a spare moment please give him a call I know it will lift his spirits before the surgery. His home number is 270-886-2095. Dean's surgery has been scheduled for December 12th, 2011. Just be patient as his short term memory gets a little fuzzy from time to time and thank you for all your support.

One last report I am going in for a total left knee replacement hopefully in November and I do not expect to be down for a long time. This will change my plans to travel but as soon as the doctor gives me a release date I will be on the road again looking forward to seeing all my rowdy friends and shooting again.

Getting older sucks but it is what it is and I am grateful to be on the right side of the grass. God willing I will be back among the shooting community soon. A customer e-mailed Cindy this really cool video of an owl flying toward a camera. Click on the link and watch this fantastic bird and the aerodynamics of flight that is shown. It is incredible to watch. <http://www.dogwork.com/owfo8/>

Please be aware of my new e-mail address dennis@devaultind.com, the old address will be up for awhile but in a couple of months it will no longer work so please change your records.

Thank you,

Dennis R. DeVault

Timing is Everything

When am I ready for a custom stock? Do I really need to do this? What is the cost of having this process done?

Every week I get those questions, "I have a son or daughter that is shooting very well and I want my child to come in for a custom stock." The first thing I ask, "What is the age of your son or daughter?"

The next question, I have been shooting for about 2 months, is it time for me to have a custom stock? Last question, what is the cost to have this done?

I will try and address all of the above questions. I do not know about other stock makers but I will not make a stock for a person under the age of 18. When you have a young shooter the best thing that you can do for them is to go to a competent fitter and have them first learn a proper mount. Once that is achieved the next step is to make the gun as comfortable for the child as possible and get their master eye over the center of the barrel. Then hang on as the child takes off on the wild growth spurts. Patience is the name of the game. As the child ages keep checking the fit to be sure they are down the middle of the barrel and just make adjustments as you go. Until a child reaches the age of at least 19 years of age their skeletal structure is still developing and will change as they grow. What you have to consider is the hormones that are on fire and is my child going to stick with this game in a couple of years. As parents we all want everything for our children to be better but this is one area that you have to proceed with caution. I know several parents that have approached me at shoots and were very upset when I refused to make their child a new custom stock. Years later they came back and thanked me for the advise. One parent approached me several years ago about making a new stock for his son and I told the father why it was a bad idea. That father didn't talk to me for about 4 years. I saw that young man recently and in the 4 years I had not seen him he really filled out with a change in body structure, muscle mass, and he grew 11 inches in height. The father saw me and actually apologized to me for being rude and asked if I would now make a stock for the boy and it is being made now.

The second evaluation is for new shooters. Most of the information needed is in the above message. When you first start get with a good fitter and be sure that you are mounting the gun well with good form. Make the alterations required and then just shoot as much as you can. I have done it but rarely do I make a new stock for a shooter that has less than one year under their belt. Also I want the new shooter to spend quality time shooting their current gun. If it has been 2 years and all you have shot is 200 targets you are not ready. When you go into a shop to talk with a fitter have your questions ready to ask during your session. If you have a person that refuses to answer your questions leave and look for someone else. Some things to consider is the pitch of the gun, "Am I getting slapped in the face?" "Am I looking down the center of the barrel?" "Is the stock too long for me?" "Am I mounting the gun correctly?" "Am I canting the gun?" As a shooter you need to give the fitter as much information as you can. If the stock hurts be sure and tell the fitter right away and tell them where it. You should never shoot in pain or extreme discomfort. Things are hard enough without shying away from the gun due to pain and bad fit. If you are considering a recoil reducer remember one important item and that is the pitch angle in the stock. Most of the recoil devices require the stock to be cut 90 degrees to the bore center line.

That may work for some but what do you accomplish if the recoil to the shoulder is reduced but the gun now kicks you in the face. These are all important questions that need to be addressed when fitting a stock for someone.

How much does this cost? At the present time I am the only stock maker with a web site that publishes our prices. When you make the decision to finally have a new stock made make sure you have all your questions about cost answered before you have the work done.

I want to emphasize one important item. If you go to a custom stock fitter be sure that you go out and shoot plenty of shells at targets and not just a pattern board. Other than knowing the gun shoots left to right in the proper plane the pattern will not show how you are going to shoot targets. The stock maker should be looking for the fit to be proper and also check to make sure that the stock is not causing discomfort in any areas of the body. When you are all done shooting and you are still not sure than ask if you can take the pattern back and shoot it for awhile. The answer should be yes from the stock maker. If the answer is no I would be a little hesitant about your next move. We have clients that have shot their pattern stocks for up to two years before having the permanent one made. We require a deposit to take the pattern home but that is to be expected when you are taking our property out of the shop. When a person comes here and does the fitting and takes the pattern home they put a deposit of \$ 900.00 to make that happen. The fitting fee is \$ 400.00 and the deposit is \$ 500.00 against the pattern stock. The \$ 500.00 deposit is credited back to the shooter toward the total cost of the stock when the new stock is complete. Again all of this is listed on our web site or you can call for a chat if you have the time. Custom stocks are expensive but if you look at the money spent in travel, food, entry fees & shells it is not a bad investment. If it will help you improve your scores and have the ability to shoot pain free and comfortable it is the way to go.

I hope that this will help shooters make an informed decision in the future and I wish everyone the best. Please enjoy the holidays with friends and family.

Until Next Month,

Rodeo Man Out

A beautiful English Stock on a Krieghoff K-80 O/U Super Scroll



Wood Sales LLC

This company has been set up to offer hard to find large blanks that will accommodate the new High Rib guns that have dominated the market for the past few years. If you are in the market for a good piece of wood that is dry and ready to carve have a look and come back from time to time to find your dream piece for your next project. The site can be found at

<http://www.customwoodblanks.com>



This is piece of beautiful Turkish Walnut currently for sale and displayed on our web site. Click on the link below for additional information

Click on the link here to go to our site and take a look at this beautiful blank it is dry and ready to carve

http://customwoodblanks.com/wood_sales_Turkish_wood_blank.htm



DeVault Winners Box

As the winter time sets in there is not much to report but we have a couple of names to show. Remember if you have one of our products please send us an e-mail at dennis@devaultind.com so we can list your accomplishments for all of your friends to see.

Bill McGuire~ Blaser ~ Custom Stock & Rib by DeVault Industries ~ National Sporting Clays Championship in San Antonio, TX Champion **287 x 300**

Scott Messenger ~ Infinity ~ Browning with DeVault Custom Stock ~ Idaho State Shoot Class AA non-resident champion 199 x 200 ~ Missouri State Shoot HAA & HOA Class AA Champion, Doubles Champion 99 x 100 ~ Heartland Grand Class AA Champion HAA & HOA

Ben Smith ~ Double D Shooting Clinic, This is a fine young man that Dean and I worked with for the past two years. Dean has worked with him independently as well and Ben is developing into a fine shooter. It is nice to see young people coming up and being respectful and doing well in our sport. ~ Champion at the Ducks Unlimited shoot 91 x 100 also won the stand ~ Team event in trap, Ben, his father Tracey, and Marty Crafton took first place in the event. Great to place as champion in both disciplines.

Ben is second from the right in the front row & his Dad Tracey is first on the right back row this photo was at Christian County Quail Club 2011





Howdy Everyone

Well it is now November and the countdown to Christmas begins. So in case you haven't figured it out yet there are 54 days to Christmas. Shooting season for most of us cold weathered people is over so before you put that shotgun away if there is anyone who needs some checkering done or need their existing checkering refreshed, now is a good time to get it done. You can give me a call at the shop 330-456-6070 or shoot me an email ckdevault@yahoo.com and I will be happy to answer any questions.

I mentioned in my last newsletter that I was going to share another soup with you. So I promise this will be the last soup for awhile, I don't want to soup everyone out. If you are counting calories this soup probably isn't the way to go but for a special treat or for guests it is wonderful.....and for you clever ones out there you already know how to substitute to make it fat free. However this recipe calls for a pound of bacon so good luck with that. Of course there is always turkey bacon.

Until December, I want to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving sharing good food and good times with family and friends. I know I thank the Lord everyday for my blessings.

Cindy

Potato Soup

Makes 8 servings

1 lb chopped bacon	3 tblsp butter	(Optional: sometimes I
2 stalks celery, diced	1/4 cup all-purpose flour	throw in a can of creamed
1 onion, chopped	1 cup heavy cream	corn)
3 cloves garlic, minced	1 teaspoon dried tarragon	chopped parsley fresh or
8 potatoes, peeled and cubed	1 teaspoon dried thyme	dried for sprinkling on top
4 cups chicken stock or enough to cover potatoes	salt and pepper to taste	(makes it look pretty)

Chop bacon and cook in Dutch oven over medium heat until done. Remove bacon from pan and set aside. Drain off all but 1/4 cup of the bacon grease. In the bacon grease remaining in the pan, sauté the celery and onion until onion begins to turn clear. Add the garlic and continue cooking for 1 to 2 minutes. Add the cubed potatoes and toss to coat. Sauté for 3 to 4 minutes. Return the bacon to the pan and add enough chicken stock to just cover the potatoes. Cover and simmer until potatoes are tender. In a separate pan melt the butter over medium heat. Whisk in the flour. Cook stirring constantly for 1 to 2 minutes. Whisk in the heavy cream, tarragon and thyme. Bring the cream mixture to a boil and cook stirring constantly, until thickened. Stir the cream mixture into the potato mixture. Purée about 1/2 of the soup and return to the pan. Adjust seasonings to taste with the salt and pepper and before serving sprinkle with the parsley.



God Bless the United States of America

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