

October 1, 2011



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October 1st, another summer has passed us by and the smell of fall is in the air. The leaves are beginning to turn. Ducks & Geese are on the move to begin their southward journey. Many of you have put the target guns away to prepare for the hunting and winter season. Remember to let the tension off of the trigger springs and give your gun a good cleaning before you put it away.

I am going to begin another addition to the services that we offer at DeVault Industries. Many shooters have asked if I would come out to their area and spend time with them doing a one on one session to adjust their shotgun or suggest upgrades to their shotgun and so on. I think that the interest has been great enough to provide this service. Starting the first of November after our fitting season comes to an end due to cold weather I will be traveling South to warmer areas to offer this new service. I will be traveling 2 weeks a month to set up one on one seminars for all shooters. Trap, Skeet or Sporting Clays. I will offer half day sessions and the cost is \$ 100.00 per person. The class will include a brief discussion about you and your shooting style., a basic gun fit with adjustments, and suggestions as to what you may change in your set-up for the upcoming year. Then observe you shooting targets. I will be able to book (5) shooters per half day, a total of (10) per day with



the first wave starting at 8:00 am until 1:00 pm, then the second wave 2:00 pm until 7:00 pm. If your gun requires a new recoil pad, adjustable butt plate or a stock length change there will be an additional charge. The work performed will be onsite during or after your time slot. For more information please refer to page 4 & 5 for our first clinic that will be held at DeWitt's Shooting Facility in North Carolina.

To the left a new Krieghoff Pro Sporter with DeVault Custom stock & forend

The World According to Me ~ “Dennis DeVault”

More on Stock Fitting and Why it’s Needed

I was speaking to one of my shooting friends this month and he commented on the September newsletter. He said he liked it and asked if I could write a little more on the subject. We discussed comments he’s heard from other shooters over the years and wanted my take on this month’s subject.

The subject is stock fit and why it is important as it relates to the eyes. When we shoot we are attracted to movement and I want you to think a little about that subject. If you see something move in your peripheral vision you do not cock your eyes to the side of the eye sockets to view the movement. Most folks turn their head to see what the movement is and identify the object. It is a move that you do naturally without thinking about what you have done. The head movement allows the eyes to be natural in their sockets without strain and the object that drew your attention to it is clear and in focus.

As I travel around the country, every day I see shooters turning their heads sideways on a gunstock and then turn the eyes back to the left if you are a right hand shooter. This is not a normal position for the eyes to be in. The eyes are strained having difficulty seeing a clear and sharp image. In the September newsletter, I described the best head and eye positions which naturally result when a stock properly fits the shooter. You might want to review last months photos.

I for one have worn glasses since the age of 9. When I started to shoot, I did not know where to set my head on that mule kicking 20 gauge. I just floated my head above the stock, tilted my head down and called pull. As I got a little more experienced with shooting, I told my Dad that I was losing targets now and again because the rim of my glasses got in the way of shooting certain targets. Dad called the local eye doctor and the Doc said no problem. “Just let me make these new glasses that set way up here on your forehead.” Now that should do it, no more obstruction. The only thing that happened was the Doctor fixed the problem with a Band Aid. The real cause of the problem was a bad stock fit and my eyes were upward with my head tilted down.

If you are a right hand shooter and your head is turned to the right with your nose into the stock, you are constantly looking out of the left corners of your eye socket. If you are like me with astigmatism this presents bigger problems. I always wondered why certain targets on the left never looked clear to me. I found out several years ago. With astigmatism, the doctor grinds the lenses and the optical center is smaller to correct this problem. Now you have a smaller area to look through to see correctly. In all the years that I have been shooting I have never had an eye doctor ask me to bring my gun with me so that the doctor could see me mount the gun and mark the center of the pupil of the eye so the cylinder could be ground in the correct spot. In a way I am glad that they never did this as I would have never known why this was not correct in the first place. The real problem should be corrected by a properly fitted stock.

Also when the head is turned to the right it is difficult to see a target on the left side of the gun. If you cannot see a target going to the left you will just do the natural thing the body knows to do. Lift your head and turn to the left to see the target. When the head comes off the stock all motion stops and you will shoot behind the target resulting in that nasty four letter word, “LOST”.

Doesn't that just make your blood boil? I know that custom fitted stocks are not cheap to buy but if you are a person that travels around the country to shoot it is the cheapest investment that you can spend money on. I have talked with stock fitters in Europe, when a person buys a new gun the first place they go to is a competent stock fitter. I want to mention that not everyone that comes here ends up with a new stock. Many times we have been able to alter the original stock to fit and perform better than before at a fraction of the cost of a new stock and forend. The whole purpose to this letter this month is to be sure that the gun and stock fits you as good as it can. If you have a budget in mind there is always something that can be done to help improve your performance.

As I mentioned earlier, this has been covered in other newsletters before to some extent but I felt that it was worth another discussion.

Enjoy this beautiful fall weather. It is short lived. As for us here in the North, winter will be hitting us in the backside all too soon.

Until Next Month,

Rodeo Man Out

P.S.

One more note, in September I attended the zone 4 Sporting Clays shoot in Griffon, Georgia. It was held at the Cherokee Rose Shooting Resort and what a beautiful place. Cindy went with me and it was the first time in two years that she was able to travel with me. It was great to have her there. She was able to meet and greet shooters that she had spoken to on the phone and now she can put faces with names.

I have not shot many targets for almost two years but I took my Browning 20 gauge with me and shot the Fitasc event. I had a lot of fun even though the guys made fun of me for being a trap shooter. I would like to thank Mike and Bill for helping me out during my first time shooting Fitasc. Mike Sherman and Granny from PMS helped out a bunch and Bill McGuire helped as much as he could during the shoot. I had a great time and they only called a foul one time due to a pre-mount on the second Parcour. I lost two targets for a gun malfunction and had to put up with a lot of chicken clucking sounds. I learned later the clucking sound was from my high arm chicken wing hold. I did manage to break a 61 for my first event. A little disappointing but I have much to learn and this will help me in the long run to understand how to build stocks for this style of shooting.

I am really glad that I attended the shoot. Cindy and I met many wonderful shooters that stopped by to say hello. I want to thank Casey Atkinson for making us feel at home. Can't wait to go back again and start shooting more Sporting Clays.

Below is the program that has been created to begin our expansion of services. A Gun Fitting Clinic. Read the information below and if there is an interest just let us know. I look forward in seeing many new people and I want to thank Mr. Rick Mitchell for helping me set this up.

Dennis R. DeVault



~~~~~ From Chris DeWitt ~~~~~

I am pleased and excited to have Dennis DeVault, one of the best gun fitters and stock makers in the country, here at DeWitt's. Dennis has an engineering background and developed the "high rib" phenomena for such names as Bill McGuire (gun shown at right bottom of page), Jon Kruger, Bobby Fowler, Robbie Purser, Casey Atkinson, and many others. Dennis has fitted and built gun stocks for hundreds of shooters in the US, Canada and several other countries. DeVault Industries is located in Canton, Ohio but this is your chance to work one-on-one with Dennis, locally, right here at Dewitt's in North Carolina.

Dennis Will be here for 7 days, Monday November 7th thru Sunday November 13th.

There will be 2 half day clinics available per day, 8 AM to 1 PM and 2 PM to 7 PM.

The cost is **only \$ 100.00 per person** plus targets.

(The agent for this clinic only is listed below)

To reserve your preferred Spot and Time:

Call Rick Mitchell @ 910.691.2644 or e-mail [rickm@nc.rr.com](mailto:rickm@nc.rr.com)

## DeVault Gun Fitting Clinic details:

- \$100.00 (+targets) each half day clinic - 8:00 to 1:00 & 2:00 to 7:00
- 5 shooters maximum per session
- Credit Card can be used to reserve your spot

## Agenda for each Clinic:

- Introduction
- Short question & answer session
- Analyze each shooter's current gun fit
- Observe each individual's mechanics while shooting
- Make recommendation for alterations needed, if any
- Final observation while shooting
- All shooters may observe & learn during consults with other shooters
- Any alterations you choose will be priced by Dennis
- Minor changes can be done on-site
- Major changes can be done in Ohio and shipped back when completed



Bill McGuire's Luxus Competition Blaser  
Rib & Stock designed by Dennis DeVault & built by DeVault Industries

# 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>



## DeVault Winners Box

**Sally Stevens** ~ Browning XT Combo ~ Double D Shooting Clinic ~ Heartland Grand Ladies Singles Champion **194 x 200** Shoot Off winner over Jacque Snellenberger **25 x 25** Lady Runner-Up Handicap Championship. Also Sally made AAA class at this event. Congratulations

**Mark Stevens** ~ Browning XT Combo ~ Double D Shooting Clinic ~ Heartland Grand ~ Doubles Championship Class A Runner-Up.

**Mike Mann** ~ Double D Shooting Clinic ~ Oregon State Shoot ~ Veteran Runner-up Class Doubles Championship ~ Vet Champion Prelim. HDCP ~ Vet Champion Championship Doubles ~ Vet HOA & HAA Champion.

**Jean McCord** ~ Infinity shotgun ~ Lady Runner-up Northeast Grand NY ~ Jean also got another punch in Handicap. Very windy but managed a win with **86 x 100** Nitro 27 Handicap.

**Bill McGuire** ~ Blaser Sporting, DeVault custom stock & Delrin Rib system ~ Gamaliel Cup Rock Castle 5-stand Champion **49 x 50** Prelim. ~ 2nd **92 x 100** ~ Main Event **193 x 200**





Happy October

The days are getting colder and shorter but the Fall is my favorite time of the year because of all the beautiful colors, which is the reason I chose October to get married. This month Dennis and I will be married 34 years. It's been a real trip for sure but a journey I would definitely take again (well maybe tweak it here and there a little). Dennis and I are together 24/7 and you know if you can endure working and living together and still be happy and get along?, you've got to be soul mates and a match made in heaven. But this is also why God made me Wine! :) I spent a week in Georgia with Dennis vending at a Sporting Clays Zone Shoot at the Cherokee Rose Shooting Resort. I brought my checkering tools with me and finished some jobs while I was there. I felt like I was in a fish bowl because I always had people watching me work. But that is OK it doesn't bother me to have spectators and I also got some work out of it so that was a good thing. I met a lot of people that I have talked to on the phone and it is always a pleasure to put a face with the voice. I was able to spend some time and have dinner with some friends that I haven't seen in 4 years so the trip was great. What a beautiful facility, Casey Atkinson really does a wonderful job.

This is soup season and I have a few favorites I might be sharing in the months to come. One of them is for those who love Mexican food. You can make this soup as spicy as you like by the type of peppers and stewed tomatoes you use. I love to use the Rotel brand of tomatoes and you can get them original, mild or hot. You can add a few jalapeños peppers if you like to really give it a zip which is how I like it. The hotter the better.

### **Mexican Zucchini Cheese Soup**

*I like to serve this soup with warm Tortillas. Ready in Approx. 45 minutes. Makes 6 servings*

*1 tablespoon olive oil  
1 cup chopped onion  
2 cloves garlic, minced  
1/2 teaspoon dried oregano  
2 (14.5 ounce) cans chicken broth  
1 (14.5 ounce) can Mexican-style stewed tomatoes ( I use Rotel)  
2 medium zucchini, halved lengthwise and cut in 1/4 inch slices  
2 medium yellow squash, halved lengthwise and cut in 1/4 inch slices  
1 (8.75 ounce) can whole kernel corn, drained  
1 (4.5 ounce) can diced green Chile peppers  
12 ounces processed cheese food, cubed (Velveeta)  
1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper  
1/4 cup chopped fresh cilantro*

*Heat the olive oil in a large pot and sauté the onion and garlic until tender and then season with oregano. Mix in the chicken broth and tomatoes. Bring to a boil. Mix in the zucchini, yellow squash, corn and Chile peppers. Reduce heat to low and simmer 10 minutes, or until the squash is tender. Mix the Velveeta into the soup and continue to cook and stir until cheese is melted. Season with pepper and mix in the cilantro just before serving.*



**This is by far my most favorite time of the year all the brilliant colors  
and the smell of the crisp fall air.**

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