



ISA OnTarget

Irwin Sportsmen's Association Newsletter

www.irwinsportsmen.com
P.O. Box 225, (995 Oakside Dr.)
Irwin, PA. 15642

Issue 21-06
June 2021

724-863-2478
irwinsports380@gmail.com

Chronic Wasting Disease

Chronic wasting disease is spreading alarmingly among deer herds in states all across the country, creating uncertainty for hunters and driving up costs for wildlife agencies faced with the prospect of controlling the disease.

This disease could have huge impacts on the future of deer hunting and funding for wildlife habitat conservation, as 80 percent of all hunters hunt deer and contribute the most money through the purchase of licenses and gear. Testing for the disease is costly and time consuming, and the presence of CWD-positive deer already has some hunters questioning whether their venison is safe to eat.

Failing to deal with the spread of CWD will certainly increase the challenges associated with recruiting and retaining more hunters. That's why the TRCP, Archery Trade Association, National Wildlife Federation, National Deer Alliance, Quality Deer Management Association, Wildlife Management Institute, and others have come together to get deer hunters involved.

Hunters and anglers are essential to conservation

Hunters and anglers have been the primary champions of wildlife habitat and healthy waterways since the days of Theodore Roosevelt. But with more competing demands on our natural resources than ever before, we can't afford to take for granted what we have: A public lands network that is unparalleled in all the world, the best-managed fish and wildlife populations of any nation, and the ability for all Americans to hunt and fish, regardless of class or economic status. It is a system that benefits everyone, from sportsmen to hikers to those who simply want to drink clean water or experience wide open spaces.



RIFLE SCOPES

It wasn't long ago that all a hunter had to consider when buying a riflescope was whether to get a fixed or variable power, a Duplex reticle or a fine crosshair. But optics — especially riflescopes — have evolved dramatically within the past decade. Tubes have gotten larger, glass and optic coatings have gotten better, and reticles have become more advanced.

The riflescope world has gotten a little noisy and complicated, too, especially where hunters are concerned. Today's long-range shooting craze has created more scope options than fire ants in a mound. Some top-tier scopes even have electronics systems that pair the scope with a ballistic app that shows you an "aiming solution" for extreme distance shots. A scope like that will probably cost way more than the deer rifle you plan to put it on — and maybe more than the used pickup truck you're driving, too.

It's interesting, but do you need all that to kill a buck at 100 yards? Nope. But there are nonetheless advantages to knowing your way around a modern riflescope. This advice should help.

Save Money with a Clear Conscience—There's an old saying — particularly among gun writers who routinely get free scopes in the mail — that you should spend at least as much on the scope as you do on the gun to get anything that's worth a hoot. "Thing is, modern manufacturers have made \$500 guns a lot more accurate than they were years ago," says Matt Rice with Bushnell. "It's not uncommon to have a \$500 gun shoot 1 MOA, and you might not need a thousand-dollar scope on that. A lot of people overmagnify, for example, and that can cause the price on a scope to go up. They think they need a 6-14 power, but if your shot distance is 50 to 75 yards in a food plot, you don't need all that. Today's optics are much improved. Many \$200 scopes will give all the performance you need."

As proof, just the other day I used a \$90 Bushnell Banner 2 3-9x42 atop my old lever-action to kill a big Colorado pronghorn with one shot at 91 yards. I couldn't have asked that scope to do anything else.

Go Variable—Growing up, I knew some veteran hunters who swore variable-power scopes weren't as rugged as fixed-power models, and were prone to losing zero because of the extra moving parts. That might have been true back then, but it's not now. These days, I still see fixed-power scopes in the field on occasion, usually on one of two guns: rimfires or heavy kickers, like slug guns. But there is really no longer a reason not to use a variable-power scope on anything. Extra magnification is usually a good thing for a precise shot — and if the situation calls for being quick, you can always leave the scope on its lowest power. Aside from being slightly less expensive and lighter weight, fixed-power scopes offer few if any advantages.

Don't Let Turrets Scare You—Exposed turrets are standard on today's higher-end scopes, and they're game changers for long-range shooting. But they can get spun all out of whack in the field, meaning they're mostly a liability for hunters ... right? I used to think so, but not anymore. Even if you're not shooting at extreme ranges, turrets allow you to hold "dead on" for longer shots, and for whitetail hunting, a longer shot could just mean 250 to 300 yards. Holding dead on is always better than guessing at elevation.

Today's best hunting scopes have locking turrets that posi-

Musings from Our President

This past week Larry and I decided to take a road trip to Walnut Creek Ohio, at least that's where we wanted to end up. It all started with the internet. We looked up a few places to go and printed off the directions, packed a lunch, put some money in our pockets, topped off the gas tank and set off on our adventure. We didn't have an Easy Pass or GPS so we knew we would have some extra travel time. Things were going well until we had to make a turn in some town that not all the streets were clearly marked. We found ourselves going east instead of west (after traveling 8 miles to see a sign). We turned around and started off again until the next route took us south instead of north. Needless to say, we did not reach our intended destination but we did arrive at a place that we had already visited only to find out that we had printed out the wrong directions.

Giving some thought to this – isn't shooting the same thing? You need to have the right equipment, be pointed in the right direction, know your target and what's behind it and be aware of ricochets, and then the projectile just might reach its destination.

Joyce

The Junior Rifle Club will be selling hoagies on the following dates: May 15, June 12, and July 10. Contact Paul Angelicchio at 724-864-2026 if you have questions and need the locations on those dates. Thank you for supporting the club and allowing them to finance their various shooting competition trips.

For sale I have two Ruger pistols

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50/50 \$26
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Rifle Scopes—continued from page 2

tively snap into place, and most have “return to zero” stops that make spinning a scope completely out of kilter difficult. I’ve hunted critters in terrain ranging from New Zealand South Island mountains to Alberta big woods to South Texas scrub with scopes that had turrets. I can’t say I’ve hit every shot I’ve ever taken — but I can say that I’ve never had a single problem that could’ve been blamed on a turret.

Set Turrets at 100—Speaking of turrets, the standard way to sight them in is by adjusting windage and elevation as normal, and sighting your rifle in to be dead on at 100 yards. Don’t worry about the numbers on the turret cap at this point. Once you’re on at 100, most turret caps can be removed by loosening a couple of tiny hex bolts. Do that, carefully remove the cap from the scope, spin it to zero, seat it back, and retighten the hex bolts. That’s all there is to it, but double-check your 100-yard zero with the turret cap set to zero. With a custom turret created for your specific rifle load, the numbers on the turret should then correspond exactly to the bullet’s trajectory at various ranges.

Keep Reticles Simple - Look through a long-range scope, and you might see a mess of hashes and numbers that seem pretty complex. “Christmas tree” reticles and the like are designed for a variety of holdover and wind-drift options for long-range shots. They’re just not needed for the vast majority of hunters, though. “For hunting, the simpler, the better,” Rice says. “Unlike precision rifle shooting, where it’s controlled and you’re set up, hunting shots happen quick and under pressure. If you’re trying to decipher a Christmas tree reticle, it can get you all out of focus.”

Consider a 30mm Tube—Many high-end scopes today sport 30mm tubes in lieu of the more standard 1-inch tubes. What’s that larger-diameter tube get you? Generally, you can get higher light transmission, higher magnification options, perhaps more adjustment capability with the turrets, and perhaps size parallax adjustment on the scope. But for most hunting, a 1-inch tube works just fine. Rings are still easier to find, and a 1-inch scope will be lighter than a 30mm scope of the same magnification. I have both 30mm scopes and 1-inch scopes

Rifle Scopes—continued on right column this page

Welcome New Members

Daniel Brecht, Jeff Winski, John Reilly

ISA Info

- Gate open if anyone is on property...Gate closed & locked if you are the last one to leave. If you unlock the clubhouse, make sure it is locked if you are the last one out.
- See our calendar on the webpage for activity dates and times.

on various rifles, and in the field, I can’t tell that I’m gaining or losing much of anything with either.

Mount It Right - A whole lot of scope mounting goes on at the kitchen table, with a few screwdrivers and some eyeballing to ensure the reticle isn’t canted. To be fair, I’ve eyeballed my way through more than a few scope-mounting jobs that ended up just fine.

But to get the most out of your scope — with the least hassle at the range — it pays to put the rifle in a vise or rest, level it up, and install bases, rings, and scope according to the manufacturer’s specifications, followed by proper laser bore-sighting. This is one instance where reading the instructions is actually beneficial.

Speaking of instructions and lack of following them, in college I once turned the Torx bolts in a set of rings so tight that they bent the Torx bit I was using. That’s what males do, after all, is get things tight. Except I torqued it way beyond recommendation, overtightened one side of the rings, and burned up way too much ammo getting the scope sighted in.

It’s tough to overtighten the rings to the base — but you can sure get carried away tightening the rings around the scope tube. “You can damage the tube and make the gun much more difficult to sight in,” Rice says. “Follow the manufacturer’s recommendations and use a torque wrench, and if you don’t have a torque wrench, Lock-Tite those screws down. It’s also always a good idea to take the screws out of the rings ahead of time and clean them off before mounting so that you get a good fit, too.”

Set Proper Eye Relief

Ever been bitten by a scope? If you’re not sure, then the answer is “no,” because it’s a hemorrhage-inducing experience you’re not likely to forget. It’s caused by getting your eye too close to the ocular lens (back of the scope) while shooting, where the recoil can smash it into your brow.

When you’re setting a new scope, mount it somewhat securely in the rings, then close your eyes and shoulder the rifle. When you open your eyes, you should be looking at a clear and comfortable sight picture through the tube. If it seems too close to your eye, move the scope forward slightly and try it again. If you’re seeing an impartial picture, or having to lean forward on the gun, slide the scope back slightly in the rings to set the proper eye relief for you. When that’s done, level it up and continue the mounting process.

Know the Signs - We all freak out when we bump a scope against something, and it never hurts to double-check things. But in all my years of hunting, and after dozens and dozens of flights with a scoped rifle in the checked baggage, I’ve seen a scope bumped off zero a time or two at most. Fact is, a modern, well-built scope is rugged, and kind of tough to knock out of whack through normal hunting use. end



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Please comply with the following: Only one tree stand on ISA property will be permitted by ISA members. The stand must be tagged with weather proof labels with name, address, and phone number. Any untagged stand or non-member who has tree stands on the ISA property must remove them by June 30, 2021. After this date, they will be removed by ISA members and sold as is. All monies will be donated to our building funds. Questions should be directed to Kevin Kennelty at 724-640-0726 or kevinrk1220@gmail.com.

******* 2021 ISA OFFICERS *******

PRESIDENT	JOYCE LICHTENFELS	724-863-6940
VICE PRESIDENT	KEVIN KENNELTY	724-640-0726
FINANCIAL SECRETARY	SMOKEY BURDIN	724-396-9627
RECORDING SECRETARY	DAN NAVE	724-863-1392
TREASURER	RICH LINDH	412-817-4074

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AL CEOL (22)	724 396 7010	RON COINER (21)	724-396-4971
JIM FISHER (22)	724-863-3764	KEN GRAY (21)	412-610-2963
RICH WEAVER (22)	412-638-3063		

******* 2021 ISA Contact Persons *******

ARCHERY	Ken Gray	412-610-2963
COUNTY LEAGUE	Samuel Petrill Smokey Burdin	724-523-9216 724-863-7365
JR RIFLE TEAM	Paul Angelicchio	724-864-2026
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