

Small is beautiful!

WHEN IT COMES TO RELOADING, THERE'S GROWING INTEREST IN $\frac{3}{4}$ oz LOADS, PARTICULARLY FOR PRACTICE. HOW LONG BEFORE $\frac{3}{4}$ oz 12 GAUGE FACTORY LOADS BECOME READILY AVAILABLE?

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When you need a taxi, you can never find one. When you don't need one, they come along in threes! And in this issue, the subject of $\frac{3}{4}$ oz 12 gauge loads crops up more than once!

Our mail bag over the last few months clearly indicates the growing interest in $\frac{3}{4}$ oz loads. More shells from a 25lb bag of shot is clearly a saving in the current harsh economic climate. So, we asked our ballistics expert, Tim

Woodhouse, to give us the hard facts on reloading $\frac{3}{4}$ oz and details of down range performance.

"The $\frac{3}{4}$ oz load has always performed admirably in the smaller gauges. When used in the 12 gauge it really does punch well above its weight," says Woodhouse. "It can be loaded for extreme range work with magnum shot and higher velocities, without ruining the superb patterns that are endemic with this charge weight – and still have much lower recoil than standard loads.

Conversely, it can also be loaded with softer shot to standard speeds of around 1200fps @ 3ft for ultra low recoil. This is a major plus for training purposes which has to be a good thing for new and existing shooters alike."

Next, we asked our regular correspondent, Dave Holmes, to look at the advantages and disadvantages of 30", 32" and 34" barrels and define what contributes to a gun's handling qualities. While considering perceived recoil, the $\frac{3}{4}$ oz 12 gauge load popped up once more! Holmes tell us, "I'm reloading $\frac{3}{4}$ oz loads for my 12 gauge. A bag of shot lasts a lot longer, the recoil is incredibly comfortable and those little suckers just swat targets. They will do it at distance too. I get very good breaks on 50 yard plus targets with 25-30 thousandths of choke."

Another regular contributor, Phil Steinkraus, returns to our pages this issue with his 'Personal Opinion' column. The title of his piece is 'R is for recession – and reloading'. No prizes for guessing



that the economics of reloading, particularly for practice ammo, is significant. But Steinkraus goes one further and suggests that just as reloads can be used in all National Skeet Shooting Association sanctioned competitions, the NSCA might want to consider a similar future ruling in sporting clays.

Elsewhere in this issue we bring you Big Blast reports from the Rhino Rally, Seminole Cup, Browning Briley Mardi Gras, East Coast Championship and All-American, together with our regular columns, instructional articles, gun test (Beretta DT10L), new products and up to the minute news.

OBITUARY

On a sad note, gun owners across the country will have been saddened by news of Charlton Heston's passing, at the age of 84,

in early April. He served as President of the Screen Actors' Guild and Chairman of the American Film Institute and marched in the civil rights movement of the 1950s. In 1998 he was elected President of the National Rifle Association.

Heston once summed up his belief in the Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which includes the right to bear arms, by calling it 'America's first freedom, the one that protects the others'.

Wayne LaPierre, Executive Vice-President of the NRA writes on the NRA website that "America has lost a great patriot. The Second Amendment has lost a faithful friend and so have the NRA members and the millions of gun owners across the country. And so has every American who cares about the Bill of Rights, individual liberty and freedom." Well said Sir! ?