

Too Much Fun: **Great Guns Of 2009**

# SHOOTING

DECEMBER 2009 / JANUARY 2010

TIMES

## EXCLUSIVE

**6.5-284 Hunting Rifle**  
*Factory At Last!*



### Long-Range Hunter **The Savage That Has It All**

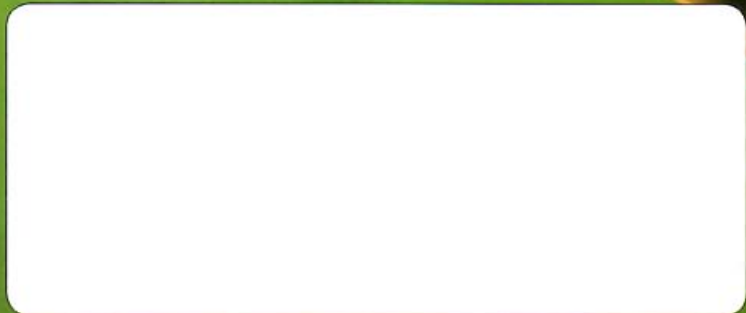
- AccuStock ▪ AccuTrigger ▪ Twist-On/Off Muzzle Brake
- Oversized Bolt Knob ▪ Sub-MOA Accuracy

**To Refinish, Repair, Or Restore—  
That Is The Question**

### Plus. . .

- Crime Lab Tales: Misused & Abused Guns (p.10)
- Save That Unseen Recoil Pad (p.22)
- Holiday Gift Guide (p.62)

**FIRST LOOK:  
Bullets For  
2010**  
(p.18)



# FIREARMS

Here are 10 of the most enjoyable firearms the author has fired this year.

By Layne Simpson, Executive Field Editor

## OF 2009



CZ's Safari Classic in .505 Gibbs is more fun to watch someone else shoot.

Each year during the month of May, a whole passel of hunting and shooting industry manufacturers along with writers and editors who turn out a number of InterMedia Outdoors publications (one of which is *Shooting Times*) gather at a shooting facility called PASA Park, which is located near the sleepy little farming village of Barry, Illinois. We writers gather there to be introduced to and to wring out a variety of new products, including rifles, shotguns, handguns, optical gear, knives, reloading equipment, clothing, ammunition, and about everything else you can think of. In other words, we have the opportunity to shoot the latest loads in brand-new guns, some of which are wearing scopes that are shown for the first time.

During those five days this year I shot about everything manufacturers brought, and while I would like nothing better than to file a

detailed report on each, space limitations simply do not allow it. So instead, here are nutshell reports on guns that either surprised me most or I found most fun to shoot.

### 8. Stoeger X50 Airgun

The modern airgun is a whole lot different from the Daisy Red Ryder I was mighty proud of as a kid, and the X50 in .177 caliber is an excellent example of how far airgun design has progressed.

Of spring-piston, break-action design, it reaches a muzzle velocity of 1,500 fps with a 10-grain lead pellet and 1,700 fps with an aluminum pellet of slightly lighter weight. Like other members of the Stoeger family of airguns, the X50 has a two-stage trigger, wears fully adjustable fiber-optic sights, and has a grooved receiver for scope mounting. Stock options are wood and synthetic.

This, my friends, is no toy. Last year our neighborhood was practi-

cally overrun by gray squirrels that not only played havoc with our bird feeders, but also they gnawed into the attic of a neighbor's house while they were on vacation and caused extensive damage. So, with airgun in hand, I declared war on marauding bushytails, and the problem went away. A pellet to the head out to 20 yards worked every time.



Stoeger's X50 airgun in .177 caliber is no toy and provides performance unheard of in the past.