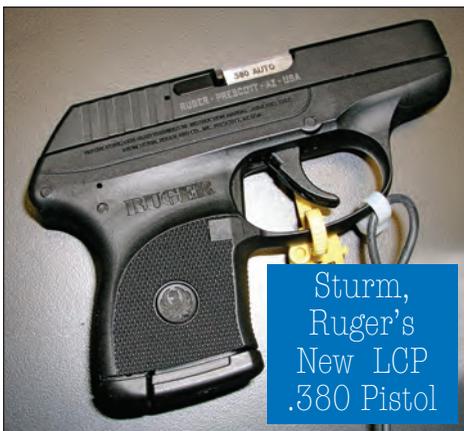


36 Showcase of Grown Ups'

By Peter Caroline

Once again, the SHOT Show has lived up to its reputation as a prime showcase of grown-ups' toys. Las Vegas is a great venue for the event, and more than 58,000 people showed up, swarming over nearly 18 acres of exhibits. I would definitely recommend a well-broken-in pair of cross-training shoes and several weeks of dedicated walking before going. Oh, and bring plenty of cash...Las Vegas has gotten a bit more pricey since they adopted their new "family-friendly" posture.



Sturm,
Ruger's
New LCP
.380 Pistol

My first stop at the Show was the Sturm, Ruger (ruger.com) booth. The big surprise was a little gun...their new LCP .380 auto. At card-table range, it would be hard to distinguish from a Kel-Tec P-3AT. MSRP on this pocket persuader is \$330.

Ruger also was showing a limited edition 50th Anniversary Bearcat .22 LR single-action. This has a special serial range, a gold-filled commemorative rollmark, flashy cocobolo grips and a fancy price, as yet to be announced. I finally got to put my hands around the new SR-9 9mm pistol that everyone's been reviewing. Prior to this, I'd regarded Ruger centerfire semiautos as being a bit chunky. Not this one! It's slim and fits my hand beautifully. The backstrap insert is reversible from flat to arched, so you can get the fit you want without a bagful of extra parts. Very smart!

Other Ruger products that might tug at your wallet included a neat Mini-14 NRA Carbine (Ruger makes a contribution to NRA-ILA with every one sold), the SP101 revolver in the hot new .327 Federal chambering, and the new Charger .22LR pistol...basically a varmint pistol with a 10/22 action.

ParaUSA (para-usa.com) premiered two extremes: the extremely small PDA Carry Option™ LDA pistols in 9mm and .45 ACP, 23 oz. and 24 oz. respectively, and the imposing .45 ACP single-action Super Hawgs, in your choice of single-stack or high-cap...both with 6" barrels, adjustable rear

sights and fiber-optic front sights. There's just something about a 1911 with a 6" barrel.



Para USA's
6" Barrel
.45 Super
Hawg

Para was also showing a group of AR-15 rifles, very nicely fitted out with all the bells and whistles. More on that later.

At last year's SHOT Show I was quite taken with the new ArmaLite (armalite.com) AR-24 9mm pistol, a superbly executed marriage of CZ75 and Sig 210 design features. This year, I'd heard rumors that this pistol might be available in .45 ACP...to me, at least, the best of all possible worlds. Unfortunately, the new .45 wasn't ready in time for the Show, but stay tuned.

SIG SAUER (sigsauer.com) was showing off their new P250 pistol, available in 9mm, .357 SIG, .40 S&W and .45 ACP. At the heart of this new gun is a single, serial-numbered metal frame and fire control assembly. You choose the caliber, frame and grip size and trigger length you want and put together your own individualized package. I wonder if they'll offer a attaché-cased kit with all of the above choices for those of us who can't make up our minds.



NAA's .22 Mag. Pug

In addition to its impressive array of tiny semiautomatics, North American Arms (NorthAmericanArms.com) has introduced their new .22 Magnum "Pug." It has a 1" heavy barrel and chunky pebbled rubber grips. The Pug offers