By Peter Caroline

Oh God, no…not another 1911 review! Let’s face it, the reason we see so many articles about the venerable and ubiquitous Model 1911 in its many variations and interpretations is because, throughout its existence, it has been a very successful and popular design. Everybody makes ‘em because everybody buys ‘em.

I’m no exception. Since 1957, when I bought my first clapped-out G.I. surplus 1911A1 at Hunter’s Lodge in Alexandria, VA, I’ve owned more than a dozen 1911s, made in the U.S.A., Canada and even China. Except for one 1989-vintage Series 80 Stainless Gold Cup that drove me to distraction with its heavy trigger pull and loose fit, they were all outstanding guns.

Just recently, I had an opportunity to try out yet another 1911, this one bearing the stamp of the High Standard Mfg. Co. It’s distributed by Lipsey’s, LLC, of Baton Rouge, LA. At first glance, it’s a clone of the Government Issue 1911A1 that armed our troops so well for many years. There are, however, several differences. The mainspring housing is flat, like the original 1911; the ejection port has been lowered; the magazine well has been beveled; and the grips are checkered wood, rather than brown plastic. Other than that, it’s your basic, Parkerized-finish Ol’ Slabsides.

What immediately aroused my curiosity the most was the price…an MSRP of only $399. No, that’s not a misprint, it is really $399. Now, I asked myself, how could a 1911 selling for under $400 be any good?

When I unpacked the High Standard G.I. 1911 and removed the liberal coating of preservative oil, I noticed that it was very tight…not tight like I couldn’t pull the slide back, but tight in all the right ways: when you cock the hammer and shake the pistol, nothing moves or rattles; quite unlike some of the G.I. specimens I competed with at Fort Belvoir. Pushing down on the top of the barrel resulted in no movement at all; obviously the link was well fitted.

Even so, disassembly was easily accomplished without tools. The sights are standard G.I., no concession to my aging eyes.

With some misgivings about my ability to get a decent score with those sights, I took the 1911 to the range. I filled the supplied seven-round magazine with Winchester white-box 230-gr. jacketed ammo, and proceeded to let fly, offhand.

…continued on Page 66