By Peter Caroline

When I was 10 years old, sometime back in the Neolithic Period, my mother took me on a week-long trip to New York City. One of my must-see stops was FAO Schwarz, the legendary toy emporium. I’ll never forget it. Talk about sensory overload! I’m reminded of that visit every time I attend the SHOT Show, and this year’s Show was no exception…15-plus acres of exhibits: guns, ammo, accessories and toys seemingly without end. It’s an exhausting but exhilarating experience. Thank God for comfortable shoes!

One of my first stops was Ruger (www.ruger.com). This year, they seem to have cornered the market on .22 LR kit guns; choose from their LCR revolver or the SR 22 semiauto. Their new American Rifle, in .243, .270 and .308 Winchester, and .30-06 Springfield, offers a choice of long or short action, adjustable trigger, rotary magazine and a very affordable price.

One Ruger product that wasn’t at the Ruger booth was Lipsey’s (www.lipseys.com) exclusive Ruger Blackhawk Flattop convertible with both .45 Colt and .45 ACP cylinders [Photo #1]. It’s dark blue with a 4-5/8” barrel, XR-3 grip frame and simulated ivory grips. I’m not ordinarily a single-action guy, but this one is just too tempting!

Glock (www.glock.com) has extended their 4th Generation series into the heavy artillery; the Model 21 .45 ACP now has a new, very user-friendly configuration. You’d hardly suspect it’s a hi-cap.

Coonan (www.coonaninc.com) was back with their classic .357 Magnum pistol [Photo #2] in a wide range of finishes. This is a super caliber in a 1911-style pistol, and you can use .38 Special as practice ammo.

Springfield Armory’s (www.springfield-armory.com) popular little .308 Socom II [Photo #3] now has a multiple rail fore end that will accommodate 360° of accessories, which could probably double its own weight. Hey, it’s tactical.

I also checked out the neat little 7/8-scale 1911-22 [Photo #4] at the Browning (www.browning.com) booth. They should sell a whole lot of them at the MSRP of $449. Yes, they did introduce them last year, but try and find one!

Remington (www.remington.com) surprised me with an assortment of Modern Sporting Rifles, as they are now called, in some incredibly military-looking configurations, including a very short, Title II-appearing carbine [Photo #5] and one purposeful OD number with a suppressor.

The first thing I noticed as I toured the CZ-USA (www.cz-usa.com) booth was a little folding stocked Scorpion submachine gun [Photo #6].