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**October 2009**  
**Edition IV**

## Iron Brigade Armory Newsletter



### Colonel's Corner

**Lt Col Norman A. Chandler II Ret. USMC**  
**Founder and CEO of Iron Brigade Armory**

#### GREETINGS TO ALL AMERICAN RIFLEMEN:

The responses and comments, from you, the readership, on the last few newsletters, has been very complimentary and very much appreciated. Across the country there is a vast group of folks still trying to get reloading components. My forecast that things would free up this Fall, has been partially accurate, but I underestimated the power buying of the American rifleman/Hunter! IBA was at the Hampton, VA gunshow 2 weekends ago and that's always a good time to compare notes with the other dealers and customers. The synopsis at the end of the weekend revealed that while some primers and components have made their way to the consumer-it's still hit or miss. Favorite loadings get put aside because VARGET powder or Federal 210M's aren't available, etc. If you live in the Northeast, little is getting to the gunshows. Here in the South we have it better than most, when it comes to variety, but I still have a long list of things I'd like to buy and I'm not making much headway. Of note, at the Hampton, VA Show, ammunition was relatively cheap-compared to some past months. Don't rest up, it won't last. It was only cheap because all the stuff the dealers ordered, FINALLY came in. That meant the poor guy had to sell at cost to pay his huge bill. Good for the buyer-OK for the dealer as long as he could make his expenses. It helps to know your prices but like I said in past newsletters, don't overlook a decent deal for cheapskate reasons. Here's what I am trying to do-so see if this makes sense to you, I make a list of items I want-call it the big wish list in the sky. I then determine a mean price for those items by looking at retail prices and any known wholesale/bulk prices. I then start shopping and placing orders. Even other dealers at the Shows are willing to cut future deals for cash on the barrel head. If you can pick the items up, you'll save shipping and HAZMAT fees, PLUS, you've already negotiated a fair price. Remember, if the dealer can't make some money, he'll have to stop going to your shows. I notice this has occurred in the some areas of Georgia, Western NC and SW Virginia. Additionally, some promoters get greedy for more gate and table money, offer poor or little advertising coupled with, and resulting in, locals not supporting the show either, so the big dealers quit coming. When promoters bleed a show, the result is less

qualified dealers attending, which means your selection is poor and prices are higher. All the more reason to have your list handy with acceptable prices you are willing to pay and BUY IT when you see it. Call the wife and get it done.

I also noticed at the Hampton Show, that Colt and S&W had nice AR-15's chambered for .22lr, complete with hi-cap mags-WOW! I looked at each of them-I'm impressed. Pricing was around \$500-600 smackers so not too bad and a nice alternative for shooting/training economically. Rifles with wood stocks seem to be interesting more buyers. I think folks are tired of the plastic/fiberglass/Kevlar/rubber stocks-I know I am. Chandler's have always liked nice wooden stocks-simple/hunter style, not thumbhole types or POPE style with odd cheek pieces and lumpy palm-swells. IBA is currently making a rifle for an old[not to old] customer that will feature a C grade piece of walnut from Remington's Custom Shop in Ilion. It has the requisite curly-squiggle in the butt area of the American walnut stock that gained Rocky's attention [little does today]. While not cheap, we didn't find the piece of wood outrageous in cost. The boys in the Mohawk Valley still do it well! So... are wood stocks making a comeback-my guess-YES---just like reloading is. After WW2, the reloading of ammunition and re-stocking of the old guns was what was happening. FAJEN and BISHOP churned out blanks for all the old war guns from all the countries-it was a glorious time. Chopping up old guns, cutting the barrels off, installing scope mounts, swapping out floor plates, bending bolts for scope clearance for practical, as well as aesthetic reasons, were the topics of most conversations. Buying the latest in reloading gear from LYMAN and RCBS occupied endless evening hours with only Jackie Gleason and the Honeymooners or the new TV series, COMBAT, to interfere. EVERYONE reloaded-you were a nerd if you didn't. What a simple life-but a great one, and I'm glad I had a chance to do it, BUT I THINK it's making a huge comeback! Maybe I'm nostalgic, but I see a lot of effort being placed into new reloading benches, dies and gear. While I was typing this, a customer emailed trying to figure out the dies for his new .300 WINMAG Chandler rifle. I'll get back to him in a minute.

#### **QUESTIONS RECENTLY ASKED AT THE GUN SHOWS:**

**1] How long do primers/ammunition last?** ANSWER-stored in ammo cans with a small bag of desiccant, they'll out-live you. In the early 60's, I was shooting Frankfort Arsenal 30-06 from the 30's as part of my DCM bolt gun qualification my Dad decreed, had to be done, before I could use the M1 Garand. Col Bender, my mentor, had older ammo from the Great War, that we 'practiced ' with. But for 'Qual', we used 'current' issue-yeh-30+ years old stuff, BUT, it all went bang. Even in cans, after 50+ years, we should expect the priming to weaken and you will have some dented primers and no ignition. The trick is, to get new stuff into ammo cans -FAST, thereby keeping the moisture away from it.

**2] What's the best bore solvent?** This is usually a loaded question because everyone has their favorite smell. IBA uses MONTANA because, it's fast and doesn't harm the barrels. Just for fun-do a test. Clean your rifle with whatever it is you use now. Then run a patch full of Montana down your bore-I'm betting it comes out green-and that means you still have copper in there. Copper KILLS accuracy so somehow, if you expect accuracy from your rifle, the copper has to be removed.

## **BREAKING NEWS:**

**ROCKY'S LATEST BOOK:** My Brother has announced that he's working on a new book-titled HAWKS REVENGE [we think]. He has 3 chapters written already. Set in the 1880's, Hawk's ships are facing further harassment and depredations from Pirates [most are Moslem-any surprise there?] along the North African coast line. This book is a fictional story of how these Yankee seafarers deal with that threat. Historical data and events will be adhered to so the story rings true, but Rocky's imagination will take over and it promises to be a real yarn. He asked me yesterday about Gatling Guns-now how do you supposed that will tie in? We will print the usual 1000 copies with the bulk of them going to Perry County, PA as usual, but you can get one by placing your name on the reserved book list at the IBA office via phone or email. An earlier book called HAWKS FEATHER, is a good read before, but NOT required. Rocky will sign each one [I'll demand it] and I'm pressuring him to number them like he did in the early years. He's REAL old now and somewhat feeble-that's why he's out this afternoon riding his Harley Davidson Motorcycle-he really is!

I hope you'll be entertained by these short essays. Questions and comments can be addressed through our website address and when requested or required, be forwarded to myself, Norm Jr or Rocky for comment. Thanks for being a solid part of this Great Nation.

**SEMPER FI,  
Norm Chandler Sr**

# October Specials- No Tricks, All Treats!

[Click Here to View All Specials!](#)

## Treats for the Season!



During October to prepare for the cold months ahead of us we are offering you your choice of a Hog, Skull, or Rifle Sweatshirt at a reduced price. Get a Grey Hog Sweatshirt for just \$18.00! Rifle and Skull Sweatshirts come in your choice of Grey or Black for just \$16.00! These sweatshirts are regularly priced at \$22.00.

[Click Here to start Saving!](#)

## Treats for Cleaning!



This month when you purchase any of our cleaning items, you will receive a free pack of Sontara Cleaning Wipes with your order. These wipes are chemical free, and very absorbant making them an excellent companion for cleaning your rifle. These wipes are durable, and will never leave a residue. Sontara Wipes are regularly priced at \$5.00 a pack.

[Click Here to start Saving](#)

## Treats for Reading!



For our customers that enjoy reading, this month when you purchase Death From Afar Volume I, II, III, or Whitefeather you can purchase a second book from the above titles for Half Price! To make this treat even sweeter both of your books will be personally signed by Colonel Chandler himself. [Click Here to get started!](#)

**\*\*Great Gift Idea\*\***

## Treats for Shopping!



In October when you shop at Iron Brigade Armory and spend \$100.00 or more on any items we will send you a \$10.00 Gift Certificate to spend on your next purchase with us! This gift certificate can be used for any product that you purchase from us! This is just another way for us to say Thank You for your business.

[Click Here to start Shopping!](#)

Limit one Gift Certificate per order

## Meet Your IBA Family



**Name: Christian "Marty" Martz**  
**Time with IBA: 3 Years**



**IBA Occupation: Quality Control Manager, Range Control Manager, and the Post Production technician**

**Description of Job at IBA: I first make sure the guns are serviceable and clean coming from the armorers bench and prepare them for the range. I shoot them in, annotating everything that happens or doesn't happen and maintain brass and target samples for each weapon. I clean them and either QC them and prepare them for shipment, or prepare them for further maintenance or paint. If they require further maintenance or paint, I QC them again afterwards and ship them out. I also manage smaller repairs to alleviate the burden on the armorers.**

**Occupation before coming to IBA: I worked as a government services consultant for the Department of Defense and U.S. State Department, spending a large amount of time in the Middle East and Africa. Prior to that I served in the United States Marine Corp for 11 years and left the service as a Staff Sergeant.**

**IBA Customers,**

**Fall has arrived! With the seasons changing and the holidays approaching fast we want to take the time to stop and say Thank You to all of our customers for your continued support and feedback. IBA employees strive to continuously bring our customers products and weapons that we feel are the best. Since we have started sending out our Newsletter we have been receiving a lot of positive feedback and we would like to say Thank You. We enjoy hearing that our customers are pleased with our products and services, that is our number one concern. Please feel free to contact us anytime with any questions, comments, or concerns.**

**As always we hope that you have a wonderful and safe month!  
Your Iron Brigade Armory Family**

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