

THE GUN RACK

by Craig Haney

FEATURED THIS MONTH:

Ruger's Gunsite Scout Rifle

Whether you're hunting in Alabama or Alaska, the Scout does double duty for both deer & defense.



GDOM '11

Jeff Cooper is a name that may not be familiar to the majority of today's gun enthusiasts. He was an iconic gun writer during the eighties and nineties. Cooper was also a retired Marine lieutenant colonel with combat experience as well as a dedicated big game hunter. Cooper founded Gunsite, a firearm training center in Paulden, Arizona. It became renowned for its facilities and training. During this time in the eighties, Cooper began pondering the idea of using only one rifle in a pinch for taking game as well as for defensive purposes.

Cooper's Concept

Cooper wrote: "A general purpose rifle is a conveniently portable firearm, individually operated firearm, capable of striking a decisive blow on a live target up to 200 kilos (440 pounds) in weight, at any distance the operator can shoot with the precision necessary to place a shot in a vital area of the target."

Cooper obviously knew this style rifle would fit the needs of hunters, ranchers, and farmers plus those interested in self defense. He named the concept rifle the Scout after the military lookout who is at the forefront of an operation, and whose reliance is not only on his gear, but also his evasion tactics and survival skills to get him back safely.

Scout Characteristics

After much research and testing, Cooper believed a Scout rifle should have the following characteristics:

- An overall length of 39.4 inches or less.
- An unloaded weight between 6.6 pounds and 7.7 pounds, including accessories.
- A forward mounted scope of lower magnification. This allows the shooter to fire with both eyes open. However, Cooper stated on occasion that a scope is not mandatory.
- Ghost ring auxiliary iron sights: a receiver mounted rear ring

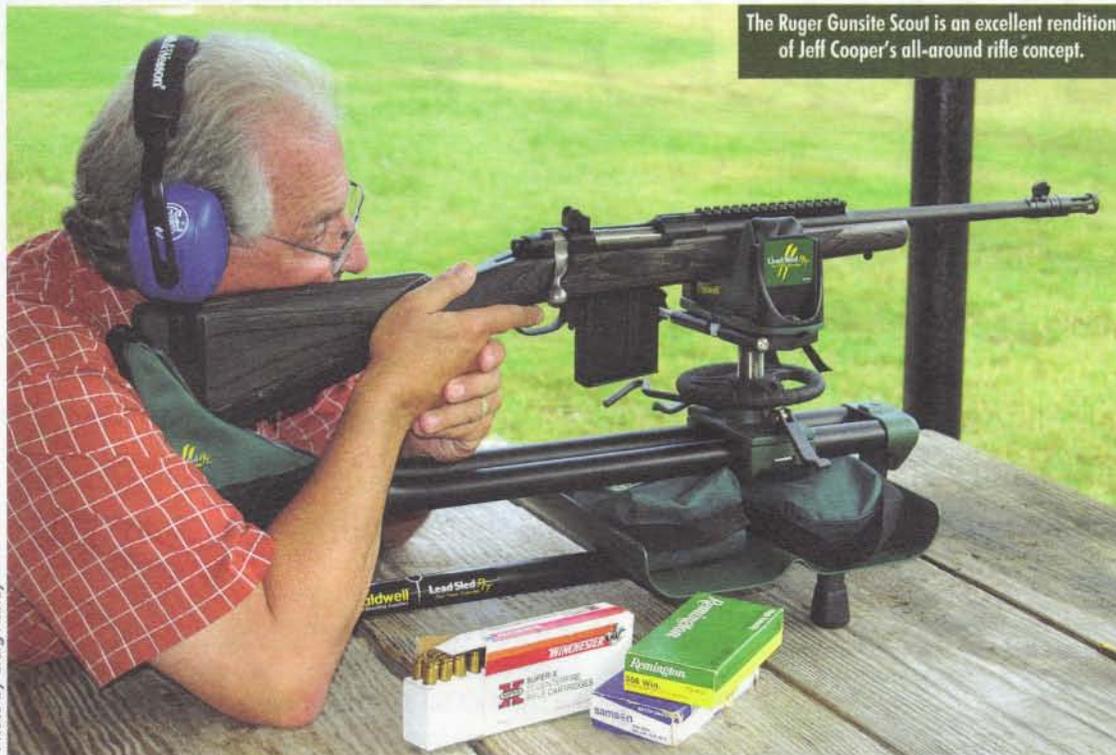


The ghost ring sight, detachable magazine & picatinny rail are integral to the Scout Rifle concept.



The 16.5 inch barrel comes standard with a flash suppressor & is threaded for other accessories.

Photo by Craig Haney



The Ruger Gunsite Scout is an excellent rendition of Jeff Cooper's all-around rifle concept.

Photo by Craig Haney

and a square post front sight.

- Chambered for the .308 Winchester (7.62X51 NATO) or 7mm-08.
- Accuracy: should be able to shoot a 4" group or less at 200 yards.

The Ruger Gunsite Scout Rifle

Working with Gunsite Range Master Ed Head, Ruger came up with a credible rendition of the Scout Rifle that would have pleased Jeff Cooper who passed away in 2006. The new .308 caliber rifle has a 16.5" medium contour, cold hammer forged, alloy steel barrel with a non-glare post front sight and a receiver mounted adjustable ghost ring rear sight. It weighs seven pounds. A forward mounted Picatinny rail allows for using a LER scope, red dot sight or holographic sight, should you so choose.

A flash suppressor is attached to the end of the 16.5-inch barrel to reduce flash that may happen with some ammo. The barrel is threaded to allow most .30 caliber standard muzzle accessories to be used.

The black oxide alloy steel barrel and receiver are mated to a black laminated stock with sling swivel studs and checkered forearm and pistol grip. A great feature is the soft rubber recoil pad, with three 1/2" spacers, thus allowing the length of pull to be adjusted and the stock properly sized for different shooters.

The trigger guard and magazine well are formed from glass-reinforced nylon. A five or 10-round magazine of Ruger's design feeds the ammo.

At the Range

I had available a red-dot sight and a long-eye relief scope that I considered mounting but chose instead to go with the ghost ring system for my session at the range. My reasoning was that if something happened to my scope or red dot while hunting or in a self defense situation, I had best know what the rifle would do with iron sights. Besides, it had been awhile since I had seriously shot a rifle with iron sights at the range. Putting on my ear protection and placing the rifle in the lead

sled, I settled down in position and squeezed off the first shot. I followed in time with two more shots and was very pleased with the three-shot group at 100 yards. It grouped three inches or slightly less at 100 yards with several brands of ammo, which is a definite advantage if you're in a situation where you cannot find the ammo that shoots best through your rifle. The short barrel on the Scout Rifle did not adversely affect accuracy, but you will lose some velocity due to the 16.5" barrel.

Assessing the Ruger Scout Rifle

If you need one rifle for hunting anything in North America except the big bears and want a rifle to depend on in a dire situation where you

are concerned for your safety or that of your family, the Scout Rifle would be a good choice. Scoped, the .308 cartridge is a good 300 yard cartridge for game. Realistically, most big game is shot at much less than 300 yards. This rifle would do great, whether you were hunting deer in Alabama, sheep in Alaska, or plains game in Africa. Overall, it's not a rifle for everyone, but as a general purpose rifle envisioned by Jeff Cooper over 25 years, it would be hard to beat for that purpose.



SHOTGUN CHOKE TUBES

Get your limit!

**Don't be limited by your shotgun and/or choke tube -
Get your limit with Colonial Arms choke tubes**

With bird season upon us, it is a time for fun, excitement and of course limits. With Colonial Arms choke tubes, you can have all! Colonial Arms offers a wide variety of choke tubes for the hunting enthusiast. Among the most popular are the 2" extended ported style in Cylinder to Full constrictions and the 3/8" extended Sporting/Field style in Cylinder to Full constrictions.

Along with these, Colonial Arms offers many more choke tubes & styles for most major shotgun manufacturers in 10,12,16,20,28 and 410 gauges.

Call today or visit online at www.colonialarms.com & be ready for the season-whichever season you enjoy.

"What's in your barrel?"

Catalogs available on request.



Please call 800-949-8088 or visit www.colonialarms.com.

Tel: 800-949-8088, 251-580-5000 • Fax: 251-580-5006

Email: colonialarms@bellsouth.net

1504 Hwy 31 S. • PO Box 250 • Bay Minette, AL 36507





