

Business

Savage Range Systems Introduces Airborne Dust Containment System

by Joseph P. Tartaro
Executive Editor

Savage Range Systems Inc., sister company to Savage Arms, has expanded its product offerings for shooting ranges to include a Dry Snail® Bullet Trap with the patent-pending Savage Air Barrier System.

This "closed loop system" uses "positive pressure" at the throat of the trap to create an air barrier, according to the company announcement. The "air barrier" keeps spent lead particles just where they belong...inside the revolutionary, patented Deceleration Chamber.

Because the Savage Air Barrier System (ABS) doesn't draw air from the Deceleration Chamber it will not collect lead dust, bullet fragments or jacket materials, within the chamber, destined for the bullet collection system.

This new technology includes a unique safety feature, called the Pulsatron Self-Abatement System by Savage, to capture minute particles that attempt to exit the chamber. A bank of filters are cleaned by micro-pulses of air and the lead particles fall into a collection drum within the system. The air is then passed through a set of HEPA filters, ensuring that no lead particles are discharged into the environment.

Wet Snail technology provides the greatest reduction in airborne lead and is especially recommended for indoor applications. This Dry Snail system with the Air Barrier System (ABS) is recommended for semi-enclosed outdoor ranges and for indoor applications where the patented Wet Snail Trap is not desired.

To educate range owners, architects and engineers in ways to resolve environmental issues associated with airborne lead in shooting ranges, Savage Range Systems has been conducting architectural seminars in range design for the past five years. The 5th annual seminar held in Atlanta, GA, late last April, was attended by over 80 architects, range designers, developers and potential clients. The attendees, who came from all over the US as well as from Canada and Europe had a chance to visit Doug Clayton's Bulls Eye Marksman range in nearby Cumming, GA, which has 10 pistol points and two rifle points, as well as a well stocked modern store with extra rooms for firearms classes.

Gun Week, *Women & Guns* and Second Amendment Foundation had an opportunity to use the Bulls Eye Marksman Range for a Firearms & Fiction seminar last July during which we brought 96 writers will very little, if any, shooting experience to range for an afternoon. Over four hours we had all of the attendees shoot several handguns of different caliber—from .22 to .45 ACP—as well as a centerfire and rimfire rifle.

That was a lot of almost non-stop, supervised shooting in an air conditioned facility. We had to use an indoor range in order to cope with the peak Summer Atlanta heat, but it was a pleasure to do so in a range that was so environmentally friendly, thanks to the Snail trap systems in use. The rest of the Bulls Eye Marksman facility was also clean, absent the dust, smoke and smells most associated with the average range of my experience.

With the growing trend to more and

Suing NYPD Blues Earn Court Hearing

A group of city cops who say they're going deaf from gun blasts on the New York Police Department's (NYPD) firing ranges finally have found a judge who will listen, *The New York Daily News* reported.

In early February, Bronx Supreme Court Justice Paul Victor rejected a bid to dismiss a lawsuit filed by eight police officers who allege that faulty protective earmuffs caused them to suffer serious hearing loss.

"These guys put their life in danger to protect and serve the people of New York City, but the city didn't protect them," said attorney Linda Cronin, who represents five of the cops.

The suit seeks unspecified damages from the city and the company that manufactured the earmuffs, Mine Safety Appliances Co. of Pittsburgh.

Some of the plaintiffs have been fighting the city in court since 1992 and have since retired from the force. A previous class action suit was dismissed by a state appeals court.

more commercial shooting ranges around the country, there is a greater emphasis on a healthier environment today that was unheard of just a few years back.

To learn more about any of the Savage Range Systems, visit their website at: www.snailtraps.com, or e-mail them at: snailtraps@savagearms.com. You can contact Savage Range Systems at 100 Springdale Rd., Dept. GWK, Westfield, MA 01085; phone: 413-568-7001.

In February, the company announced that an old hand in the firearms business, Eoin B. Stafford, a native of Scotland, had joined the firm as vice president and general manager.

According to Ron Coburn, CEO of Savage Sports Corporation, "Eoin brings with him a wealth of business experience and accomplishments, having served as director of sporting goods for Smith & Wesson, president and general manager of Heckler & Koch and prior to that, director/divisional merchandise manager for The Sports Authority."

Wal-Mart Pulls More Firearms From Shelves in Maine Stores

Wal-Mart has halted gun sales at many of its Maine stores, a change greeted with disappointment in a state with a strong hunting tradition, according to *The Lewiston Sun Journal*.

All told, Wal-Mart has pulled guns from half of its 22 stores in Maine; six of the stores stopped selling guns this month.

As previously reported in *Gun Week*, the retailing giant has been pulling guns from the stores in several states; the latest report was from Delaware.

"It's a huge disappointment. They are a place where a lot of sportsmen shop for everything from firearms to fishing gear. Increasingly, they're alienating people like us with decisions like that," said George Smith, executive director of the Sportsman's Alliance of Maine.

Wal-Mart began removing guns from the first of about 1,000 stores last March, concluding that there wasn't enough demand to support gun sales. Instead, it decided to boost its offering of other sporting goods at those stores.

It's all part of Wal-Mart's "Store of the Community" strategy for boosting sales at stores by focusing on local differences in demand.

"This simply means that our merchandise selections reflect the items that our customers want to buy," said Wal-Mart spokeswoman Marisa Bluestone.

In Maine, Wal-Mart stopped selling guns this month at its stores in Houlton, Rockland, Scarborough, Skowhegan and

Remington Drops Hunting Writer Jim Zumbo in Internet Firestorm

by Dave Workman
Senior Editor

For more than 40 years, Jim Zumbo's byline has graced the pages of hunting magazines and books, but after posting on his blog on the *Outdoor Life* website that he felt so-called assault rifles have "no place" in hunting, his name has become mud with thousands of angry shooters across the country.

Zumbo suggested that wildlife agencies "ban them from the prairies and woods," and he enraged gunowners by calling AR and AK rifles "terrorist rifles."

One gun control group pounced on Zumbo's remarks, exploiting his statement even though he retracted his statements within a day.

So quick and blistering was the tidal wave of backlash that within 24 hours after it began, Remington issued a public statement that it has "severed all sponsorship ties with Mr. Zumbo effective immediately."

"While Mr. Zumbo is entitled to his opinions," the Remington statement read, "and has the constitutional right to freely express those opinions, these comments are solely his, and do not re-

flect the views of Remington.

"Remington has spent tens of millions of dollars defending our Second Amendment rights to privately own and possess firearms and we will continue to vigorously fight to protect these rights," commented Tommy Millner, Remington's CEO and president. "As hunters and shooters of all interest levels, we should strive to utilize this unfortunate occurrence to unite as a whole in support of our Second Amendment rights."

"We regret having to terminate our long-standing relationship with Mr. Zumbo, who is a well-respected writer and life-long hunter."

Gun Week attempted to contact Zumbo by telephone and e-mail, but he was traveling.

Zumbo's blog appeared early Feb. 18 and by that afternoon, a firestorm had erupted. Remington and *Outdoor Life* were reportedly bombarded with angry e-mails. A day later, even after Zumbo posted an apology that also had disastrous effect, and after he appeared as a guest on Tom Gresham's "GunTalk" radio program in a damage control effort, *Outdoor Life* pulled Zumbo's blog "for the time being."

While Zumbo admitted that his column was "the biggest blunder in my 42 years of writing hunting articles," the damage was done. On *TheHighRoad.org* forum, there were repeated cheers for Remington's decision, while on the *KeepAndBearArms.com*, Zumbo's column ignited some anger, and a slight dose of forgiveness.

Ironically, Zumbo was one of the leaders of an insurrection within the Outdoor Writers Association of America almost three years ago over a flap with the National Rifle Association. Zumbo and other leading gun and hunting writers quit OWAA and created their own professional writers' association because they felt OWAA leadership had "gone green" with something of an anti-NRA agenda.

Gander Mountain To Drop Realistic Replicas Firearms

Gander Mountain says it plans to pull realistic replica guns from its store shelves in Minnesota.

The St. Paul-based sporting goods chain says it also plans to phase out the replica guns nationwide as soon as it's practical, *The St. Paul Pioneer Press* and *WKBT* reported.

The announcement comes as St. Paul officials are about to consider a proposed ordinance that would restrict possession of realistic toy guns. (See related story on Page 2.)

The "airsoft" guns shoot plastic pellets and are used in military-style games. But the replicas are so realistic-looking there's concern that police might mistake them for the real thing and open fire.

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