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THE

OUTDOOR WIRE

The Outdoor Sports Industry's Daily Transaction Newsletter



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* **BREAKING NEWS!**

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is a special re-transmission of The Outdoor Wire. It is being sent to you so that the

SLICK AS BUTTER

Silky smooth actions are the dream of everyone with a mechanical device in their recreational activities. Racers want slick gear changes, fishermen want smooth casts free of backlash and excess friction. Ditto, shooters want their firearms to function as smooth and effortlessly as possible.

To that end, there are a growing list of products that promise all sorts of smooth functions. Advances in chemical technology, polymers and all the other areas I don't presume to understand have truly made it possible for devices to become as slick as Andy Granitelli's screwdriver in vintage STP commercials. I realize that's dating myself, but here's another example: when teaching photography in college, I used to tell my students that hypoclearing agents literally "made water wetter." Now, the only water involved in most photography is the bottled water sitting by the computer while using Photoshop to enhance our digital images.

These products all seem to have inherent drawbacks. They're too-oily, too-drippy, too-hard to remove or something. But?competitive shooters are quietly using a little-advertised or widely-known product to make their competition guns run as smooth as, well, butter. Aptly enough, it's called Gun Butter.

Lisa Munson, Todd Jarrett, Richard "Tequila" Young and other shooters are all carrying - and using - the small (three-quarter ounce) vials of Gun Butter on their firearms. And loving the results. With good reason: it works as advertised, making stiff actions function- and smooth actions even better; it doesn't drip off, wash off, or even burn off due to high temperatures inherent with firearms, and - if these patent-medicine sounding claims aren't enough - actually repels moisture and prevents powder residue buildup in actions.

Say what?

Yep, it works as advertised. Recently, I spent time talking with Mark Turney, the guy behind gun butter. In addition to finding someone who's never short on conversation, I had the opportunity to learn more about the origin of his product.

"It comes from some pretty serious technology," Turey said, "originally, it was designed to stand up to the heat of jet engines - and it does. It won't burn up, freeze up, wash off or dry out. It's almost too-good to be true. That's what happens when you turn energized aerospace engineers loose on a problem."

"We started working on it when 'Team Gun Butter' (he and friend Drew Dorsett) started having problems with competition guns," he explained, "we began experimenting and formulating something to make our guns more reliable here in the Pacific Northwest. If you don't like competing in the rain, you hate shooting here. Unfortunately, all the shooters in our area were having problems making their guns run reliably when wet." That, he explained, meant Gun Butter gave them a significant competitive advantage over their fellow competitors. So why, I asked, didn't he keep his "miracle fluid" a secret?

"I was a high-level shotgun competitor," he explained, "and I figured that if you had to have a secret ingredient in order to compete, you probably weren't good enough to compete with the best. Besides, I want everyone to shoot the best scores possible, so we started sharing gun butter with everyone. Everyone noticed an almost immediate difference."

Are there surprising stories regarding the product? "Sure," says Turney, "One friend is a top-level motorcycle drag racer. I gave him Gun Butter and told try it on his chain - he turned the three fastest consecutive times he'd ever run with it. His speeds went back down without it - so he's running it all the time and winning 'Wally Awards'- special achievements in drag racing."

"Another came from motorcycle police officers," he continued, "when they cleaned their guns with a solvent, then applied Gun Butter, their guns didn't dry up after riding their bikes on duty. For motor officers, guns drying out and picking up road grime are serious concerns. Now, these guys say they'll never use anything else." How's all that possible?

"It offers 'clingability' - or film strength - to maintain placement, enhanced lubricity to allow usage in any weather extreme, and those properties enable you to put it on your actions and assure yourself of uniform performance in extreme conditions," Turney explains, "since it's not a grease, it's an oil, it penetrates, and that enhances its ability to coat parts and prevent carbon buildup in actions."

It may sound too-good to be true, but occasionally, a product comes to market that actually does more than promised. It would appear - at least several hundred rounds into personal testing on a variety of single, double, and semi-auto actions, that Gun Butter just might be one of those products.

Gun Butter is not widely distributed - and it's pricey (\$14.95 per 1/2 ounce container). You can learn more by visiting their website at <http://www.gunbutter.com>. We'd be interested your experience with Gun Butter as well.

— Jim Shepherd



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