

Notes to Consider...

Man-at-Arms: Revolver Malfunctions

By G.S. Morris — 22 April 2019



"A revolver's simply less complicated than an automatic." Anyone you've ever heard make such a statement has obviously never peered behind the side plate of a Smith & Wesson revolver. The inner workings of a double action revolver (or single action, for that matter) is more akin to the innards of a pocket watch than to the elegantly simple workings of nearly all semi-automatic handguns. Typically revolvers are highly reliable, but they are not perfect and when they do malfunction it is often catastrophic. If your revolver won't fire, simply stroke the trigger or

pull the hammer again. If that won't solve the problem, you'd best go to your backup gun (see our column of 15 May 19).

In my experience, the most common type of revolver malfunction is due to a high cartridge primer preventing the cylinder from rotating. The simplest means of checking for high primers is to stand your carry cartridges on a perfectly flat tabletop (bullets skyward, of course); cartridges with a high primer will not stand flush with the surface. If stroking your trigger or pulling back your hammer will not rotate the cylinder, I have (on rare occasions) manually rotated the cylinder with my support hand, getting past the high primer. Remember, all Colt's (and Colt's Single Action Army copies) cylinders rotate clockwise; all other makes rotate counter-clockwise.

Cartridges caught under the extractor star are not going to be removed quickly. Avoid the situation by *forcefully* "spanking" the cylinder ejector rod with the palm of the hand (barrel pointed skyward) or carry a revolver loaded via a moon clip which ejects all cartridges from the revolver's cylinder simultaneously (though a moon clip can also tie up a cylinder if it is bent).

Another common revolver malfunction can be traced to an ejector rod which has become unthreaded far enough to prevent the cylinder from opening (particularly in the case of revolvers with shrouded ejector rods). If you own a Smith & Wesson with the Clinton-era internal lock; and you carry that revolver for self-defense, consider long and hard whether or not you are willing to trust your life to a revolver with such a potentially inoperable rendering device inside the gun? I am not. Revolvers generally don't need much lubrication, but the one piece which does need attention is the cylinder yoke. I once saw a S&W Model 10 seize during square range training in a driving rain due to a binding, unlubricated cylinder yoke.

Finally, all your safety/rescue equipment should be function checked prior to operation. With a revolver, ensure all screws (including the ejector rod) are tight; and (with gun pointed in a safe direction and finger removed from the trigger as soon as the cylinder begins to rotate) that the loaded cylinder freely rotates with all your carry ammunition. I'll always be a revolver fan; but will you ever again consider revolvers as "less complicated"?

Next Week: Type I Semiautomatic Malfunctions

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**Granny Anna Mae Gabbard** will be turning 86 on April 28. **We love you! Happy Birthday from your favorite Byrds: Bailey, Bradey, Ange, and Scottie.**

**McConnell Announces Bill to Raise Minimum Age to Purchase Tobacco to 21**

LOUISVILLE, KY – U.S. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) announced plans at a press conference to introduce legislation in the U.S. Senate to raise the nationwide minimum age to buy tobacco products from 18 to 21. The McConnell bill, which will be introduced in May, will cover all tobacco products, including vaping devices.

Senator McConnell was joined at the press conference by President/CEO of the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky Ben Chandler, State Senator Julie Raque Adams, and State Representative Kim Moser. "I was proud to join my former colleague Ben Chandler who has been a leader on this issue in Kentucky. Senator Adams and Representative Moser championed the initiative to make all schools in Kentucky tobacco free, and my legislation will build on their progress to protect the health of our teens nationwide," said Senator McConnell.

"For some time, I've been hearing from the parents who are seeing an unprecedented spike in vaping among their teenage children. In addition, we all know people who started smoking at a young age and who struggled to quit as adults. Unfortunately it's reaching epidemic levels around the country," said Senator McConnell. "My legislation will be similar to the current system, where retailers have the responsibility to verify the age of anyone buying tobacco products—we'll just raise the age from 18 to 21. Eleven states have enacted laws to raise the purchasing age of tobacco products to 21. These bills will serve as helpful guidance as I craft my federal legislation. For example, my bill will include an exemption for men and women who serve in uniform, similar to state T21 laws."

"There's no time to waste in addressing the surge in youth vaping that's inundating schools throughout Kentucky and the nation with a nicotine-packed product that threatens to damage our children's brains and addict them to tobacco for the rest of their lives. Raising the legal age for sales of all tobacco products from 18 to 21 is key to stemming the youth vaping epidemic," said Ben Chandler, President/CEO of the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky. "The Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky thanks Senator McConnell for his leadership on this issue and stands ready to help in every way we can to ensure its passage. This is for the health of our kids."

Regretfully, Kentucky has some of the highest cancer rates in the country. The Commonwealth unfortunately leads the nation with 34% of cancers tied directly to smoking. When teens vape, they could be taking the first steps toward serious health problems throughout their lives. Alarmingly 45% of Kentucky high school students report having tried vaping. About 95% of adult smokers began using tobacco products before they turned 21. Studies have shown that the brain is still developing throughout teenage years, and nicotine use on a young brain can stunt growth and make it harder to focus, learn, or control impulses. Nicotine use also can increase the risk of addiction to other drugs.

A recent survey showed about two thirds of high school seniors—an overwhelming majority—did not know their vaping product contained nicotine. These young people may not know what chemicals they are putting into their bodies the moment they inhale, let alone know the long-term health risks that could negatively impact them as adults.

"To me, the most serious threat involves the use of vaping devices for teens under 18 years old. Far too often, 18 year olds who are still in high school and can legally buy vaping devices are sharing them with their younger classmates," said Senator McConnell. "And the problem isn't only high schoolers. In 2018, there was a nearly 50% increase of middle school students vaping throughout the country. Raising the age limit to 21 presents fewer opportunities for children to get their hands on vaping devices. I hope my legislation will earn strong, bipartisan support in the Senate. I'm confident many of my colleagues will agree that protecting our young people from starting tobacco use at an early age can have remarkable, long-term health benefits for Kentucky and the country."

"As Senate Majority Leader, Senator McConnell continues to use his leadership position in Washington to help Kentucky," said Sen. Adams. "Too often, families in our Commonwealth face the tragedy of cancer and substance abuse, but Senator McConnell's legislation will promote healthy lifestyles among our kids. Without the harmful chemicals from vaping devices, our children can develop into successful and healthy adults who make us all proud."

**Inspirational Thoughts Into God's Word**

By Lynetta Hunter

(2 Co. 4:7) Apostle Paul knew all too well his human weakness compared to the strength of God. He stated that the completeness of spiritual maturity comes by "Christ in you, the hope of glory" (Col. 1:27). However, not all his listeners understood what he meant. (2 Co. 13:5)

(Mt. 5:14) Jesus told His disciples that they are the light of Christ to the world, and that the light is not hidden or covered up, for then the purpose would be defeated. The characteristics of Jesus will be seen through someone who belongs to Him (Rom. 8) because, "If Christ is in you, then the Spirit is alive because of righteousness". (2 Co. 5:20) Apostle Paul was an example of how to show Jesus through human actions; he had a proper perspective concerning weak flesh vs. divine strength and was willing to make decisions according to the fact.

(John 15) John states that man can do nothing of God unless he is in union with God, and because of the life of Jesus, spiritual fruit can be produced through an unworthy weak human vessel. The reasons for this are mentioned by both Paul and John; so the strength, power, and life that are witnessed will undoubtedly be from God and not man. The inner man is renewed daily by His strength so that (2 Co. 4:8) the light of the knowledge of God will be seen in a dark world, those who are in darkness will come to the light, and (Mt. 14:16) God will be recognized and honored.

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