

WHICH WAY DOES THE WIND BLOW?

Some thoughts on shotguns, storm fronts and weathervanes.

EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE AN ITEM COMES ACROSS MY DESK THAT'S ABSOLUTELY UNIQUE, SOMETHING I'VE never seen in my 30-plus years as an editor. Typically, these items surface from new and/or smaller companies that may not be on everyone's radar screen. I seem to maintain an ever-rising pile of clippings and press releases of interesting items that have caught my eye over the previous year.

And this being early in the new year, I thought the timing would be appropriate for a review of a unique company and product: Robert Louis Co. of Newton, Connecticut (www.shotguncombogauge.com). By happy coincidence, Newton is also the home of the National Shooting Sports Foundation.

The Robert Louis catalog carries what is described as "shotgun training and measuring products aimed at perfecting your shooting skills." If you're a shotgunner, there are some interesting items within, such as the LaserPro (a moving target projector) and the Wobbler (a true target oscillator).

Then there's a Shotgun Combo Gauge (used to measure length of pull, drop at comb, angle of pitch and cast), the Boremaster (for measuring bore and choke dimensions, chamber length

and diameter, forcing-cone length and dimensions and barrel-wall thickness), along with various fitted carrying cases and cleaning items.

But the capper was on the catalog's back page. Labeled as a vintage shotgun weathervane, it was, true to its name, a duplication of a classic L.C. Smith double with external hammers. It's made entirely of brass and copper, with a stainless-steel and brass assembly rod, making it rust—and maintenance—free.

We've all seen roosters, deer, waterfowl, boats, pigs, cows and other items as weathervanes on barns and houses around the country. But I've *never* seen one that so quickly reveals the resident's passion about the

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shooting sports.

It also struck me as appropriate because we—as gun owners—never know which way the wind is blowing on Washington, D.C.'s Capitol Hill. Gun legislation proposals continue to swirl in all directions from all across the country, from east to west, north to south. As we all realize, we never know with any certainty when black clouds will build and a storm front of legislation attacking our Second Amendment rights will blow in.

Remember, as gun owners, we *always* need to know which way the wind is blowing.... **GA**

