



# SPORTS AFIELD

THE PREMIER HUNTING MAGAZINE

## Tales of the Grizzly

**Blacktail:  
Alaska's  
Sleeper Hunt**

**In Praise of the  
.404 Jeffery**



## The Tactical Hunter

*McMillan has engineered a dedicated hunting rifle with all the accuracy and high-tech features of its tactical line.*

**W**hen you hear the name McMillan, a vision of a SWAT team member or sniper going about his business with a military-style rifle that shoots bug-hole groups comes to mind. I've seen a few of McMillan's famous tactical rifles at the range and was very impressed with their accuracy and reliability in the hands of a trained technician (shooter). This style of shooting requires making shots from different positions and unknown ranges at targets different from the normal bull's-eye targets we use; obviously precision bullet placement from a cold barrel is



The fluted bolt on McMillan's new Tactical Hunter looks good and helps to reduce overall weight.

My first look at the new Tactical Hunter, which arrived in a fitted hard plastic airline-proof case, left no doubt this rifle is all business and made to be used.

All metal parts are black Teflon coated to make it impervious to Mother Nature. The textured stock is black graphite with aluminum pillars molded

into it to provide the rigidity for a perfect stock-to-action alignment needed to achieve consistent shot-after-shot accuracy.

McMillan's G30 action is a normal push-feed design. The bolt is fluted in a unique spiral pattern, which not only looks good but helps reduce overall weight.

The Jewell trigger breaks like a piece of glass at 3 pounds and is fully adjustable. Overtravel is nonexistent. As most experienced shooters know, a good trigger is one of the main requirements of accuracy. The trigger is also positioned in a very natural position for your finger; when you grab the pistol grip and mount the rifle into a shooting position you don't have to make the extra effort to find it.

The safety is a two-position style. When it is on it locks the sear, but the bolt can still be cycled.

The Tactical Hunter comes in four calibers: .243 Winchester, .308 Winchester, 7mm Remington Magnum, and .300 Winchester Magnum. Barrel length is 22 inches for the .243 and .308, and

the number one requirement.

I have often wondered what it would take to convert one of these super-accurate tactical models into a dedicated hunting rifle. The changes would mostly involve altering the dimensions of the stock and barrel; in fact, the changes would be minor enough that I'm sure some of McMillan's tactical rifles see time in the field when hunting season rolls around. Well, we don't have to speculate any longer, as 2008 saw the introduction of McMillan's new Tactical Hunter.

# Rifles

## continued

24 inches for the .300 Winchester Magnum and 7mm Remington Magnum. All barrels are match grade and tapered to a standard sporter weight with a recessed target crown.

The Tactical Hunter I received for testing was chambered for .308 Winchester, and at the range it lived up to all of my expectations. In nearly 100-degree temperatures with a stiff cross wind, my largest three-shot group with factory ammunition at 100 yards measured a hair over three-quarters of an inch. I shot factory ammunition from Hornady, Black Hills, Remington, Winchester, and Federal in weights ranging from 150 to 180 grains. This ammo was not target ammo; it was regular ammunition you might find on sale at Wal-Mart. With a couple of my old standby .308 pet handloads, it shot better than I could hold it, which does tend to deflate one's ego.


In a conversation with Kelly McMillan shortly after I received the rifle I asked what sort of accuracy guarantee comes with the rifle. This was a normal question as most rifle manufacturers today give some sort of accuracy guarantee to help sell their products. His answer was the best I've ever heard: No MOA numbers or re-

strictions on the type ammo used, but just a simple, "If you are not happy with the way it shoots, send it back." I don't know what more a customer could ask for.

McMillan is not a three- or four-person shop like some high-grade rifle manufacturers are. There are seventy employees involved in all phases of their complete in-house manufacturing. They produce approximately six rifles a week, which gives you an idea how much time is spent with each rifle that goes out the door. Unlike many high-end rifle companies, McMillan has made the commitment to have rifles in inventory when an order is received, so there is no endless waiting.

The Tactical Hunter is not a super feather-weight rifle. The weight is in line with a M700 Remington, standard Model 70, or Browning A-Bolt, which is about seven pounds.

If I were to be real nit-picky the only thing I would change would be the design of the fore-end. It is of a slight beavertail style that is about an inch longer and nearly an inch wider than most sporter stocks on the market. However, this is not a drawback of much importance as it is still comfortable to hold in most shooting positions, including standing.

The Tactical Hunter is an embarrassing rifle to shoot if you have an ego. I would guess that 95 percent of the shooters that pull the trigger on one will not be able to hold and shoot groups as tight as the rifle is capable of shooting. 



### McMillan Tactical Hunter

- CALIBERS:** .243 Winchester, .308 Winchester, 7mm Remington Magnum, .300 Winchester Magnum
- BARREL:** Match-grade stainless steel target crown #5 fluted barrel; 22 inches for .243 and .308; 24 inches for magnums
- FLOOR PLATE:** 1 piece aluminum, hinged
- WEIGHT:** 7 pounds
- LOP:** 13.5 inches
- RECOIL PAD:** 1" Pachmayr Decelerator
- FINISH:** Matte black finish, black textured stock
- MSRP:** \$4,195.00
- WEB SITE:** mcmfamily.com

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## Tails of the South Pacific

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