



2023

EDITORIAL BIOS





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NICK SEIFERT
SVP/GENERAL MANAGER

Nick Seifert joined Athlon Outdoors in 2016 and immediately surrounded himself with a team of topflight professionals who quickly made the company a leader in shooting sports media. Athlon Outdoors' dramatic transition included delivering new multimedia product offerings, digital upgrades and innovations, a customer-first advertising partnership culture, and most importantly, journalistic excellence.

More than 30 years at the top of the outdoor media business evolved from a lifelong obsession. His career reads like the Who's Who of outdoor media: *Outdoor Life*, *Field & Stream*, ESPN Outdoors, Fischer Productions, InterMedia Outdoors, HardPoint Capital Partners and now Athlon Outdoors. He's been an editor, writer, TV producer, on-camera talent, 14-time Emmy Award winner, marketing specialist, executive, and publisher.

Along the way, he built several successful businesses and operating units, helped advertising clients reach goals and grow revenue, gave back to various causes and advocated for hunting, conservation and Second Amendment rights.



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NINO BOSAZ EDITORIAL DIRECTOR

Nino Bosaz's career in shooting and outdoor media began in 1995 as an editorial assistant for *Combat Handguns*, *Tactical Knives* and *Whitetail Strategies* magazines. Since then, he has launched several highly successful publications including *American Frontiersman*, *Tactical Weapons*, *AR Rifleman* and *The New Pioneer*, and produced custom publications for Nikon Sport Optics, Glock, Barrett Firearms, Mossy Oak Camo, Blackhawk Products and other leading outdoor companies. Today he oversees print content for Athlon Outdoors, the leading media company in firearms, shooting sports, and survival/self-reliance with 12 magazine titles reaching 54 million passionate readers each year.

Bosaz credits his content creators as the driving force behind his success. "Surround yourself with great contributors who have passion on a given subject, collaborate to the fullest, and there's no telling how far we can take this."

Although gun magazine publishing has been his main occupation, Bosaz also wore the hats of editorial director, e-zine editor and direct-mail catalog designer/publisher for e-tailer eders.com and served for several years as a weekly contributor to realtree.com.

Bosaz's never-ending passion for firearms, Second Amendment and personal-defense advocacy, self-reliance, hunting, fishing, the U.S. military and land stewardship date back to his early days of shot-gunning deer in upstate New York. "One day while sitting on deer stand, I said to myself, 'Self, you need to figure out how to earn a living doing what you love.'"



LINAS VIKTORAS CERNAUSKAS **EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**

Born and raised in New York City (living there for 39 years), in 1999 Linas Cernauskas began working in publishing at the bottom step for Harris Publications. He worked his way up to earn the title Editor-In-Chief. He currently holds the same title at Athlon Outdoors. He holds a degree in Industrial and Organizational Psychology and is fluent in Lithuanian. He is an avid gun collector, fan of bourbons and cigars, and enjoys fishing. Wanting a quieter way of life, he currently resides in Michigan with his lovely wife, where he gets to shoot in his backyard.



CHAD ADAMS **SENIOR DIGITAL EDITOR**

Chad Adams began his career in journalism as a U.S. Marine and continued it in the firearms industry upon discharge. In 2002, Adams began working for NRA as an editor with *Shooting Illustrated* and later *American Rifleman*. During that time, Adams also began working in television, first as a reporter for American Rifleman Television, then as host of NRA's American Guardian.

Many folks in the industry know Adams from his role with 3-Gun Nation. For the past seven years, Adams was Partner/Vice President, Director of Communication & Public Affairs for 3-Gun Nation, which included shooting events, broadcast TV, website, bi-monthly magazines, social media, on-site event marketing and public affairs. He has experience with memberships, video production, script writing, live streaming, and on-camera talent. 3-Gun Nation aired on Versus, NBC Sports, Sportsman Channel, Pursuit Channel, The Blaze and MAV TV.

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LAURA STARITA DIGITAL SEO EDITOR

Laura Starita's appreciation for shooting sports came about in her early teens when her father introduced her to trap and skeet. Laura then took up hunting after she became the editorial assistant for the NRA's *American Hunter* magazine. Whitetail deer and wild turkey are her go-to game animals along with the occasional feral hog and pheasant. Laura continued her career in the outdoor and firearms industry at Cabela's, Inc. where she worked as a copywriter and later as an SEO specialist. When she's not working, you can find Laura exploring the American West, on the slopes, fly fishing with her husband, and doing her best to turn her baby daughter into the next Annie Oakley.



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JOSHUA SWANAGON DIGITAL EDITOR

Joshua Swanagon has studied survival in both urban and wilderness environments in Colorado and Michigan for most of his life, while also adding experience in harsher terrains abroad.

Over the years he has utilized his experience and years of diverse martial arts and combatives training, as well as real-world application, as a self-defense/combatives instructor, published freelance writer and Field Editor for various leading magazines in the fields of firearms, knives, survival, self-defense, and tactical subject matters.

Joshua also brings with him his years of experience as Editor of, and Subject Matter Expert for, *Knives Illustrated Magazine* and *Knife & Gear Society*



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NIKI MORRISON
MARKETING AND PROGRAM MANAGER

Niki Morrison has a vast and varied scope of media experience. Since her first job as a designer at a New York City ad agency to the creative director of a Texas lifestyle magazine, Niki has held positions in the fields of marketing, art direction and branding, and has even run her own successful design company.

A gun enthusiast and proponent of women's safety, Niki founded a popular women's gun club, a national magazine focusing on women and shooting, and has appeared on local, national and international media as a subject-matter expert on women's self-defense. When she's not working or at the range, Niki is a travel-and-adventure writer in her home state of Texas.



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JILLIAN DOW
PAID MEDIA MANAGER

Jillian Dow joined the Athlon Outdoors with more than 10 years of varied marketing experience and a passion for all things digital. While new to the firearms industry, she will be the first to tell you that the community is the most welcoming and has truly enjoyed learning from some of the experts she's met.

Jillian recently had the opportunity to be onscreen in the latest season Athlon Outdoors' At the Ready, providing her an amazing opportunity to fine-tune her new-shooter skills. In her free time, you will catch her traveling, hiking, camping or enjoying live music.



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GREG DUNCAN
SENIOR EDITOR

A lifelong Okie, Greg Duncan is a passionate outdoorsman and staunch supporter of the Second Amendment. After spending more than a decade in outdoor marketing and public relations where he worked in just about every outdoor vertical, Duncan joined Athlon Outdoors editorial team and helps produce compelling content in a wide assortment of AO publications. Duncan earned a degree in Journalism from the University of Oklahoma. His favorite shooting activities are prairie dog hunting and waterfowl hunting.



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JAY LANGSTON
EDITOR-AT-LARGE FOR TACTICAL LIFE STEALTH
AND TL COMPLETE BOOK OF RELOADING

Jay Langston's professional pursuits over the past 25 years include publishing more than 1,500 articles and 2,000 photos that have appeared in hundreds of magazines, newspapers and websites. He is a graduate of the University of Memphis, holding a B.A. in Journalism.

His career includes various roles with Whitman Publishing, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, National Wild Turkey Federation, Game & Fish Publications and Stoeger Publishing.

Langston is the recipient of 16 state, regional and national writing awards, as well as winning numerous competitions from National Field Archery Association titles to NRA matches in Handgun Silhouette, NRA Hi-Power and Small Bore. Langston is an avowed addict of chasing mature whitetail bucks and long-spurred tom turkeys, which he has pursued in 26 states, Canada and Mexico.



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FRANK MELLONI ATHLON OUTDOORS CONTRIBUTOR

Frank Melloni rocketed into the firearms industry in 2011 after competing in season 4 of History Channel's Top Shot. Shortly after the show, Frank started a New York-based firearms training company called Renaissance Firearms Instruction where he heads up a crew of more than 10 instructors teaching various firearms disciplines to include defensive shooting, long-range precision, and even reloading. Frank produces both written and visual content for nearly every Athlon Outdoors publication including The Unknowns column in *Ballistic* as well as the Ammo Match column in *Tactical Life*. Frank also hosts The Reloading Zone video series. In his spare time, he can be found competing in USPSA, IDPA, and various long-range rifle disciplines. Frank also enjoys hunting, camping, hiking, and most of all, working with new shooters.



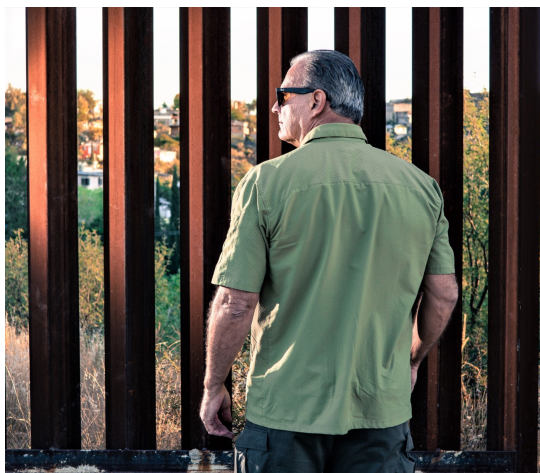
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SEAN UTLEY ATHLON OUTDOORS CONTRIBUTOR

Sean Utley is an accomplished freelance photographer, writer, consultant and producer in the industry. He is an avid shooter with a penchant for precision long-range shooting and gear. Sean is also an expert evaluator of suppressor performance, having been creator and project manager for *Suppressor Magazine* for 4 years.

Currently editor-at-large of Athlon Outdoors' *Ballistic Precision* magazine, Sean enjoys putting his creative skills to the test. Never settling, he is pushing the boundaries of gun-related videos, bringing an artistic flair to the content he creates and hosts, such as Athlon Outdoors' Long Range Precision Shooting series and Free Gun Friday.

Sean recently produced and released his own reality shooting series *Queen Of The Mile*, which has received support from many well-known manufacturers and by viewers, and has spurred many to take up precision long range shooting.



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MIKE DETTY ATHLON OUTDOORS CONTRIBUTOR

2023 marks Detty's 30th year as a gun writer. Back in 1993 Harry Kane, of the old Harris Publications, opened the door of the exclusive contributors' club, and eleven hundred or so articles later, Detty still finds it amazing that someone will pay him for his dribble.

Though you'll find most of Detty's work under the old Harris banner and now Athlon Outdoors titles, he also has penned pieces for American Rifleman, Dillon Blue Press, GunGames, American Handgunner, Guns, SWAT and a number of industry newsletters. At one time he was the Arsenal editor for Police magazine and also claims a writing credit with—believe it or not—Hooters magazine.

Detty detailed his work with the BATFE in his novel, Operation Wide Receiver. "Selling guns to known cartel associates, in the dead of night, at the behest of our government is an experience I'll never forget!"

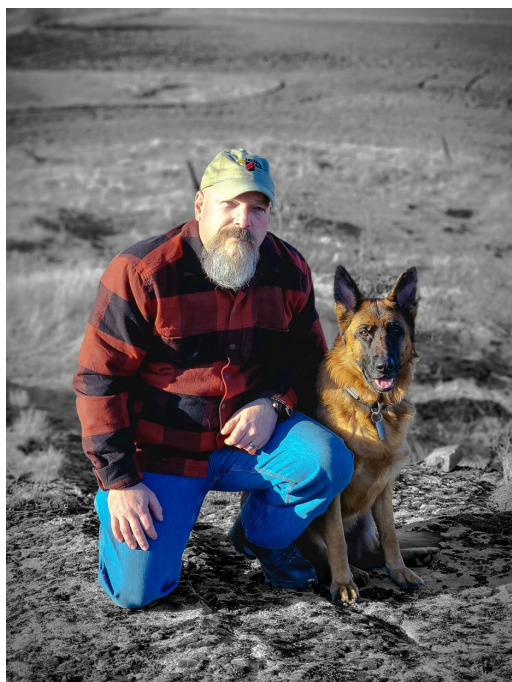
Detty lives in the shadows of the historic Santa Catalina mountains in Tucson along with his jogging partner and best friend, Gunner the Chocolate Labrador.

FRED MASTISON ATHLON OUTDOORS CONTRIBUTOR

Fred Mastison is a national magazine contributor, professional firearms and combatives instructor, and executive protection provider and trainer. He has written more than 700 articles for 27 different magazines. He is a reserve police officer and has trained firearms tactics and close quarter combatives for more than three decades. He currently holds 17 separate POST course certifications around the U.S. and is a certifying instructor for law enforcement firearms instructors in handgun, patrol rifle, shotgun and submachine gun. He is a contract DOD personal security and OPSEC instructor for U.S. Embassy personnel based around the world. In addition to training in the U.S., Fred has divisions in Germany, Ireland, and Mexico.



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MITCH HARDIN **ATHLON OUTDOORS CONTRIBUTOR**

A true patriot and sheepdog, Mitch Hardin has spent most of his adult life in uniform serving God, Country, and Community: from his early career as a Paratrooper in the frigid arctic of Alaska to a Deputy Sheriff in the Midwest. As an Army veteran and retired Law Enforcement Officer, Mitch knew that he could write a solid report and take quality evidentiary photos. So, journalism wasn't a far stretch of the imagination for him. Coupled with a passion for justice and unwavering support of our nation's Constitution, a more natural fit is hard to find.

During his downtime, Mitch enjoys spending time with his family, training his German Shepherds, and maintaining a presence in over a dozen industry-related forums. He can usually be found at the range or behind his camera. If he's not out working on an article, he's advocating for our individual liberties.



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FRANK JARDIM **ATHLON OUTDOORS CONTRIBUTOR**

Frank Jardim became an NRA life member just after high school. He is a lifelong shooting sports enthusiast and outdoorsman with broad interests from matchlocks to machine guns and a special passion for firearms technology and history. When he's not freelance writing recreational shooting, practical self-defense and off-grid lifestyles, Frank is operating his 07 FFL firearms manufacturer business, Vintage Ordnance Company (VOCO).

In the last 12 years, Frank has written more than 250 magazine articles, built hundreds of precise reproduction World War Two FP-45 Liberator pistols, and provided various museums with consulting, weapons conservation, and replica weapon fabrication services. Prior to this, he earned a BA and MA in American History. Frank landed his first professional museum job in 1996 and worked over a decade for the United States Army. As director of the Patton Museum of Cavalry and Armor at Fort Knox, Kentucky, his collection responsibilities included the care and interpretation of most of General George S. Patton's personal firearms collection.



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BARB MELLONI **ATHLON OUTDOORS CONTRIBUTOR**

Barb Melloni is a freelance writer born and raised in rural Indiana where her passion for guns, hunting and anything outdoors is rooted. If she is not afield with her coonhound Browning hunting small game or tucked away in a deer blind, you are likely to find Barb instructing a variety of training courses across New York and Pennsylvania as co-owner of Renaissance Firearms Instruction. Aside from this, Barb has a well-rounded background in the gun industry, having worked for several major gun, optic, and accessory manufacturers. In her free time, you'll find her with a nice cigar on a sporting clays course, relaxing with a backstrap in the smoker from a successful hunt, or even enjoying a bit of long-range shooting alongside friends.



ALEX LANDEEN **ATHLON OUTDOORS CONTRIBUTOR**

Alex Landeen is a full-time freelance photographer, videographer, and writer. He has been providing professional-grade content to the outdoor, firearm, and LE publication industry since 2010.

Growing up in southern Arizona, Landeen has enjoyed hunting and shooting from an early age and has yet to stop growing his passion for firearms and the 2A community. Over the last decade he's trained with some of the top industry providers, including Kyle Defoor, Tim Kennedy, and spent hundreds of hours honing his skills at Gunsite Academy.

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TRAVIS BIRNEY **ATHLON OUTDOORS CONTRIBUTOR**

Travis Birney, better known by his pen name, "Robert Jordan," is a DEA Supervisory Special Agent and prior Border Patrol Agent with over 25 years of federal law enforcement experience. He has been stationed in seven different offices and traveled to over 25 countries teaching firearms and tactics to our allies (umm, Russia is still an ally, right?). His love of firearms and all things that go BOOM began before he was five years old and continues unabated today. He started writing freelance articles for gun magazines 15 years ago to see if he could earn an honest living or if government servitude had permanently stunted his soul. Jury is still out. Travis currently resides in Phoenix, Arizona, with his beautiful wife, two awesome kids, four spoiled dogs, two neglected guinea pigs, a stray cat, and a ball python. The snake is for sale. Cheap.



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ANDY GROSSMAN **ATHLON OUTDOORS CONTRIBUTOR**

Andy is an outdoor industry photographer, content creator, writer, industry personality, and Firearms instructor. Working with numerous outdoor publications including, Athlon Outdoors, FMG Publications, The Armory Life, and Guns and Ammo to create some of the best imagery and content possible. As a certified NRA Instructor since 2008 he teaches concealed weapons courses and firearms safety courses in Michigan. Through photography and writing, Andy tests and reviews the latest guns and gear with the goal to bring an unbiased opinion to the reader on some of the industry's most popular products. Andy is also the host of the Unapologetically Patriotic Firearms Podcasts called The Pew Pew Nation Podcast. Possessing a strong background in social media content creation and marketing really aids Andy in helping companies achieve their marketing goals through product imagery and writing.



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KENZIE FITZPATRICK
ATHLON OUTDOORS CONTRIBUTOR

Kenzie Fitzpatrick is a professional competitive shooter, a published writer in the firearm industry, and a firearms instructor. She is also the Founder of Reticle Up, a marketing agency specializing in social media marketing, content creation, and email marketing for small to medium businesses in the outdoors industry. Kenzie launched her professional shooting career in 2014 when she earned a spot on Florida State University's pistol team, competing in GSSF and SCSA events. Since then, she has competed in 3 Gun, PRS, NRL22, Cowboy Action, USPSA, 2 Gun, and more shooting competitions. Kenzie is the host of and launched the Reticle Up Podcast in 2021, where she interviews competitive shooters, hunters, anglers, entrepreneurs, and outdoorsmen of all backgrounds, ages, and expertise levels. She's also a hunting enthusiast and enjoys all things outdoors!



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TODD BURGREN
ATHLON OUTDOORS CONTRIBUTOR

Todd Burgreen has been a freelance writer for more than 20 years with hundreds of articles published in various publications. He has attended dozens of personal defense, team tactics, firearms, and driving courses from some of the most influential training centers and personalities in the country.



BEN TIRPAK
EDITORIAL DIRECTOR OF SKILLSET

Ben Tirpak is a family man of two beautiful children who spends his time on the weekends polishing up on his skillsets. He enjoys shooting, cycling, and wrenching on rusty rides. He is a well-rounded individual who lives life to the fullest and meets every challenge head-on.

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