

Shooting Gallery

Recently, I've read on FaceButt that someone I know regularly thinks of suicide. For that matter, I've been in a better state of mental health myself before now. So in keeping with the general mood of depression, I offer this...



1. BAD ASS -- Me in my bedroom mirror, looking tough in my Tilley hat, shoulder holster and realistic fake S&W .45 automatic pistol (chrome finish). It doesn't fit the holster well. In fact, none of my replica or toy guns will fit it. Bummer.



2. A FROG AND HIS GUNS -- Nobody will serve this little green frog's legs on their menu! The pistols and British LA-85 infantry arm will only be taken from his cold, dead flippers. All the firearms are Japanese made replicas -- frighteningly real, but only capable of shooting small yellow plastic balls at a muzzle velocity that might penetrate three sheets of paper... no more.



3. ARMED & CUDDLY -- My-ten-year old cat, Sailor, and replicas of a Beretta 92R 9mm, and a Smith & Weston .45 auto. For some reason she found the shoulder holster rig comfortable to snooze on.



4. ARMS & THE FAN -- Another view of the Beretta 92R and the S&W, without the cat. As you can see, the S&W doesn't fit the holster. Both pistols have working trigger and hammer action, the receivers can be pulled back to cock the bolt, and both have removable magazines. I removed the apparatus that fed the plastic balls into the breech of the Beretta, and built up the open end with a dud round of hollow-nosed 9mm ammo.



5. PAPERWEIGHT -- It's a genuine "practice round" made redundant by the Canadian Armed Forces. All practice pineapples in the CAF apparently have levers painted pale blue like this. I'm negotiating with someone I know for an American dud that's painted Olive Drab and has a genuine metal upper body... not plastic like this one.



6. GET SHARP! -- This is what's called a "wall-hanger." It's a cheap steel replica of a Japanese short sword called a Wakazashi. The longer of the two swords a samurai wears is usually referred to as a katana. While the long sword is politely taken off indoors, the short one is worn even in the company of one's friends and host. It's also handier for beheading!



7. WAKAZASHI -- Both the short sword and its sheath on my bedspread. If you look closely you can see that the pommel (or end) of the grip is missing, and showing a very untraditional nut and bolt fastener. I have since then modeled epoxy into a proper cap over the end.



8. **UNCLE RAY'S BULLDOG** -- My Uncle Raymond died last year, and among his things was this rusty, broken 1890's British made Bulldog pistol. My sister was responsible for taking care of his stuff, and unfortunately turned it right over to the cops. You can't have people shooting each other with busted guns, now, can we?



9. **LANCASTER** -- The venerable Lancaster bomber carried nearly twice the bomb load of a B-17 for a longer distance, and well deserves its place on a pedestal. Unfortunately, it was vulnerable to vandalism in its old Lakeshore location, not far from here. It was removed and is being fully restored for display in the Toronto Air and Space Museum.



10. **WARSAW PAK 76** -- This is a photo of my friends Bob and Sharry Wilson on their visit to Budapest in Hungary last year. The anti-tank weapon is a Soviet made 76mm gun, similar to the PAK 76 used by the German army in WWII.



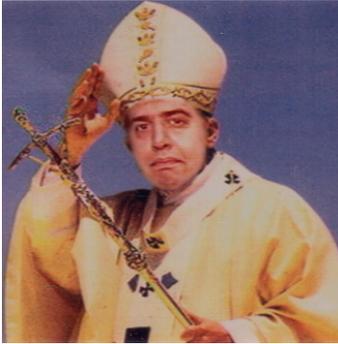
11. GUNSMITH CLOUDS -- me and a fellow artist named Max. He lives in Ottawa, but returned from a con via Toronto. The LA-85 I'm carrying is a replica, as is the military style shotgun in Max's hands. Some samples of our work are hung overhead.



12. REGULATION USE OF THE ENFIELD RIFLE -- Kjartan is another sometimes visitor of Toronto, though this particular photo was taken in his own apartment in Iceland. (Currently he lives in Arizona where the obsession of firearms is openly tolerated.) I'm pretty sure he does know which end of the rifle to point. Pretty sure...



13. NAPOLASSARRA -- My friend Steven Baldassarra, who seems to have a flair for costume parties, and one year dressed as Napoleon. Apart from being somewhat short, I think Steven shares no warlike qualities with the Little Corporal.



14. POPE TOM -- A man who has spiritual power over hundreds of millions of people? Now that's dangerous! But fortunately it's only my friend Tom Turrison, invested with the tiara and crozier by the spiritual authority of Photoshop. Tom has a strange sense of humour...



15. POWER HEADACHE -- That's got to smart! although only a plastic Samurai knife, it has a stiff blade and chrome finish. I gave one just like it to a friend of mine who had a bad habit of cutting his wrists... I figured it would leave fewer scars.



16. MINE IS BIGGER THAN YOURS -- This might almost be out of some writer's alternate history nightmare. On the right, the Heinleinian "torch" ship, on the left, Werner Von Braun's Moon Rocket in Nazi markings.



"When fascism comes to America, it will be wrapped in the flag and carrying a cross."

Sinclair Lewis (American Novelist, 1885 - 1951)

17. I found this photo on the CBC website tonight, and instantly the quote came to mind. I just **had** to do it up properly in Photoshop. With any luck it'll become one of those memes that sweep the country, Tea Baggers will become ashamed, and the whole Fox News conspiracy to rule the country through fear and intimidation will collapse. Or... I could find a magic penny in my pocket that will let me teleport to other planets safely. Which do **you** think is more likely?

I'm betting on the penny.



18. I never know what to do with my camera, most of the time. So I take silly pictures now and then in a fit of need to find it a purpose. I took this one of Bob Wilson a couple of days ago, when he was fooling around with a couple of my toy guns.

The one on the right is a metal replica of a Brezza 92, similar to that used by the US Army. The one on the left is plastic toy. While it is a fair imitation of the Steyr AUG assault rifle, if seen up close it is far less convincing than it appears here. The writer between them is more or less authentic.