

AIR GUNS

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So with all of the above said, let's get started on air guns. If you're like me, I got a BB gun when I was 6. A pellet gun at 9, shotgun at 10 and then a .22 at 12. I think I started deer hunting at 9 or 10. So by the time I reached this level I left my air guns in the dust never to be shot again.

Decades later, I started hearing rumblings about the modern break barrel air rifles. Then my brother-in-law had me shoot his new break barrel air rifle. For the life of me I could not understand why a grown man would digress and go back to air guns.

Finally I thought, well, I might as well check them out. I'm always scrambling for new topics. Air guns should be good for one. Little did I know how deep I would end up in them.

Shortly thereafter I was at the Professional Outdoor Media Association Convention in Missouri. At the media day at the range event I met with a Winchester rep. She showed me the ins/outs of a break barrel and before long I had one in my hot little hands.

But upon shooting it, I was sadly disappointed. I could only get a



Tom Claycomb/Contributed Photo

When you buy a pellet gun, get one that is at least a .22 caliber or you'll be disappointed.

1½-inch group at 15 yards. I had a buddy on the SWAT team shoot it. He only got a 1¼" group. That'd never work. With air guns you're hunting small animals with small

kill zones. I called Winchester and they said, yeah, we expect a 1½-inch group at 13 yards.

Why I didn't give up on air guns right then I'll never know, but I

persevered. Before long I got invited to the first GAMO Squirrel Master Classic and tested out a pile of air guns but still wasn't convinced any of them were accurate.

Then I got put on Prostaff with Crosman and obtained an accurate air gun. The whole process took me probably five to six years to make the decision that I wanted to be an air gunner. So you don't run out and buy an air gun and become disillusioned like I did I want to write this series of articles so we can speed up your learning curve and so you don't go through the same frustrations that I did.

Let's start off with the first item — which caliber should you buy? At the first SMC event they gave us .177s to hunt with. The next year they supplied us with .22s. I noticed it took 40% less shots with a .22 than it did with the .177s to get a squirrel out of the tree. I was sold on .22s.

I was fat, dumb and happy with my .22 for years until I got a Umarex .25-caliber Gauntlet. With the Gauntlet I noticed as much of an improvement in jumping from a .22 to a .25 as from a .177 to a .22. The moral here is — don't buy a .177. I'd recommend getting a .22 since pellet availability is better than a .25. But if you get into hunting small game with air guns, I'd suggest buying the Umarex .25 cal. Gauntlet.

Tune in for the next article — air guns, part two.

Newly hired worker wrecked neighbor's car

DEAR ABBY: Last year, my across-the-street neighbor backed into my car. At least, that's what I think happened.

My car was parked legally on the street, and there was a huge dent in it. I called the police and, based on the location of the dent and the neighbor's driveway, the officer determined that the neighbor had backed into it. Furthermore, light blue paint from my car was on her car's bumper.

When the officer went across the street, the neighbor came running out screaming at him. She was hysterical and belligerent, and she denied it. Eventually, the officer told me that even though he was certain she did it, there was nothing he could do since it was her word against mine.

I had never met this woman before, but she is mean, and I often hear her screaming and cussing at her small children. Last week, I arrived at work to discover that my company had hired a new clerk. I'll give you one guess who it is. I don't think she realizes I'm her neighbor. I must interact with her often



DEAR ABBY

at work, and so far, I've been professional but chilly toward her.

At some point, she's going to see me in my yard and realize I'm her neighbor. Should I clear the air now, or should I pretend it never happened? I'm still angry because she cost me a lot of money.

— ANGRY NEIGHBOR

DEAR NEIGHBOR: I see nothing to be gained by "clearing the air" with someone you know is emotionally unstable. Let it ride, keep your distance and remain cool. If her problems manifest at the office, she may not be there long. And at home, stay away from her AND her driveway.

DEAR ABBY: I have been in a relationship with my boyfriend for almost four years. We live together along with my two older sons, ages 30 and 33.

He doesn't spend much

time with me because he's either working or hanging out with the guys at the bar. I do have jealousy issues. He looks at and talks to other women when I am with him.

My former husband used to be out every day until late in the evenings until I caught him cheating with my best friend. It's hard for me to trust again. I truly love my boyfriend, and I don't want to lose him. Should I be jealous or let it go?

— UNDERVALUED IN INDIANA

DEAR UNDERVALUED: Your insecurity is something you need to work on because your jealousy could drive a wedge between you and your boyfriend. If his looking at and conversing with women were a threat to your relationship, it's likely something would already have happened.

Did your former husband look at women and engage them in conversation? I have a hunch he didn't do it openly. That your best friend helped him cheat was another betrayal, for which you have my sympathy. But please don't

project their sins onto your boyfriend.

Talk to him. Tell him you need more time together. Make plans for a regular date night and arrange for your sons to be absent. If you still don't have enough of his company and he likes hanging out with his guy friends at the bar, consider tagging along occasionally.

DEAR READERS: At sundown, the first night of the major Jewish holiday of Passover begins. It celebrates the first and most momentous event in Jewish history — the liberation of the Jewish people in Egypt. Wishing a happy Passover to my Jewish readers!

— Love, ABBY

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weather

	TONIGHT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED
	A moonlit sky	Increasing clouds	A little snow	Mostly sunny	Mostly sunny and warmer
Baker City	33	69 34	47 25	52 25	62 29
La Grande	39	67 26	42 26	49 25	61 34
Enterprise	36	61 22	37 22	45 22	56 34
Comfort Index™	10	10	0	5	10

Comfort Index takes into account how the weather will feel based on a combination of factors. A rating of 10 feels very comfortable while a rating of 0 feels very uncomfortable.

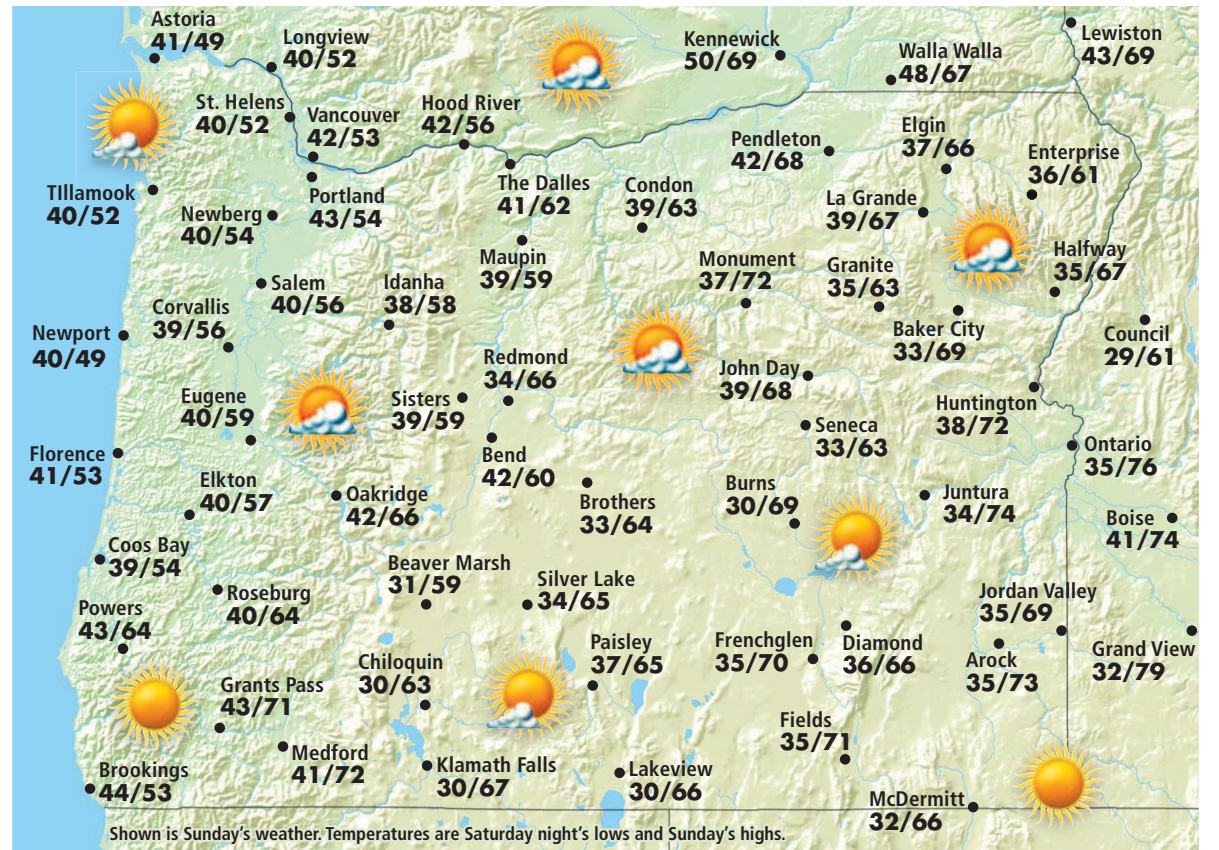
ALMANAC			
TEMPERATURES	Baker City	La Grande	Elgin
High Thursday	51°	46°	49°
Low Thursday	31°	34°	31°
PRECIPITATION (inches)			
Thursday	Trace	Trace	0.36
Month to date	0.14	0.46	1.01
Normal month to date	0.66	1.17	1.79
Year to date	1.09	5.49	12.94
Normal year to date	2.04	3.94	7.29

AGRICULTURAL INFO.			
HAY INFORMATION SUNDAY			
Lowest relative humidity	25%		
Afternoon wind	SW at 7 to 14 mph		
Hours of sunshine	8.8		
Evapotranspiration	0.14		
RESERVOIR STORAGE (through midnight Friday)			
Phillips Reservoir	13% of capacity		
Unity Reservoir	62% of capacity		
Owyhee Reservoir	56% of capacity		
McKay Reservoir	74% of capacity		
Wallowa Lake	51% of capacity		
Thief Valley Reservoir	101% of capacity		
STREAM FLOWS (through midnight Thursday)			
Grande Ronde at Troy	470 cfs		
Thief Valley Reservoir near North Powder	117 cfs		
Burnt River near Unity	39 cfs		
Umatilla River near Gibbon	548 cfs		
Minam River at Minam	258 cfs		
Powder River near Richland	279 cfs		

THURSDAY EXTREMES			
NATION (for the 48 contiguous states)			
High: 94°	Zephyrhills, Fla.		
Low: -2°	Gould, Colo.		
Wettest: 4.40"	Rome, Ga.		
OREGON			
High: 61°	Hermiston		
Low: 21°	Crater Lake		
Wettest: 0.10"	Astoria		
WEATHER HISTORY			
A great storm buried the Dakotas under knee-deep snow on March 27, 1950. Dumont, S.D., received 38 inches, the greatest 24-hour snowfall in South Dakota history.			
SUN & MOON			
	SAT.	SUN.	
Sunrise	6:42 a.m.	6:40 a.m.	
Sunset	7:14 p.m.	7:15 p.m.	
Moonrise	6:08 p.m.	7:28 p.m.	
Moonset	6:38 a.m.	7:03 a.m.	
MOON PHASES			
Full	Last	New	First
Mar 28	Apr 4	Apr 11	Apr 19

AROUND OREGON AND THE REGION

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2021



REGIONAL CITIES

City	SUN.		MON.	
	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W	Hi/Lo/W
Astoria	49/39/r	48/38/sh	Lewiston	69/39/c
Bend	60/25/pc	42/24/pc	Longview	52/38/r
Boise	74/33/s	47/29/sf	Medford	64/25/c
Brookings	53/39/pc	52/38/s	Newport	72/36/pc
Burns	69/26/pc	44/20/pc	Olympia	47/34/r
Coo's Bay	54/41/r	50/37/pc	Ontario	76/37/s
Corvallis	56/35/r	51/33/sh	Pasco	69/41/c
Council	61/19/pc	40/23/sn	Pendleton	68/33/c
Elgin	66/25/c	41/24/sn	Portland	54/39/r
Eugene	59/35/r	51/33/pc	Powers	64/34/r
Hermiston	72/35/c	55/33/pc	Redmond	66/29/pc
Hood River	56/37/r	50/34/sn	Roseburg	64/36/sh
Imnaha	67/28/pc	43/25/sn	Salem	56/37/r
John Day	68/27/pc	39/25/sn	Spokane	54/32/sh
Joseph	58/21/pc	35/20/sn	The Dalles	62/41/r
Kennewick	69/36/c	43/19/pc	Ukiah	62/22/c
Klamath Falls	67/26/s	43/18/s	Walla Walla	67/36/sh
Lakeview	66/25/s	43/19/pc		

Weather(W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice

RECREATION FORECAST SUNDAY

ANTHONY LAKES A p.m. flurry	41	9	PHILLIPS LAKE Partly sunny; warm	66	28
MT. EMILY REC. Clouding up	52	18	BROWNLEE RES. Clouds and sun	67	25
EAGLE CAP WILD. Partly sunny	45	14	EMIGRANT ST. PARK Clouding up	58	20
WALLOWA LAKE Clouds and sun	58	21	MCKAY RESERVOIR A p.m. shower	70	27
THIEF VALLEY RES. Breezy in the p.m.	69	34	RED BRIDGE ST. PARK Increasing clouds	67	26