

## GUN TESTS REPORT CARD



### **Beretta Tikka T3 Lite .300 WSM, \$595**

#### **GUN TESTS GRADE: A+**

Bottom line, we liked this rifle a lot. If we had tested it in summertime the hard recoil pad might have been a problem. With our team in heavy winter clothing, the relatively hard pad, combined with the well-designed stock, didn't hurt us. Everything about the rifle was pretty good, we thought. The light weight, the ease of mounting our Nitrex 3-9X scope in the rings provided, the fine trigger pull, the slick magazine, smooth bolt and smooth feeding, perfect function in all respects, the great price, and not the least, the fine performance of the .300 WSM in this rifle made us think that if we wanted a .300 magnum, this would be it.



### **Ruger M77 Hawkeye .300 Win. Mag., \$779**

#### **GUN TESTS GRADE: D+**

The heavy Hawkeye had done its best with the lightest bullets, making this heavy rifle somewhat on the generally useless side, we thought, unless you have a need for a varmint rifle in this caliber. Giving Remington its due, the 150-grain Core-Lokt bullets would do fine for long-range deer hunting, but not so well on larger game that might require a heavier bullet. We note Ruger offers the Hawkeye in .308 at a nominal 7 pounds, about a pound lighter than this .300 Mag version (though still not as light as the Tikka). We suspect if a shooter wants a rifle for .30-caliber 150-grain bullets, this much lighter .308 would do quite well. Even better, the .338 Win. Mag. version weighs less than the .300, and is a lot more rifle for the same money. Accordingly, with the Tikka a viable and much cheaper option between these two rifles, and one that worked better with more-serious bullet weights, we decided we'd have nothing more to do with Ruger's overweight, light-bullet-loving, heavy-triggered Hawkeye.

*Written and photographed by Ray Ordorica, using evaluations from GUN TESTS team testers. GT*