Where The .475 Linebaugh Ranks

As handgun cartridges become more powerful, shooters need a scorecard to keep up with who's on top in terms of velocity, energy, and oomph. Herewith, then, are the vital statistics on the new factory-loaded .475 Linebaugh, and how other cartridges measure up.

Factory Cartridge Specifications

Cartridge	Bullet Weight	Muzzle Velocity	Muzzle Energy
.475 Linebaugh	420 gr.	1,350 fps	1,700 ft.-lbs.
.475 Linebaugh	385 gr.	1,550 fps	1,725 ft.-lbs.
.475 Linebaugh	420 gr.	1,425 fps	1,800 ft.-lbs
.44 Magnum	240 gr.	1,050 fps	589 ft.-lbs.
.44 Magnum	240 gr.	1,180 fps	740 ft.-lbs.
.44 Magnum	250 gr.	1,250 fps	800 ft.-lbs.
.44 Magnum	270 gr.	1,250 fps	937 ft.-lbs.
.44 Magnum	300 gr.	1,225 fps	1,002 ft.-lbs.
.44 Magnum	300 gr.	1,250 fps	1,040 ft.-lbs.
.45 ACP	230 gr.	930 fps	412 ft.-lbs.
.45 ACP	230 gr.	850 fps	370 ft.-lbs.
.454 Casull	250 gr.	1,500 fps	1,249 ft.-lbs.
.454 Casull	260 gr.	1,800 fps	1,871 ft.-lbs.
.454 Casull	300 gr.	1,400 fps	1,305 ft.-lbs.
.454 Casull	300 gr.	1,625 fps	1,759 ft.-lbs.
.45 Long Colt	325 gr.	1,325 fps	1,250 ft.-lbs.
.45 Win. Mag.	250 gr.	1,350 fps	1,012 ft.-lbs.
.45 Win. Mag.	260 gr.	1,200 fps	832 ft.-lbs.
.45-70 Gov.	405 gr.	1,330 fps	1,590 ft.-lbs.
.50 Action Express	325 gr.	1,400 fps	1,414 ft.-lbs.

Custom Cartridge Specifications

Cartridge	Bullet Weight	Muzzle Velocity	Muzzle Energy
.429 Super Bower	350 gr.	2,000 fps	3,000 ft.-lbs.
.429 Super Bower	365 gr.	1,990 fps	3,200 ft.-lbs.
.429 Super Bower	275 gr.	2,070 fps	2,600 ft.-lbs.
.475 Wildey Mag.	300 gr.	1,600 fps	1,700 ft.-lbs.

Right: The .475, seen at left, now has a smaller-diameter rim than its parent .45-70 case. This was a necessary but lucky change that allowed the Linebaugh cartridge to fit in Freedom's revolvers.

fps. The .44 Mag achieves around 800 foot-pounds of muzzle energy; the .475 Linebaugh, just over 1,700 foot-pounds. Stated another way, the Linebaugh has more energy at 300 yards than the .44 Magnum at the muzzle. Also, the sectional density of the .475 Linebaugh is 0.27; that of the .44 Mag/250 is 0.19. This numeric indicator of penetration capability doesn't make the potential of the .475 quite as clear as this evidence: The .475 has penetrated the skulls of living elephants on numerous occasions. Don't try that with a .44 Magnum and your favorite Keith load.

Next, the .475 Wildey Magnum came to mind. Charles Bronson used one to good effect in the movie *Death Wish III*. This is a semiauto design that uses cut-off .284 brass that can be handloaded with either 250- or 300-grain bullets to impressive velocities. The 300-grain bullet gets over 1,600 fps, and paper energy is around 1,700 ft-lbs, the realm of the Linebaugh. Downsides: The .475 Wildey Magnum guns are large and bulky, and the ammo is not commercially loaded. It's strictly a handloading proposition. Cost of the gun is about the same as the Freedom. The Wildey compares well with the power and performance of the Linebaugh, but the latter beats it easily for bullet weight and, of course, for ease of carry and for versatility. The revolver can handle the lightest or heaviest loads with no alterations, and the semiautomatic can't do that.

The .429 Super Bower is another powerful round. Specifically, the .429 Super Bower can propel a 365-grain, 0.429-inch-diameter bullet at 1,990 fps. Muzzle energy is in excess of 3,200 foot-pounds, and it works very well for the heaviest game on this continent. A more generally useful load, however, gives a 275-grain ICBM spitzer bullet a speed of 2,070 fps. This bullet has a ballistic coefficient of 0.385, which gives it a retained velocity at 200 yards of 1,650 fps and an energy at that