

Sporting Clays • Trap • Skeet

Celebrating
43
Years!

Hunting

Shotgun Sports

America's

Leading Shotgun Magazine



Gun Test
New!

SYREN Julia Sporting

July 2021
shotgunsportsmagazine.com



Gun Review

SYREN Julia Sporting



by Mark H. Taylor

Photos courtesy of Syren USA (except where noted)

When I was notified I would be doing a gun test on the new Syren Julia Sporting shotgun, I was very excited since I had only seen this new gun in pictures. Upon receiving the gun, and taking it from its case, the first word that came to my mind was “stunning.”

SYREN Julia Sporting



Sporting clays champion shooter Erin Callahan remarked the fit and functionality of the gun were as impressive as its looks.

The engraving of the Julia's profile on each side of the receiver is downright awesome. According to Wikipedia "Julia (c. 76 BC – 54 BC) was the daughter of Roman dictator Julius Caesar by his first or second wife Cornelia and his only child from his marriages. Julia became the fourth wife of Pompey the Great and was renowned for her beauty and virtue."

The Julia Sporting arrived in a Negrini hard plastic case which has molded inserts for the receiver and barrel (with forearm attached) to fit into. Velvet stock and barrel sleeves further protect the shotgun when stored in the case. After the stock and barrel are inserted in these sleeves, a dozen foam pads/spacers allow the shooter to place the gun securely inside so there is no movement when transported. Combination locks on the case ensure only those that require access to the inside actually get there. The inside top of the Negrini case is accented with brown velvet and embossed with the Syren logo. Two velcro straps secure the

top lid of the case which opens to two storage compartments. The stock wrench tool was in one of the compartments, but there is still ample room for other essentials such as gloves, ear plugs and cleaning cloths.

Taking the Julia Sporting down to my home workshop, I pulled out my shotgun bore micrometer and trigger pull scale to get some barrel and trigger measurements. Measuring the bore diameter of the Julia's chrome-lined barrels showed both the top barrel and bottom barrel measured at .735. I randomly grabbed two chokes to measure the constriction. In the bottom barrel, I inserted the Improved Cylinder choke and measured the constriction at .725. In the top barrel I inserted the Modified choke and measured the constriction at .715. Given that these two came at textbook constrictions, I held off doing the other four chokes.

The six chokes the Julia Sporting shotgun comes with are Light Modified,

Modified, two of Improved Cylinder, Skeet and Cylinder. These chokes are extended chokes at three inches in total length (extending an inch past the muzzle). These chokes are easy to install and remove quickly by hand. However, the provided tool is used for the final tightening. The portion of the choke tube which extends beyond the muzzle has gold-inlaid letters identifying the choke constriction letter(s) for easy identification.

The Julia Sporting assembles and disassembles like a traditional break-open shotgun. Given the fact this is a brand-new shotgun, it opened and closed very smoothly — not stiff and hard like other new guns. The top lever sits just to the right of center but not so far that it is distracting. Just behind the top lever is the safety which moves forward and backward, the barrel selector is integrated on top of the safety lever and moves sideways to select which barrel will fire first (when a single red





dot is showing, the under/lower barrel will fire first and when two red dots are showing, the over/upper barrel will fire first). Inserting some snap caps, I tried the trigger — both barrels break at a very crisp 3.25 pounds. The Julia Sporting has an inertia trigger mechanism.

The wood on the Julia Sporting is beautiful. The semi-gloss oil finish on the Turkish Walnut wood really brings out the grain and dark lines in the Walnut. There is checkering on the pistol grip and forearm. The 26 lines per inch checkering is not sharp but is noticeably comfortable. The checkering will be very effective in preventing hands from slipping as a result of perspiration and will provide a good grip when wearing gloves.

The Julia Sporting sent to me for this review had a Monte Carlo stock with the optional adjustable comb. By using the supplied tool to loosen two screws on the right side of the stock, the comb can be removed by sliding up on two posts. The posts have markings, so a shooter can be sure to note what comb height is correct should a change be made. The posts also move to the left and right of center, so that the comb can be adjusted

to ensure proper placement of the head to look down the rib.

The recoil pad is approximately 1/4" thick with a shallow curve from top to bottom. This hard rubber pad with a rounded portion at the heel will work well for a dynamic mount while there is enough curve to sit securely in the shoulder once mounted. At the bottom of the pistol grip is the Syren "S-wings" mark and is part of the Syren logo. The two wings form the letter "S".

The wood-to-metal fit at the bottom of the trigger guard, at the receiver and at the receiver iron, is outstanding. The Julia Sporting has 30" barrels with a 6mm height of the top rib. I would consider this height to be between low and mid. It has a Bradley-style front bead and silver metal middle bead. The rib tapers from 10mm to 8mm (at the muzzle), and like many other competition shotguns, the tapering of the rib helps to draw the shooter's eye straight down the rib. The ventilated center rib runs the entire length of the barrels.

The trigger on the Julia Sporting can be adjusted forward and back on a rail 1-1/8" in length. When I received the gun, the trigger was almost all the way

to the back of the rail and the Length Of Pull (LOP) measured 13.75". This shotgun was the right-hand model with a right-hand palm swell and cast at toe of .5". And, as with other Syren shotguns, the Pitch was set at 7 degrees, which should make it very comfortable for women shooters.

While I mentioned the engraving was "stunning", the pictures of the Julia Sporting online do not do it justice compared to when it is seen up close and in person. The Julia Sporting has a case-colored finish with sideplates to maximize the amount of engraving space. On each of the sideplates is a profile of Julia's face depicted in a floral scroll pattern, her hair flowing backward as she appears to be blowing dandelion petals. The bottom of the receiver has two Julia profiles facing outward and the name "JULIA" engraved in capital letters. The rest of the receiver, top lever, trigger guard and forearm metal is engraved with gold scroll and floral accents. The engraving, made with the aid of a 4D laser machine enriched with an electrolytic pure gold 24 karats deposit, has a unique and exquisite appearance.

The bottom of the receiver has two Julia profiles facing outward and the name "JULIA" engraved in capital letters.



SYREN Julia Sporting

The Julia Sporting is a Caesar Guerini produced SYREN model, which means it comes with an unmatched level of customer service and a limited lifetime warranty. In addition to the warranty, Julia Sporting buyers get the PitStop maintenance program which allows the

original owner to send in her gun, once a year, for a free “tune-up” and cleaning (for only the cost of shipping). Or she can catch a Guerini gunsmith at a national tournament and have it done there.

As the Julia Sporting is a true competition sporting clays shotgun, I headed to

Kiowa Creek Sporting Club in Kiowa, Colorado, to try it out. Since Syren shotguns are built for the lady competitor, I enlisted the help of Ms. Erin Callahan to shoot the Julia Sporting. Erin is a champion sporting clays shooter being a multi-year All-American Team & All-State Team member and Colorado State Ladies Champion.

Within the Colorado sporting clays community, Erin is also known for her work with the Merry Miracles Fun Shoot and Toy Drive, which she first coordinated in 2015 while a high school sophomore. This annual event occurs on the first Saturday in December and benefits Children’s Hospital Colorado. To date, they have raised over \$88,000 and many truckloads of toys for hospitalized children, and all the proceeds of the event go straight to Children’s Hospital Colorado.

Kiowa Creek Sporting Club has over 20 sporting clays stations — the front half of the course the targets are set for the general public to enjoy while the back half of the course the targets are set for the competitive shooter to be challenged. Since we wanted to see what the Julia Sporting could do, we hopped in Erin’s dad’s ATV and went straight to the back half of the course. Erin’s father is Dan Callahan, a Master Class shooter and National champion in multiple events.

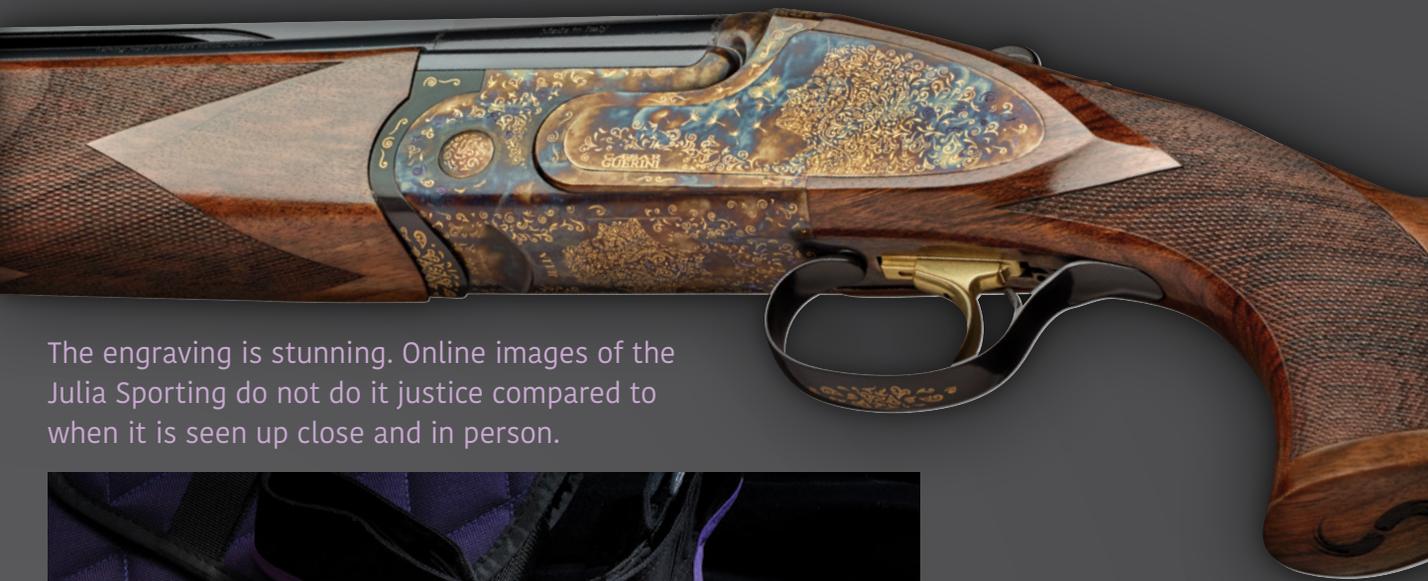
The back half of the course was very challenging, as it was still set up from the last NSCA competition. With the Julia Sporting, Erin shot an 83/100. This is an excellent score for anybody, considering she just picked up this gun and had never seen (let alone shot) it before. For most of the course, Erin confidently walked into each shooting cage and crushed the targets. On those rare occasions when she struggled with a presentation, her dad would offer some advice, and she would make the necessary corrections.

Given that this course had targets of all different distances, Erin gave each of the Julia Sporting’s chokes a workout. On one station, a lift raised two machines high in the air to represent a set of tower targets. Erin used the Light Modified and Modified chokes to break them solidly even at a distance of 50+ yards.

At the end of the day, I asked Erin how she liked the Julia Sporting. She responded, “Can I take it home?” That gave me all the information I needed to know. Unfortunately, I could not let her keep it! While she said she admired everything about the gun, this is what stood out to her the most:



Erin Callahan, a champion sporting clays shooter, tested the Syren Julia at the Kiowa Creek Sporting Club in Kiowa, Colorado. “I have always found it difficult to find a high-grade gun that fits my personality and style,” she said. “But the Syren Julia hit the bull’s-eye.” Photos by Mark H. Taylor



The engraving is stunning. Online images of the Julia Sporting do not do it justice compared to when it is seen up close and in person.



On each of the sideplates is a profile of Julia's face depicted in a floral scroll pattern, her hair flowing backward as she appears to be blowing dandelion petals.

"First off, right out of the case, I felt it really fit me perfectly with minimal adjustments," she explained. "Secondly, the gun's balance was very nice, and it swung wonderfully. Most notable, the grip reach distance was extremely comfortable. I did not feel as if I had to reach for the trigger.

"Aside from the fit and functionality of the gun, my favorite thing about it was its looks," she continued. "When looking for competition guns, I have always found it difficult to find a high-grade gun that fits my personality and style, but the Syren Julia hit the bull's-eye. The case hardening is absolutely gorgeous, along with the attention to detail throughout the design on the receiver of the gun."

Overall, I was extremely impressed with everything about the Julia Sporting, including how well Erin could shoot it right out of the box. The MSRP for the Syren Julia 12 gauge 30" is \$6,050. While I think many shooters will be drawn to the Julia Sporting as a result of its beauty, they will get hooked on how well it feels, points, balances and shoots. **SS**

Mark H. Taylor has over 40 years of shooting experience. He has won many regional, state, national and international clay target competitions. He is the author of the book *Clay Target Shooting - The Mental Game* and co-author of the book *Break 'em All*. Mark is a NRA Certified Advanced International Shotgun Coach and a High-Performance Shotgun Coach for USA Shooting. He is a Caesar Guerini and Cabela's (in Thornton, CO) Pro Staff shooter, and teaches monthly beginner shotgun clinics at Colorado Clays in Brighton, CO, and travels nationally and internationally teaching coaching courses and working with world-class athletes. You can email him at coloradotaylor@gmail.com.



Digital Issues Now Available

Now you can have your monthly edition of *Shotgun Sports* delivered to your email address as well as your mailbox!

Shotgun Sports is now in digital form!

Order your digital version of *Shotgun Sports* by visiting www.shotgunsportsmagazine.com.

Call 800-676-8920 to order your printed subscription to *Shotgun Sports* magazine.

ShotgunSports