

Great GrassRoots at the Sheraton a Great Success!

By Ed Kelleher

President, GrassRoots GunRights

"GrassRoots is doing it Right!" That was what all three special guest speakers said repeatedly at the Great GrassRoots Gathering held Saturday October 19, 2002 at the Sheraton Convention Center in Columbia. Suzanna Gratia Hupp declared, "Your group has it together, better than any group I've ever seen". David Mustard commented, "It's a beautiful day outside. You folks did a great job at getting so many people to come out and discuss matters of public policy." Kenn Blanchard stated, "You guys are way ahead of the curve, you are jamming with numbers. Our country was started with fewer people than are in this room". It was good to hear this from three nationally known speakers with such different backgrounds. Those statements and others helped us achieve a resounding success in our goals for the Gathering. We wanted each member to go away from the Gathering knowing that:

- 1) They are part of a team playing to Win!
- 2) We have a plan and are working the plan!
- 3) Each member must work for success!
- 4) We must show others, "We're the Good Guys!"

The meeting started promptly at 10:30AM, with about 300 in attendance, and remained on schedule all day, which is pretty amazing all in itself. GrassRoots president, Ed Kelleher, welcomed everyone and encouraged them to pay attention and learn how to tell others, "We're the Good Guys!" The format of 2-3



Dr. David Mustard and The Reverend Ken Blanchard watch as Ed Kelleher and Dr. Suzanna Hupp draw a ticket for the Gun Raiser "Not-a-Raffle". The first winner was GrassRoots member James Smith of Chapin.

speakers, then a break worked well throughout the day. Nobody got bored. People had plenty of time to see the exhibits, read the 16 page program, and walk around to talk with each other and the guest speakers. People were asking themselves towards the end in a disappointed way, "Is it 4 PM already!"

GrassRoots VP and Legislative

Director Dr. Robert Butler started the program by announcing two new areas for GrassRoots members to be active in, in the upcoming 2003-2004 Legislative Session. The big one being, "Carry in Nice Restaurants". Rob's speech is listed on page 3.

Larry Coble, GrassRoots Communication Director, welcomed everyone

back from their break with a brief, but inspiring, history of GrassRoots and how we got started – passing a hat around in a church building and raising \$80, enough to get a few pages printed and to buy 2 rolls of stamps and some envelopes.

The room went totally still as

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Carry in North Carolina. Is it Legal?

Lots of people want to know how to legally carry a handgun in North Carolina, either concealed on their person, or in their car when traveling. Here's what we know.

First, out of state people may not have a concealed weapon in North Carolina. Not on their person and not in their cars or trucks either. Only people who have a North Carolina Concealed Weapon Permit may carry or have a weapon concealed in North Carolina.

North Carolina citizens may get a Concealed Weapon Permit. But North Carolina has no provision for out of state residents to get a NC CWP. North Carolina does not recognize any other state's CWP.

North Carolina State law does not prohibit "Open carry." That is generally taken to be, "visible to an approaching law enforcement officer" and not "open carry in a holster on one's person".

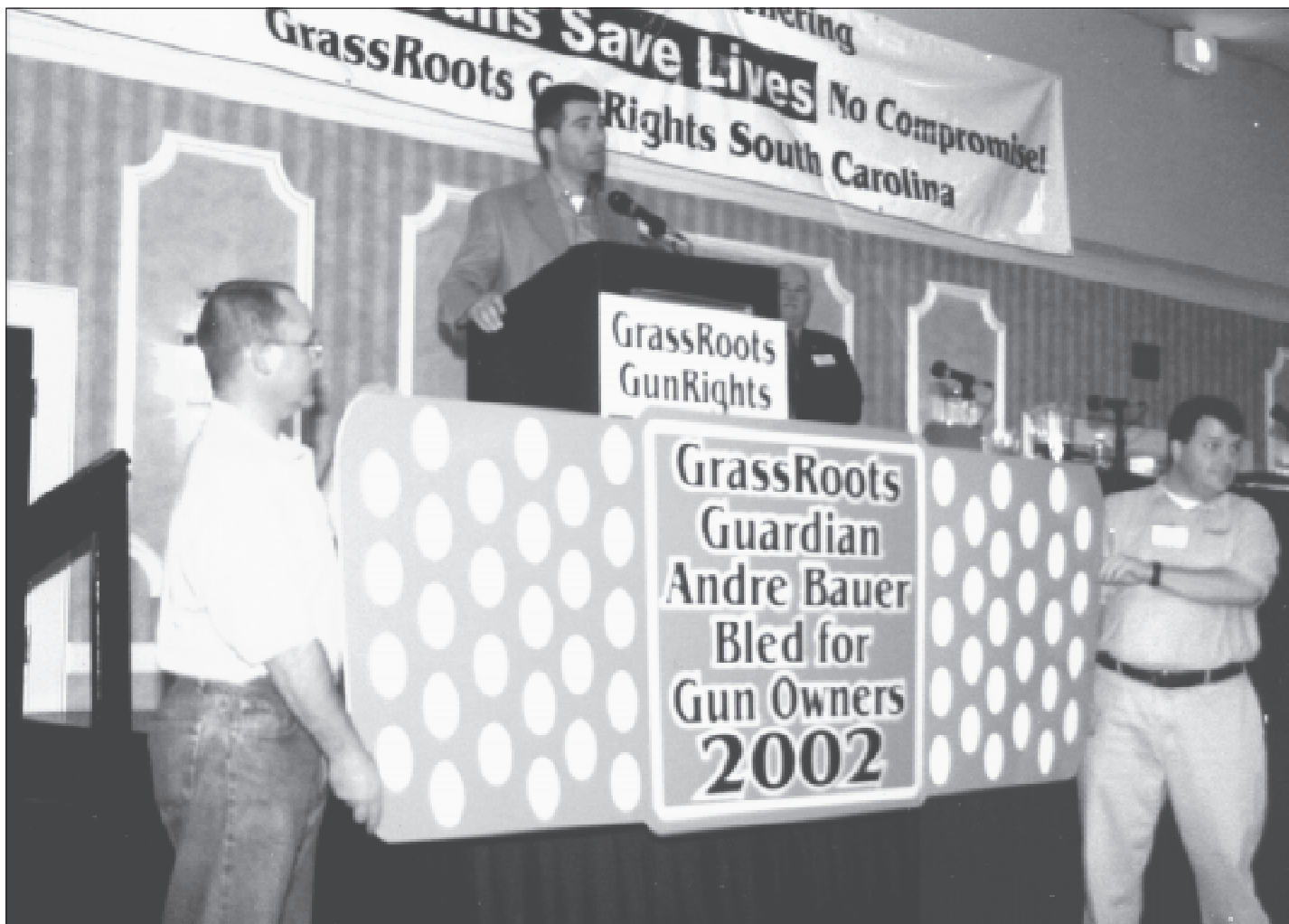
Some communities have laws prohibiting the display of firearms. This is perfectly legal. North Carolina has a "preemption" law, meaning lesser governments (county, city, town etc.) may not make laws that negate or cancel or change state laws. For example, a town may not prohibit CWP in a park which state law allows. However, most "preemption" laws have a loophole that allows lesser governments to regulate the

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The GrassRoots Guardian Award Goes to Senator Andre Bauer!



Senator Andre Bauer accepts GrassRoots Guardian award, a huge band-aid, held by GrassRoots members Jeff Boatman and Brian Mitchell. The award was presented by GrassRoots of South Carolina president, Ed Kelleher

COLUMBIA, SC. One elected official fought and bled for ALL the GrassRoots CWP and gun law reforms during the last legislative session. That man is Sen. Andre Bauer. Sen. Bauer supported the GrassRoots proposed changes in the Senate subcommittee that held hearings on the GrassRoots CWP and gun law reforms, the Senate Judiciary Committee, and the full Senate. Sen. Andre Bauer supported all the GrassRoots proposed changes, not just those that were finally enacted into law.

Sen. Andre Bauer had a CWP prior to the law being changed in 1996. Sen. Andre Bauer knows that prior to 1996 a CWP holder could legally carry virtually ANYWHERE in South Carolina. Prior to 1996, CWP holders could

carry into rest areas, schools, publicly owned buildings, and nice restaurants. There were no problems with CWP holders back then because CWP holders are not part of the problem. Sen. Andre Bauer wants to see our present CWP law amended to give us back the self-defense carry rights that were taken away from us in 1996.

GrassRoots tried to amend S. 261 in the Senate subcommittee to define what a favorable background check is. One problem is that SLED says that if a person is charged with a crime and then found NOT guilty in a court of law, the background check is NOT favorable and a CWP can be denied to that person. Sen. Andre Bauer supported the GrassRoots proposed change. The sub-

committee did not. We would have reciprocity with Florida today if that change had been enacted.

When the Senate voted at the midnight hour to double the CWP fee to \$100, it was Sen. Andre Bauer who called GrassRoots leaders from the Senate floor to tell us of the vote and to ask us to take action.

Sen. Andre Bauer knows that bad guys have guns in schools now because he was held up at gun point on school grounds. That is why Andre supported the right of the proven good guys - we, the CWP holders - to carry on school grounds. Federal law allows it, eight other states allow it, the best avail-

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Have You Earned Your GrassRoots Lapel Pin Yet?

Why not? Have you seen people wearing our GrassRoots lapel pin? Would you like one for yourself? It's easy to get one — just get more involved with GrassRoots. We don't sell those pins, they have to be earned. When you work at a gun show for us, or are a GrassRoots GunRights Gorilla at the State House, or pass out GrassRoots Membership cards to gun shops, or sign up a bunch of new members at your gun club, you'll get one of these pins in recognition of your effort.

We want people to get more involved and when people make a special effort to promote the cause of GrassRoots GunRights, we want everyone to recognize that you're a working, involved member of South Carolina's #1 Gun Rights group - GrassRoots.

For example, we gave out the round GrassRoots Snake lapel pins to those who made the effort to attend the GrassRoots CWP Reform Law signing in Gov. Hodges office.

When you see those round yellow pins with the GrassRoots GunRights "No Compromise, No Surrender" Snake on them, you'll know the person wearing it has made a special effort to support GrassRoots. We won't be selling those pins. They have to be earned.

Get yours today! Let us know what you're doing to help further the goals of GrassRoots and if you're worthy, we'll send you a pin.

**Grass Roots
of South Carolina, Inc.**
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GrassRoots South Carolina, is a South Carolina 501(c)4 non-profit corporation. Our mission is to educate and promote acceptance of responsible firearms ownership within the State of South Carolina and to protect the rights of law-abiding gun owners. Our objectives are to improve all aspects of lawful ownership and carrying of firearms in South Carolina.

GrassRoots South Carolina, Inc. is registered as a Lobbyist's Principal in South Carolina and lobbies to promote or oppose legislation concerning all gun owners and issues surrounding the Right to Keep and Bear Arms South Carolina.

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President's Message

Why the Gathering? Why GrassRoots?

I wrote this column before the Great GrassRoots Gathering for a national email newsletter. When you read this, the GGG will be history. But the reasons and necessity for having the GGG will still be with us. Please take what you've learned and use it!

"Gun Group Wants People Packing Heat in Schools," read the typical newspaper headline. "Not in MY kids school, you won't!" read the typical letter to the editor. Both were reactions to one of the "reasonable" gun law reforms we had proposed to our state legislature. South Carolina Concealed Weapon Permit (CWP) holders wanted to be able to carry in school parking lots while dropping their kids off at school. GrassRoots GunRights, a South Carolina organization of CWP holders and active gun owners, had included that in a list of changes to our states gun laws.

We had gone over our list with the state gendarmes (SLED) and they had no strong objections to it. We got a Republican in the House and a Democrat in the Senate to sponsor our changes. Things were going well. Then it hit the fan. We eventually got our changes through — but without carry in school parking lots. www.scfirearms.org/Defender.html

The problem wasn't, "Guns in Schools". Cops carry there. The problem really is "People I don't know" carrying guns in schools. We need to convince John and Jane Gunless that "We're the Good Guys."

The coming Great GrassRoots Gathering (GGG) is one shot we're taking at trying to minimize people's hys-

terical reactions to people carrying guns. At our GGG, the speakers will give our people ammunition to use to help them convince others that, "We're the Good Guys. Suzanna Hupp will give us a bullet named, "Emotion."

Dr. David Mustard, who worked with John Lott, will give us a bullet named, "Reason." Ken Blanchard, author of "Black Man With a Gun" will give us a bullet named, "Attitude."

GrassRoots goal is "Citizens carrying arms, wherever and whenever they choose". Everything we do we measure to see how it helps us achieve that goal. We have other goals, but they all support our main goal.

For example, we're working to double the number of CWP holders in South Carolina by 2006. Numbers are crucial to our success. We'll also work to make sure all those new CWP holders become active members of GrassRoots.

Our ultimate goal however is that Liberty again reign in this Home of the Brave and Land of the Free. Many people have guns. Some know they are necessary in defending Life and Property. But how many, deep down, are convinced they need firearms to protect their



Ed Kelleher, President of GrassRoots

Liberty? I mean convinced to the point they'll use them if necessary? Not enough in my estimation.

An armed citizenry has major benefits to our society as a whole. Crime goes down, fewer good people are hurt, your family and property are safer, etc. These are nice, but the most important benefit isn't so obvious.


The real benefit is that people who are prepared to use the Cartridge box in defense of Liberty are the ones who are also best qualified to use the Ballot Box, the Soap Box and the Jury Box. Liberty minded people will ensure the continuance of a Liberty minded society. How, then do you instill in people such a love for Liberty? The only way I know is by having them associate with others of right mind. Hence, GrassRoots GunRights of South Carolina.

I'd like for GrassRoots goal, to be everyone's goal in this great country. Not so much because it's a great goal; but because if we all are working to the same end, our work becomes more effective. I'm convinced that is the way this country will turn around. Not through day dreams like "Unintended Consequences", but through a national

coalition of statewide grassroots groups like GrassRoots South Carolina that can take charge on a national level.

The NRA, and other national organizations can't get the job done. A truism of politics states, "When your person gets to the point where they can do you some good, they are no longer your person." Ditto for national organizations. The state groups have to exist first. The national group will naturally follow. I think of it like Natural Point of Aim. If the state groups all have the right aim, then the national group will be on target also, and able to effectively, with minimal coercion, focus the state groups.

Gun people are very independent and can be as hard to herd as cats. That independence is our strength however and we must use it. If you give gun people a good goal, you won't have to herd them, just get out of their way. That is what we're trying to do with GrassRoots GunRights South Carolina and with our Great GrassRoots Gathering. It's up to you to make it happen.



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Great GrassRoots Speech by Rob Butler

Good morning fellow GrassRoots Gorillas!

Last legislative session, GrassRoots accomplished the so-called impossible - we passed pro gun rights legislation, and we killed every single piece of anti gun rights legislation introduced! We accomplished this in spite of opposition by the mass media, the Black Caucus, and NRA leadership.

GrassRoots leadership organized and coordinated the game plan. But, it was your postcards, faxes, letters, phone calls, and attendance at hearings that brought success. You all deserve a round of applause for your efforts because you are the reason pro gun rights legislation passed and anti gun rights legislation died. I thank you!

Today, it is my job to first get you outraged, and then to tell you of the next GrassRoots legislative agenda. Why should I get you outraged? Because outraged people take action and contribute money. It is going to take both action and money to get our next legislative agenda passed. It cost GrassRoots over \$50,000 to pass our CWP and gun law reforms last session. It will cost us again this session. Dues alone will not

cover the expenses.

Before I get into the specifics of what the GrassRoots legislative agenda will be come January, I must explain why



Michelle Butler with her dad, Rob, at the Great GrassRoots Gathering

our legislative agenda is so important to everyone in SC, whether they own a gun or not.

We must show that what we want

is good for everyone. Then, politicians can say they passed our bill to help all the people in South Carolina, not just some special interest group. It's obvious what the benefits are for us, but benefits for us will not get our legislative package passed.

Every time a violent crime is committed, there are costs that must be paid. Lower productivity, medical bills, lost wages, out of pocket expenses, and property losses are all part of the costs of violent crime.

But, violent crime's greatest costs don't have dollar signs in front of them. These are the emotional burdens that are forced upon the victims of violent crime and their family and their friends. How do we measure the costs of emotional scarring caused by the rape of your mother, your sister, your wife, or your daughter? How do we measure the costs of a child growing up without a mother or father because the parent was murdered? How do we measure the costs of people too afraid to venture out into society because they have been brutalized in the past? How do we measure the costs of living in neighborhoods where gangs rule the streets because

good people are afraid to speak up and the police are helpless without witnesses? These costs don't have dollar signs, but they are still very real costs.

The best available research proves that when good people are allowed to possess sidearms to defend themselves and others from the violent predators in our society, that violent crime rates go down, even for those people who do not own a gun. The fact that I carry a gun means that every one of you is safer because of it. The fact that each of you also carries a gun means that all of us are even safer because of it.

If the commission of a violent crime has a cost, then it stands to reason that an equal benefit is gained for every violent crime prevented. One proven way to prevent violent crime is to allow decent people to carry guns. The best available research shows that for every concealed carry permit issued there is an average savings of \$2,500 every year due to less violent crime.

Good public policy would demand that politicians get rid of every obstacle placed in the way of decent people car-

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GrassRoots Instructor Certified by SC Criminal Justice Academy

GrassRoots CWP Class for LEO's gives Training Credit

One area of concern for South Carolina CWP holders is their interaction with law enforcement officers in the state. GrassRoots has former law enforcement officers on its Board of Directors and in leadership positions.

We've had many positive reports from CWP holders and GrassRoots members when for one reason or another they've had to be involved with an officer. Some reports though haven't been so positive. Sometimes this has been due to a misunderstanding of the law by the GrassRoots member. Other times the officer might not have been clear on the law.

GrassRoots works to prevent the former situation by keeping GrassRoots members informed about the law through mailings, our website, email, and our newspaper, The Defender.

GrassRoots has been looking for a way to correct the latter situation, and we've finally found it. GrassRoots member Bill Malinowski has received certification from the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy to teach law enforcement agencies in South Carolina about the ins and outs of the South Carolina CWP laws.

After more than 31 years with the FBI Bill Malinowski, known to many as "Mal", retired from the Columbia Division of the FBI. At the time of his retire-

ment, Mal held the position of principal firearms instructor for the FBI in South Carolina. Mal became active with GrassRoots while still employed with the FBI, feeling the groups activities were a necessity for gun enthusiasts. Mal also assisted Gary Atkinson in the development of his private range. The one State Farm Insurance later refused to insure due to their apparent anti-gun stance.

Mal has written a one hour course that will make the student knowledgeable about SC Concealed Weapons Permit (CWP) laws and the most recently enacted changes.

The course has been approved by the SC Criminal Justice Academy for training of SC law enforcement officers (LEO). This approval will provide the LEO who attends the class with one hour of training credit for the year they attend.

It is hoped that LEOs throughout the state will attend this course in order to become knowledgeable about our SC CWP laws. This knowledge will help the LEO make the right decision when dealing with a CWP holding resident in a more efficient and effective manner.

For further information and to arrange for a class please contact Mal at P.O. Box 535, Chapin, SC 29036, call him at 803-932-7202, or e-mail him at gmanandrosemary@msn.com.



Hi Ed,

Thought you might enjoy this. This is where I spent the summer working -Occoneechee WMA in Virginia. I don't know how they got this past the proofers! Looks like he got the cyclist first!

Natalie Adams
(Grassroots Member)

Rule #2: Never point a firearm at anything you don't want destroyed!

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Responsibly Armed

By Finn Aagaard

I carry my pistol always, whenever the law permits, inside or outside the house; at night it goes under my pillow, where I have slept with one on and off for 45 years. Am I utterly paranoid, do I feel that evil out to get me is lurking everywhere, am I so ruled by fear that I must have my security blanket at all times?

No. To think so would be to completely misunderstand the role of the personal gun in my life. My pistol, combined with some competence in its use, has indeed been a wonderful comfort in a few potentially unpleasant circumstances, and the knowledge I can retain command of my immediate environment does tend to encourage a calm self-confidence in everyday life, while precluding panic in an emergency.

The chief virtue of the pistol is that I wear it; you do not have to go and fetch it when criminal violence threatens with shocking suddenness out of the blue, as can happen even in peaceful Llano County, Texas, where I live. If you have time to fetch a gun, you would do better to grab a shotgun, probably.

Wear your pistol, keep all other firearms locked away. On you, it is safe from kids and other unauthorized persons, you do not have to remember where you stashed it or fumble with the combination lock of a pistol safe. It is there, instantly ready to protect you and your family.

On the street concealed carry is usually required either by law or social usage and has the advantage of protecting everyone, even antigun liberals, because criminals cannot tell which of their potential victims might be armed.

Yet my pistol is more than just security. Like an Orthodox Jewish yarmulke or a Christian cross, it is a symbol of who I am, what I believe and the moral standards by which I live. It symbolizes the Social Contract between myself and society and declares that I am no mere subject but a free and independent citizen of the Republic who holds inalienable rights while honoring the responsibilities that accompany those rights.

My pistol states that I will defend the common weal, that I will uphold what is right and decent and that I am willing and able to protect myself and mine. (The police cannot and are not required to protect the individual person or family. They are spread too thin for that. When called they will do their best, but all too often they can get there only in time to clean up the aftermath. You are responsible for your own safety.)

My pistol is my family's shield, my guarantee that upon my life I will let no evil touch them. When a malefactor demands, Your dignity and your money, or your life!" my pistol introduces a very sobering third alternative: No - if you persist in this criminal endeavor, it is your life that will be at hazard."

Many people will suggest that the contents of your wallet are not worth jeopardizing your life for, just hand it

over to the thug and move on. By doing so you are encouraging crime - success ensures the robber will seek another victim. I consider it to be a citizen's duty (a hard word to the me generation) to resist attempted violent crime by all means at his disposal, even at considerable risk to himself. Remember, action is always faster than reaction (unless your assailant has the reaction time of a Bill Jordan). Disassemble, pretend to go along. 'I don't w-w-want any trouble, you can have my wallet, I'm getting it out of my hip pocket now.' As your hand closes on your gun, yell: "Look out, behind you!" Side-step as you present the pistol, and when he turns back your front sight rests squarely on his chest.

With variations to suit the particular circumstances, this sort of ploy will work far more often than most victims would believe. Statistics suggest that an intended victim who resists with a firearm is by a good margin less likely to be injured than one who does not resist at all. On the other hand, the surest way to survive a gunfight is not to get into one. Stay alert and avoid potentially bad situations if you possibly can.

Research by Professor John Lott, Gary Kleck and others into the effects of concealed carry laws prove beyond quibbling that they reduce violent crime quite considerably.

Since it began to license responsible citizens to carry arms, Florida's murder rate has sunk from 36 percent above the national average to well below it, and overall the decline in violent crime in states with concealed carry laws (compared to the others) runs at least 15 percent for murder, 11 percent for robberies and 9 percent for rape, according to Professor Lott.

Private citizens are said to use firearms in self-defense as often as a million times a year. In the vast majority of these incidents no blood is shed; the thug flees or surrenders. Nevertheless, it is claimed that private citizens justifiably shoot twice as many criminals as the entire law enforcement establishment in any given year.

Obviously, an armed and responsible citizenry is a very potent force in keeping crime in check. In many nations where private citizens are denied firearms - as most recently in Australia - violent crime is on the upswing, whereas in the U.S. the rate is declining.

However, the right to be armed does not depend on these facts; it goes way back to our very beginnings. Long before the Second Amendment and the rights acknowledged by English Common Law traditions, the right of a free man to bear arms was recognized by almost every culture or civilization that comes to mind.

Until well into this sorry century, free men were armed, and like the yeomen of England and our own militia, they constituted the backbone of their societies.

Every right includes commitments, not least the right to bear arms. Anyone who carries a pistol in public has an obligation to society to be reasonably competent with it, able to hit his target - under stress - rather than uninvolved by-

standers; he must know and abide by the laws limiting the use of lethal force; he must avoid quarrels and altercations and understand that he will be held to higher standards of restraint and responsibility than an unarmed person. The course of instruction that is rightly required (in addition to background checks) in order to earn a Texas Concealed Handgun License teaches all this, and more, including conflict resolution. Passing a shooting test is mandatory, but the class does not include shooting instruction; you are expected to have arranged for adequate training beforehand. It is a fine course; anybody who intends to go armed ought to take a similar one.

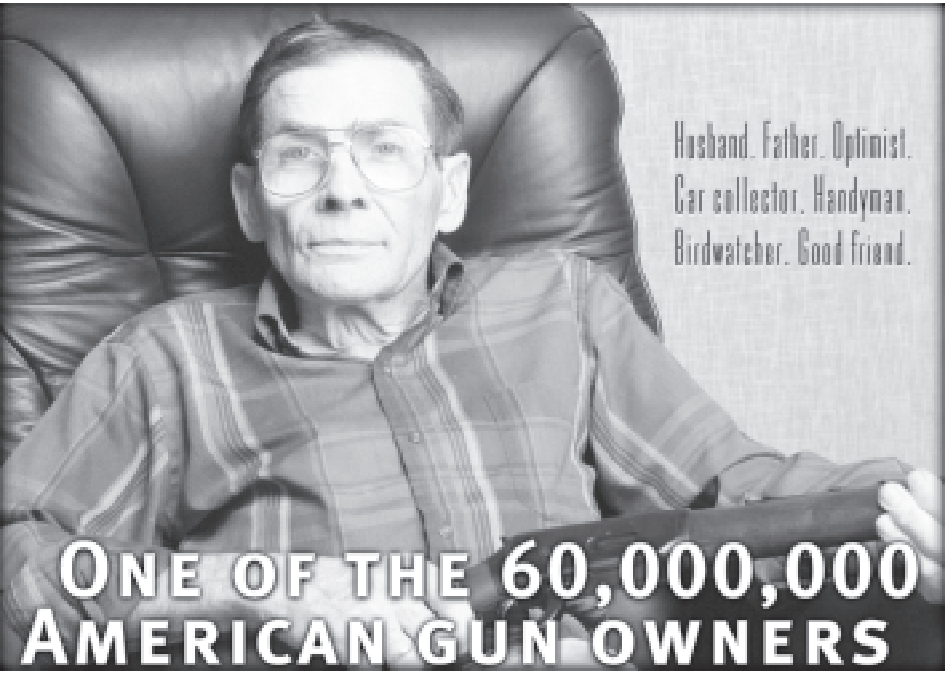
My pistol has aided no evil, it has added not a tittle of gratuitous violence to the world. On the contrary, its pres-

ence on my hip or on the Land Rover seat very definitely defused a couple of dangerous situations in the old days in Kenya.

More recently, on a dark street, I am convinced the mere suspicion of its presence, engendered by my alert, confident demeanor, averted what could otherwise have been a nasty incident. Colt got it right; a pistol in the hands of a decent, courageous citizen is a convincing peacemaker.

My pistol is a positive influence for stability, for decency, for righteousness, for freedom from fear and violence, for all that is right and proper. (If anyone can present a rational argument that factually disproves this statement, I will dis-

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Two Rolls of Stamps in the Fight Against Exclusionism

By Larry Coble

This article was supposed to be about the history of GrassRoots South Carolina. But, as you will soon see, it is about our origins of protecting the civil rights of gun owners in South Carolina.

Shortly after passage of our current shall issue concealed weapons law, gun owners were rightly upset that merchants were lawfully posting signs to keep out our state's most lawful citizens. What could be more ridiculous? Their actions of keeping out the most law-abiding in our state can only be described as "discrimination through exclusionism." Bad guys carry guns; guns must be bad, so people with guns are bad and should be shunned - or so they thought. Gun owners were the lepers, the untouchables, the unclean.

GrassRoots started as an effort of the NRA state association. But with no support from the NRA, it failed to take off.

Then, about five years ago, GrassRoots was resurrected by the Mid Carolina Rifle Club. At that meeting, a hat was literally passed around in the church we were then meeting in and approximately \$70.00 was collected. Ralph Baker collected the hat. We sat down after the meeting and Ralph peeled off \$64.00 dollars from the hat money. He gave the money to me to buy two rolls of stamps. GrassRoots as we know it today had its new start.

With that money, in September 1997, we published forty copies of our first newsletter of nine pages and mailed it to approximately 20 people. Later, as progress started to be made with merchants removing signs, Mid-Carolina Rifle Club supported our first membership drive with a \$500.00 donation. This seed money, and lots of hard work, has propelled us to our current total of ap-

proximately 5,000 members.

Five years ago, upon forming an informal committee under Mid Carolina, a handful of dedicated volunteers stood up to accomplish a single task. That job was to fight wrongful exclusionism of gun owners from businesses that lawfully chose to post against concealed carry. The businesses were within their right to post, but we felt it was simply wrong to exclude a group based on "wrong" thinking.

I have spoken to many businesses (and butted heads with a few) through the years that have told me it was their right to post - it says so right in the CWP law. Yes, but principle says it is the wrong thing to post against good people. We knew they were wrong to post just like every other group throughout history has been wrong to reject and deny groups based on the excluded group's beliefs - be they political, religious, or cultural. If this sounds more like civil rights than gun rights then you've already made a huge leap forward in logic - go to the front of the class!

This fight against wrongful exclusionism has united us and driven our organization. A poorly treated gun owner will tell anyone who will listen, especially another gun owner, when he has been treated poorly by anyone tout-ing anti gun practices. Along the way of fighting exclusionism by merchants posting to keep us out, we ventured into fighting other anti gun practices and bills.

We also started to support and improve pro-gun bills introduced in our state legislature such as range protection. But always, we came together united and strongest against exclusionism. And never with quite as much fury as when caught off guard by those we assumed were friendly.

Smith & Wesson's deal with the devil pushing out the common armed citizen in favor of government contracts and exemption from pending lawsuits fueled our activism. K-Mart's support for Rosie O'Donnell's anti-gun rhetoric and later removal of "politically incorrect" pistol ammo from their shelves angered and united us.

One of our own, Gary Atkinson, brought to our attention home grown, South Carolina exclusionism in the story of State Farm excluding home owners with private ranges from insurance.

In each of these instances there were no laws broken, no illegal activity, just a simple business decision made which spoke only to the law abiding gun owner.

In its ignorance these decisions spoke the words, "You are not wanted, You are the problem. We shun you. Go away because you are unworthy." Anyone who has read between the lines of our organization over the past five years knows our historical fight has always been first against wrongful exclusionism of societies "unpopular people" like gun

owners.

As a growing organization we too must be cautious that we do not participate in exclusionism. Instead we must seek out and greet all fellow gun owners with a smile and a handshake.

We must each support special interest groups involved in the shooting sports not just those we have already become accustomed to such as women and juniors.

We will grow as a pro-gun family when we each have an understanding and tolerance of any group which actively supports and promotes our Second Amendment rights be they Jews, blacks, homosexuals, carriers of the confederate flag, or just plain different.

Most importantly we must not exclude them because to do so places them where we were when we were told that we were unwanted, unworthy, and scapegoats for the ills of our society. We must not exclude a group, from our business - the business of Second Amendment activism, for wrong reasons. To do so is to make a huge principled mistake.

We must oppose the wrongful exclusionism of any and all gun people. Only by uniting and standing firm will we be a force, which no anti-gun mindset will be willing to oppose.

We, the leadership of GrassRoots, vowed five years ago we would succeed in removing every sign from wrongfully posted businesses in South Carolina. With the help of each member of GrassRoots, and especially to those that have gone the extra mile in time, commitment, financial contributions, and elbow grease, we have met our goal in H3010 which invalidated all signs at formerly posted businesses in South Carolina. Thank you all for your five years of support in the war against discrimination.

SPEECH from Page 3

rying arms wherever and whenever they care to. Society gets an unearned benefit of \$2,500 for every carry permit issued. Yet, it is the carry permit holder who must pay all the costs of getting a carry permit. Higher permit costs means fewer carry permit holders. Lower those costs, and society will gain an even greater unearned benefit from carry permit holders because more people would get them. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to see that South Carolina would be better off giving out carry permits for free just to gain the \$2,500 benefit every year.

Unfortunately, the carry laws in South Carolina discourage people from getting carry permits. Nationwide, the percentage of the population with carry permits ranges from below one percent up to six percent. The more obstacles that politicians throw up to discourage people from exercising their right to self-defense, the fewer people who are will-

ing to work to overcome those obstacles. Sadly, South Carolina is a state with less than one percent of the population possessing carry permits.

There are currently just over 35,000 CWP holders in South Carolina. This means that we save the people of South Carolina over \$87 million dollars every year in violent crime costs. While saving over \$87 million dollars a year sounds impressive, it is a piddlin amount compared to what we could be saving if the politicians didn't act as if they were in cahoots with the criminals.

If only three percent of South Carolinians had carry permits, we would save \$300 million dollars each year. Why don't more people have carry permits? Because politicians refuse to get rid of the ridiculous restrictions and obstacles in the law.

But, the problem is not limited to people refusing to get carry permits in the first place. Almost 9,000 people with carry permits in South Carolina have allowed their permits to expire. This means that the cost of violent crime in

South Carolina has risen almost \$22 million a year more than it would have been had these people renewed their permits. Why did these people allow their permits to expire? Because of the obstacles that the politicians put in the law.

Why do we need to be fingerprinted for a renewal? Fingerprints don't change and they stay in government files forever. But it forces some people to take time off from work to get the fingerprints taken. This obstacle reduces the number of carry permit holders and does nothing to improve safety. In fact, it has been proven these obstacles are hurting the people of South Carolina.

I have been talking of the dollar costs of violent crime. But as I said earlier, dollar costs are not the greatest costs of violent crime - the emotional costs are the greatest costs.

We - the carry permit holders in South Carolina - are responsible for preventing 11 murders, 85 rapes, 744 robberies, and 500 aggravated assaults just this year alone. We will be responsible for preventing just as many violent

crimes again next year. As our numbers grow, so will the lives saved. Just imagine the emotional burdens that could be spared if we could double or triple the number of carry permit holders in South Carolina.

Criminals fear an armed victim and this fear protects even those who do not own a gun. We are a deterrent to crime. We are good for South Carolina.

Unfortunately, 2 more women were raped, 18 more people were robbed, and 12 more people were assaulted this year alone because almost 9000 people allowed their carry permits to expire. Sadly, there will continue to be more victims each and every year until these 9000 former permit holders see more value in having a carry permit and get another one.

Are you outraged yet?

We must tell the politicians they are hurting the good people of South Carolina. We must tell the politicians they are

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Fight Crime - Shoot Back!

By Seath Weatherst

Many of you have probably heard about the controversial gun law passed in Kennesaw, Georgia in 1982. It stated that every head of household be "required to maintain a firearm, together with ammunition therefore." Soon after the law was established loopholes were created that could allow some to be excluded from the law. Those who are exempt are people with physical or mental disabilities and those whose religious beliefs prohibit them from doing so.

The explanation for this law was simple: "In order to provide for the emergency management of the City, and further in order to provide for and protect the safety, security and general welfare of the city and its inhabitants". (See the city of Kennesaw's official site for the entire ordinance)

After the ordinance was passed the ACLU immediately took action by taking it to court as "un-constitutional"; they failed in their plea to have the ordinance removed. Many said that it would cause "rioting in the streets and the murder rates would go through the roof". How wrong they were.

Quite the opposite took place in Kennesaw, Georgia. The crime rates plunged, reaching unheard of lows! According to the FBI Uniform Crime Report, in 1981, Kennesaw had 54 burglaries with a population of 5,242. In 1999, with a population increase up to 19,000, only 36 burglaries were reported! That's over 81% per capita decrease in burglaries!

Kennesaw Historical Society president Robert Jones, who wrote The Law Heard 'Round the World - An Examination of the Kennesaw Gun Law and Its Effects on the Community, said that following the law's passage, "the crime rate dropped 89 percent in the city, compared to a 10 percent drop statewide."

What is the explanation of this incredible decrease in crime? As Ronald Reagan would say, referring to peace at a national level, "Peace through Strength." The Soviets weren't going to risk their own necks when they knew that America was ready and willing to fight back. The same principle can be applied to the local level as well; criminals see it the same way as the Soviets did. They aren't going to risk their necks when they know that there is a high likelihood that their intended victim may be carrying a .45 and willing to use it. As Theodore Roosevelt said, "Speak softly but carry a big stick."

Think of what the results would be if similar laws were passed all over the country. If we go by the statistics of Kennesaw we would see 1,660,456 less burglaries every year! Imagine the impact that this would have not only on the

potential victims but also on the entire nation! Not to mention the decrease in all violent crimes including murder, rape, and aggravated assault.

While it would be very optimistic to say that we would receive the same results nation-wide as they did in Kennesaw, it would bring the crime rate down, as Kennesaw's statistics prove.

Don't just think of this as numbers but as people. Think of it as your next-door neighbor, your wife or daughter, or even yourself. Laws like this could prevent tragedies like these from ever happening to your loved ones. Consider all those that it would protect.

At the same time many cities have been calling for their citizens to "turn in all hand-guns". This is not required, but the whole idea is absolutely ridiculous! Do the bureaucrats really think that criminals are going to return their hand-guns? All this does is hurt the average citizen. It unarms the good citizens, while doing nothing to those who keep guns for criminal activity, thereby empowering criminals! The fewer citizens with guns, the more bold and forceful the criminals become.

In 1999, the city of Atlanta attempted to sue gun makers, seeking compensation for costs incurred from gun violence. Atlanta's lawsuit was put to an end when Gov. Roy Barnes signed into law a bill that makes Georgia the first state to prohibit its cities and counties from taking gun makers to court. Former Atlanta Mayor Bill Campbell, who adamantly supports such lawsuits, calls the law unconstitutional and says the city plans to pursue its suit, which accuses 17 gun makers of negligently designing firearms with inadequate safety devices and warnings.

It's time to stop pursuing worthless and costly ways to prevent crime and go by what we know works. During WWII Winston Churchill said, "You can always count on the American's to do the right thing - but only after they exhaust all other options." Well, I would say that we've about exhausted all other options. Let's go with something that has proven results.

Kennesaw, Georgia should be an example to us all. We should all strive to have similar laws passed in our own cities. Lobby your local town council. Get a petition signed by local citizens saying that they are in favor of such a law.

It's obvious that our government isn't going to fix the problem of crime. It's time the American citizens step up and fight crime.

Permission to Reprint by Seth Weathers. Mr. Weathers can be contacted at:
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Japan Started Early

"The people of the various provinces are strictly forbidden to have in their possession any swords, bows, spears, firearms, or other types of arms. The possession of these elements make difficult the collection

of taxes and dues, and tends to permit uprising. Therefore, the heads of provinces, official agents, and deputies are ordered to collect all the weapons mentioned above and turn them over to the government."

--Toyotomi Hideyoshi,
Sogun, 29 August 1558

Secretary's Report

By Tom Burkizer
GrassRoots Secretary

I'd like to welcome all of our new GrassRoots members who have joined since the last newspaper.

I'd also like to thank our current members who have sent in very generous contributions to help GrassRoots to continue to protect and promote your rights as a South Carolina gun owners and CWP holders.

The response to Flyer0802 has been great, and I think more people have joined GrassRoots as a result of that flyer than from any other mailing we have done.

The GrassRoots mailbox has been full of mail every day for many weeks

with new people joining, members renewing, and people sending contributions for us to continue the work of GrassRoots.

Please remember when you send in your application or membership renewal to indicate whether it is a new membership or renewal.

A lot of members have been asking for information about renewing their CWP. SLED has told me that they try to send CWP renewal packets out a couple of months before a CWP expires. However, sometimes a CWP holder moves and does not report a change of address to SLED. In that case you may not get your renewal packet.

If you want to find out if SLED has mailed out your renewal packet, give them a call at 803-896-7024.



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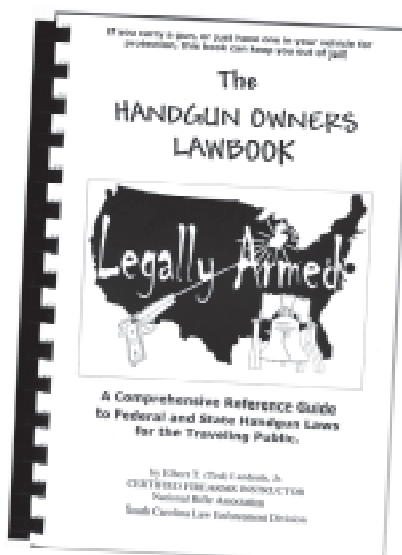
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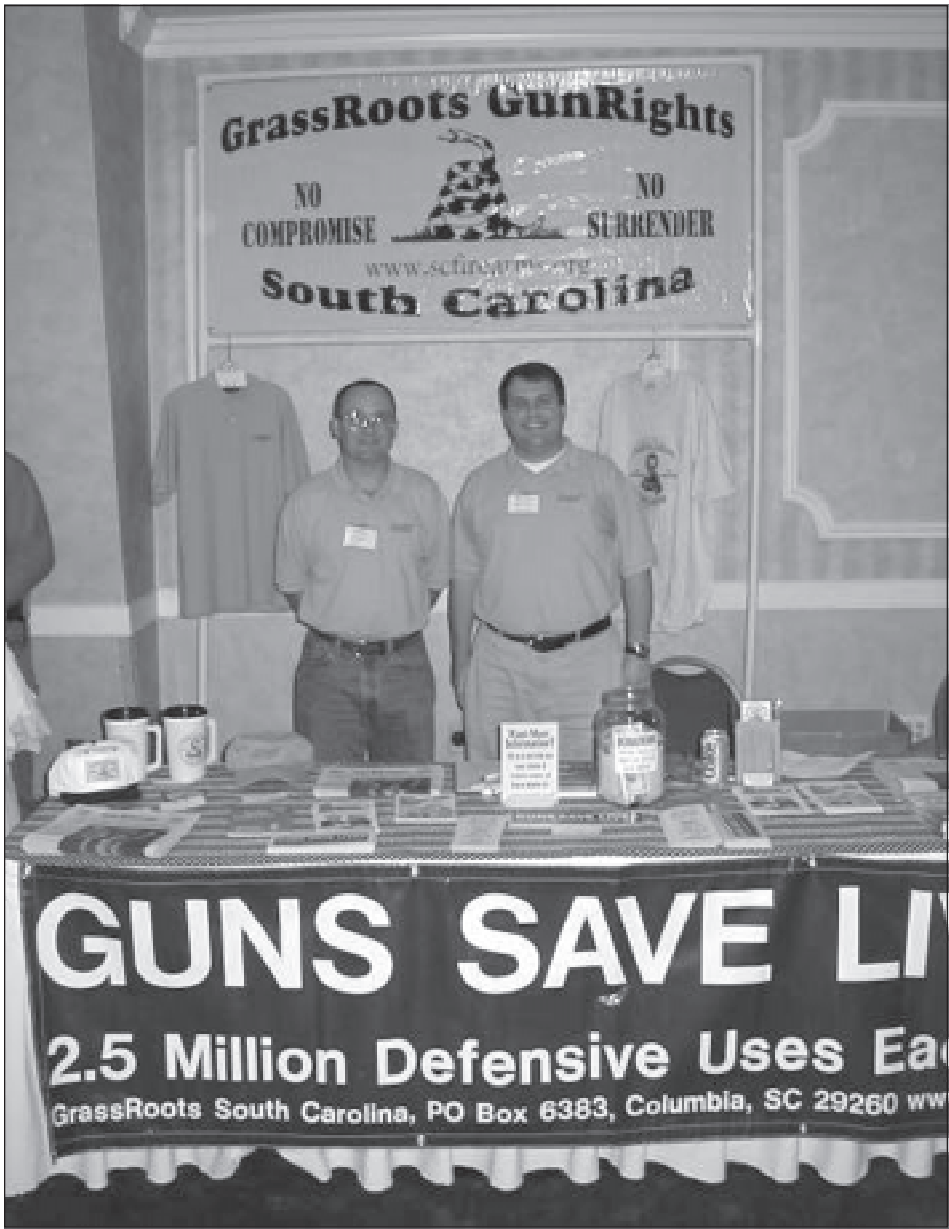
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Gun Shows in 2002 a Big Success



to Tim for his pioneering work at upstate Gun shows. Too often Tim was left to shoulder the whole load, and that can wear anybody out. GrassRoots Upstate chapter has vowed to make sure we have adequate help at table for future shows.

There are still a few Gun Shows during this last part of 2002. GrassRoots will have our table set up to meet people and promote gun rights. If you want more information or would like to volunteer to help at one of these GrassRoots tables, please contact the GrassRoots table organizer for that area.

Gun Show Table Organizers:

Greenville / Spartanburg
Don Brady
(864) 269-8957
majorfool1@juno.com

Charleston
John Borkowski III
(843) 849-7995
john@jcb3.com

Florence
Mike Walguarnery
(803) 81-1360
walgum123@netzero.net

Columbia
Mike Walguarnery

(803) 781-1360
walgum123@netzero.net

Gun Show Director
Terry Hicks
(803)-513-2902
gunshows@scfirearms.org

Gun Shows Scheduled for Q4 2002

Columbia
Nov. 2-3
Jamil Shrine Temple.

Florence
Nov. 23-24
Florence Civic Center

Columbia
Dec. 21-22
State Fairgrounds

Watch for Gun Show schedules for 2003. State wide Gun Show dates will be posted on our web site www.scfirearms.org and in *The Defender* as soon as they become available.

If you know of a gun show here in South Carolina we don't have listed please let us know by email or calling our Gun Show Director Terry Hicks. Give him a call also if you'd like to setup a GrassRoots table in an area where we don't already have an organizer.

Staffing was not a problem at the 2002 Great GrassRoots Gathering at The Sheraton Convention Center in Columbia, SC, October 19th.

By Mike Walguarnery

GrassRoots was able to staff a table at most all of the 2002 Gun Shows around our state. We've had a great year so far.

By putting our members in the position to greet and share our GunRights message with people interested in firearms, we have reached new highs in membership numbers and validated the GrassRoots commitment to your "Right to Keep and Bear Arms".

This is important if GrassRoots is to have more real success in our state. We are pleased with what our membership has already done, but there are many more things we still to work on. If the past legislative sessions have shown us anything, it's that large numbers of active members are key to future successes. Our table volunteers play a very important part, by telling folks of all the various ways they can help advance our GunRights.

Please stop by the GrassRoots table at the next gun show and tell them thank you, or volunteer to work a shift yourself sometime. Sometimes too, the table is pretty crowded and the volunteers are real busy. If they can't get to you right away please be assured it's not because they don't think you're important. You are! Every member of GrassRoots is important.

The people working the gun show tables wouldn't be there if people weren't important to them, so if you can't grab hold of somebody, just holler, "Good Job!" or "Guns Save Lives!" and we'll at least try and give you a smile and thumbs up to acknowledge you are

part of the team!
Recently our Greenville GrassRoots gun show organizer Tim Sullivan, had to pass his duties on to Don Brady, and Don looks like he has hit the ground running. Don will now be the one in charge of table set up and will coordinate the volunteer schedule for gun shows in the upstate. Thanks to Don for stepping up to this task, and a big thanks

Welcome Back! (October 2002)

The following merchants have removed their signs prohibiting CWP:

- Klig's Kites, Myrtle Beach (22 July 2002)
- Christmas Travel & Tours, Myrtle Beach (27 June 2002)
- Hill Plumbing and Heating, Sumter (28 August 2002)
- Wireless Café (Bellsouth), Hartsville (9 September 2002)
- Hometown Food Store, Seneca (21 September, 2002)

There have been some changes made to the Welcome Back! List. Merchants removing all prohibiting signs (old "pre-H3010" or new standardized per state law) shall be listed in the newsletter for two consecutive issues. Grassroots South Carolina reserves the right to verify any merchant or business claiming to have removed signs prohibiting CWP. Send reports concerning merchants that have removed signs to: merchants@scfirearms.org

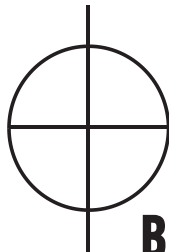
News You Can Use - Disabled Vets – Free CWP!

From a GrassRoots member in Lugoff:

I have been reading my Grassroots Bulletin and noticed about the amount needed to renew my CWP license. Are you aware that disabled veterans do not have to pay anything for a CWP renewal? All they have to do to get their

renewal is to provide a disability number to the license people and they will not charge you for renewal. I renewed my permit over a year ago and I was pleasantly surprised.

Editors Note: Retired law enforcement officers are also exempted from the fee.



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Homeland Defense Rifles

What are they, when they want to take your Homeland Defense Rifle from you? That helps bring the issue into clearer focus doesn't it.

I don't know where it got started, or who coined it, but the term "Homeland Defense Rifle" became a good laugh for us all. But after thinking about it, I feel it isn't a joke. I feel we should go out of our way to make it a byword among the Law Abiding gun owner/shooter community (and all splinters of it). Why? Well, because that's what they have ALWAYS been, but now a gracious and well-defined name has come to light.

They joke about "Assault Rifles" and use the term ourselves. But, it's not OUR term. It was shoved down our throats by the enemy to scare the sheeple. So why should we continue using it? I didn't buy my AK style rifles for hunting. I sure as hang didn't buy them for marksmanship related shooting events. I bought them as a tool of defense and deterrence to those that want to threaten me in any form, whether a criminal attacking my home or a power attacking my rights. So I feel we should take this new term that WE chose, that describes OUR 'tools' for what they really are and have ALWAYS been.

These, my friends, are the freeman's modern day muskets.

If the powers that be want to use fear of terrorism to justify their actions, then I for dang sure will use it to CLARIFY my reason for owning these weapons. They show videos of terrorists training with 'Military weapons', Well guess what, you can't put a cat in a dogfight. Let's use their "fear factor" against them. Let's not only coin this new label; let's MINT it!

From now on, every time you make a post, or are in a conversation with a sheeple or even a fellow Patriot, and the need comes to use the term 'Assault Rifle' — catch yourself and use the RIGHT term — "Homeland Defense Rifle."

Put pressure on major dealers to start using the phrase in their advertising, "ON SALE This Week: Homeland Defense Rifles." Lets turn this tide in OUR favor for once. The term "Assault Rifle" is used to disarm us, as well as "Non-Sporting features/rifle". Let them try to deny us our "Homeland Defense Rifles".

How does that sound? If it is used enough, it will come into common usage. The media will mock it at first or ignore it, but if we PERSIST without hesitation, then the term will be set in stone, as well as the hearts & minds of many. Remember, What are they, when they want to take your Homeland Defense Rifle from you?

Quotes from novels by Louis L'Amou

"A good gun is a thing to have, and a body never knows when he'll need it. There's a saying that when guns are outlawed, only outlaws will have guns."

"When feeding time comes around there's nothing a hawk likes better than a nice, fat, peaceful dove."



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to blame. We must tell the politicians to change the law. We must hold the politicians accountable if they fail to do the right thing.

So, what do we do now? Choosing our next legislative agenda was difficult. There are so many wrongs to be righted. There are so many bad laws which need to be repealed. So, where do we start?

Realistically speaking, we can only afford two major legislative offensives. One of those offensives must give more value to having a carry permit. When there are too many restrictions on where a carry permit holder can carry, a person might feel that since they have to leave their sidearm in the vehicle most of the time, why bother getting a permit. So, we must make a change that gives more value to the carry permit holder for a permit.

The other legislative offensive should be one that makes non carry permit holders see GrassRoots as an organization they want to join, too. We should choose something that effects all gun owners and potential gun owners. Then, we can prove to them that they need to join GrassRoots.

I help Sen. Jake Knotts teach a gun safety and concealed weapon permit class. I learned something in a recent class.

Did you know it is illegal to have a friend or family member shoot a pistol as your guest at your gun club?

Did you know it is illegal to have a friend or family member shoot a pistol as your guest on your own private property, even if you own ten thousand acres?

South Carolina law makes it a crime to possess a pistol on or about the person. There are only 12 listed exceptions to the law. The law excepts a private property owner from the prohibition against possessing a pistol, but not his guests. The same holds for gun clubs. The members are excepted, but not any guests. So, if you go plinking on Uncle Joe's farm, you have committed a crime (unless you possess a CWP).

The reasoning is that South Carolina law makes it a crime to possess a pistol unless the person fits into one of the listed exceptions. Just as a private property owner can not give another person permission to break the law and grow marijuana on private property, a private property owner can not give permission to another person to break the law and possess a pistol.

This law could be the cause of death for guns in society. Think about it. If we can not legally take people out to the range to teach them the joys of shooting, then our gun rights will simply wither on the vine as older gun owners die and there are no younger gun owners to take our place.

The law says when a non CWP holder has a pistol in his vehicle it must be in the closed trunk, closed console, or closed glove box. Well, I drive a minivan. I used to drive a pickup. I don't have a trunk or console to put a pistol into. And do you see that beautiful 44 magnum sitting on the table over there, the one soon to be mine? Well, it won't

fit into my glove box. What if both my wife and I have to enter a publicly owned building? We are both CWP holders and two pistols will not fit in the glove box. We need to change the law to allow vehicle carry in closed containers, too.

Now, lets assume you have to go to a publicly owned building to conduct business. It used to be a felony for you to merely drive into the parking lot of the building. But thanks to what we accomplished last year, now you can park in the lot, you just can't carry into the building. So, you put your pistol into the glove box. The law requires that the pistol either be hidden from view, or in the closed glove box. At some point it was not in either location. You just committed a misdemeanor.

Are you outraged yet? We must change this law while we have the power to do so.

GrassRoots leadership decided this issue had to be one of our two major issues. We can't afford to wait until the government starts enforcing the law with "zero tolerance." GrassRoots leadership has drafted proposed legislation to fix these problems. Sen. Danny Verdin of Laurens, SC has already agreed to sponsor this legislation and he will pre file it as soon as possible. Sen. Danny Verdin is the man responsible for killing the anti gun provisions in the SC Homeland Defense bills earlier this year. Those provisions would have allowed for the registration and confiscation of our guns.

We could try to repeal the law which prohibits young adults between the ages of 18 and 21 from possessing a handgun or having a CWP. It is ridiculous to say that a young adult is wise enough to tell other people how to live their lives through the power of the vote, but not wise enough to govern his or her own life. Such a law turns young adults into second class citizens. Second class citizenship is wrong.

We could try to repeal the one handgun per month law. But, how many people are really limited by this law? Most people are limited by their pocketbook, not the law. I had many people tell me that repeal of the one handgun per month law was a non issue to them. They want changes made that significantly effect them on a daily basis.

We could try to make changes that would allow reciprocity with more states. Or better yet, we could try to pass a law that says if you're legal where you came from then you're legal here. That is called recognition.

SLED's regulations for denying a CWP state that if you are charged with a crime, and you plead not guilty because you are innocent, and then a jury finds you not guilty - that SLED can still deny you a carry permit because your background check is not favorable. SLED uses this outrageous interpretation of the law to then deny reciprocity with other states because their standards aren't as high as ours. This is wrong.

Are you outraged yet?

We could try to pass a Vermont carry bill. But, the chances of that passing are too small to justify making it our next priority.

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We must prioritize things. The political reality is that we can not change everything that needs changing in the next legislative session. Some issues just will not motivate enough people to act to justify making it a priority now.

Remember, our other legislative offensive must give real value to a carry permit. So, what was the single most important issue that we heard about from you - the GrassRoots members? We heard over and over again that you wanted to be able to carry into nice restaurants.

Carry in Nice Restaurants

GrassRoots leadership listened to you and we have drafted proposed legislation that will allow concealed weapon permit holders to carry into nice restaurants.

People ask me “what is a nice restaurant?” A nice restaurant is one that you would want to take your family to, and which also serves alcoholic beverages. We are talking about an Olive Garden or Outback Steakhouse or any number of family restaurants that also serve alcoholic beverages.

Under South Carolina law there are no bars, only restaurants, some of which serve alcoholic beverages. The gun grabbers will argue we should not allow “guns in bars”, even though legally there are no bars in South Carolina. That is the way to negatively define the issue.

We must define the issue in a positive way. So, we will talk of nice restaurants and self defense. We will talk about how criminals look for disarmed victims with money in the dark. This is exactly what we are forced to be when we go

to nice restaurants with our families.

According to preliminary research, over half of the 50 states allow carry permit holders to carry into nice restaurants and consume alcoholic beverages while there. Only Alaska allows carry into a nice restaurant, but then prohibits consumption of alcoholic beverages. South Carolina used to allow CWP holders to carry into and consume alcoholic beverages in nice restaurants prior to 1996. There were no problems then.

Decent people carrying self defense sidearms do not turn into raving homicidal maniacs merely because they enter a nice restaurant and drink a beer or glass of wine. South Carolina’s his-

tory prior to 1996 proves that. The history of over half of the states proves that. Those that argue otherwise are simply fear mongers. The fear mongers were wrong when they said there would be blood in the streets if the shall issue CWP law passed in 1996. They will be just as wrong on this issue.

The GrassRoots proposed legislation will divide South Carolina’s restaurants into two classes. One class derives most of its income from the sale of alcoholic beverages. These are the places that some would call bars, and are a minority of all restaurants. These res-

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card the gun and never carry it again.)

One’s self-image matters a great deal; it is what charts one’s course through life. If I refuse to compromise my integrity, my self-respect and what the Founding Fathers referred to as their sacred honor, it is because my image of myself will not permit it. Self-images are complex, of course. Basically I see myself as a sound and responsible citizen, a scrupulously law-abiding, friendly, reasonable, middle-class, normally intelligent and fairly well educated paterfamilias with some understanding of true values who has been blessed beyond his deserts in this life and is truly grateful.

At the very root and foundation of my being, though, I am a warrior - a very mild one, but a warrior nevertheless - as any man must be to some degree. My pistol symbolizes that as such I will not be coerced by fear or by any political, social or physical threats whatsoever into doing anything I consider dishonorable or unworthy of my self-respect. You can

push me only so far, but no farther. It symbolizes the positive side of the warrior spirit, which is the one force that can maintain respect for the law, stability, freedom, peace and decency in this world. Without it we are done.

Warriors and hunters tend to be fascinated by fine personal arms and will often cherish one above all others, far beyond its utility as a tool. That is why embellished firearms are commonplace, while engraved carpenter’s hammers are not. I dote on my Colt Officer’s ACP carry gun, and delight in its presence on my hip. Now do you begin to understand what my pistol means to me?

Be that as it may, our body of armed citizens has always been a potent force for law and order, liberty and all that is good in the land. If we allow the hoplophobic left to destroy it on an emotional whim, to make themselves ‘feel good,’ or in accordance with their unrealistic and failed political philosophy, we will come to rue the day.

Finn Aagaard passed away April 20, 2000

Why don’t more people in South Carolina have a CWP?

Many states have higher percentages of CWP holders than South Carolina. For example, an article* in the Roanoke Times (Virginia) stated: “In Virginia, 3.3 percent of more than 5 million people at least 21 years old have received the permits to carry hidden guns anywhere in the state since lawmakers loosened restrictions on the permits in 1995. In Craig County, more than 12 percent of the adult residents of the relatively crime-free locality have the licenses.”

South Carolina with 3.5 million people, has about 35,000 CWP holders, or only 1%.

Why is that?

- Are people saying, “I don’t need no stinking permit” and just carry without one?
- Do people think a gun in the glove box of their truck is good enough?
- Are they victims of propaganda and indoctrination from our public schools and the “news” media and think that “guns are bad” and we should just call 911 to take care of us?
- Can people not afford guns because of our racist “Saturday Night Special” law that prohibits less expensive handguns?
- Do people in South Carolina just not give a flip?
- Is South Carolina such a paradise that no concealed weapons are needed?
- Are people in South Carolina not smart enough to figure a CWP might do them some good?
- Do people not know how to get a CWP (no advertising)?
- Is it too expensive to get a CWP?
- Are there no instructors or classes available in their area?
- Do people think a CWP is worthless because it’s too restricted?
- Are they afraid of making a mistake and going to jail?
- Do people not want to be on some “government list”?
- Is it too much hassle to get a CWP?
- Do people think the testing (written and shooting) is too hard and they can’t pass it?

Can anyone add any more reasons to this list? I’m not looking for humor either.

What do you think the top 3 reasons are? Write or email me what you think and we’ll publish the results.

These are serious questions. To reach our goal of doubling the number of CWP holders by 2006 we need to answer them. The answers will likely point out some areas for GrassRoots to work at in the future.

Ed Kelleher

Ed Kelleher, President
GrassRoots GunRights South Carolina

* <http://www.roanoke.com/roatimes/news/story130723.html>

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GrassRoots Members are Really Special

By Mike Walguarnery

GrassRoots members are really a very special bunch of folks. You are some of the most dedicated and talented citizens our fine State of South Carolina has to offer. GrassRoots members believe that as “law abiding citizens”, they



Mike Walguarnery speaking at the Great GrassRoots Gathering.

and their neighbors, should exercise the right to keep and bear arms.

Members think an armed citizen is a positive way to fight crime, and it makes this a safer place for us all. CWP holders prepared to use deadly force if necessary, in self-defense or the defense of family or friends, gives the bad guys something to worry about.

Criminals want their victims defenseless and too scared to fight back, not armed and capable of winning the fight. Similarly, our members think that the Second Amendment is an affirmation of an individual’s God given right. The 2nd amendment is protection for all

the rest of the “Bill of Rights”, and “Shall not be infringed” means just that.

GrassRoots members believe that an armed citizen is essential to maintain our freedoms. That now, perhaps more than ever, we need to defend our freedoms from the aggressors, be they foreign or domestic, who would take them from us.

What’s that? You say “Lots of people have those ideals, not just GrassRoots members”? Well, I hope it doesn’t surprise you but, ... I think you’re right. You see I was one of “those people, with exactly those ideals.”

I belonged to several National and State “Gun Rights” organizations, (you know the names), and I still do. I contributed to all the action groups and read all the publications, even volunteered at a National Convention.

I tried to tell myself that I was doing what I could to help turn the tide and fight the anti-gun lobby. I wanted to feel satisfied with my efforts, I wanted to make a difference. Unfortunately, what I felt most was frustration. Even the things that were called victories seemed to lose ground to the anti-gun crowd. The direction the leadership often took was not what the membership needed or wanted.

Not until I joined GrassRoots GunRights of SC, did I find that deeds can match the talk. That my convictions and ideals shared by so many could really make a difference. By joining with a dedicated group of sensible gun owners in my own State we could be a force for good that get things done.

That’s why GrassRoots Members are so special. We, not only have good ideals and goals, we come together to really make things better. If you or someone you know shares these ideals, do them a favor and tell them about GrassRoots SC. Maybe they can find an end to some of their frustration too.

We appreciate Mike’s words and his support – he’s a \$500 sponsor of the Gun Raiser at the Gathering.

SPEECH from Page 10

taurants will have to post a sign outside reading “50%”. The other class derives most of its income from the sale of food. These are the places that we call nice restaurants. So, if you see a “50%” sign at the entrance of a restaurant, you will not be able to carry into the restaurant. But, if there is no sign, then you can.

In an attempt to make it easier to pass legislation allowing carry into nice restaurants, we are not asking to carry into the places some would call bars. It is not because we feel that the right to self defense should be denied to people who go to bars. It is because we feel we can get a law passed now to allow carry into nice restaurants, but not into every place that serves alcoholic beverages.

GrassRoots leadership would love to be able to attack every anti gun law, policy, regulation, ordinance, or rule. But, we just don’t have the money, time, or manpower to attack everything at once. You can help fix these limitations. Maybe you can donate some time. Maybe you can donate more money. Whatever you can do to help, just let us

know. There is always work that needs to be done. The more resources we have, the more we can do.

People frequently ask me, “What do you want?” I tell them, “More, more, more, more, and more.” I will not be satisfied until decent people can carry a self defense sidearm whenever and wherever they choose. My God given rights are not to be infringed or rationed.

But for now, it appears we will be working on two issues. First, to clean up the law to protect our present and future shooters, and to provide more places where pistols can be legally possessed. Second, we must give more value to our carry permits by allowing carry into nice restaurants. Only by giving more value to carry permits will more people decide to get them. Other issues will be taken up as resources permit.

Talk to your politicians. It is election season and they are more likely to listen and want to make you happy. Ask them if they support the Second Amendment. If they say “yes,” then ask them to sponsor or co-sponsor the GrassRoots legislative agenda. If they say they will or are interested, then contact me and I will get in touch with them.

The power of GrassRoots comes from you. Thank you.

BAUER from Page 2

able research confirms it is the right thing to do, and SC law used to allow it, all without problems. CWP holders are not part of the problem, we are part of the solution.

The mass media and political opponents tried to crucify Sen. Andre Bauer for his support of the GrassRoots

CWP and gun law reforms. But, Sen. Andre Bauer never backed down. Sen. Andre Bauer stood firm in the Senate. Sen. Andre Bauer bled for us. That is why GrassRoots is proud to bestow upon Sen. Andre Bauer the GrassRoots Guardian Award for his unwavering support of the rights of gun owners in South Carolina.

GrassRoots South Carolina Leadership Elections

Grass Roots of South Carolina, Inc. will hold the elections of the Board of Directors via mail-in ballot placed in the November 2002 issue of The Defender newspaper. Nominations for positions on the Board of Directors are now being accepted. If you would like to run for office, or would like to nominate someone (*please get their approval first*), submit your nomination by December

1, 2002 to GrassRoots Elections, P.O. Box 6383, Columbia, SC 29260.

Please include full contact information with your nomination. Sealed nominations will be opened solely by the nominating committee and a list of nominees presented publicly at the GrassRoots December monthly meeting. Further inquiries may be sent to the above address.

Gun Show Promoter Likes GrassRoots

GrassRoots had a table at the Columbia Fair Grounds gun show June 22-23, 2002. Mike Kent, promoter and owner of Land of the Sky Gun Shows had this to say to GrassRoots Director Mike Walgunery after the show:

“Thanks for your organization’s help with the Columbia show this past weekend. It was a huge success for us, in part due to your efforts with the e-mail show notification, your discount coupons and your booth at the event. Your organization is the best run and most professional gun rights group I have dealt with since I have been in this business. You will always have a complimentary spot at all of my SC events and you can count on me to continue my half page ad in your quarterly publication; just let me know the ad deadlines so I can update it. I look forward to a long and rewarding relationship with Grass Roots South Carolina!”

Miss the Great GrassRoots Gathering? Don’t Miss Out Again. Order the DVD disk or VHS tape Now!

The Great GrassRoots Gathering was professionally recorded from start to finish. You can see and hear all the action just as if you were there.

Watch Suzanna Gratia Hupp describe how she survived the largest mass shooting in US history. Hear Dr. David Mustard tell how to reach people using reason and facts. See the Minister of Self Defense, Kenn Blanchard, “Black Man With a Gun” speak on the importance of attitude.

See GrassRoots leaders like Dr. Butler, Larry Coble, and Ed Kelleher, describe GrassRoots programs and their plans for the future. See who got the GrassRoots Guardian awards and the 9 foot band-aid! See the Gun Raiser “Not-A-Raffle” drawings and who won the S&W .44 Mag revolver.

Recordings of the whole Great GrassRoots Gathering will be available soon on VHS tape or DVD disk. It cost quite a bit to put the Great GrassRoots Gathering to-

gether with 3 nationally known speakers and to professionally record and produce tapes and disks. But these recordings will be well worth it with 4 hours of solid, pro-gun information.

Order your copy now for the *pre-release* price of only \$30 plus \$5 shipping, handling and SC Sales tax.

Send a check or money order for each item ordered to: **GrassRoots** with your choice of VHS tape or DVD disk or both.

GrassRoots of South Carolinas, Inc. - P.O. Box 6383 - Columbia, SC 29260-6383





Dr. Suzanna Hupp being interview live on the radio during the Great GrassRoots Gathering by Thomas Lanham and Charles Campbell, co-hosts of Talk Guns Radio on WIS News-Talk Radio 1320 AM.

GATHERING from Page 1

Suzanna Gratia Hupp got up to speak next. “It was the stupidest decision I ever made in my life”, she said of her decision to leave her gun in her car. “It was a beautiful sunny day at a place where bad stuff wasn’t supposed to happen. We weren’t in a dark alley, we weren’t in a place we weren’t supposed to be, we were in a nice restaurant with a big crowd.” So she described that fateful day in October 1991 when she, but not her parents, survived the largest mass shooting in US history. “What are the odds? I only need a gun if I break down somewhere” were her thoughts. She’s come to realize now that when you need your gun, you need it to protect your life, or the life of someone you love and that there are no laws that trump this need! Suzanna said after the shooting she was “Angry!” Not at the nut who did the shooting. She said “he has worms for brains. You don’t get angry at a rabid dog, you just take it out behind the barn and shoot it. No, I was angry at the legislators who kept me from carrying a gun.”

Suzanna said, “The media is your friend”. She got a big laugh over that. She went on to say that the media just have to be guided into saying what you want them to say. She illustrated by asking everyone to stand, look about them and memorize where all the RED things were. She had everyone sit and close their eyes. She asked, “Now, where are all the ... green things?”. She said that’s the same way we can control what the media see. Suzanna said that we must always refer to the other side, the ones against our right to self defense, as “Radical, Extremist, Discriminatory at Best and Racist at Worst”. They are radical in wanting to flush over 200 years of Constitutional government down the drain. They are extremist in wanting to take everyone’s right to self defense away. As for being discriminatory and racist, Suzanna said with all the fees and training required in Texas, it costs about \$500 to get a CWP and a gun to carry. She said this was discriminatory at best and racist at worst because these costs kept the poor, women and minorities from being able to defend themselves. What

the media will use is what we focus on when we talk to them.

Suzanna closed by telling of women who felt they couldn’t use a gun to take another’s life. Her reply was, “Consider a man with a gun is coming towards you and your children. He stops and puts his gun to your toddlers head. If you didn’t have a gun, wouldn’t you

LEGAL From Page 1

discharge or display (brandishing) of firearms.

Also, NC does not have a law that allows open carry. They merely have no law that prohibits open carry, so there’s really no law about open carry to preempt. So, it’s not recommended you try going around carrying a handgun in a holster on your hip unless you have a NC CWP.

Practically then, that leaves South Carolinians to just carrying a pistol in a vehicle in North Carolina. Beware though! North Carolina is very different from South Carolina in this regard.

In South Carolina, if a person (resident or not) may possess a pistol at all, they may carry the pistol (loaded or not) in the closed glove box or console of their vehicle. The box just has to be closed; it does not have to be locked. This is South Carolina law.

In North Carolina this is illegal! This was a topic of discussion on our GrassRoots Email discussion group. Here’s what one GrassRoots member sent in:

The information below is from the NC State Highway Patrol website at <http://www.ncshp.org/safety1.html#handguns>.

I print out a current copy and have it with me when I travel through NC. I have no idea how a particular officer might or might not interpret their law, but at least I can show that I’m trying to do the right thing. I’ve never had my practice tested.

Here is what is said on the North Carolina State Highway Patrol website: “**Handguns in Vehicles** It is unlawful to carry a concealed handgun in a vehicle unless the person has a North Carolina concealed carry permit. A per-

wish the guy behind you did?” Our feelings shouldn’t interfere with the rights of others. Suzanna said that when she thought of her kids, if she thought of having no way to protect them, she would be physically ill. She got the message across loud and clear, she would never again be without the means to protect those she loves.

GrassRoots LEO Liaison Director Bill Malinowski (Mal) opened up the meeting after a break. Mal has been certified by the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy to teach law enforcement agencies the ins and outs of the South Carolina CWP law. The LEO’s get a 1 hour training credit for this. “That 1 hour credit will wake them up!”, It’s a key motivator Mal said. Mal is also looking to get this taught to all that graduate from the academy. If you have friends in law enforcement, tell them here’s an easy way to get a 1 hour training credit, just contact Mal.

“I grew up hating guns. Firearms were used to kill, destroy, hurt and maim and it was fine with me if you eliminated all firearms”, so opened guest speaker Dr. David Mustard, Assistant Professor of Economics at the University of Georgia. David said he found the argument, “I have a right to my gun no matter how

See GATHERING Page 13

son who is not a convicted felon may carry a handgun if not concealed. A handgun is concealed in a vehicle if it cannot be readily seen by a person approaching and if it is readily accessible. A handgun under the front seat or in an unlocked glove box or console is illegal. A handgun openly displayed or in a locked glove box, locked console, or in the trunk is lawful.”

It used to be recommended that you carry the pistol on the dashboard of your car or truck in NC. This is “openly displayed” and not concealed. However, this would violate the “no display” laws of some communities. Therefore, you should either lock your handgun in the glove box, trunk, or console, or carry the handgun on the seat beside you, in plain sight to an officer approaching the vehicle. If there’s someone in the seat beside you, put it on the console between you. You may have a situation different from this. You’ll just have to read the law and decide how to best comply with it.

Our brethren, Grass Roots North Carolina (GRNC) are fighting to get NC to recognize other states CWP’s or at least establish reciprocity with other states. Their HB 442 is a North Carolina bill that would provide for reciprocity. It passed the NC House by an overwhelming 99-to-7 majority, but has been held up in their Senate by a few senators. GRNC has been fighting to get a fair hearing for the bill, but needs all the help it can get. You can help GRNC by sending money to their PAC, which they use pretty well.

<http://www.grnc.org/pvf/>

Virginia recently passed legislation recognizing all other state’s CWP’s. For those without a CWP, the Virginia law allows for “open carry” in a vehicle as described above.

Gun Shops Support GrassRoots

The following gun shops help GrassRoots by putting a GrassRoots Membership Flyer holder in a prominent location near their cash register or customer checkout.

Ernie Lawson
Personal Security Supplies
3390 Boiling Springs Hwy
Boiling Springs, SC 29316

Tim Shirley
Grady’s Great Outdoors
3440 Clemson Blvd
Anderson, SC 29621

Gun Shop Cards Available



Gun is not included

Do you visit gun shops often? Would you like to help GrassRoots grow? If so, we’ve got something for you! GrassRoots has 3x5 membership application cards and plastic table top holders to be put in gun shops. They’re attractive and don’t take up much counter space.

We’d like for some dedicated GrassRoots volunteers (You!) to talk with gun shop owners and convince them to put one of our card holders on their counter. You’d then periodically visit the store to make sure the holders are still there and have cards in them.

Points to make to the gun shop owner:

- They’re small and don’t take much space.
- The dealer won’t have to fiddle with them because you (the volunteer) will visit periodically to make sure they have cards.
- GrassRoots will print a listing in our newspaper of gun shops that have our card holders.
- GrassRoots plans to double the number of CWP holders in the state by 2006. The more CWP holders there are, the more potential customers for the dealer.
- GrassRoots members are active, informed shooters, a good market for the dealer to advertise to.

If you have the skills to talk with the gun shop owners in your area and the dedication to periodically visit to replenish the cards and promote GrassRoots, please contact GrassRoots President Ed Kelleher – 803-796-8858 (Columbia) or Pres@scfirearms.org

David said that to influence policy we must focus on the benefits of firearms in relation to their costs. He likened this to vaccines and drugs which can have dangerous side effects, but their cost was outweighed by the benefit they give society.



Kenn said that when the media reported an event like, “Hamster run over by truck” they’d have a picture of a gun in the background. “Guns Bad”,

During the morning session, people wrote down questions for the guest speakers which were answered in the afternoon Forum session. Ed Kelleher read the questions and the guest speakers responded. Suzanna Gratia Hupp was asked, "What caliber gun to you carry, and where do you carry it". Suzanna responded, "A .38 revolver, I like the simplicity and confidence of knowing it'll go bang when I pull the trigger. I usually carry in my pockbook or a fanny pack." David Mustard was asked about the Bellesiles "research" for his book "Arming America" that claimed guns were NOT popular during America's founding. David replied at length, mentioning that Bellesiles claimed to just have made simple mistakes. David pointed out that every mistake

GrassRoots Merchant Program Director John Ponti told how GrassRoots work with merchants that post against people's right to self defense. He said the current list of merchants who posted was zero after the enactment of standards for posting signs to comply with in



Sens. Jake Knotts and Glenn Reese were also awarded the title of “GrassRoots Guardians” for their sponsoring of H.3010 and S.261 respectively. Jake Knotts said a few words that served to reinforce the fact that he believes

See GATHERING Page 15

"All Hollowpoints are the same"



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CWP Renewals, Pictures and Address Changes

GrassRoots Member Starkey White sent us E-mail with a few questions. President Ed Kelleher answered for GrassRoots:

Mr. White: First, let me say thanks for all the good work you and the Grassroots membership has done. I hope that I have done my share as well. I am not big on financial support due to a medical disaster in my family, but I try to do the other things that you have asked of me.

GrassRoots: You're welcome. I hope your family and your finances recover. My wife was ill last year and I know how trying it is in many ways. Thanks for doing what you can to help GrassRoots. It's folks like you that give GrassRoots the punch we have.

PICTURES:

Mr. White: Now I have a couple of questions that there are no clear answers to in the FAQ segment on your website. Will SLED accept Polaroid photos with renewal applications?

GrassRoots: Yes, Polaroids are fine. SLED will accept ANY type of color photo that includes your full face (not a profile). This includes digital photos printed on a color printer. Only 1 photo is needed now and it can be anywhere from 1x1 to 3x5 inches in size. SLED requires the photo to compare with the photo they get from DMV to put on your CWP.

RENEWALS:

Mr. White: There is a rumor out here that if you let your CWP expire, even while the renewal is being processed, you have to go through the whole thing again with a new applicant form and take the shooting safety course again, just as if you have never had a permit. Is this true?

GrassRoots: Partly. Yes, if you do NOT get your renewal application into SLED before the expiration, you'll have to go through the training again.

SLED is getting renewal notices out 60 days before the expiration. If you get your renewal in a few weeks before expiration, you won't have a problem UNLESS you've had an address change since your permit was issued and didn't notify SLED OR you have NOT gotten new driver's license, or SC ID card, from DMV. See the next question and answer for more important information.

Note to CWP Instructors, you also must renew your CWP Instructor Certifications under the same conditions described here for CWP's.

ADDRESS CHANGES:

Question: When moving what do you need to do to change your address on the CWP. I saw the FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) list, but it did not have any address to send anything to. Are there any forms, or do you just send a letter to change your CWP?

Answer: After you move, go to DMV and get your driver's license updated. It costs \$3 to get a new copy of your drivers' license with correct information. Make a photocopy of new license and a photocopy of your current CWP. Send copies and a check for \$5 to SLED Regulatory with note telling them you have moved and request a new CWP card. You must do this within 10 days of moving, or you could be charged with a misdemeanor and a \$25 fine. Your old CWP is good until the new one arrives.

If you go to renew your CWP and your address on the CWP application does NOT match the DMV address, they will send your renewal back to you. If they don't get a good renewal package from you before your CWP expires, they will require you to go through the TRAINING again just as if you were getting a permit the first time.

Send to:
SLED Regulatory Service Unit
803-737-9000 or 803-896-7014
P.O. Box 21398
Columbia, SC. 29221-1398



Plenty of targets, plenty of fun for all.

GrassRoots Gathering Fun Shoot! Good CWP Practice!

By Ed Kelleher
President, GrassRoots GunRights

A crash! A shot! People are in your house. You push your child to the floor beside the bedroom dresser, draw your gun and race to the thick bookcase beside the door to the living room. You get low, using the cover the book case gives you. You start slicing the pie as you work around looking into the next room. Who's in there? There's a bad guy with a gun! Double tap to center of mass. He's down. You keep moving, low, using cover. There's another bad guy, but he has hostage in front of him. Front sight, press, bang! Front sight, press, bang! Bad guy down with two hits, hostage Ok. You slice a little more. There's a 3rd bad guy, he's clear, another double tap to center of mass. No more bad guys standing. Your pulse is pounding and you're gulping down air, but you and your family are alive and well.

"If you're finished shooting, show clear" commands the Safety Officer next to you. You remove your magazine, eject the round from the chamber and show the SO an empty chamber. "Slide down, drop the hammer and holster your weapon", the SO commands as you finish Stage 2 of the Great GrassRoots Gathering Fun Shoot IDPA match. Your heart and breathing start going back to normal after the adrenalin rush. You look at your targets. All solid center of mass hits, no dropped points. You remember putting your front sight on the targets. Score keepers are busy patching the holes. Others are picking up your brass. You move aside as the on deck shooter moves up to the starting position under supervision of the SO.

Donald Murry, IDPA match direc-

tor for the Mid Carolina Rifle Club setup 5 excellent stages for us to shoot the Sunday AM following our Saturday Gathering. Kenn Blanchard, author of "Black Man With a Gun" was shooting his Kimber .45ACP.

GrassRoots El Presidente Ed Kelleher was shooting his stainless Colt Officers ACP.

The other 38 happy shooters were using a wide variety of wheel guns, Glocks, Berettas, Sigs, Rugers, Kimbers, etc. One thing they all had in common though was they all could be used as carry guns for a Concealed Weapon Permit holder.

IDPA (International Defensive Pistol Association) is a shooting sport that uses standard carry type firearms and holsters and emphasizes the use of cover in practical shooting situations. If you have a CWP and carry a firearm on a regular basis, IDPA matches are a good way to develop your skill in using your fire-

arm in various defensive scenarios. Like most things, you get out of it what you put into it, but the skills you learn could one day save your life.

In the fun shoot one stage was as described above. Another stage started with you sitting in a chair with your hands flat on a table in front of you. You had to stand and shoot 3 bad guy targets at varying ranges, being careful not to hit the targets that had "surrendered" by showing two open hands. Another stage used "The Car". You had a parcel in your hand and were opening the front door to your car when 3 bad guys come up on you. You had to drop the package, turn



Learning to shoot from cover could save your life or the life of a loved one.

Pistol Club donates over \$500 to GrassRoots

The Myrtle Beach IDPA Pistol Club sent a check for a little over \$500 to GrassRoots. They were shutting down and had to send the money somewhere and thought we would do the most good with it. Our thanks to them, and regrets they shut down. GrassRoots feels we need MORE places to shoot, not fewer.

NOTICE

The Defender newspaper and Masthead was designed, typeset and produced by Publisher Dr. Charles Campbell, President of SuccessTALK Communications, Inc., (STC) for GrassRoots South Carolina, Inc.
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FUN SHOOT *from Page 14*

180 degrees, draw and neutralize the bad guys.

My favorite stage was "The Rusher". You had to shoot a 3' tall steel target (popper), move and shoot another target, hitting it with at least two good shots to neutralize it, then take cover and shoot the bad guy rushing down the hall at you. But, there was a "no shoot" target with him. When the steel target fell down, it tripped a target carrier that moved about 20 feet towards you on an inclined ramp, picking up speed as it went. When the carrier reached the end of the ramp, the targets disappeared. You had to be fast to shoot the steel, put 2 shots in another target on the move, then get to cover and shoot the bad guys rushing down the hall way before they disappeared. Observers said, "We didn't think you could move so fast!" El Presidente managed to do pretty good on that stage but he got excited and started rushing The Rusher instead of using cover as he was supposed too. He got docked some points for that. You shoot against the clock in IDPA matches.

The faster the better. This puts the pressure on the shooter, not like real people shooting back would do, but about the best you do otherwise.

Safety is the paramount issue in IDPA matches, but having fun is important too. New shooters are welcome. You'll be carefully coached through the process till you feel 90% comfortable with what you have to do. Bring eye and ear protection, your concealable weapon, 100 rds of ammo, and a belt type holster to hold the firearm securely at your side. No crossdraws, shoulder or middle of the back holsters or fanny packs are allowed for safety reasons.

IDPA matches are held around the state on Saturdays and Sundays:

Savannah River Rifle & Pistol Club, Aiken

John Pearson, 803-819-1918 h

Phil McGahee, 803-279-6954 h

Anderson Practical Pistol Club

Skip Gilmer 864-224-6739 h & w

GATHERING *from Page 13*

good citizens have a right to bear arms and that "We're the Good Guys!".

Unfortunately, Gov. Hodges did not make it to our meeting.

In a total surprise move, Rob Butler was called to the stage and awarded the "GrassRoots Gorilla Award". It was a likeness of a gorilla head on a wooden base. It was made out to the "Head Gorilla". Many remarked on the good resemblance.

At 4:30PM Suzanna Gratia Hupp pulled the first winning Gun Raiser "Not-A-Raffle" ticket from the basket. Prof. Mustard announced the winner and GrassRoots member James Smith of Chapin came forward to be intensely questioned about Gun Safety by Kenn "Friar Tuck" Blanchard.

James begged for mercy though and answered the question successfully and claimed his prize of the S&W 629 .44Magnum.

GrassRoots member Patten

Watson of Columbia won the chance to win the AMT Backup .45ACP and GrassRoots member John Phillips of N. Augusta won the Keltec P32. Patten called back during the Leadership Dinner and successfully answered the gun safety question. Unfortunately, John Phillips father passed away that Saturday afternoon and he had to leave early.

The Great GrassRoots Gathering concluded at 5PM with everyone wishing it could have been longer. At the Leadership Dinner, about 70 relaxed in the very nice, and fitting, Remington Room of the Sheraton. Parting comments from Suzanna Gratia Hupp and David Mustard reinforced in everyone's minds that GrassRoots is playing to Win! and doing a good job of it.

Our thanks go to all who made this Great GrassRoots Gathering a grand success by their participation and hard work before hand. It was one for the record books! We'll be reaping the benefit of this Gathering for years to come. Right now, I just want to kick back and relax a little.

Greenville Gun Club

Ron Griffin, 864-859-3925 h,
864-442-0247 w

Spartanburg Practical Shooters

Eddie Wagner, 864-574-6671 h

Mid Carolina Rifle Club, West Columbia

Donald Murray, 803-939-1291 h
803-734-2569 w

Tom Thompson, 803-798-1543 h

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It's Dark, You're on Foot, You're Carrying Money, and You're Disarmed - Do You Feel Safe?

By **Robert D. Butler, J.D.**

*GrassRoots VP and
Legislative Director*

GrassRoots can be proud of the CWP and gun law reforms we got passed last legislative session. So, what do we do now? GrassRoots leaders asked the GrassRoots membership what they thought were the most important issues we should address.

One issue stood out above all the rest. GrassRoots members want to be able to protect themselves and their families when they go out to eat at nice restaurants.

When you go out to eat at a nice restaurant it is usually dark, and you must have money to pay the bill. Unfortunately, the government says you must disarm before you go to a nice restaurant. These are exactly the things that criminals are looking for - disarmed victims with money in the dark.

GrassRoots leadership has drafted legislation to allow law abiding citizens to defend themselves and their families

As soon as the elections are over in November, GrassRoots leadership will be looking for sponsors for our legislation.

when they go out to nice restaurants.

The anti self-defense crowd of fear mongers will scream that we can not allow "guns in bars" because there will be "blood in the aisles." These are the same people who screamed we could not allow guns in the hands of law abiding citizens because there would be "blood in the streets." They were wrong then and they are wrong now.

South Carolina legally does not

have any bars, although some of the "restaurants" are nothing more than bars for all practical purposes. GrassRoots leadership acknowledges that we probably could not get legislation passed that would allow self-defense carry into all restaurants - even the honky tonks.

The GrassRoots proposed legislation will create two classes of restaurants. The honky tonks are those restaurants that make most of their money from alcoholic beverage sales. Nice restaurants are those that make most of their money from food sales. The GrassRoots pro-

posed legislation would allow self-defense carry into nice restaurants, but not honky tonks.

As soon as the elections are over in November, GrassRoots leadership will be looking for sponsors for our legislation. If your elected representative has told you that he or she supports your right to self-defense, then ask them if they would support legislation to allow law abiding citizens to carry into nice restaurants. If they say "yes," then let Rob Butler, GrassRoots Vice President and Legislative Director, know who they are so that we can contact them.



Rob Butler

Why a Legal Defense Fund?

A Legal Defense Fund (LDF) is something we should fund now so that it will be available when needed to protect our rights. You don't buy health insurance after you get sick. To be properly protected we must fund a LDF now, before we need it.

The GrassRoots LDF will be used to set good legal precedent. There will always be more cases than there are funds, so we will have to prioritize cases.

The GrassRoots LDF will not protect all people. If a person carries a sidearm into the statehouse, such a case would not be considered worthy. If a

person carries a sidearm into a convenience store that is not clearly posted as having an on premises liquor license, such a case would be of interest to set the precedent that CWP holders can not be victims of entrapment. We may even ask the courts to clarify the meaning of the law without waiting for someone to be prosecuted.

If you would like to contribute to the GrassRoots Legal Defense Fund, please send donations to: GrassRoots Legal Defense Fund; P.O. Box 6383; Columbia, SC 29260.

Editorial comment from the Washington Times, October 24, 2002

"Alas, when free citizens - the militia - are unarmed and vulnerable, it is easy for a lone gunman, bent on stealth and the application of his deadly skill, to bring a free state to its knees and enslave its people in fear. "...We need more armed citizens - citizens emboldened by their ability to defend themselves. Citizens who, instead of cowering behind a barrier as another victim is claimed, shout, 'Sniper, there,' and converge on the predator.

"We need more responsible and armed citizens, people of the stature of ordinary citizens such as Todd Beamer, who led his fellow airline passengers against armed hijackers. Citizens who rise to the challenge and quietly urge their fellow citizens: 'Sniper, there. Let's roll.'"

- Emmette Boone,
Letter-to-the-editor

Training Counselor Class Held - Key to Putting an Instructor in Every SC Community!

GrassRoots did not host but did promote a Training Counselor (Training Counselors Train Instructors) class in Florence, SC on August 2, 3, and 4, 2002. Approximately 9 new TCs are now

ready to start training Instructors. GrassRoots hopes to support these new TCs with promotion of their Instructor classes throughout SC.

Our goal is to double the number

of CWPs in the next 5 years and to do that we want to have an Instructor in every SC community.

If you are an NRA Instructor and are interested in attending the next Train-

ing Counselor class e-mail webmaster@scfirearms.org and we'll place your name on our notification list. We want to help you succeed so write, call or e-mail today.

Join GrassRoots Now! Help Us Do More!

Complete and mail with check to: GrassRoots, P.O. Box 6383, Columbia, SC 29260

- ☐ **1-year new membership or renewal: \$15.00. Includes newspapers and mailings, e-mail alerts & updates. Additional contributions are welcome (see below) and are used to further the goals of GrassRoots right here in South Carolina.**
- ☐ **1-year GrassRoots Firearms Instructor membership: \$25.00 (many extra benefits, see next page)**
- ☐ **Renewal, please check here if you are renewing individual or Instructor membership so we can avoid duplicates**
- ☐ **Please send me _____ GrassRoots Bumper Stickers @ \$1 when included with dues.**
- ☐ **Thanks for making my CWP more useful. Here's an extra contribution to help in the work. Please continue to do all you can to protect and promote my rights as a South Carolina gun owner and CWP holder.**

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