



## Are You a Felon Just Waiting to be Caught? *The Next GrassRoots Legislative Initiative*

By Robert D. Butler, J.D.  
GrassRoots VP and Legislative Director

You are a responsible law abiding gun owner. Or are you?

If you have ever taken a new pistol shooter to the shooting range, then you are probably a felon waiting to be caught.

Existing South Carolina law (Section 16-23-20) makes it a misdemeanor to possess a pistol unless you fall into one of the listed exceptions. There is an exception for members of gun clubs, but *no* exception for guests. Thus, if you took a guest to the gun club and let them shoot a pistol, they broke the law. But, so did you.

Existing South Carolina law (Section 16-17-410) makes it a felony for two or more people to conspire to commit a misdemeanor. So, when you invited that new shooter to come to the gun club as your guest, you conspired to commit a misdemeanor. That makes both of you felons.

Existing South Carolina law does not allow you to possess a pistol except on your own real property (unless you have a CWP). There is *no* exception for possessing a pistol on some one else's private property, even with the permission of the private property owner. So, if you shoot pistols at Uncle Joe's farm, then you have broken the law even if you do have a CWP. Even worse, you and Uncle Joe would have conspired to commit a misdemeanor, which is a felony.

Current law makes it a crime for a concealed weapon permit holder to disarm and put their pistol into the trunk, glove box, or console when they have a need to enter a prohibited carry location



Mike Walguarnery and his grandson Drake enjoy some shooting. But, there's something wrong with this picture. GrassRoots has legislation, H.3482 in the house and S.301 in the Senate to fix it so Mike and Drake and countless others like them, aren't made criminals in South Carolina. Want to help? Take the Action Steps listed on page 2.

such as a publicly owned building, private residence, unauthorized location, or posted business. Why? Because at some point the pistol is no longer concealed when disarming. Current law needs to be amended to allow a concealed weapon permit holder to lawfully disarm to enter such places.

Current law allows a pistol to be carried in the closed glove box, console,

or trunk of a vehicle. Some of the most popular vehicles sold today are mini vans, SUVs, and pickup trucks. These vehicles do not have trunks, and many do not have consoles either. Thus, the only lawful place that a pistol can be carried is in the glove box. Many glove boxes are too small to hold larger pistols. Current law needs to be amended to allow a pistol to be in a closed con-

tainer in a vehicle.

Current law does not protect people for possessing a pistol while carrying it between a gun show and their vehicle, or while carrying a pistol between their vehicle parked on the street and their home or a friend's home, or while carrying a pistol between their

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## A Simple Guide for Buying and Carrying a Self-Defense Handgun

By Brian Puckett  
President, Citizens of America

This article is for novices... and for long-time gun-owners.

You might be a woman looking for your first self-defense handgun. Or you might be a lifelong "gun person" that people come to for advice about guns. Either way this article is for you.

Every day, people who have never owned any sort of gun — perhaps have never even shot one — decide to get a self-defense handgun. They aren't gun people, they aren't going to become gun people, they aren't going to hunt or target shoot, they aren't going to practice a lot. But they want a home-defense

handgun, and they want one suitable for concealed carry if they decide to go that route. In other words they want an effective, easy to use, easy to carry, all-around self-defense handgun.

After all the pluses, minuses, caveats, ifs, ands, and buts are factored in — this is my bottom-line gun recommendation, along with the reasons for it. This article presupposes that the prospective gun owner is healthy, of normal intelligence or better, and has no inherent fear of guns.

Long-time gun users will undoubtedly find the selection process interesting, and may wish to use this article as a

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# GrassRoots Proposed Changes to Law: S.301 and H.3482

TO AMEND SECTION 16-23-20, AS AMENDED, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO EXCEPTIONS TO THE PROHIBITION AGAINST CARRYING A PISTOL SO AS TO CLARIFY THAT A PERSON MAY CARRY A PISTOL IN ANY HOME, ON REAL PROPERTY, OR AT A FIXED PLACE OF BUSINESS IF THE PERSON HAS THE PERMISSION OF THE OWNER OR PERSON IN LEGAL POSSESSION OR CONTROL OF THE PROPERTY, TO PROVIDE AN EXCEPTION FOR TRANSFERRING A PISTOL BETWEEN ONE’S PERSON AND A SECURED COMPARTMENT IN ONE’S CAR, TO CLARIFY THAT IT IS NOT A VIOLATION OF THE EXCEPTION ALLOWING A PISTOL TO BE SECURED IN A GLOVE COMPARTMENT IF THE COMPARTMENT IS OPENED TO RETRIEVE CERTAIN MOTOR VEHICLE DOCUMENTS IN THE PRESENCE OF A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER, AND TO PROVIDE AN EXCEPTION FOR TRANSFERRING A PISTOL BETWEEN ANY OF THE PROVIDED EXCEPTIONS.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

SECTION 1. Section 16-23-20 of the 1976 Code, as last amended by Act 464 of 1996, is further amended to read:

“Section 16-23-20.(A) It is unlawful for anyone to carry a pistol about one’s ~~the person~~ any pistol, whether concealed or not, except as follows:

(1) regular, salaried law enforcement officers and reserve police officers of a municipality or county of the State, uncompensated Governor’s constables, law enforcement officers of the federal government or other states when they are carrying out official duties while in this State, deputy enforcement officers of the Natural Resources Enforcement Division of the Department of Natural Resources, and retired commissioned law enforcement officers employed as private detectives or private investigators;

(2) members of the Armed Forces of the United States ~~or of~~ the National Guard, organized reserves, or the State Militia when on duty;

(3) members of organizations authorized by law to purchase or receive firearms from the United States or this State; or regularly enrolled members of clubs organized for the purpose of target shooting or collecting modern and antique firearms while these members or their invitees are at or going to or from their places of target practice or their shows and exhibits;

(4) licensed hunters or fishermen while engaged in hunting or fishing or going to or from their places of hunting or fishing;

(5) ~~Any~~ a person regularly engaged in the business of manufacturing, repairing, ~~repossession~~ repossessing, or dealing in firearms, or the agent or representative of this person, while possessing, using, or carrying a pistol in the usual or ordinary course of the business;

(6) guards engaged in protection of property of the United States or any agency ~~thereof~~ of the United States;

(7) ~~Any members of~~ authorized military or civil organizations while parading or ~~the members thereof~~ when going to and from the places of meeting of their respective organizations;

(8) ~~Any a person while in his a home, or upon his real property, or at a fixed place of business: if the person has the permission of the owner, the person in legal possession, or the person in legal control of the home, real property, or fixed place of business;~~

(9) ~~Any a person in a vehicle where if the pistol is secured in a closed glove compartment, closed console, closed container, or closed trunk: or while transferring a pistol between one’s person and a location specified in this item: however, this item is not violated if the glove compartment, console, container, or trunk is opened for the sole purpose of retrieving a driver’s license, registration, or proof of insurance in the presence of a law enforcement officer;~~

(10) ~~Any a person~~ carrying a pistol unloaded and in a secure wrapper from the place of purchase to his home or a fixed place of business or while in the process of ~~the~~ changing or moving ~~of~~ one’s residence or ~~the~~ changing or moving ~~of his one’s~~ fixed place of business;

(11) ~~Any a~~ prison guard while engaged in his official duties;

(12) ~~Any a~~ person who is granted a permit under provision of law by the State Law Enforcement Division to carry a pistol about ~~his one’s~~ person, under conditions set forth in the permit;

(13) a person while transferring a pistol between exceptions listed in items (1) through (12).

(B) ~~Persons~~ A person authorized to carry ~~weapons~~ a pistol pursuant to items (6) ~~and or~~ (12) of ~~this section subsection~~ (A) may exercise this privilege only after acquiring a permit from the State Law Enforcement Division as provided for in Article 4 of Chapter 31 of Title 23.”

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

SEND IN THE POSTCARDS  
TODAY!

## ACTION STEPS TO TAKE NOW!

1. Send the enclosed postcards to *EVERY* Representative and Senator from your county asking them to co-sponsor the GrassRoots gun law reforms.  
First, go to the “GrassRoots GunRights Contact Information Page 9” to find all of South Carolina’s Senators and Representatives listed by county.  
Then, write in the names of the Senators and Representatives from your county on the enclosed postcards (be sure to only write Senator’s names on Senate postcards and Representative’s names on House of Representatives postcards).  
Put your return address on the postcards.  
Sign the postcards.  
Put stamps on the postcards (if you do not have a 23 cent postcard stamp, then use a 37 cent regular stamp because it is important that all the postcards start arriving soon).  
If the postcards are not flat, then put them under a heavy book overnight.  
Mail the postcards.  
If you have any postcards left over, then have friends or neighbors send in the rest.  
If there are not enough postcards, then please buy a few more and send them in, too.
2. Call *EVERY* Senator and Representative from your county.  
Call the Senate switchboard at (803) 212-6700.  
Call the House switchboard at (803) 734-2402.  
Ask for who you want to talk to and your call will be transferred.  
Keep the message simple. Just say, “I support the GrassRoots proposed gun law reforms found in S. 301 (if you are talking with a Senator) and H. 3482 (if you are talking with a Representative). Please co-sponsor this bill. Please do all you can to get these reasonable reforms passed quickly. Thank you.”  
If the politician has any questions, tell them you will have a GrassRoots representative explain the reforms. Then, let someone at GrassRoots know who to talk to and we will get it done.

**Grass Roots  
of South Carolina, Inc.**  
P.O. Box 6383  
Columbia, SC 29260  
Fax: 803-755-1201  
[www.scfirearms.org](http://www.scfirearms.org)

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. Members contact their elected representatives to promote or oppose legislation concerning all gun owners and issues surrounding the Right to Keep and Bear Arms South Carolina.

## Board of Directors, Officers, and Staff

<i>President</i>	<i>Ed Kelleher</i>	<i>803-796-8858</i>	<i>pres@scfirearms.org</i>
<i>Legislative Director &amp; V.P.</i>	<i>Rob Butler, J.D.</i>	<i>803-957-3959</i>	<i>legislativedir@scfirearms.org</i>
<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Tom Burkizer</i>	<i>803-782-9210</i>	<i>kaliburk@worldnet.att.net</i>
<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>Robert Holliday , C.P.A.</i>	<i>803-957-5181</i>	<i>flychamps@aol.com</i>
<i>Merchant Issues Coordinator</i>	<i>John Ponti</i>	<i>803 938 8014</i>	<i>merchants@scfirearms.org</i>
<i>Communications</i>	<i>Sean Stogner</i>	<i>803-796-8858</i>	<i>webmaster@scfirearms.org</i>
<i>Gun Shows</i>	<i>Inst. Terry Hicks</i>	<i>803-513-2902</i>	<i>gunshows@scfirearms.org</i>
<i>Director</i>	<i>Inst. Larry Coble</i>	<i>803-755-3999</i>	<i>lcoble@logicsouth.com</i>
<i>Director</i>	<i>Inst. Patrick Nolan</i>	<i>803-254-9543</i>	<i>pnolan@sc.edu</i>
<i>Director</i>	<i>Inst. Paul Peters, M.P.A.</i>	<i>803-356-1728</i>	<i>papeters@msn.com</i>
<i>Director &amp; Cola. Gun Shows</i>	<i>Inst. Mike Walguarnery</i>	<i>803-781-1360</i>	<i>walgum123@netzero.net</i>
<i>Instructor Program</i>	<i>Inst. Dennis Crocker</i>	<i>864-587-8722</i>	<i>crocker@logicsouth.com</i>
<i>Instructor Program</i>	<i>Inst. Norm Price</i>	<i>803-356-6301</i>	<i>nlpallied@aol.com</i>
<i>Office</i>	<i>Debbie Price</i>	<i>fax 803-755-1201</i>	<i>pricedlp@aol.com</i>
<i>Publisher, The Defender</i>	<i>Charles Campbell</i>	<i>803-926-5406</i>	<i>newspaper@scfirearms.org</i>

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# President's Message

## Welcome back GrassRoots people.

You can see from our headline that we still haven't reached our goal of good citizens carrying arms whenever and whenever they choose.

But, we're making progress, and if all of us in GrassRoots continue to put out the effort, we'll continue to make progress towards our goal. The cost to do this now is minimal - a little bit of your time, a few stamps and a few phone calls. However, if you choose not to spend a little now, the cost will be far, far greater down the road. Not only for you, but for your children as well. You got some postcards in this newspaper to mail to your state senators and representatives. Please take a few minutes to fill them out, mail them and then do the other things listed in our "Action Steps". Do that and we'll make some more progress towards our goal!

This issue of *The Defender* is also our "Carry Gun" issue. Several articles discuss features of concealable firearms you might carry. Future issues will be dedicated to holsters and concealment wear, ammunition, training classes and other topics. Let us know what you'd like to see.

We have a new Webmaster, Sean Stogner, Jr. Sean is an active CWP instructor, with a wife and 4 kids. He's going to school part-time and working full time, but still takes time to work on improving our website and electronic communications. It's real encouraging to me to see busy people like Sean take

time to work for the common good. You can contact Sean at his email address: [webmaster@scfirearms.org](mailto:webmaster@scfirearms.org).

One thing Sean is working on is an E-Newsletter. We already have the GrassRoots E-Alert e-mail list. We send important GrassRoots alerts out to this list. It's a quick and inexpensive way to get the word out to people of important events that need immediate attention. Things like the doubling of CWP fees (a tax on self-defense) and gun control proposals in Horry County are examples of E-Alerts that became big wins for gun owners.

If you're able to receive email, please sign up for this. Just send an email to [Webmaster@scfirearms.org](mailto:Webmaster@scfirearms.org) saying you want to receive E-Alerts. We don't send out many, maybe one a month, but the ones we send are important.

The E-Newsletter will be a weekly email newsletter with things of interest to South Carolina gun owners. We'll send an invitation to join that list out to our E-Alerts list. It'll be strictly "opt-in". We won't add people to it unless they specifically ask to receive it. If you want to receive the E-Newsletter, let us know. GrassRoots takes your privacy very se-

riously. We never, ever, give our mailing list to people outside GrassRoots, and even within GrassRoots only two people have the full database. We tell people that want to reach GrassRoots members that the best thing for them to do is take out an ad in our fine newspaper, *The Defender*.

On the Posted Merchant front, the

good news is that as far as we know, there are *no* merchants in South Carolina that are legally posted against concealed carry. SLED says if signs do not meet the requirements of the law, then they are not legally binding on CWP holders. The bad news is that many merchants still think of

legally armed citizens as being a problem. They still have signs of one sort or another prohibiting concealed weapons. While their signs may not be legally binding on CWP holders, they still show that the merchants consider good citizens with concealed weapons to be the Bad Guys. They still advertise to the criminals (wrongly!) that their businesses are disarmed victim zones. CWP holders should honor those signs and take their business elsewhere.

On the same note, there are still

police officers that routinely disarm good citizens legally carrying a concealed weapon when the citizens present their Concealed Weapon Permit as required by law. These officers don't know we're the Good Guys either. They're concerned with their safety, but where the safety is in taking a gun from its holster eludes me.

We have to convince people that, "We're the Good Guys!" At the Great GrassRoots Gathering we held last October, that was the message we tried to get across. Some people think because we carry a firearm, that we're liable at any moment to haul it out and start shooting. Nothing could be further from the truth. It hasn't happened to any CWP holder in South Carolina, and other states' records are just as good as ours. We have to change this thinking because many of the laws that restrict good citizens from carrying arms derive from that attitude. Change the attitude and we can change the law. That's what GrassRoots is trying to do. GrassRoots is people, working together. Everyone's contribution is needed and is important. Thanks for doing your part!



Ed Kelleher  
President,  
GrassRoots South Carolina, Inc.  
[Pres@SCFirearms.org](mailto:Pres@SCFirearms.org)  
PO Box 6383  
Columbia, SC 29260  
803-796-8858



Ed Kelleher, President of GrassRoots

## South Carolina Legislation Watch: 2003-2004

By Robert D. Butler, J.D.  
GrassRoots VP and Legislative Director

**S. 31:** This bill is known as the Criminal Street Gang Prevention Act. This bill allows for civil asset forfeiture.

The civil asset forfeiture provisions allow the police to keep 75% of everything they seize, the prosecuting attorney gets to keep another 20% of everything seized, and the South Carolina government gets the remaining 5%. The government does not have to convict a person of a crime before seizing and keeping the private property.

In fact, even if a jury finds a person "not guilty" of the crime that the government charged them with, the government can still keep the person's seized property. The government can keep the seized property without even filing any charges or even if the charges are dropped.

When the police and prosecutors get 95% of all seized property, it gives the appearance of impropriety. Then, when people can be found "not guilty," have no charges filed, or have all charges dropped, but still have the gov-

ernment keep all of their seized property, the appearance of impropriety is too great for our tastes.

The potential for abuse is too great. Then, to add insult to injury, if an innocent owner can prove that the seized property was used by someone else without the owners knowledge of misuse, the government still does not have to return the seized property.

This is not the American way of life.

Principles Involved: GrassRoots opposes street gang violence, but not all things done in the name of fighting street gang violence are acceptable. The civil asset forfeiture provisions need to be deleted.

GrassRoots Position: GrassRoots opposes this bill because of the civil asset forfeiture provisions.

Current Status: In the Senate Judiciary Committee

Full Text:  
[http://www.scstatehouse.net/sess115\\_2003-2004/bills/31.htm](http://www.scstatehouse.net/sess115_2003-2004/bills/31.htm)

**S. 172:** This bill will lower the threshold for blood alcohol content (BAC) from 0.10% to 0.08% to allow

an inference of being under the influence. It effects use of motor vehicles, water craft, and firearms.

Principles Involved: GrassRoots opposes negligently putting the lives of others at risk.

GrassRoots Position: GrassRoots does not take a position on this bill because we do not have enough information to do so. Is this change a reasonable change, or only politically correct? Or, is it being done merely to obtain federal tax dollars?

Current Status: In the Senate Judiciary Committee

Full Text:  
[http://www.scstatehouse.net/sess115\\_2003-2004/bills/172.htm](http://www.scstatehouse.net/sess115_2003-2004/bills/172.htm)

**S. 211:** A bill to repeal the one pistol per 30 days law. Principles Involved: Rights should not be rationed.

GrassRoots Position: GrassRoots strongly supports this bill, just as we did last session.

Current Status: In the Senate Judiciary Committee

Full Text:  
[http://www.scstatehouse.net/sess115\\_2003-2004/bills/211.htm](http://www.scstatehouse.net/sess115_2003-2004/bills/211.htm)

**S. 223:** A bill to amend Section 16-23-420 to make it a crime to possess a firearm in prohibited locations, not just to carry a firearm into such prohibited locations.

Principles Involved: Section 16-23-420 should be amended to except concealed weapon permit holders.

GrassRoots Position: The proposed amendments do not effect concealed weapon permit holders. The bill should be amended to except concealed weapon permit holders, but that is not going to happen this session. Therefore, GrassRoots is neutral on this bill.

Current Status: In the Senate Judiciary Committee

Full Text:  
[http://www.scstatehouse.net/sess115\\_2003-2004/bills/223.htm](http://www.scstatehouse.net/sess115_2003-2004/bills/223.htm)

**S. 301:** The GrassRoots Gun-Rights gun law reforms. This bill is a step towards allowing the people of South Carolina to reclaim their right to keep and bear arms. Current law prohibits guests from possessing a pistol on others' private property. This bill would

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# Are You an Ant or a Grasshopper?

By Robert D. Butler, J.D.  
*GrassRoots VP and  
 Legislative Director*

Do you remember the childhood story of the ant and the grasshopper? The ant was hard working and was well prepared for the hard times of winter. The grasshopper was a carefree soul who could not care less about preparing for the future. Then, when the hard times came, the grasshopper was left to the mercies of others. Which are you - an ant or a grasshopper?

As gun owners, we are grasshoppers! We must realize that we are not prepared to fight the battles we know are coming! We must start getting ready before it is too late!

The anti gun bigots have started using a new tactic to destroy the gun culture. The anti gun bigots are suing gun dealers and manufacturers to hold the gun dealers and manufacturers liable for the wrong doing of criminals. The anti gun bigots are suing to close shooting ranges because they do not like the noise coming from the ranges. Although the anti gun bigots would like to win their lawsuits, they really do not care if they win or lose.

Why don't they care if they win or lose? Because they are using the courts to financially punish the gun culture, not to win lawsuits.

The real goal of the anti gun bigots is to raise the costs of doing business in the gun world. The anti gun bigots are using the legal system to increase the insurance and legal expenses of gun

businesses. The gun businesses must then raise prices to pay for those increased legal and insurance costs. So, we pay more for guns, ammo, and gun club memberships. Even worse, shooting ranges could be forced to close and gun manufacturers and dealers could be forced into bankruptcy.

I know of three lawsuits to close shooting ranges in South Carolina. Having guns does not do us much good if we do not have a place to shoot them. So, we must fight to keep our shooting ranges open. But, the legal expenses are overwhelming for most people or gun clubs.

Unfortunately, the GrassRoots Shooting Range Legal Defense Fund (LDF) does not have enough money to protect our shooting ranges. We must start building a war chest to fund the GrassRoots Shooting Range LDF. Then, when the proper case comes up, we can afford to take it to an appeals court to set a statewide precedent. Only an appeals court decision would protect all shooting ranges in South Carolina.

There are battles in the General Assembly every year over gun rights legislation. Taking our gun rights away can be a successful campaign issue to get an anti gun rights bigot elected. But, protecting our gun rights is not a top priority for even "conservative" candidates. We need to change this sad state of affairs. We must get involved in the political process or else we will lose our rights.

Unfortunately, the GunRights PAC does not have enough money to make a difference in South Carolina elections.

We must start building a war chest to fund the GunRights PAC. Then, we can start to punish our enemies and reward our heros. Only then can gun owners expect to get the respect that we deserve from politicians.

There are many horrible gun laws on the books. But, who wants to be the test case to challenge one of these bad laws? So, we suffer under the bad laws because as individuals we can not afford to fight. What we should be doing is filing lawsuits to change the law. We need to band together and help pay the legal expenses of important test cases. Unfortunately, the GrassRoots

Legal Defense Fund does not have enough money to pursue pro gun legal action or fund important test cases. We must start building a war chest to fund the GrassRoots Legal Defense Fund. Then, GrassRoots could go on the offensive to protect our gun rights.

The time to start building our war chests is NOW! You can not buy fire insurance after the fire, or health insurance after you get sick. We must become ants, not grasshoppers. We must get ready for the fights we know are coming.

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basis for their own recommendations. In any case, don't be put off because I start with some basics — it's only a few paragraphs, and they're necessary for clarity.

First, Get the Terminology Straight. A *bullet* is the actual projectile that shoots out of a gun. Bullets are usually made of lead. They may be covered with a thin copper-alloy *jacket* that serves various purposes. *Cartridges* are the individual complete units of ammunition. A single cartridge consists of a *bullet* that is set tightly into one end of a powder-filled metal *case*. Cartridges are what you load into a gun. Handgun cartridges are commonly sold in boxes of 50.

*Caliber*, in everyday usage, refers to a particular cartridge configuration. This configuration consists of bullet diameter, case size, and case shape. Examples are the .38 Special, .44 Magnum, or 9 millimeter Luger. Most rifles are designed to shoot only one particular caliber, but some handguns can shoot cartridges of two or more different calibers.

With this in mind, you should know that *bullets* — the actual projectiles — come in many weights and designs, even for one particular caliber. These different weights and designs allow bullets to be custom-tailored for particular applications, such as target shooting, hunting, self-defense, etc. A well-stocked ammunition dealer will have several bullet options available for each caliber, and all of them can be shot in any gun of that caliber.

Handguns come in two basic types. The first type is the *revolver*, which has a visible rotating cylinder that holds the ammunition. Double-action revolvers — the type we're interested in for self-defense — require a comparatively long, firm trigger pull to fire. A single pull of the trigger rotates the cylinder (putting a fresh cartridge in position) and fires the gun. Revolvers typically hold five or six cartridges.

The second type is the *pistol* (or semi-automatic). Pistols hold ammunition in an internal magazine. Pulling the trigger on a pistol fires the gun. The gun then uses the energy of the "explosion" to automatically load a fresh cartridge in position, ready to fire. Currently available pistols can hold up to eighteen (or more) cartridges.

Finally, a *round* refers to either a complete *cartridge* or to just the *bullet*, depending on the context, which will generally make it clear. Let's get started. Get a revolver.

Why? Because revolvers are rugged, simple to operate, easy to maintain, will function with any commercial version of its proper cartridge, and are forgiving of grime, lack of lubrication, and other neglect. Furthermore, if you pull the trigger on a revolver and it doesn't fire, you can pull the trigger again and bring an entirely new cartridge into firing position. Incidentally, this is exactly why policemen, hunters, campers, and other experienced folks (including myself) frequently carry revolvers. Because revolvers are simple and rugged, a used revolver is fine if it's in good condition.

If you're not going to train regularly, do *not* buy a semi-automatic handgun (a "pistol"), and don't let anyone talk you into getting one. Although there are many excellent and reliable semi-autos available nowadays (Glocks being a prime example; I own several), their comparative mechanical and operational complexity and their potential failure modes are simply not compatible with use by inexperienced or untrained people.

Let me repeat: if you aren't a gun person, or if you don't trust yourself to regularly maintain or train with your gun, you should *not* carry a semi-automatic handgun. Get a revolver.

What features should a revolver that is suited to both home defense and concealed carry have? Read on.

Get a quality, short-barreled, spur-less or concealed-hammer revolver.

Get a name-brand revolver (Smith & Wesson, Colt, Ruger, Taurus, perhaps a couple of others). This is your life you're talking about, so don't be a fool by pinching pennies. The gun you buy can easily continue to function for literally a hundred years or more, so get a good one the first time. I think the best manufacturer of small revolvers is Smith & Wesson, but the others are also very good.

Get a revolver with a barrel *no longer than 2 1/2 inches*, because that size handgun can easily be carried concealed by just about anyone, in any normal concealment manner. If you're a larger person, or have good reasons for buying a particular revolver, the maximum barrel length can be extended to 3 inches.

Don't be concerned about the reduced aiming qualities of a short-barreled handgun in comparison to a long-barreled handgun. This isn't a target gun, it's a self-defense gun, and precision aiming features are not necessary. Why? First, if you're under attack there's little chance that you'll actually aim the gun in the conventional sense. You will instead *point* it at your attacker and pull the trigger. You'll never see the sights — a phenomenon often reported even by trained police officers. Second, if you do pull the trigger on an attacker, the overwhelming probability is that he'll be *at most* seven yards away — and quite likely just a few *feet* away.

Get a revolver that *has no exposed hammer spur*. The hammer spur is the curved metal piece that extends from the back of the gun and is used to cock a revolver for single-action shots. But you should never cock a revolver in that manner for self-defense use because it makes the gun too easy to discharge by accident. Therefore you won't need a hammer spur anyway. Furthermore, and quite important, the hammer spur can catch on clothing at the worst possible moment.

I highly recommend special *lightweight* revolvers, such as those made with titanium or aluminum alloys. Examples are the Smith and Wesson "AirLite" or "Scandium" models and the Taurus "Ultra-Light" and "Total Titanium" models. Why lightweight? Because they are more comfortable to carry if you decide to carry. Five-shot revolvers are usually somewhat smaller and lighter than six-shot revolvers, but both are suitable for our purposes.

What caliber of name-brand, short-barreled, spur-less (or concealed-hammer) revolver should you buy? Read on.

Get a .38 Special or .357 Magnum caliber revolver.

Guns in .38 Special caliber were the standard law enforcement caliber in America for over half a century, and they are still used by many law-enforcement officers and citizens. A .38 Special revolver is not so large that it's hard to carry or shoot, and not so small that it's ineffective at stopping attackers. Furthermore, any place that sells ammunition will sell .38 Special cartridges. In sum, do not buy a gun that shoots a smaller diameter or weaker caliber cartridge than the .38 Special, period.

The .357 magnum caliber is a significantly more powerful version of the .38 Special. The case of a .357 Magnum cartridge is slightly longer but otherwise identical to a .38 Special cartridge case. Because of this fact, you can shoot the shorter .38 Special cartridges in a .357 magnum revolver. The reverse is not true; that is, .357 magnum cartridges are too long to fit into a .38 Special gun.

What this means is that you can load a .357 Magnum revolver with cheaper, milder-recoiling .38 Special cartridges for practice shooting. When you load the .357 Magnum revolver for self-defense, you can use either .38 Special cartridges or high-powered .357 Magnum cartridges.

If the above confuses you, read it again. If that doesn't help, find some-

one who can show you what I'm talking about. If in doubt about any aspect of this, simply get a .38 Special. You'll be well-armed.

A final note: don't concern yourself about recoil of a lightweight .357 Magnum. If you ever have to shoot your gun in dire circumstances, it's likely that you'll only have to do so a couple of times. You'll never feel the recoil. In fact, because of the way the human body works under stress, you may not even hear the gun fire. In any case, if you do get a .357 and decide it kicks too much, you can always load it with .38 Specials.

Speaking of firing the gun — what ammunition should you use? Read on.

Load your revolver with jacketed hollowpoint bullets.

Above, I explained that bullets come in many different designs. One such bullet design is the *hollowpoint*. Hollowpoints are sold in different weights, with and without jackets, but all of them have a cavity in the tip which helps them expand when they hit a human or an animal. This expansion serves two important purposes in a self-defense gun: it causes more energy transfer and more damage to the attacker (which helps to stop him quickly) and it keeps the bullet from passing through the attacker and hitting an innocent person (which has happened many times with other types of bullets).

Jacketed hollowpoints of .357 Magnum or .38 Special caliber are gen-

See *GUIDE* Page 13



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**WATCH** from Page 3

allow private property owners to decide who can possess pistols on their property. Current law prohibits a CWP holder from disarming and leaving his pistol in his vehicle to enter a prohibited carry location. This bill would fix that problem. This bill eliminates many other legislative pitfalls that would entrap law abiding gun owners. Please read all about this bill elsewhere in this newspaper.

**Principles Involved:** Private property owners should have the right to decide who can possess firearms on their private property, not the government. Concealed weapon permit holders should be able to legally disarm to enter prohibited carry locations. Gun laws should be reasonable, fair, and understandable.

**GrassRoots Position:** GrassRoots strongly supports this bill.

**Current Status:** In the Senate Judiciary Committee

**Full Text:**  
[http://www.scstatehouse.net/sess115\\_2003-2004/bills/301.htm](http://www.scstatehouse.net/sess115_2003-2004/bills/301.htm)

**H. 3095:** This bill would make it a felony to commit robbery or attempted robbery while alleging that one was armed, even though not armed.

**Principles Involved:** Robbery is wrong, whether armed or not.

**GrassRoots Position:** GrassRoots supports this bill.

**Current Status:** In the House Judiciary Committee

**Full Text:**  
[http://www.scstatehouse.net/sess115\\_2003-2004/bills/3095.htm](http://www.scstatehouse.net/sess115_2003-2004/bills/3095.htm)

**H. 3130:** This bill would make it a crime to possess a firearm if a person has been convicted of misdemeanor criminal domestic violence. It would also make it a crime to possess a firearm if a person was subject to a protective order.

**Principles Involved:** The right to keep and bear arms and the right to self defense should not be revoked for a misdemeanor or an allegation of fear of possible abuse.

**GrassRoots Position:** GrassRoots opposes this bill.

**Current Status:** In the House Judiciary Committee

**Full Text:**  
[http://www.scstatehouse.net/sess115\\_2003-2004/bills/3130.htm](http://www.scstatehouse.net/sess115_2003-2004/bills/3130.htm)

**H. 3226:** This bill is known as the Criminal Street Gang Prevention Act. This bill allows for civil asset forfeiture. The civil asset forfeiture provisions allow the police to keep 75% of everything they seize, the prosecuting attorney gets to keep another 20% of everything seized, and the South Carolina government gets the remaining 5%.

The government does not have to convict a person of a crime before seizing and keeping the private property. In fact, even if a jury finds a person "not guilty" of the crime that the government charged them with, the government can still keep the person's seized property. The government can keep the seized property without even filing any charges or even if the charges are dropped.

When the police and prosecutors get 95% of all seized property, it gives the appearance of impropriety. Then, when people can be found "not guilty," have no charges filed, or have all charges dropped, but still have the government keep all of their seized property, the appearance of impropriety is too great for our tastes. The potential for abuse is too great. Then, to add insult to injury, if an innocent owner can prove that the seized property was used by someone else without the owners knowledge of misuse, the government still does not have to return the seized property. This is not the American way of life.

**Principles Involved:** GrassRoots members oppose street gang violence, but not all things done in the name of fighting street gang violence are acceptable. The civil asset forfeiture provisions need to be deleted.

**GrassRoots Position:** GrassRoots opposes this bill because of the civil asset forfeiture provisions.

**Current Status:** In the House Judiciary Committee

**Full Text:**  
[http://www.scstatehouse.net/sess115\\_2003-2004/bills/3226.htm](http://www.scstatehouse.net/sess115_2003-2004/bills/3226.htm)

**H. 3230:** The South Carolina Exile Act of 2003. First, this bill is not needed because existing law already allows the government to impose the punishments that this bill seeks to impose if the facts and circumstances of the case show that the punishment is justified. This bill amends existing law by replacing punishments that take into consideration the facts and circumstances of each case with a "one size fits all" mandatory minimum sentence for mere possession of a gun, even if the gun is not used in a crime.

In Colorado, a young woman was convicted of selling drugs and served her time. Selling drugs is classified as a violent crime even if no violence is used. When she got out of prison, she worked as a model for a calendar featuring guns. She was charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm because she held a gun while posing for the calendar. This bill would treat her the same as a gang banger out shooting up the streets and impose a five year mandatory minimum prison sentence because this bill would not allow the facts and circumstances of each case to be considered when setting the sentence.

This bill demonizes guns. This bill would deny a person convicted of mere possession of a firearm the right to earn "any work credits, education credits, good conduct credits, or any other credits that would reduce the mandatory minimum term of imprisonment." Yet, child molesters, child pornographers, and child abusers would be eligible to earn those credits. The horrible lesson this bill teaches is that mere possession of a firearm, even if not used in a crime, is worse than abusing and molesting children or using children in pornography.

**Principles Involved:** We should not demonize guns. If we allow guns to be demonized, then gun owners will be demonized because of guilt by association. Justice demands that the punishment should fit the crime, so the facts and circumstances of each case should be taken into account when setting the punish-

ment.

**GrassRoots Position:** GrassRoots strongly opposes this bill because it demonizes guns, which will then cause gun owners to be demonized because of guilt by association.

**Current Status:** In the House Judiciary Committee

**Full Text:**  
[http://www.scstatehouse.net/sess115\\_2003-2004/bills/3230.htm](http://www.scstatehouse.net/sess115_2003-2004/bills/3230.htm)

**H. 3253:** The Omnibus Domestic Violence Prevention and Protection Act. This bill increases penalties for domestic violence crimes. A violation of any domestic violence crime, including the misdemeanor crime of threatening someone without actually physically harming them, would impose a lifetime firearms disability.

**Principles Involved:** The right to keep and bear arms and the right to self defense should not be revoked for a misdemeanor or an allegation of fear of possible abuse.

**GrassRoots Position:** GrassRoots opposes this bill.

**Current Status:** In the House Judiciary Committee

**Full Text:**  
[http://www.scstatehouse.net/sess115\\_2003-2004/bills/3253.htm](http://www.scstatehouse.net/sess115_2003-2004/bills/3253.htm)

**H. 3313:** This bill would require the registration of all transfers of all firearms both private and from a dealer. It would also impose a firearms ballistic testing requirement on all firearms sold in South Carolina. Ballistic testing of all firearms has proven ineffective and a waste of valuable resources. Requiring useless ineffective testing prior to the transfer of a firearm only adds a financial burden to the transfer. It does not contribute to public safety.

**Principles Involved:** Registering guns and gun owners is wrong. Imposing unreasonable costs is wrong.

**GrassRoots Position:** GrassRoots strongly opposes this bill.

**Current Status:** In the House Judiciary Committee

**Full Text:**  
[http://www.scstatehouse.net/sess115\\_2003-2004/bills/3313.htm](http://www.scstatehouse.net/sess115_2003-2004/bills/3313.htm)

**H. 3324:** A bill to repeal the one pistol per 30 days law.

**Principles Involved:** Rights should not be rationed.

**GrassRoots Position:** GrassRoots strongly supports this bill, just as we did last session.

**Current Status:** In the House Judiciary Committee

**Full Text:**  
[http://www.scstatehouse.net/sess115\\_2003-2004/bills/3324.htm](http://www.scstatehouse.net/sess115_2003-2004/bills/3324.htm)

**H. 3442:** A bill to repeal the one pistol per 30 days law.

**Principles Involved:** Rights should not be rationed.

**GrassRoots Position:** GrassRoots strongly supports this bill, just as we did last session.

**Current Status:** In the House Judiciary Committee

**Full Text:**  
[http://www.scstatehouse.net/sess115\\_2003-2004/bills/3442.htm](http://www.scstatehouse.net/sess115_2003-2004/bills/3442.htm)

**H. 3482:** The GrassRoots GunRights gun law reforms. This bill is a step towards allowing the people of South Carolina to reclaim their right to keep and bear arms. Current law prohibits guests from possessing a pistol on others' private property. This bill would allow private property owners to decide who can possess pistols on their property.

Current law prohibits a CWP holder from disarming and leaving his pistol in his vehicle to enter a prohibited carry location. This bill would fix that problem. This bill eliminates many other legislative pitfalls that would entrap law abiding gun owners. Please read all about this bill elsewhere in this newspaper.

**Principles Involved:** Private property owners should have the right to decide who can possess firearms on their private property, not the government. Concealed weapon permit holders should be able to legally disarm to enter prohibited carry locations. Gun laws should be reasonable, fair, and understandable.

**GrassRoots Position:** GrassRoots strongly supports this bill.

**Current Status:** In the House Judiciary Committee

**Full Text:**  
[http://www.scstatehouse.net/sess115\\_2003-2004/bills/3482.htm](http://www.scstatehouse.net/sess115_2003-2004/bills/3482.htm)

## Doug Forbes, DMD

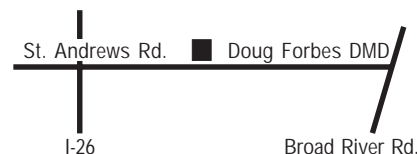
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# Do I need a CWP Badge?

By Richard Stephens

I have seen CWP badges sold at gun shows, advertised in magazines and received third class mail hawking these things. The badges are nearly identical to law enforcement badges except that closer inspection discloses that instead of being embossed with a law agency's name, they state the wearer to be a "CWP Holder". I decided to research the subject to see if a badge would be worth acquiring. In Internet discussion groups focused on the topic of legal concealed weapon carry, the subject of CWP badges seems to pop up regularly and always generates a lively discussion. Web surfing at these sites and others turned up much of the information I sought.

What purpose might such a CWP badge serve? The most compelling reason I encountered for having a CWP badge proposed attaching one on or near one's holster. The reasoning goes that

in the event you accidentally expose your weapon to a bystander's view, the presence of the nearby badge might give the bystander the impression that you are a law enforcement officer and prevent the bystander from becoming frightened and reporting you to police. On the flip side, if you put too much faith in such a "safety

net", you may develop a false sense of security and become more careless than you should about concealing your weapon. There should be no substitute for the conscientious concealment of your weapon.

One person in a [www.glocktalk.com](http://www.glocktalk.com) discussion board for law enforcement officers posed a theoretical question regarding a possible use of a CWP badge after having to fire his weapon in self-defense. "Would not holding up a CWP badge in his hand when police arrived help show he was a good guy and put them at ease?" he asked. Almost all responses from law enforcement officers said what would put them most at ease upon arriving at a shooting scene is seeing your *empty* hands. You wouldn't want an arriving officer mistaking a badge (or anything else) in your hand for a weapon, would you? One officer advised anyone wanting a CWP badge to go ahead and get one, but consign it to the shadow box beside grandfather's watch.

*Some officers in the Glocktalk forum replied that in their states, carrying such a badge is prohibited.*

I found confirmation that this may be the case at <http://www.packing.org/news/article.jsp/2715>. This article stated, "Effective January 3, 2001, according to The Utah Firearm Instructor News-

letter, published by the Utah Bureau of Criminal Identification for certified firearms instructors, Vol. 3, December 2000, Utah will most likely ban the 'wearing of unauthorized badges by permit holders and firearms instructors. Wearing any badge or identification or making any statements that imply affiliation with Federal, State or local government entities will be prohibited' Don't be surprised if other states follow suit." So, a CWP badge could get me in legal trouble in some states. With all the rules, regulations, and laws regarding concealed weapons I already need to abide by, do I need another complication? With the cost of these badges sometimes exceeding \$100, perhaps a better use for that cash would be for me to buy a better concealment holster, cover garments or even ammunition for practice.

There is another related product family, at which I thought I would also look. It is clothing that is labeled with large letters declaring the wearer to be a CWP holder. In all my discussions and

web surfing I have yet to discover a good reason why I should advertise the fact to the general public that I am an armed CWP holder. I have run across some good reasons however NOT to advertise.

One very compelling reason not to advertise I carry is that it might get me killed. If I am ever unfortunate enough to be somewhere mo-

ments before some homicidal criminal starts to commit mayhem, he might just decide to improve his odds of succeeding by shooting me first if I am broadcasting the fact that I am armed.

There is another broader implication to advertising I am armed. A retired Gunny Sargent I met at an anti-gun rights counter-rally in NC explained this to me this way. According to Gunny, "CWP laws do not deter crime because they arm every citizen. CWP laws deter crime because they mean every citizen MIGHT be armed. The uncertainty in a criminal's mind as to who might be armed is the real deterrent to violence against all citizens armed or not and this is the reason crime rates fall when CWP laws are enacted." If every CWP holder publicly displayed his carry status, successfully committing crimes would be safer and easier for the criminals, less like playing Russian roulette. Then the general public would likely not reap the benefits of lower crime rates that they have seen after passage of state CWP laws. Advertising that I am armed makes about as much sense as showing an opponent my hand during a card game.

I wrote to South Carolina Law Enforcement Division's Captain Joseph Dorton asking him whether displaying a CWP badge in itself might constitute

impersonating a police officer in South Carolina and his general opinion about CWP holders wearing CWP badges, hats, shirts or jackets. Captain Dorton was kind enough to send me the following reply and I thank him:

"The CWP laws do not address the issue and it is not a violation of law to wear or display such indicia. However, display of a badge similar in design and appearance to that of a law enforcement officer might operate as one element, when connected with certain speech and actions, to constitute a violation of the law against 'in any way' impersonating a law enforcement officer (Section 16-17-720, S.C. Code). That is a misdemeanor crime with a potential \$500.00 fine or one year imprisonment. The wearer of such a badge must be con-

cerned with the impressions and perceptions of persons who see the badge.

The effect, if any, of the wearing of 'CWP' indicia or labels on articles of clothing is certainly debatable. In my personal opinion, by requiring firearms to be concealed from public view, the legislature intended that armed CWP holders be anonymous to the public. 'Advertising' would seem to violate the spirit, but not the letter, of the law. In my opinion, anything that calls potentially unfavorable notice to the CWP program operates against the best interests of the program."

After weighing all the evidence I found, I decided that rather than to risk becoming complacent about concealing

See **BADGE** Page 12



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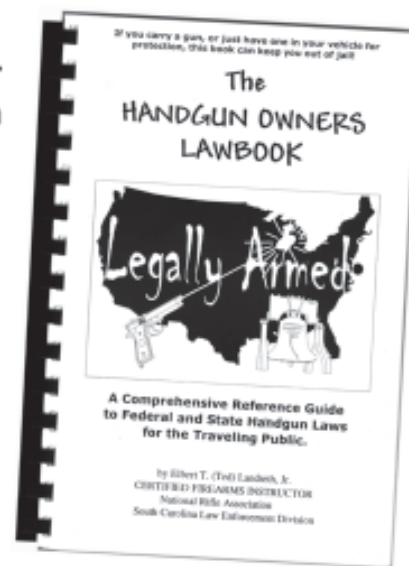
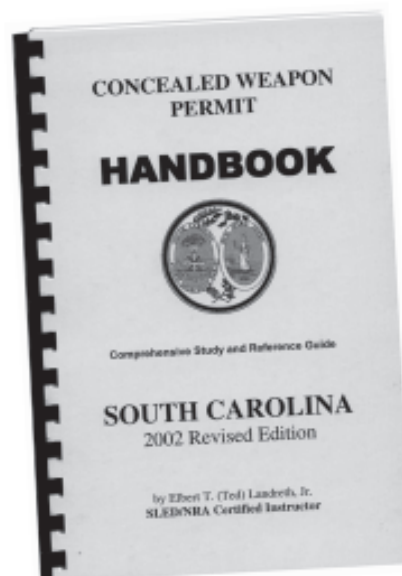
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# A Second Carry Gun

By Ed Kelleher

President, GrassRoots GunRights

Like most things, there are trade-offs involved in choosing a carry gun - one you carry on your person day in and day out. Size and shape, weight, caliber, and what you can afford are important considerations. You should choose the biggest caliber you can effectively carry and shoot. But, you'll have to make some compromises.

For me, for many years, that meant carrying a revolver. Specifically, it meant a 5 round, snub-nose .38 Special with aluminum frame and no exposed hammer. The big advantage was that it was light and I could carry it without a holster. I don't recommend *you* carry without a holster, but it worked for me. I could, and did, carry it everywhere, in all extremes. From mowing the grass in hot, humid South Carolina summers to toting a rifle in the cold, snow and mud of "spring time" in the Colorado Rockies I always had it with me and that was its



Revolver is S&W 442, nickel plated, .38 Special with a Wiggins custom barrel.

big advantage. It wasn't the biggest caliber I could effectively shoot, but it was the biggest gun I could carry ALL the time.

But, still it wasn't a .45ACP. I like to shoot John Browning's big, proven, man stopper. The German's feared and hated it in the hands of Sgt. Alvin York.



Auto is Backup 45 in .45ACP

The Mexicans banned it after their experience with Gen. Black Jack Pershing in his 1917 pursuit of Pancho Villa. In my .38 Special I carried the most effective load, the "FBI" load - 158 grain lead hollow points. First from Corbon and then Federal NyClads after Corbon quit making them. But, the .357" diameter bullets have to expand almost 30% just to get to the .452" the .45ACP starts with.

Another disadvantage to the revolver was reloading. It's tough and not something you should count on for practical purposes. I shot my snubby .38 in some IDPA matches and found this out. By the way, I highly recommend IDPA matches for people who carry a con-

cealed firearm. Revolvers don't have magazines (sometimes called clips but that's wrong) they have cylinders that have to be reloaded. In the old days, with single action cap and ball type revolvers, people used to carry spare cylinders. Today we have "speed loaders". A speed loader is a device that holds 5-6 cartridges in a cylindrical clip. Using a speed loader isn't too bad. Carrying a speed loader in regular everyday wear is.

It's like having a spare cylinder in your pocket - it's lumpy and uncomfortable.

You could carry loose rounds in your pocket, but that's not a good idea for a lot of reasons. One is that it blows the mind of people in the checkout line when you reach into your pocket for some change and start sifting threw the ammo. An alternative to loose ammo and speed loaders is a Bianchi Speed strip. It holds 6 cartridges in a row on a flexible rubber strip. It's flat and stores well in a pocket, but it's still a 1 or 2 cartridge at a time proposition (meaning - it takes a long time) for stuffing rounds in the cylinder of your wheel gun. I often found myself not carrying reloads for the .38, not a good thing either.

Because of these things, I recently decided to put up my trusty revolver and see how carrying an AMT Backup .45ACP worked out. The Backup 45 is a small, all stainless steel, semi-auto chambered in .45ACP. How small is it? Well, it's smaller than my .38 snubby, and about the same size as a Keltec or Kahr 9mm, just a little thicker (.1") in the slide.

S&W 442: 1.3" thick 4.8" tall 7" long 20 oz. loaded. Backup 45: .9" thick 4" tall 6" long 28 oz. loaded

A spare magazine for the Backup 45, has 5 rounds, is flat and carries well in a back hip pocket. Being a semi-auto, I can carry a round in the chamber plus a full magazine giving me a total of 6 available .45ACP rounds, as opposed to 5 in the .38 Special. Best way to do that is to insert a loaded magazine, pull the slide back and let it go forward chambering a round. Remove the magazine and load another round into it. Do this observing Rule #2 (Never point a gun at anything you don't want destroyed) and Rule #3 (Keep your finger off the trigger till your sights are on the target). Do *not* just drop a round in the chamber and drop the slide on it, you'll start getting jams, failure to extract. The Backup 45 has a small slot on the top of the barrel where you can see whether you have a round chambered or not. Like a revolver, there's no manual safety on the Backup 45 - just Rule #3.

I found out right away though that I needed a *holster* for the heavier, all steel .45! Having your gun fall down in-

side your pants and go clunk! on the deck, when standing in front of a room full of people is a disconcerting and awkward experience. Take my word for it.

A lot of the time you just can't wear a jacket or vest in South Carolina without sticking out like a nudist at a nudist camp. With the .38 tucked in my belt, I could pull out a bit of shirt tail to cover it and not have to wear a jacket. I liked carrying my gun behind my hip, where it was covered by my wallet and



The .38 Special on the left is a Federal NyClad 158 grain lead hollow point. The .45ACP cartridge in the middle is a Speer 230 grain jacketed hollowpoint that did NOT feed properly in the Backup 45. On the right is a Hornady .45ACP +P 230 grain jacketed hollowpoint that fed and shot well in the Backup 45.

didn't print. Ankle holsters and things like "Thunderware" weren't something I wanted to try. That meant a holster that goes inside the waist band of my trousers. I got one made of Kydex, a hard, thin plastic. It's impervious to sweat and holds its shape when the gun is withdrawn, so you can easily reholster with 1 hand - with a little practice that is. It

has a J hook, which goes over the top band of your trousers and behind and hooks underneath your belt. It's easy to put on and take off, without having to remove your belt.

Drawback to the J hook is that if the hook misses, the holster comes up with your gun - oops!

Revolvers aren't ammo sensitive. Semi automatics are. Not all ammo may function properly in a semi auto handgun so I went to the range to try out my ammo. Glad I did. The 230 grain Speer Gold Dots I had wouldn't chamber properly. Rounds coming from the magazine would jam, i.e., failure to feed. Not a good thing. I had some Hornady

.45ACP +P 230 grain XTP jacketed hollow-points and they worked fine and shot to point of aim - as best I could tell.

Though made of all stainless steel, the Backup 45 is *not* a surgical instrument. There are no sights, just a trough down the top of the slide. The trigger pull is HEAVY! Like maybe 20 pounds. It's double action only. Just like a revolver, the trigger pull is the same each time, heavy! I'll take that back about the surgical instrument; it did draw blood the first time I shot it - mine. I held it a little low in my hand and the hammer bit me on the first round.

It's a light gun and the recoil is pretty heavy, but because of the heavy main spring, the recoil impulse is stretched out over longer period of time and isn't sharp or too objectionable. I can actually see the slide go back and forth on this gun. It make's a distinct Whaap! Whaap! sound, after the report of the cartridge, more felt than heard, as the slide comes back and hits the slide-stop, ejecting the old round, then slams forward chambering the next one. It's ok to shoot, but definitely not a plinking gun! Twenty rounds is about as much as I like to shoot in one session with it.

So, why did I switch? It's a larger caliber and inherently more effective. It's easier to carry useful reloads. It has another round available. Technically it's smaller, but it is heavier and I have to use a holster with it, so I consider it to be a little *less* concealable than my lightweight .38 snubby, but not much less. With the heavier trigger pull and tendency to bite back, it's harder to shoot than the .38, but I'm practicing drawing and dry firing and satisfied I can quickly hit with it.

It's been a few months. It takes some time to work out the kinks and give a new gun a fair trial. Maybe, I'll go back to my revolver, or maybe I'll go up a bit to a Glock 30 or Kimber Ultra CDP. I don't know, but that's another story.

"Violence is an evil thing, but when the guns are all in the hands of the men without respect for human rights, then men are really in trouble."

-- Louis L'Amour





# GrassRoots GunRights Contact Information Page

Please save the following contact information. You will need it during the legislative session. When writing to a politician, it is customary to use the title “Honorable” when addressing the letter. The switchboard operator will transfer your call to the person you want to speak to, and your fax will be delivered to the person it is addressed to.

## Senators by County

All may be contacted at:

South Carolina Senate  
P.O. Box 142  
Columbia, SC 29202  
(803) 212-6299 fax  
(803) 212-6700 switchboard

**Abbeville:** John W. Drummond, William H. O’Dell  
**Aiken:** Nikki G. Setzler, Thomas L. Moore, W. Greg Ryberg  
**Allendale:** C. Bradley Hutto, Clementa C. Pinckney  
**Anderson:** Robert L. Waldrep Jr., William H. O’Dell  
**Bamberg:** John W. Matthews Jr.  
**Barnwell:** C. Bradley Hutto  
**Beaufort:** Clementa C. Pinckney, Scott H. Richardson  
**Berkeley:** John R. Kuhn, Lawrence K. “Larry” Grooms, William C. Mescher, William S. “Bill” Branton Jr.  
**Calhoun:** Darrell Jackson, John C. Land III  
**Charleston:** Arthur Ravenel Jr., Clementa C. Pinckney, Glenn F. McConnell, John R. Kuhn, Lawrence K. “Larry” Grooms, Robert Ford, William C. Mescher, William S. “Bill” Branton Jr.  
**Cherokee:** Harvey S. Peeler Jr.  
**Chester:** Linda H. Short  
**Chesterfield:** Donald H. Holland, Hugh K. Leatherman Sr.  
**Clarendon:** John C. Land III  
**Colleton:** Clementa C. Pinckney, John W. Matthews Jr., Lawrence K. “Larry” Grooms  
**Darlington:** Gerald Malloy, Hugh K. Leatherman Sr.  
**Dillon:** Dick Elliott, Maggie Wallace Glover  
**Dorchester:** Glenn F. McConnell, John W. Matthews Jr., Lawrence K. “Larry” Grooms, William S. “Bill” Branton Jr.  
**Edgefield:** Thomas L. Moore  
**Fairfield:** Chauncey K. Gregory, Linda H. Short  
**Florence:** Dick Elliott, Gerald Malloy, Hugh K. Leatherman Sr., J. Yancey McGill, John C. Land III, Maggie Wallace Glover  
**Georgetown:** Arthur Ravenel Jr., J. Yancey McGill  
**Greenville:** Daniel B. “Danny” Verdin III, David L. Thomas, J. Verne Smith, Michael L. Fair, Ralph Anderson  
**Greenwood:** John W. Drummond  
**Hampton:** C. Bradley Hutto, Clementa C. Pinckney, John W. Matthews Jr.  
**Horry:** Arthur Ravenel Jr., Dick Elliott, J. Yancey McGill, Luke A. Rankin Sr.

**Jasper:** Clementa C. Pinckney  
**Kershaw:** Donald H. Holland, Warren K. Giese  
**Lancaster:** Chauncey K. Gregory, Donald H. Holland  
**Laurens:** Daniel B. “Danny” Verdin III  
**Lee:** Gerald Malloy, John C. Land III, Phil P. Leventis  
**Lexington:** John M. “Jake” Knotts Jr., Nikki G. Setzler, W. Greg Ryberg  
**Marion:** Dick Elliott, Maggie Wallace Glover  
**Marlboro:** Dick Elliott, Donald H. Holland, Hugh K. Leatherman Sr.  
**McCormick:** Thomas L. Moore  
**Oconee:** Thomas C. Alexander  
**Orangeburg:** C. Bradley Hutto, John W. Matthews Jr.  
**Pickens:** Larry A. Martin, Thomas C. Alexander  
**Richland:** Darrell Jackson, John E. Courson, Kay Patterson, Warren K. Giese  
**Spartanburg:** Glenn G. Reese, James H. “Jim” Ritchie, John D. Hawkins  
**Sumter:** John C. Land III, Phil P. Leventis  
**Union:** Harvey S. Peeler Jr., Linda H. Short  
**Williamsburg:** Dick Elliott, J. Yancey McGill  
**York:** Chauncey K. Gregory, Harvey S. Peeler Jr., Linda H. Short, Robert W. Hayes Jr.

## Representatives by County

All may be contacted at:

South Carolina House of Representatives  
P.O. Box 11867  
Columbia, SC 29211  
(803) 734-2925 fax  
(803) 734-2402 switchboard

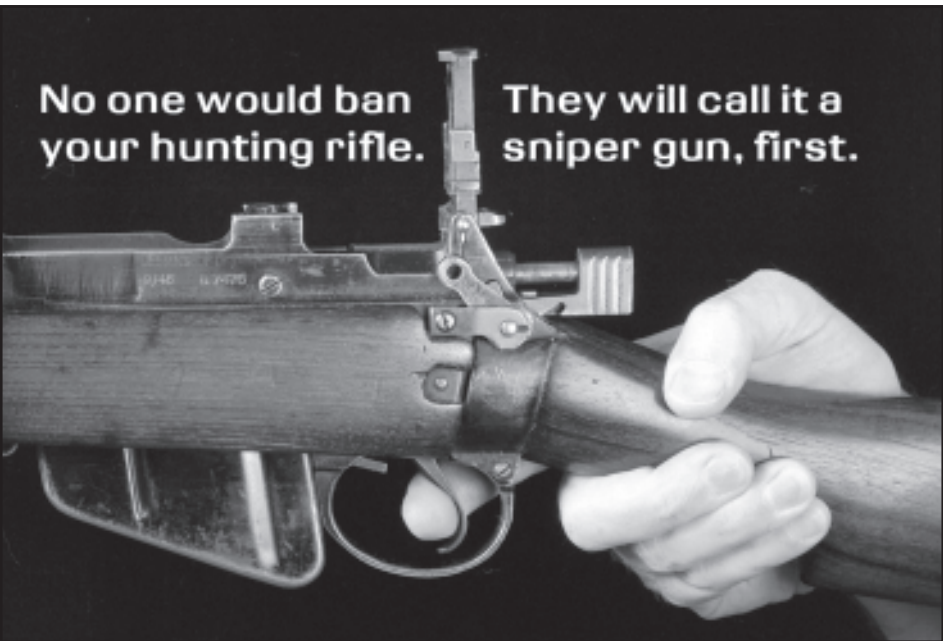
**Abbeville:** Harry C. Stille, Michael A. Pitts, Ronald P. Townsend  
**Aiken:** J. Roland Smith, James E. “Jim” Stewart Jr., Robert S. “Skipper” Perry Jr., Donald C. Smith, Kenneth G. “Ken” Clark, William “Bill” Clyburn  
**Allendale:** Lonnie Hosey  
**Anderson:** Daniel T. Cooper, Harry C. Stille, Michael D. Thompson, Ronald P. Townsend, W. Brian White, Becky Rogers Martin  
**Bamberg:** Thomas N. Rhoad  
**Barnwell:** Lonnie Hosey, Thomas N. Rhoad  
**Beaufort:** Catherine C. Ceips , JoAnne Gilham, William G. “Bill” Herbkersman, Walter P. Lloyd  
**Berkeley:** Amos L. Gourdine, C. David Umphlett Jr., Shirley R. Hinson, James H. Merrill, Thomas M. “Tom” Dantzler  
**Calhoun:** Harry L. Ott Jr.  
**Charleston:** Benjamin A. Hagood, David J. Mack III, Floyd Breeland, Harry B. “Chip” Limehouse III, J. Seth Whipper, James H. Merrill, John Graham Altman III, Thomas M. “Tom” Dantzler, Wallace B. Scarborough, Annette D. Young, Converse A. Chellis III, Robert L. Brown, Robert W. Harrell Jr., Vida

O. Miller  
**Cherokee:** Olin R. Phillips, E. DeWitt McCraw, Lanny F. Littlejohn  
**Chester:** Creighton B. Coleman, E. DeWitt McCraw, F. Gregory “Greg” Delleney Jr.  
**Chesterfield:** Mary Beth Freeman, Denny Woodall Neilson , Douglas Jennings Jr., James H. “Jay” Lucas  
**Clarendon:** C. Alexander Harvin III, G. Murrell Smith Jr.  
**Colleton:** Robert L. Brown, Walter P. Lloyd, William K. Bowers  
**Darlington:** Denny Woodall Neilson, James H. “Jay” Lucas, Jesse E. Hines  
**Dillon:** Jackie E. Hayes  
**Dorchester:** Annette D. Young, Converse A. Chellis III, George Hampton Bailey, Robert W. Harrell Jr.  
**Edgefield:** Donald C. Smith, William “Bill” Clyburn  
**Fairfield:** Creighton B. Coleman  
**Florence:** James G. “Jim” McGee III, Jesse E. Hines, Lester P. Branham Jr., Mack T. Hines, Marty W. Coates  
**Georgetown:** Vida O. Miller , John J. “Bubber” Snow  
**Greenville:** Daniel L. Tripp, David H. Wilkins, Dwight A. Loftis, Fletcher N. Smith Jr., Glenn L. Hamilton, Gloria A. Haskins, Harry F. Cato, Karl B. Allen, Lewis R. Vaughn, Robert W. “Bob” Leach, J. Adam Taylor, Rex F. Rice  
**Greenwood:** Lewis E. “Gene” Pinson, J. Anne Parks, Michael A. Pitts  
**Hampton:** William K. Bowers, R. Thayer Rivers Jr.  
**Horry:** Alan D. Clemmons, Jackie E. Hayes, Liston D. Barfield, Thad T. Viers, Thomas G. Keegan, Tracy R. Edge, William D. Witherspoon  
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**Lancaster:** James H. “Jay” Lucas, James M. “Jimmy” Neal, Eldridge R. Emory  
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**Marion:** James A. “Jim” Battle Jr., Mack T. Hines  
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**Oconee:** Becky Rogers Martin , William R. Whitmire, William E. “Bill” Sandifer III  
**Orangeburg:** Gilda Cobb-Hunter , Harry L. Ott Jr., Jerry N. Govan Jr., Thomas N. Rhoad  
**Pickens:** B. R. Skelton, Phillip D. Owens, Rex F. Rice, Teddy N. Trotter, William E. “Bill” Sandifer III  
**Richland:** Dr. Jimmy C. Bales, J. Todd Rutherford, James E. Smith Jr., James H. Harrison, Joe E. Brown, Joel Lourie, John L. Scott Jr., Leon Howard, Richard M. Quinn Jr., William F. “Bill” Cotty, Joseph H. Neal  
**Saluda:** Marion B. Frye  
**Spartanburg:** Brenda Lee, G. Ralph Davenport Jr., Joseph G. Mahaffey, Lanny F. Littlejohn, Phillip K. “Phil” Sinclair, Robert E. “Bob” Walker, Scott F. Talley, W. Douglas “Doug” Smith, Michael A. Anthony  
**Sumter:** G. Murrell Smith Jr., Grady A. Brown, J. David Weeks, Joseph H. Neal, Marty W. Coates  
**Union:** Michael A. Anthony  
**Williamsburg:** C. Alexander Harvin III, John J. “Bubber” Snow, Kenneth Kennedy  
**York:** Becky D. Richardson , Bessie Moody-Lawrence , E. DeWitt McCraw, Eldridge R. Emory, F. Gregory “Greg” Delleney Jr., Herb Kirsh, J. Gary Simrill  
**Governor Mark Sanford**  
Office of the Governor  
P.O. Box 12267  
Columbia, SC 29211  
803-734-2100  
Fax: 803-734-5167

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sniper gun, first.



# Larry Coble – Great American, Outstanding GrassRoots Member

With the controversial passage of “shall issue” concealed weapons reform in South Carolina in 1996 it became quickly apparent that many parties grossly misunderstood the concept.

There was the usual hysteria professed by the media and gun grabber crowd. Surely, they proclaimed in typical rant, “blood would flow in the streets” and “fender benders would escalate to shoot outs.” And soon, misinformed parties began efforts to post retail merchant locations with a wide variety of signs demanding that legally armed concealed weapon permit (CWP) holders keep out.

This development, if left unfettered, would significantly reduce the value of a CWP to the holder, his or her family and South Carolina’s population,

in general. And, because there were no clear regulations on signage format, legally armed CWP holders, demonstrated as South Carolina’s most law-abiding group, could unknowingly run afoul of the law. Clearly, something had to be done.

Larry Coble recognized the need and responded with passion. In his view, an organized initiative to educate

merchants, law enforcement agencies, politicians, the media and gun owners

themselves was required. But, this organization had to be different than the others; its mission focused not only on CWP issues but, more importantly, on basic rights. And, from Larry’s perspective, himself an NRA Life Member, there was clearly a need in South Carolina for an organization untethered to

any national agenda.

GrassRoots South Carolina began on a shoestring, the effort of a few individuals associated with Mid Carolina Rifle Club. And, in five short years, what started with a few concerned individuals has grown to a 5,000-member strong force of motivated, passionate gun owners. But, from the very beginning the driving force and spirit of GrassRoots was Larry Coble.

From initial concept, to membership drives, to incorporation, to newsletters, to website, to legislative initiatives, to education of retail merchant, to passage of concealed weapon law reform, Larry Coble either played a key role... or did it himself. And, with passage last year of H3010, GrassRoots has legally invalidated the “No CWP” signs of every formerly posted business in South Carolina!

Since passage of H3010, “No CWP” signs must comply with specific parameters as contained in the law or

they have no legal standing. Since passage of H3010 GrassRoots has not received a single confirmed report of a legally posted merchant facility in the state! Thanks to GrassRoots... and thanks to Larry Coble.

Of course, GrassRoots South Carolina has many active members and our strength comes from our large and growing membership. But, when it comes to passion, effort and results no one has matched Larry Coble. There is simply no accounting of the thousands of hours that Larry Coble has devoted to GrassRoots South Carolina initiatives.

Regrettably for the group, shortly after passage of H3010 and the “Great GrassRoots Gathering” in October 2002 Larry advised GrassRoots leaders that he needed to take a break from the intense involvement and catch up with his family and personal life. That is only understandable, because for over five straight years GrassRoots received the laser-like focus of a truly great individual and unwavering freedom fighter. We are all indebted to Larry Coble.

Many thanks, Larry. Many thanks also to those who, through similar hard work and devotion, become fitting recipients of the Larry Coble Activist Award in the future.

*Each issue of The Defender will feature an article on an active GrassRoots member who is directly involved in advancing the cause to take back our Constitutional and God-given rights of firearms ownership and defense of ourselves and those around us. It is fitting that this first installment features founding GrassRoots member, Mr. Larry Coble. This quarterly feature article will be known from here forward as the Larry Coble Activist Award.*



Larry Coble at GrassRoots Conference

## 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, President  
GrassRoots GunRights South Carolina

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

## FIREARMS INSTRUCTION WE OFFER THE FOLLOWING COURSES:

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Shotgun  
Mike Walguarnery & Terry Hicks**

**For Information Call:  
Mike - 803-781-1360**





# 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.

*ATP Gun Shop*  
Helen Bone, 843-824-0779  
516 St. James Avenue  
Goosecreek, SC 29445

*Bullseye Trading Co.*  
Pam or Lowell Dorman, 843-526-0046  
307 S. Nichols St.  
Nichols, SC 29581

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

*Greer Gun and Pawn Shop*  
Mark Roberts  
1457 W. Wade Hampton Blvd.  
Greer, SC 29650

*J&S Gun Depot*  
Sharon Waldrep, 864-859-9065  
404 Sheriff Mill Rd.  
Easley, SC 29642

*JJ's Pawn & Gun Shop*  
Jess Driggers  
1870 S. Live Oak Dr (Hwy 17-A)  
Moncks Corner, SC 29416

*Mike's Gun Shop*  
803-482-7094  
[www.mikesgunshop.com](http://www.mikesgunshop.com)  
435 Gunsite Rd  
Winnsboro, SC 29180

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

*Rooks' Sales*  
Jerry Rooks  
239 N. Main St.  
Bishopville, SC 29010

*The Gun Shop*  
Bob Elam  
2833A S. Live Oak Dr.  
Moncks Corner, SC 29416

*Trader's Gun Shop*  
Larry or Richard, 864-292-6544  
3314 Wade Hampton Blvd  
Taylors, SC 29687

## ANT from Page 4

"Somebody should do something about that" is a refrain we hear often. Well, that "somebody" is you! You can be "somebody" with a donation to the GrassRoots Shooting Range Legal Defense Fund, the GrassRoots Legal Defense Fund, and the GunRights PAC. Contact information for each of these can be found on the GrassRoots GunRights Contact Information Page on this page. Please contribute whatever you can afford. Even if you can not afford a large contribution, many small contributions from lots of people will add up to a significant contribution.

# Gun Shows and GrassRoots

With the support of our members GrassRoots plans to have a table at each of the 22 Gun Shows listed below in 2003. We are also looking into requests from other parts of SC to promote GrassRoots at similar events there. It is our volunteers who make it possible for these good things to happen. Keep checking our website [www.scfirearms.org](http://www.scfirearms.org) and future issues of "The Defender", for announcements and updates.

More and more of our members are giving their time and talents by volunteering to work a shift at our GrassRoots tables at GunShows. Many of these folks find they enjoy the experience and sign up again and again, but there's always room for new members to help. If you would like to volunteer for a shift just contact your area GrassRoots GunShow Organizer (list below), a week or so prior to the show date and ask to help. You will probably be paired with an experienced show worker for one of the half - day shifts, and you can see how you like it.

When you're at one of these shows please tell the promoters "Thank You for giving GrassRoots a Table", so we can promote SC GunRights, and stop by our table to tell the volunteers thanks too.

## South Carolina Gun Shows Scheduled for 2003

Greenville Palmetto Expo Center  
May 17 - 18 Sept. 13 - 14 Dec. 13 - 14

Spartanburg Waccamaw Expo Center  
Apr. 26 - 27 July 19 - 20 Oct. 18 - 19

Columbia Jamil Shrine Temple  
Apr. 05 - 06 Aug. 02 - 03 Nov. 01 - 02

Columbia State Fairgrounds  
June 14 - 15 Dec. 20 - 21

Florence Florence Civic Center  
July 26 - 27 Nov. 22 - 23

Charleston Exchange Park, Ladson  
May 03 - 04 Sept. 20 - 21

### Gun Show Table Organizers:

Greenville/Spartanburg	Don Brady	(864) 269-8957	<a href="mailto:majorfool1@juno.com">majorfool1@juno.com</a>
Charleston	John Borkowski III	(843) 849-7995	<a href="mailto:john@jcb3.com">john@jcb3.com</a>
Florence	Mike Walguarnery	(803) 781-1360	<a href="mailto:walgum123@netzero.net">walgum123@netzero.net</a>
Columbia	Mike Walguarnery	(803) 781-1360	<a href="mailto:walgum123@netzero.net">walgum123@netzero.net</a>
Gun Show Director	Terry Hicks	(803) 513-2902	<a href="mailto:gunshows@scfirearms.org">gunshows@scfirearms.org</a>



## To Make Donations to Any of the Following, Please Mail a Check to:

**GrassRoots**  
P.O. Box 6383  
Columbia, SC 29260

**GrassRoots Shooting Range  
Legal Defense Fund**  
P.O. Box 6383  
Columbia, SC 29260

**GrassRoots Legal Defense Fund**  
P.O. Box 6383  
Columbia, SC 29260

**GunRights PAC**  
220 Isobel Court  
Lexington, SC 29072

# Great GrassRoots Gathering DVD disk or VHS Tape Are Still Available!

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**





# Are you on a “LIST”?

By Gary J. Atkinson

Working several gun shows for GrassRoots GunRights I’ve had an amazing number of people tell me they didn’t want to apply for a CWP (Concealed Weapon Permit), or join us, because then they’d be on a “LIST” and, presumably, be targets when the confiscation started.

My response has always been the same. Do you subscribe to Guns & Ammo, Shooting Times or whatever? I notice you’re wearing a NRA hat with the Life Member scrambled eggs. Got

a hunting license? Hey, Mr. Rocket Scientist, you’re on the “LIST!” “They” already know who you are (if they want to)!!! Best way to keep them from coming for you then is to stand up and be counted and fight now! Don’t be a worm trying to hide in the dirt! It feels great.

A couple years ago I was offered an executive position with a world renowned multi-national corporation. I had the job, no doubt, but one last question before accepting. “Is the company anti-gun and if so I decline?” It was the job I always wanted so a lot was at stake. I got the answer I needed and an invitation to join the chairman of the board in

Europe for a hunting trip. I checked out his position personally as we discussed his early days as president of the Swedish arms maker, Husqvarna. Subsequently, executives and stakeholders of the company have applauded my position with the Web story and my stance against State Farm. It feels great.

So, yeah, I’m on the “LIST.” John Hancock didn’t have a Web site. He just signed his name LARGE so the King didn’t have to put on his glasses to read his name. He was on the “LIST.” So, go ahead bubba, choose to keep quiet and sneak around. It’s your choice. The rest of us will do the heavy lifting. It feels great!

## FELON from Page 1

vehicle and an indoor shooting range. Current law needs to be amended to allow such.

Current law could be used to kill our gun rights culture. Most people learn about firearms from friends and family. If it is illegal for a private property owner or member of a gun club to invite friends and family to shoot, then private property owners and gun clubs will stop introducing new shooters to the shooting sports and guns. Grandfathers will stop teaching their grandchildren to shoot. Gun owners will stop teaching their neighbors to shoot. This would threaten the future of our gun rights.

Current law could be used to kill most pistol shooting sports. Gun clubs and shooting ranges rely upon non members to swell the ranks of competitors at shooting matches. If only members could participate, then the matches would die out. This would threaten the future of our gun rights.

Current law could be used to shut down those shooting ranges that refused to prohibit non members from shooting at their shooting ranges. All an enterprising anti gun bigot would have to do is file complaints about illegal shooting activities occurring at the shooting range.

Then, the investigating police officer would find violations of both Section 16-23-20 and Section 16-17-410. An anti gun prosecutor could then close the shooting range as a public nuisance because of the illegal shooting activities. This would threaten the future of our gun rights.

### The time to change is now!

GrassRoots believes that private property owners and gun clubs should have the right to decide who is allowed to possess or safely discharge pistols on their private property or gun club. Current law needs to be amended to allow people to legally shoot pistols on the private property of others, e.g., at an indoor shooting range or on Uncle Joe’s shooting range out in the country. The amendments should also allow a person in legal possession or control of private property to grant permission to possess a pistol on the private property for self-defense reasons.

With so many people wanting “zero tolerance” enforcement of our gun laws today, it is crucial that our gun laws be reasonable. GrassRoots has written reasonable amendments to the current law to fix the problems identified above.

These GrassRoots proposed gun law reforms are common sense reforms. These reforms only amend existing law

to turn the law into what most people thought the law already was. Only extremist, anti gun rights bigots could oppose these reasonable reforms.

Senator Danny Verdin is the primary sponsor of S. 301 and Representative Kenny Bingham is the primary sponsor of H. 3482. These bills are the GrassRoots proposed gun law reforms to fix the problems listed above. The full text of these bills can be found on page 2.

We can not afford to wait until these horribly wrong laws start getting enforced with zero tolerance. We must change the laws now. The very future of our gun culture could hang in the balance.

Just as we worked as one to get the GrassRoots CWP and gun law reforms passed last legislative session, we must work as one again. Every time we work as one and win, we set the stage for winning again in the future. Winning this time will make getting carry into nice restaurants easier to win, too.

It is now time for *YOU* to put the pressure on *YOUR* elected representatives. It is now time for you and me to show our support for Senator Verdin and Representative Bingham.

We must recruit co-sponsors for the GrassRoots gun law reforms in S. 301 and H. 3482. With more co-sponsors, we have a better chance of getting the GrassRoots reforms passed quickly.

So, do your part and follow the “Action Steps” listed below. If you do, we will pass the GrassRoots reasonable reforms to the poorly written South Carolina gun laws. A single voice can be ignored, but many voices form a chorus that can not be ignored.

It is extremely important that you follow the action steps and send in the postcards. Politicians often don’t read the mail they get, they weigh it! Do not spend time trying to write a thoughtful letter, it will likely be ignored. Instead, send the cards, make the calls. The most important thing is that the politicians see, and hear, that we are speaking with one voice and that we are organized.

### 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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## BADGE from Page 7

my weapon, I would pass on buying a CWP badge.

This decision also helps keeps me legal when I visit other states. Instead I will concentrate on keeping my firearm well concealed. Neither will I be wearing any CWP shirts, hats or jackets, because

I prefer to remain just another face in the crowd; helping keep the criminal element guessing who is armed and in the process helping make South Carolina a safer place for all good citizens.

## 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](mailto:Pres@scfirearms.org)





**GUIDE** from Page 5

erally heavy enough, strong enough, and fast enough to penetrate leather, thick clothing, minor obstacles, or a substantial layer of body fat and still do their job. They may even penetrate or break bones. If reading this makes you squeamish, then you're normal. But if you are being attacked by someone trying to strangle you, slash you, or shoot you, you won't be thinking about any of this. You'll simply want to stop him, right now. For the given reasons, when you load your gun for self-defense use, load it with jacketed hollowpoints.

A note: the bullet weight printed on an ammunition box has nothing to do with whether the bullets are hollowpoints, jacketed, unjacketed, solid, or whatever. The printed bullet weight is the total bullet weight, period.

Which particular hollowpoints should you use? Read on.

Use only name-brand self-defense ammunition.

This is another area where it's stupid to pinch pennies. Again, it's your *life* we're talking about. Don't use cheap commercial ammunition or reloads. They may have low-performance bullets, light target-shooting powder charges, or sub-standard cases or primers that could cause misfires or other problems.

Don't use your neighbor's special extra-deadly self-defense handload. First, hand-loading by fallible humans means you might have split cases, loose crimps, high powder charges, low powder charges, zero powder charges, loose primers, or oil-contaminated primers — any one of which could spell disaster in a moment of crisis.

Bottom line: get name-brand jacketed hollowpoint ammunition designed for self-defense, such as Federal Hydra-Shok, Remington Golden Saber, Speer Gold Dot, or Winchester Silvertip. That way there's a virtually 100% chance that when you pull the trigger, the gun will fire and the bullet will perform correctly.

*Note:* if you want to practice shooting with cheaper ammunition, that's fine, but it's best to use the same weight bullet as the ones you will use for self-defense. That way the recoil and target impact point will be the same. This is not absolutely essential, but recommended.

Taking care of your gun.

Revolvers are pretty easy to maintain. Keep them dry and lightly oiled on the exterior. Keep them out of dirt and lint, and learn to clean them properly after shooting by asking someone you trust how to do it. This could include your gun dealer.

One thing, however: DO NOT put a lot of oil on your gun, especially in or around the chambers (the holes where the cartridges go). The oil can seep into the cartridge primers and make them fail to discharge.

I advise against shooting unjacketed ("lead") bullets in your gun, even for practice, because (depending on the particular gun or which cartridges you buy) you may have to work to get lead deposits out of the barrel. I'm afraid you just won't do that. Fortunately, inexpensive jacketed .38 Special car-

tridges suitable for practice shooting are easy to find.

How do I carry my gun?

This section is a bit long because *how* you carry a self-defense gun is generally more important than the kind of gun you carry. In most self-defense situations, if you can't access your gun cleanly and instantly, you may as well not have it.

Keep in mind that, depending on the situation, you may use *all* of the carry methods below. I do.

**Holsters — The Best Method**

In terms of quick, easy access, waist holsters are generally the best way to carry a handgun. I don't recommend shoulder holsters because they are harder to put on, harder to conceal, harder on the gun due to moisture and salt from the armpits, and are often less comfortable when compared to waist holsters.

Waist holsters come in two main types: inside-the-pants (which provide better concealment) or outside-the-pants (which are more comfortable but require a longer outer garment for concealment).

Inside-the-pants holsters fit inside the pants waistband, against your body. They are attached by loops through which your belt passes, or by a clip that grips your pants waistband and/or belt.

Outside-the-pants holsters fit completely outside your pants. They are attached by means of loops or slots through which your belt passes, or by a "paddle" system.

Paddle holsters have a largish curved plate (the paddle), usually made of plastic, and a clip that grips your belt. The advantage of these holsters is that they can be slipped on and off without undoing your belt or pants, and the paddle keeps the holster properly positioned. Current versions generally are comfortable and work well.

Holsters often come with a strap that passes over the top of the gun. The straps (which are called retention straps, security straps, safety straps, thumb breaks or thumb snaps) are fine for law enforcement carry, hunter carry, and military carry — that is, when used by people who are well trained in disengaging the strap, or who generally know in advance when they must draw their gun.

However, for most folks carrying a concealed gun, a retention strap will hinder rapidly drawing the gun. So whether you buy an inside- or outside-the-pants holster for self-defense carry (either is fine) you should definitely get a holster designed to hold the gun securely in place *without a retention strap*. These holsters work by being closely molded to the shape of the gun, or by having an interior projection or squeezing device to hold the gun. They are called strapless or open-top holsters. That's what you want.

**Fanny Packs**

Many people carry their guns in fanny (waist) packs. This can be a good method, especially for motorcycle or bike riders or hikers, but only if the gun can be quickly accessed from the fanny pack. (By the way, a gun in a *back* pack is very hard to get to quickly, and backpacks are often easy to steal. Do not carry your gun in a backpack unless you have absolutely no other choice.)

A warning: if you live where politicians believe you have no right to de-

fend your life with a firearm, be aware that police officers will automatically assume that *large* fanny packs, especially *black* ones, especially if carried by a *man*, have a gun inside.

**Pockets**

For both men and women, depending on the weather and situation, a gun can be carried in a coat or jacket pocket. Make sure the pocket is empty of dirt and other objects, and make sure that the gun can't fall out under normal movement. Also make sure that the gun isn't obvious to people standing nearby — which usually rules out the front pockets of light pants and the back pockets of almost all pants.

**Purses**

It is probably impossible to prevent women from carrying guns in their purses. This is unfortunate because for many reasons purses are generally a bad place to carry a gun.

First, purses are the targets of thieves. If your purse is stolen, you'll lose your expensive gun and it'll likely end up on the black market in the hands of some criminal.

Second, unattended kids get into purses (though they should be taught NOT to — see section below about kids).

Third, purses are filled with other objects that impede quick access to your gun. If you need your gun, you're going to need it quickly, and you won't have time to paw through notebooks, cell phones, compacts, etc. to find it. Nor may you have time to unzip that little side pocket to get it. You'll need it *right now*.

Fourth, purses are full of tiny objects like pins, coins, lost beads, lint, and other debris that can work their way into a gun and keep it from functioning. A gun that doesn't function is just a piece of metal.

Nevertheless, women's clothing styles often dictate that a purse is the only realistic place remaining for women to carry a gun. So if you're going to do this, *get a purse designed to carry a gun!* You can find one through an internet search, by asking gun dealers, or by buying gun magazines and reading the ads.

**Barami Grips**

For men or women, I also recommend buying and installing a set of Barami Hip-Grips if they're available for your model. Hip-Grips are similar

See **GUIDE** Page 15



## Where's Your GrassRoots Lapel Pin?

Don't have one? 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.

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LAW ABIDING CITIZENS SELF-DEFENSE ACT OF 1996, AS AMENDED (2002)

Premises of private or public school, college, university, technical college, other post-secondary institution [without express permission of person in charge of premises] [Section 16-23-420]  
[Felony - \$5000 and/or 5 years imprisonment]

Inside publicly-owned buildings of any kind, except at Interstate highway rest areas [Section 16-23-420]  
[Felony - \$5000 and/or 5 years imprisonment]

Inside an establishment licensed for on-premises consumption of alcohol [Section 16-23-465]  
[Misdemeanor - \$2000 and/or 3 years imprisonment]

Premises of a private residence without permission [Section 23-31-225]  
[Misdemeanor - \$1000 and/or 1 year imprisonment]

Any place where carrying is prohibited by proper sign [Sections 23-31-220; 16-11-620] [“Proper sign” defined: 23-31-235 (B)]  
[Misdemeanor - \$200 or 30 days imprisonment]

A CWP does not authorize carrying a firearm in the following places [Section 23-31-215 (M)]  
[Misdemeanor - \$1000 and/or 1 year imprisonment & revocation of CWP for 5 years]

- Into a law enforcement office or facility
- Into a detention or correctional facility
- Into a courthouse or courtroom
- Into a polling place on election day
- Into an office or business meeting of governing body of a county, public school district, municipality, or special purpose district
- Into a school or college athletic event not related to firearms
- Into a day care or pre-school facility
- Into a place where carrying of firearms is prohibited by federal law
- Into a church or other established religious sanctuary except with express permission of the appropriate church official or church governing body
- Into a hospital, medical clinic, doctor’s office, any facility where medical services or procedures performed except with express permission of employer

SLED 6/12/2002



Racist Gun Bans in the US

**1870 Tennessee**  
First “Saturday Night Special” economic handgun ban passed. In the first legislative session in which they gained control, white supremacists passed “An Act to Preserve the Peace and Prevent Homicide,” which banned the sale of all handguns except the expensive “Army and Navy model handgun” which whites already owned or could afford to buy, and blacks could not. (“Gun Control: White Man’s Law,” William R. Tonso, Reason, December 1985) Upheld in *Andrews v. State*, 50 Tenn. (3 Heisk.) 165, 172 (1871) (GMU CR LJ, p. 74)

“The cheap revolvers of the late 19th and early 20th centuries were referred to as ‘Suicide Specials,’ the ‘Saturday Night Special’ label not becoming widespread until reformers and politicians took up the gun control cause during the 1960s. The source of this recent concern about cheap revolvers, as their new label suggest, has much in common with the concerns of the gun-law initiators of the post-Civil War South. As B. Bruce-Briggs has written in the Public Interest, ‘It is difficult to escape the conclusion that the ‘Saturday Night Special’ is emphasized because it is cheap and being sold to a particular class of people. The name is sufficient evidence — the reference is to ‘niggertown Saturday night.’” (“Gun Control: White Man’s Law,” William R. Tonso, Reason, December 1985)

Tenn. 173, 174 (1881). (GMU CR LJ, p. 74)

**1882 Arkansas**  
Third “Saturday Night Special” economic handgun ban passed. Arkansas followed Tennessee’s lead by enacting a virtually identical “Saturday Night Special” law banning the sale of any pistols other than expensive “army or navy” model revolvers, which most whites had or could afford, thereby disarming blacks. Statute was upheld in *Dabbs v. State*, 39 Ark. 353 (1882) (GMU CR LJ, p. 74)

**1893 Alabama**  
First all-gun economic ban passed. Alabama placed “‘extremely heavy business and/or transactional taxes’” on the sale of handguns in an attempt “to put handguns out of the reach of blacks and poor whites.” (“Gun Control: White Man’s Law,” William R. Tonso, Reason, December 1985)

**1902 South Carolina**  
Banned the sale of handguns to all but “sheriffs and their special deputies— i.e., company goons and the KKK.” (“Gun Control: White Man’s Law,” William R. Tonso, Reason, December 1985)

**1907 Texas**  
Fourth “Saturday Night Special” economic handgun ban. Placed “‘extremely heavy business and/or transactional taxes’” on the sale of handguns in an attempt “to put handguns out of the reach of blacks and poor whites.” (“Gun Control: White Man’s Law,” William R. Tonso, Reason, December 1985)

**1879 Tennessee**  
Second “Saturday Night Special” economic handgun ban passed. Tennessee revamped its economic handgun ban nine years later, passing “An Act to Prevent the Sale of Pistols,” which was upheld in *State v. Burgoyne*, 75

- make more ammo, more profitably B) Pay more lobbyists to fight bad legislation, C) More profit encourages investors to invest more money.
- 4) Gun manufacturers and other gun industries are encouraged to say, “Let’s have a national Buy-A-Gun Day!”.
- 5) Retailers notice increase in firearms related sales, encouraged to stay in business.
- 6) People likely to go out and shoot more, rather than leave ammo on shelf.
- 7) If gun grabbers try and penalize ammo sales, it will galvanize many more gun owners (and non-gunowners) into action, we’ll beat the snot out of them

National Ammo Day November 16, 2002

A gun rights supporter had an idea, If all gun owners in the country on 1 day bought 100 rounds of ammo, that would be like 1,000,000,000 rounds of ammo and it would be a “good thing”. So, he started promoting his idea and did pretty well with it.

GrassRoots wants to support and encourage others fighting for our rights - there’s not enough of us out there. So, we helped spread the word about the event. Frankly, I don’t know how much good the effort did, or if the person promoting it did the best he could, but it didn’t take much for us to support his effort, so we did. We received the following email questioning our support. The reply should help you understand GrassRoots a little better.

At 10:53 AM 11/15/2002 -0500, you wrote:

I also noticed that GrassRoots is promoting “National Ammo Day”. I’ve expressed concerns that if we all go out

and collectively buy over a billion rounds in a day, this could just scare the hell out of the anti-gun types and promote more legislation. As I said on packing.org, its bad enough I have to wait 30 days between pistol purchases. I sure don’t need somebody trying to limit how much ammo I can buy. Are you guys sure this is a good idea?

Our reply: Good idea? Let’s see.

**Long Answer:**

**Gains:**

1) Gunowners are united in something and demonstrate that to all who care to see. Deception may be the art of war, but better in this case I believe to show waffling gun owners they can be part of winning team at the risk of letting our enemy know our strength.

2) A billion more rounds are in the hands of the good guys than otherwise might have been. Plus, it’ll likely be odd ball calibers that don’t ordinarily sell as well, so more guns will have ammo for them.

3) Ammo producers make more money to: A)Expand capital plant to

and gain even more political power. Political power is gained by FIGHTING! It’s nice to have something so clear cut to fight for. It’s good to pick a fight we can win, especially when it doesn’t seem we’re picking a fight! If the gun grabbers might try some anti-ammo legislation, that’s a GOOD reason for the National Ammo Day, not a bad reason.

**Possible loss:**

1) Maybe the gun grabbers will try and put limit on ammo sales. Of course they want to do that anyway and nothing is stopping them in the first place.

See AMMO Page 15



**GUIDE** from Page 13

to regular grips, and don't prevent you from carrying your gun in a regular holster. But they also have an integral lip that will catch on your belt or waistband, allowing you to simply stick your gun inside your pants waistband, leaving the grip still projecting and easy to grab. This means, for example, that if you want to walk to the corner convenience store, or need to make a nighttime walk to your car or a motel ice machine, you can poke your gun in your pants, pull your shirt over it, and go — nothing else to mess with.

These grips have other characteristics making them good for concealed carry. They are smooth and won't catch on clothing; they're black and therefore unobtrusive, color-wise; and they're small and make a minimal bulge, even under lightweight shirts. For women, this latter quality makes them fit smaller hands.

You'll have to search around for Barami grips. Try your local gun dealer, Shotgun News at your newsstand, or get them directly from Barami ([www.baramihipgrip.com](http://www.baramihipgrip.com)) or from Ajax Grips ([www.ajaxgrips.com](http://www.ajaxgrips.com)).

When should I carry my gun?

First, remember that the gun I have recommended is perfectly suitable for a home defense gun as well as a carry gun. You may or may not wish to carry it.

In some states, politicians (almost always Democrats) believe that only the lives of "special people" — usually the

politicians themselves, friends of these politicians, celebrities, or people who carry money/valuables — are worth defending with guns. They have issued unconstitutional edicts making it a crime for their constituents (people like you and me) to carry guns to defend against vicious criminals (who carry any gun they want, any time they want). Yet almost all of these politicians are protected by armed guards at work and at home, usually 24 hours a day — just like COA says in its national pro-gun radio and print ads ([www.citizensofamerica.org](http://www.citizensofamerica.org)).

I say to hell with them and their edicts. These politicians are immoral, unethical, hypocritical, elitist, and control-obsessed. They clearly don't care about your life, or the lives of your family members. I would describe them as evil. No politician will ever prevent me from carrying a gun to protect myself, my family, or my neighbor with a gun. I carry a gun whenever I feel the need to do so, which is frequently.

You must decide if and when you carry a gun. You may decide, as many people have, that you should carry it every day. The bottom line: It's your life (and/or your spouse/children's lives). You have the right to defend these lives. And you have the right — not just morally, but Constitutionally — to carry the most effective and convenient tool to effect this defense — a handgun.

A final thought on this subject: simply *owning a gun* will not protect you from violent criminals; you must *have the gun with you* when they attack.

**What about my children?**

It is better to gun-proof (educate)

your children than try to child-proof your guns. This means teaching your children what a gun is, what it can do, and that they should never touch it without your permission.

From personal experience, empirical historical evidence, and overwhelming anecdotal evidence, it seems far better to go a step further and *familiarize* kids with guns. That is, let them look at and hold your unloaded gun. This satisfies their natural curiosity and indicates on a fundamental level that you trust them — and most kids will try not to abuse such adult trust.

Even better, let your child watch you shoot a cantaloupe, honeydew melon, or watermelon so that they can experience the noise and damage a gun can do. When they are mature enough (probably around eight years of age for most kids) teach them how to load and shoot the gun.

DO NOT trust "secret" hiding places or trigger locks, especially with older children. Such "secrets" tend to be uncovered when you aren't around, and many trigger locks can be taken off or otherwise defeated with a little effort. Even gun safes can be left open by accident, or your children may find the safe's keys or combination and open it.

Again, *educate* your kids rather than attempt to outsmart them. If you do this, a lapse of safety on your part need not lead to tragedy.

**Final Notes**

· If you absolutely can't afford a gun precisely like the one I recommend, get one as close to it as possible. In this

article the desirable qualities of a reliable, simple, effective, easily-carried self-defense handgun have been arranged in order of importance, topmost (revolver) being the most important.

· Shoot at least twenty-five rounds (half a regular box) from your gun every six months. It keeps you familiar with its operation and your own abilities.

· Put fresh (but not necessarily brand new) cartridges in your gun every six months.

· Take basic gun safety and shooting lessons. There are NRA instructors in just about every city, and many shooting ranges offer lessons, or can put you in contact with instructors. This is the smart and responsible thing to do, so do it.

· Learn about the laws regarding self-defense. An excellent and very readable book on this subject is *In the Gravest Extreme*, by Massad Ayoob. Find it at your local gunshop, or try Amazon.com or other online booksellers. This is the smart and responsible thing to do, so do it.

· Work to elect politicians who trust you to carry a gun and believe your life is worth as much as their own.

*Brian Puckett is a hunter, hiker, and big-city dweller. He has written for numerous gun magazines such as Guns & Ammo, Handguns, American Handgunner, Combat Handguns, and SWAT. He currently serves as president of Citizens Of America ([www.citizensofamerica.org](http://www.citizensofamerica.org)), which runs a national pro-gun rights advertising campaign.*

**AMMO** from Page 14

But, if we bend over and say, "Please sir may I have another!" this pusillanimous attitude will likely just ENCOURAGE the activity you're trying to avoid.

NOT buying ammo is like the NRA "reasoning" for Project Exile, "We'll do it to our self first so you (gun grabbers) won't have to!" Not very good reasoning, IMO.

My intent is not to offend the one who asked this question. It's good to question what we do, with the view of making sure we're doing our best. I hope this was their intent. I don't want

to discourage questions. My intent in writing this reply is to make sure we ALL understand WHY a National Ammo Day is a good idea.

**Short Answer:**

Yes! It's GOOD day to buy!

Regards,

Ed Kelleher, President  
GrassRoots GunRights South Carolina Inc.  
1730 Augusta Road  
West Columbia, South Carolina 29169  
USA  
803-796-8858 (Voice, Message and Fax) - [www.scfirearms.org](http://www.scfirearms.org)

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From the Internet:

“Unintended consequences?”  
From A LEO friend in Baltimore.

Drug dealers here have now realized that police in my city (Baltimore) have begun to enter cartridge cases found at the scene of our (daily) murders here into a state database for comparison. Of course, the effectiveness of this “database” is highly dubious, but the drug dealer’s universal response has nonetheless been to abandon auto load-

ing pistols and instead carry and use revolvers exclusively, so they don’t leave cartridge cases at the scene.

The PD, most of whose members don’t even remember the “revolver days,” has thus had to re-familiarize itself with S&W, Colt, and Ruger revolvers.”  
Lesson: No matter what laws are



passed, criminals will quickly develop ways to work around them, in most cases, with scant inconvenience. Restrictive gun laws thus have no effect on crime, but do have the effect of discouraging gun ownership among non-criminal citizens, which is, of course, their only real purpose.



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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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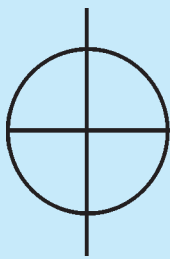
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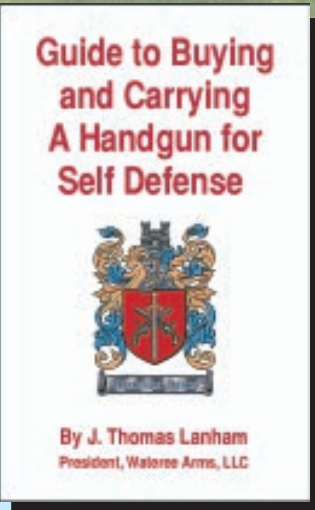
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