

CLINTON GUN BAN MUST SUNSET

Semi-Automatic Rifle and Magazine Ban: *Past, Present, and Future*

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

In 1994, Congress passed the “assault weapon” and magazine ban as part of a “crime” bill. But, the so called “assault weapons” that were banned are not assault weapons at all. They are semiautomatic rifles that are no different than many of the common hunting rifles used today, they just look like military weapons. Thus, the ban is really a civilian semi auto ban, not a military assault weapon ban.

The gun grabbers argued a semi auto ban would lower crime rates, even though there was no evidence to support such a claim. The gun grabbers argued that ten years were needed to prove semiautomatic rifles caused crime. In order to get enough votes to pass this gun control bill, the gun grabbers were forced to agree to let the antigun sections expire (AKA sunset) in 2004, and even then it only passed by two votes in the House. *Therefore, if the Republican Congress does nothing at all, the Clinton gun ban disappears in 2004.*

There was no evidence to support the anti gun claims of the gun grabbers in 1994. There has been no new evidence produced during the last ten years to support the claims made by the gun grabbers that semiautomatic rifles cause crime. Therefore, Congress should just let this unconstitutional anti gun law expire as we were promised in 1994.

Gun owners must learn to “Remember in November.”

“All politics is local,” is a well known law of survival in politics. No matter how happy a politician keeps the rest of the world, it is the folks back home who vote in his district that keep him in office. If a politician does not keep the home folks happy, then he risks losing the next election.

Gun owners were enraged after the 1994 gun ban. The Democratic Party pushed the Clinton gun ban, and so it was the Democratic Party that was punished by gun owners. Gun owners flocked to the polls, and voted to get rid of the gun grabbers in district after district all

Continued on page 6



“Yes, ma'am. It (violence) is brutal. Only I never could see the sense in having folks look at your tombstone and say, 'He was a man who didn't believe in violence. He's a good man... and dead.'”
– Louis L'Amour

Leather Holsters 101

by R.K. Campbell
Contributing Writer

When I take a look at defense related gear, I realize the operator and his training are far more important than the equipment he is issued, can afford or in the end chooses. But there are bad choices and poor equipment that can tilt the scales toward failure. There are three parts to civilian self defense equipment. These are the firearm, the ammunition, and the holster. The typical shooter buys the gun before considering any other choice, and long before considering training. When looking at the triad of equipment – ammunition, firearm and holster – we tend to give disproportionate attention to one or the other. The handgun ammunition and holster are of practically equal importance. User skill outweighs any other factor in survival. Prior training is the best predictor of performance in critical incidents. Quality gear is not inexpensive but proficiency at arms is purchased with a different coin. It is



This is a well turned out crossdraw holster from master craftsman and special team member and police artist-Mark Garrity.

prudent to be certain the handgun functions and does so with every pull of the trigger, with a minimum of periodic maintenance. Ammunition should have reliability above all else, with accuracy, low muzzle

flash, and a balance of expansion and penetration. When all is considered, when have you regretted buying quality?

It is an even bet the most neglected item of gear is the holster. Many shooters choose a quality firearm but carry it in cheap, formless holsters. These pouches offer no protection, retention, or speed. The best that can be said is they keep the steel of the handgun from gouging the body. Often, they are designed to fit more than one handgun, which the user sees as a bonus when in fact it is a detriment. Most of us own more than one handgun. This means multiple holsters. For real utility, it should mean more than one holster for each handgun. A big gun, a small gun, and several holsters is a minimum standard. How many shoes do you have in the closet?

If you have chosen a quality holster that fits your needs, congratulations. But don't relax and leave it at that. Care and maintenance of quality leather is important. This is self work or homework, there is no corner shoeshine store equivalent for holsters. Correct care and reasonable maintenance is important. Without this care the service life of your equipment will be severely curtailed.

Continued on page 10

Inside

Action Steps to take Now!	2
New Era of Gun Rights	2
President's Message	3
GrassRoots CWP Poll Results	3
SC Legislation Watch	4
Why Contact State Legislators?	6
Double Down for Victory!	7
CWP Instructors to Use	7
Gun Shops support GrassRoots	7
GrassRoots Gun Law Reforms	8
Pickens County	
Anti-gun Ordinances	8
The Slippery Menace	9
Membership Application	9
The Power of One!	11
Barrel Length Measurement	12
SC Melting Point Law and List	13
Parable of the Sheep	14
GunRights Activism Training	15
Merchant Report	15
Reciprocity with NC Closer	15
Gunowners - Parody or Reality	15
Rules of Gun Safety	15
Larry Coble Activist Award	16

NON-PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
P-A-I-D
COLUMBIA, SC
PERMIT #487

GrassRoots South Carolina, Inc.
PO Box 6383
Columbia, SC 29260-6383

The Beginnings of a New Era: Pro Gun Rights Organizations Unite

GrassRoots GunRights SC has helped form a nationwide coalition of pro gun rights organizations devoted to letting the semiautomatic rifle and magazine ban sunset (AKA expire). The semi-auto ban was enacted as part of a “Crime Bill” in 1994 (Public Law 103-322). The Coalition Against the Semi-Auto Ban (CASB) is devoted to ensuring that the unconstitutional Clinton semiautomatic rifle and magazine ban expires in 2004 as originally promised. Please read “Semi Automatic Gun and Magazine Ban: Past, Present, and Future” on the front page to understand what the so-called “assault weapon” ban really means.

There are pro-gun grass roots organizations all around the country. Many of us have agreed to act together to prevent the “Clinton gun and magazine ban” from becoming the “Bush gun and magazine ban.”

The CASB uses the “all politics is local” logic. Each member of CASB will be responsible for organizing opposition to the semi auto and magazine ban in their own state. Each member of CASB knows their state and elected representatives better than others do. Each member of CASB is best able to keep the people of their state informed as to what the politicians are doing in Washington. CASB will also have a representative in Washington to personally deliver information to our elected representatives while they are in Washington. This approach allows us to keep constant pressure upon our elected representatives to support our rights and freedoms.

GrassRoots GunRights has limited itself to South Carolina issues in the past. We have become the most effective pro gun rights organization in South Carolina. We have built a reputation for being honest and effective. And, GrassRoots members – that means *you* – have supported GrassRoots leadership in successfully

pushing for pro gun changes in SC law. GrassRoots GunRights has not gotten involved in national issues before now. We knew we could not effectively work for national changes by applying pressure only from South Carolina. We thought we would be wasting your time and money to work on national issues. Times have changed.



GrassRoots GunRights will now start getting involved in a few select national issues. But, we will do so only when we can make a real difference by working with other pro-gun grass roots organizations across the country. South Carolina issues will always be our primary focus.

The fight to kill the Clinton semiautomatic rifle and magazine ban could be the most important pro gun rights battle of

your lifetime! Not once during our lifetimes has a national anti-gun rights law been repealed or allowed to sunset. Doing it now would be a landmark event, a turning of the tide!

It is high time we started getting rid of anti-gun laws. More anti-gun laws are NOT inevitable! We can get rid of anti-gun laws. The Clinton gun ban is just the first step in getting rid of antigun laws.

We must make sure the unconstitutional Clinton semiautomatic rifle and magazine ban expires in 2004. It is time gun owners say “NO MORE.” It is time gun owners force politicians to obey their oath of office and not enact more unconstitutional anti gun laws.

If gun owners act together nationally like we have here in South Carolina, we can get rid of the Clinton gun ban and prevent a Bush gun ban!

You need to help us help you and your children and their children. Together we can win this fight. Speaking as one, with all of us singing the same tune, we can win the fight to kill the Clinton gun ban! Please follow the “Action Steps to Take Now” in the box at the right.

MAIL THE POSTCARDS TODAY! ACTION STEPS TO TAKE NOW:

The Clinton gun ban will become the Bush gun ban *ONLY IF* the Republican leadership wants it to become law. Enclosed with this newsletter are pre-written postcards for you to send to our elected representatives to Congress from South Carolina, President Bush, VP Cheney, and leaders of the Republican Party.

When you send in these postcards, along with the thousands upon thousands of postcards sent by other GrassRoots GunRights members, our elected representatives will realize that the people in South Carolina are sick and tired of gun grabbers and gun control. We can kill the Clinton gun ban and prevent a Bush gun ban if we speak with one voice at the same time.

1. Send the enclosed postcards to *EVERY* Representative and Senator from South Carolina asking them to let the Clinton gun and magazine ban sunset.

Be sure to:

- 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 at the same time).
- If the postcards are not flat, then put them under a heavy book overnight.
- Mail the postcards.

2. Call *YOUR* two Senators and one Representative from South Carolina.

- Call Senator Graham at (202) 224-5972 and Senator Hollings at (202) 224-6121
- Call Rep. Henry E. Brown Jr. at (202) 225-3176, Rep. Joe Wilson at (202) 225-2452, Rep. J. Gresham Barrett at (202) 225-5301, Rep. Jim DeMint at (202) 225-6030, Rep. John M. Spratt, Jr. at (202) 225-5501, or Rep. James E. Clyburn at (202) 225-3315.
- Keep the message simple. Just say, “*Please do all you can to make sure the Clinton gun ban sunsets. I do not want a Bush gun ban. No excuses. No compromises. Only a total sunset is acceptable. Thank you.*”

3. Send the enclosed postcards to the Republican leadership. Remember, gun owners gave the Republicans control of Congress after the Clinton gun ban, and gun owners gave the Presidency to Bush instead of Gore because of gun rights. There will be no Bush gun ban if the Republican leadership does not want a Bush gun ban. If the Republican leadership knows voters are organized to oppose the ban, then they will think twice about supporting it. So, these extra postcards are very important. The extra \$1.84 spent on postage for these postcards will be one of the best investments you ever make.

Be sure to:

- 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 at the same time).
- If the postcards are not flat, then put them under a heavy book overnight.
- Mail the postcards.

GrassRoots South Carolina, Inc. PO Box 6383 Columbia, SC 29260 www.scfirearms.org

GrassRoots South Carolina, Inc. is a South Carolina 501(c)4 nonprofit 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 in South Carolina.

Board of Directors Officers and Staff

President	Ed Kelleher	803-796-8858	pres@scfirearms.org
Legislative Director & Vice President	Rob Butler, JD	803-957-3959	legislative@scfirearms.org
Secretary	Tom Burkizer	803-782-9210	kaliburk@worldnet.att.net
Treasurer	Robert Holliday, CPA	803-957-5181	flychamps@aol.com
Merchant Issues Coordinator			merchants@scfirearms.org
Communications	Sean Stogner	803-796-8858	webmaster@scfirearms.org
Gun Shows	Inst. Terry Hicks	803-513-2902	gunshows@scfirearms.org
Director	Inst. Larry Coble	803-755-3999	lcoble@logicsouth.com
Director	Inst. Patrick Nolan	803-254-9543	pnolan@sc.edu
Director	Inst. Paul Peters, MPA	803-356-1728	papeters@msn.com
Director & Columbia Gun Shows	Inst. Mike Walguarnery	803-781-1360	walgum123@netzero.net
Instructor Program	Inst. Dennis Crocker	864-587-8722	crocker@logicsouth.com
Instructor Program	Inst. Norm Price	803-356-6301	nlpalleid@aol.com
Office	Debbie Price		pricedlp@aol.com
Publisher, The Defender			newspaper@scfirearms.org

The GrassRoots South Carolina Newspaper, The Defender, is distributed quarterly - February, May, August, November – to the membership of GrassRoots. The deadline for submissions is the 15th of the proceeding month. Submissions can be sent by mail to Editor, c/o GrassRoots South Carolina, PO Box 6383, Columbia, SC 29260, or electronically to newspaper@firearms.org. Original material on local issues will be given highest priority, and since permission must be received to reprint previously published materials, items without an author and source will not be considered for publication. Changes of address and questions regarding membership status should be sent to Debbie Price at the above PO Box or email address. Copyright (c) 2003 Grass Roots South Carolina, Inc.

President’s Message

The Way Back, or Bark and Bite!



Ed Kelleher

GrassRoots policy is that we tell our members as much as we can about what we’re doing and why. There are several good reasons for this. All of which serve to make our members more active.

First, good GrassRoots members (the ones that do us the most good) aren’t check writing robots, sheep or mushrooms (kept in the dark and fed manure). GrassRoots members are involved citizens who are not afraid to shoulder their responsibilities. We know, given the facts and fair analysis, GrassRoots members will reach good decisions and will then act on those decisions. That’s what we want them to do.

Second, we want GrassRoots members to know that we have a plan and we’re working the plan. This gives people confidence in their leadership and gets them more involved. We think people that know *why* they should do something are more likely to do it.

Lastly, we’re looking for feedback. We don’t know it all. We make mistakes. We try to do the best we can. But, if GrassRoots members see something that doesn’t make sense, or that we’ve missed, we count

on them to let us know about it so we can check and get back on the right course.

To help, we’re doing a Legislative Tactics Seminar (Page 15) to teach our members the *principles* of GrassRoots Activism so they can go and do likewise. It will be Saturday October 18, 2003 and well worth your while to attend.

An Openness policy is good, but sometimes it’s best to keep our cards close to our vest. That’s the situation at present with letting CWP holders carry their self defense firearms in nice restaurants that happen to serve alcoholic beverages. This is an important issue with many GrassRoots members and one of our priority goals. We’ve not forgotten it. We believe we’re making real progress on getting this implemented– but not on the tack we originally planned. We’re saving reports on this till it’s time to get our members more involved.

One problem facing us in getting carry in nice restaurants is a lot of vocal opposition. To overcome that, we need more members! Please read (and heed!) the article on Page 7 to help *Double* our membership.

On Page 2 (The Beginnings of a New Era) you’ll see something new and *very* significant. Most of us are considerably more affected by federal gun laws than by state laws. However, GrassRoots has stayed away from

national issues, not because they aren’t important, but because we had no real chance of changing anything. It would be like pushing against the Washington Monument, all you’d get is tired – till now.

GrassRoots is effective because it can focus the power of individual gun owners in South Carolina on the most sensitive part of a politician – his desire to be reelected. GrassRoots members can vote, or not vote, for all elected officials, federal and state, in South Carolina. But we can’t do much about North Carolina or Virginia. Therefore, GrassRoots, by itself, could never hope to change Federal laws since South Carolina only has 2% of the Senators and less than that in the House of Representatives.

To address this problem GrassRoots has helped form a coalition of groups like us that will serve to focus gun owners *around the country* on our Federal legislators!

We’re not sending money out of state either. We’ll do what we’ve always done; focus GrassRoots members on targets in South Carolina, but now we’ll be acting in concert with other groups around the country and our aim will be a little different – we’ll focus on Federal elected officials.

Enclosed with this issue are postcards for you to mail to our Federal level elected officials. These are our *bark! Mail* them. We need to get their attention and be ready to use

our *bite* if they don’t listen.

As gun owners, the only real “teeth” we have is our vote. If we don’t *use* our vote, then we’re basically toothless. Yeah, I know we have “liberty teeth” but if a person won’t vote to save himself, he certainly can’t be counted on to do anything else.

If you’ll bark, and bite if necessary with your vote, we can WIN this fight! The original Clinton gun ban only passed the House by 2 votes! Remember, then Speaker of the House (Tom Foley, WA) and Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee (Jack Brooks, TX), both powerful and popular men, *lost* their next elections because of their support for the Clinton gun ban.

If each of us does our part and mails the enclosed postcards, we can kill this gun ban. More importantly, we can put this great country on the way back to personal liberty, and responsibility that made it great in the first place.

Ed Kelleher
President
GrassRoots South Carolina, Inc.
pres@scfirearms.org
PO Box 6383
Columbia, SC 29260
803-796-8858

GrassRoots Poll Results

Why doesn't South Carolina have more CWP holders?

- Current CWP's too restrictive. (90)21%
- CWP costs too much. (21)5%
- Can't carry in many other states. (52)12%
- No CWP classes offered throughout SC (6)1%
- No shooting ranges throughout state. (29)7%
- Simply not a priority. (25)6%
- Law is too confusing. (31)7%
- Public is not aware of CWP availability. (41)10%
- All of the above. (92)22%
- Add Your Own Answer Here (33)8%

Total Votes: 420

Other Reasons people don't CWP's submitted:

- 12 month residency requirements are unjustifiably stupid. (this was eliminated in GrassRoots H.3010 change)
- There is a stigma attached to cwp holders as extremists.
- Can't carry in neighboring states.
- Lack of advertising of CWP courses.
- We as Americans should not have to be "Licensed" to carry a weapon, its our 2nd Amendment Right to carry.
- State charging for a right that we already have and unable to carry where needed
- Finger print every 4 years.
- Most are too busy.
- Not allowed to carry everywhere you may possibly need a weapon at such as a high crime risk area as a convenience store or a bank.

Ed,

My name is Jesse Sammons and I am a proud member of "Grass Roots of South Carolina", and the holder of a CWP in SC ,as well as Florida. Your questions concerning "Why don't more people in South Carolina have a CWP" caught my attention, and I had to respond to it. You listed many good points and of those that you listed I have chosen the three which I personally think have a strong bearing/impact:

- 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 ?
- Do people think a CWP is worthless because it's too restricted ?
- Are they afraid of making a mistake and going to jail ?

Unfortunately a lot people these day's believe what they read in the newspapers, and or see on TV as it relates to "Those Bad Guns". And again most of the news is coming from the "Anti Gun Front" who have only one goal, and that is to disarm the law abiding citizens of not only South Carolina, but those of the entire United States of America! The only way that we can prevent this from happening is through organizations such as Grass Roots, who educate and inform individuals on their rights to own a handgun, and the right as a law abiding citizen to apply for a CWP.

I myself have been frustrated by the fact that I have to be ever mindful of some of the antiquated laws that are still in force in South Carolina. Laws that are just waiting for some "Anti Gun" zealot to discover and use against those of us who stand up for and believe in the "Right to Bear Arms". All of us who have chosen to under go the background screening and the required training to obtain a CWP are well aware of the consequences should we ever have to use our weapon in defense of ourselves, family members, and or other's, and we do not take that responsibility lightly .

Regards,

Jesse Sammons

GrassRoots South Carolina Legislation Watch: 2003-2004

The following bills saw legislative action since the last Legislative Update and are of the most interest to GrassRoots members:

H. 3482: The GrassRoots GunRights proposed gun law reforms

The last issue of *The Defender* included postcards for you to send to your elected representatives in the South Carolina House and Senate. So many postcards were sent in that the mail rooms were overwhelmed. Thanks to your show of support for the GrassRoots GunRights legislative issues, it appears the laws will get changed. Thank you.

In response to the postcards you sent, nineteen members of the SC House signed on as cosponsors in the first week alone. Due to the pressure you put on the General Assembly, the House General Laws subcommittee quickly scheduled a hearing on Tuesday, April 29, 2003, to discuss H. 3482.

SLED representative, Capt. Joe Dorton, showed up at the hearing to voice “concerns” about the GrassRoots GunRights bill. “Concerns” is code language for opposition to the bill. Capt. Dorton, Ed Kelleher (GrassRoots President), and Robert D. Butler (GrassRoots V.P. and Legislative Director) discussed these “concerns” prior to the hearing and were able to reach agreement on how to resolve most of SLED’s “concerns.”

The subcommittee chair, Rep. John Graham Altman (who is one of the cosponsors of H. 3482), favored the GrassRoots GunRights proposed reforms, but wanted to see exactly what language was agreed upon between SLED and GrassRoots before voting on H. 3482. So, the hearing on H. 3482 was tabled until the next week’s subcommittee hearing when the new language could be reviewed.

GrassRoots leaders met with

Capt. Dorton and discussed many proposed amendments. We were able to agree upon all proposed amendments except one. GrassRoots felt the private property rights of a business owner should allow him to choose whether to allow an employee to carry or not. The GrassRoots position was stated in a letter to the subcommittee. You can read the letter GrassRoots sent to the subcommittee on page 5. SLED demanded that employees of businesses could only carry at work if they possessed a CWP. We agreed to disagree and leave it to the subcommittee to choose.

On May 6, 2003, GrassRoots leaders met Rep. Altman in the corridor prior to the subcommittee hearing. Rep. Altman asked if we were able to resolve SLED’s concerns. We told him all but one. Rep. Altman said he wanted to get our bill passed ASAP, but he was worried that opposing SLED on this issue might cause defeat of the whole bill. Rep. Altman suggested we not push to fight SLED in the subcommittee (the subcommittee was composed of two Republicans and three Democrats) so that the bill would pass that day, and then work to amend the bill in either the Judiciary Committee or the House floor if we so desired. GrassRoots leaders agreed to that strategy.

The subcommittee reviewed the substitute language worked out between SLED and GrassRoots GunRights leaders. The subcommittee first voted to amend H. 3482 as proposed by GrassRoots and SLED, then voted to send H. 3482 to the full Judiciary Committee with a favorable report as amended. A copy of the amended H. 3482 can be found on page 8.

Unfortunately, H. 3482 got

H. 3442: A bill to repeal the one pistol per month ration

The House passed H. 3442 on March 26, 2003, and sent it to the Senate. This bill will be considered next year by the Senate. GrassRoots will continue to support this bill.

H. 3230: The South Carolina Exile bill

This bill was brought up in the House Judiciary Criminal Laws Subcommittee. It’s sponsor, Rep. G.M. Smith Jr. of Sumter, was there to introduce the bill and speak for it. His principle comments were that the bill passed out of the House last year, so it should do so again this year.

GrassRoots was there to speak against it. Ed Kelleher told the subcommittee there were three primary objections to H. 3230. First, it is not needed because existing law already allows criminals with guns to be given enhanced sentences. All this bill does is make the enhanced sentence mandatory. That is unjust, and does more harm than good. Second, this bill demonizes guns and their possession; and with guilt by association, gun owners are demonized. Third, the huge financial cost of incarcerating people that do not need to be incarcerated is something the State of SC can not afford. Please read the description of H. 3230 in the legislative update below.

The Dept. of Corrections had a person there to remind the Representatives that a financial impact statement had been filed. Since Gov. Sanford had stopped government agencies from lobbying, the person from Corrections said nothing else. But the message got through loud and clear, the cost of this useless and harmful bill is over \$20,000,000!

No one else was there to speak for the bill. A motion was made to adjourn debate on the bill. It passed. This is like “tabling” the bill. For now, the bill is stopped. But, it could be brought up again in subcommittee. GrassRoots will continue to watch this bill.

caught up behind the redistricting and budget bills. The politicians spent weeks fighting over these two bills, and H. 3482 was put on hold until these two bills were finished. By the time the politicians finished fighting over redistricting and the budget, the end of the legislative year was upon us. So, H. 3482 will not get acted upon until next January.

The reason H. 3482 got caught behind the redistricting and budget bills is because the former publisher

of *The Defender* failed to get *The Defender* published on time. GrassRoots leaders submitted the articles to publish in *The Defender* on February 11, 2003. A month and a half delay by the former publisher caused the GrassRoots postcard blitz to arrive too late to get H. 3482 passed into law this year. This problem has been fixed (we have a new publisher) and will not occur again.

The following bills were introduced since the last Legislative Update:

S. 368: 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 Senate Judiciary Committee

Full Text: http://www.scstatehouse.net/sess115_2003-2004/bills/368.htm

S. 404: Requires constitutional officers to possess a CWP. This bill will not pass because it would allow SLED to decide who can be a constitutional officer by merely refusing to issue a CWP to such potential officers. Can you imagine SLED refusing to issue a CWP because of prior traffic tickets, and the constitutional officers being denied office even though elected by the people? SLED has written rules allowing them to deny a CWP for multiple traffic tickets.

Principles Involved: No one should be forced to obtain a CWP. SLED should not have the power to deny voters their choice of elected officials.

GrassRoots Position: GrassRoots opposes this bill.

Current Status: In the Senate Judiciary Committee

Full Text: http://www.scstatehouse.net/sess115_2003-2004/bills/404.htm

S. 405: Requires the Governor, Lt. Governor, and their families to accept protection provided by SLED, or else have a CWP. Failure to do one or the other will force the Governor or Lt. Governor to relinquish his office.

Principles Involved: No one should be forced to obtain a CWP. Elected officials should be able to refuse protection provided by SLED.

GrassRoots Position: GrassRoots opposes this bill.

Current Status: In the Senate Judiciary Committee

Full Text: http://www.scstatehouse.net/sess115_2003-2004/bills/405.htm

S. 423: A bill about hunting deer, bear, and turkey from a boat or other water conveyance. In addition to being illegal to hunt from a boat, it would now be illegal to merely possess a loaded centerfire rifle or loaded shotgun with buckshot or slugs while afloat. The original penalty would be the confiscation of all means of transportation and equipment, but the fines and jail time would have been deleted. The penalties are have been repeatedly changed and will have to be closely watched.

Principles Involved: The right to effective self defense should not be infringed.

GrassRoots Position: While this bill is directed towards hunting issues, there are times when a person on a water conveyance (i.e. house boat) would legitimately want to have a shotgun loaded with buckshot. Therefore, GrassRoots opposes this bill.

Current Status: Passed the Senate, and is in the House Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Environmental Affairs Committee

Full Text: http://www.scstatehouse.net/sess115_2003-2004/bills/423.htm

S. 441: A bill to prohibit the use of any pyrotechnic materials inside any enclosed entertainment area. Current law allows such when used in accordance with applicable National Fire Protection Association standards. It is not understood why this bill was indexed under the weapons section on the SC Legislative web site. It must be because gunpowder is considered a pyrotechnic material, which would then prohibit any shooting in front of an indoor audience. This issue needs more research.

Principles Involved: Audience safety is an important issue and should be dealt with by fire safety professionals.

GrassRoots Position: This bill appears to be an over reaction to the nightclub disaster where patrons were burned to death, but there could be legitimate reasons to pass this bill. More research is needed. Therefore, GrassRoots takes no position on bill.

Current Status: In the Senate Judiciary Committee

Full Text: http://www.scstatehouse.net/sess115_2003-2004/bills/441.htm

GrassRoots South Carolina Legislation Watch

Continued from Page 4

S. 468: This bill would allow retired municipal and county law enforcement officers to “retain their commissions, with the exception of powers of arrest, in retired status with all other rights and privileges.” This bill would allow retired LEOs to legally carry self defense sidearms where CWP holders could not do so (according to an AG opinion). Retired LEOs have no more need for an effective means of self defense than do people retired from any other occupation.
Principles Involved: All citizens should be treated equally under the law.
GrassRoots Position: Since this bill will make retired law enforcement officers “more equal” than other retired citizens of SC, GrassRoots opposes this bill.
Current Status: In the Senate Judiciary Committee
Full Text: http://www.scstatehouse.net/sess115_2003-2004/bills/468.htm

S. 518: The issue of owning machine guns in South Carolina is currently covered by both Title 16 and Title 23 of the SC Code of Laws. The machine gun bill passed in the last legislative session only amended Title 16. The drafters of the bill (NOT GrassRoots) failed to include amendments to Title 23. SLED has used this oversight to start denying applications for the transfer of machine guns in SC. This bill would amend Title 23 to honor the intent of the law passed last legislative session.
Principles Involved: The Second Amendment to the United States Constitution specifically protects the right of the people to possess military firearms such as machine guns.
GrassRoots Position: GrassRoots strongly supports this bill. In fact, we helped draft it!
Current Status: In the Senate Judiciary Committee
Full Text: http://www.scstatehouse.net/sess115_2003-2004/bills/518.htm

S. 568: This bill creates two new classes of people who are allowed to carry firearms in South Carolina - retired law enforcement officers (LEOs) and former law enforcement officers, whether from South Carolina or New York. This bill does not require these former LEOs to carry their sidearms concealed, even though they are no longer LEOs. This bill would allow these former LEOs to legally carry where South Carolina CWP holders could not do so. This bill would create two classes of citizens, with the former LEO class being more equal than the CWP class.
Principles Involved: All citizens should be treated equally under the law. This bill gives special treatment to former LEOs, and thereby discriminates against CWP holders. Pro self defense people should not allow ourselves to be divided because a house divided will not stand.
GrassRoots Position: If these former LEOs want to carry a self defense sidearm in SC, let them do what every other citizen has to do - get a CWP. Then, when some of these former LEOs start getting denied CWPs because of prior traffic tickets or other reasons used to deny us our CWPs, maybe we will get more help in changing the law to prevent SLED from denying so many CWPs. Remember, GrassRoots does not oppose former LEOs carrying self defense sidearms in SC, we just want them to live with the same rules that we have to live with because they are no more important than we are.
Current Status: In the Senate Judiciary Committee
Full Text: http://www.scstatehouse.net/sess115_2003-2004/bills/568.htm

H. 3678: A well intentioned bill to make it easier to get CWP reciprocity with other states. Unfortunately, good intentions are not enough. This bill adds a new section dealing with CWP reciprocity, but does not delete the existing section dealing with CWP reciprocity. Essentially all this new bill will do is force SLED to reevaluate CWP reciprocity every six months, but it will do little to improve the CWP reciprocity situation.
Principles Involved: Forcing SLED to reevaluate CWP reciprocity every six months is a good thing.
GrassRoots Position: GrassRoots supports this bill.
Current Status: In the House Judiciary Committee
Full Text: http://www.scstatehouse.net/sess115_2003-2004/bills/3678.htm

H. 3859: A bill to prohibit the use of any pyrotechnic materials inside any enclosed entertainment area. Current law allows such when used in accordance with applicable National Fire Protection Association standards. It is not understood why this bill was indexed under the weapons section on the SC Legislative web site. It must be because gunpowder is considered a pyrotechnic material, which would then prohibit any shooting in front of an indoor audience. This issue needs more research.
Principles Involved: Audience safety is an important issue and should be dealt with by fire safety professionals.
GrassRoots Position: This bill appears to be an over reaction to the nightclub disaster where patrons were burned to death, but there could be legitimate reasons to pass this bill. More research is needed. Therefore, GrassRoots takes no position on bill.
Current Status: In the House LCI Committee
Full Text: http://www.scstatehouse.net/sess115_2003-2004/bills/3859.htm

The following bills were reported in a prior Legislative Update:

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 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 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

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 affects 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?

[The following is the text of a letter GrassRoots sent to Rep. Altman concerning our agreement to changes to H.3482. Rep. Altman counseled that we accept the changes as written by SLED to get the bill out of subcommittee, with an eye to changing it later in the legislative process. We accepted his advice.]

Dear Rep. Altman and Members of the General Laws Subcommittee:

As you requested last week, SLED and GrassRoots GunRights met to try to resolve concerns with the reforms proposed in H. 3482 - the GrassRoots proposed gun law reforms. We have resolved all concerns except one.

Capt. Joe Dorton has already sent a file to subcommittee counsel, Mr. Ben Mustian, containing proposed amendments to Section 16-23-10 et. seq. that resolve the concerns that SLED had with the original version of H. 3482. GrassRoots GunRights asks that you please support these proposed changes, with the exception of SLED’s proposed Section 16-23-20(13) and the grammatical errors already pointed out to Mr. Mustian in an earlier email.

GrassRoots proposes that the Section 16-23-20(13) submitted by SLED be amended to delete the phrase “provided the employee may exercise this privilege only after acquiring a permit pursuant to item (12) of this section.” The GrassRoots proposed Section 16-23-20(13) would then read as follows:

“(13) the owner, person in legal possession, or the person in legal control of a fixed place of business, while at such fixed place of business, and the employee of a fixed place of business, other than a business subject to Section 16-23-465, while at such place of business;”

The GrassRoots proposed change differs from the SLED proposed change only in deleting the requirement that the employee be forced to obtain a concealable weapons permit (CWP). It is both a financial and time burden on employees to go through the CWP course to train for situations they will never encounter in the workplace. Such training will not lead to greater public safety. Customers would undoubtedly be more at risk from robbers who wanted to kill all witnesses than they would be from an armed employee.

Employees at work are different than citizens who choose to go armed in public. Employees do not need to learn about the laws on the duty to retreat because there is no duty to retreat in their place of business, which is the only place they would be allowed to carry. Employees would not need to learn about prohibited carry locations because they would be limited to only one location in which they could carry. Also, not much knowledge of the intricacies of the law is needed when you are confronted by a holdup man.

Recently, there was a meeting of Charleston business owners to discuss the issue of rising crime in their area. Chief Greenberg was asked to address the meeting. Chief Greenberg is on record as having told the business owners that they could arm their employees as a means to prevent crime. Chief Greenberg related that he was aware of one business owner who had done so, and that business no longer suffered from any crime. Unfortunately, what Chief Greenberg suggested is currently illegal.

Current law only allows a business owner to carry a handgun in the business, not the employees. Unfortunately for many employees, the business owner can not be at the business at all times. Additionally, many businesses (especially convenience stores) are corporately owned and therefore every person working at the business is an employee. Thus, the effective protections afforded by an armed owner are missing. Is the life of a business owner any more important than the life of a business employee? GrassRoots does not think so.

GrassRoots supports the rights of business owners to reasonably choose the work environment in their own businesses. GrassRoots believes a business owner should be able to do just as Chief Greenberg of Charleston is on record as telling business owners they can do - arm their employees as a means to protect their business and the lives of their employees.

Other property owners will soon be allowed to say who can be armed on their property. GrassRoots believes a business owner should have the same right as any other property owner to allow people to be armed on his premises if he so chooses. Most business owners will likely choose not to do so. But, the situation is quite different for liquor stores, jewelry stores, and convenience stores which seem to be magnets for crime, and where the potential is much greater for customers and employees to suffer harm.

SLED stated that the legislature has spoken on this issue and only business owners are allowed to carry handguns at work, but that they would enforce whatever law the General Assembly enacts. GrassRoots asks you to speak again, but this time in support of vulnerable defenseless employees and to allow what Chief Greenberg has said is an effective way to curb crime – employees carrying an effective means of self defense at work.

If you have any questions concerning this bill, please contact me at 803.957.3959 or LegislativeDir@scfirearms.org.

Sincerely,

Robert D. Butler, J.D .
V.P. and Legislative Director
GrassRoots GunRights SC

Contacting State Legislators: *Does it make a difference?*

by Mike Walguarnery
Contributing Writer

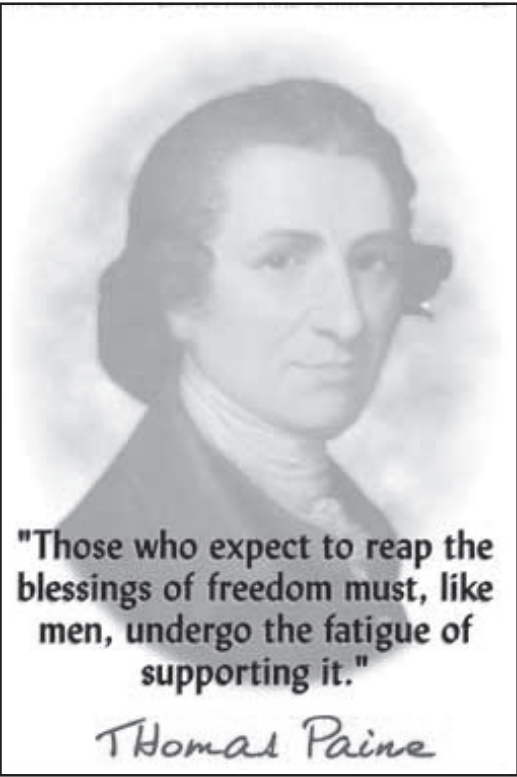
Some would say that having a personal relationship with State Legislators is what really counts when the chips are down. If you “have the ear” of a few key Senators and Representatives that’s all you need. Well certainly this doesn’t hurt, and most people would say, “ hey, that’s how it’s always worked... right?”. So does GrassRoots rely on this method? Not exactly.

GrassRoots does have friends in the State Legislature, and we are grateful for their help and insights, but they need our support. They also need our help to get the support of others. One way we do this is to make them aware that we care and we’re watching what they do. We can show up for hearings when gun rights bills are being discussed and voted on. We’ve been told our presence in these hearings has not gone unnoticed. The fact that we record how they vote, means they can’t fool us by saying one thing and doing another. Sometimes when important things are happening, GrassRoots will send out a statewide alert to our membership and pro-gun people. We ask you to

tell your Representative or Senator how you feel about a certain bill they’ll vote on. When a flood of cards, faxes, calls, etc. come pouring in, it tells them their voters care about what they do. We are paying attention, and expecting them to do the right thing.

In the final days of this past legislative session, GrassRoots sent out some important alerts, and pro-gun rights people from all over our state responded. Emails, faxes and phone calls to our legislators were so numerous that voice mails and fax machines were overflowing. A couple days later your GrassRoots postcards started to arrive at the State House.

According to one, well known, SC legislator, this flood from GrassRoots voters made all the difference. He told us, in no uncertain terms, that passage of H-3010 (GrassRoots Gun Reforms) and the vote against the CWP fee increase, was because of the stacks of postcards that they all received. He then turned to a group of his own constituents and told them if they care about gun rights in SC, they need to join GrassRoots SC. He went on to say “ When GrassRoots tells you to send postcards to SC officials or the legislature... send them.” “It works!”



Gun Rights can be a very polarizing political issue. Some SC Legislators are openly pro-gun, others are staunch gun control or antigun advocates. The majority, however, are usually somewhere in between. Their votes can fall into either camp, it often depends on what motivates or influences them the greatest at that moment. If a mule refuses to move, get a stick. Use a carrot on the end to attract him, or a sharp point to prod him in the direction you need him to go. You don’t try to use a stick to make friends with the mule, he won’t understand that, besides if he’s your friend no stick is necessary in the first place. For our legislators the carrot is votes and support. The sharp stick is support and votes for their opponents.

Other, more qualified, members have described the details of how GrassRoots works in our State Legislature. These members have tried most everything in the past, and they found what works best. They tell us it’s a legislative “mine field” most of the time, and missteps are often very messy. So, I prefer to follow a map they’ve drawn and that’s already proven it’s reliable.

Editor’s note: See page 15 (Legislative Tactics Seminar).

Past, Present, and Future Continued from Page 1

across the country. The gun grabbing Democratic Party was punished by gun owners. Gun owners gave control of the House of Representatives to the Republicans. Bill Clinton admitted the backlash from the gun ban cost the Democratic Party control of Congress.

Representative Tom Foley (D-WA) was Speaker of the House in 1994, which is the most powerful position in the House of Representatives. Rep. Foley worked and voted to pass the Clinton gun ban. But then, Rep. Foley had to return to Washington to face the home folks. The home folks voted Foley out of office, even though he was Speaker of the House! This was unheard of in political circles.

Representative Jack Brookes was the Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee in 1994, and pushed the Clinton gun ban through the Judiciary Committee. But then, Rep. Brookes had to return to Texas to face the home folks. The home folks voted Brookes out of office, even though he was Chairman of the powerful Judiciary Committee! This was unheard of in political circles.

The above proves all politics *is* local. Local voters have the power, if they will use it, to throw out the gun grabbers. **You** can send a loud, clear message to would be gun grabbers that they better lay off your guns! But only, if you will **“Remember in November!”**

If Congress does not pass another law, then this Clinton gun ban will soon be gone. Unfortunately, some sleazy politicians are trying to pass a new and even larger gun ban. Now is the time to let our elected representatives know what we think about semi automatic gun and magazine bans.

Some so called “pro gun” politicians are saying that making the Clinton gun ban permanent is a “reasonable compromise” between an even worse gun ban and no gun ban. GrassRoots does not agree. The gun ban takes away our rights and gives us nothing in return. That is not a “reasonable compromise,” it is simply a surrender. The Clinton gun ban has to go the way of the dodo, never to be seen again.

What is even worse is that some so called “pro gun” organizations are considering allowing politicians to vote for a Bush gun ban and *NOT* lose their good “pro gun” rating or “pro gun” endorsement! Remember, the NRA gave Sen. John Land an “A+” rating and their endorsement in 2000, even though Sen. Land was the leader of the anti CWP forces in the SC General Assembly in 1996 and was still bragging in 2000 that he was the anti CWP leader!

If the semi automatic gun ban passes again, it will then be the Bush gun ban! Whether it is the Clinton gun ban or the Bush gun ban, it is still a gun ban. GrassRoots opposes all gun bans!

If the Bush gun ban passes, the next step will be to ban all semi automatic rifles. The gun grabbers will argue “Why does anyone need to shoot multiple rounds quickly? A good hunter should be able to harvest game with a single shot. Quick multiple shots are only needed to kill people. Only the police and military should have semi automatic rifles.” There go your common semi automatic hunting rifles!

Once all semi automatic rifles are banned, the gun grabbers will focus their attention on deadly “sniper rifles.” How could any “reasonable person” support allowing deadly

sniper rifles in the hands of civilians? Only the police and military should have deadly sniper rifles. Think about that for awhile. Then, ask yourself what is the difference between a deadly sniper rifle and a common bolt action hunting rifle (both are built from Remington 700 actions)? As you will suddenly realize, your bolt action hunting rifle will be defined as a deadly sniper rifle. Say good-bye to all your bolt action hunting rifles!

The gun grabbers know they can not ban all guns right now. But, they know they can fool enough people to get some guns banned now, then ban the others incrementally. Step by step, the gun grabbers intend to take away all of our guns.

We can not afford to allow gun owners to be divided. Gun owners in England and Australia allowed themselves to be divided. Rifle and shotgun owners did not stand up to help protect pistol owners. So, pistols were banned. Then, shotgun owners did not stand up to help protect rifle owners. So, rifles were banned. Then finally, shotguns were banned because there were no other gun owners to stand up and help the shotgun owners. Gun owners must stick together NOW and say “NO MORE.”

The first magazine ban in 1994 banned magazines holding more than 10 rounds, but allowed people who already had 10+ round magazines to keep them. New proposed legislation wants to ban ALL 10+ round magazines regardless of when they were made or bought. If we allow magazines that hold more than 10 rounds to be banned, why not ban all guns that hold more than six rounds? Or four rounds? Where do we draw the line?

Our Founding Fathers knew where to draw the line when they

stated “the right to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed.” GrassRoots opposes all gun bans.

Last year, a small business man was found dead next to his vehicle with his *empty* revolver beside him. It appears that he was jumped and robbed between his store and his car after closing his store. He obviously fought until he ran out of ammunition. Can you imagine what his last thoughts were? Maybe, “I wish I had more ammo!”

Even the gun grabbers agree that police officers need to have full capacity magazines to best protect their lives. So, why are the lives of average people like this now *dead* small businessman not considered just as important? Why are we forced to use reduced capacity magazines? Every life is equally important!

The decision as to how many rounds should be allowed in a magazine should be decided by the person carrying the gun, not government bureaucrats or politicians who have tax payer paid body guards protecting them. The person carrying the gun has a much better idea as to the risks he or she may encounter at any given time.

We must stop all gun and magazine bans now. We must repeal existing gun and magazine bans. We must prevent future gun and magazine bans. That is why GrassRoots GunRights SC has joined other pro gun rights grass roots organizations across America to form the Coalition Against the Semi-Auto Ban. We are fighting to prevent the temporary Clinton gun ban from becoming the permanent Bush gun ban! We are fighting for our future! We can *WIN* this fight! Because truly, all politics is local.

Double Down for Victory: How to Get CWP Carry Into Nice Restaurants

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

Thirty other states already allow concealed weapon permit (CWP) holders to carry self defense sidearms into nice restaurants, and consume alcoholic beverages while eating. None of these states have problems with CWP holders getting drunk and then shooting people or things. The reason is because good people are not a problem, and only good people get CWPs.

The right thing to do is to allow good people with CWPs to carry self defense sidearms to defend themselves and their families while eating at nice restaurants, or going to and from these restaurants. Concealed weapon permit holders do not turn into raving homicidal lunatics merely because they eat at a nice restaurant or have a drink with dinner.

Sadly, the hysterical fear mongers do not care about reality. Hysterical fear mongers do not care about doing

the right thing. They would rather see dead victims than armed citizens because dead victims help the fear mongers more than victims who successfully resist criminals.

Unfortunately, South Carolina politicians must think the people of South Carolina are inferior to the people of other states. South Carolina politicians refuse to allow South Carolina CWP holders to carry self defense sidearms into nice restaurants. This must, and *can*, change!

Sometimes being right is not enough. Sometimes all that matters is brute force. Unfortunately, politics is all about brute force, not being right. The reason South Carolina CWP holders can not carry self defense sidearms into nice restaurants is because fear mongers have exerted *more* brute force upon politicians than CWP holders have.

GrassRoots GunRights is not yet large enough to exert enough brute force on the politicians to overcome the fear mongers. Therefore,

GrassRoots GunRights must *increase* our membership. Then, besides being right, we will also be able to exert enough brute force upon politicians to change the law to allow CWP holders to carry into nice restaurants.

The fastest and easiest way to increase membership in GrassRoots is to get each one of you to recruit at least one new member. Then, the GrassRoots membership will quickly double. If we can double our membership, with people just as committed as you are, we *can* exert enough force to get the law changed.

OK Everybody, Lets Double Down for Victory!

Please use GrassRoots CWP Instructor members.

GrassRoots CWP Instructor Members are listed at:
<http://scfirearms.org/Training/CWPGrassRootsCWPTrainerList.htm>

If you know someone needing a CWP class please check the above Internet location to find an instructor near you, or write us at PO Box 6383, Columbia, SC 29260 and we'll send you a list of instructors in your area.

Postcards included with this issue of The Defender

Sixteen postcards post cards were included in copies of The Defender mailed to GrassRoots members. That's 96,000 post cards! They were pre-addressed to be sent to the following federal government members:

- Senators Hollings and Graham
- Representatives Wilson, Brown, Barrett, Clyburn, Spratt, DeMint
- President Bush, VP Cheney, and Republican leaders in the House and Senate.

Here's the text of the postcards:

OPPOSE THE SEMI AUTO AND MAGAZINE BAN!

Dear (federal name):

I strongly and utterly oppose renewal of the so called "assault weapon" ban. We were promised this unconstitutional, un-American law would expire in 2004. Please vigorously oppose any and all efforts, both procedurally and substantively, to renew this attack upon good citizens, gun owners, and our Constitution.

I will accept nothing short of a total sunset of this law. You are my elected representative to Congress. If you allow this violation of my rights to continue, you will no longer represent me.

I will watch closely what you do, and then vote accordingly. Thank you.

NO EXCUSES! NO COMPROMISES! ONLY A COMPLETE SUNSET!

Sincerely,

NO BUSH GUN BANS!

Dear Rep. J. Dennis Hastert:

Gun owners gave control of Congress to Republicans after the Clinton gun ban was enacted in 1994. Clinton admitted strong retaliatory gun owners' "Remember in November" reaction was the reason much of the rest of the Clinton/Gore political agenda never got passed. Over 60 Democrats lost their seats in Congress that November (Dec/Jan 1995 issue *Campaigns & Elections* magazine).

Gun owners gave Bush the presidency in 2000 because they feared a Clinton /Gore type gun ban. Gun owners will not react well if Bush betrays them and signs a Bush gun ban into law! A Bush gun ban is even worse than a Clinton gun ban!

Gun owners "Remembered in November" in both 1994 and 2000. We will "Remember in November" in 2004, too. What do you want us to remember?

NO MORE GUN BANS! NO EXCUSES! NO COMPROMISES!

Sincerely,

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 Ave.
Goose Creek, 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

Lexington Pawn and Gun
4884 Sunset Blvd.
Lexington, SC
803-957-4998

Mike's Gun Shop
803-482-7094
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

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

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

Wateree Arms
803-695-7056
9321 Garners Ferry Road
Hopkins, SC 29061
www.watereearms.com

Our apologies to the following Gun Shops
which should have been listed in the last issue of The Defender.

Top Dollar Pawn
843-681-3400
7 Central Plaza, Mathens Dr.
Hilton Head, SC 29926

Ricky's Gun Service & Sales
843-521-4866
75 Burton Hill Rd.
Beaufort, SC 29906

Low Country Outfitters
843-837-6100
Moss Creek Village
Hilton Head, SC 29926

Port Royal Gun and Pawn
843-524-7043
2204 Mossy Oaks Road
Port Royal, SC 29935

Island Outfitters
843-522-9900
180 Sea Island Parkway
Beaufort, SC 29902



SLED had some objections to what was proposed in H.3842 and printed in the April edition of The Defender. GrassRoots leaders worked with SLED to relieve their objections, yet still accomplish the GrassRoots GunRights objectives. Here is the final form of H. 3482 as agreed to by GrassRoots and SLED, and which was passed by the House General Laws subcommittee. It is awaiting action by the House Judiciary Committee.

CHAPTER 23.
OFFENSES INVOLVING WEAPONS
ARTICLE 1. PISTOLS HANDGUNS

SECTION 16-23-10.
Definitions. When used in this article:
(a) “Pistol” Handgun” means any firearm designed to expel a projectile and designed to be fired from the hand, but shall not include any firearm generally recognized or classified as an antique, curiosity, or collector’s item, or any that does not fire fixed cartridges.
(b) The term “dealer” means any person engaged in the business of selling firearms at retail or any person who is a pawnbroker.
(c) The term “crime of violence” means murder, manslaughter (except negligent manslaughter arising out of traffic accidents), rape, mayhem, kidnapping, burglary, robbery, housebreaking, assault with intent to kill, commit rape, or rob, assault with a dangerous weapon, or assault with intent to commit any offense punishable by imprisonment for more than one year.
(d) The term “fugitive from justice” means any person who has fled from or is fleeing from any law enforcement officer to avoid prosecution or imprisonment for a crime of violence.
(e) The term “subversive organization” means any group, committee, club, league, society, association or combination of individuals the purpose of which, or one of the purposes of which, is the establishment, control, conduct, seizure or overthrow of the government of the United States or any state or political subdivision thereof, by the use of force, violence, espionage, sabotage, or threats or attempts of any of the foregoing.
(f) The term “conviction” as used herein shall include pleas of guilty, pleas of nolo contendere and forfeiture of bail.
(g) The term “Division” shall mean the State Law Enforcement Division.
(h) The terms “purchase” or “sell” mean to knowingly buy, offer to buy, receive, lease, rent, barter, exchange, pawn or accept in pawn.
(i) The term “person” shall mean any individual, corporation, company, association, firm, partnership, society or joint stock company.
(j) The term “luggage compartment” means the trunk of a motor vehicle which contains such; however, with respect to a motor vehicle which does not contain a trunk, the term “luggage compartment” refers to the area of the motor vehicle in which the manufacturer designed that luggage be carried or to the area of the motor vehicle in which luggage is customarily carried. In regard to a station wagon, van,

hatchback vehicle or sport utility vehicle, the term “luggage compartment” refers to the area behind, but not under, the rearmost seat. In regard to a truck, the term “luggage compartment” refers to the area behind, but not under, the front seats.
SECTION 16-23-20. Unlawful carrying of ~~pistol~~ handgun; exceptions.
It is unlawful for anyone to carry about the person any ~~pistol~~ handgun, whether concealed or not, except as follows and as otherwise specifically prohibited by law:
(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) ~~M~~ members of the Armed Forces of the United States or of the National Guard, organized reserves, or the State Militia when on duty;:
(3) ~~M~~ members, or their invitees, of organizations authorized by law to purchase or receive firearms from the United States or this State, or regularly enrolled members, or their invitees, 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~~ handgun in the usual or ordinary course of the business;:
(6) Guards authorized by law to possess handguns and 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 in his home, or upon his real property, or ~~fixed place of business~~ a person who has the permission of the owner, the person in legal possession, or the

person in legal control of the home or real property;
(9) ~~Any~~ a person in a vehicle ~~where if the pistol handgun~~ is secured in a closed glove compartment, closed console, ~~or~~ closed trunk or in a closed container secured by an integral fastener and transported in the luggage compartment of the vehicle; this item is not violated ~~if the glove compartment, console or trunk of a vehicle is opened in the presence of a law enforcement officer for the sole purpose of retrieving a driver’s license, registration, or proof of insurance;~~
(10) ~~Any~~ a person carrying a ~~pistol handgun~~ 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 handgun~~ about his person, under conditions set forth in the permit, and while transferring the handgun between the permittee’s person and a location specified in item (9) of this section;:
(13) the owner, person in legal possession, or the person in legal control of a fixed place of business, while at such fixed place of business, and the employee of a fixed place of business, other than a business subject to Section 16-23-465, while at such place of business, provided the employee may exercise this privilege only after acquiring a permit pursuant to item (12) of this section.
(14) a person engaged in firearms-related activities while on the premises of a fixed place of business which conducts, as a regular course of its business, activities related to sale, repair, pawn firearms training or use of firearms, unless the premises is posted with a sign limiting possession of firearms to holder of permits issued pursuant to item (12) of this section.
(15) a person while transferring a handgun directly from or to a vehicle and a location specified in this section where one may legally possess the handgun. Persons authorized to carry weapons pursuant to items (6) and (12) of this section 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.

Pickens County
Ordinances
Against Ranges
You can help!

The Pickens County Council passed a new development standards ordinance DSP304. Hidden in this 121 page ordinance are a few paragraphs that will hinder new shooting ranges from being constructed in Pickens County and give County officials opportunities to create havoc with existing ranges.
I am a resident of Pickens County a member of Grassroots, former NRA director, shoot at the public range near my house and I have a permit to carry concealed. I read the Pickens County Development Standards 304 and I am concerned.

We need volunteers from all over Pickens County. Please call, write or email me.
Weldon Clark
100 Heathwood Drive
Liberty, SC 29657
Home 864-878-0407
Work 864-878-6331
whclark@worldnet.att.net

What
does
the
so-called
“assault
weapon
ban
really
mean?

See
The
Beginnings
of a
New Era
on Page 2



The Slippery Menace

[from the Internet, unattributed]

Unregulated bathtubs cause over 200,000 injuries every year. How many more must die in the cold porcelain of the household bathtub before we come to our collective senses? This all too common appliance is a proven killer. Unregulated bathtubs cause over 200,000 injuries every year. There are over 100 drownings and 70 people cooked to death in scalding bath water each and every year. Add the suicides, falls, and deliberate murders that take place in tubs, and the death toll mounts. Sadly, children comprise 75% of the fatalities.

Many European nations have long recognized the risk inherent in bathtubs and have reduced the use of them. Yet in the United States, the bathing culture is rampant, and leads to death and suffering on a gigantic scale. There are those who claim that bath tub use is justified under certain circumstances. Some claim that bathtubs are necessary for cleanliness. Is personal vanity more important to you than a child's safety? Recreation is often espoused as a legitimate use of the bathtub but can be disregarded out of hand. No brief thrill is worth the cost of maintaining one of these deadly instruments of destruction in your home. Research shows that the chances of drowning or being boiled in your bathtub are greater than the chances of inducing a supermodel of the opposite sex to share it with you.

Steps should be taken at once to register tubs. Our government at present does not even know for sure how many of these killer devices exist! Simply incorporating a few questions into the upcoming census would help authorities to determine the size of regulatory agency needed to enforce license requirements.

Many bathtubs hold up to 18 inches of water. The variety known as the "spa" or "hot tub" may hold even more, and has been implicated in cases of date rape. Some of these assault tubs can have as much as 24 inches of water and various automatic jets, whirlpools, and heaters, which make them attractive to the criminal bather. Our legislature should take steps to limit all new bathtubs to holding 3 inches of water. This should reduce the chances of mass drowning significantly.

Of course, children make up the overwhelming number of bathtub victims. Even if you do not own a bathtub, your child's friends may have parents who are irresponsible bathers. The common sense solution is for people to use faucet locks. Faucet locks can be easily mandated by government, enforced by a new agency set up specifically with tub safety in mind, and subject to in-home inspections at households with registered bathtubs. Regardless of any "right" claimed by the pro-bathing crowd, (a right which is never mentioned in

the Constitution) precedents have already been established for bathroom fixture regulation. The Supreme Court has so far refused to hear any cases involving environmentally friendly

commodes, thereby pointing out the foolishness of those who say that the government requirement of a toilet that doesn't work is some kind of tyranny. We should continue to educate these malcontents and inform their children of the stubborn and selfish ways of their parents.

How can you get involved in insuring your children's safety? The most important thing you can do is to eliminate your bathtub immediately. Your tub is not "necessary" to your family's well being, and in fact is more likely to kill or injure a member of your family or a friend, than it is to drown a burglar. The benefits of eliminating your tub will be immediate and noticeable. There will be a certain air about you that says, "I did away with my bathtub and I'm safer for it." Lobby your legislators to immediately invoke new laws to insure your safety from tubs. Give them money if you have to. Write nasty letters, stage protests, and organize anti-bathing individuals to stand around in legislative chambers. You WILL be noticed. Finally, join Bathtub Sanity, the only organization dedicated to your safety from this menace. At B.S. we are constantly involved in political action, research, and public education. We even maintain a facility containing various models of assault tubs, which our staff researches and tests at considerable personal danger.

Your children deserve to be safe, no matter the inconvenience or hardship. They cry out for your protection. Would you deny them?

Your tub is not "necessary" to your family's well being, and in fact is more likely to kill or injure a member of your family or a friend, than it is to drown a burglar.

JOIN GRASSROOTS NOW! Help us do more!

Complete and mail check to:
GrassRoots, PO Box 6383, Columbia, SC 29260

- ☐ One-year Membership \$15.00
Includes newspapers and mailings, email alerts and updates. Additional contributions are welcomed (see below) and are used to further the goals of GrassRoots right here in South Carolina.
- ☐ One-year GrassRoots Firearms Instructor Membership \$25.00
Many extra benefits.
- ☐ Renewal \$15.00 for Membership - \$25.00 for Firearms Instructor
Please check here if you are renewing Regular or Instructor membership so we can avoid duplicates.
- ☐ Please send me _____ GrassRoots bumper stickers \$1.00 when included with dues.
- ☐ Thanks for making my CWP more useful. Here is 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.
Amount enclosed _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Fax: _____

Make checks payable to GRASSROOTS
News 0603

Visit us on the web:
www.scfirearms.org

ED

I WILL PUT SOMETHING
TOGETHER FOR
MIKE KENT TO GO
IN THIS SPACE
AND SEND IT TO YOU
TODAY.

KELLY

“ I paused, peering at the trees opposite. 'No, Ange, if the folks who believe in law, justice, and a decent life for folks are to be shot down by those who believe in violence, nothing makes much sense. I believe in justice, I believe in being tolerating of other folks, but I pack a big pistol, ma'am, and will use it when needed.' ” — Louis L'Amour

Holsters Continued from Page 1

Most of the holsters in my collection are leather, and we will concentrate on leather holsters. There are synthetic alternatives, but most are better suited to military than civil use. Comfort in a military context depends more upon load bearing devices and web gear than the individual holster. Speed of the draw is not as important as retention. As an example a paratroopers holster seems overbuilt. It is similar to the holster SWAT team members use. Each meets extreme needs. These holsters keep the weapon from being lost in extreme movement. Since the operator is moving in on a known threat, he will anticipate the need to have the handgun in hand. Civilian carriers do not have the problem of leaping from airplanes or harsh maneuvers. They must be able to quickly access the handgun. For this type of use, leather holsters are still the best choices. The long flaps and tie downs of military holsters are not needed.

Leather making is one of mans oldest skills. Arguably, we are still learning the finer points. Most any large animal and some smaller ones have hides suitably rugged and supple to mold into a load bearing pouch. Most gun leather is cowhide. Some makers are adroit at weaving sections of exotic material into the holster. Some make full blown holsters of Python, Boa, Ostrich, Shark, and Alligator. Most of the snakeskin holsters are snakeskin over leather. Horsehide has many advantages over cowhide, including superior strength for the same weight material and a heightened resistance to water and oil saturation. Horsehide can give long service with minimal maintenance. The key is in choosing a quality holster that is well designed and executed.

It is important to understand the differences in holster leather in order to make an intelligent, satisfying choice. A misconception exists concerning the differences in shell horsehide and cordovan. Shell

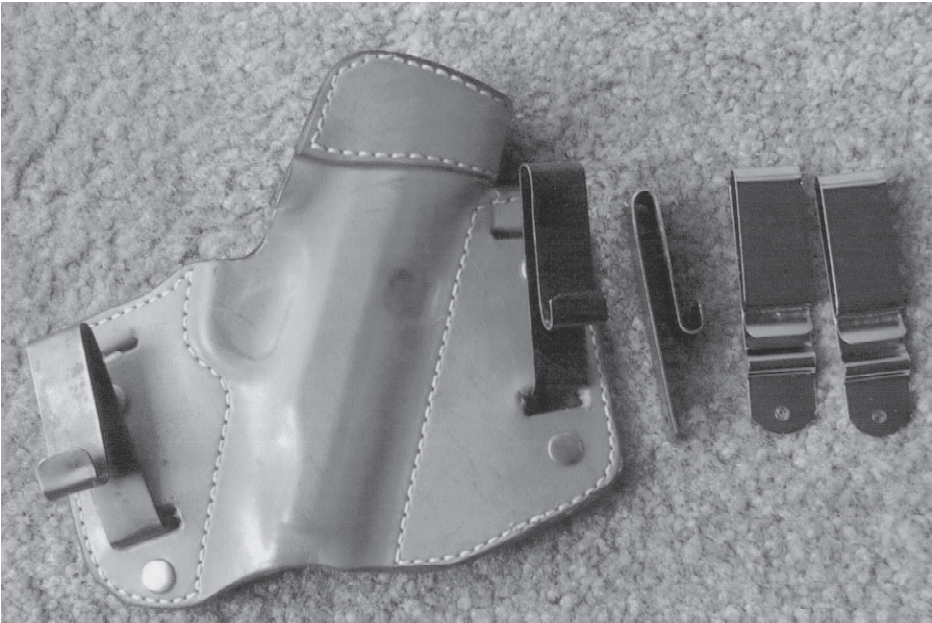
Custom makers tell me horsehide is considerably more difficult to work with, but worth the effort. Cordovan is a muscle that is tanned and stitched to form a rugged holster. Most cordovan holsters have some cowhide components, but shell horsehide is usually totally horsehide. I have used both types of holsters for over twenty years and have had good results with either. My horsehide holsters show less wear than cowhide holsters with equal use. I have permanently stained many light colored cowhide holsters when working special assignment in the summer months. My Summer Special holsters seemed only cosmetically affected, but I severely rusted a STAR PD .45 in this carry. Like my pastor says, we do not perspire, we sweat! Horsehide holsters are more resistant to body oils and acids. Not immune, but more resistant. Horsehide also allows a thinner but equally strong holster. This is important in concealed carry.

To understand how to take care of leather and avoid disappointment, it is necessary to understand the process in making a holster. Over the years, I have bent the ear of Lou Alessi, Michael Taurisano, Rusty Sherrick and Ken Null to name a few. I have not become an expert but have progressed perhaps from internship to journeyman. I am familiar with different production methods. The beginning of all of them is tanning.

Proponents of modern synthetic holsters, especially those of Kydex, proclaim that leather holsters are simply dead parts of animals that are convinced not to rot for a time. This statement has a grain of truth, but decomposition can be practically halted by tanning. Animal hides are cleaned and treated, then tanned with vegetable or other tanning agents. Tanning is similar to stabilizing wood, as is seen in handgun grips. We are working with something that once lived and making it nonporous and non breathing (in the sense air passes through and interacts with material) in

in holsters. Oak tanned holsters, and the smell of leather is distinctive. As a peace officer, my gear was utilitarian. Today, I enjoy the finest leather. That does not mean it is not more capable than anything previously available. I also like basketweave revolver holsters, which many think is a thing of the past. To the contrary, I recently located a basketweave revolver

of precision fit is desirous of time and requires a skilled hand. Production holsters are blocked, not boned, usually by a type of press. Some of the makers get it very good, and a number of production holsters are significantly better fitted and finished than custom holsters of my youth. Don Hume's shoulder holster is as well made and finished-with a



This is a special holster with a myriad of belt clips, from Blocker

holster that not only is well made; it is stitched with white linen thread in the tan versions. The A E Nelson holsters are durable and attractive. There is a lot of choice if you look for it.

Basket weave and even floral engraving is there. As long as it does not compromise the holster, why not? More impressive is stitching. Single stitching is the rule in production holsters. I prefer double stitched holsters, and prefer that they be stitched with high quality nylon thread that will not rot. Some holsters are single layer construction, others have double leather construction and are waxed or glued together. The double stitched, double thick holster will last a lifetime. However the holster is finished, it should be sewn and fitted properly. Stitching must be clean and even and all parts molded together in even geometry. A holster that displays these traits is the Flapjack by A E Nelson. This holster predates the paddle and is superior in some ways, notably that it rides flat to the body. Some types simply will not work if not properly put together. The flapjack has a special splayed rivet holding the holster halves together that guarantees it will not separate. Nothing gets harder use than a cop holster, and these holsters are built to last. It is a good example to what to look for in a holster.

Blocking and boning are terms often used interchangeably, but they are not the same thing. All holsters are blocked for a certain gun, or perhaps a certain range of guns, but all are not boned. A top quality custom holster is boned. When first delivered they will be tight, perhaps too tight for the gun to be drawn without quite a bit of effort. Boning means the holster has been fitted to the proper handgun by butting the gun or gun mold into a wet holster. A smooth tool or actual bone is used to press the gun leather against every angle of the handgun. This type

combination of several materials-as any I have seen, including the better custom makers. Numerous less expensive custom holsters are blocked. For the man who wishes to use and run, blocking works. For those wishing the best possible fit, boning is mandated.

Reason must be used. As an example, due to its construction, a shoulder holster cannot be as tightly fitted as a strong side belt holster. The draw would never work. As a result, the shoulder holster must have not only a looser-but not loose fit-but some type of retention device.

When working with new holsters with a tight fit, lubricant applied during the break in period can be beneficial. I have used KG holster lubricant with good results. Far superior to the gunfighters hog grease, KG works well. The best break in comes with a holster lightly polished holster. The beginning of the break in is leaving the handgun in the holster overnight, on a belt, and then wearing it around the home. Combined with the KG treatment, in a week or two the holster is ready for duty. I have a gun and holster combination that exhibits an excellent combination of speed and retention. Speed, retention and concealment must be balanced. Custom holders do not have a loose fit.

A number of our top makers, including Taurisano and Aker, routinely supply holsters with a retention screw. Once the holster becomes worn, the retention screw can tighten the fit. Most assume the screw is for adjusting the draw, and this is one of the functions of the retention screw. It can also tighten worn leather. Considering the variations in American and foreign produced 1911 type frames, the retention option is especially a good idea for the ever popular 1911. It is important never to attempt to stretch a



The belt slide is not among the author's favorite holsters, but the Aker version is a vast improvement over many others. Shown with the Para Ordnance LDA .45.

horsehide, as an example, is the trademark of master maker Ken Null. The shell is the part over the butt of the horse. A company called Jackass Leather named its wares based for the preferred section of horsehide its holsters were crafted from. Today, they are known as Galco. Shell horsehide is simply the preferred section of the hide, the strongest.

order to stabilize it or to prevent deterioration. Holster leather is more malleable than sole leather but less so than most shoe leather-the shoe needs to breath, the gun holster does not. Many makers have distinctive, even artistic tanning processes. A tan Blocker holster stands out in the holster locker and so does the tightly boned Alessi. I admit to a certain taste

The Power of One: How One Person Can Make a Difference

by J.C. Rice
Contributing Writer

I recently purchased a self defense hand gun at Hunters Headquarters (864-229-2034) in Greenwood, South Carolina. I dealt with Scott Winn, one of the firearms advisors at Hunters Headquarters, a true expert. Scott strongly advised me to do two things - take a CWP class from Ed Strickland and join GrassRoots GunRights SC. I am glad I did both. I have been a GrassRoots GunRights member since January 2003.

Ed Strickland (864-366-4918 , Abbeville, SC) is a SLED certified CWP instructor. Ed’s class is a one day package deal that makes it easy for those people who have limited spare time. When you leave Ed’s class, you put three stamps on an envelope that contains your CWP application, finger print cards, a notarized copy of your driver’s license, photograph, etc., along with a money order payable to SLED, and drop it in the mail box when you leave. Interestingly, Ed also strongly advised me to join GrassRoots GunRights SC.

My son and I live in the upstate and are avid hikers. I had heard that it was legal to carry a concealed weapon in a state park, but did not know for sure. [Editor’s note: Mr. Rice just recently joined GrassRoots and did not know that GrassRoots was responsible for getting the law changed last year.]

On May 20, 2003, I called each state park in the upstate and asked if I, as a CWP holder, could carry a concealed weapon in a state park. I called Caesar’s Head State Park and talked to a gentleman named Chris. I asked him if it was legal for a CWP holder to carry in the park. He immediately said “no”, and questioned why I would want to carry a gun. I told him I was not asking his opinion on the subject, I just wanted to know if it was legal to do so. He said “the propensity for killing a rattlesnake was better if someone was walking around with a gun.” He again asked me why I felt I needed to have a gun. At that point, I told him I would try to find out elsewhere what the law really was. He said if he found out he would call me back, and he asked me to call him back if I found out first. I gave him my phone number.

I called each of the State Parks in the upstate. Each park I called gave me a different answer. None of them, except Table Rock State Park, told me I could carry with a CWP. Even the fellow that initially answered the phone at Table Rock said “no.” Only when I asked for and spoke to the park manager did I get a “yes.” But, I was told I had to check in with him when I got there in order to carry in Table Rock State Park.

I called SLED (the people that issue the concealed weapon permits) in Columbia, SC, and asked them if a CWP holder could carry in a state park. SLED told me to call the Department of Natural Resources

(DNR). I called the DNR in Columbia. DNR told me they had no jurisdiction over the state parks. DNR told me to call the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism (PRT).

I was getting frustrated with the apparent runaround and decided to seek a legal expert. So, I called the South Carolina Attorney General’s office. They told me to call the people that issued the CWP permits. That would be SLED, and they had told me to call DNR. I knew I really needed to talk with someone who knew what they were talking about.

A friend and fellow permit holder named Keith McCoy told me to get in touch with someone from GrassRoots. I called Rob Butler. Rob is V.P. and Legislative Director for GrassRoots. Rob was very knowledgeable about the law, and immediately told me where to go to find the law on the South Carolina Legislature’s official web site. I went to scstatehouse.net and found the law: Section 51-3-145.

I again called Caesar’s Head State Park and asked for Chris, to tell him of my finding as he had requested.

A gentleman named Ed answered the phone and told me Chris was not there. Ed asked if he could help. I told him I had called Chris with a CWP question earlier, and he had asked me to let him know the answer if I found it. I told Ed that I had questioned carrying a concealed weapon in a state park. Ed immediately began interrogating me as to why I felt I had to have a gun on my person in Caesar’s Head State Park. I told him I was not asking permission,

I was simply calling back to tell Chris about Section 51-3-145. Ed kept asking why I felt I needed a gun. Ed stated that if I carried a gun in the state park, then he would want to know about it. Ed said that he was just speaking from a “common sense” point of view. Ed was relentless. Finally, I then told him it was my right, and it was the law. I felt like I was talking to a brick.

I then called 1-888-88-PARKS and talked to Barbara, who was very helpful. Barbara sent an email to her boss, Mark, with my problem. Mark very promptly (within 45 minutes) called me back. Mark told me the park people were wrong to say I could not carry in a state park, or that I

needed to let anyone know in advance. I asked him if he could send me a copy of the law. He very nicely asked if I had internet access. I said yes. Mark told me exactly where to go to find Section 51-3-145 which allows CWP in state parks. Mark then apologized for Chris’ and Ed’s interrogation’s. Mark said he would send a copy of the law to each state park and explain the law to them. Mark then very nicely explained to me that as a permit holder I could enjoy the benefits of my CWP and carry in any S.C. State Park. Mark also said if I had any further problems to please call him.

Thanks to the gun rights crusaders of GrassRoots (Rob Butler in particular), I was able to find and get a copy of the SC CWP laws. Even more importantly, thanks to GrassRoots, there was a law to allow me to carry in a state park.

Thank you, GrassRoots!
[Editor’s note: Thank you, J.C. Rice. GrassRoots is not just a few fat white guys in Columbia. The power of GrassRoots comes from GrassRoots members like you, Scott Winn, and Ed Strickland from all over South Carolina. The power of GrassRoots comes from GrassRoots members from all over South Carolina who send in postcards, letters, faxes, and phone calls. The power of GrassRoots comes from GrassRoots members who stand up for their rights as you did. The power of GrassRoots comes from GrassRoots members who help recruit more members so that GrassRoots can exert even more pressure to improve or repeal our gun laws. GrassRoots leadership works to organize all the wonderful GrassRoots members so that we work as one. The Power of One is both an individual power and a group power. Let your work serve as an example to others.]

The Power of One: It’s Contagious, So Catch It!

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

The mightiest oaks start from a single acorn. The Power of One is like an acorn developing into a mighty oak. All great things start small and build. GrassRoots is no exception. Here is an example.

After hearing of GrassRoots member Mr. Rice’s hard work and perseverance in getting state park officials to know the law about CWP in state parks, I urged Mr. Rice to write an article for *The Defender* describing what he did. Please read Mr. Rice’s article at the top of this page.

GrassRoots was responsible for getting the law changed last year to allow CWP in state parks. Unfortunately, it seems state park workers had not gotten the message. I helped Mr. Rice get the information he needed to win in this educational effort, but it was Mr. Rice who did the leg work.

I checked with some of the people referred to in Mr. Rice’s article before publishing it. I talked with Scott Winn and Ed Strickland. Both of these men are staunch supporters of GrassRoots GunRights. I tried to talk with Mark, but he never returned my phone call.

In response to my call to Scott Winn at Hunter’s Headquarters, I received a call from George Harris,

the owner of Hunter’s Headquarters. George had an idea and wanted to talk with me about getting it started.

George Harris said he was so impressed with the work of GrassRoots GunRights that he wanted to include GrassRoots GunRights material with every gun sold from Hunter’s Headquarters. George felt it was important that every gun buyer know about GrassRoots so they could then join GrassRoots. George wanted to know what it would cost to buy the GrassRoots informational brochures and have them sent to his store.

George Harris had a great idea another example of the Power of One. GrassRoots wants to help make this acorn of an idea grow into another mighty oak. GrassRoots is going to start the GrassRoots GunRights GunShop program.

GrassRoots will supply newsletters or new member brochures to every gun shop in SC that agrees to include them with all gun purchases. GrassRoots will also provide a business card ad in *The Defender* (as space permits) to each GrassRoots GunRights GunShop. As other gun shops follow suit, GrassRoots will grow and our rights will be better protected. Thank you, George Harris.

In my talk with Ed Strickland, he told me he tells all his students they should join GrassRoots. Unfortunately, Ed said he had run

out of GrassRoots brochures and was forced to just tell people about GrassRoots. Ed would like to put GrassRoots materials into every CWP student’s hand.

Ed Strickland is right. *Every* CWP Instructor should be putting GrassRoots materials into *every* CWP student’s hand. GrassRoots wants to help CWP instructors do this. Every CWP instructor who requests GrassRoots materials to pass out to CWP students will get it. Just let us know how many students you teach every quarter (three months), and we will get the materials to you. Thank you, Ed Strickland.

Thanks to George Harris and Ed Strickland, GrassRoots now has new ways to help build our membership so that we can accomplish even more. The contacts with George Harris and Ed Strickland were a direct result of Mr. Rice’s Power of One efforts. The acorn is growing into a mighty oak.

If each of us develops the Power of One mentality, we can grow our GrassRoots membership to numbers that can not be ignored at the Statehouse. Then, we can reclaim our rights and better protect our families. The Power of One – It Starts With You. The Power of One is contagious! Now, catch it!

We Still Are Not Ready!

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 even for “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 heroes. 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.

“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 at the top of this page. Please contribute whatever you can afford. Even if you can not afford a large contribution now, many small contributions (\$5 or \$10) still help greatly. Thank you.

Help us get ready!

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

GrassRoots Shooting Range Legal Defense Fund
PO Box 6383
Columbia, SC 29260

GrassRoots Legal Defense Fund
PO Box 6383
Columbia, SC 29260

GunRights PAC
220 Isobel Court
Lexington, SC 29072
Donations to the PAC are especially useful to us!

GrassRoots GunRights
PO Box 6383
Columbia, SC 29260
But regular donations here are appreciated also!



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 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.

Note: The Spartanburg Waccamaw Expo Center closed due to bankruptcy. The Mike Kent, Land of the Sky gun shows scheduled there have been cancelled till they can find another venue.

South Carolina Gun Shows Scheduled for 2003

Greenville Feb. 22-23	Palmetto Expo Center May 17-18 Sept. 13-14 Dec. 13-14
Spartanburg CANCELLED	Waccamaw Expo Center
Columbia Jan. 11-12	Jamil Shrine Temple Apr. 05 – 06 Aug. 02 – 03 Nov. 01 – 02
Columbia June 14-15	State Fairgrounds Dec. 20 – 21
Florence Mar. 22-23	Florence Civic Center July 26 – 27 Nov. 22 – 23
Charleston Jan. 18-19	Exchange Park, Ladson May 03 – 04 Sept. 20 – 21

Gun Show Table Organizers:

Call if you'd like to help at a Gun Show.

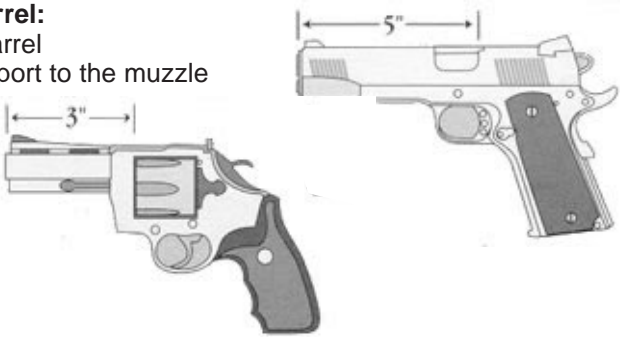
Greenville / Spartanburg Don Brady	(864) 269-8957	majorfool1@juno.com
Charleston John Borkowski III	(843) 849-7995	john@jcb3.com
Florence Mike Walguarnery	(803) 781-1360	walgum123@netzero.net
Columbia Mike Walguarnery	(803) 781-1360	walgum123@netzero.net
Gun Show Director Terry Hicks	(803)781-1360	gunshows@scfirearms.org

Note: Terry Hicks is having a kidney transplant and will be out of action for a while. Mike Walguarnery is filling in for him. Let's keep Terry in our prayers, that he has a speedy and complete recovery.

METHOD OF PROPER BARREL LENGTH MEASUREMENT:

Semiautomatics barrel:
Measure length of barrel from rear of ejection port to the muzzle

Revolver barrel:
Measure length of Barrel from face of the cylinder to the muzzle.



South Carolina handgun “melting point” law

REVISED 03/08/93

AAI	PX-25 DA AUTO, 60795
AJAX/SERR	TERRIER OME REV, 7819-22
AJAX/SERR	TERRIER OME REV, 7819-32
AM/I	22C"CALICO" PISTOL, M-110
AM/I	22C"CALICO"PISTOL, M-100-P
DAVIS	32 AUTO BLK PISTOL, P32 AUTO BLK
DAVIS	32 AUTO CHR PISTOL, P32 AUTO CHR
DAVIS	38 SPEC DERR, D38BL
DAVIS	38 SPEC DERR, D90CH
DAVIS	380 BLK PIST, P-380B
DAVIS	380 CHR PIST, P-380C
DAVIS	BLUE 32 DERR, D32-BLUE
DAVIS	CHR 32 DERR, D32DER CHR
DAVIS	D22 BLUE DERR, D22BLUE
DAVIS	D22 CHROME DERR, D22CHROME
DAVIS	D25 BLUE DERR, D25 BLUE
DAVIS	D25 CHROME DERR, D25 CHR
DAVIS	DM22MAG BLK PISTOL, DM22 BLK
DAVIS	DM22MAG CHR PISTOL, DM22 CHROME
EAA	22LR BOUNTY HUNTER, EASAB
EAA	22LR WINDICATOR STANDARD GRADE, EA/R224
EAA	22LR WINDICATOR STANDARD GRADE, EA/R226
EAA	22LR/22WRM BOUNTY HUNTER, EASAMB
EAA	22LR/22WRM BOUNTY HUNTER, EASAMB6
EAA	22LR/22WRM BOUNTY HUNTER, EASAMB9
EAA	22LR/22WRM BOUNTY HUNTER, EASAMBR
EAA	22LR/22WRM BOUNTY HUNTER, EASAMBR6
EAA	22LR/22WRM BOUNTY HUNTER, EASAMBR9
EAA	22LR/22WRM BOUNTY HUNTER, EASAMBR76
EAA	22LR/WRM WINDICATOR STANDARD GRADE, EA/R224M
EAA	22LR/WRM WINDICATOR STANDARD GRADE, EA/R226M
EAA	32 H&R WINDICATOR STANDARD GRADE, EA/R32
EAA	38 SPL WINDICATOR BASIC GRADE, EA/RB38
EAA	38 SPL WINDICATOR STANDARD GRADE, EA/R382
EAA	38 SPL WINDICATOR STANDARD GRADE, EA/R384
EAA	38 SPL WINDICATOR TACTICAL GRADE, EA/R382D/A
EAA	38 SPL WINDICATOR TACTICAL GRADE, EA/RCOMP
EXCAM	22/22M 6" BLU REV, TA766
EXCAM	22/22M BLUE REV, TA226
EXCAM	22/22MAG 6" BLU REV, TA766M
EXCAM	22/22MAG BLU REV, TA226M
EXCAM	22/22MAG CHR REV, TA76MC
EXCAM	22L/22M BLUE REV, TA76M
EXCAM	22LR BLU AUTO PISTOL, RX22B
EXCAM	22LR BLUE REV, TA22
EXCAM	22LR BLUE REV, TA76
EXCAM	22LR CHR REV, TA76C
EXCAM	22LR/22MAG BLU REV, TA22M
EXCAM	22LR/22MAG STEL REV, TA22SLM
EXCAM	25 BLUE AUTO PISTOL, GT27B
EXCAM	25 CHR AUTO PISTOL, GT27C
EXCAM	38SP DERR, TA38
EXCAM	38SP DERR, TA38S
FIE	"YELLOW ROSE- SA REV, E15MGW
FIE	22 COMB 3 1/4", GRMR3
FIE	22 COMB 3 1/4", GRMS3
FIE	22 COMB 4 1/4", GRMS4
FIE	22 COMB 4" BLUE, S22MB4
FIE	22 COMB 6 1/4", GRMS6
FIE	22 COMB BLUE 3 1/4", CWMB3
FIE	22 COMB BLUE 6", CWMB6
FIE	22 COMB TX RANG REV, TEX22MB
FIE	22 COMB YELLOW ROSE, E15LTD
FIE	22 COMBO BLUE 9", TEX22MB9
FIE	22 CONVERTIBLE BLUE&GOLD, E15MAT
FIE	22 CONVERTIBLE BLUE, E15MB
FIE	22 CONVERTIBLE CHR, E15MC
FIE	22 MAG 2" BLUE, S22MAGB2
FIE	22 MAG 2" CHR, S22MAGC2
FIE	22 MAG 2" GOLD, S22MAGG2
FIE	22 MAG 4" BLUE, SM22B4
FIE	22CAL 6" BLUE REV, 722B
FIE	22LR 2" BLUE, S22B2
FIE	22LR 2" CHR, S22C2
FIE	22LR 2" GOLD, S22G2
FIE	22LR 3 1/4", GRR3
FIE	22LR 3 1/4", GRS3
FIE	22LR 4 3/4", GRS4
FIE	22LR 4" BLUE, S22B4
FIE	22LR 6 1/2", GRS6
FIE	22LR ARMIN REV, 222B
FIE	22LR BLUE 3 1/4", CWB3
FIE	22LR BLUE 6", CWB6
FIE	22LR BLUE 9-, TEX22B9
FIE	22LR BLUE&GOLD, E15AT
FIE	22LR BLUE, E15B
FIE	22LR CHR, E15C
FIE	22LR REV 4" BLUE, 522TB

“SECTION 23-31-180. Certain pistols declared to be contraband; forfeiture, seizure, and destruction; disposal restrictions; use for display.

No licensed retail dealer may hold, store, handle, sell, offer for sale, or otherwise possess in his place of business a pistol or other handgun which has a die-cast, metal alloy frame or receiver which melts at a temperature of less than eight hundred degrees Fahrenheit. A pistol or other handgun possessed or sold by a dealer in violation of this article is declared to be contraband and must be forfeited to or seized by the law enforcement agency in the municipality where forfeited or seized or to the law enforcement agency in the county where forfeited or seized if forfeited or seized outside a municipality. The weapon must be destroyed by the law enforcement agency which seized the weapon or the law enforcement agency to which the weapon is forfeited. A weapon must not be disposed of in any manner until the results of any legal proceeding in which it may be involved are finally determined. However, a law enforcement agency may use the weapon for display purposes after the weapon has been rendered inoperable.”

The following is from the official SLED list distributed to South Carolina Retail Pistol Dealers. According to SLED this is the CURRENT list, revised 03/08/93. Note that SLED says this is only a “PARTIAL LISTING”. BUYER BEWARE!

INDIVIDUAL POSSESSION OR SALE NOT PROHIBITED
It is lawful for persons who are NOT licensed pistol dealers to hold, store, handle, sell, offer for sale, or possess any of the handguns listed hereafter if these persons are not otherwise prohibited from possessing a handgun.

NONMETALLIC HANDGUN FRAMES OR RECEIVERS
Handguns which have receivers or frames constructed of polymers, plastics, elastomers, ceramic, or composite materials are not regulated by section 23-31-180 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina, regardless of the melting point of such frames or receivers.

THIS IS ONLY A PARTIAL LISTING OF HANDGUNS THAT DO NOT MEET THE 800 DEGREE MELTING POINT REQUIREMENT. IF THERE IS A QUESTION AS TO THE MELTING POINT OF A HANDGUN NOT LISTED, YOU SHOULD CONTACT THE MANUFACTURER OR DISTRIBUTOR.

FIE	22LR TITAN II, LADY-22	JENN	38 BLACK 22 AUTO, 38-22B
FIE	22LR/22MAG BLU REV, 722DBT	JENN	38 BLACK 32 AUTO, 38-32B
FIE	22LR/22MAG BLUE REV, 722DB	JENN	38 BLACK 380 AUTO, 38-380B
FIE	25 AUTO CHR TITAN, E27C	JENN	38 CHROME 22 AUTO, 38-22C
FIE	25 AUTO DYNA-CHR, E28C	JENN	38 CHROME 32 AUTO, 38-32C
FIE	32 BLUE 4", 532TB	JENN	38 CHROME 380 AUTO, 38-380C
FIE	32 BLUE 6", 632B	JENN	38 MICKEL 22 AUTO, 38-22M
FIE	32 BLUE S/N, 232B	JENN	38 MICKEL 32 AUTO, 38-32M
FIE	32 MAG 2- BLUE, S32B2	JENN	38 MICKEL 380 AUTO, 38-380M
FIE	32 MAG 2" CHR, S32C2	JENN	380 BK/BK GRIPS PIST, B48-380BK
FIE	32 MAG 2" GOLD, S32G2	JENN	380 BLK PIST, BR BLK38-380
FIE	32 MAG 4" BLUE, S32B4	JENN	380 CAL PISTOL, BRYCO-380
FIE	38 BLUE 4", 384TB	JENN	380 CHR BK GRP PIST, BR 48-380CH
FIE	38 BLUE 6", 386TB	JENN	380 CHR PIST, BR CH38-380
FIE	38 DERR, D86W	JENN	380 MIC PIST, BR MIC38-380
FIE	38 SPL 2" BLUE, S38B2	JENN	380 NIC BKGRP PIST, BR48-380NC
FIE	38 SPL 2" CHR, S38C2	JENN	380 NIC PIST, B38-380N
FIE	38 SPL 2" GOLD, S38G2	JENN	380 PIST, BR BLK48-380
FIE	38 SPL 4" BLUE, S38B4	JENN	BLK TEF 22 PIST, J-22-BLK-WL
FIE	38 SPL DERR BLUE, D86B	JENN	BLK TEF 22 PISTOL, J22BLK
FIE	38 TITAN TIGER BLUE 4", N38B4	JENN	CHR/BLK GRP PIST, BRYC038-32C
FIE	38S 2" BLU TITAM REV, M38B2	JENN	CHR/BLK GRP PIST, BRYC038C-32
FIE	38SP DERR, D86	JENN	PISTOL, J-22-NIC/BK
FIE	38SP DERR, D86C	JENN	PISTOL, J-25-CH/BK
FIE	AUTO PISTOL 22LR, E22B	LORCIN	25 CAL PISTOL, L25
FIE	AUTO PISTOL 22LR, E22BW	LORCIN	32 CAL PISTOL, L32
FIE	AUTO PISTOL 25 CAL, E28B	LORCIN	380 PISTOL, L380
FIE	AUTO PISTOL 25C GOLD, E27BG	PHOENIX ARMS	25 AUTO PIST, 25
FIE	AUTO PISTOL 25CAL, E27B	QFI	25 PIST, SA25
FIE	AUTO PISTOL 25CAL, E27BW	QFI	25 PISTOL, TIGRESS 25
FIE	AUTO PISTOL 25CAL, E27CW	QFI	32 PIST, LA32
FIE	LADY TIGERESS 25, LADY-25	QFI	38 PISTOL, TIGRESS 38
FIE	TEX RANG 7" BLUE REV, TEX22B7	QFI	PLAINS RIDER PROMOTIONAL SINGLE ACTION REV,
FIE	TEX RANG COMB 3", TEX22MB3	RU SERIES	
FIE	TEXAS RANG 22LR BLUE, TEX22B	QFI	RP SERIES DOUBLE ACTION REVOLVERS, RP
FIE	TEXAS RANG 3" 22LR, TEX22B3	SERIES	
FIE	TX RANG 7" COMB, TEX22MB7	QFI	SO SERIES DOUBLE ACTION REVOLVERS, SO
FIE	YELLOW ROSE SA REV, E15MGW	SERIES	
HERITAGE ARMS	, ALL	QFI	WESTERN RANGER SINGLE ACTION REVOLVERS, R
INTRATEC	22 PIST, PRO-TEC22	SERIES	
INTRATEC	25 PIST, PRO-TEC25	RAVEN	25 BLUE PISTOL, P25B
JENM	25 CAL PIST, J-25-BLK-WL	RAVEN	25 CHROME PISTOL, P25C
JENM	32 CAL PIST, BRYC038-32	RAVEN	25 NICKEL PISTOL, P25N
JENN	22 AUTO MIC PISTOL, J-22-MIC-IV	RAVEN	25C IVORY PISTOL, P25CI
JENN	22 AUTO MICKEL PISTOL, J22 MICKEL	RAVEN	25N IVORY PISTOL, P25NI
JENN	22 CAL PIST, BRYC038-22	RAVEN	P25 BLU PISTOL, MP25B
JENN	22 CAL PISTOL, BRYCO-22	RG	REV AMD PIST, ALL
JENN	22 CHR PIST, J-22-CH-IV	SED	22CAL PISTOL BLK, SP-22B
JENN	22 CHR PISTOL, J22CHR	SED	22CAL PISTOL CHR, SP-22C
JENN	22 PIST, BR BLK48-22	STALLARD	ARMS 9MM PISTOL (MAVERICK) SERIAL UNDER
JENN	25 BLACK 25 AUTO, 25B	045270, JS-9	
JENN	25 CAL PISTOL, BRYCO-25	SUNDANCE	25 PIST, A25
JENN	25 CHROME 25 AUTO, 25C	SUNDANCE	25 PIST, BOA
JENN	25 MICKEL 25 AUTO, 25M	T/I	22CAL "TERRIER" REV, TER22
JENN	32 CAL PISTOL, BRYCO-32	T/I	32CAL "TERRIER" REV, TER32
JENN	32 NIC BKGRP PIST, BR NIC 38-32		
JENN	32 PIST, BR BLK48-32		

The Parable of the Sheep

by Charles Riggs
Used with permission

Not so long ago and in a pasture too uncomfortably close to here, a flock of sheep lived and grazed. They were protected by a dog, who answered to the master, but despite his best efforts from time to time a nearby pack of wolves would prey upon the flock.

One day a group of sheep, bolder than the rest, met to discuss their dilemma. "Our dog is good, and vigilant, but he is one and the wolves are many. The wolves he catches are not always killed, and the master judges and releases many to prey again upon us, for no reason we can understand. What can we do? We are sheep, but we do not wish to be food, too!"

One sheep spoke up, saying "It is his teeth and claws that make the wolf so terrible to us. It is his nature to prey, and he would find any way to do it, but it is the tools he wields that make it possible. If we had such teeth, we could fight back, and stop this savagery." The other sheep clamored in agreement, and they went together to the old bones of the dead wolves heaped in the corner of the pasture, and gathered fang and claw and made them into weapons.

That night, when the wolves came, the newly armed sheep sprang up with their weapons and struck at them, crying, "Begone! We are not food!" and drove off the wolves, who were astonished. When did sheep become so bold and so dangerous to wolves? When did sheep grow teeth? It was unthinkable!

The next day, flush with victory and waving their weapons, they approached the flock to pronounce their discovery. But as they drew nigh, the flock huddled together and

cried out, "Baaaaaaaadddd! Baaaaaddd things! You have bad things! We are afraid! You are not sheep!"

The brave sheep stopped, amazed. "But we are your brethren!" they cried. "We are still sheep, but we do not wish to be food. See, our new teeth and claws protect us and have saved us from slaughter. They do not make us into wolves, they make us equal to the wolves, and safe from their viciousness!"

"Baaaaaaad!" cried the flock, "the things are bad and will pervert you, and we fear them. You cannot bring them into the flock!" So the armed sheep resolved to conceal their weapons, for although they had no desire to panic the flock, they wished to remain in the fold. But they would not return to those nights of terror, waiting for the wolves to come.

In time, the wolves attacked less often and sought easier prey, for they had no stomach for fighting sheep who possessed tooth and claw even as they did. Not knowing which sheep had fangs and which did not, they came to leave sheep out of their diet almost completely except for the occasional raid, from which more than one wolf did not return.

Then came the day when, as the flock grazed beside the stream, one sheep's weapon slipped from the folds of her fleece, and the flock cried out in terror again, "Baaaaaad! You still possess these evil things! We must ban you from our presence!"

And so they did. The great chief sheep and his council, encouraged by the words of their advisors, placed signs and totems at the edges of the pasture forbidding the presence of hidden weapons there. The armed sheep protested before the council, saying, "It is our



pasture, too, and we have never harmed you! When can you say we have caused you hurt? It is the wolves, not we, who prey upon you. We are still sheep, but we are not food!" But the flock drowned them out with cries of "Baaaaaaddd! We will not hear your clever words! You and your things are evil and will harm us!"

Saddened by this rejection, the armed sheep moved off and spent their days on the edges of the flock, trying from time to time to speak with their brethren to convince them of the wisdom of having such teeth, but meeting with little success. They found it hard to talk to those who, upon hearing their words, would roll back their eyes and flee, crying "Baaaaddd! Bad things!"

That night, the wolves happened upon the sheep's totems and signs, and said, "Truly, these sheep are fools! They have told us they have no teeth! Brothers, let us feed!" And they set upon the flock, and horrible was the carnage in the midst of the fold. The dog fought like a demon, and often seemed to be in two places at once, but even he could not halt the slaughter.

It was only when the other sheep arrived with their weapons that the wolves fled, only to remain on the edge of the pasture and wait for the next time they could prey, for if the sheep were so foolish once, they would be so again. This they did, and do still.

In the morning, the armed sheep spoke to the flock, and said, "See? If the wolves know you have no teeth, they will fall upon you. Why be prey? To be a sheep does not mean to be food for wolves!" But the flock cried out, more feebly for their voices were fewer, though with no less terror, "Baaaaaaaad! These things are bad! If they were banished, the wolves would not harm us! Baaaaaaaad!"

So they resolved to retain their weapons, but to conceal them from the flock; to endure their fear and loathing, and even to protect their brethren if the need arose, until the day the flock learned to understand that as long as there were wolves in the night, sheep would need teeth to repel them.

They would still be sheep, but they would not be food!

Holsters Continued from Page 10

holster. Normal break in is all that is required.

If the time in breaking in a new holster seems like a lot of trouble, it is no worse than breaking in a pair of quality boots. Construction is not dissimilar. The end result is a finely fitted piece of leather. The holster carries the gun properly, with sufficient retention, but offers a fast presentation.

Cost is a factor but a holster is not the place to pinch pennies. The potential for disaster is too great. Ask yourself again-have you ever regretted buying quality? Cheap holsters grasp and snag at hammers and sights. A good rule is that the holster should cost a quarter as much as the gun. Occasionally, purchasing the holster, magazine, and belt as a combination can be an exceptional saving. Wild Bill of Wild Bill's Concealment Leather offers excellent deals via what he terms his "fuzzy math". Don't neglect the gun belt. A quality gun belt can make or break concealed carry. A tailored belt that does not

scream I AM ARMED is a great asset. There are numerous quality makers of belts. I am wearing a Kramer belt today that has seen years of use and more than 2,500 presentations from various holsters, but remains in fine condition. Every town has a good mechanic, but every state does not have a quality holster maker who offers quality belts. It may be necessary to custom order a belt, but the time is well spent. Fit is foremost.

When the holster is chosen, tactical and practical considerations must rule our choice. But there is room for angle, fit and personal style. There are few requirements I have found to be absolute. First, the trigger guard should be covered. The first speed holsters for revolver, the Threepersons and half breed type rigs, cut away the area around the trigger guard. Today, I still see quite a few of this type. But an exposed trigger guard is not acceptable for professional carry of a semi auto pistol. A covered trigger guard reinforces the rule that the trigger finger must be extended along the trigger guard as the gun is drawn, and not inserted into the trigger guard until the shooter is ready to fire. An exposed trigger guard is sometimes acceptable on a big bore or single

action revolver, but the user must know what he is about.

Another rule is that the holster must offer a good firing grip as soon as the handle is grasped. Some holsters crowd the hand or jam the handle into the body. This is not acceptable. I have tested many holsters over the years. Speed is in the operator, but some holsters allow more speed than others. If you are leaping from an airplane with a Mac/Charlie parachute on your back, you need a London Bridge Trading Company holster to retain your weapon. If you are a motorcycle officer operating on rugged roads, you need the remarkably versatile DeSantis full flap holster. But neither of these holsters are suitable for concealed carry. A properly fitted strong side holster offers good retention and great speed. Part of the reality of interpersonal combat is that it is not expected. This means we should be able to execute a rapid draw at momentary notice. That's easier said than done. The armed professional practices until he or she has achieved complete familiarity with the chosen gear. Can we afford to do any less?



This full size .45 is often carried in Taurisano's inside the waistband holster. Comfortable carry is possible with the right leather.

Holsters Continued on Page 16

GrassRoots GunRights Activism Training



GrassRoots will be hosting a legislative tactics seminar this fall to teach members the why and how of what we do legislatively. It is a class on how to wage effective GrassRoots Activism. It will be a real eye opener for those who have not attended one in the past, or who think the “Good ‘Ol Boy” access based model of political activism is the only one.

The tactics necessary to win are not properly explained in thirty second sound bites or smart catchy phrases. The class will last for approximately six hours, including lunch time.

The seminar will be primarily conducted by the GrassRoots GunRights Legislative Director, Robert D. Butler, J.D. Questions may be asked, and will be answered. However, arguments will be deferred.

We have set a tentative date for this training seminar as Saturday, October 18, 2003, from 9 am to 3 pm. Lunch will be provided.

Class is for GrassRoots members only. Fee (to pay for lunch and some handouts) will be \$5. We are asking

that people pre- enroll so that we can provide a facility and food in the right amounts.

There should not be any conflicts on that day. Clemson is playing at NC, and the Gamecocks do not have anything scheduled then, though that might change. The State Fair (10/2-10/12) will be over. Daylight savings time ends the week after.

If anyone sees any huge problem with that date, please let us know.

The seminar will most likely be held at the West Columbia church of Christ, 1701 Augusta Road, West Columbia. The church is located on US #1 in West Columbia, 2 miles down from I-26 Exit 111B.

Depending upon how many people sign up, we might be forced to limit attendance at some point. So, let us know if you want to attend. To reserve a seat, send your name, address, contact info (email or telephone) and \$5 per person to PO Box 6383, Columbia, SC 29260.

Thanks to the GrassRoots GunRights gun law reforms passed last year, CWP holder’s do not have to disarm to attend this training seminar. The West Columbia church of Christ gives permission for CWP holders to carry concealed at the church.

Gun Owners

The below is an exaggerated parody of a small number of gun owners. It's not an accurate description of most gun owners. But, there are some elements of truth in the descriptions. Our intent isn't to offend, but to help us see ourselves more clearly and become better for it. If you smelled, or your fly was open, would you want someone else to tell you, or would you rather notice, and take care of it, yourself?

There are different types of firearms owners. Most of them live in denial.

First, we have the **Hunters**. These intrepid fellows seem to believe that their hobby of harvesting game is protected by the 2nd Amendment. They also believe that they don't have to worry about “gun control”. They are wrong on both counts, but usually get angry when that is pointed out. Second in line to screw the rest of us. Thinks the NRA is there for them and no one else.

Second, we have the **Shotgunners**. Separate from the Hunters, these people seem to believe that blasting little orange flying saucers isn't related to actual use of a firearm. They are usually singularly misinformed about any firearm that isn't a shotgun. Also believe themselves to be immune to gun control, and are right ahead of the Hunters when it comes to trying to screw other gun owners. Thinks the NRA is there for them and no one else.

Third, we have the **Target Shooters**, also known as Competitive Shooters. These folks think that shooting holes in paper is fine, but wanting to have a military grade rifle for the defense of the nation makes you a “paranoid whack o”. Thinks the NRA is there for them and no one else.

Fourth, we have the **Plinker**. This is the guy who only shoots cans, etc. Guns are just a hobby for him, he couldn't care less about the 2nd Amendment or “Rights”. He just wants to bust caps. Many times he owns an “assault rifle”, but just has it for fun. Won't usually join any Pro-Gun groups.

Fifth we have the **Collectors**. Some of these folks could care less if their firearms actually function... they just like to have them, they don't shoot them. They will pay the money to deactivate their guns rather than turn them in. Many don't even have ammo, anyway...

Sixth, we have the **Prepared Individual**. While he/she may participate in the above activities, this person knows what the 2nd Amendment means (to protect all the other Rights in the BOR), and takes necessary steps to hold his/her part in the defense of the nation, while praying that they won't have to do anything of the sort. Joins one or more Pro-Gun groups, e mails/calls/writes their elected officials. Understands that all of the other types listed above still have their guns because of him/her.

GrassRoots Merchant Report

As far as we know, there are NO businesses in South Carolina that legally prohibit concealed weapons in compliance with the GrassRoots CWP Law Reforms that were signed into law May 2002.

According to SLED, if a business does not post prohibitory signs in compliance with the new law, then they are NOT posted as far as CWP holders are concerned.

On a sadder note, we regret to announce that long time Merchant Program Director John Ponti is stepping down. He's a good man, did a great job and we're going to miss him.

If you are a GrassRoots member and aren't familiar with the new sign requirements, you can contact our very able office assistant, Debbie Price at POB 6383, Columbia, SC 29260, or by email: Pricedlp@aol.com, and she will send you a copy of the new sign requirements.

Please note that it *is not* our job, or your job, to tell merchants what the proper sign requirements are. Let them find them themselves if they want to. **Do not tell them!**

GrassRoots does NOT list businesses that have non-compliant signs. We figure why give them free advertising. However, you might want to think twice about patronizing a business that has old, non-compliant signs, prohibiting your legally carried concealed weapon. While of no effect on you, they might mistakenly give criminals the idea that the store is a "gun free" victim zone and you could be at higher risk of having to use your firearm at such a place.

North Carolina CWP Reciprocity Getting Closer

The North Carolina CWP law had no provision for letting out of state CWP holders carry in North Carolina. Grass Roots North Carolina has been working very effectively to get that changed.

They have two concealed handgun reciprocity bills in the North Carolina General Assembly. The first bill introduced was SB 33, sponsored by Sen. SCOTT THOMAS (D-Craven). Weakening amendments in committee initially rendered the bill inadequate.

Next, Reps. PRYOR GIBSON (D-Montgomery) and MARK HILTON (R-Catawba) introduced a House bill, HB 131. Now, fortunately, both HB 131 and SB 33 have been amended with language, which would allow any state which issues concealed handgun permits to qualify for a reciprocal agreement with North Carolina.

Now for the best news: Thanks to the efforts of Sen. Thomas, the now-excellent SB 33 is coming up for a “concurrence vote” in the Senate as soon as TUESDAY. Considering the number of reciprocity bills which have been allowed to languish (and die) in committee in recent years,

Sen. Thomas’ achievements are truly remarkable.

Last year, GRNC waged a very successful “Remember in November” campaign that upset many virulent anti-gunners, and paved the way for their present great progress.

Editors Note: “Late breaking news! SB33 has passed both houses of the North Carolina legislature and is sitting on Gov. Easley's desk waiting for his signature. GRNC President Paul Valone says, “Chances of veto are relatively slim. Vote was overwhelmingly in favor, including among his own party.” Congratulations GRNC! We will update you in the August edition of The Defender about SC CWP being able to carry in North Carolina.

For more info you can sign up for their Email Alerts, or contact them at:

Grass Roots North Carolina Forum for Firearms Education
PO Box 10684, Raleigh, NC 27605
(919) 664-8565, <http://www.grnc.org>
GRNC Alert Hotline:
(919) 562-4137
hotline@grnc.org

First 4 Rules of Gun Safety

Before you are ready to shoot:

1. Keep your finger off the trigger.
2. Keep your finger off the stupid trigger.
3. Keep your stupid finger off the stupid trigger.
4. Hey, stupid, keep your stupid finger off the stupid trigger!

Seriously though, The 5 Rules of gun safety are:

1. Always treat all guns as if they were loaded.
2. Never point a firearm at anything you wouldn't want destroyed.
3. Keep your finger off the trigger till your sights are on the target.
4. Be sure of your target and what's behind it.
5. Be aware, security conscious, of your surroundings and who's around you.

GRASSROOTS LARRY COBLE ACTIVIST AWARD

H. B. Limehouse, Jr. – *True American, Outstanding GrassRoots Member*

Meet H. B. (Barney) Limehouse, Jr., Charleston native, policeman, emergency medical technician, fire commissioner, private detective, entrepreneur, mechanic, Harley rider, gourmet hot dog chef, Mason, civic leader, SC state constable, pyrotechnic wizard, concealed weapons instructor, boiled peanut connoisseur, husband, father, grandfather, top GrassRoots South Carolina recruiter, role model, true American.

It's just past 11 am on a bright Saturday morning and a VHS cassette program on firearms principles plays to a class of prospective South Carolina concealed weapon permit (CWP) holders, each looking on intently. Certified CWP instructor, Barney Limehouse, bursts through the classroom doorway and fires up his restored Harley Davidson motorcycle. "Hot Dog Express is outta onions. I'll be right back!" Not ten minutes later, back from the local grocery store, the Harley comes to a quick stop across the street at Hot Dog Express, an outsized combination Chevy van / kitchen on wheels from which wafts the sumptuous aroma of Polish sausage, sauerkraut and boiled peanuts. "The ham-flavored peanuts are my specialty, but you have to try the Cajun, too," Barney says, beaming with pride.

A handful of peanuts down the hatch and it's back to the classroom, across the busy low country highway. The videotape is just wrapping up. There's a clear sense Barney has done this a few times before.

Members of the class have a few questions and Barney dispatches each with clear, down home explanations. "Now," he says, "I need to tell you more about GrassRoots South Carolina, how they got started with a few guys and have grown to be South Carolina's number one firearms owner group, over 5,000 members strong! GrassRoots has the nation's best leadership and they're 100% all volunteer."

Indeed, Instructor Limehouse is quite familiar with GrassRoots membership growth, having single-handedly signed up over five (5) percent of the current GrassRoots members! And, those are just the ones who've used applications with Mr. Limehouse's "Blue Knight Detective Agency" logo at the margin. There is no way of actually knowing how many GrassRoots members started as a result of the

Johns Island CWP classes. It's easy to see how Barney does it. The class doesn't go to lunch until every student has filled out a GrassRoots application and a personal check. "If you want to pay with cash, that's fine," Barney exclaims. "I'll pay for the money order myself and send the application to Columbia, for you. Hand 'em forward, please." After Barney's enthusiastic GrassRoots endorsement, combined with a patriotic Second Amendment refresher course, who'd choose to complete the day's class and

not sign up as a GrassRoots member? In today's class, it's 100% GrassRoots! "Folks, let me tell you, when I was on the force in Charleston, we heard big talk about outlawing handguns. As cops, that might have sounded pretty good. But, it's not reality. Bad guys are never going to turn in their guns. Never happen. The bad guys will **always** have guns... and use them. I teach these CWP courses to save lives. It's the one thing I can do to help society and good people defend themselves and their families." Twenty years as a City of Charleston policeman, nineteen more as a South Carolina state constable, the 61-year-old Limehouse speaks with assuring authority.

At the range session, new shooters, including three ladies in this day's class are given extra attention on technique. Barney's son assists in the range session with a watchful eye, and everyone passes without a hitch.

The afternoon session gets underway with a complete discussion and video program on the legal aspects of the CWP course requirement. As a comprehensive, final VHS program on gun handling rolls, Barney dashes out once again, this time to check on his fireworks

concession stand, next door. There's a kid's gleam in his eye as he describes the colors of a twelve-tube rocket ball report. Back to the class, a short review and it's test time. As students pour over the test questions, Barney is just outside on his cell phone, checking details of the private investigation he'll be working later on that night. The students have each passed the written test with flying colors. Just short of 7 pm and the CWP applications have been completed and checked by Barney, that is H. B. Limehouse, Jr., Notary Public.

H. B. (Barney) Limehouse, Jr. – True American, Outstanding GrassRoots member, Larry Coble Activist Award Winner... human dynamo.

Barney Limehouse
PO Box 540
Johns Island, SC 29457
843-559-9574

Each issue of The Defender will include an article featuring an active GrassRoots member who is directly involved in advancing the cause of fully restoring our Constitutional and God-given rights to self-defense and protection of those around us. This quarterly feature is named for founding GrassRoots member and activist, Mr. Larry Coble.

“Bad guys are never going to turn in their guns. Never happen. The bad guys will *always* have guns... and use them.”



Barney Limehouse gives special attention to new shooters. Here, Barney shows Nellie R. Jefferson proper grip on her Ruger SP-100. Brenda Crist, left, and Mary Beth Poggi, right, look on. BAD GUYS take notice: "Granny" Jefferson shot 88% on the range qualification!"

Holsters Continued from Page 14



This is the Milt Sparks Summer Special, the concealment holster by which all others are judged. The author has used a dozen or so of these over the years, with excellent results. The pistol is a Kimber .45, the knife a Spyderco Ayoob model.

SOME HOLSTER MANUFACTURERS

- Alessi - 2465 Niagra Falls Blvd. Amherst, NY 14228
- Aker - 2248 E Main Ste. 6 Chula Vista, CA 91911
- BCO - PO 198 Gilbertsville, NY 13776
- Blocker - 9396 SW Tigard St. Tigard, OR 97223
- Blackie Collins - PO 100 North, SC 29112
- DeSantis - PO 2039 149 Denton Avenue New Hyde Park, NY 11040
- Davis - PO 1209 Chino Valley, AZ 86323
- Garrity - PO 125 Broomall, PA 19008
- Hume - PO 351 Miami, OK 74355
- Haugen - PO 6124 Bismarck ND 58506
- High noon - PO 2138 Palm Harbor, FL 34682
- Kramer - PO 112154 Tacoma, WA 98411
- London Bridge Trading Company - 3509 Virginia Beach Blvd. Virginia Beach, VA 23452
- Milt Sparks - 605 E 44th St. Boise, ID 83714
- Murnak - 35 York Street Brooklyn, NY 11201
- Null - 161 School St. NW Resaca, GA 30735
- Nelson - 38492 Gilkey Rd Scio, OR 97374
- Rusty Sherrick - 507 Mark Drive Elizabethtown, PA 17022
- Passport Sports - PO 512 Cape Canaveral, FL 32930
- Tauris - (Michael Taurisano) - 3695 Mohawk St. New Hartford, NY 13413
- Wild Bills Concealment Leather - PO 1941 Garner, NC 27529
- Wilson Combat - PO Box 578 Berryville, AK 72616

RK Campbell is a professional gun writer whose work appears in many national gun publications. He lives in Spartanburg, South Carolina. He donated this article to GrassRoots and plans to do so in the future as his part in supporting our work. We're glad to have him and appreciate his support.