



## DON'T LET THIS BE YOU!

### Why H. 3482 or S. 301 Must Pass

Passing H. 3482 or S. 301, the GrassRoots proposed gun law reforms, is important for many reasons.

First, South Carolina laws concerning possession of handguns are very bad. While not all of the laws are currently being strictly enforced, there is nothing to stop these laws from being strictly enforced now or in the near future. Remember, virtually all politicians and police chiefs are saying there should be “zero tolerance” when it comes to enforcing our gun laws. With so many people wanting “zero tolerance” enforcement of our gun laws today, it is crucial that our gun laws be reasonable. Ask yourself if you want “zero tolerance” enforcement of the following laws.

Current law makes it a misdemeanor to possess a handgun unless you fall into one of the few listed exceptions. So, if you don't fit into one of the few listed exceptions, then you are breaking the law. Then, to make matters even worse, existing South Carolina law (Section 16-17-410) makes it a **felony** for two or more people to conspire to commit a misdemeanor. So, if you help another person break any of the following laws, then you conspired to commit a misdemeanor. That makes both of you felons.

Here is the ugly reality of possessing a handgun under existing South Carolina law:

There is an exception allowing members of gun clubs to possess handguns while at the range or going to and from the range, but *no* exception for guests. Thus, if you took a guest to the gun club and let them shoot a handgun, they broke the law. But, so did you when you helped them shoot at the gun range. Remember, conspiracy to commit a misdemeanor is a felony. H. 3482 and S. 301 fix this problem.

There is an exception allowing you to possess a handgun on your own real property, but *no* exception for possessing a handgun on someone else's private property - even if you have the permission of the private property owner. So, if you shoot handguns at Uncle Joe's farm, then you have broken the law. Even worse, you and Uncle Joe would have conspired to commit a misdemeanor, which is a felony. H. 3482 and S. 301 fix this problem.

There is an exception allowing you to possess a handgun in the closed trunk, closed glove box, or closed console of a vehicle, but no

*Continued on Page 2*

## I WANT MORE!! What Do YOU Want?

*by Robert D. Butler, JD*

Politicians frequently ask me, “What do you want?” My answer is always the same, “I WANT MORE!”

I am one of the good guys. I am reasonable. I don't start fights. I don't commit violent crimes. I don't shoot people that don't

threaten me or my loved ones.

So, why are the laws written to treat me as if I would do all of these terrible things if only I was armed, but would not do these terrible things if I was not armed? That's not reasonable!

What makes politicians think a person willing to violate God's laws against rape, murder, or assault and battery will refrain from doing so if only everybody is prohibited from possessing a gun? That's not reasonable!

Or, what makes politicians think a person willing to violate God's laws against rape, murder, or assault and battery will refrain from carrying a gun to accomplish these horrific crimes merely because there is a man made law against carrying guns? That's not reasonable!

“Gun free zones” are not gun free, and they are not safer. Virtually all mass public shootings now occur in those “gun free zones” where the good guys are



legally prohibited from carrying self defense sidearms, but criminals still have guns. This is no freak accident. Mass murderers want to get the biggest headlines they can. The more people shot, the bigger the headlines. So, they go where no one can stop them until it is too late to help.

Politicians created these “gun free zones” and they should have to pay for the harm resulting from their stupid actions. “Gun free zones” are not reasonable!

I want all my rights fully restored. I want to legally carry my self defense sidearm wherever I think I might need it, not where some politician thinks I should have it. I want to be able to legally carry into publicly owned buildings, nice restaurants, night

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

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

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# President’s Message

## More Members + More Effectiveness = More Power!



Ed Kelleher

GrassRoots’ goal is that good citizens be able to carry firearms wherever and whenever they choose. To reach this goal is going to take a lot of work. To get that work done, we have to have more members, and **they** have to be more effective in the work they do. Seeing that happen is a big part of my, and the other GrassRoots leaders, job. This is what our members have to realize – that **they** are the ones that will, or **will not**, get the real work done. Leadership can’t do it alone. Who do you think will get more done: 10 leaders giving 40 hours a week (400 hours) or 10,000 members giving 1 hour per week (10,000 hours). And remember, GrassRoots leaders are all volunteers – they have jobs and families and other commitments like all the other members of GrassRoots. The leaders can’t keep a pace of 40 (or more) hours a week up for long before they burn out.

So, when you read this newspaper, think of what **you** can do to help. There’s a lot here for you. Organizing, or at least attending an LTS (Page 4) is a good first step **all** GrassRoots members should have high on their priority list!

We’ll be sending a mailing to the GrassRoots membership shortly that will include our first ever

**membership cards!** The mailing will also include details on our “Each one, Reach One” membership drive contest (Page 15) that features a **machine gun** as the top prize! We’ve worked closely with GrassRoots members Tom Causby and Joseph Melchers, attorneys at the law firm of Nelson Mullins Riley and Scarborough to structure our contest in a way that is **legal** in South Carolina – not an easy task if you want to have big contest with lot’s of involvement from our members, but are a big organization with lots of enemies.

Included in our mailing will be a **survey** of what gun rights issues are most important to our members. So far, carry in nice restaurants is a big one (Page 10), along with carry on school grounds for parents with CWP’s and kids in school.

The final year of this legislative season started in January and ends this May. We **must** get H3482 or S301 passed by then. Many gun owners in South Carolina are **felons** who just haven’t been convicted yet. H3482 or S301 will fix this. Please **mail the postcards** enclosed with this newspaper. Take the **Action Steps** listed on Page 3 **today!** The postcards are most effective when they arrive in big, overwhelming masses.

That the postcards work was proven with Rep. Joe Wilson when they helped him issue an unequivocal statement in opposition to renewing of the Assault Weapon Ban (Page 11) due to sunset this year.

As I said, there’s a lot going on that GrassRoots members can help with that’s reported on in this edition of **The Defender** newspaper. You’ll read of how the state wants to make Lake Slade a “Gun Free” zone (Page 8). You’ll also see how GrassRoots is actively involved in training more CWP instructors (Page 13) and recruiting new members at gun shows around the state (Page 6).

“Many hands make light work” is a favorite saying of mine. And with **your** help we **can** make substantial progress towards our goal. Alaska recently did away with the necessity for good citizens to have freedoms licensed by the state. We can do that here in South Carolina as well. As Rob Butler said on page one, “**I Want More!**” – more of my God given rights and **less** unreasonable restrictions on those rights. I hope you feel that way too and will **act** to make it so.

*Ed Kelleher*

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H. 3482 or S. 301  
Continued from Page 1

exception for disarming when you need to enter a prohibited carry location such as a publicly owned building, private residence, unauthorized location, or posted business. At some point the pistol is no longer concealed when you are disarming. H. 3482 and S. 301 fix this problem.

Some of the most popular vehicles sold today are mini vans, SUVs, and pickup trucks. These vehicles do not have trunks, and many do not have consoles either. Thus, the only lawful place that a handgun can be carried is in the glove box. Many glove boxes are too small to hold larger handguns, or multiple handguns, which makes you a criminal if you transport a handgun in the rear area of your vehicle - even if in a gun case. H. 3482 and S. 301 fix this problem.

There are exceptions for possessing handguns on your own real property and in a vehicle, but no exception for carrying a handgun between your vehicle and your home, or your vehicle and an indoor shooting range, or your vehicle and a friends house. H. 3482 and S. 301 fix this problem.

Existing South Carolina law could be used to kill our gun rights culture. Most people learn about firearms from friends and family. If it is illegal for a private property owner or member of a gun club to invite friends and family to shoot, then private property owners and gun clubs will stop introducing new shooters to the shooting sports and guns. Grandfathers will stop teaching their grandchildren to shoot. Gun owners will stop teaching their neighbors to shoot. This would threaten the future of our gun rights. H. 3482 and S. 301 fix this problem.

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

Continued on Page 7

If you enjoy reading this paper...  
If you get something from it...  
**Join GrassRoots NOW!**  
*See page 15 for membership application.*



**GrassRoots  
South Carolina, Inc.  
PO Box 6383  
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[www.scfirearms.org](http://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 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.*

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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@scfirearms.org](mailto:newspaper@scfirearms.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 © 2004 Grass Roots South Carolina, Inc.

# Where We Stand on H. 3482 and S. 301

H. 3482 and S. 301 are VERY important bills. To fully understand why, please read “Why H. 3482 or S. 301 Must Pass” on page one

H. 3482 will probably be the bill that GrassRoots finally gets passed into law, but only because it is further along in the legislative process than S. 301.

H. 3482 favorably passed through the House General Laws subcommittee at the end of the 2003 session. It was to be placed on the Judiciary Committee agenda for January 2004. Unfortunately, the first meeting of the House Judiciary Committee on January 13, 2004, was entirely taken up with a tort reform bill. There will be no Judiciary Committee meeting on January 20. So, H. 3482 should be considered by the House Judiciary Committee on January 27, 2004. Then, it should be sent to the House floor for debate and a vote. If everything goes as planned, then H. 3482 should get to the Senate in mid to late February.

S. 301 is still waiting for a subcommittee hearing. But, instead of pushing S. 301, we will most likely just push H. 3482.

It is very important that you follow all of the “ACTION STEPS TO TAKE NOW” (listed on the right side of the page). If we all work together, we CAN get the GrassRoots gun law reforms passed.

*SLED had some objections to what was proposed in H.3482 and printed in the April 2003 edition of The Defender. GrassRoots leaders worked with SLED to relieve their objections, yet still accomplish the GrassRoots GunRights objectives. Take a look at the final form of H. 3482 as agreed to by GrassRoots and SLED, and which was passed by the House General Laws Subcommittee.*

*See Page 4*

## Postcards included with this issue of *The Defender*

Sixteen postcards were included in copies of The Defender mailed to GrassRoots members. That’s about 80,000 post cards! One set should be mailed to members of the SC House of Representative for your *county*. One set should be mailed to SC Senators for your *county*. Here’s the text of the postcards:

**PLEASE PASS H. 3482 & H. 4529!**

Dear Representative \_\_\_\_\_:

Please do everything in your power to ensure quick passage of the GrassRoots GunRights proposed gun law reforms in H. 3482. ***With so many people wanting zero tolerance enforcement of our gun laws today, it is crucial that our gun laws be reasonable.*** H. 3482 protects otherwise law abiding people from becoming criminals merely because the laws are poorly written. Please note, H. 3482 needs to get sent to the Senate ASAP to allow time for the Senate to pass it.

Your help is also needed to get H. 4529 passed. Please do everything in your power to help. We are counting on you to do the right thing. Questions can be answered by GrassRoots GunRights SC leaders. Thank you.

Sincerely,

**Organized by GrassRoots GunRights SC -  
the pro gun rights organization in SC.**

**PLEASE PASS S. 301/H. 3482!**

Dear Senator \_\_\_\_\_:

Please do everything in your power to ensure quick passage of the GrassRoots GunRights SC proposed gun law reforms found in S. 301/H. 3482. ***With so many people wanting zero tolerance enforcement of our gun laws today, it is crucial that our gun laws be reasonable.*** These companion bills protect otherwise law abiding people from becoming criminals merely because the laws are poorly written. SLED has already signed off on the amendments contained in H. 3482.

Your help is needed to get S. 301/H. 3482 passed. Please do everything in your power to help. We are counting on you to do the right thing. Questions can be answered by GrassRoots GunRights SC leaders. Thank you.

Sincerely,

**Organized by GrassRoots GunRights SC -  
the pro gun rights organization in SC.**

## MAIL THE POSTCARDS TODAY! ACTION STEPS TO TAKE NOW:

This newsletter will get to you just in time for you to send postcards to: Your Representatives for the final push on H. 3482, the GrassRoots gun law reforms, and the first push on H. 4529, the CWP recognition bill; and Your Senators for the first push on H. 3482 and S. 301, the GrassRoots gun law reforms.

It is extremely important that you follow ALL of the action steps listed below. But, if you can not make the phone calls, then at least send in the postcards. Politicians do not read the mail they get, they weigh it. Do not waste time trying to write a thoughtful letter, it will only be ignored. The most important thing is that the politicians see that we are speaking with one voice and that we are **organized!**

### SEND IN THE POSTCARDS TODAY! ACTION STEPS TO TAKE NOW:

- 1. Mail the enclosed postcards to *EVERY* Representative and Senator from your county asking them to co-sponsor the GrassRoots gun law reforms.**
  - First, go to the GrassRoots GunRights Contact Information on Page 7 to find all of South Carolina’s Senators and Representatives listed by county.
  - Then, write in the names of the Senators and Representatives from your county on the enclosed postcards. Be sure to only write Senator’s names on Senate postcards and Representative’s names on House of Representatives postcards. Also, only put one name on each postcard.
  - Put your return address on each postcard.
  - Sign every postcard.
  - Put stamps on the postcards (if you do not have a **23** cent postcard stamp, then use a **37** cent regular stamp – it is VERY important that all the postcards start arriving soon).
  - If the postcards are not flat, then put them under a heavy book overnight.
  - Mail the postcards.
  - If you have any postcards left over, then have friends or neighbors send in the rest.
  - If there are not enough postcards, then please buy a few more and send them in, too.
- 2. Call *EVERY* Senator and Representative from your county.**
  - Call the Senate switchboard at (803) 212-6700.
  - Call the House switchboard at (803) 734-2402.
  - Ask for who you want to talk to and your call will be transferred.
  - Keep the message simple. Just say, “I support the GrassRoots proposed gun law reforms found in S. 301 and H. 3482 (if you are talking with a Senator) or H. 3482 and H. 4529 (if you are talking with a Representative). Please **cosponsor** this bill. Please do all you can to get these reasonable reforms passed **quickly**. Thank you.”
  - If the politician has any questions, tell them you will have a GrassRoots representative explain the reforms. Then, let someone at GrassRoots know who to talk to and we will get it done.

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# SLED’s response to H. 3482:

SLED had some objections to what was proposed in H.3482 and printed in the April 2003 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.~~

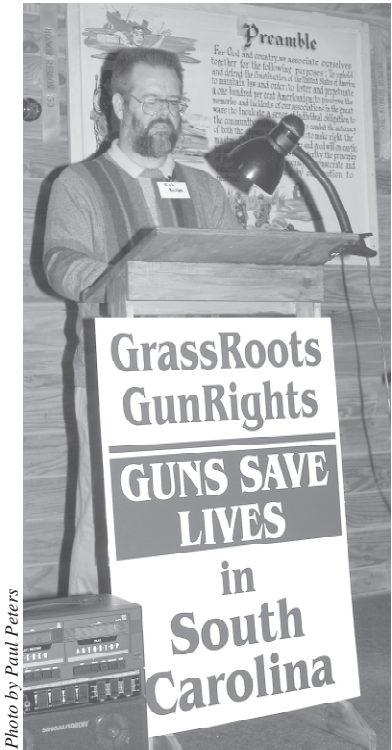


Photo by Paul Peters

GrassRoots VP Rob Butler tells you how TO WIN! at an LTS near you.

# GrassRoots Legislative Tactics Seminar!

*Coming to a Place Near You!*

The LTS is so important for GrassRoots members to attend that we want to take it on the road! People that attend the LTS will get the tools and skills to let them be more effective workers and leaders with much less work!

Here’s what you have to do:

- 1) Find a place where 30 or so people can meet on a Saturday or Sunday from 9 am to 3 pm. Churches, American Legion Posts, motels, chambers of commerce, town halls, are all likely places. It’s best for people to have tables to sit at.
- 2) Figure out how to provide a lunch for the attendees. The class runs from 9 am till 3 pm with breaks every hour and 30-45 minutes for lunch. Lunch can be pizzas or sub-sandwiches ordered that AM when you have a *final* count, or you could provide cold cuts, bread, chips and drinks from the local Wally World.
- 3) Figure out what the *cost* of the lunch and the meeting place, if any, are.
- 4) Once you’ve found a place we’ll need to set a time at least 1 month ahead. Contact Ed Kelleher or Rob Butler to see when they’re available.
- 5) Give us a local contact person for people to call, including email, telephone and mailing address. Tell us what arrangements you plan to make for lunch, what your costs are and how much you need to charge.

GrassRoots will advertise the meeting to GrassRoots members in the area and have them call you. GrassRoots will provide the Seminar leader, handouts and sound system. Get creative! We’re not playing around. The LTS will give you the tools *to win!*

ARGO AD  
With Argo... getting there  
is half the fun...  
AD TO BE  
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## GrassRoots Electronic Communication

Our newspaper is our basic means of communication with our members, but it only comes out once a quarter. Direct mailing to our members is effective, but it still takes about two weeks to compose, print and mail – and costs us several thousand dollars a pop!

Electronic communication via Email is the timeliest and most efficient way for us to get the word out to our members. But many of our members still don't have computers. If you're thinking of getting a computer, please do! Then sign up for our GrassRoots Email Action alerts and ENewsletter and join the Email discussion groups where people's firearms related questions are answered, often with lively discussion.

We send out Email Action alerts when immediate action is necessary. We might send several in one week, as when we successfully fought the doubling of CWP license fees. Or, we might go several months without an alert when things are quiet. Every GrassRoots member with a computer should be on this list. The ENewsletter is put out periodically with items of interest to gun owners. You can sign up for either, or both, by sending an email to:

**ENewsletter@SCFirearms.org**

**Subject: Email Alert, ENewsletter Subscribe**

If you have questions relating to firearms, their usage, carry, purchase, sale or whatever, the best place to post your question is on the SCFirearms email discussion group. You'll get immediate, useful replies from knowledgeable (and not so knowledgeable) South Carolina gun owners. You may sign up to receive individual emails (usually 10 or so a day from various members) or you may receive 1 email with a "digest" of the previous days emails and replies. Each edition of The Defender newspaper often prints informative or provocative emails posted on this discussion group. Anyone may join by sending an email to:

**SCFirearms-subscribe@yahoogroups.com**

GrassRoots has a special discussion group relating to the activities of GrassRoots. Only GrassRoots members may join by sending an email to:

**Grassroots\_Leadership-subscribe@yahoogroups.com**



Ed,

Hi. I've been a member of GrassRoots for a couple of years now but this is the first time I have ever e-mailed you. I was wondering about if there will be any bills introduced this legislative session concerning CWP/gun rights. Specifically any plans to try to push through a bill to change the carry restriction on places that serve alcohol for on-premises consumption?

Removing that particular restriction is at the top of my list of changes I would like to see happen in SC this year. Of course nationally the expiration of the AWB is at the top of my list. And yes I have been mailing my reps using the cards that were sent out with The Defender and I think it would be a good idea in the next issue to remind people to keep contacting our elected officials until they get the point. Thanks for taking the time to read this.

Sincerely,

James Williamson

Taylors, South Carolina

James, good to hear from you.

Yes we have a bill introduced last year, H3482, (April 2003 Defender) which fixes some major holes in our SC gun laws concerning CWP holders and other gun owners.

You'll be getting the February 2004 Defender newspaper in a few days, which will answer many of your questions. And yes, there will be more postcards in it to let them know "We're back!". :-). Glad you send yours in; it really helps as you'll see when you read this issue of The Defender.

Carry in nice restaurants is top on the list of many GrassRoots members, but is opposed by the leadership of the local NRA state organization.

To get this passed, we'll need more active, informed members which is why we've been pushing the LTS, and also working on a membership drive.

A new, two year legislative session starts January, 2005 and most likely carry in nice restaurants will be the on the list of things we go for.

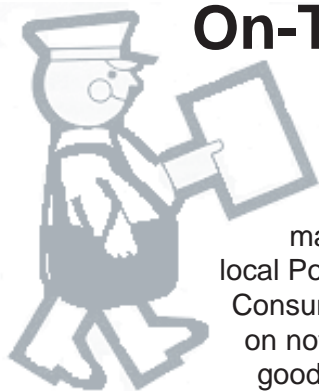
Take care, keep your powder dry and thanks for helping.

Regards,

Ed Kelleher

President, GrassRoots

## On-Time Delivery?



The Post Office says they deliver mail in a timely manner.

But, if you are having problems with delivery of your GrassRoots material we recommend you go to your local Post Office and file a PS 4314, Consumer Service Card. This puts them on notice and usually produces good results. Please let us know.

## 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!*



## TALKGUNS Radio

"TALK GUNS Radio is on the air every Saturday at 9:30 am until 11:00 am on **WIS NEWS TALK RADIO 1320 AM**, Columbia, South Carolina with the award winning journalist, syndicated columnist and radio talk show host **Charles Campbell** and co-host, resident gun expert and GrassRoots member **Thomas Lanham** of Wateree Arms."



# Gun Shows and GrassRoots

With the support of our members GrassRoots plans to have a table at each of the 20 Gun Shows listed below in 2004. We are also looking into requests from other parts of SC to promote GrassRoots at similar events there. It is our volunteers who make it possible for these good things to happen. Keep checking our website [www.scfirearms.org](http://www.scfirearms.org) and future issues of “The Defender”, for announcements and updates.

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

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

*Volunteers should read Gary Atkinson’s excellent set of tips on how to work a gun show.* [www.scfirearms.org/Gary’s Show Tips.doc](http://www.scfirearms.org/Gary’s%20Show%20Tips.doc)

## South Carolina Gun Shows Scheduled for 2004

<b><u>Greenville</u></b>	<b>Palmetto Expo Center</b>		
Feb. 28-29	May 22-23	Oct. 9-10	Dec. 18-19
<b><u>Spartanburg</u></b>	<b>Spartanburg Expo Center (formerly Waccamaw)</b>		
Jan. 24-25	April 24-25	July 17-18	Oct. 23-24
<b><u>Columbia</u></b>	<b>Jamil Shrine Temple</b>		
Jan. 10-11	May 1-2	July 31- Aug. 1	Nov. 13-14
<b><u>Columbia</u></b>	<b>State Fairgrounds</b>		
June 19-20	Dec. 11-12		
<b><u>Florence</u></b>	<b>Florence Civic Center</b>		
Mar. 6-7	July 24-25	Nov. 6-7	
<b><u>Charleston</u></b>	<b>Exchange Park, Ladson</b>		
Jan. 17-18	June 5-6	Sept. 18-19	

### Gun Show Table Organizers:

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

Greenville / Spartanburg		
Ronnie Rutledge	(864) 576-6035	<a href="mailto:RRTech@bellsouth.net">RRTech@bellsouth.net</a>
Charleston		
John Borkowski III	(843) 849-7995	<a href="mailto:john@jcb3.com">john@jcb3.com</a>
Florence		
Dr. John Clarke	(843) 332-4213	<a href="mailto:redvert@aol.com">redvert@aol.com</a>
Columbia		
Mike Walguarnery	(803) 781-1360	<a href="mailto:walgum123@netzero.net">walgum123@netzero.net</a>
Gun Show Director		
Mike Walguarnery	(803) 781-1360	<a href="mailto:walgum123@netzero.net">walgum123@netzero.net</a>

## Hunters Headquarters Supports GrassRoots!

George Harris, owner of Hunters HQ in Greenwood has been a long time supporter of GrassRoots. They actively pass out GrassRoots material to people who visit. Our apologies for not getting them listed before now. Pay them a call, thank them for supporting GrassRoots and see what they carry in the way of hunting and shooting supplies.

560 Bypass 72 West  
Greenwood, SC 29649  
864-229-2034

# 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.

<b>ATP Gun Shop</b> Helen Bone 843-824-0779 516 St. James Ave. Goose Creek, SC 29445	<b>Personal Security Supplies</b> Ernie Lawson 3390 Boiling Springs Hwy Boiling Springs, SC 29316
<b>Bear Creek Firearms</b> Lynn Waller 9388 Macedonia Church Rd. Prosperity, SC 29127	<b>Port Royal Gun and Pawn</b> 843-524-7043 2204 Mossy Oaks Road Port Royal, SC 29935
<b>Dick’s Sporting Goods</b> 803-749-0756 1110 Bower Pkwy. Harbison Columbia, SC	<b>Ricky's Gun Service &amp; Sales</b> 843-521-4866 75 Burton Hill Rd. Beaufort, SC 29906
<b>Grady's Great Outdoors</b> Tim Shirley 3440 Clemson Blvd Anderson, SC 29621	<b>Rooks' Sales</b> Jerry Rooks 239 N. Main St. Bishopville, SC 29010
<b>Greer Gun and Pawn Shop</b> Mark Roberts 1457 W. Wade Hampton Blvd. Greer, SC 29650	<b>Santee Pawn Shop</b> 803-854-2255 220 Santee Business Park Santee, SC 29142
<b>Island Outfitters</b> 843-522-9900 180 Sea Island Parkway Beaufort, SC 29902	<b>Top Dollar Pawn</b> 843-681-3400 7 Central Plaza, Mathens Dr. Hilton Head, SC 29926
<b>J&amp;S Gun Depot</b> Sharon Waldrep 864-859-9065 404 Sheriff Mill Rd. Easley, SC 29642	<b>Trader's Gun Shop</b> Larry or Richard 864-292-6544 3314 Wade Hampton Blvd Taylors, SC 29687
<b>Lexington Pawn and Gun</b> 4884 Sunset Blvd. Lexington, SC 803-957-4998	<b>The Gun Doctor</b> Bob Elam 1928 S. Live Oak Dr. Moncks Corner, SC 29416
<b>Low Country Outfitters</b> 843-837-6100 Moss Creek Village Hilton Head, SC 29926	<b>Ward’s Gun Rack</b> 843-238-1381 or 843-238-5072 640-H Leigh Plaza Hwy 17 South Surfside Beach, SC 29575
<b>Mike's Gun Shop</b> 803-482-7094 <a href="http://www.mikesgunshop.com">www.mikesgunshop.com</a> 435 Gunsite Rd Winnsboro, SC 29180	<b>Wateree Arms</b> 803-695-7056 9321 Garners Ferry Road Hopkins, SC 29061 <a href="http://www.watereearms.com">www.watereearms.com</a>



## LAND OF THE SKY GUN & KNIFE SHOWS

*“Nothing could be finer  
than to be in Carolina!”*

2004  
SCHEDULE

Asheville, NC

Jan. 3-4

March 13-14

May 15-16

Sept. 11-12

Nov. 27-28

Asheville Civic Ctr.

Florence, SC

March 6-7

July 24-25

Nov. 6-7

Florence Civic Ctr.

Columbia, SC

June 19-20

Dec. 11-13

State Fairgrounds

Spartanburg, SC

Jan. 24-25

April 24-25

July 17-18

Oct. 23-24

Spartanburg Expo. Ctr.  
(Formerly Waccamaw)

Charleston, SC

Jan. 17-18

June 5-6

Sept. 18-19

Ladson Fairgrounds

8’ Tables - \$50

Adults \$6

Under 12 FREE

For Reservations or Information:

Mike Kent  
PO Box 336 • Grayson, GA 30017  
770-982-8221  
[mlkshows@yahoo.com](mailto:mlkshows@yahoo.com)  
Visit us on the web:  
[www.mikekentshows.com](http://www.mikekentshows.com)

Saturday  
9-5

Sunday  
10-4



# GrassRoots GunRights Contact Information



Please save the following contact information. You will need it during the legislative session. When writing to a politician, it is customary to use the title “Honorable” when addressing the letter.

The switchboard operator will transfer your call to the person you want to speak to, and your fax will be delivered to the person it is addressed to.

All Senators can be contacted at:  
South Carolina Senate  
P.O. Box 142, Columbia, SC 29202  
(803) 212-6299 fax • (803) 212-6700 switchboard

## SC SENATORS BY COUNTY

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

Governor Mark Sanford  
Office of the Governor  
P.O. Box 12267  
Columbia, SC 29211  
803-734-2100  
Fax: 803-734-5167

All Representatives can be contacted at:  
South Carolina House of Representatives  
P.O. Box 11867, Columbia, SC 29211  
(803) 734-2925 fax • (803) 734-2402 switchboard  
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Michael A. Pitts,  
Ronald P. Townsend  
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Kenneth G. “Ken” Clark,  
William “Bill” Clyburn  
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Thomas N. Rhoad  
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James H. Merrill,  
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J. Seth Whipper,  
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Wallace B. Scarborough,  
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Converse A. Chellis III,  
Robert L. Brown,  
Robert W. Harrell Jr.,  
Vida O. Miller  
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McCraw, Lanny F. Littlejohn  
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E. DeWitt McCraw,  
F. Gregory “Greg” Delleney Jr.  
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Denny Woodall Neilson,  
Douglas Jennings Jr.,  
James H. “Jay” Lucas  
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G. Murrell Smith Jr.  
**Colleton:**  
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Walter P. Lloyd,  
William K. Bowers  
**Darlington:**  
Denny Woodall Neilson,  
James H. “Jay” Lucas,  
Jesse E. Hines  
**Dillon:**  
Jackie E. Hayes  
**Dorchester:**  
Annette D. Young,  
Converse A. Chellis III,  
George Hampton Bailey,  
Robert W. Harrell Jr.  
**Edgefield:**  
Donald C. Smith,  
William “Bill” Clyburn  
**Fairfield:**  
Creighton B. Coleman  
**Florence:**  
James G. “Jim” McGee III,  
Jesse E. Hines,  
Lester P. Branham Jr.,  
Mack T. Hines,  
Marty W. Coates  
**Georgetown:**  
Vida O. Miller,  
John J. “Bubber” Snow  
**Greenville:**  
Daniel L. Tripp,  
David H. Wilkins,  
Dwight A. Loftis,  
Fletcher N. Smith Jr.,  
Glenn L. Hamilton,  
Gloria A. Haskins,  
Harry F. Cato,  
Karl B. Allen,  
Lewis R. Vaughn,  
Robert W. “Bob” Leach,  
J. Adam Taylor,  
Rex F. Rice

**Greenwood:**  
Lewis E. “Gene” Pinson,  
J. Anne Parks,  
Michael A. Pitts  
**Hampton:**  
William K. Bowers,  
R. Thayer Rivers Jr.  
**Horry:**  
Alan D. Clemmons,  
Jackie E. Hayes,  
Liston D. Barfield,  
Thad T. Viers,  
Thomas G. Keegan,  
Tracy R. Edge,  
William D. Witherspoon  
**Jasper:**  
R. Thayer Rivers Jr.  
**Kershaw:**  
Vincent A. Sheheen,  
James H. “Jay” Lucas,  
William F. “Bill” Cotty  
**Lancaster:**  
James H. “Jay” Lucas,  
James M. “Jimmy” Neal,  
Eldridge R. Emory  
**Laurens:**  
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Michael A. Pitts,  
Jeffrey D. Duncan  
**Lee:**  
Grady A. Brown  
**Lexington:**  
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Edward H. “Ted” Pitts Jr.,  
Kenneth A. “Kenny” Bingham,  
Kenneth G. “Ken” Clark,  
Larry L. Koon,  
McLain R. “Mac” Toole,  
Harry L. Ott Jr.,  
Marion B. Frye,  
Walton J. McLeod  
**Marion:**  
James A. “Jim” Battle Jr.,  
Mack T. Hines  
**Marlboro:**  
Douglas Jennings Jr.  
**McCormick:**  
J. Anne Parks  
**Newberry:**  
Jeffrey D. Duncan,  
Walton J. McLeod  
**Oconee:**  
Becky Rogers Martin,  
William R. Whitmire,  
William E. “Bill” Sandifer III  
**Orangeburg:**  
Gilda Cobb-Hunter,  
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Jerry N. Govan Jr.,  
Thomas N. Rhoad  
**Pickens:**  
B. R. Skelton,  
Phillip D. Owens,  
Rex F. Rice,  
Teddy N. Trotter,  
William E. “Bill” Sandifer III  
**Richland:**  
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J. Todd Rutherford,  
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James H. Harrison,  
Joe E. Brown,  
Joel Lourie,  
John L. Scott Jr.,  
Leon Howard,  
Richard M. Quinn Jr.,  
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Joseph H. Neal  
**Saluda:**  
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**Spartanburg:**  
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G. Ralph Davenport Jr.,  
Joseph G. Mahaffey,  
Lanny F. Littlejohn,  
Phillip K. “Phil” Sinclair,  
Robert E. “Bob” Walker,  
Scott F. Talley,  
W. Douglas “Doug” Smith,  
Michael A. Anthony  
**Sumter:**  
G. Murrell Smith Jr.,  
Grady A. Brown,  
J. David Weeks,  
Joseph H. Neal,  
Marty W. Coates  
**Union:**  
Michael A. Anthony  
**Williamsburg:**  
C. Alexander Harvin III,  
John J. “Bubber” Snow,  
Kenneth Kennedy  
**York:**  
Becky D. Richardson,  
Bessie Moody-Lawrence,  
E. DeWitt McCraw,  
Eldridge R. Emory,  
F. Gregory “Greg” Delleney Jr.,  
Herb Kirsh,  
J. Gary Simrill

H. 3482 or S. 301

Continued from Page 2

die out. This would threaten the future of our gun rights. H. 3482 and S. 301 fix this problem.

Current law could be used to shut down those shooting ranges that refused to prohibit non members from shooting at their shooting ranges. All an enterprising anti gun bigot would have to do is file complaints about illegal shooting activities occurring at the shooting range. Then, the investigating police officer would find violations of both Section 16-23-20 and Section 16-17-410. An anti gun prosecutor could then close the shooting range as a public nuisance because of the illegal shooting activities. This would threaten the future of our gun rights. H. 3482 and S. 301 fix this problem.

These GrassRoots proposed gun law reforms are common sense reforms. Only extremist, anti gun rights bigots could oppose these reasonable reforms.

Senator Danny Verdin is the primary sponsor of S. 301 and Representative Kenny Bingham is the primary sponsor of H. 3482. We can not afford to wait until these horribly wrong laws start getting enforced with zero tolerance. We must change the laws **now**. The very future of our gun culture could hang in the balance.

There is another reason that we must pass the GrassRoots gun law reforms. In sales, you are taught that you should get the potential buyer used to answering “yes” to your questions and statements. Then, when you eventually ask them to buy whatever it is that you are selling, they are used to saying “yes” and they will say “yes” to you. Politicians are no different. We want politicians to get used to saying “yes” to our proposed gun law reforms.

Politicians said “yes” to the GrassRoots amendments to the Shooting Range Protection Act of 2000. Politicians said “yes” to the GrassRoots CWP and gun law reforms in 2002. Politicians will say “yes” to the GrassRoots gun law reforms in 2004, but only if we push hard. We want the politicians to get used to saying “yes” to GrassRoots. Then, when we work hard in 2005-2006 to get more of the prohibitions on where CWP holders can carry removed, the politicians will be used to saying “yes” to us.

Just as we worked as one to get the GrassRoots CWP and gun law reforms passed in 2002, we must work as one again. Every time we work as one and win, we set the stage for winning again in the future. Winning this time will make getting carry into nice restaurants easier to win, too.

A third reason for pushing H. 3482 and S. 301 is to give GrassRoots the ability to rate politicians on gun rights issues. Any politician that did not or does not support the very reasonable GrassRoots proposed CWP and gun law reforms does not deserve to be in the General Assembly. If we don’t force votes on H. 3482 and S. 301, then we don’t have all the information we want to evaluate the politicians.

It is now time for *YOU* to put the pressure on *YOUR* elected representatives. We must recruit cosponsors for the GrassRoots gun law reforms in S. 301 and H. 3482. With more cosponsors, we have a better chance of getting the GrassRoots reforms passed quickly.

Please go to “ACTION STEPS TO TAKE NOW” on Page 3 and follow ALL of the instructions.

Together WE CAN WIN!!





# GrassRoots South Carolina Legislation Watch: 2003-2004

by Robert D. Butler, JD

The following bills were introduced since the last Legislative Update:

**S. 731:** This bill bans the possession of any firearms while fishing on Slade Lake in Edgefield County. It also prohibits littering (as if littering was not already illegal!), possession of glass containers, and possession of alcoholic beverages on Slade Lake. **Principles Involved:** Possession of firearms for lawful purposes should not be prohibited. **GrassRoots Position:** GrassRoots opposes this bill because people should not be denied the right to defend themselves merely because they want to go fishing on Slade Lake. **Current Status:** In the Senate Fish, Game & Forestry Committee **Full Text:** [http://www.scstatehouse.net/sess115\\_2003-2004/bills/731.htm](http://www.scstatehouse.net/sess115_2003-2004/bills/731.htm)

**H. 4529:** This bill would make South Carolina a “recognition” state instead of a “reciprocity” state. This means South Carolina would honor other states’ CWP’s even without a reciprocal agreement. SLED would no longer be able to deny reciprocity with other states. This is important because SLED takes some extremely illogical positions to deny reciprocity. For example, SLED does not allow reciprocity with Florida because Florida’s CWP law does not specifically state former felons can not get a Florida CWP. GrassRoots pointed out to SLED that federal law makes it illegal for former felons to possess any firearm, and that states may not grant privileges that are contrary to federal law because federal law is the supreme law of the entire country. But, SLED feels they must protect South Carolina people from all of those former felons in Florida who will get Florida CWP’s and then travel to South Carolina to shoot people here. Recognition laws in other states are the reason that SC CWP’s are honored in most states, not our reciprocal agreements. **Principles Involved:** There should be no need for CWP’s anywhere. It is our right to defend ourselves, a right recognized in the Second Amendment. But, since CWP’s are required to stay out of jail if you carry a handgun, then recognition is much better than reciprocity. Every state should have a recognition law. **GrassRoots Position:** GrassRoots strongly supports this bill and urges all members to contact their elected representatives about this bill. **Current Status:** In the House Judiciary Committee **Full Text:** [http://www.scstatehouse.net/sess115\\_2003-2004/bills/4529.htm](http://www.scstatehouse.net/sess115_2003-2004/bills/4529.htm)

**H. 4530:** This bill would allow retired or disabled police officers who are not psychologically disabled (although the bill could be interpreted to allow psychologically disabled retired police officers) to carry concealed handguns in South Carolina as if they were active police officers. This bill would allow retired police officers from NY or IL to carry where South Carolina people are prohibited from carrying, even as the police officers from those states opposed CWP carry by the people of those states. **Principles Involved:** Retired police officers should not be granted greater privileges than other retired people. Let these people get CWP’s like the rest of us have to do. It is wrong to create two classes of people - those who are subjects to be ruled and those who are or were government agents. GrassRoots does NOT believe in supporting the idea that all people are created equal - just some more equal than others. Remember, these retired police officers would be able to carry even if they were not able to get a CWP because of SLED’s stringent CWP standards.

**GrassRoots Position:** GrassRoots strongly opposes this bill. While GrassRoots does not oppose retired and disabled police officers carrying handguns, GrassRoots believes these people should get CWP’s like the rest of have to do. Maybe after these retired police officers are denied their CWP’s because of traffic violations, then the General Assembly will change the law to protect ALL the people, not just former police officers. **Current Status:** In the House Judiciary Committee **Full Text:** [http://www.scstatehouse.net/sess115\\_2003-2004/bills/4530.htm](http://www.scstatehouse.net/sess115_2003-2004/bills/4530.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](http://www.scstatehouse.net/sess115_2003-2004/bills/31.htm)

**S. 211:** A bill to repeal the one pistol per 30 days law. **Principles Involved:** Rights should not be rationed. **GrassRoots Position:** GrassRoots strongly supports this bill, just as we did last session. **Current Status:** In the Senate Judiciary Committee

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

**S. 223:** A bill to amend Section 16-23-420 to make it a crime to *possess* a firearm in prohibited locations, not just to carry a firearm *into* such prohibited locations. **Principles Involved:** Section 16-23-420 should be amended to except concealed weapon permit holders. **GrassRoots Position:** The proposed amendments do not affect concealed weapon permit holders. The bill should be amended to except concealed weapon permit holders, but that is not going to happen this session. Therefore, GrassRoots is neutral on this bill. **Current Status:** In the Senate Judiciary Committee **Full Text:** [http://www.scstatehouse.net/sess115\\_2003-2004/bills/223.htm](http://www.scstatehouse.net/sess115_2003-2004/bills/223.htm)

**S. 301:** The GrassRoots GunRights gun law reforms. This bill is a step towards allowing the people of South Carolina to reclaim their right to keep and bear arms. Current law prohibits guests from possessing a pistol on others’ private property. This bill would allow private property owners to decide who can possess pistols on their property. Current law prohibits a CWP holder from disarming and leaving his pistol in his vehicle to enter a prohibited carry location. This bill would fix that problem. This bill eliminates many other legislative

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## Rating Politicians: The GrassRoots Way

How can gun owners be expected to vote for pro gun candidates if they are not told the truth about the candidates?

GrassRoots members keep asking which South Carolina politicians should be rewarded for their support of our rights, and which politicians should be punished for denying us our rights. While GrassRoots can not advise you who to vote for or against, we can tell you how politicians voted on the issues important to you.

Here is how GrassRoots will rate politicians.

First, we will rate politicians on how they VOTE, not what promises they make. We know talk is cheap, and politicians lie. Remember, actions speak louder than words, and their votes are the actions that matter to us.

The legislative votes that GrassRoots will primarily rely upon will be those cast on the GrassRoots CWP and gun law reforms in 2001-2002, and on current bills H. 3482 and S. 301 (the GrassRoots proposed gun law reforms) and H. 4529 (the CWP recognition bill).

You might want to let your elected officials know you will be

voting in the primary and the general election based upon how they vote during the legislative session. If a politician can not bring himself or herself to vote to support such reasonable reforms as found in the GrassRoots proposed legislation, then they do not deserve to be in the General Assembly.

It is your job to make sure politicians know what **they** do during the legislative season will dictate how **you** vote during the election season. If you do not reward the good guys and punish the bad guys, then you will reap what you sow – more bad politicians denying you your rights.

GrassRoots will also consider votes on any of the other legislation upon which GrassRoots has taken a position.

Additionally, we will tell you if a proven pro gun politician promises to introduce even more pro gun legislation. So, if a proven pro gun politician tells GrassRoots that he will introduce and push pro gun legislation, we will report that to you because the politician’s past track record would indicate that he will do so. But, if a politician tells

GrassRoots only about what he will do, but has no pro gun track record to prove himself, then we will not be fooled by mere promises.

GrassRoots knows the way we will rate politicians is different than the way many other organizations do it. But, GrassRoots is sick and tired of the other way. The other way allows gun owners to be fooled by those with an agenda other than protecting our gun rights.

One so called “pro gun” organization gave Sen. John Land (Sen. Land led the fight to kill the South Carolina CWP law in 1996) an “A+” rating and their endorsement in 2000 – even though Sen. Land continued to brag in his 2000 campaign material that he opposed the CWP law.

GrassRoots knows we need to provide the truth to gun owners. GrassRoots would NEVER give an “A+” rating and our endorsement to a politician that continued to brag in his campaign material that he opposed the South Carolina CWP law. You deserve better than that.





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pitfalls that would entrap law abiding gun owners. Please read all about this bill elsewhere in this newspaper.  
**Principles Involved:** Private property owners should have the right to decide who can possess firearms on their private property, not the government. Concealed weapon permit holders should be able to legally disarm to enter prohibited carry locations. Gun laws should be reasonable, fair, and understandable.  
**GrassRoots Position:** GrassRoots strongly supports this bill.  
**Current Status:** In the Senate Judiciary Committee  
**Full Text:** [http://www.scstatehouse.net/sess115\\_2003-2004/bills/301.htm](http://www.scstatehouse.net/sess115_2003-2004/bills/301.htm)

**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](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](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](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 penalty would be the confiscation of all means of transportation and equipment, plus fines and jail time.  
**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](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](http://www.scstatehouse.net/sess115_2003-2004/bills/441.htm)

**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](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](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](http://www.scstatehouse.net/sess115_2003-2004/bills/568.htm)

**H. 3095:** This bill would make it a felony to commit robbery or attempted robbery while alleging that one was armed, even though not armed.  
**Principles Involved:** Robbery is wrong, whether armed or not.  
**GrassRoots Position:** GrassRoots supports this bill.  
**Current Status:** In the House Judiciary Committee  
**Full Text:** [http://www.scstatehouse.net/sess115\\_2003-2004/bills/3095.htm](http://www.scstatehouse.net/sess115_2003-2004/bills/3095.htm)

**H. 3130:** This bill would make it a crime to possess a firearm if a person has been convicted of misdemeanor criminal domestic violence. It would also make it a crime to possess a firearm if a person was subject to a protective order.  
**Principles Involved:** The right to keep and bear arms and the right to self defense should not be revoked for a misdemeanor or an allegation of fear

of possible abuse.  
**GrassRoots Position:** GrassRoots opposes this bill.  
**Current Status:** In the House Judiciary Committee  
**Full Text:** [http://www.scstatehouse.net/sess115\\_2003-2004/bills/3130.htm](http://www.scstatehouse.net/sess115_2003-2004/bills/3130.htm)

**H. 3226:** This bill is known as the Criminal Street Gang Prevention Act. This bill allows for civil asset forfeiture. The civil asset forfeiture provisions allow the police to keep 75% of everything they seize, the prosecuting attorney gets to keep another 20% of everything seized, and the South Carolina government gets the remaining 5%. The government does not have to convict a person of a crime before seizing and keeping the private property. In fact, even if a jury finds a person “not guilty” of the crime that the government charged them with, the government can still keep the person’s seized property. The government can keep the seized property without even filing any charges or even if the charges are dropped. When the police and prosecutors get 95% of all seized property, it gives the appearance of impropriety. Then, when people can be found “not guilty,” have no charges filed, or have all charges dropped, but still have the government keep all of their seized property, the appearance of impropriety is too great for our tastes. The potential for abuse is too great. Then, to add insult to injury, if an innocent owner can prove that the seized property was used by someone else without the owners knowledge of misuse, the government still does not have to

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# Canadian Safe Drugs Co.

For years,  
United States  
citizens have  
been buying  
medications  
from our  
good neighbor,  
Canada.

Pills that  
are the same  
quality and  
brand names  
prescribed by  
your doctor.

The only  
difference...  
the prices!

“My wife and I have used  
this service for almost  
two years, now... and in  
that short amount of  
time have saved  
\$5,600.00!  
I HAVE THE PROOF!”

“Now YOU can do  
the same thing...  
Check it out!”

- ☆ Safe ~ no gimmicks,  
or hidden costs
- ☆ Forms can be easily  
downloaded from website
- ☆ AARP states that they  
support safe drug  
imports from Canada.  
(from the AARP  
Sept. 2003 newsletter)

Go to our website and look up your medicines  
and see for yourself!

## canadian-safe.com

No fees • No Commissions  
All medications available, except narcotics of any kind

☆ Save up to 75%  
Buy your medicine from Canada! ☆  
from the privacy of your own home



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return the seized property. This is not the American way of life.  
**Principles Involved:** GrassRoots members oppose street gang violence, but not all things done in the name of fighting street gang violence are acceptable. The civil asset forfeiture provisions need to be deleted.  
**GrassRoots Position:** GrassRoots opposes this bill because of the civil asset forfeiture provisions.  
**Current Status:** In the House Judiciary Committee  
**Full Text:** [http://www.scstatehouse.net/sess115\\_2003-2004/bills/3226.htm](http://www.scstatehouse.net/sess115_2003-2004/bills/3226.htm)

**H. 3230:** The South Carolina Exile Act of 2003. First, this bill is not needed because existing law already allows the government to impose the punishments that this bill seeks to impose if the facts and circumstances of the case show that the punishment is justified. This bill amends existing law by replacing punishments that take into consideration the facts and circumstances of each case with a “one size fits all” mandatory minimum sentence for mere possession of a gun, even if the gun is not used in a crime. In Colorado, a young woman was convicted of selling drugs and served her time. Selling drugs is classified as a

violent crime even if no violence is used. When she got out of prison, she worked as a model for a calendar featuring guns. She was charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm because she held a gun while posing for the calendar. This bill would treat her the same as a gang banger out shooting up the streets and impose a five year mandatory minimum prison sentence. This bill would not allow the facts and circumstances of each case to be considered when setting the sentence, and that is wrong and unjust.  
This bill demonizes guns. This bill would deny a person convicted of mere possession of a firearm the right to earn “any work credits, education credits, good conduct credits, or any other credits that would reduce the mandatory minimum term of imprisonment.” Yet, child molesters, child pornographers, and child abusers would be eligible to earn those credits. The horrible lesson this bill teaches is that mere possession of a firearm, even if not used in a crime, is worse than abusing and molesting children or using children in pornography.  
**Principles Involved:** We should not demonize guns. If we allow guns to be demonized, then gun owners will be demonized because of guilt by

association. Justice demands that the punishment should fit the crime, so the facts and circumstances of each case should be taken into account when setting the punishment.  
**GrassRoots Position:** GrassRoots strongly opposes this bill because it demonizes guns, which will then cause gun owners to be demonized because of guilt by association.  
**Current Status:** In the House Judiciary Committee  
**Full Text:** [http://www.scstatehouse.net/sess115\\_2003-2004/bills/3230.htm](http://www.scstatehouse.net/sess115_2003-2004/bills/3230.htm)  
**H. 3253:** The Omnibus Domestic Violence Prevention and Protection Act. This bill increases penalties for domestic violence crimes. A violation of any domestic violence crime, including the misdemeanor crime of threatening someone without actually physically harming them, would impose a lifetime firearms disability.  
**Principles Involved:** The right to keep and bear arms and the right to self defense should not be revoked for a misdemeanor or an allegation of fear of possible abuse.  
**GrassRoots Position:** GrassRoots opposes this bill.  
**Current Status:** In the House Judiciary Committee  
**Full Text:** [http://www.scstatehouse.net/sess115\\_2003-2004/bills/3253.htm](http://www.scstatehouse.net/sess115_2003-2004/bills/3253.htm)

supports this bill, just as we did last session.  
**Current Status:** In the Senate Judiciary Committee  
**Full Text:** [http://www.scstatehouse.net/sess115\\_2003-2004/bills/3442.htm](http://www.scstatehouse.net/sess115_2003-2004/bills/3442.htm)  
**H. 3482:** The GrassRoots GunRights gun law reforms. This bill is a step towards allowing the people of South Carolina to reclaim their right to keep and bear arms. Current law prohibits guests from possessing a pistol on others' private property. This bill would allow private property owners to decide who can possess pistols on their property. Current law prohibits a CWP holder from disarming and leaving his pistol in his vehicle to enter a prohibited carry location. This bill would fix that problem. This bill eliminates many other legislative pitfalls that would entrap law abiding gun owners. Please read all about this bill on Page 1.  
**Principles Involved:** Private property owners should have the right to decide who can possess firearms on their private property, not the government. Concealed weapon permit holders should be able to legally disarm to enter prohibited carry locations. Gun laws should be reasonable, fair, and understandable.  
**GrassRoots Position:** GrassRoots strongly supports this bill.  
**Current Status:** On the House floor as amended by the Judiciary Committee.  
**Full Text:** [http://www.scstatehouse.net/sess115\\_2003-2004/bills/3482.htm](http://www.scstatehouse.net/sess115_2003-2004/bills/3482.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](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](http://www.scstatehouse.net/sess115_2003-2004/bills/3859.htm)

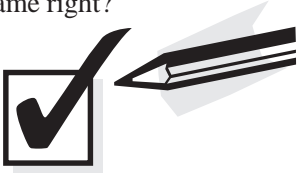


# My Vote for the Next GrassRoots Legislative Push

by Robert D. Butler, JD      Research by Dr. Ben Davis

Did you know it was legal for South Carolina CWP holders to carry into nice restaurants prior to 1996? Probably not, since there were no drunken shootouts for the mass media to report.  
So, why the change in 1996 if there were no problems with drunken shootouts before 1996? Passage of “The Law Abiding Citizen’s Self Defense Act of 1996” allowed ordinary people the privilege of carrying a concealed weapon. Prior to 1996, only the politically connected people could do so. Our politicians were afraid ordinary people, the same ordinary people who vote for these very politicians, were somehow inferior to politically connected people. So, the politicians put a lot of new restrictions on where ordinary people with CWPs could carry.  
The current official interpretation of the law says South Carolina CWP holders can NOT carry into nice restaurants. The anti gun rights bigots claimed passage of a CWP law for ordinary people would lead to “blood running in the streets” and “shootouts over minor fender benders.” The bigots also claimed allowing ordinary

people with CWPs to carry into nice restaurants would lead to drunken shootouts over poor food and bad service. Time has proven these anti gun bigots were wrong about ordinary people causing shootouts over fender benders and blood running in the streets. The bigots were also wrong about ordinary people with CWPs in nice restaurants, but we have to rely upon the facts from other states to prove it.  
**Thirty (30) of the fifty (50) states allow CWP holders to carry into nice restaurants, and consume alcoholic beverages too. These thirty states include over 70% of the population of the United States.**  
Since over 70% of the people in America live safely and peacefully under laws allowing CWP carry into nice restaurants, what is wrong with the people of South Carolina that justifies denying us the same right?



**Why do our South Carolina politicians think we are genetically and/or morally inferior to the people in the rest of the country? Why should we vote for a politician who thinks so poorly of us?**  
If CWP holders were involved in drunken shootouts at nice restaurants, the mass media would let us all know about it. The fact is CWP holders DO NOT start drunkenly shooting people over bad food or bad service.  
The facts prove prohibiting good people from carrying into nice restaurants DOES NOT make things safer. But, there is evidence such prohibitions do make things more dangerous. There have been reports of people being robbed and shot while going to or from nice restaurants.  
When you go out to eat at a nice restaurant it is usually dark, and you must have money to pay the bill. These are exactly the things criminals are looking for - disarmed victims with money in the dark. Unfortunately, the politicians say you must disarm and make yourself and your family vulnerable before you go to a nice restaurant. This is not reasonable!  
GrassRoots leadership has drafted legislation to allow law abiding citizens to defend themselves and their families when they go out to nice restaurants. Is this issue important to you? If so, let GrassRoots leaders know when you return your survey.



# Bush Gun Ban: Looking Less Likely

by Robert D. Butler, JD

People keep asking, “What’s happening with the ‘assault weapon’ ban? Did our postcards do any good?” The short answer is “yes.”

Interestingly, the Democrats are avoiding pushing another gun ban because the last gun ban angered gun owners so much that the Democrats lost control of the House, the Senate, and the Presidency. Ironically, it is now a Republican President that is on record as supporting a gun ban.

It’s sad that President Bush didn’t learn not to alienate gun owners – the very people who put him in office. The old saying, “Don’t bite the hand that feeds you” applies here. Bush may have to learn his lesson the same way that the Democrats learned theirs - by losing the next election.

I will share some of the responses received from our Congressmen, and then you can draw your own conclusions as to how effective the postcards were.

Rep. Jim DeMint (who is running for the open U.S. Senate seat in SC) was the most supportive of our rights. Rep. DeMint stated in a letter dated September 17, 2003, “As a staunch supporter of the Second Amendment, I oppose gun bans and will fight to protect the rights of law-abiding citizens to keep and bear arms.” This unequivocal answer puts Rep. DeMint on record as being on our side. There is no reason to doubt his sincerity. And, most importantly, he got it right the first time.

On the other side of the coin, Rep. John Spratt proudly stated that

he supported the original so called “assault weapon” ban. Rep. Spratt then repeated the lies about how, “These are the weapons most commonly used in crimes, like the AK-47 or the Street Sweeper.” Obviously, Rep. Spratt is either too stupid or too dishonest to read the reports put out by our own government that show these claims to be untrue.

Rep. Spratt tried to hide his anti gun voting record by saying, “My vote against semi-automatic weapons should not be seen as a vote against legitimate gun owners. I support the right to bear arms.” Yeah, right. I guess he might – as long as the weapons are flintlocks. Remember, that semi-automatic deer rifle you use is no different than the so called “assault weapon” that Rep. Spratt voted to ban – they are both semi-automatic rifles.

Rep. Spratt then went on to say, “President Bush has stated his strong support for extension of the ban.” Sorry Rep. Spratt, you can try to hide behind Bush. But, whether it is the Clinton gun ban or the Bush gun ban, it is still an unconstitutional gun ban. Either way, it is unacceptable to gun owners.

Rep. Spratt ended by saying, “Thank you for sharing your views with me. I assure you I will bear them in mind if legislation to extend the ban on semi-automatic assault weapons is

***Thankfully, the deluge of postcards coming from GrassRoots members in the Second Congressional District appear to have changed Rep. Wilson’s mind.***

brought to the floor.” Personally, I don’t care about him bearing my thoughts in mind, I just want him to vote against the legislation.

In the middle was Sen. Lindsey Graham. Sen. Graham stated, “In 1996, I supported [legislation] which would have repealed the ban on semiautomatic assault weapons.” Unfortunately, Sen. Graham never stated how he would vote on this issue now or in the future. Interestingly, Sen. Graham sounded a lot like Rep. Spratt when he stated, “Should this legislation reach the Senate, I will be sure to keep your thoughts in mind.” Again, I don’t care about him keeping my thoughts in mind, I just want him to vote against the legislation.

My personal favorite responses come from Rep. Joe Wilson. Rep. Wilson initially failed to state his position. In a letter dated July 24, 2003, Rep. Wilson avoided telling us where he stood. Instead, Rep. Wilson stated, “Congress is currently considering whether to reauthorize this legislation and you may rest assured that I will keep your thoughts in mind as we continue the debate on this issue.” Again, I don’t care about him keeping my thoughts in mind, I just want him to vote against the legislation.

I was very disappointed in Rep. Wilson’s failure to state where he stood on this issue because I voted for

Rep. Wilson. I did so because he had supported our rights while in the SC Senate. Then, it hit me. Rep. Wilson had been appointed as an assistant whip of the Republican Party. It was his job to get fellow Republicans to support President Bush’s position on the issues. And as Rep. Spratt stated in his letter, “President Bush has stated his strong support for extension of the ban.” Rep. Wilson obviously had decided to support President Bush instead of his constituents.

Thankfully, the deluge of postcards coming from GrassRoots members in the Second Congressional District appear to have changed Rep. Wilson’s mind. In a letter dated September 15, 2003, Rep. Wilson stated, “I do not support the extension of this ban. If any legislation comes before me to reauthorize this ban, I will vote against it.” This is the position that Rep. Wilson should have taken from the very beginning, as Rep. DeMint had done. I do wonder what Rep. Wilson will do if Pres. Bush decides he wants to try to get the vote of soccer moms by betraying gun owners.

Everyone who sent the postcards included in the June 2003 issue of The Defender to their Congressmen deserve a round of applause! Your postcards appear to have turned Rep. Joe Wilson around. Lets hope they also turn President Bush around.

The responses from the politicians show us who our true friends are, who our enemies are, and who can’t be trusted. Now, it is our turn to either reward or punish those politicians.

## GrassRoots Merchant Program Director Found!

Terry Hicks, GrassRoots director has recovered well from kidney transplant surgery and is ready to get back to work. Terry had been our Gun Show Director, but turned those duties over to Mike Walguarnery, Columbia Gun Show director; Mike, our latest winner of the Larry Coble Activist award, has taken over management of all the Gun Shows around the state, freeing up Terry to take on the duties of Merchant Program Director.

Terry will take reports from GrassRoots members of merchants that post against concealed carry. He’ll verify the reports and work with the merchants to try to get them to change their policy. Those that won’t, and legally post against CWP, will be listed on our website and in newspaper (space available), letting people know of the hazard of visiting that business.

When reporting a posted merchant location we need ALL of the following, or your report won’t do us any good:

- 1) Name of business
- 2) Name of manager
- 3) Telephone number, including area code of the business
- 4) Full street address, City and Zip Code
- 5) Note whether or not signs are by ALL public entry doors
- 6) Note the size of the sign and size of the letters
- 7) Note the exact words written on the sign
- 8) Note if there is any picture on the sign, like a gun with a red circle/stripe through it.

At present there is only 1 business in South Carolina confirmed to legally post against CWP:  
IHOP (International House of Pancakes)  
Kings Hwy 17 at 13th South  
Myrtle Beach

Email reports, with the above information, to Terry at:  
[Merchants@SCFirearms.org](mailto:Merchants@SCFirearms.org)  
or you can mail him care of GrassRoots, PO Box 6383, Columbia, SC 29260.

ARGO AD  
Caution... you are entering  
Big foot territory  
AD TO BE  
PLACED HERE







# CWP Instructors No Place To Shoot?

by Norman Price

## The Problem:

Over the past year GrassRoots leadership has addressed an ongoing concern of CWP instructors throughout South Carolina. Their continuing problem is they cannot find a facility or range to shoot the range portion of student qualification. Efforts to obtain range privileges at either commercial indoor or at clubs with outdoor ranges has fallen on deaf ears. It is either insurance issues, membership issues, or believe it or not, that the instructors seeking range time were viewed as competition! Our position is that these folks are very short sighted and their opposition is regrettable.

## The Proposals

GrassRoots in conjunction with Mid-Carolina Rifle Club has come up an alternate solution. The solution may not be ideal, but it's a "Plan B" that could work. Once a month, on a Saturday afternoon, the Qualification Bay at Mid-Carolina Rifle Club, would be made available for instructors from across the state to use for student qualification. These dates would be chosen and posted in advance by Mid-Carolina Rifle Club. MCRC Officers and /or Instructor members would call the course of fire and serve as Range Safety Officers. MCRC would also provide the targets and stands. You (the Instructor), would then sign off on the range portion for your students who successfully complete the 50 round course of fire requirements.


For this MCRC would charge a per student fee of \$10. This would cover the cost of "a one day membership to MCRC", targets and other range materials necessary to conduct these events. Multiple instructors and classes would be encouraged to use the range at the same time on these days to expedite classes and promote efficiencies. The MCRC Qualification Bay will accommodate 20 shooters on the firing line for each relay. If this is a possible solution to your problem, or if you would like to discuss this further, please call Norm Price at (803) 463-6302 or Mike Walguarnery at (803) 781-1360.

Plan C - The MidCarolina Rifle club ([www.midcarolinarifleclub.com](http://www.midcarolinarifleclub.com)) Qualification Bay can be reserved by **club members** to hold handgun training classes, including CWP qualification firing. This is at no charge to MCRC members. They must provide their own target stands etc. MCRC is 5 miles down Fish Hatchery Road from the intersection of I-26 and I-77 and dues are \$100 per year. MCRC's insurance carrier, Capenter Insurance has no problems with this and after sending an Insurance Inspector to MCRC found no deficiencies in our facilities, policies or procedures. MCRC provides the QBay as a public service and challenges other gun clubs around the state to do the same. If you are a gun club officer and have questions you're welcome to call or email Ed Kelleher, MCRC past president (Page 2)."

### GrassRoots to sponsor NRA Instructor Course in June 2004

GrassRoots has received requests from members to hold another two-day Instructor's Class this year. We have scheduled it for June 12 & 13 – the cost will be \$225.00. Students who complete this class will be Certified NRA Instructors. This certification is one that SLED recognizes, so you may then apply to become a SLED Certified CWP Instructor. This course will be open to GrassRoots Members ONLY. Past classes have filled up fast. If this is something you want to do, please make your reservations ASAP, so you won't be left out.

**Details and reservations:**  
**Norman Price (803) 356-6301**  
**Mike Walguarnery (803) 781-1360**



### Current SC CWP Statistics

According to SLED, as of January 15, 2004, there are 40,462 concealed weapon permit holders in South Carolina. There are approximately 1,000 applications being processed. There have been 1,749 applications denied. There have been 248 permits revoked (includes people moving out of SC). CWPs are being issued in about 60 days, with the goal of getting down to 30 days.

### Please use GrassRoots CWP Instructor members.

GrassRoots CWP Instructor Members are listed at:  
[www.scfirearms.org/TrainingCWPGrassRootsCWPTrainerList.htm](http://www.scfirearms.org/TrainingCWPGrassRootsCWPTrainerList.htm)

If you know someone needing a CWP class, please check the above internet location to find an instructor near you... or write us, and we will send you a list of instructors in your area.

**GrassRoots SC**  
**PO Box 6383**  
**Columbia, SC 29260**

### I WANT MORE!!

*Continued from Page 1*

school classes, day school classes, courthouses, polling places, offices and meetings of local government, school or college athletic events, daycare and preschool facilities, church, and doctor offices. Again, I want to carry where I think I might need to carry. It is the reasonable thing to do.

Unfortunately, being reasonable does not get a politician very far in the political world. Politicians know the way to stay in office is to NOT make waves. Any change in the law, regardless of whether it is a reasonable change or not, will make somebody unhappy. Then, those unhappy somebodies might just vote against the politician. So, politicians avoid changing laws unless they think it will give them a definite net gain in votes.

Therefore, the only way to motivate a politician to change the law is to let him know you will be a VERY UNHAPPY VOTER if the law does NOT get changed to your liking.

The good news is that most politicians really DO NOT CARE about the gun rights issue. All they really care about is getting elected so that they can push the issues that motivated them to run for office. They want to push their legislative agenda, not yours. So, why is this good news?

Since politicians do not really care about gun rights issues, they will vote on gun rights issues based upon whether they think it will cost them votes in the next election or gain them votes in the next election. Politicians decide how they will vote on gun rights issues based upon how many voters will change their votes at election time based upon the gun rights issue.

**If a politician thinks you will vote for someone else at election time if he does not vote to support your gun rights during the legislative season, then he will vote to support your gun rights. But, if a politician thinks you will still vote for him regardless of whether he votes to support your gun rights during the legislative season, then he will vote against your gun rights because then he gets your vote and the anti gun rights vote too. It is all a numbers game about getting elected. Remember, the politician really doesn't care about gun rights.**

Now, lets get back to my original statement about how "I want more! What do you want?"

It would be nice if GrassRoots could just introduce one bill to remove ALL of the unreasonable laws that violate our God given right to self defense. But, such a bill would never pass. Do you know why?

First, what most people "know" is what they read in the paper or hear on TV. It has been proven the mass media is anti gun. So, the only message the people hear on a daily basis is an anti gun message. It matters not that the mass media message is untrue, inaccurate, and biased. It is still the only message the masses will hear. A huge controversial bill to remove all anti gun laws would get the mass media cranked up and trying to kill our bill on a daily basis.


If GrassRoots asked to change every anti gun rights law in South Carolina, then our opposition would be overwhelming. Think about that for a minute. We would have the restaurant people against us. We would have the school people against us. We would have the county and municipal people against us. We would have the day care and preschool people against us. We would have the churches against us. We would have the doctors against us. When the politicians started counting the votes, they would see there are more ignorant masses voting the way the mass media tell them to vote than there are thinking reasonable people like us. We lose.

**Think of all the anti gun laws as being a sheet of plywood. Each anti gun law is just another layer of wood. Any single layer is easy for us to break. But, put all those layers together and it gets very difficult to break.**

The secret to getting our rights restored is to do it incrementally. We need to use a divide and conquer strategy. We must go after one issue at a time so that we do not mobilize all of our opposition at once. By going after one issue at a time, we will most likely not get the very negative attention of the mass media. Then, when the politicians start counting the votes, they will see there are more of us than there are anti gun rights people *on that one issue*. So, what anti gun law should we go after next?

If you are a GrassRoots member, you will soon be receiving a survey asking which law you think we should be changing next. Please be sure to return the survey so GrassRoots leaders can work to keep you happy.

Remember, freedom isn't free. We must work to keep it.



## So, you have a CWP... what now?

*Most people who complete CWP training realize there's more to carrying a firearm for self-defense than the required class can teach. Practice and training are a must, but to be useful in a real situation, it should be the correct practice and the correct training. An advanced training class will be held on April 10 in Columbia, combining classroom and practical shooting exercises. It is a reasonably priced, one day course designed to be a perfect "next step" for CWP holders. Class size is limited so make your reservations early. For more information contact Norman Price (803) 356-6301 or Mike Walguarnery (803) 781-1360*



# MOTORCYCLES

by Richard Stephens

Are you one of the many CWP holders who rides a motorcycle or are you a CWP holder thinking about buying a bike? Have you taken time to weigh some of the special considerations specific to this combination of vehicle choice and carrying a weapon? While the differences between four-wheelers and two-wheelers as relating to concealed weapon carry may not be evident at first, they could nevertheless be very important to you. A couple of special deliberations for experienced and prospective motorcyclists alike are holster choice and weapon choice. One consideration, which mainly concerns future motorcycle buyers, is weapon storage capability. (Experienced CWP holding motorcyclists are surely

## AND CWP

will not walk away. In addition to thinking about gloves, boots, leathers, helmets, armored pants and jackets, also consider the consequences of hitting the pavement or even another vehicle and having your weapon hit the road or other vehicle first? In such a case your weapon would be forced into you and could cause significant additional bodily damage. If you carried in the small of the back position, falling on your weapon could cause additional devastating spinal injuries. If you carried on your belt to the right or left of your spine, landing on it could damage the kidneys. If you carried in a shoulder holster your ribcage could be at increased risk. Even the size of your carry weapon should also be carefully considered as relating to accident safety. Would



already aware of this issue.) Sometimes you will want or need to ride your bike to one of those places that lawmakers have legislated the Second Amendment invalid. In this case you need to think ahead and either leave your weapon at home or have a place on board in which to lock your weapon. I have a large bike that has a locking trunk and saddlebags so I have a place to lock my weapon. If the bike you are yearning for is not factory equipped with such niceties, you still may have some options. There are available add-on accessory locking trunks or saddlebags that are compatible with many models. Of course, locking saddlebags and trunks are not very secure if the whole enclosure can be easily removed from the bike. So if you choose this route, make sure the saddlebag or trunk requires a reasonable amount of difficulty to remove from your bike. I owned several older bikes that had small compartments underneath the seat, which locked onto the bike with a key. Typically these compartments are meant for small tool kits, but they are quite possibly large enough to store a small weapon. If you have limited storage space and must disarm, then the available space can limit the size of your carry weapon. If you are soon buying a bike, weapon storage space should definitely be one factor in your shopping deliberations.

Holster and pistol choice could have an impact on your health in the event of a motorcycle mishap. Motorcycling is the world's roughest contact sport. A motorcyclist needs to stack the odds in his or her favor however possible. If you hit something on a bike, unlike being in a four-wheeler, chances are you



you rather be wearing a Desert Eagle .50AE in your shoulder holster if you ever hit the pavement or would you rather contend with the relatively minimal additional trauma caused by a Kel-tec P32 carried in a fanny pack? Even though my bike has a locking trunk for safe stowage, I also prefer to have the means to remove my pistol from my person and covertly stash or retrieve my weapon when I park my bike and have to disarm. I would not want to show a would-be thief I have a nice pistol in my bike even if it is locked. I would also want to avoid flashing the weapon to a citizen who may become frightened and call 911 and make a "man with gun" report. To alleviate this concern of flashing, I prefer to carry in a fanny pack when I know I must disarm while biking. You may wish to consider this means of carry also for this situation and reason. So if you are an aspiring bike owner, keep in mind your weapon storage options before you buy. All CWP holders must sort out many factors when making their choices of weapons and holsters. Motorcyclists will do well to balance their choices with their additional needs to reduce personal injury in the event of a collision and their needs to keep their weapons concealed.

## Concealed Carry in Other States

by Paul Peters

South Carolina has reciprocity with four states: Arkansas, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Wyoming. "Reciprocity" means that two states have officially agreed to honor each others' permits. However, a number of additional states will also honor your SC CWP. You can extend further your ability to carry in still more states by getting "non-resident" permits. Two of the most useful for South Carolinians are the FL and NH permits. The NH permit (\$20) is useful primarily because it adds Georgia. The FL permit (\$117) adds Georgia, all the Gulf Coast states, ND, and PA. The following information has been gathered from various sources. Do not rely on this information. Things change. *It is your responsibility to check the laws for each state.*

### These states honor SC CWP

State	date verified	web site
Alaska	2003-02-07	www.dps.state.ak.us/ast/achp/index.htm
Arkansas (R)	2003-02-06	www.asp.state.ar.us/chl/chl_gen2.html#Recip
Idaho	2002-12-23	www3.state.id.us/cgi-bin/newidst?scdid=1803
Indiana	2003-02-07	www.packing.org/state/index.jsp/indiana
Kentucky	2003-02-06	www.state.ky.us/agencies/ksp/ccdw/ccdfr.htm
Michigan	2002-04-02	www.msp.state.mi.us/CCW/reciprocity.htm
Montana	2003-02-07	www.doj.state.mt.us/enforcement/default.asp
N. Carolina (R)	2003-08-14	www.jus.state.nc.us/cle/Concealedhandgun.htm
Oklahoma	2003-06-30	www.osbi.state.ok.us/sda.htm
Tennessee (R)	2003-02-07	www.state.tn.us/safety/handgunfaqs.html
Utah	2003-02-06	http://bci.utah.gov/CFP/CFPFAQ/FAQOther.html
Virginia	2002-10-23	www.vsp.state.va.us/cjis_cwp.htm
Wyoming (R)	2003-02-06	http://attorneygeneral.state.wy.us/dci/CWP.html

(R) means that this state and SC have reciprocity

### These states honor FL CWP

State	date verified	web site
Alabama*	2003-02-06	www.ago.state.al.us/ag_items.cfm?Issue=64
Alaska	2003-02-07	www.dps.state.ak.us/ast/achp/index.htm
Arkansas	2003-02-06	www.asp.state.ar.us/chl/chl_gen2.html#Recip
Florida*		http://licgweb.doacs.state.fl.us/weapons/index.html
Georgia*	2003-02-06	www.ganet.org/ago/press/press.cgi?prfile=PR
Idaho	2002-12-23	www3.state.id.us/cgi-bin/newidst?scdid=1803
Indiana	2003-02-07	www.packing.org/state/index.jsp/indiana
Kentucky	2003-02-06	www.state.ky.us/agencies/ksp/ccdw/ccdfr.htm
Louisiana*	2003-02-06	www.lsp.org/handguns.html
Michigan	2002-04-02	www.msp.state.mi.us/CCW/reciprocity.htm
		(Honors resident permits only)
Mississippi*	2003-02-07	www.dps.state.ms.us/dps/dps.nsf/main
Montana	2003-02-07	www.doj.state.mt.us/enforcement/default.asp
New Hampshire	2002-11-30	http://webster.state.nh.us/safety/nhsp/plupr.html
		(Honors resident permits only)
North Carolina	2003-08-14	www.jus.state.nc.us/cle/Concealedhandgun.htm
North Dakota*	2003-02-06	www.ag.state.nd.us/BCI/CW/CW.html
Pennsylvania*	2003-02-07	www.acslpa.org
South Dakota*	2003-02-06	www.state.sd.us/sos/Firearms/index.htm
Tennessee	2003-02-07	www.state.tn.us/safety/handgunfaqs.html
Texas*	2003-02-07	www.txdps.state.tx.us/onserv.htm
Utah	2003-02-06	http://bci.utah.gov/CFP/CFPFAQ/FAQOther.html
Wyoming	2003-02-06	http://attorneygeneral.state.wy.us/dci/CWP.html

\*States that do not honor SC CWP, but will honor a "non-resident" FL CWP  
Web site to request FL CWP application: <http://licgweb.doacs.state.fl.us/weapons/index.html>  
FL CWP is issued by Dept. of Agriculture.

### States that honor NH CWP

State	date verified	web site
Alabama**	2003-02-06	www.ago.state.al.us/ag_items.cfm?Issue=64
Alaska	2003-02-07	www.dps.state.ak.us/ast/achp/index.htm
Colorado**	2003-09-11	http://cbi.state.co.us/ccw/reciprocity.asp
Florida	2003-03-13	http://licgweb.doacs.state.fl.us/index.html
		(Honors resident permits only)
Georgia**	2003-08-17	www.ganet.org/ago/press/press.cgi?year=2003
Idaho	2003-02-13	www.packing.org/state/index.jsp/idaho
Indiana	2003-02-07	www.in.gov/isp/faq/index.html
Kentucky	2003-03-13	www.kentuckystatepolice.org/conceal.htm
Michigan	2003-02-24	www.michigan.gov/ag
		(Honors resident permits only)
New Hampshire**		http://webster.state.nh.us/safety/nhsp/plupr.html
North Carolina	2003-09-05	www.jus.state.nc.us/cle/Concealedhandgun.htm
North Dakota**	2003-03-15	www.ag.state.nd.us/BCI/CW/CW.html
Oklahoma	2003-06-30	www.osbi.state.ok.us/sda.htm
Tennessee	2003-07-01	www.state.tn.us/safety/handgunfaqs.html
Utah	2003-02-06	http://bci.utah.gov/CFP/CFPFAQ/FAQOther.html
Wyoming	2003-02-06	http://attorneygeneral.state.wy.us/dci/CWP.html

\*\*States that do not honor SC CWP, but will honor a "non-resident" NH CWP  
Web site to download PDF version of NH application:  
<http://webster.state.nh.us/safety/nhsp/plupr.html>

### Summary

Thirteen other states will honor your SC CWP. You can apply for a NH CWP for \$20. Five additional states (including NH) will honor a NH "non-resident" CWP. You can apply for a FL CWP for \$117. Nine additional states (including FL) will honor a FL "non-resident" CWP. There is some overlap of coverage by the NH and FL permits. VT allows concealed or open carry without a permit.

### Results of getting various permits:

SC = 15 states. 13 other states honor the SC CWP (plus SC and VT)  
SC + FL = 24 states. Adds 9 states (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Texas)  
SC + NH = 20 states. Adds 5 states (Alabama, Colorado, Georgia, New Hampshire, and North Dakota)  
SC + FL + NH = 26 states. Adds 11 states (Alabama, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Texas)



If you enjoy reading this paper...  
If you get something from it...  
**Join GrassRoots NOW!**

**GRASSROOTS GUNRIGHTS**  
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Complete and mail with check to:  
GrassRoots, PO Box 6383, Columbia, SC 29260

- ☐ **One-year Membership (New)**  
**\$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 (New)**  
**\$25.00**  
*Instructor Member benefits include Free copies of GrassRoots newspapers to hand out to your students, Advertising on our web page, publication of your special class offerings, and articles in the GrassRoots newspaper (on a space-available basis), referral of inquiries to GrassRoots for CWP classes. GrassRoots wants instructors to succeed and we'll help!*
- ☐ **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: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Our goal is to double our membership  
as soon as possible...**

**Look for details which will be mailed  
to all GrassRoots members!**

**El Paso:  
Safest City?**

by Curt Hoskins

A [2003] news story reported on the plight of some 200-300 Mexican women raped and murdered in Juarez. One article mentioned a protest march by notables, but neglected to state how many rapes and murders would be prevented per mile marched. Meanwhile, in the United States, the FBI declared Washington, DC to be the murder capital of the country. Washington police blame Virginia as a source of guns for murderers. Guns

in Virginia don't kill nearly as many in Virginia as in Washington, so maybe it's the Potomac River that's responsible. The same reasoning could apply to the Rio Grande and the murders in Juarez. Texas women may, or not, choose to legally carry a pistol in their purses and provide lead as a substitute for the gratification of rape and murder. No one knows how many Texas women carry, but Mexican law denies their U.S. Constitutional right to bear arms.

So, we have the equations: No guns in Washington equals many murders. Unknown guns in Virginia equals fewer murders. No guns in Juarez equals many murders. Unknown guns in El Paso equals fewer murders.  
Am I missing something, or do anti-gun folks lack two functioning brain cells in contact with one another? Do anti-gun folks use their brains for anything besides a knot to keep their spinal cords from unraveling?  
On Thanksgiving morning, CNN mentioned the 10 safest cities in the country, and El Paso topped the list. Sarah Brady, eat your heart out.

**WWW.GUNOWNERS.COM**  
January 2004





# GRASSROOTS LARRY COBLE ACTIVIST AWARD

## Dennis M. “Mike” Walguarnery – Outstanding GrassRoots Member

It’s two weeks before the doors open to yet another of the dozen or so regularly scheduled gun shows held within South Carolina during the year. And, like many times before GrassRoots gun show coordinator, Mike Walguarnery, is busy as usual signing up GrassRoots members from around the state to fill daily shifts at the GrassRoots show table. A vitally important means of swelling the ranks of South Carolina’s largest gun owner group, Mike ensures that all personnel, materials and arrangements are in place to make GrassRoots presence at these events first class in every respect. Using GrassRoots’ electronic discussion group sites, and follow up calls where needed, Mike will have 8 to 12 members committed to work the next gun show well in advance.

A resident of Columbia since 1986, Mike and his wife, Linda, have three grown daughters and five grandchildren. Mike came to South Carolina from his native Maryland, transferred here by his former employer, NCR. After thirty-five years with the company Mike is now semiretired and enjoys life in the South, no doubt about it. “Maryland was and remains a very unfriendly state when it comes to firearms owners. We are fortunate to live in South Carolina where people have great respect for the true meaning of the Second Amendment. It’s *not* about duck hunting.” Mike started shooting as a youngster in his native state, but it wasn’t until moving to Columbia that his interest in shooting flourished. “Some of the guys at NCR were very much into shooting and reloading. My interest in guns was rekindled. But, more importantly, my eyes were opened to the political aspects of gun ownership that every one of us should take up with equal concern.”

“When people ask about my affiliation with gun owner groups my response is simple, ‘I belong to all of them’. But, my attitude towards full-scale support of the national groups has changed completely, especially the NRA. They have gotten way too political to act in the long-term best interest of the Second Amendment. I’m focusing my financial support and personal efforts at the real grass roots level where we can get things done. GrassRoots holds the politicians accountable for what they actually do, not just what they say they’ll do. There’s a BIG difference.”

As the next gun show date approaches Mike gets a call from a new GrassRoots member who has volunteered to work the table. She wonders if she’ll be able to field questions accurately. “Not a problem,” Mike explains. “We team new table volunteers with veteran GrassRoots members who’ve worked several shows. To get ready for your shift look up GrassRoot’s Gun Show Table Tips on our web site for some helpful tips or just follow the lead of your show table partner. But, be

yourself... and have some fun! That’s what it’s all about.”

Friday night before the show opening has arrived and Mike has made all the arrangements with the gun show promoter. The GrassRoots show table is set and ready to go with all inventory, membership applications, newsletters and banners in place. Show volunteers will have ID badges waiting for them at the admissions counter. “We get fantastic support from the gun show promoters who each donate table space and worker admission to GrassRoots free of charge. No doubt, the promoters see the value that GrassRoots is delivering for the benefit of *all* firearms owners in South Carolina, not just CWP holders. The promoters know full well that GrassRoots is working to protect the rights of all gun owners, and that’s good for every citizen in the state.”

Asked about how he got involved with GrassRoots Mike offers a simple response. “I heard about the group and decided to attend one of the monthly member meetings. I immediately recognized that these guys were interested in *action* so I plunked down my \$15 membership and got involved. I’ve had a lot of fun and we’ve accomplished a lot in just a few short years. We can always use more members to pitch in, though.”

Like the entire GrassRoots leadership group Mike is committed to growing the membership ranks of the group. “I’d like to see us double in size and we should be able to do just that. We have large growth potential as more people learn about and obtain South Carolina concealed weapons permits. And word is still getting out about GrassRoots, making our participation at the gun shows so very important. Every member we sign at a show probably signs a friend or two, as well.”

To help grow the ranks of the state’s CWP holders Mike is certainly doing more than his share. In addition to his gun show work Mike, a SLED-certified instructor, conducts monthly CWP courses with partners, Norm Price and Terry Hicks. These classes are available free of charge to Mid-Carolina Rifle Club members. Mike also assists regularly with the free CWP courses offered by SC State Senator Jake Knotts who has instructed thousands of the state’s CWP holders.

GrassRoots vice president and legislative director, Rob Butler, has worked with Mike Walgaurnery ever since Mike attended his first monthly GrassRoots member meeting. Rob states, “People like Mike are what made America great. He is an unselfish, dedicated, hard worker who protects the rights of everyone. Mike’s reward is the satisfaction of a job well done, not material gain. GrassRoots needs more people like Mike Walgaurnery.” GrassRoots president Ed Kelleher concurs, “Mike is one we can count on to give us

more than lip service.”

It’s Sunday evening and this weekend’s gun show has just wrapped up. Mike Walgaurnery loads the last of the GrassRoots show table items into his Chevy Blazer. “We had great show; signed up lots of new members and met scores of current



Mike enjoys playing Santa and is much in demand at Christmas time, but he made time to visit the good boys and girls at the Columbia gun show GrassRoots table.



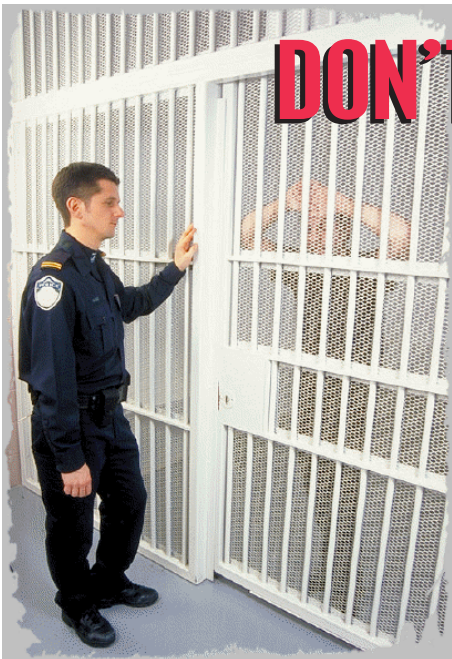
Mike in Spartanburg with GrassRoots volunteer Di Anna Di Anna

GrassRoots members. The new table workers did a really nice job and had a lot of fun, too.”

Mike adds, “You know, I’m really glad I came to that first GrassRoots meeting I attended.” We are too, Mike!

Dennis M. “Mike” Walguarnery, outstanding GrassRoots South Carolina member and Second Amendment protector. Great South Carolina citizen. True American.

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 the protection of those around us. This quarterly feature is named for founding GrassRoots member and activist, Mr. Larry Coble.



# DON'T LET THIS BE YOU!

## Why H. 3482 or S. 301 Must Pass

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