

H. 3876 - The Most Anti-Gun SC Bill Yet!

The most anti gun bill yet introduced in SC this legislative session is H. 3876. In the last issue of The Defender, H. 3876 was listed as one of the bills GrassRoots was watching. But, we did not detail just how dangerous H. 3876 is to our constitutionally protected right to keep and bear arms.

H. 3876 is a danger to the rights and freedoms of gun owners in multiple ways. H. 3876 will make South Carolina law worse than federal law for gun owners. H. 3876 will strip away important 6th Amendment rights for gun owners. H. 3876 will create another class of citizens barred from owning guns, thereby adding to the roll of second class citizenship. Now, for the details.

The most obvious threat to the rights of gun owners found in H. 3876 is the increase in age to possess a rifle or shotgun to 21 years. It would become a felony punishable by up to five years in prison, up to a \$2,000 fine, and confiscation of the rifle or shotgun for people under the age of 21 to possess a rifle or shotgun. This change would make South Carolina law worse than federal law.

Just think what H. 3876 would do to the sport of hunting if our youth could not join their parents and other relatives on a hunt until reaching the age of 21. How ironic that our young people aged 18 to 21 can carry fully automatic weapons in defense of our country, but would be turned into felons in South Carolina for going hunting while carrying a .22 caliber rifle or

12 gauge shotgun in the field with dad, uncle, or granddad.

Imagine a hard working young man, 20 years old, with a wife and new born child. Since he doesn't make a lot of money, his family is forced to live in a lower income neighborhood where there is an increased violent crime rate. How is such a young man supposed to protect his family? If he possesses a shotgun for home defense, under H. 3876, he will have committed a felony punishable by up to five years in prison, up to a \$2,000 fine, and confiscation of the shotgun. Is this the kind of bill you want enacted into law?

The most insidious threats to gun owners found in H. 3876 are found in the proposed changes to Section 16-23-490. Existing Section 16-23-490 provides for an additional five year prison sentence to be imposed upon a person convicted of a violent crime who either possesses a firearm, pretends to possess a firearm, or brandishes a knife while committing the violent crime. This is called an "enhancement" penalty.

The first change proposed for Section 16-23-490 expands the number of crimes eligible for the "enhancement" penalty to include more than just violent crimes. H. 3876 would allow for "enhancement" of non violent crimes. For example, a vehicular accident that results in death while driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol is now included. So, if a person goes to a wedding and has too much to drink, tries to drive home, has an accident wherein someone is killed, and also had a handgun in the glove box, H. 3876 could be used to "enhance" the penalty. Or, if a hunter has a few too many beers after the hunt, drives home with his shotgun in the trunk, and has an accident wherein someone is killed, H. 3876 could be used to "enhance" the penalty.

GrassRoots does not support drunk driving. But, why should a drunk driver without a gun in the glove box or trunk be able to serve only 1 year in prison while a drunk driver with a gun in the glove box or trunk must serve the 1 year in prison

AND serve an "enhancement" penalty of a mandatory minimum additional 5 years in prison (and up to 25 years additional)? What justifies the "enhancement" penalty in non violent cases like these?

The expansion of the "enhancement" penalty in H. 3876 is nothing more than an attempt to stigmatize the mere possession of guns - even the possession of guns having nothing to do with the commission of a crime. Once guns are ruled to be so evil that mere possession of them is considered worthy of additional punishment, any people who possess guns will be considered to be evil just from their association with guns. What H. 3876 really does is stigmatize all gun owners as evil people. This is wrong.

The most threatening change in H. 3876 is the deletion of existing subsection "E" from Section 16-23-490, which states "The additional punishment may not be imposed unless the indictment alleged as a separate count that the person was in possession of a firearm or visibly displayed what appeared to be a firearm or visibly displays a knife during the commission of the violent crime and conviction was had upon this count in the indictment." This change denies a person his 6th Amendment right "to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation" in a criminal prosecution.

Lets go back to the example of the drunk driver above. Only this time, lets assume there is no gun in the vehicle at the time of the accident. At trial, no charges are ever made that there was a gun in the vehicle. Therefore, the defense never addresses the issue of a gun in the vehicle. The jury never reaches a decision about whether there was a gun in the vehicle because the prosecution never charged the driver with such a crime. The driver is never found by a jury to have committed "beyond a reasonable doubt" the crime of possessing a firearm while committing a non violent crime.

At sentencing, the prosecution informs the judge that the driver of the vehicle has a concealed weapons permit and therefore must have had a gun in the vehicle at the time of the deadly accident. Because of the changes in H. 3876, the accused is not entitled to be found guilty "beyond a reasonable doubt"

of possessing a firearm while committing the non violent crime by a jury before the judge is allowed to "enhance" the sentence. The judge then decides to sentence the driver to an additional 25 years in prison as an "enhancement" to the 1 year sentence handed down for the original crime. This is wrong.

Laws should never be judged by how they will be used by your friends. Laws should always be judged by how they will be used by your enemies. Why? Because eventually, the laws will always be used by your enemies.

We should never allow our "friends" to pass laws that can be used to unjustly harm us, even if they promise that the laws are really only intended to harm "evil" people. Remember, in the eyes of your enemies, you are the "evil" people that need to be punished. Once you allow the precedent to be set that a law is just, you will not be able to argue differently when it is used against you - and it *will be* eventually.

The next change proposed for Section 16-23-490 in H. 3876 is to require that all "enhancement" penalties run consecutively rather than either concurrently or consecutively. Justice should not be legally required to be blind. The facts and circumstances of each case should dictate whether the "enhancement" should be imposed to run concurrently or consecutively. The reason we have judges and ranges of sentences is so that we can try to make the punishment fit the crime.

We need look no further than

See **H3876** on page 5

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President's Message



by Ed Kelleher

After years of fine service to GrassRoots, Tom Burkizer resigned his position as Secretary effective

this past March. GrassRoots leadership regretfully accepted Tom's resignation and immediately began a search for someone to fill those shoes. The position was listed as vacant on our website, and we solicited all interested persons to contact us. Our search is now over. The GRSC Board of Directors recently appointed Tom Glaab of Charleston as our new Secretary.

Tom Glaab moved to South Carolina in 1997, and joined GrassRoots shortly after getting his CWP. His first work for GrassRoots was staffing GrassRoots tables at Columbia, Mount Pleasant, and Ladson

gun shows. Tom took over the Charleston-area show coordination from John Borkowski, and now shares those duties with Howard Jones. He attended the first Legislative Tactics Seminar in Columbia, and coordinated the Charleston LTS hosted by Doug Huffman.

Tom has a standing offer to do the logistics work for anybody who would like to host an LTS in their region. He is an active participant in GRSC's Yahoo! email groups, assists in editing The Defender newspaper, and has spoken for GrassRoots at a state senate subcommittee hearing.

Tom has an electrical

engineering degree from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech), and works for the Department of the Navy in Charleston. He has held the role of secretary or treasurer in various volunteer organizations. He is a member GrassRoots South Carolina, Palmetto Gun Club, NRA, GOA, and the Virginia Citizens Defense League (VCDL). He is married and has two children.

Welcome aboard Tom! We look forward to many years of working side-by-side with you in the trenches.

SC Legislation Watch: 2007-2008

The following bills are currently in the state legislature:

S. 114: A gun confiscation bill hiding behind the excuse of preventing criminal domestic violence. The sponsors of this gun confiscation bill do not increase the penalties for criminal domestic violence other than confiscating guns from those convicted of MISDEMEANOR criminal domestic violence - even if the gun was never used or threatened to be used in the domestic violence. This bill would only punish MISDEMEANOR abusers who own guns (i.e., hunters and sport shooters), but not abusers who don't own guns (i.e., golfers and tennis players). If domestic abuse is truly the issue of concern, then why don't the sponsors punish all abusers? If the sponsors truly care about preventing domestic violence - instead of simply wanting to confiscate all guns, they would increase the penalties for criminal domestic violence - not simply confiscate guns. This poorly drafted bill refers to one section of law which has been deleted since 2003. This bill serves only to additionally punish those who have committed a minor misdemeanor, or who have been served with a routine restrain-

ing order in a divorce case. **Principles Involved:** The right to keep and bear arms is a constitutionally protected God given natural right. Our constitutional rights are too important to be denied merely for committing a minor misdemeanor, or simply going through an ugly divorce.

GrassRoots Position: GrassRoots strongly opposes this bill, just as we did last session and the session before that.

Current Status: In a Senate Judiciary subcommittee.

Primary Sponsor: Leventis
Full Text: http://www.scstatehouse.net/sess117_2007-2008/bills/114.htm

S. 168: A bill making it a misdemeanor to discharge a firearm within 25 yards of the Palmetto Trail. The major problem is no provision is made for ensuring the Palmetto Trail is clearly marked so people will know exactly where the boundaries of the Palmetto Trail are located. The bill requires hunters to carry their firearms unloaded and cased while on the Palmetto Trail, which creates at least two problems. First, there is no exception for the concealed weapon that a hunter with a concealed weapon

permit may be carrying for self defense purposes. Second, it treats a hunter who uses the Palmetto Trail as an avenue to get somewhere the same as the hunter who simply wants to cross the Palmetto Trail that cuts through private property while hunting on that private property. The major penalty is the forfeiture of the guns and equipment in the violator's possession at the time of the violation.

Principles Involved: People must be given proper notice (i.e., adequate marking of the Palmetto Trail boundaries) that what they are doing is wrong before they are convicted of wrongdoing. The right to self defense must be protected even for hunters.

GrassRoots Position: GrassRoots opposes this bill until provision is made to ensure the Palmetto Trail is clearly marked and the right to self defense is protected.

Current Status: In the Committee of Fish, Game & Forestry.

Primary Sponsor: Leventis
Full Text: http://www.scstatehouse.net/sess117_2007-2008/bills/168.htm

S. 458: A bill to prohibit participating in the sale, renting or giving away of metal or brass knuckles

either directly or indirectly. The bill also defines metal or brass knuckles as a "weapon" and adds metal or brass knuckles to the list of weapons prohibited on school property (unless by law enforcement officers). But, the most significant change is a very small wording change that most people would fail to notice in Section 16-23-405 wherein a weapon - and that means a firearm, not just metal or brass knuckles - can be disposed of after it is confiscated by law enforcement. Current law requires that the weapon can not be disposed of until ALL legal proceedings involving the firearm are finally determined. But, this bill would allow the weapon to be disposed of after a single legal proceeding is finally determined even if there are additional legal proceedings yet to be finally determined. The harm caused by having expensive firearms or family heirlooms destroyed before final determinations are made in ALL legal proceedings

See LEGISLATION on page 9

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The GrassRoots South Carolina newspaper, The Defender, is distributed quarterly to the membership of GrassRoots. Submissions can be sent by email to Editor c/o GrassRoots South Carolina, PO Box 2446, Lexington, SC 29071, or electronically to 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 Bill Rentiers at the above PO box or email address. Copyright © 2007 GrassRoots South Carolina, Inc.

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GrassRoots South Carolina, Inc. is a South Carolina 501(c)4 non-profit corporation. Our mission is to educate and promote acceptance of responsible firearms ownership within the State of South Carolina and to protect the rights of 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.

GrassRoots Greets Anti-Gun Presidential Candidate

Gun control is not about guns, it is about control!

Rudy Giuliani came to speak in Columbia, SC on Tuesday, August 14, 2007. In an earlier Presidential debate, Rudy tried to deflect attention from his long history of strong anti gun actions and positions by stating each state should be able to pass whatever gun control laws that state wanted to pass.

GrassRoots GunRights leaders found such a statement to be very troubling. If each state is free to pass laws that violate rights guaranteed in the United States Constitution, then what individual rights are safe from government abuse? What if a state - by majority vote - decided to pass a law allowing racial discrimination, or instituting a state religion, or allowing the police to search private homes without probable cause - all of which would violate the United States Constitution? Is this what Rudy had in mind?

GrassRoots GunRights leaders decided to give Rudy the opportunity to clear things up in a public forum. GrassRoots GunRights leaders went to the Columbia, SC meeting to ask Rudy a question about his interpretation of our Constitutional rights. Rudy's answer should send chills up any freedom loving person's spine.

Edward Kelleher, GrassRoots GunRights President, asked the following question: "You said in a prior debate that you believe individual states should enact gun control laws as they see fit. My

question is - Would you also allow each state the option to deny individuals their other rights such as freedom of religion, freedom of speech, freedom from unreasonable searches and seizures, or freedom from racial discrimination?"

While Mr. Kelleher was repeating what Rudy had said earlier about states being able to pass whatever gun control laws the states wanted to pass, Rudy stood there smiling and shaking his head in agreement because that is precisely what Rudy said in a prior Republican Presidential primary debate. Then, Mr. Kelleher hit Rudy with the rest of the question to expose just how dangerous Rudy is to our freedom.

What Rudy said next should be absolutely terrifying to all freedom lovers. Rudy said he would allow each state to do exactly that!

Rudy Giuliani believes states have the power to deny individuals the very rights protected by the United States Constitution just so long as the state does not completely deny the right!

The reasoning and example Rudy used at the meeting to support his anti freedom beliefs is that he thinks our individual constitutional rights are just like property rights. Rudy thinks that just as local government has the power to make zoning laws to restrict one's property rights, local government

also has the power to restrict any of our other rights. Rudy thinks the only limitation upon local government should be that it can not completely extinguish the right.

As long as a Constitutionally guaranteed individual right is only 99% - but not 100% - abolished by local government law, it would pass Constitutional muster according to Rudy. Rudy stated that allowing local government such latitude is what federalism is all about.

Gun owners already understand how threatening this is to the very basis of freedom.

So, if you support gun control, then think about this principle in the context of something other than guns just as GrassRoots GunRights leadership did.

Rudy's "thinking" would allow states to go back to the Jim Crow days of "separate, but equal". States could once again enforce laws that require separate facilities for blacks and whites, just as long as facilities were provided for both races. In fact, the facilities would not even have to be equal.

Rudy's "thinking" would allow states to establish state subsidized religions or state subsidized churches. As long as the state did not legislatively abolish a religion, it would be free to subsidize the preferred ones.

Rudy's "thinking" would al-

low states, once again, to punish "seditious" or "libelous" speech aimed at government officials regardless of whether it was true or not. Freedom of speech would not be completely abolished because you could still say nice things about government officials.

What Rudy and other anti gun hypocrites refuse to admit is that the 2nd Amendment differs from any of our other Constitutionally guaranteed rights. The 5th Amendment states a person may not "be deprived of ... property, without due process of law". But, it does allow a person to be deprived of property. The 4th Amendment only protects against "unreasonable searches and seizures", but not against reasonable searches and seizures.

The 2nd Amendment sets a much higher standard. The 2nd Amendment states the right "shall not be infringed." "Shall not be infringed" explicitly makes our right "to keep and bear arms" more protected than property rights or the right to privacy. What part of "shall not be infringed" does Rudy not understand?

Everyone who values our Bill of Rights and our freedom needs to rise up and expose Rudy for the anti freedom control freak that he is. America deserves better!

Remember, gun control is not about guns, it is about control!

Make a contribution to the
GunRights PAC
220 Isobel Ct.
Lexington, SC 29072

"Rudy's answer should send chills up any freedom loving person's spine."

"What is truly frightening is how the race for US President is dominated by anti gun rights politicians ..."

GunRights PAC Update

GunRights PAC now has over \$30,000 in its war chest! This money will be spent to punish those politicians who need the support of gun owners during election season to stay in office, but who turn their backs on gun owners during the legislative season. It is time these two faced politicians learn that gun owners will "Ruin in June" (primary elections) and "Remember in November" (general elections).

Donating to GunRights PAC works to protect our gun rights in two ways.

First, donations to GunRights PAC help to get pro gun rights candidates elected to office here in South Carolina. This makes South Carolina a better place to live for gun owners, and a safer place to live for everybody.

Second, and just as important, donations to GunRights PAC help to ensure pro gun rights candidates will serve in Congress and as President.

But wait, GunRights PAC is prohibited from donating to federal

elections. So, how does GunRights PAC help ensure pro gun rights candidates will serve in Congress and as President?

State and local governments serve as the training grounds for federal office just like colleges serve as the training grounds for the NFL. Most of the politicians currently elected to federal office from South Carolina started in state and local government, i.e. Sen. Graham (SC

House), Representatives Brown (SC House), Wilson (SC Senate), Barrett (SC House), Spratt (county attorney), and Clyburn (SC Human Affairs Commissioner).

GunRights PAC works to help weed out the anti gun politicians at the state and local level. Then, only the pro gun candidates are left to rise to the federal level.

To be able to ensure that only pro gun rights candidates stay in the running, it takes resources - say "MONEY". GunRights PAC needs money to accomplish it's goal of getting pro gun rights politicians in office. GunRights PAC needs your help.

What is truly frightening is how the race for US President is dominated by anti gun rights politicians - even on the Republican side! Wouldn't it

have been nice if New York and Massachusetts had weeded out the anti gun rights politicians before they started running for president?

What is especially frightening is how anti gun rights Republicans running for US President get the people of South Carolina to contribute so much money to their campaigns. Giuliani has collected over \$400,000 from the people

of South Carolina. Romney has collected over \$315,000 from the people of South Carolina. Three quarters of a million dollars donated to just two anti gun politicians! Just imagine what GunRights PAC could do to protect our gun rights if the people of South Carolina would make such large donations to GunRights PAC!

Please do your part to protect your rights and the rights of your children and grandchildren. Please contribute what you can afford to:

GunRights PAC
220 Isobel Ct.
Lexington, SC 29072

Most banks will allow you to set up an online payment plan that will automatically send a check to GrassRoots PAC every month. This lets you send a small amount of money every month, yet make a big impact annually. See your bank's web site or bank teller for more information on how to set this up.

Down Range



by Bill Rentiers

My, how time flies when you are having fun! As of this past October I've been working for you for a full year now. (Has it been a whole year already?) I've learned a great deal in the past year, and much has happened.

Membership cards have gone out to all members. We've sent out a few Action Alert emails recently about HR. 2640 the McCarthy-Leahy-NRA Veterans Disarmament Bill.

Many GrassRoots Instructor Members and GrassRoots Merchants have been requesting bundles of The Defender to hand out to their customers. GrassRoots Instructor Members have been instrumental in the growth of GrassRoots membership. Instructor Harley Limehouse of John's Island, SC has sent us close to 100 members this year alone. Instructor David Rankin took a bundle of The Defender newspapers to Joe Sabbadino's

A Few Good Lessons for GrassRoots Members

Mr. Joe Sabbadino of Taylors, SC is a new member of GrassRoots. Joe is also president of a hunting club. Joe recently completed a CWP course taught by GrassRoots Instructor Member David Rankin. David handed out copies of The Defender during his CWP class. Joe was very excited to hear about GrassRoots. He didn't even know we existed.

Joe likes to bow hunt. He wrote he had been told by a member of the SC Department of Natural Resources that carrying a handgun *with or without a permit* was not permitted while bow hunting in South Carolina. He was naturally skeptical about this claim and he wanted GrassRoots to verify its accuracy.

gun club and Joe was so impressed that he joined GrassRoots. Then, Joe wrote and asked for two bundles to give out copies of The Defender to each member of his gun club. If you are a GrassRoots Instructor Member and wish to receive a bundle of The Defender newspapers for your students, just let us know. We will be happy to send them to you.

We also have a letter we are preparing to send out to merchants all over South Carolina, asking them to join our Merchant Program and offer discounts to our members. If you know of any business that supports our gun rights, please give them a copy of The Defender and ask them if they would consider participating in our

Merchant Program. The larger this program gets, the more value your membership card will have.

We are also preparing to send out thousands of letters to South Carolina gun owners asking them to join GrassRoots. If you know anyone who is a gun rights supporter but who is not already a member of GrassRoots, please encourage them to join us. Share The Defender with a friend. Let them know they should join GrassRoots GunRights of SC.

GrassRoots also sent a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to the South

"Membership cards have gone out to all members."

Joe provided the phone number for Charles Ruth, who is in charge of the turkey hunting division of DNR.

Bill Rentiers (GrassRoots Executive Officer) called Mr. Ruth to discuss the alleged ban. Bill Rentiers pointed out that Section 16-23-20(4) lists "licensed hunters or fishermen who are engaged in hunting or fishing" is one of the exceptions to South Carolina's prohibition on carrying of a handgun.

Mr. Ruth was very friendly and cordial. He said he would

"If you pass on a copy of The Defender to someone, they might just join us..."

groups] urge our legislatures (State and Federal) to chip away at gun owner rights. Sometimes they are successful and sometimes they are not. It often depends upon whether enough voters are sufficiently interested to take the time to write a letter.

Before anyone writes a letter, he/she needs to know that the matter is under consideration, i.e., that now is the time to speak up if he/she has any interest in the matter.

Carolina Law Enforcement Division. Last May, SLED's lobbyist testified before the Senate Judiciary Committee that SLED knew of cases where someone as young as sixteen years old had been issued a permit to carry a handgun in the state of New Hampshire. Since Federal law prohibits any person under the age of eighteen from possessing a handgun, GrassRoots was quite skeptical about this testimony.

The official FOIA response from SLED's Major Keel (the new interim chief) was that SLED possessed no such records. I personally spoke with Major Keel who said "they had heard" from

contacts in the New Hampshire state government that this happens, but that SLED had no specific details. I asked Major Keel who he had contacted in New Hampshire.

I called NH to ask some questions. I was referred to Lieutenant Anthony Lubrano, who is in charge of the NH non-resident permits section. We had a lengthy and cordial discussion, and he assured me he has not issued any permits to anyone under eighteen years of age. However, Lt. Lubrano said he is only in charge of non-resident permits, and in New Hampshire resident permits are issued by a county

look into the subject. He asked GrassRoots to contact him again in two weeks.

As requested, GrassRoots called Mr. Charles Ruth back after two weeks to follow up. The call was not answered so GrassRoots left Mr. Ruth a voice message to

call with his findings. Mr. Ruth called the next day and stated CWP carry is indeed lawful while hunting on both private and public lands.

GrassRoots contacted Joe Sabbadino and informed him of the good news. Joe also requested a supply of The Defender

Thus if you potentially have an interest, you ought to join "GrassRoots Gun Rights". That way you will be notified when the time is ripe.

The web site has a "GrassRoots South Carolina Membership Form" in pdf format. You can print the form, fill it out and mail it in if you are interested.

Your ole Dad/Papa

Sheriff or city Chief of Police. He said it was entirely possible some local jurisdiction may have actually issued a carry permit to a minor, but a NH permit issued to a juvenile would not supersede the federal prohibition.

The only way GrassRoots could find out for certain is to send FOIA requests to every city and county in the entire state of New Hampshire. I asked Lt. Lubrano if his department would be willing to send me a letter stating he does not issue carry permits to minors. He referred me to a department lawyer and I explained what I wanted. They sent us the letter as we requested.

Things have been somewhat quieter at the statehouse during the autumn months, since our state legislature is in recess. We are working very hard to build up membership so that we will have enough members to successfully fight for H. 3212 and H. 3464 when our lawmakers return in January.

We also want to overturn the ban on carry in nice restaurants. But, we need to increase our membership if we ever expect to achieve that goal. Please do everything you can to help us grow bigger and stronger. Talk with all of your pro-gun friends about joining GrassRoots. Perhaps, if we grow large enough, one day soon we may even be able to get carry in nice restaurants.

Bill Rentiers

newspapers because he wanted to hand them out to all the members of his club.

This short story contains two important lessons for all GrassRoots members.

Lesson #1: If you pass on a copy of The Defender to someone, they might just join us in the fight to protect our gun rights. And, they might encourage a hundred more people to join us too.

Lesson #2: If you call GrassRoots needing help with a gun rights issue – WE WILL ACT ON IT!

Each and every one of us should take these lessons to heart. Are you telling others about GrassRoots GunRights of SC? When you finish reading this issue, please share your copy of The Defender with a friend.

[Below is an email from GrassRoots member Colgate Darden to his family. It is reprinted here with Mr. Darden's permission.]

[GrassRoots] is the organization in South Carolina that favors a citizen's right to own guns and to use them responsibly.

As you doubtless know, there is a vocal [anti-gun] group that does not agree with this notion. All year long and every year, [these anti-gun

Have you told a friend about GrassRoots lately? REMEMBER - Our success depends on YOU!

10 Things Non-Gun People Should Know About CWP Holders

by Joel Rollins
Guest Contributor

I was thinking the other day, not about the rabidly anti-gun forces and how to reach them (they are pretty much a lost cause) but about how much could possibly be done if the more or less apathetic non-gun crowd could be reached and educated. So I came up with 10 things I'd like non-gun people to know about most CWP holders

There's a lot of misinformation out there these days about people who have chosen to exercise their right to carry a concealed weapon according to the provisions made by state governments.

Here are a few things CWP holders want people to know about them. Now of course there are exceptions to these general rules, but I think you'll find these things to be true about the vast majority of your legally carrying neighbors.

1. We don't carry firearms so that we can ignore other basics of personal safety. Every permit holder I know realizes almost all dangerous situations can be avoided by vigilance, alertness and by simply making wise choices about where one goes and what one does. We don't walk down dark alleys. We lock our cars. We don't get intoxicated in public or hang out around people who do. We park our cars in well-lighted spots and don't hang out in bad parts of town where we have no business. A gun is our last resort, not our first.

2. We don't think we are cops, spies, or superheroes. We aren't hoping that somebody tries to rob the convenience store while we are there so we can shoot a criminal. We don't take it upon ourselves to get involved in situations that are better handled by a 911 call or by simply standing by and being a good witness. We don't believe our guns give us any authority over our fellow citizens. We also aren't here to be

H. 3876 continued from page 1 the Jason Dickey case (see The Defender, January 2007) to see why all "enhancements" should not be required to run consecutively. Jason Dickey should never have been convicted in the first place. To require that Jason Dickey serve an additional 5 to 25 years after the 16 years he was originally sentenced to would be an additional travesty of justice.

Finally, H. 3876 changes Section 16-23-30 so that all felons would be prohibited from possessing firearms, not just violent felons. Currently, both federal and state law allow many non violent felons to possess firearms. H. 3876 would make South Carolina law more onerous than federal law

your unpaid volunteer bodyguard. We'll be glad to tell you where we trained and point you to some good gun shops if you feel you want to take this kind of responsibility for your personal safety. Except for extraordinary circumstances your business is your business, don't expect us to help you out of situations you could have avoided.

3. We are LESS likely, not more likely, to be involved in fights or "rage" incidents than the general public. We recognize, better than many unarmed citizens, that we are responsible for our actions. We take the responsibility of carrying a firearm very seriously. We know that loss of temper, getting into fights or angrily confronting someone after a traffic incident could easily escalate into a dangerous situation. We are more likely to go out of our way to avoid these situations. We don't pull our guns to settle arguments or to attempt to threaten people into doing what we want.

4. We are responsible gun owners. We secure our firearms so that children and other unauthorized people cannot access them. Most of us have invested in safes, cases and lock boxes as well as other security measures to keep our firearms secure. Many of us belong to various organizations that promote firearms safety and ownership.

5. Guns are not unsafe or unpredictable. Modern firearms are well made precision instruments. Pieces do not simply break off causing them to fire. A hot day will not set them off. Most modern firearms will not discharge even if dropped. There is no reason to be afraid of a gun simply lying on a table or in a holster. It is not going to discharge on its own.

6. We do not believe in the concept of "accidental discharges". There are no accidental discharges, only negligent discharges or intentional

discharges. We take responsibility for our actions and have learned how to safely handle firearms. Any case you have ever heard of about a gun "going off" was the result of negligence on somebody's part. Our recognition of our responsibility and familiarity with firearms makes us among the safest firearms owners in America.

7. Permit holders do their best to keep our concealed weapons exactly that: concealed. However, there are times when an observant fellow citizen may spot our firearm or the print of our firearm under our clothes. We are very cognizant that concerns about terrorism and crime are in the forefront of the minds of most citizens. We also realize our society does much to condition our fellow citizens to have irrational fears about firearms. We would encourage citizens who do happen to spot someone carrying a firearm to use good judgment and clear thinking if they feel a need to take action. Please recognize that it's very uncommon for a criminal to use a holster. However, if you feel the need to report having spotted a firearm, we would ask that you please be specific and detailed in your call to the police or in your report to a store manager or private security. Please don't generalize or sensationalize what you observed. Comments like "there's a guy running around in the store with a gun" could possibly cause a misunderstanding as to the true nature of the incident.

8. The fact that we carry a firearm to any given place does not mean that we believe that place to be inherently unsafe. If we believe a place to be unsafe, most of us would avoid that place all together if possible. However, we recognize that trouble could occur at any place and at any time. Criminals do not observe "gun free zones". If trouble does come, we do not want the only armed persons

to be perpetrators. Therefore, we don't usually make a determination about whether or not to carry at any given time based on "how safe" we think a location is.

9. Concealed weapon permit holders are an asset to the public in times of trouble. The fact that most permit holders have the good judgment to stay out of situations better handled by a 911 call or by simply being a careful and vigilant witness does not mean we would fail to act in situations where the use of deadly force is appropriate to save lives. Review of high profile public shooting incidents shows that when killers are confronted by armed resistance they tend to either break off the attack and flee or choose to end their own lives. Lives are saved when armed resistance engages a violent armed criminal. Lives are lost when the criminal can do as he pleases.

10. The fact criminals know some of the population may be armed at any given time helps to deter violence against all citizens. Permit holders don't believe every person should necessarily be armed. We recognize some people may not be temperamentally suited to carry a firearm or simply may not wish to for personal reasons. However, we do encourage you to respect our right to arm ourselves. Even if you choose not to carry a firearm yourself, please oppose measures to limit the ability of law-abiding citizens to be armed. As mentioned before: criminals do not observe "gun free zones". Help by opposing laws that require citizens to be unarmed victims.

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and create even more second class citizens than federal law does.

Think Martha Stewart here because it is the Martha Stewarts of South Carolina that H. 3876 is going after. While Martha Stewart violated some business regulatory laws, her crimes were not violent crimes posing a threat to the health and safety of the people at large. Would you really feel safer knowing that Martha Stewart could not own a firearm in South Carolina?

This last proposed change found in H. 3876 gets to the issue of what are rights and what are privileges. The right to keep and bear arms is a God given right. While government may have the power to deny a right, it never has

the moral justification for doing so.

A high ranking law enforcement officer once asked me why it was permissible to grant government the power to deny people their 2nd Amendment rights, but not permissible to grant government the power to deny people their 1st, 4th, 5th, 6th, and 8th Amendment rights. He pointed out that police work would be a lot easier if the police could invade homes without getting a search warrant first. Or, if police could just beat confessions out of those people they "knew" were guilty. Or, if police could stop the press from reporting on abuses the police did not want the public to know about. The point he was making is that our 2nd Amendment rights need to be honored

for former felons just as all of our other rights are honored for former felons.

The high ranking law enforcement officer pointed out that if a former felon was too dangerous to be allowed to possess a firearm, then the former felon was too dangerous to be let loose on the streets. He stated it is foolish to think a man made law prohibiting a person from possessing a firearm would be obeyed by a person intent upon violating God's laws against murder, rape, and robbery.

Gun owners need to remember the following poem from the WW II era: "First they came for the Communists, but I was not a communist so I did not speak out.

See **H.3876** on page 7

SLED Testimony before Senate

Last May GrassRoots Gorillas attended the full Senate Judiciary Committee meeting during which H. 3212 was debated. During that meeting, Chairman Glenn McConnell decided he would permit Senator Jake Knotts to receive testimony from SLED's lobbyist, Captain Joe Dorton.

The only "testimony" allowed during the meeting was by SLED in opposition to H. 3212. Sen. McConnell permitted no rebuttal testimony from GrassRoots or anyone else. (GrassRoots was the only organization present supporting H. 3212) The outward appearance of this seemed to be that Sen. Knotts was simply giving the testimony and then asking Capt. Dorton "isn't that true?"

During that meeting, Capt. Dorton "testified" he knew of a case from the state of New Hampshire (NH) where a person only 16 years old had been issued a concealed weapons permit (CWP) to carry a firearm. GrassRoots leadership found this claim hard to believe, since Federal law prohibits any person under age 18 from possessing a handgun.

Knotts: "What is the lowest age that you are familiar with that a person in another state has been issued a CWP, that we are now looking at to try to get reciprocity from this list?"

Dorton: "Sixteen."

Knotts: "Sixteen years of age?"

Dorton: "Yes sir."

Knotts: "What state was that?"

Dorton: "Uh, New Hampshire."

From this "testimony" given before the Senate Judiciary Committee on May 8, 2007, SLED's Capt. Dorton claimed he knew of a person from NH who, at age 16, was issued a CWP in the state of NH.

Shortly thereafter, GrassRoots made a Freedom of Information Act request to SLED for any and all information SLED possessed relating to the testimony given by Capt. Dorton before the Senate Judiciary Committee regarding a 16 year old from NH being issued a CWP. While SLED acknowledged our request almost immediately, they did not provide any data until August. Even then, they completely avoided the Dorton testimony issue.

GrassRoots spoke with Major Keel of SLED about SLED's failure to provide the requested information. Maj. Keel stated

repeatedly "SLED has no such records," and suggested Capt. Dorton did not say such. Maj. Keel stated GrassRoots should contact Capt. Dorton directly to find out what he knows because SLED possessed no records of any specific cases.

Maj. Keel recommended GrassRoots seek a copy of the audio recordings of the meeting. GrassRoots then purchased the audio recording of the Judiciary Committee meeting, portions of which appear transcribed in this article.

Maj. Keel also stated GrassRoots should contact authorities in the state of NH. Maj. Keel stated he had spoken with NH authorities in researching the GrassRoots FOIA request. He said NH told him the issuing of CWPs to minors does in fact occur in NH.

Maj. Keel provided GrassRoots with a name (Rosemary) and a telephone number for the NH office in charge of issuing CWPs.

GrassRoots called the NH authorities at the phone number Maj. Keel provided. GrassRoots spoke with Rosemary, who referred the call to Lieutenant Anthony Lubrano. Lt Lubrano is the person in charge of issuing non-resident CWPs.

GrassRoots had a lengthy discussion with Lt. Lubrano about SLED's claims. He said his office only administers non-resident CWPs, not resident CWPs. Lt. Lubrano said local authorities issue all NH resident CWPs. There is no state level database or other comprehensive records kept on who has been issued a resident CWP. However, he did say he has received requests for permits from non-residents who are under 18, and he routinely denies all such requests.

Lt. Lubrano said it is entirely possible a 16 year old NH resident could have been issued a CWP by a local Chief of Police or Sheriff. Unfortunately, one would have to check with every jurisdiction in NH to find out for certain.

GrassRoots then asked Lt. Lubrano to provide GrassRoots with a letter stating it is NH policy to deny all non-resident CWPs to minors. Lt. Lubrano referred GrassRoots to Marta Modigliani, a department lawyer, for such a letter.

GrassRoots contacted Ms. Modigliani and discussed the letter GrassRoots wanted. She promised to get back with GrassRoots on the subject. In late September GrassRoots received a letter from Mr. Earl Sweeney, Assistant Commissioner. (see facing page)

The whole issue of underage

people with CWPs coming to South Carolina is simply a ruse designed

to spread misinformation. For example, Arizona law recognizes permits from *every* other state *provided* the person is at least age 21. South Carolina could stipulate the same if it so desired. Then, the subject of other states issuing permits to people under 21 would be irrelevant.

Another issue which came out in this "testimony" by SLED's Capt. Dorton was that some drug dealers (with no criminal history) were applying for and obtaining their CWP in South Carolina. Then later, upon being arrested for drug activity, their permits are revoked. The following exchange occurred between Sen. Knotts and Capt. Dorton during that testimony.

Knotts: "In our discussions in the past, have you not indicated to me that there's been some uh... um...revocations of CWP permits now that were a lot of people who are receiving CWPs that later get uh...charged or convicted of uh... drug - drug dealings, that their gun permits are being revoked?"

Dorton: "Yes sir, there have been revocations for all manner of criminal offenses."

Knotts: "And I believe I was informed by y'all that a lot of people now that are in the drug business - that are in the drug business, that go and apply for a CWP when they do not have a criminal record and later on are charged with drugs and meth houses and stuff like that, and of course at that point in time, they are legally charged - uh...legally carrying a weapon and you can't charge them for an unlawful weapon, but they are no longer a law-abiding citizen, because they been charged, so SLED takes...uh...revokes their license - is that not right?"

Dorton: "I don't recall our - any specific discussion about that, but...uh, there are revocations, there is a nightly computer run at SLED, every night, of every arrest reported to SLED, to determine

whether or not any of those people..."

It would seem Sen. Knotts wanted Capt. Dorton to say something which Capt. Dorton appears unwilling to say before the committee. GrassRoots decided to include in our FOIA request, information concerning reasons for revocations of CWP permits, by category, for all years since 1996 when the CWP program began. We received only data from 2003 to present, with the promise the earlier data would be forwarded "as time permits."

The CWP revocations categorized as being for "drugs" were as follows:

Reason:	Drugs
2003	3
2004	2
2005	0
2006	3
2007	7

The number of CWPs revoked for "drugs" has more than doubled since last year. Whether one would call 7 drug revocations "a lot" as Sen. Knotts did is questionable. But, considering SLED data shows there are currently 56,205 SC CWPs in good standing, this number still represents only 0.00012 of all CWP permit holders (say that number out loud: "one ten thousandth"). The 2007 figures only represent data gathered from January through August of this year, but the ratio can hardly be called "a lot."

All that is required to revoke a CWP is being *charged* with an offense that *upon conviction* would make you a prohibited person. A conviction is not even required. We have no idea how many of these drug charges were dropped or acquitted. Nor, do we know how many permits were (or will be) restored, as required by state law.

The drug revocations issue had no bearing on H. 3212, which was the subject being debated by the Senate Judiciary Committee. So, why even bring it up? The only purpose it served was to demonize CWP holders as potential drug dealers.

If a CWP holder was charged with a drug offense, thus causing their permit to be revoked, doesn't this show the system is working as designed?

In the end, the majority of the full Senate Judiciary Committee voted to approve H. 3212 and send it to the full Senate. However, Senator Ralph Anderson of Greenville attached a minority report to the bill in hopes of killing it entirely. The following exchange took place near the end of the debate on H. 3212.

FOIA

continued from page 6

Knotts: [to Sen. Anderson] "Senator would you - would you hold off on the minority report until we...and if you want to put your name on it on the floor, at least give us a chance to come up with a compromise uh amendment that we can possibly live with because a minority report kills it."

Anderson: "That's what I'm trying to do, Senator."

A minority report does not, in fact, kill a bill outright. It only stops it from being considered unless two thirds of the Senate agrees to bring it to the floor for a vote. If we can convince the Senate that this bill must come to the floor for a vote, we can get H. 3212 to pass.

We can expect strong opposition to H. 3212 when our legislators return in January. We have our work cut out for us.

GrassRoots will stay on top of this and keep you informed. If you want your CWP to be recognized in many more states, be ready to act when GrassRoots calls on you to take action.

H. 3876

continued from page 5

Then they came for the Socialists and the Trade Unionists, but I was neither, so I did not speak out. Then they came for the Jews, but I was not a Jew so I did not speak out. And when they came for me, there was no one left to speak out for me."

First, government started by denying violent felons their 2nd Amendment rights, then government started denying people their 2nd Amendment rights if they committed a politically incorrect misdemeanor, now government wants to deny non violent felons their 2nd Amendment rights. So, what do we do when the government decides that any misdemeanor is grounds for denying people their 2nd Amendment rights? If you

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EARL M. SWEENEY
ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER

September 24, 2007

Mr. William W. Rentiers III, Executive Officer
Grass Roots Gun Rights to South Carolina
PO Box 2446
Lexington, SC 29071

Dear Sir:

With regard to your inquiry as to whether licenses to carry concealed firearms can be issued under RSA Chapter 159 to persons under the age of 18 years, there is no minimum age specified in our statutes. Of course under federal law a minor would be unable to purchase firearms or ammunition.

Concealed carry licenses are issued by the Mayors of Cities or Selectmen of Towns and the Chiefs of Police of Towns and Cities. Some require the applicant to be age 18, some require age 21, and some I believe may have issued them to persons as young as 16, although I have no data on that as these licenses are not recorded at the State level. I believe I recall hearing about one case in which I believe a 16 year old applicant went to the local court to challenge the Chief's refusal to issue a license, but I don't know the outcome.

In summary, the law that allows for the issuance of concealed carry licenses is a State statute but it is the local municipalities that have the authority to issue the licenses and my department has no control over that.

Very truly yours,

Earl M. Sweeney
Assistant Commissioner

cc: Attorney Marta Modigliani, Legal Counsel, Office of the Commissioner

TDD ACCESS: RELAY NH 1-800-735-2964

think this sounds far fetched, then just remember that SLED currently denies a person a concealed weapons permit for mere traffic violations.

The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued a report that found there was insufficient evidence to conclude that any of the thousands of gun control laws enacted over the last 70 years have saved any lives. Think about that for a moment. Thousands of gun control laws over 70 years and there is no evidence that any of them have worked. So, what makes anyone think that one more law will be the one that finally works to save a life?

The 2nd Amendment tells us why we need "the right of the people to keep and bear arms" - because it is "necessary to the security of a free state." This reveals the true purpose of gun control - to help eliminate freedom. The real lesson that needs to be learned is that gun control is not about guns - it is about control. H. 3876 is gun control.

AllSouth To Post All Locations

Recently the AllSouth Federal Credit Union in Lexington, SC was posted against concealed carry. It is located on Highway 378 in Lexington, just across the street from Lexington Middle School.

On October 1st, GrassRoots called the corporate headquarters and spoke with Ms. Velma Jones. GrassRoots asked Ms. Jones if they might consider displaying some sort of alternate signage. She advised GrassRoots that ASFCU was recently told some of their stores were incorrectly posted. They were advised this was the correct sign needed in order to be correctly posted. She further noted all branches of AllSouth do not yet have the correct signage, but all will be changed to the correct signs shortly.

GrassRoots explained posting those signs would not prevent a criminal from entering their business while armed. But it *will* encourage many CWP holders to refuse to do business with

AllSouth.

Ms Jones said she would convey GrassRoots' concerns to the decision-makers at AllSouth. She said Ms. Black and/or Ms. Armstrong would call back about this matter. As of November 15th, NO calls from any AllSouth representative have been received on this matter.

If you support your Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms, and if you think your life and your family's life is worth protecting while you are out shopping, why would you enter a posted establishment? Why do business with a company like AllSouth - at least until they reverse their decision to post their stores?

Make a contribution to the
GunRights PAC
220 Isobel Ct.
Lexington, SC 29072

CWP Revocation Data as of August 2007

In August, GrassRoots GunRights of SC obtained data regarding Concealed Weapon Permit (CWP) revocations from SLED through a Freedom of Information Act request. The data shows that of all 78,195 CWPs issued in South Carolina since 1996, only 310 (0.004) have ever been revoked. Think about that for a second. This amounts to *less than one half of one percent*. Evidently, CWP holders in the state of South Carolina consistently commit crimes at a MUCH lower rate compared to the rest of population.

Total Number of CWPs issued since 1996 = 78,195

Total Number of CWPs currently in good standing = 56,205

Total number of CWP's Revoked since 1996 = 310

Permits revoked by year:

1996	0
1997	21
1998	27
1999	25
2000	25
2001	29
2002	34
2003	26
2004	22
2005	11
2006	23
2007	67

In the ten years prior to 2007, the average number of CWP permits revoked in a given year was 24.3. As of August 2007, the number stood at 67 and that isn't even the end of the 3rd quarter of 2007! At this rate, revocations could reach 100 by year's end. What is the cause of the sudden 300%+ jump in revocations this

year? Is the problem that CWP holders are suddenly turning to crime in greater numbers? (From the above data, having 67 CWP revocations out of 56,205 still constitutes a crime rate of only 0.0011 of all current permit holders) Could it instead perhaps be increased scrutiny of CWP Holders by the law enforcement community?

GrassRoots obtained a table from SLED of the specific reasons for revocation for the period 2003 to 2007. They also promised to send data for years 1996 to 2002 as soon as possible. But as of press time it has not yet been received.

Revocations of CWPs have risen most significantly in the categories of Criminal Domestic Violence (CDV) and "Pointing Weapon" in 2007. While CDV is a significant problem, such claims (along with Orders of Protection) are often a tactic used to gain an upper hand in divorce cases.

"Pointing Weapon" is a subjective charge. Did the person actually fear for his life? Did presenting the weapon stop an attack, or was it unprovoked? Each case would have to be examined to make a determination.

CWPs are revoked upon being charged, not convicted. How many of these revocations were later reinstated after the CWP holder

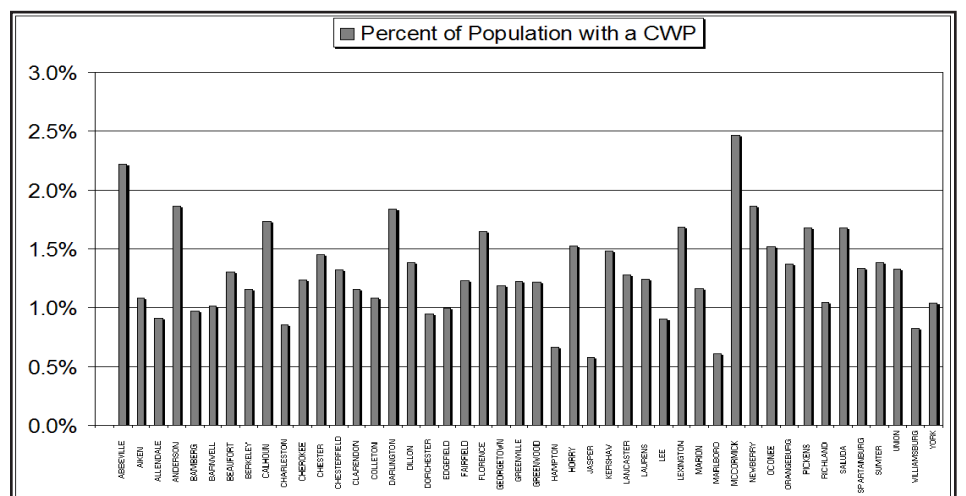
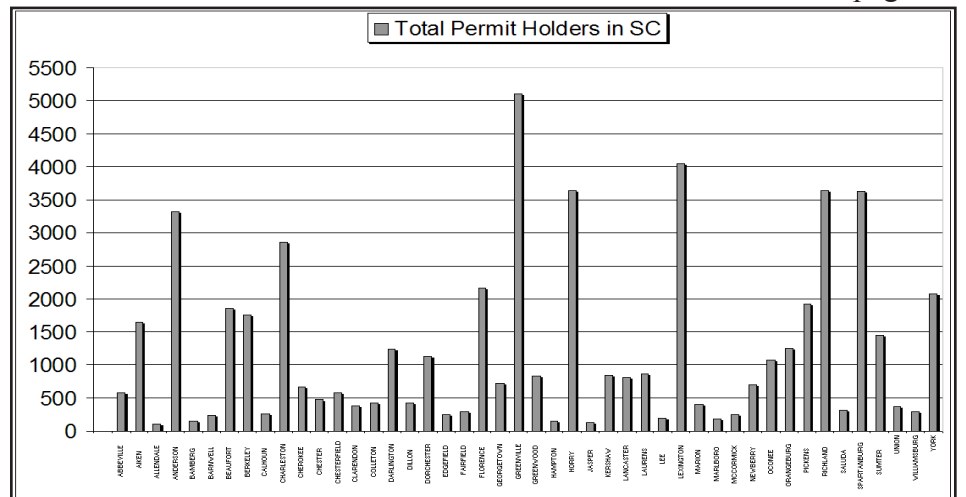
Reasons for Revocation of CWP Permits	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Theft	1	0	0	0	0
CDV	7	4	1	3	18
Burglary	2	1	0	0	0
Forgery	1	1	0	1	0
Medical/Dementia	1	0	2	1	2
Drugs	3	2	0	3	7
Assault/Battery	3	2	1	3	4
Pointing Weapon	2	2	3	4	10
Child Abuse	1	0	0	0	0
Discharging Firearm	2	1	0	0	2
Arson	1	0	0	0	0
Fraud	1	1	0	0	1
Misconduct in Office	1	0	0	0	0
Fugitive from Justice	0	1	0	0	0
Murder	0	2	0	1	0
Lewd Act on a Child	0	3	0	0	1
Contributing to Delinquency	0	1	0	0	0
NICS Denial	0	1	0	0	0
Breach of Trust	0	1	0	0	0
OOP/Restraining Order	0	0	2	0	2
Impersonating Police Officer	0	0	1	1	0
Weapon Law Violation	0	0	1	0	1
Domestic Terrorism	0	0	0	1	0
Firearms (unexplained) ?	0	0	0	1	0
Issued in Error – Sheriff didn't recommend	0	0	0	3	0
Armed Robbery	0	0	0	0	1
DUI	0	0	0	0	1
Stalking	0	0	0	0	1
Violating Restraining Order	0	0	0	0	1
Grand Larceny	0	0	0	0	1
Criminal Conspiracy	0	0	0	0	1
Possess Weapon w Obliterated Serial#	0	0	0	0	1
Carrying on ABC Licensed Premises	0	0	0	0	3
Aggravated Assault	0	0	0	0	1
False Statement \$1000+	0	0	0	0	1
Kidnapping	0	0	0	0	1
Unlawful Use of a Telephone	0	0	0	0	1
Voluntary Manslaughter	0	0	0	0	1
Reckless Homicide	0	0	0	0	1
Bomb Threat	0	0	0	0	1
Threat of Suicide	0	0	0	0	1
Firearm in Public Building	0	0	0	0	1
Totals	26	23	11	22	67

was exonerated?

The first graph shows, as might be expected, that there are more CWPs in highly populated areas and fewer permits found in areas of lower population.

The counties with higher population density (Greenville/ Spartanburg, Lexington/Richland, Horry, Anderson, Charleston) might at first appear to be more

See **REVOCATIONS** on page 9



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CWP DATA

continued from page 8

'CWP friendly' areas. But is that really so? Or, does this data merely reflect an average (or even small) number of CWP holders among highly populated counties?

The percentage of people in each county that possess a CWP may be a more accurate measure of just how CWP-friendly a particular county might be. The second graph shows that in most counties in South Carolina, CWP holders represent between 1% and 1.5% of the total population, the average being 1.3%. McCormick and Abbeville counties are the only two counties with greater than 2% of their respective populations who possess CWPs. McCormick is almost 2.5%. Why are these two counties so high? The population of Newberry, Anderson, Darlington, Calhoun, Lexington, Pickens, Saluda and Florence counties all have CWP rates over 1.5%. Jasper, Marlboro and Hampton counties are each very close to .5%. Why are these counties so much lower than the rest?

The lessons we can learn from this data are very important. CWP holders should continue to be very careful not to violate the many laws that exist. Also, GrassRoots members really need to get more people to join us if we ever want to achieve the gun freedoms we should rightfully have in our state.

Sometimes a politician needs to hear from lots of pro gun rights people RIGHT NOW! Sometimes only the speed of email can save the day. Sometimes there is no time to send out a newsletter or postcard. Sometimes politicians need to hear the right thing at the right time by thousands of people. It is exactly those times when GrassRoots relies upon Action Alert emails.

Action Alert emails are only sent out by GrassRoots leadership. Action Alerts are only for urgent business, NOT for chit chat. GrassRoots knows you are busy and only sends an Action Alert if necessary. Only eight have been sent out so far in 2007. An Action

Alert asks you to immediately call or email your legislators to let them know GrassRoots speaks for you in opposing an imminent anti gun legislative matter or supporting a pro gun legislative matter.

Sign up for GrassRoots Action Alert emails at www.SCFirearms.org and help protect your rights.

LEGISLATION

continued from page 2

is too great to allow this bill to pass as drafted.

Principles Involved: The 2nd Amendment protects "arms", not just firearms. Thus, banning metal or brass knuckles is unconstitutional (assuming that there is evidence that the military uses metal or brass knuckles). Allowing government the power to dispose of private property before final determinations are reached in all legal proceedings involving that private property is a denial of due process and a denial of property rights. Also, if metal or brass knuckles are too evil for citizens to possess, then they should be too evil for law enforcement to possess, too.

GrassRoots Position: GrassRoots opposes this bill.

Current Status: In Senate Judiciary subcommittee.

Primary Sponsor: Thomas

Full Text: http://www.scstatehouse.net/sess117_2007-2008/bills/458.htm

S. 643: A gun control bill which bans a person from possessing firearms or ammunition if he has been convicted of a crime punishable by imprisonment exceeding 1 year. It exempts certain "white collar" crimes such as antitrust violations, unfair trade practices, restraints of trade, or similar offenses relating to the regulation of business. This bill would ban gun possession for citizens who committed non violent crimes and have otherwise repaid their debt to society.

Principles Involved: GrassRoots - just like our founding fathers - believes that all men are created equal under the law, which means no second class citizenship should be allowed. The right to keep and bear arms is a constitutionally guaranteed God given natural right, such rights should not be denied for committing a misdemeanor. GrassRoots opposes laws creating second class citizens.

GrassRoots Position: GrassRoots opposes this bill.

Current Status: In Senate subcommittee.

Primary Sponsor: McConnell and Ford

Full Text: http://www.scstatehouse.net/sess117_2007-2008/bills/643.htm

H. 3065: This bill changes existing law which makes it a felony to discharge a firearm at or into a dwelling, vehicle, aircraft, watercraft or school for any reason whatsoever. It changes the existing law by deleting the word "unlawfully" when describing what type of firearms discharges are subject to being punished as a felony. This means even discharging a firearm in self defense or defense of oth-

ers would be a felony if the round went at or into a dwelling, vehicle, aircraft, watercraft or school.

Principles Involved: The right to self defense should never be a crime. There is no reason to alter existing law to remove the word "unlawfully" from existing law unless your goal is to turn good people into criminals.

GrassRoots Position: GrassRoots opposes this bill.

Current Status: In House Judiciary committee.

Primary Sponsor: Kirsh.

Full Text: http://www.scstatehouse.net/sess117_2007-2008/bills/3065.htm

H. 3212: This bill would make South Carolina a "recognition" state instead of a "reciprocity" state. This means South Carolina would honor other states' CWPs 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 CWPs and then travel to South Carolina to shoot people here. Recognition laws in other states are the reason that SC CWPs are honored in most states, not our reciprocal agreements.

Principles Involved: The right to self defense is a basic human right. A basic human right exists independently of where you live or where you visit. Firearms are the most effective tools for self defense. To deny a person the tools to effectively exercise a right is the same as denying the right itself. The Second Amendment states the right to bear arms "shall not be infringed." Thus, CWPs should not be required anywhere in America. CWP recognition laws do less to infringe upon the right to bear arms - and thus better protect the right to self defense - than do reciprocity laws. Every state should have a recognition law.

GrassRoots Position: GrassRoots strongly supports this bill and urges everyone to contact their elected representatives about this bill.

Current Status: On the Senate floor, but on the contested calendar.

Primary Sponsor: M. A. Pitts

Full Text: [\[house.net/sess117_2007-2008/bills/3212.htm\]\(http://www.scstatehouse.net/sess117_2007-2008/bills/3212.htm\)](http://www.scstate-</p>
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H. 3310: This bill - enacted into law effective May 14, 2007 - codifies what every reasonable person already knew the law to be, i.e., a CWP holder can legally carry a concealed firearm "on or about his person" when in a vehicle. The bill as first drafted would have required a CWP holder who carried her self defense sidearm in her purse to remove it from her purse and put the sidearm into the glove box, console, or trunk while she was in the vehicle. It was GrassRoots' eternal vigilance that discovered this problem, which was discriminatory against women, and it was a GrassRoots proposed amendment that fixed this problem. Rep. Mike Pitts fully supported the GrassRoots proposed amendment once he was made aware of the problem.

GrassRoots Position: GrassRoots supported this bill.

Primary Sponsor: M. A. Pitts

Full Text: http://www.scstatehouse.net/sess117_2007-2008/bills/3310.htm

H. 3464: Entitled "South Carolina Firearms Freedom Act", this bill recites the 2nd, 9th and 10th Amendments to the United States Constitution and Article 1, Section 20 of the South Carolina Constitution. H. 3464 declares all firearms and firearms accessories manufactured and remaining in South Carolina are exempt from regulation under the Commerce Clause. H. 3464 excepts certain items such as crew operated weapons, exploding rounds, bore diameters larger than one and one half inches, and a firearm that discharges more than one round with a single pull of the trigger.

Principles Involved: While the relative powers of the federal and state governments is an issue that needs to be addressed, the 2nd Amendment is as far as any analysis needed to go to find federal regulation of firearms is unconstitutional. The 2nd Amendment declares "the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed." While the Commerce Clause contained in the body of the Constitution gives the federal government the power to regulate commerce, such powers are subordinate to the 2nd Amendment because amendments to the Constitution are superior to everything in the Constitution prior to the amendment. Thus, regulation of firearms under the powers of the Commerce Clause is an unconstitutional infringement upon our 2nd Amendment rights.

GrassRoots Position: Unfortunately, H. 3464 appears to support

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the concept that the Commerce Clause contained in the body of the Constitution is superior to the 2nd Amendment to the Constitution. While GrassRoots supports this bill, there is no principled reason to except firearms that discharge more than one round with a single pull of the trigger. Therefore, GrassRoots wants the bill amended to also except such firearms.

Current Status: In House Judiciary committee.

Primary Sponsor: M. A. Pitts
Full Text: http://www.scstatehouse.net/sess117_2007-2008/bills/3464.htm

H. 3528: A bill to restrict the release of the list of CWP permit holders to only if demanded by an official law enforcement investigation, court order, or subpoena.

Principles Involved: The privacy rights of CWP holders should be honored.

GrassRoots Position: GrassRoots strongly supports this bill.

Current Status: In Senate Judiciary subcommittee.

Primary Sponsor: M. A. Pitts
Full Text: http://www.scstatehouse.net/sess117_2007-2008/bills/3528.htm

H. 3604: This bill would make it a crime for a parent or guardian to intentionally, knowingly or recklessly permit a child under eighteen to possess a firearm if he is aware of a substantial risk that the child may carry it onto school property. It also makes the parent or guardian liable for civil damages suffered for the brandishing or discharge of the firearm on school grounds. Interestingly, a non parent or non guardian of the child can do exactly the same thing and NOT be guilty of a crime or specifically liable for civil damages.

Principles Involved: Criminal laws should not be vague and subject to substantial differences in interpretation. While it may be reasonable to hold a person

criminally liable for knowingly or recklessly enabling the commission of criminal activity by another, it is never reasonable to hold a person criminally liable for what another might have considered doing but did not actually do. People should be held civilly liable for the actions of themselves and their minor children.

GrassRoots Position: GrassRoots strongly opposes this bill for the following reasons. The words "aware of a substantial risk" are too vague to hold a person criminally liable for the actions of another. What exactly does "aware of a substantial risk" mean? What exactly does "recklessly" mean in this context? Would "recklessly" include leaving a self defense firearm unlocked in the house even after the child has been properly trained in the use of firearms? What if the child is 17 years old? How is one to determine if a child "may carry" a firearm onto school grounds? This bill requires parents and guardians to become mind readers. This bill does not even require that a crime be committed by the child before the parent or guardian can

be found guilty of a crime. Thus, a parent or guardian could be found guilty of committing the crime of enabling their child to commit a crime even though no such crime was ever committed or even attempted by the child. As shown, this bill is both too vague and too overreaching to allow for criminal prosecutions. Interestingly, this bill is quite specific and eliminates all vagueness when defining what must occur before a person is liable for civil damages. If this bill is amended to provide the same protections to criminal defendants that it now provides to civil defendants, then GrassRoots will reconsider its position.

Current Status: In House Judiciary committee.

Primary Sponsor: Ballentine.
Full Text: http://www.scstatehouse.net/sess117_2007-2008/bills/3604.htm

H. 3876: A gun control bill making it a felony for a person under 21 years of age to possess any firearm, not just a handgun. H. 3876 expands the existing ban on gun ownership by violent felons to

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These merchants carry GrassRoots flyers. Please support them with your patronage.

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3203 Hwy 21 M103
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(803) 548-7999

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1304 Richland Ave.
West Aiken, SC
(803) 648-3875

Carolina Precision Rifles
1200 Old Jackson Hwy.,
Jackson, SC
(803) 827-2069

Sidney's Dept. Store
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Augusta, GA
(706) 722-3112

Carolina Star
371 Cedar Branch Rd.,
Windsor, SC
(803) 649-0878

Sportsman's Link
596 Bobby Jones Exp. #21A
Augusta, GA
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Aiken, SC
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2600 Peach Orchard Rd.
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David A. Owings, DMD
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N. Augusta, SC
(803) 279-9346

Tony's Guns & Police Supplies
4308 Broad St. Ext.
Sumter, SC 29154
(803) 494-4867

Five Aces Custom Tattoo
393 Rast St.
Sumter, SC 29150
(803) 774-2237

United Loan & Firearms
1040 Broad Street
Augusta, GA
(706) 722-1326

The Gun Rack
213 Richland Ave.
W. Aiken, SC 29801
(803) 648-7100

Walden's Outdoor World
2323 Peach Orchard Rd.
Augusta, GA
(703) 560-2266

Hootie's Outdoors
3770 Jefferson Davis Hwy
Clearwater, SC
(803) 593-0019

Hunter's Headquarters
560 Bypass 72 NW
Greenwood, SC
(864) 229-2034

If your store carries GrassRoots flyers, your name should be here too! Let us know if we should have listed your business and missed it. If you want to carry our flyers, send an email to ExecOfficer@SCFirearms.org

GRASSROOTS GUNRIGHTS

Help us do more!

Complete and mail with check to:
GrassRoots, PO Box 2446, Lexington, SC 29071

One-year Membership (New)
\$25

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

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
\$25 for Membership - \$25 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: _____
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Phone: _____
Fax: _____
Email: _____

Make checks payable to GRASSROOTS
News 1107

Visit us on the web:
www.SCFirearms.org



Yahoo! Groups - What are *you* missing?

GrassRoots sponsors two discussion groups on the free discussion groups server at Yahoo!

SCFirearms, “provide[s] an area for discussion of topics related to South Carolina gun ownership and second amendment activism. Since this list was originated by CWP holders you can expect Concealed Weapons Permit topics to be an actively discussed issue.”

GrassRoots Leadership, “was initially formed to facilitate discussion of GrassRoots monthly meeting items. In response to requests from individuals who wish to have input and knowledge of GrassRoots’ leadership direction, goals, and projects, we have opened it up to all GrassRoots members whether they are able to attend meetings or not. This discussion group is a working discussion group.” *SCFirearms* is open to anybody who wants to participate; *GrassRoots Leadership* is restricted to GrassRoots members.

Sign up at <http://groups.yahoo.com>, then join the *SCFirearms* and *GrassRoots Leadership* groups. When joining *GrassRoots Leadership* you will need to send the group owner your real identity so he can verify you are a GrassRoots member. The Yahoo! service is free. If you don’t have internet access at home you can access it from any computer with internet access, including your public library. Messages can be read online, or emailed to any email account you use. The lists are not moderated, which means

anything you post will be seen (in a moderated list, a group owner reviews every message and decides if it should be allowed). The group owner does have the ability to remove offensive content or users, but the group is generally well-behaved and disciplinary actions are very rare.

The *SCFirearms* group provides a forum for detailed discussion of firearms law and policy. There are plenty of references to stories in the news, as well as interpretation of current and proposed law.

Both groups have allowed members to quickly review pending legislation and identify weaknesses that the GrassRoots leadership brought to the sponsor’s attention.

Here is a sampling of topics discussed in these groups:

In *CWP Question*, a writer asked, “But a clarification needed on my part. You stated a ‘Closed’ glove box and ‘Closed’ console. I have always been told that they had to be ‘Locked’. Is this just semantics, or have I been told wrong?” The group quickly pointed to Section 16-23-20(9) which says “closed,” and the GrassRoots-supported language that provides for carrying in vehicles that do not have glove boxes.

In *Concealed Carry on*

the Job: SLED is wrong!!! the group discussed how Sections 16-23-20(12) and 16-23-20(13) should be interpreted, as they appear to contradict each other. While it appears obvious each section of the law stands alone, a forum member claimed SLED’s interpretation is the opposite. Rob Butler notes, “To understand just how absurd the result would be if SLED’s interpretation that one exception limits another exception was employed, just think of how ridiculous it would be to require law enforcement officers to stash their handguns in the glove box when entering their vehicles, or that law enforcement officers had

to have a fishing or hunting license before carrying on the job. On its face,

SLED’s interpretation is simply absurd.”

While GrassRoots operates strictly at the state level, the groups provide a forum for discussing national and out-of-state issues in a South Carolina context.

HR 2640 plays gun owners for fools!!! is one of many threads about the pending federal legislation that could create a retroactive firearms prohibition for tens of thousands of gun owners across the country.

When will DC ever learn? is one of many discussions on the unintended (but obvious)

consequences of strict gun control around the world.

The discussion entitled *NCPD response to gun registration question* is an example of GrassRoots members contacting the media and public affairs officers to get clarification of their public remarks. Reporters and spokesmen might be more careful with their statements on firearms when they realize knowledgeable firearms enthusiasts are keeping an eye on them. North Charleston Police Department’s spokesman responded to a GrassRoots member with, “You are correct in that the state does not require the registration of firearms. Initially I was not certain and that’s why the answer was given that I would check in to it. I was informed by my investigators that there is no requirement and passed that on to the media. Thanks for the heads up and please continue to watch over my shoulder and keep me in line.”

There is spirited discussion of different firearms and ammunition. *Caliber Choice (was Re: PM9)* and *Ammo Availability and Cost* are just two examples. When you pick on someone’s personal preferences there is inevitably some disagreement, but the group members are very good about keeping things civil.

If you are looking for a place to ask a firearms question and get informed responses, or you just want to discuss firearms in the news, check out the GrassRoots groups at Yahoo! Groups.

“There is spirited discussion of different firearms and ammunition.”

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include all felons, even nonviolent felons. Hunting with a firearm by any person under age 21 years of age would be illegal, unless under the “immediate supervision” of an adult. H. 3876 allows a 5 years to 25 years additional prison sentence – an “enhancement” penalty – to be added to one’s sentence for being in possession of a firearm while committing a crime – even if the firearm is never used, seen, or made known to exist to anyone during the commission of the crime. H. 3876 removes the legal requirement that one must first be charged with the crime or found guilty of the crime by a jury before the “enhancement” penalty can be imposed.

Principles Involved: The right to keep and bear arms is a God given natural right of free people and a constitutionally guaranteed right. If an adult is legally mature enough to tell other people how to live their lives through the power of the vote, then that adult should be legally mature enough to possess a firearm. We should not permit the

right to keep and bear arms to be “infringed” by denying the right to one minority after another until the right is practically non-existent. Our constitutional right to due process requires that a person be charged and convicted of a crime before being sentenced for committing that crime. “All men are created equal” means no second class citizenship should be tolerated in the United States of America.

GrassRoots Position: GrassRoots strongly opposes this bill because it violates every principle mentioned above.

Current Status: In House Judiciary committee.

Primary Sponsor: Stavrinakis
Full Text: http://www.scstatehouse.net/sess117_2007-2008/bills/3876.htm

H. 3964: Initially, H. 3964 deleted the prohibition against carry of a firearm on school and college premises by concealed weapon permit holders. But, H. 3964 needed to be amended because it was poorly drafted and created am-

biguity where none needed to exist. Then, H. 3964 was amended on the floor of the House during the last days of the 2007 legislative session. The amendments would have deleted Section 16-23-20 – the law that prohibits the possession of handguns unless one fit into one of the listed exceptions, Section 16-23-465 – the law that prohibits possession of firearms in restaurants that serve alcoholic beverages, the laws that prohibit the possession of firearms in publicly owned buildings and on school property, and the entire concealed weapon permit law. Then, the amendments would have replaced the deleted laws with new laws that would allow people to possess handguns as long as they are not using or intending to use the handguns for illegal purposes – i.e., “Vermont carry”; allowed the possession of firearms on school grounds for legal purposes, but not in the school buildings; and prohibit the possession of firearms on prison grounds or in courthouses. Due to the amendments not being exposed to debate in subcommit-

tee and committee meetings, H. 3964 was sent back to the Judiciary Committee for further study.

Principles Involved: The right to keep and bear arms should not be restricted in any location where the general public has the right to be. Citizens should be able to carry a firearm for lawful purposes wherever they wish.

GrassRoots Position: GrassRoots supports this bill.

Current Status: In House Judiciary committee.

Primary Sponsor: Duncan
Full Text: http://www.scstatehouse.net/sess117_2007-2008/bills/3964.htm

H. 3974: A bill to allow a firearm to be stored under the seat of a vehicle.

Principles Involved: Gun owners should be able to store a firearm wherever they choose in their own vehicles.

GrassRoots Position: GrassRoots supports this bill.

Current Status: In House Judi-

Status of the Jason Dickey Appeal

Many of our readers have been wondering what progress is being made regarding the Jason Dickey appeal. GrassRoots spoke with Jason's attorney - Lourie Salley of Lexington, SC - to get an update to find out where things currently stand.

This case stems from an incident occurring in April of 2004. Two drunken predators attacked Jason Dickey in front of the apartment building where he lived and worked. They charged at him cursing and saying they were going to "beat his ass."

Jason is handicapped and was unable to retreat. When the attackers were only 15 feet away, Jason showed his self-defense firearm and told them to "STOP."

One of the attackers did stop, but the other attacker reached under his shirt (for what was later found to be a liquor bottle) and said "I've got something for you too."

Jason was forced to use his self-defense firearm to save his life. Jason possessed a CWP and was also a SLED certified CWP instructor.

Jason was charged with murder by the Richland County

Solicitor's office. Jason's trial took place in September of 2006. The jury did not convict Jason of the charge of murder, but was given the option of considering the lesser charge of manslaughter. The jury found Jason guilty of manslaughter, and the judge sentenced Jason to 16 years in prison.

GrassRoots has been raising funds for Jason's initial trial and now for his appeal. GrassRoots feels Jason was completely justified in using lethal force in this incident. Any reasonable person would have been forced to take the same action. For a more detailed report, please see the January 2007 issue of The Defender which can be found online.

GrassRoots spoke with Mr. Salley to get an update on Jason's appeal. Here is what has transpired so far. The defense filed a motion for Appeal Bond this summer, which would have allowed Jason to be free during the appeal process. The judge denied that motion. The defense filed a brief for Appeal in September. The state was supposed to file one also, but was granted a thirty-day extension. The state is expected to

file their brief in November of this year. Once that is done, a Record of Appeal is filed and a trial date will be set. Mr. Salley expects to go to trial in January or February of 2008. When asked for his opinion of the outcome, Mr. Salley said "I think we will win."

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ciary committee.

Primary Sponsor: Rutherford

Full Text: http://www.scstate-house.net/sess117_2007-2008/bills/3974.htm

H. 4243: A bill to exempt legislators from all bans on CWP carry anywhere in the state.

Principles Involved: "All men are created equal." Unfortunately, this is not a self evident truth to our SC legislators. The laws should apply

We all need to keep Jason and his family in our thoughts and prayers during this ordeal. We are all hoping this long and unjust nightmare for Jason and his family will soon end. Please consider sending a donation to the GrassRoots Legal Defense fund.

equally to all gun owners. Legislators are not morally superior to the rest of us. Every citizen should be able to carry a firearm for lawful purposes anywhere they choose.

GrassRoots Position: GrassRoots strongly opposes this bill.

Current Status: In House Judiciary committee.

Primary Sponsor: Kelly

Full Text: http://www.scstate-house.net/sess117_2007-2008/bills/4243.htm

Upcoming Gun Shows

With the support of our members, GrassRoots will again have a table at each of the Gun Shows listed below for 2007. From time to time, we also have some special GrassRoots tables at some other venues. As usual it's our volunteers who make it possible for these good things to happen.

Keep checking our Website <http://www.SCFirearms.org> and future issues of *The Defender*, for announcements and updates.

Greenville Palmetto Expo Center
Dec. 15-16, Feb. 9-10, Apr. 26-27, Sept. 20-21

Florence Civi Center
Jan. 5-6, Apr. 19-20, Sept 27-28

Columbia Jamil Shrine Temple
Jan. 19-20, Mar. 29-30, Jul. 26-27, Nov. 15-16

Columbia SC State Fairgrounds
Dec. 8-9, Feb. 16-17, May 31-Jun 1, Sept 6-7, Nov 29-30

Charleston Exchange Park Fairgrounds, Ladson
Feb. 16-17, May 31-June 1, Sept. 6-7, Nov. 29-30

More and more of our members are giving their time and talents by volunteering to work a shift at our GrassRoots tables at Gun Shows. 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 Gun Show 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 Gun-Rights, and stop by our table to tell the volunteers thanks too.

Gun Show Table Organizers:

Greenville: Mike & Sherry Harris (864) 313-0744
mhborn2fly@outdrs.net

Charleston: Tom Glaab (843) 769-0659 gunshow@clutter.com
Howard Jones, III (843) 538-5668

Myrtle Beach: Tom Glaab (843) 769-0659 gunshow@clutter.com

Florence: Dr. John Clarke (843) 332-4213 redvert@aol.com

Columbia: Mike Walguarnery (803) 8112
cwptrainer@sc.rr.com

GrassRoots GunRights Gun Show Director:
Mike Walguarnery (803) 781-1360 gunshows@SCFirearms.org

HELP JASON DICKEY!

Jason Dickey needs money to pay for legal representation, and he desperately needs your help. Please send whatever you can afford to help get Jason out of prison and protect your right to self defense to:

GrassRoots Legal Defense Fund
PO Box 2446
Lexington, SC 29071

GrassRoots GunRights started a Legal Defense Fund to protect our gun rights. This war against self defense and the CWP program is exactly why the Legal Defense Fund exists. We must protect Jason and the entire CWP program against this war on CWP holders and self defense. Please do all that you can to help. Please contribute something today.

Please send whatever you can afford to help get Jason out of prison and protect your right to self defense!

ATTENTION BUSINESS OWNERS!

Do you support the right to keep and bear arms? Do you refuse to post your establishment against lawful carry of firearms by your customers? Would you like to get the word out to thousands of gun owners that your business is a 'gun-friendly' place?

JOIN THE GRASSROOTS MERCHANT PROGRAM TODAY!

Membership in the GrassRoots Merchant Program is FREE. The only requirements are: 1) Your business gives a discount to card-carrying members of GrassRoots GunRights of SC. (You decide how much and on which products or services), and 2) Your business does not prohibit lawful concealed carry of firearms.

In exchange, GrassRoots will list your business on our website as GrassRoots Merchants. Pro-gun consumers statewide will be able to view this list of GrassRoots Merchants on our website. GrassRoots hopes to encourage all pro-gun citizens to patronize pro-gun businesses whenever possible.