

The plain FACTS about H. 3212

The concealed weapon permit (CWP) bill - H. 3212 - that would allow South Carolina CWP holders to carry in 30 plus states has once again been hijacked by Sen. Jakie Knotts, just like it was in 2006. Please read the “A Tme Line of H. 3212” on page 4 for more details.

In 2006, Sen. Knotts successfully led the fight to kill a good CWP reciprocity bill. If gun owners do not act now, Sen. Knotts will be successful at killing a good CWP recognition/reciprocity bill this year, too.

Please read the letter GrassRoots GunRights delivered to each member of the General Assembly on May 20, 2008 (see page 6). This letter exposes in detail the flaws in the Senate version of H. 3212 (CWP reciprocity) and urges elected representatives to pass the House version of H. 3212 (CWP recognition). The letter also proposes an amendment to the Senate version of H. 3212 which would actually accomplish that which its sponsors wrongly claim the Senate version will accomplish.

Multiple independent practicing pro gun rights attorneys in South Carolina have written letters supporting the

GrassRoots analysis of H. 3212, and not a single practicing pro gun rights attorney has found fault with the GrassRoots analysis. The letters of support can be read on the GrassRoots web site, along with biographical information on these attorneys.

Some people do not understand the difference between CWP recognition and CWP reciprocity. But, there is a huge difference. CWP recognition is the ideal standard because it both honors the spirit of the 2nd Amendment and it makes the most sense practically speaking. CWP reciprocity can range from very good to almost worthless.

CWP recognition is similar to and works just like the way your driver's license works. If you have a driver's license from any state in the United States, it is honored in any other state. You do not need to get a separate driver's license from every state in which you want to drive . Your state does not need to enter into a formal agreement with another state before you can drive in that other state.

CWP reciprocity is much more complicated. Before a CWP from one state will be honored in

another state under CWP reciprocity, those two states must enter into a legal agreement to honor each others' CWP. Some states will enter into such a legal agreement to honor the CWP from any state that will honor their CWP. Other states will only enter into such a legal agreement to honor a CWP from another state if that other state meets certain “standards.” In South Carolina, another state's CWP issuance requirements must be at least as strict as South Carolina's CWP issuance requirements before South Carolina will enter into a legal agreement for CWP reciprocity - which is why South Carolina has reciprocity with so few states.

The real fight over whether to have CWP recognition or CWP reciprocity is actually a fight over the issue of required CWP “training,” which is also the main issue involved in whether we get a good CWP reciprocity bill or a worthless CWP reciprocity bill. Some states do not require any “training” before issuing a CWP, and some states require a lot of “training” before issuing a CWP. South Carolina is somewhere in the middle to high level of required CWP “training.”

Research reveals that public safety is not negatively impacted by CWP holders when a state requires absolutely no “training” to obtain a CWP. This fact is so important that it needs to be repeated: Research reveals that public safety is not negatively impacted by CWP holders when a state requires absolutely no “training” to obtain a CWP. The reason this is true is because CWP “training” is practically worthless for the real life situations that CWP holders experience. This truth about required CWP “training” will surprise many people (See “The Value of Training” on page 5).

Since most self defense shootings occur at distances of less than 9 feet, marksmanship “training” is of little practical value. Marksmanship “training” is not needed when one could just as easily reach out and touch one's attacker. It is difficult to miss at the close distances that one finds in real life self defense shootings.

The marksmanship “training” taught in a CWP class focuses on techniques that are only of real value during a slow paced target shooting session, not a fast paced self defense situation.

See H. 3212 on page 6

Jason Dickey Appeal Brief

Jason Dickey is a GrassRoots member who was unjustly sent to prison in October 2006 for manslaughter.

Jason Dickey's lawyer filed a 42-page appeal brief with the SC Court of Appeals. GrassRoots

GunRights obtained a copy of the brief.

The appeal brief lists the following five reasons Jason should be granted an appeal:

“1. The trial judge erred by charging voluntary manslaughter as a jury option as a lesser included offense to murder over the defense's objection where Dickey was not acting in the heat of passion.

2. Jason Dickey was acting in self defense as a matter of law where he was attacked by two men ten years younger than himself, was unable to physically repel the attack or retreat based on his obesity and leg disability, remained on the Cornell Arms doormat under the overhang; and where Boot's words indicated an imminent attack, he [the attacker] had a .203 blood alcohol level, was reaching under

his shirt for a glass bottle as a weapon, closed from fifteen feet to six or eight feet in two seconds, and continued to advance until the third shot was fired.

3. The trial judge erred by refusing to charge curtilage and not adequately charging the right to act on appearances, which the defense requested and was entitled to, where the shooting occurred on the Cornell Arms front doormat, part of the business premises where Dickey lived and worked as a security guard and where he could not see the glass bottle Boot reached for under his [the attacker] shirt to use as a weapon.

4. The trial judge charged the jury on voluntary manslaughter using an illustration on all fours with the facts, thereby charging them on the facts and essentially issuing a directive to return a verdict of manslaughter.

5. The trial judge should have applied the common law Castle Doctrine recently codified under the Stand Your Ground law to hold Dickey had no duty to

retreat from the Cornell Arms front doormat, the business premises of the apartment building where he lived and worked.”

The appeal brief is 42 pages in length and cites precedents from 56 prior cases in making the case for Jason Dickey's appeal. The brief appears to be very detailed and well written. Perhaps this brief will cause the court to rule in Jason's favor.

See JASON on page 3

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President’s Message



by Ed Kelleher

Recently, I received the following email in response to an Action Alert. The sender gave no name, so I will call him “John.”

“I am quite willing to support your work, but do not want to be on your membership rolls as when the dumocrats [sic] take over, as they inevitably must, they will use yours and NRAs and other second amendment orgs rosters to do no-knock searches and arbitrary arrest and detainments. I am sure I am not the only one with this fear. What arrangements do you have for those like me?”

How to Donate Other People’s Money to GrassRoots GunRights! Have Your Business Use A Pro Gun Credit Card Processor.

GrassRoots GunRights has found a credit/debit card processor that supports gun owners. This credit/debit card processing company promises to beat or match the best offer that any business gets from any other credit/debit card processing company. But, what makes this credit/debit card processing company different than any other is that it will donate 20% of the profits it makes from processing credit/debit card transactions to GrassRoots GunRights!

Yes, you read that right! Simply by changing the credit/debit card processing company that your business uses, you can save

off of “lists” that might one day be used for gun confiscations. We have all heard someone say this before. While John’s fears are understandable, it is harder to understand using this as an excuse to hide, rather than stand up and take action.

If John’s fears do eventually come to pass, what will life in America be like? Would it be the sort of place in which John (or any of us) truly wants to live? If one day, we all did have our doors kicked in and our guns confiscated, would folks like John really retain their guns by cowering in the shadows? Or would they suffer the same fate as the rest of us?

Have you ever subscribed to a shooting or hunting magazine? Have you ever purchased a firearm from a dealer? Do you possess a concealed weapon permit? Have you ever bought ammunition from a store using a check, ATM, or credit card? Have you ever in your entire life sent someone a pro-gun email? If so, chances are that your name will surely be on someone’s “list” somewhere.

In this scary picture of a future totalitarian America,

would there be no anti-gun “collaborators” to point the finger at you and accuse you of being a “gun person?” Has John never taken a vocal position in front of family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, church members, or at least *someone* – who is anti gun? This scenario has occurred under various totalitarian regimes throughout history, such as Robespierre, Hitler, Stalin, or Pol Pot.

I am reminded of something I read recently: “if it is time to bury them [firearms], it is time to dig them up.” When folks like John are burying their weapons, the rest of us will be taking them up. Ownership of firearms to combat exactly this sort of despotism is precisely what the Second Amendment is all about.

As Benjamin Franklin said during the signing of the Declaration of Independence, “*We must all hang together, or assuredly we shall all hang separately.*” Perhaps John would prefer to stand alone on the gallows when his day comes. If people like John will not stand with us, what chance do we have to retain our gun rights? But if John and the rest of us were to instead “hang together” would we not have the

power to win this fight? It is a well-known adage that “the winners write the history books.” Win or lose, those who stand up and fight will be written about. They will be either lauded as patriots or demonized as traitors. In either case, what will history say about those who hid in the shadows when their nation needed them most?

I once heard a preacher say something that had a strong impact on me. I’ll adapt it here for use in the gun rights movement. It goes like this: If one day you were arrested and charged with “being a gun rights activist,” would there be enough evidence to convict? Or would you be acquitted for lack of evidence?

If we are ever to win the war against our gun rights, we must all strive to get our names onto as many such “lists” as possible. If we all will do this, I do not believe we will lose the war. But if we were to lose this important fight, let us happily share our gallows with those who stood with us and fought.

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

Please make a contribution to GunRights PAC today! Send your donations to:

GunRights PAC
220 Isobel Ct.
Lexington, SC 29072

GrassRoots GunRights began accepting credit/debit card payments on our website - www.SCFirearms.org - in early December 2007. GrassRoots GunRights supporters can now use a credit/debit card online to join, renew membership and make donations.

To find out more about how to donate other people’s money to GrassRoots GunRights, please contact Bill Rentiers at (803) 233-9295.

Make a donation today!
GrassRoots Legal Defense Fund
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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 © 2008 GrassRoots South Carolina, Inc.

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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.

GrassRoots Activists Counter Gun Grabber Protest

The anti-gun forces are hard at work in South Carolina, and they are prepared to fight “tooth and nail” to enact new restrictions on your Second Amendment rights. But GrassRoots GunRights of SC is on the job, protecting your gun rights.

At noon on Wednesday, January 30th, 2008, a group of anti-gun protesters demonstrated on the statehouse grounds. The anti-gun group is called “Protest Easy Guns” (PEG), and is based in the suburbs of Washington, DC. The public was invited.

GrassRoots GunRights activists were on hand to ensure the media and the public heard the pro-gun side of the issue. Fifteen hardcore members of GrassRoots GunRights wore tee shirts saying “Guns Save Lives” and held signs with pro-gun messages like “My gun makes you safer,” “I carry a gun because a cop is too heavy,” and “Gun Free Zones are Killing Zones.”

The PEG tactic is to bring 32 people (usually women) dressed in black, and sporting Virginia Tech ribbons. This is supposed to symbolize the victims murdered by madman Cho Seung Hui at Virginia Tech. They lie on the ground for a few minutes, which they say symbolizes “how little time it took for the shooter to buy his gun.”

At this PEG event, the anti-gun protesters could gather only seven supporters. The pro-gun activists present from GrassRoots GunRights easily outnumbered the gun grabbers on hand by two to one.

Reporters were present from WIS-TV Channel 10 Columbia, WLTX-TV Channel 19 Columbia, WSPA-TV Channel 7 Spartanburg, and The State newspaper. The story ran in each of these media outlets. The WSPA story was also picked up and aired by WCBD-TV Channel 2 Charleston and another news channel in Augusta.

The leader of the PEG protesters claimed “We don’t want to take their guns away,” yet they were seeking a whole litany of highly restrictive new gun laws.

Among the demands these gun grabbers seek are enactment of the following new laws:

- Reinstate Assault Weapons Ban.
- Limit magazine capacities.
- Limit rapid-fire ability in weapons.
- End Attorney General’s discretion in regulating firearm safety standards.
- Create an additional state-level background check.
- Increase the restrictions on gun possession enacted by the Veteran’s Disarmament Act.
- Require Ballistic Fingerprinting & casing stampings.
- End “shall issue” CWP and give law enforcement the discretion to deny permits.
- End South Carolina’s CWP reciprocity with all other states.
- Enact a law to stop kids from having access to guns.
- Enact a law that guns must

- be sold with safety locks.
- End special lawsuit immunity to gun industry.
- Enact a state law requiring Brady checks on all private gun sales.
- Enact a law that records be kept of all private gun sales.
- Enact SC law banning long guns for anyone under 21.
- Enact a law requiring a permit to purchase a

- Enact a law for waiting periods prior to gun sales.
- Create a law requiring reporting of a lost or stolen gun within 24hrs.

It is crystal clear that this is just another attempt by anti-gun forces to create even more unnecessary restrictions on gun owners and their rights. “This is simply an anti-gun rally posing behind the skirts of so-called



- firearm.
- Enact a law permitting local preemption of gun laws by cities & counties.
- Enact a law requiring a “Load Indicator” and a “Magazine Disconnect.”
- Require mandatory training prior to purchase.
- Require buyers to demonstrate knowledge of gun laws, safe handling & storage
- Raise the “Melting point” gun test to a higher standard.
- Create restrictions on “small nosed” handguns.

reasonable regulation” said GrassRoots Vice President Dr. Robert Butler.
GrassRoots GunRights would like to express our deep appreciation to those members who participated in the counter-protest. Law-abiding gun owners cannot allow these anti-gun zealots to spew their message and go completely unchallenged.

View video of this rally at
<http://www.SCFirearms.org>

GrassRoots Launches Pro-Gun Merchant Program

GrassRoots GunRights of SC has officially launched the Pro-Gun Merchants program. The GrassRoots website now has a Pro-Gun Merchants page, which lists businesses who offer a discount to our members. The listing can be found at <http://www.SCFirearms.org>.

The Pro-Gun Merchants program was designed to help GrassRoots members identify businesses that support Second Amendment rights. It will also help pro-gun businesses by driving customers to them. GrassRoots members are a special breed of activist, who prefer to spend their hard-earned dollars with merchants they know support gun rights.

As gun rights advocates, many of us have already seen the “No Guns = No Money” business cards displayed here.

The Pro-Gun Merchants program is the other side of the coin. The message GrassRoots intends to send is “Pro-Gun

= \$\$\$.” Our gun rights are constantly under assault. The pro-gun community must stick together and support each other in times like these.

Last year, GrassRoots GunRights of SC began issuing membership cards to all dues-paying members. This was done for a number of reasons.



has an expiration date on it. This helps our loyal members know at a glance exactly when their membership needs to be renewed.

Second, this helps GrassRoots Pro-Gun Merchants know who is a member in good standing, and eligible to receive a discount. GrassRoots Pro-Gun

Merchants can ask to see the membership card before granting a discount.

There is no fee to become a GrassRoots Pro-Gun Merchant. A business must only agree to grant some sort of discount on products and/or services to members of GrassRoots GunRights. (Businesses that post against lawfully carried firearms are not eligible to participate). Merchants are free to require GrassRoots members to present their valid membership card prior to granting any discount. Each individual merchant may decide the specifics of what products and or services will be discounted. Please contact the merchant directly for those details.

GrassRoots GunRights of SC leadership hopes that by creating the Pro-Gun Merchants program, both GrassRoots members and pro-gun merchants will benefit. If you would like your business to be included as

a GrassRoots Pro-gun Merchant, please contact GrassRoots Executive Officer Bill Rentiers at 803-233-9295.

JASON continued from page 1

Unfortunately, the SC Court of Appeals will take June, July and August off. There will be no trial update before September.

The attorneys handling Jason Dickey’s appeal are Lourie A. Salley and Laura Tesh. GrassRoots wishes to express our sincere gratitude to Lourie Salley and Laura Tesh for the work they have done trying to free Jason Dickey.

GrassRoots GunRights will stay on top of this case and keep you informed.

Donate to the GrassRoots Legal
Defense Fund today!
P.O. Box 2446
Lexington, SC 29071

Down Range



by Bill Rentiers

In early November 2007, a GrassRoots member posted a very distressing message on the SCFirearms Yahoo forum (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/scfirearms/>). He recounted the details of an unpleasant encounter which he said he and his family had endured at the hands of a Colleton County deputy at a license checkpoint. He asked for help in resolving the issue. He asked GrassRoots to keep his name confidential (anyone can read *The Defender*) so he and his family do not risk retribution from Colleton County law enforcement. To honor his request, his name will not be printed here. We'll call him "Jim." The following details are Jim's recollection of the events:

Jim told how he and his family were driving through a small town in Colleton County when he came upon what turned out to be a driver's license checkpoint. He found it strange, because the police cars were dark with no lights on and there were no signs alerting motorists that this was a checkpoint. Jim almost drove past the checkpoint thinking it was a car accident, until an officer yelled at him to "stop."

Jim immediately handed his SCDL and CWP to the deputy. When the officer realized Jim was a CWP holder and might be armed, the officer's "eyes got big" and he asked Jim where his firearm was. Jim stated his firearm was

in his pocket. Jim said the deputy told him to "show it to me, very slowly" and the deputy then placed his hand on his sidearm. Using two fingers, Jim slowly produced his firearm from his pocket and handed it to the deputy. The deputy asked Jim if it was loaded and Jim responded "of course."

Jim said the deputy "went ballistic." "He started yelling at me how stupid I was for carrying a loaded gun in my pocket illegally. I respectfully told him that I thought that it was legal, since I have a CW-permit. He said that I could never carry a loaded gun in my pocket while driving. He started telling all his fellow officers that this nut thinks he can carry a loaded gun in his pocket while driving, just because he has a CWP." Jim said the deputy was very animated at describing Jim's "ignorance of the law" in front of the other officers.

Understandably, the whole incident left Jim somewhat confused. Jim had been sure he was not violating the law. The incident left Jim wondering if he had an accurate understanding of the CWP laws after all, or if the officer was correct. Jim asked GrassRoots for help resolving the incident.

GrassRoots leaders (and others on the discussion forum) assured Jim it is not a violation of the law to carry his firearm while in a car if a person possesses a CWP, and (if the details Jim gave of the incident were accurate) it was the deputy who was incorrect about the law. Jim was told GrassRoots would contact the Colleton County Sheriff's Office to see if the incident could be resolved to Jim's satisfaction.

GrassRoots Executive Officer Bill Rentiers called the Colleton County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) and was told the Sheriff was unavailable. Bill asked to have the Sheriff call back and was assured the call would be returned.

No return call was received. Bill called again the following Monday and was told the Sheriff was not in due to the holidays, but the Sheriff would call back as soon as possible. Bill made a note to follow up on this after the holidays if he did not receive a return call before then. Again, no return call was received.

Bill Rentiers called the CCSO again in early January and was connected with Chief Deputy Stanfield. After a short discussion explaining the incident involving Jim and the CCSO deputy, Chief Stanfield explained that – if the details presented were accurate – the deputy was in fact incorrect. He agreed it was indeed lawful for citizens who possess a CWP to carry their loaded firearm on their person when in a vehicle. Chief Stanfield asked GrassRoots to email him the details on the incident. Bill Rentiers did so (after removing any information that would identify Jim). Chief Stanfield said he would speak with the deputy to investigate the incident and get back with Bill promptly.

The day after this telephone conversation, Bill Rentiers received a reply email from Chief Stanfield. In this email, Chief Stanfield stated he had spoken with the officer in question about the incident. Chief Stanfield wrote the deputy "was not fully aware of all the carrying requirements as provided by the statute when he first encountered the complainant. He conferred with another deputy and later looked the state statute up." Chief Stanfield wrote "Even though the deputy had read the statute prior to me questioning him and had become more familiar with it, I reminded him of the carry requirements as specified by law."

From what Chief Stanfield wrote, the deputy's version of the incident was certainly different than Jim's version. In the deputy's version, he asked if Jim had any

weapons, Jim said "yes" and Jim did not produce his CWP until after he surrendered his weapon to the officer. Given the training provided to CWP holders in South Carolina, the deputy's version sounds pretty unlikely to me.

If the deputy's version of the events were correct, one wonders exactly what this deputy "was not fully aware of" concerning the CWP laws which caused him to look up the statute. Just which part of this incident did the deputy discover he had been wrong about? GrassRoots was not told.

Jim's wife and child were passengers in the car at the time of the incident and can back up his version of the events. Surely there were other officers on scene at the checkpoint. GrassRoots was not told whether other officers at the scene corroborated this deputy's version of events or Jim's version.

In Jim's version, the deputy was given Jim's SCDL and CWP immediately, which prompted the officer to ask about the presence of weapons. I can see how embarrassing it would have been for the deputy to give his boss a full and accurate accounting of what transpired. I am also left wondering what else this deputy "was not fully aware of" concerning the CWP laws.

Chief Stanfield wrote "...the officer has been reminded of the requirements and allowances afforded to a CWP carrier. I will also check with our training officer to make sure CWP is covered during training."

Hopefully deputies at the Colleton County Sheriff's Office will be kept up to speed on CWP laws from now on and this sort of scenario will not happen again. This is just one more example of how GrassRoots GunRights of SC is on the job for the gun owners of South Carolina.

Bill Rentiers

A Time Line of H. 3212

As you read the time line of what happened as H. 3212 - the CWP recognition/reciprocity bill - worked its way through the legislative process, try to think of a way that GrassRoots GunRights leadership could keep all of its members up to date. As you will see, things happened so fast that it was not possible to keep GrassRoots members up to date even if we sent out postcards immediately.

The only way to stay up to date is to join the GrassRoots Action Alert email list. The Action Alert email list can only be sent to by GrassRoots leaders. There is no chit chat allowed. If you get an Action Alert, it is because something important is happening and

your help is needed. Remember, the power of GrassRoots comes from you - the members. (Sign up for Action Alerts NOW at www.SCFirearms.org !)

Here is what happened with H. 3212:

March 12, 2008

The Senate took H. 3212 off of the contested calendar and put it on the Special Order calendar. This was a necessary first step towards getting H. 3212 enacted into law.

March 12, 2008

GrassRoots GunRights sent out an Action Alert asking

people to contact their senators and request that H. 3212 be passed **without** amendment and to keep H. 3212 a CWP recognition bill.

March 13, 2008

Senate amended H. 3212 to make it more restrictive - and worse - than existing SC CWP reciprocity law.

March 14, 2008

NRA-ILA sent out an alert stating "NRA supports the amended version of H. 3212, and we appreciate the help of the Senators who worked directly with NRA."

The NRA then went on to **praise** the politicians who took a good CWP recognition bill and

turned it into a bad reciprocity bill that is even worse than existing law! The NRA wrote "We wish to especially thank State Senators Jim Ritchie (R-13) and Jake Knotts (R-23) for their help with this legislation." The NRA failed to mention that notorious anti gun Senator Ralph Anderson also signed on to the March 13 amendment to H. 3212. Why would Sen. Anderson support the amendment? That is an easy question to answer - because it would make SC CWP law worse!

The NRA then asked everyone to "Please take a moment to thank these Senators, even if they are not yours, as well thank your Senator for supporting this needed

GrassRoots Meets with Rep. Stavrinakis

On November 15, 2007, GrassRoots officers Robert Butler, Bill Rentiers, and Tom Glaab met with representative Leon Stavrinakis, D-119 Charleston County, at his law office at 53 Broad Street, Charleston. Our intent was to introduce Leon to GrassRoots GunRights South Carolina, and to discuss improvements to his proposed bill H.3876.

GrassRoots described our credentials in supporting gun rights and our experience in performing constructive reviews of legislation. Leon was impressed, and recognizing that GrassRoots is the organization best suited to represent South Carolinians, said “I don’t need to call the NRA any more.”

Leon is a former prosecutor, and he believes that second amendment restrictions make it easier for police to charge people for crimes. He mentioned several times that he supports making it easier for police and prosecutors, not the accused. Leon said that “‘good citizen’ is a debatable term,” and that he can’t trust that

violent offenders are able to turn their lives around. The only group he seems to trust is juries, and we explained why that is not a good assumption.

Leon claims that he’s mostly concerned with cities and urban/suburban issues, because they have problems with repeat offenders doing violent crime. GrassRoots pointed out that these violent offenders shouldn’t be on the street in the first place, and we need to look at the judges who release them.

GrassRoots pointed out the problems with Leon’s bill, H.3876, which we discussed in the Fall 2007 Defender. Our primary concern is the language of the enhancement clause. Leon insisted an enhanced penalty could not be applied to a crime without a conviction. Leon said the feds may do that, but “we don’t do that in South Carolina.” Leon said it was not his intent to allow an enhanced penalty to be imposed without a separate specific conviction. He said he would check the language of the

bill and assured GrassRoots “we will fix that.”

Months after talking with Leon, Leon still had not fixed the problems with H. 3876. Every one of the problems GrassRoots identified in the last issue of The Defender are still a problem. Nothing was fixed.

The good news is that it really does not matter what Leon failed to do. The good news is that GrassRoots members raised such a ruckus over H. 3876 that all of the House leadership withdrew their support of H. 3876 and the bill is going no where.

GrassRoots related the story of Jason Dickey and the miscarriage of justice committed against him. Leon seemed unmoved. Over and over we saw that Leon’s loyalties lie with prosecutors getting convictions, not protecting the constitutional rights of the accused or justice. This is why we are especially concerned that his bill lacks sufficient protection for good citizens. Leon also noted that he had just been added to the

House Judiciary Committee, where all the gun bills go, so we must be especially vigilant.

Leon notes that supporting “school carry” bills like H.3964 is “tough on legislators.” We spoke about the bill that passed in Virginia that allows permit holders to carry under certain circumstances. As it is better than what we have now, GrassRoots said that “we’d be happy with that.”

Leon noted the problems he has with media perception, and the limitations of sound-bite journalism. To our ears, Leon is clearly thinking of his own re-election options, not supporting principled government.

GrassRoots GunRights is willing to work with any member of the legislature to draft and pass good bills. But we will not let legislators go unchallenged when they say they support the second amendment while writing bills that will erode our rights. We will continue to watch the bills Leon submits, and how he votes – not just on final bills, but on the procedural moves that allow one to vote against a bill before voting for it.

The Value of Training

The Second Amendment starts out with the words “a well regulated militia.” Back then, “well regulated” meant well trained and organized. Those were good words then and they are good words now. Everyone who carries a gun should know how to use it.

When it comes to government mandated concealed weapon permit (CWP) training, many problems arise.

The first problem is that a person should not need a permit to exercise a right. If we truly believe we have a right to keep and bear arms, then no permit should be needed to do so.

The second problem is that anytime the government imposes restrictions upon exercising a right, those restrictions only serve to stop people from exercising that right.

Rep. David Weeks of the SC House asked GrassRoots VP Dr. Robert D. Butler how GrassRoots could possibly oppose legally mandated CWP “training”? Rep. Weeks stated that a trained CWP holder had to be better than an untrained CWP holder, so how could GrassRoots oppose CWP “training”? Dr. Butler told Rep. Weeks that while Dr. Butler supported the concept of well trained CWP holders, Rep. Weeks was not asking the right questions.

Dr. Butler then asked Rep. Weeks if he thought a well educated voter who paid attention to current events would make better decisions in the voting booth than an ignorant voter who paid no attention to what was going on in

the world around us. Rep. Weeks stated he thought the educated voter would do a better job. So, Dr. Butler asked Rep. Weeks if Rep. Weeks supported literacy tests prior to allowing a person to vote? Or, would Rep. Weeks support current event tests prior to allowing a person to vote? Rep. Weeks - a black Democrat - immediately saw the underlying principle involved here. Just as literacy tests were improperly used to stop black people from voting, CWP “training” is designed to stop people from being able to exercise their right to keep and bear arms.

Rep. Weeks left the meeting with GrassRoots and immediately attended the House General Laws subcommittee hearing on H. 3212 where he was one of five House members on the subcommittee. Rep. Weeks voted to support H. 3212 just as GrassRoots asked him to do. Not only that, Rep. Weeks then had himself added as a co-sponsor of H. 3212.

The third problem is that government mandated CWP “training” falls short of being the training that would be truly useful to a CWP holder. As pointed out in the front page article of this issue of *The Defender*, the government mandated CWP “training” teaches people to use shooting techniques that are not the proper techniques for the self defense shooting scenarios in which people will actually find themselves involved. To better understand the physiological reasons for why the government mandated shooting techniques

are not the proper techniques to teach, you should consider reading *Stress Fire* by Massad Ayoob. This book will teach you how fine motor skills are lost when under stress. You will learn how people involved in real life shootings concentrate their attention on the bad guy who is threatening their life, not the front sight of their gun. Yet, the government mandated training does not take these things into consideration.

The fourth problem is that much of the mandated CWP “training” is nothing more than what we kindly refer to as “busy work.” In school and at work, we hate it when we are forced to do things just to look busy. There is much in the required CWP “training” that is really just busy work. Anything that a person could just as easily learn from reading it on their own (i.e., prohibited locations, how to clean a gun, the names of the parts of a gun, etc., etc.) are things that are busy work. People should not be required to sit through an 8 hour class of busy work prior to being allowed to exercise a right.

The solution is to allow people to take whatever training they feel is needed. But, people should be held accountable for what they do. So, if a CWP holder tries to take a 100 yard shot at a fleeing bad guy in a crowded park with a snub nose .38 and “accidentally” shoots an innocent person, it would most likely be found that such an action was grossly negligent and that person would be punished.

The issue is not whether training is good or bad. We all agree that training is good. There are many fine firearms training courses that would benefit many people. Interestingly, many fine course would not meet the requirements of the government mandated class.

The issue is whether training should be legally mandated prior to exercising a right. Due to the problems identified above, GrassRoots opposes mandated CWP “training.”

What is of real interest in this debate is that those who support CWP “training” fail to acknowledge the public safety record of the many states that require no CWP “training.” As stated earlier, the best available research proves that CWP “training” has no positive impact upon public safety. But, mandated CWP “training” does cost lives. These facts alone should be determinative and should force everyone to oppose required CWP “training.”

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Help fund the GunRights PAC
220 Isobel Ct.
Lexington, SC 29072

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

H. 3212 continued from page 1
tion. Most self defense shootings occur in less than three seconds from the start of shooting to the end of shooting. People who have survived a shooting encounter at close range will tell you they did not take the time to concentrate on the front sight, get a good sight picture, get a good sight alignment, use proper breathing technique, and then slowly squeeze the trigger. What you will hear these survivors tell you is that they pointed their gun at the person who was virtually within touching distance and they pulled the trigger as fast as they could. They did not look at the front sight, or get a good sight picture or sight alignment. They did not use any sort of breathing technique. They did not squeeze the trigger slowly. So, why does required CWP “training” teach people to do the things that virtually nobody ever does in a fast paced self defense shooting situation? Such “training” could actually cost the lives of those who try to employ such “training.”

All of the fine details of self defense law taught in a CWP class are quickly forgotten anyway. The laws of self defense are difficult for judges and juries to understand even after careful deliberation months after the shooting and while under no pressure from an attacking bad guy. So, what makes politicians think that hours of classroom teaching about the complicated laws of self defense will actually help a CWP holder? While the class time spent may be interesting to many, it has no practical long term usefulness.

A simple reality is that the laws of self defense can be adequately summed up quite easily for everyday use by a CWP holder - “Never shoot anyone except as a last resort to save a human life, otherwise you could end up in prison for the rest of your life.” That advice can easily be provided on a sheet of paper when a CWP is issued. It does not require an 8 hour class to understand it.

Prohibited carry locations could easily be provided on a sheet of paper when a CWP is issued. Again, an 8 hour class is not needed to teach that which can be just as easily provided on a sheet of paper.

Some people will argue that it can not hurt to require a CWP “training” class. But, such an argument is not supported by the best available research. In fact, it can be shown that required CWP “training” actually costs lives. The ugly truth about required CWP “training” is that it actually harms the public safety!

The best available research shows that for every

obstacle put in the way of getting a CWP, fewer people will get a CWP. The higher the cost in dollars to get a CWP, the fewer people who will get one. The more time required to get a CWP, the fewer people who will get one. So, the required - and practically worthless - CWP “training” only serves to cause fewer people to get a CWP while doing absolutely nothing to increase the public safety.

The best available research shows that for every additional CWP issued in a state, the violent crime rate decreases. So, when required CWP “training” causes fewer people to get a CWP, violent crime rates remain higher than they would have been had there been more CWPs issued.

The end result of required CWP “training” is more women raped, more people killed, more people

robbed, and more people beaten. These faceless victims could be you or your family.

How can anyone justify required CWP “training” when the costs are so high and the benefits are non existent? This is political correctness run amuck.

Many states realize the greater good for public safety comes from more good guys being armed to keep violent crime rates lower, not from required CWP “training.” These states do not require their citizens to waste their time in a required CWP “training” class before issuing a CWP. Unfortunately, South Carolina politicians are not as concerned about your safety as the politicians in these other states are about their constituents’ safety.

Required CWP “training” is gun control. It has been said many times that gun control is

not about guns, it is about control. Unfortunately, the cost of this gun control is more women raped, more people killed, more people robbed, and more people beaten. Just because we can not put a specific face on these victims does not make their tragedies any less important.

Do you want your South Carolina CWP to be honored everywhere in the United States? Then, you need to tell your elected representatives to support CWP *recognition*. You need to call your Senator and tell him to support the House version of H. 3212, not the Senate version. With CWP *recognition*, a CWP from any state would be honored in South Carolina, and every other CWP recognition state would honor a South Carolina CWP.

The single most important

See **H. 3212** on page 9



P.O. Box 2446 Lexington, SC 29071 <http://www.SCFirearms.org>

May 19, 2008

The Honorable Glenn F. McConnell
South Carolina Senate
Post Office Box 142
Columbia, SC 29202

RE: H. 3212

Dear Senator McConnell:

It is crunch time for H. 3212, the concealed weapon permit (CWP) recognition/reciprocity bill that has been awaiting Senate action since March 26, 2008, when the House refused to concur with the Senate amendment just as GrassRoots GunRights asked them to refuse to do.

The Senate version of H. 3212 is completely unacceptable to gun owners. GrassRoots GunRights provided a detailed analysis of the Senate amendment to H. 3212 to every member of the House in a letter dated March 24, 2008. The GrassRoots analysis - which is repeated below - exposes exactly why the Senate amendment would make South Carolina CWP law worse than existing law. Interestingly, the Senate amendment would change the law so drastically that South Carolina could not even get reciprocity with itself! The Senate version of H. 3212 should be opposed by all pro gun rights supporters!

Multiple independent practicing pro gun rights attorneys have read the GrassRoots analysis of the Senate version of H. 3212, and all have agreed the GrassRoots analysis is legally sound (their letters of agreement can be found on the GrassRoots web site). Not a single independent practicing pro gun rights attorney has found fault with the GrassRoots analysis of H. 3212.

The Senate can avail itself of one of four alternatives with regards to H. 3212:

- 1.) The Senate could accept the House version of H. 3212. This is the preferred alternative.
- 2.) The Senate could appoint a conference committee without free conference powers, which would force the conferees to choose either the Senate version or the House version of H. 3212. Since the Senate version is completely unacceptable to gun owners, this option should only be chosen if the Senate is willing to accept the House version of H. 3212. This is a preferred alternative, but only if the House version is to be accepted. If the Senate insists upon the Senate version, it will be considered and reported as an anti gun rights action.
- 3.) The Senate could appoint a conference committee with free conference powers, which would allow the conferees to amend H. 3212 as proposed below by GrassRoots so as to allow H. 3212 to actually accomplish that which the Senate sponsors of the Senate

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reform.”

The NRA stated H. 3212 “should pass Third Reading next Tuesday, March 18.” Third Reading is the final vote to pass a bill in the Senate, and the NRA was confident H. 3212 would pass.

The NRA then made this final request of everyone “After calling your State Senator, please call your State Representative and urge him to vote for the amended version of H. 3212.”

As anyone can see from the NRA’s very own alert on H. 3212, the NRA was strongly pushing for passage of H. 3212 as amended on March 13.

March 17, 2008

GrassRoots GunRights sent a letter to every SC Senator detailing exactly how the Knotts/Anderson/NRA amendment would harm - not help - SC CWP holders!

GrassRoots detailed how the Knotts/Anderson/NRA amendment was so bad that even SC could not qualify for reciprocity with itself! To read the full detailed explanation and the letter to the Senators, go to http://www.scfirearms.org/Legislative/Letter_to_McConnell_re_H3212_Knotts_amendment1.pdf.

GrassRoots asked the senators to pass H. 3212 exactly as the CWP recognition bill that came from the Senate Judiciary Committee, not the CWP reciprocity bill that the Knotts/Anderson/NRA amendment turned it into.

GrassRoots also sent out an Action Alert asking you to contact your Senator about H. 3212.

March 18, 2008

The Senate realized GrassRoots GunRights was correct about the flaws found in the first Sen-

ate amendment to H. 3212, even though it was supported by the NRA. GrassRoots’ eternal vigilance is what saved South Carolina from taking a step backwards in our CWP law. The NRA completely missed it. If everyone had done as the NRA asked them to do, we would be worse off now due to the NRA failure to see the problems with the proposed legislation.

The Senate once again amended H. 3212. Senators Martin, Knotts, and Ritchie proposed an amendment to require “state and federal fingerprint review” to be eligible for CWP reciprocity with SC. This amendment was another step backwards. The NRA said the amendment would exclude Kentucky, Minnesota, Virginia, and West Virginia from CWP reciprocity with SC even though these states require “completion of a firearm safety course.”

March 20, 2008

The NRA sent a letter to Senators proposing a new amendment to fix some of the problems in the March 13 and 18 amendments. While the NRA failed to explicitly acknowledge GrassRoots exposed the errors in the NRA’s poorly drafted amendment of March 13, the fact the NRA changed the exact wording that GrassRoots detailed as a problem was an admission the March 13, 2008, Knotts/Anderson/NRA amendment they strongly supported earlier was bad law. Unfortunately, the NRA failed to propose an amendment that would fix all of the problems.

March 20, 2008

The Senate once again amended H. 3212 to conform with the NRA’s newest proposed amendment, which included fixing one of the problems exposed by GrassRoots. The Senate gave H. 3212 Third Reading and passed H. 3212 back to the House. The House then had to decide what to do with H. 3212.

March 21, 2008

The NRA-ILA once again claimed credit for amending H. 3212 and once again sang the praises of Senators Knotts and Ritchie. The NRA once again asked everyone to support H. 3212 as currently drafted.

March 24, 2008

GrassRoots sent letters to every member of the SC House of Representatives detailing exactly what was still wrong with H. 3212. South Carolina would still not be eligible for reciprocity with itself under the NRA supported amendments! GrassRoots asked the House to support CWP *recognition*, not CWP *reciprocity*. GrassRoots wrote to say that if the House was determined to concur with the Senate and support CWP *reciprocity*, then the House needed to amend H. 3212 again. The problem was that H. 212 does **not** do what the NRA told the Senators the amended H. 3212 would do. The NRA was wrong about the March 13 amendment to H. 3212 and the NRA is wrong about the March 20 amendment too. To read the full explanation of all that was still wrong with H. 3212, please read the letter GrassRoots delivered to each member of the SC House at http://www.scfirearms.org/Legislative/Letter_to_Harrell_re_3212_amended.pdf.

GrassRoots also sent an Action Alert asking people to contact their House member.

April 29, 2008

GrassRoots sent out an Action Alert asking people to contact

amendment to H. 3212 wrongly claimed their amendment would do. This is an acceptable alternative.

4.) The Senate can ignore H. 3212 and let it die from neglect. Gun owners will be reminded to remember their interests were neglected.

The logical reasoning that follows will prove why H. 3212 is a terrible bill as amended by the Senate and why it needs to be amended to actually accomplish that which the NRA and Senate sponsors inaccurately claim it does now. Then, GrassRoots will provide alternative language to amend H. 3212 so that H. 3212 will actually do what it is claimed that it does now.

Since most legislators are not attorneys, you may want to get your staff attorneys to review the following analysis. Then, after both your staff attorneys and multiple independent pro gun rights attorneys have all agreed with the GrassRoots analysis of H. 3212, you will understand why the pro gun rights voters in South Carolina want to see you support the GrassRoots position on H. 3212.

Words have meaning, which is why words are so important in legal matters. Words are so important that the law frequently defines a word as it is to be used in a particular article of law rather than leaving the definition of the word to common usage, which could allow for different interpretations.

The South Carolina "Law Abiding Citizens Self-Defense Act of 1996" defined certain words. Those definitions can not be ignored when considering amendments to the law. A definition critical to a proper understanding of the impact of the Senate amendment to H. 3212 can found in Section 23-31-210(5), which reads as follows:

- "Proof of training" means an original document or certified copy of the document supplied by an applicant that certifies that he is either:
- (a) a person who, within three years before filing an application, has successfully completed a basic or advanced handgun education course offered by a state, county, or municipal law enforcement agency or a nationally recognized organization that promotes gun safety. This education course must be a minimum of eight hours and must include, but is not limited to:
 - (I) information on the statutory and case law of this State relating to handguns and to the use of deadly force;
 - (ii) information on handgun use and safety;
 - (iii) information on the proper storage practice for handguns with an emphasis on storage practices that reduces the possibility of accidental injury to a child; and
 - (iv) the actual firing of the handgun in the presence of the instructor;
 - (b) an instructor certified by the National Rifle Association or another SLED-approved competent national organization that promotes the safe use of handguns;
 - (c) a person who can demonstrate to the Director of SLED or his designee that he has a proficiency in both the use of handguns and state laws pertaining to handguns;
 - (d) an active duty police handgun instructor;
 - (e) a person who has a SLED-certified or approved competitive handgun shooting classification; or

ACTION ALERT! Senate Plans to Quietly Kill H. 3212!

May 22, 2008

The CWP Recognition bill - H. 3212 - is in grave danger of dying in the Senate! Your *immediate* action is critical to saving this important legislation!

GrassRoots GunRights just received inside information from members of the House and Senate that the Senate plans to let H. 3212 quietly die without taking any action on H. 3212. The Senate does NOT plan to go into a conference committee on H. 3212. But, it is possible for the Senate to by-pass the conference committee.

The Senate can vote to accept the House version of H. 3212 without going to conference committee. This can be done. But, it will only get done if YOU let your senator know how strongly you feel about being denied the

Make a donation today!
GrassRoots Legal Defense Fund
P.O. Box 2446
Lexington, SC 29071

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their elected representatives in an effort to get H. 3212 passed into law.

GrassRoots provided letters from multiple independent practicing pro gun rights attorneys all supporting the GrassRoots analysis of H. 3212, which exposed in detail the flaws found in the Senate amendment to H. 3212.

May 20, 2008

GrassRoots delivered a letter to every member of the General Assembly which exposed in detail the flaws found in the Senate amendment to H. 3212. GrassRoots asked the legislature to pass H. 3212 as a CWP *recognition* bill (See page 6). GrassRoots also included a proposed amendment to H. 3212 which would have kept South Carolina a CWP *reciprocity* state, but increasing the number of states with which South Carolina could have CWP *reciprocity*. GrassRoots wants a CWP *recognition* bill passed. But, the fact that the NRA has given cover and praise to politicians who killed a better CWP *reciprocity* bill in 2006 and now claim to want a better CWP *reciprocity* bill in 2008, has forced GrassRoots to try to fix the mistakes made by the NRA and not just fight for CWP *recognition*.

GrassRoots also sent an Action Alert asking people to contact their elected representatives and tell them that “GrassRoots GunRights speaks for me!” GrassRoots does not want this session to end without getting a better CWP recognition bill passed.

right to carry and properly protect your family in other states.

If you want CWP recognition to pass so that you can carry in 30+ states, then it is critical YOU make *PHONE CALLS* (not just send emails) to the Senate immediately! We need to shut the Senate switchboard down! We need to do this EVERY DAY until the Senate adjourns on June 5.

*** Action Steps ***

1. CALL every Senator from your county TODAY. Insist they PASS the House version of H. 3212 this session! Tell them you will be watching this bill closely and it will affect how you vote in November! “Tell them GrassRoots GunRights speaks for me!”
2. Call them again TOMORROW. CALL again every day until the House version of H. 3212 passes.

The Senate switchboard number is 803-212-6200. Individual telephone numbers and email addresses for each Senator are listed below.

Only YOUR repeated phone calls can save H. 3212. Thank you for your activism!

Bill Rentiers
Executive Officer

=====

Abbeville County
Sen. John W. Drummond PTE@scsenate.org (803) 212-6455
Sen. William H. O’Dell WHO@scsenate.org (803) 212-6040

Aiken County
Sen. W. Greg Ryberg SLC@scsenate.org (803) 212-6320
Sen. A. Shane Massey
shanemassey@scsenate.org (803)

212-6000
Sen. Nikki G. Setzler NGS@scsenate.org (803) 212-6140

Allendale County
Sen. C. Bradley Hutto CBH@scsenate.org (803) 212-6140

Anderson County
Sen. Kevin L. Bryant
BRYANTK@scsenate.org (803) 212-6024
Sen. William H. O’Dell WHO@scsenate.org (803) 212-6040

Bamberg County
Sen. C. Bradley Hutto CBH@scsenate.org (803) 212-6140
Sen. John W. Matthews, Jr. JWM@scsenate.org (803) 212-6056

Barnwell County
Sen. C. Bradley Hutto CBH@scsenate.org (803) 212-6140

Beaufort County

See **ALERT!** on page 9

(f) a member of the active or reserve military, or a member of the National Guard who has had handgun training in the previous three years.

SLED shall promulgate regulations containing general guidelines for courses and qualifications for instructors which would satisfy the requirements of this item. For purposes of subitems (a) and (b), "proof of training" is not satisfied unless the organization and its instructors meet or exceed the guidelines and qualifications contained in the regulations promulgated by SLED pursuant to this item.

Existing South Carolina law - Section 23-31-215(A)(5) - allows a person to qualify for a CWP if that person can satisfy just one of the six legal alternatives for “proof of training” found in Section 23-31-210(5) above. A “course in firearm training and safety” is only one of those alternatives, and what constitutes a proper course in firearm training and safety is further defined in Section 23-31-210(5)(a) as a minimum eight (8) hour class.

Existing South Carolina law Section 23-31-215(N) states:
Valid out-of-state permits to carry concealable weapons held by a resident of a reciprocal state must be honored by this State. SLED shall make a determination as to those states which have permit issuance standards equal to or greater than the standards contained in this article and shall maintain and publish a list of those states as the states with which South Carolina has reciprocity.

As can be readily seen from the above cited SC law, existing SC law allows for CWP reciprocity with states that do not necessarily require a “course in firearm training and safety.” All that is required under existing SC law is that another state have CWP “issuance standards equal to or greater than the standards contained in this article,” and SC legally allows for five alternatives that do not require a “course in firearm training and safety.” Thus, if the Senate amendment to H. 3212 is enacted into law, South Carolina would not be eligible for CWP reciprocity with itself because South Carolina does not necessarily require a “course in firearm training and safety” to obtain a CWP as the Senate amendment would mandate.

Does the Senate really fear NRA certified instructors, active duty police handgun instructors, or members of the active or reserve military or members of the National Guard who have had handgun training in the previous three years who qualified for a CWP in their home state? Does the Senate really fear that competitive handgun shooters from other states are a threat to South Carolina’s public safety even while competitive handgun shooters from South Carolina have proven they are not a threat to South Carolina’s public safety? GrassRoots will propose an amendment to H. 3212 to remedy this shortcoming that was overlooked, misunderstood, and denied by the NRA.

There is no excuse for using ambiguous language to draft legislation when clear and concise language would ensure the intent of the legislature was codified. Otherwise, the ambiguous language could lead to years of litigation at best, and possibly great bodily harm or death to those denied the ability to properly defend themselves.

The NRA and Senate sponsors have claimed the Senate amendment will allow CWP reciprocity with states that do not require an eight (8) hour “course in firearm training and safety.” Unfortunately,

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from page 8

Sen. Catherine C. Ceips CEIPS@scsenate.org (803) 212-6032

Sen. Clementa C. Pinckney CCP@scsenate.org (803) 212-6056

Berkeley County
Sen. Paul G. Campbell, Jr.
PaulCampbell@scsenate.org (803) 212-6016

Calhoun County
Sen. John C. Land III JCL@scsenate.org (803) 212-6180

Charleston County
Sen. George E. “Chip” Campsen
CAMPSEN@scsenate.org (803) 212-6016

Sen. Lawrence K. “Larry” Grooms
STR@scsenate.org (803) 212-6400

CAMPSEN@scsenate.org (803) 212-6016

Sen. Ray Cleary CLEARYR@scsenate.org (803) 212-6100

Sen. Robert Ford RIF@scsenate.org (803) 212-6124

Sen. Lawrence K. “Larry” Grooms
STR@scsenate.org (803) 212-6400

Sen. Glenn F. McConnell SJU@scsenate.org (803) 212-6610

Sen. Clementa C. Pinckney CCP@scsenate.org (803) 212-6056

Sen. Randy Scott SCOTTR@scsenate.org (803) 212-6024

Cherokee County
Sen. Harvey S. Peeler, Jr. MED@scsenate.org (803) 212-6430

Chester County
Sen. Linda H. Short LHS@scsenate.org (803) 212-6148

Chesterfield County
Sen. Gerald Malloy MALLOYG@scsenate.org (803) 212-6148

Sen. Vincent A. Sheheen VS@scsenate.org (803) 212-6124

Clarendon County
Sen. John C. Land III JCL@scsenate.org (803) 212-6180

Colleton County
Sen. Lawrence K. “Larry” Grooms
STR@scsenate.org (803) 212-6400

Sen. John W. Matthews, Jr. JWM@scsenate.org (803) 212-6056

Sen. Clementa C. Pinckney CCP@scsenate.org (803) 212-6056

Darlington County
Sen. Hugh K. Leatherman, Sr.
SFI@scsenate.org (803) 212-6640

Sen. Gerald Malloy MALLOYG@scsenate.org (803) 212-6148

Dillon County
Sen. Dick Elliott DE@scsenate.org (803) 212-6116

See **ALERT!** on page 11

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thing you can tell your elected representatives is “GrassRoots GunRights speaks for me!”

When things are moving fast and furious in the legislature, there is not enough time to get information out to all of you fast enough. You do not want your elected representatives to say that they did not know what you wanted them to do. So, if your elected representatives hear from you often with the same message of “GrassRoots Gun-Rights speaks for me!”, then your elected representatives will know to listen to GrassRoots leaders when we tell them what you want. You want our rights restored, not infringed!

Please follow the “Action Steps To Do” found in the “Action Alert” on page 11. The future of CWP *recognition* is in your hands.

ACT TODAY!!!!

that is not clear from the language used in the Senate amendment.

Going back to the definitions section of the South Carolina "Law Abiding Citizens Self-Defense Act of 1996," an eight (8) hour minimum class time is required to satisfy the “proof of training” requirement when the classroom alternative is chosen for “proof of training.” The Senate amendment to H. 3212 does nothing to change the definition of what constitutes a proper education course. This failure makes for an ambiguous situation.

If SLED or a court was asked to decide what constituted a proper “course in firearm training and safety,” it could easily be argued that the definitions section of the South Carolina "Law Abiding Citizens Self-Defense Act of 1996" controlled, which would mean a minimum eight (8) hour class. Why leave things to chance? Why leave things ambiguous? Why not say exactly what is meant?

It is important to note the NRA and Senate sponsors already made errors in drafting the Senate amendment to H. 3212 on March 13, 2008. Only after GrassRoots exposed those drafting errors in a letter to the Senate dated March 17, 2008, did the Senate sponsors then draft a new amendment to remedy one of the errors. Unfortunately, the Senate amendment of March 18, 2008, was also flawed and needed to be undone. Then, on March 20, 2008, the Senate once again adopted a flawed amendment which was supported by the NRA just as the flawed March 13, 2008 was supported.

GrassRoots requests that the Senate amendment to H. 3212 be rejected and H. 3212 be returned to the CWP recognition bill passed by the House last year. But, if the Senate is determined to pass H. 3212 as a CWP reciprocity bill, then the Senate amendment still needs to be rejected because it does not accomplish that which it is claimed it accomplishes. The Senate amendment to H. 3212 needs to be replaced with a GrassRoots proposed amendment that will accomplish that which the NRA and Senate sponsors wrongly claim the Senate amendment will do.

GrassRoots proposes the following language to replace the Senate amendment to H. 3212:

"(N) Valid out-of-state permits to carry concealable weapons held by a resident of a reciprocal state must be honored by this State, provided, the reciprocal state requires an applicant to successfully pass a criminal background check and either 1) any course in firearm training and safety accepted by the reciprocal state, or 2) other proof of training that would be accepted under South Carolina law. A resident of a reciprocal state carrying a concealable weapon in South Carolina is subject to and must abide by the laws of South Carolina regarding concealable weapons. SLED shall liberally construe the law to maximize the number of states with which to grant reciprocity make a determination as to those states which have permit issuance standards equal to or greater than the standards contained in this article and shall maintain and publish a list of those states as the states with which South Carolina has reciprocity."

The GrassRoots proposed amendment makes it clear the SC CWP reciprocity law should not be interpreted using the definitions section of the South Carolina CWP law, and the GrassRoots proposed amendment will thus ensure the SC CWP law will allow less than an eight (8) hour minimum class time to satisfy the CWP reciprocity requirement. This is exactly what people are

now being told the Senate amendment will do, so this should not be a controversial change.

The GrassRoots proposed amendment will also allow for CWP reciprocity with states like South Carolina that allow alternatives to a “course in firearm training and safety” to satisfy the “proof of training” requirement, i.e., NRA certified instructors, active duty police handgun instructors, or members of the active or reserve military or members of the National Guard who have had handgun training in the previous three years who qualified for a CWP in their home state. This change will allow reciprocity with Florida, which allows for issuance of a CWP upon presentation of “evidence of equivalent experience with a firearm through participation in organized shooting competition or military service.”

If you have any questions concerning H. 3212 or the effects of the intricacies of the various sections of law upon CWP reciprocity, please contact me at (803) 957-3959.

Sincerely,



Robert D. Butler, J.D.
Vice President
GrassRoots GunRights SC

GrassRoots Activists Oppose The Gun-Grabbers - Again!

In a blatant act of political opportunism, the anti-gun group “Protest Easy Guns” (PEG) used the first anniversary of the Virginia Tech tragedy to stage yet another anti-gun LIE-in protest in cities all across the nation. One such group staged a LIE-in at the state capitol in Columbia.

GrassRoots GunRights would have preferred that our nation spend April 16, 2008, in quiet reflection, honoring the victims of Virginia Tech. But the PEG folks were evidently intent on using the somber occasion to score cheap political points for their anti-gun agenda.

GrassRoots activists had little choice but to appear to rebut the radical PEG agenda. Otherwise, the PEG crowd would have had the media all to themselves without anyone to refute their dangerous gun control agenda.

On this day, however, the efforts of GrassRoots GunRights activists would be even more successful than our January counter-protest. Initially, only one female PEG activist showed up to grab the media spotlight. Near the

end of her press conference two more PEG supporters arrived to join the LIE-in.

Thirteen gun-rights activists answered the GrassRoots call to action. Pro-gun supporters



abusive manner, in one case calling one of the GrassRoots team “fat” and shouting at the group to “get out of my protest.” She called to law enforcement officers standing nearby and asked them

informed Ms. Hafter that both groups had a right to be there and present their views.

Despite this disgraceful treatment, the GrassRoots team was calm and respectful to everyone present at all times. These GrassRoots GunRights activists set a high standard for proper behavior at a protest rally.

Ms. Hafter read a long list of gun control demands for the media present. The three PEG protesters then lay on the ground for a three-minute demonstration, using the Virginia Tech tragedy in hopes of scoring political gains.

The low turnout of anti-gunners combined with the high turnout of pro-gun supporters at this event was encouraging. Hopefully this is the beginning of a trend.

GrassRoots would like to express our sincere thanks to all who participated.

Photo by Richard Stephens to “remove these people,” saying she had a permit and we did not. A law enforcement officer on hand

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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

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☐ **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.
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ALERT! continued
from page 9

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Sen. Randy Scott SCOTTR@scsenate.org (803) 212-6024

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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 Grass-Roots 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. Grass-Roots knows you are busy and only sends an Action Alert if necessary.

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.

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Training Announcement

Concealed Carry Techniques Course
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Location: FOOTHILLS FIREARMS TRAINING CENTER, 118 STEWART GIN RD, LIBERTY, SC 29657, Telephone: (864) 630-1883 Larry Smith. For directions: <http://www.cwpclass.com/>

Course Information: Register on-line, get course description, cost and other information: www.sigsaueracademy.com or contact the SIG SAUER Academy Training Coordinator via phone at 603-418-8181.



Buddy Witherspoon

Candidate for U.S. Senate - South Carolina

www.BuddyWitherspoon.com

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Home: (803) 781-3131 • Primary: June 10, 2008

Paid for By: Buddy Witherspoon for U.S. Senate, Inc.

2008 Gun Shows Schedule

Gun Shows and GrassRoots

With the support of our members, GrassRoots will again have a table at each of the Gun Shows listed below for 2008. 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.

South Carolina Gun Shows Scheduled for 2008

Greenville Palmetto Expo Center
2008- Feb. 9-10, Apr. 26-27, Sept. 20-21, Dec. 20-21

Columbia Jamil Shrine Temple
2008- Jan. 19-20, Mar. 29-30, Jul. 26-27, Nov. 15-16

Columbia SC State Fairgrounds
2008- Mar. 1-2, June 14-15, Dec. 13-14

Florence Florence Civic Center
2008- Apr. 19-20, Sept. 27-28

Myrtle Beach Convention Center
2008- Nov. 8-9

Charleston Exchange Park Fairgrounds, Ladson
2008- 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 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 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: OPEN (Contact Mike Walguarnery below if interested in this position)
- Columbia: Mike Walguarnery (803) 315-8112
CWPTrainer@sc.rr.com
- GrassRoots GunRights Gun Show Director:
Mike Walguarnery (803) 315-8112 gunshows@scfirearms.org



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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!