

What Are You Willing To Fight For?

What Issues Are You Willing To Fight For?

GrassRoots GunRights needs your help! GrassRoots leaders must soon decide on which issues GrassRoots should place the highest priority during the next legislative session.

To accomplish this, it is critical that GrassRoots leaders receive feedback from you. Not only is it important that the efforts of GrassRoots reflect the goals of our membership, but it is equally important that GrassRoots does not waste effort on issues for which our membership is not going to fight.

What issues are you are willing to fight for? Are you willing to fight for legislation to...

- Allow concealed weapon permit (CWP) holders to carry their self-defense sidearm in nice restaurants?
- Allow CWP holders to drop off and pick up our children at school while armed?
- Allow CWP carry on SC college campuses?

- Remove restrictions against CWP carry in other currently prohibited locations, such as churches, schools, doctors' offices, daycare centers, police stations, and publicly owned buildings?
- Make SC recognize a non-resident CWP (i.e., make SC honor a FL CWP issued to a IL or WI resident who is not able to obtain a resident CWP from their own state because their state does not issue a CWP)?
- Change SC into a CWP "recognition" state instead of a CWP"reciprocity" state, which would force SC to honor a CWP issued by another state just as SC honors a driver's license from another state without need of any reciprocity agreements.
- Allow "open carry?" (no prohibition on carrying openly without a permit)
- Allow "Vermont carry?" (no permit required to carry at all, open or concealed)

- Increase the number of years a CWP is valid?
- Reduce or eliminate the number of hours of "training" required to obtain a CWP?
- Reduce the age required to obtain a CWP to 18?
- Remove restrictions on where a handgun must be while in a car.
- Enact a "Gun-Free Zone" liability law to make those who post against CWP liable for attracting the criminal element that harms innocent people?
- Repeal the requirement that shooting ranges post "Shooting Range – Noise Area" signs?
- Enact some other gun rights initiative? (please be specific)

What do you think? GrassRoots leaders need to hear your opinion. What do you think GrassRoots' priorities should be for the next legislative session?

Suggestions can be mailed to Executive Officer, P.O. Box 2446, Lexington, SC 29072, or they can be emailed to ExecOfficer@SCFirearms.

org. GrassRoots will compile a list of the suggestions and publish the results in the next issue of The Defender.

Submit as many suggestions as you like, but rank them from highest to lowest priority. Please do not submit suggestions unless you are willing to FIGHT for them!

The real power of GrassRoots comes from you, our members. GrassRoots leadership organizes the membership into an effective political force by making sure that thousands of GrassRoots members work together to send the same message at the same time to politicians. It is the fact that gun owners are an organized force that makes politicians listen.

GrassRoots cannot win these battles without your support. If gun owners are not willing to fight for an issue, it will not be successful. But in order to win, large numbers of gun owners must be willing to step forward and fight for it. If not you, then who will do it?

GunRights PAC Fights To Protect Your Rights

by Dr. Robert D. Butler
President, GunRights PAC

It is high time politicians learn that what they do to us during the legislative season will come back to haunt them during the election season. It is high time politicians learn they can not work against us during the legislative season and still get a free pass during the election season.

This legislative season exposed two politicians who richly deserved our attention during the Republican primary election season. Senators Jake Knotts and Jim Ritchie joined with anti gun Senator Ralph Anderson to gut H. 3212

- a good concealed weapon permit (CWP) recognition bill - and turn it into a poorly written CWP reciprocity bill. The details of what they did have been exposed elsewhere in this issue and in the last issue of The Defender.

What these politicians did effected more than just the people who live in their districts. What these politicians did hurt everyone in SC. So, how do people in other districts let these politicians know how angry they are? The answer is Gun-Rights PAC.

“It is high time politicians learn that what they do to us during the legislative season will come back to haunt them during the election season.”

GunRights PAC was created as a way for gun owners all over South Carolina to turn many small donations into a large and effective tool to use against politicians who betray us. The \$5, \$10, \$20, and \$40 individual donations made to politicians are soon forgotten by the politicians. But, once all those small donations are turned into a \$35,000 war chest, good things can and do happen.

Large contributions are remembered. But, even more memorable, are large independent

expenditures made on behalf of a candidate since independent expenditures are not subject to the contribution limits imposed upon donations to a candidate. GunRights PAC turned all those small donations into a larger pool of money and used it to make independent expenditures to support real pro

gun rights candidates.

GunRights PAC decided it was time to punish those politicians who want the gun owner vote during election season, but work and vote against your gun rights during legislative season.

It would be a waste of resources to try to get gun owners to oppose anti gun Sen. Ralph Anderson since gun owners already oppose Sen. Anderson - and he gets re-elected without gun owner support.

But, the story is much different when it comes to Senators Knotts and Ritchie. These senators claim to support gun owners and your gun rights during election season when they want and need your votes. But, their voting records during the legislative season tell a different story. So, when real pro gun rights candidates decided to run against Senators Knotts and Ritchie in the Republican primary, GunRights PAC stepped into the

fray and fought to protect your rights. After the smoke cleared, GunRights PAC won one and lost one. But, the loss was not truly a loss because the stage has been set to allow a pro gun candidate to successfully challenge Knotts in the next primary.

Thanks to your donations to GunRights PAC, we will finally have a senator who is proudly and unapologetically pro gun. We will finally have a senator who is not afraid to sponsor pro gun legislation. In fact, he has promised to actually introduce pro gun legislation, and not wait for someone else

See PAC on page 6

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President’s Message



by Ed Kelleher

Have you ever heard someone say “I’d love to help, but what can I do?” Many people want to help GrassRoots GunRights in the fight to preserve gun rights, but they don’t know what they can do.

Here are twenty simple ways to help fight for your gun rights.

1. Join GrassRoots GunRights of SC. Our strength is in our numbers. Annual membership is only \$25!
2. Give a ‘gift membership’ in GrassRoots to a friend or loved one. Shouldn’t they be well-informed?
3. Set up a recurring gift donation to GrassRoots, such as an automatic ‘bill pay,’ donation, an annuity, etc. Some folks send us a simple \$5 donation each month using online banking. No gift is too small. Every penny counts.
4. Make a donation to the GrassRoots Legal Defense fund.

People like Jason Dickey need your help desperately. We hope it never happens, but one day you too might be in need of help.

5. Make a donation to the GunRights PAC - a Political Action Committee that can donate funds to political candidates, campaigns, etc. (Remember, GunRights PAC is a separate organization with a separate mailing address)
6. Sign up for GrassRoots Action Alert emails, and take action when you receive one! In this digital age, things move much faster than ever before. With post-9/11 mail screening, post cards no longer arrive in time.
7. Volunteer as a GrassRoots Gorilla. These activists show up for subcommittee hearings, rallies, etc., to support our gun rights and keep an eye on our legislators. Be on the front lines of the gun rights battle.
8. Volunteer to work the GrassRoots booth at the gun shows in your area. You’ll help recruit new members and you’ll enjoy yourself a lot.
9. Get all your friends to join GrassRoots. The larger we are, the more influence we will have protecting your gun rights.
10. Ask stores where you shop to carry copies of *The Defender*. It won’t cost them anything, and it will show their support for “no compromise” gun rights.
11. Ask stores where you shop

- to join the GrassRoots Pro-Gun Merchants program. There is no fee to join. Merchants must offer discounts to GrassRoots members, and must not post against lawful carry. They will receive a free listing on the GrassRoots website.
12. Does your favorite store (or your own business) accept credit cards? Ask them to switch to NDF Merchant Services. NDF will donate a portion of the fees paid for card services back to GrassRoots! Businesses will probably save a ton on fees by switching too!
13. Are you a GrassRoots Instructor member? Request extra copies of *The Defender* and give copies to every student you train. Imagine if all your students joined GrassRoots.
14. Do you know a CWP instructor who is not a GrassRoots member? Talk to them about the importance of joining GrassRoots GunRights of SC. They will receive a free listing on the GrassRoots website and can request extra copies of *The Defender* for their students.
15. Are you a member of a gun club or gun range? (You should be!) Talk to the club/range about joining GrassRoots. Member gun clubs and ranges can request extra copies of *The Defender* to hand out. They can also ask to be listed under “great places to shoot” on the GrassRoots website.

16. Join the SCFirearms discussion group [at <http://groups.yahoo.com/groups/scfirearms/>] and participate in the many lively discussions regarding gun rights topics of concern to South Carolinians. Its FREE and membership in GrassRoots is not required to join.
17. Are you a GrassRoots member? Join the GrassRoots Leadership discussion group [at http://groups.yahoo.com/groups/grassroots_leadership/] and help guide the direction of the organization.
18. Keep an eye on the gun rights issues in your town. Make sure GrassRoots GunRights is kept informed of what is happening in your area.
19. Pass your copy of *The Defender* on to a friend. Tell them why you support GrassRoots.
20. Include GrassRoots GunRights in your will. Give a final gift of funds or property to the one organization that has done so much to fight for your gun rights in SC.

Even if you can’t do all twenty of these things, do as many as you can. Some things should be done repeatedly, like talking to friends about joining GrassRoots. Take a careful look at the list, and ask yourself how many of these can I do regularly?



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

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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.

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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.

2008 Legislative Wrap-Up

The 2007-2008 legislative session ended in June. GrassRoots lead the fight to kill *all* anti-gun legislation. GrassRoots also helped get some pro-gun legislation passed.

Unfortunately, we were not strong enough to stop some pro-gun legislation from getting killed. There is strength in numbers. It is much easier to kill a bill than it is to pass a bill. If enough gun-rights supporters join GrassRoots and sign up for GrassRoots Action Alerts (and act on those alerts when received), our lawmakers will not be able to kill the pro-gun legislation supported by GrassRoots.

GrassRoots GunRights of SC monitors all gun-related legislation to keep you informed as to each bill's progress. Below is the final status of each bill introduced during the 2007-2008 legislative session.

Anti-gun legislation GrassRoots helped kill this session:

S. 114 sponsored by Sen. Phil Leventis would have taken away the gun rights of those convicted of misdemeanor criminal domestic violence (CDV) (can be something as simple as just yelling at a family member). Constitutionally guaranteed rights should not be revoked for misdemeanors.

S. 168 sponsored by Sen. Phil Leventis would have made it a misdemeanor to discharge a firearm within 25 yards of the Palmetto Trail or to even cross the Palmetto Trail without first unloading and casing one's firearm. The bill made no provision to require marking of the Palmetto Trail (which can run through private property) so as to notify a person they were entering the Palmetto Trail. Thus hunters could have been convicted of a crime without even knowing they were committing a crime.

S. 643 sponsored by Sen. Glenn McConnell and Sen. Rob-

ert Ford would have taken away 2nd Amendment rights of persons convicted of crimes punishable by imprisonment exceeding one year – including non-violent offenses. It exempted certain “white collar” crimes. This would have made SC law infringe even more upon your rights than federal law does.

S. 1259 sponsored by Sen. Dick Elliott would have required encoding on all bullets used in handguns and so called “assault weapons,” and registration of all ammunition manufacturers and vendors. This bill would have made ammunition more expensive and would have led to the death of reloading without any benefit to law enforcement.

H. 3064 sponsored by Rep. Herb Kirsh would have made it a felony to discharge a firearm at or into a dwelling, vehicle, aircraft, watercraft or school for any reason whatsoever. The bill would have deleted 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 others would be a felony if the round went at or into a dwelling, vehicle, aircraft, watercraft or school. The right to self defense must be protected.

H. 3604 sponsored by Rep. Nathan Ballentine would have made it a crime for a parent or guardian to intentionally, knowingly or recklessly permit a child under eighteen to possess a firearm if he was aware of a substantial risk that the child may carry it onto school property. It also would have made 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 could do exactly the same thing and NOT be guilty of a crime or specifically liable for civil damages. While well intentioned, the bill is bad public policy. The best available research shows deadly unintended consequences have followed passage of such laws elsewhere. These laws have actually lead to deaths of more innocent people rather than saving lives. Irresponsible people will still leave their guns out where children can get them while responsible people lock their self defense sidearms because they are more afraid of being persecuted by the government than they are of being attacked by a criminal – and criminals end up attacking and harming defenseless victims.

H. 3876 sponsored by Rep. Leon Stavrinakis would have made it a felony for a person under 21 years of age to possess any firearm,

not just a handgun. H. 3876 would have expanded the existing ban on gun ownership by violent felons to include all felons, even nonviolent felons. Hunting with a firearm by any person under age 21 years of age would have become illegal, unless under the “immediate supervision” of an adult. H. 3876 allowed 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 would have removed the legal requirement that one must first be charged with and found guilty of the “enhancement” crime by a jury before the “enhancement” penalty can be imposed. You can read more about H. 3876 on page 1 of the Fall 2007 issue of The Defender and on page 5 of the Spring 2008 issue of The Defender.

Pro-gun legislation supported by GrassRoots, which became law this session:

S. 968 sponsored by Sen. Yancey McGill that removed “knife with a blade over two inches long” from the definition of “Weapon” in Section 16-23-405 and 16-23-460 unless used with intent to commit a crime. [This was a companion bill to H. 4962, sponsored by Rep. Daniel Cooper and Rep. Brian White.]

S. 1039 sponsored by Sen. Danny Verdin removed the prohibition on a landowner discharging a firearm on his property to protect family or employees from threats from animals if the parcel of land is at least 25 acres. [This was a companion bill to H. 4361 sponsored by Jeff Duncan and Mike Pitts.]

S. 1143 sponsored by Sen. Glenn McConnell created a sales tax-free weekend for firearms purchases on the Friday and Saturday following Thanksgiving. [This was a companion bill to H. 4329 sponsored by Mike Pitts and Jeff Duncan.]

H. 3212 sponsored by Rep. Greg Delleney and Mike Pitts would have changed South Carolina into a CWP “recognition” state instead of a CWP “reciprocity” state. Unfortunately, the bill was amended in the Senate to keep SC a CWP reciprocity state. Please read the full account of how H. 3212 was amended and enacted into law on page 5.

H. 3310 sponsored by Rep. Mike Pitts put into the statutes what was already lawful – that a CWP holder can legally carry a concealed firearm “on or about his

person” while in a vehicle. This law was a result of CWP holders being told by some law enforcement officers that CWP carry in a car was not lawful, and that the firearm must be in a glove box or console. The bill as originally 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 in the vehicle. It was GrassRoots' eternal vigilance that discovered this problem of discrimination towards 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.

H. 3528 sponsored by Rep. Mike Pitts restricts the release of the list of CWP holders only for an official law enforcement investigation, court order, or subpoena. Currently held lists must be destroyed.

H. 4364 sponsored by Rep. Mike Pitts permits persons age 18 and above to lawfully possess handguns in South Carolina.

Pro-gun legislation supported by GrassRoots, which did not pass this session:

H. 3464 sponsored by Rep. Mike Pitts would have declared all firearms and firearms accessories manufactured in South Carolina – and which remain in South Carolina – to be exempt from regulation under the Commerce Clause. H. 3464 excepted 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.

H. 3964 sponsored by Rep. Jeff Duncan would have ended the prohibition against carry of a firearm on school and college premises by concealed weapon permit holders. 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, additional amendments would have replaced the deleted laws with new laws allow-



Some people in wheelchairs are easy targets for muggers

Some aren't

Down Range



by Bill Rentiers

Recently a GrassRoots member asked me what my position was on two specific gun-related issues – “open carry” and “melting point standards.” My answer was simple. I am on the side of greater liberty. I support open carry because every American should have the freedom to carry where they choose and in the manner they choose. I do not support melting point standards because I believe anti-gunners use them to keep self-defense out of the hands of the poor.

His question got me thinking. What else do I support (or oppose) and why? I re-examined my positions on a whole host of gun issues. (I like it when something gets me thinking critically.)

I think obtaining firearms training is a good idea, but I do not support imposing a *mandatory*

training requirement before one can exercise their gun rights. With each additional expense, some citizens won’t be able to afford a CWP. Making gun training mandatory to qualify for a concealed weapon permit (CWP) can cause some people not to seek a permit. Since more people with a CWP saves lives, fewer people with a CWP costs lives.

A recent issue of The Defender explained this concept, but some folks just didn’t get it. I received an email from one angry reader who said we claimed “training costs lives.” This is simply not true. What we said was that mandatory training imposed prior to allowing one to exercise the right to effective self defense cost lives, and we provided the source of the most reliable research ever done on the subject so that anyone who cared to read the truth would come to the same conclusion.

Laws that make training mandatory make a CWP more expensive to get. Higher costs cause fewer people to get a CWP, which will cost lives. I oppose all attempts to price our gun rights out of reach.

I teach CWP classes, because I want people to be able to defend themselves. But I do not agree that someone should be forced to obtain a permit before exercising a right. We are not

required to complete training, pay fees or get permits to exercise any of the other rights enumerated in the Constitution and Bill of Rights. Why should the right to keep and bear arms be singled out and turned into a mere privilege to be granted or not by government? A free man should not need a permit to exercise a right.

I oppose restrictions on where and how one should be able to lawfully carry a firearm. No location exists where a determined criminal cannot carry a firearm. I support “Vermont carry” style legislation.

I support allowing firearms carry on high school and college campuses. Criminals already do this, so why prevent the good citizens from doing so? Any time we try to create a “gun-free zone,” we fail. Criminals don’t obey laws. All we end up with are “disarmed victim zones.” This is why I do not support so-called “gun-free zones” in churches, schools, day care centers, government buildings, bars, airports, National Parks, the workplace, etc. I support legislation to eliminate such restrictions, because I want people in these zones to truly BE safer, not just FEEL safer.

I oppose waiting periods before firearms purchases. Battered women trying to escape an abusive relationship should not have to wait one hour for their

self-defense rights. Neither should anyone else. A right delayed is a right denied.

I oppose gun registration schemes, no matter how slight. I believe they only make guns harder to obtain and keep, and they eventually lead to gun confiscation.

I oppose closing the fabled “gun show loophole” because none exists. The anti-gunners use this term when they actually mean *private sales* between individuals. I support keeping private sales unregulated.

I oppose an “assault weapons ban” (or any other type of gun ban I can think of). Different types of firearms are designed for different purposes. All these bans seem to do is drive up prices of certain firearms.

I oppose all schemes designed to make firearms or ammunition so expensive that common folk cannot afford them, such as “smart guns,” “ballistic fingerprinting” or “micro-stamping” of ammunition.

Firearms are simply tools used to ensure personal safety, like fire extinguishers, smoke alarms and spare tires. Being without one in an emergency can be life-threatening.

Freedom. Individual liberty. That’s what I support.

Bill Rentiers

Heller Decision - Deeper Analysis “Strictest Scrutiny” Found in the Fine Print

by Alan Korwin
www.gunlaws.com

FIRST, THREE NEWS ITEMS:

1) June 26, 2008: “An ‘outraged’ Chicago Mayor Daley this morning denounced a U.S. Supreme Court ruling overturning Washington D.C.’s handgun ban as a ‘frightening decision’ and a ‘return to the days of the Wild West.’”

Adding salt to the wound, Chicago was immediately sued over its own tyrannical handgun ban and licensing tax scheme, by a coalition of pro-human-rights groups including the Second Amendment Foundation, the

NRA and the Illinois State Rifle Association. Quoting from the SAF announcement (saf.org):

“Chicago’s registration scheme cries out for common-sense reform,” ISRA Executive Director Richard Pearson said. Under Chicago’s gun law, firearms must be re-registered annually. Alan Gura, lead attorney in the Heller case, is in charge of this lawsuit.

“Each time,” Gura said, “a tax is imposed, forms must be filled out, photographs submitted. A person who owns more than one gun will be constantly in the process of registering each gun as it comes due for expiration. If registration is to be required, once is enough.”

He further noted that Chicago’s bizarre requirement that guns be registered before they are acquired often makes registration impossible. Failure to comply with the scheme means that a gun not re-registered on time can never be registered again. Some anti-rights advocates are reportedly happy because gun registration is being accepted as if it’s a restoration of rights, which it is not.

Daley’s “Wild West” comment refers to a bogus notion used by every anti-rights zealot

in the country. It’s usually used to resist carry-permit legislation, which has been proven to reduce crime, not revert society to the days of Dodge City. “Why let facts get in the way of a good red-faced rant,” said The Uninvited Ombudsman, to no one in particular. He added, “Registering honest gun owners lacks a crime-fighting component, and directs scarce funding in the wrong direction -- tracking the innocent.” Criminals cannot be registered, due to 5th Amendment self-incrimination rules. More here: <http://www.gunlaws.com/gunreggie.htm>

2) I was going to do a lengthy review of news coverage of the decision, but it has been so biased, distorted, misleading and prejudicial I just don’t have the stomach for it. Our local paper (Gannett’s #2 rag, The Arizona Republic) put it below the fold, giving a daily change in the stock market more prominence. They ran the famously anti-rights Washington Post “news” which began, ran and ended with editorial comments and balderdash.

The McClatchy chain closed their completely conjectural Q&A approach by calling SAF, the second largest gun-rights group

in the nation “small.” Reuters, overlooking that the RKBA has been enshrined, exercised and respected for more than two centuries, called it new. It was dastardly.

3) Against the hue and cry of gun-crazed journalists, clamoring post-Heller for an end to what they call “gun deaths,” it’s time to finally call a spade a spade. Gun deaths are largely war deaths -- in the government-sponsored war on some drugs. Gang-banger murders are war deaths in that war, and are not subject to phony “gun-control” measures. D.C.’s failed laws prove this. The American murder rate has major components that are demographic, geographic, and related to social and economic

See **HELLER** on page 5

Have you told a friend about GrassRoots lately?

REMEMBER!

Our success depends on YOU!



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conditions, not a new design by Winchester, Colt or Glock. The anti-rights claims about gun deaths are as false as the now discredited myths from their Heller-case arguments.

The ugly underbelly of criminal shootings must be exposed. It must be disassociated from 100 million legitimate law-abiding gun owners. We can no longer stand by and allow journalists and their leaders, or misguided politicians, to place blame for failed social policies on cherished human rights that have kept this nation a shining beacon of freedom for more than two centuries.

WARNING:

The big hurdle, with Heller now in place, will be control of the court of popular opinion. National “news” media, lead by the clever and decidedly anti-rights Washington Post, will be bending over backwards to present any D.C. item that can be twisted to imply:

- a) D.C. experienced a crime and it must be due to the bad Heller decision and its subsequent flood of permit applications,
- b) exercise of your rights is hurting society,
- c) politicians should reverse the trend by finding new ways to enact the old failed policies, and
- d) you should elect Obama because he will fix everything with some spare change from his campaign.

ADDITIONAL ASPECTS OF THE HELLER DECISION (In my haste to post an initial review of the Heller decision, many juicy points were overlooked. This was expected. With time to read and digest the opinion, some wonderful elements have emerged. Starting with some lighter fare):

June 26 was a great day for human rights and freedom and a terrible day for The New York Times. (The Times has promoted

an anti-rights agenda for decades.) Bogus anti-rights arguments we have endured for about four decades have had a stake driven through them. Collectivism, militia requirements, uselessness of sidearms, improper readings of 2A, revisionist history, rights-denial as a crime remedy, “the gun lobby lies about 2A,” even “an individual right means you can own an atom bomb,” all dead. Did I mention hoplophobia is irrational?

The human right to self defense has received unequivocal support. This is especially important since the U.N. does not recognize this right.

Criminals and crazies remain under strict legal controls, despite lunatic claims to the contrary. Handguns are fully recognized as “the quintessential self-defense weapon.”

Future efforts to deny these crucial civil rights will be severely chilled (though their advocates may be energized, as we would if we had lost).

The list of weapons useful for a militia -- armed citizens capable of being called up in an emergency to serve with their own weapons -- remains ambiguous. To wit:

Legal-eagle friends are confused, in disagreement and debating what the actual holdings are exactly, such as whether the Second Amendment is incorporated against the states, and similar fine points. I take an expansive view and encourage rights advocates to do the same. Do NOT yield ground on any points in your preliminary positions -- take the highest ground concerning what the decision means, and make the antis fight uphill against you. Push the envelope in the direction of greater freedom. The finding of a specific enumerated right of course means other jurisdictions are affected even if the 14th Amendment isn’t specifically invoked -- it doesn’t

need to be. June 26 has been proposed as National Right to Keep and Bear Arms Day by Tom Liddy, author, talk show host, politician and son of G. Gordon Liddy.

The decision will provide cover for politicians, who can now reject anti-rights bills by saying their hands are tied by the individual-rights declarations in Heller. Obviously not all will, but many will be able to duck a thorny issue without alienating their constituencies, bolstering pro-rights efforts toward new bills and helping to stop bad bills.

I just finished studying the decision, the dense legal text is not easy reading. Much of the commentary I’ve seen seems based on guesswork and emotion. It’s better than we think, but still, the struggle goes on as it always will. Freedom is not a place you get to, it’s a path you travel.

THE TRULY TREMENDOUS ADVANCE FOR RKBA:

The core issue of “judicial scrutiny” is now established - - better than we had dreamed -- in what will be known as Famous Footnote #27 (p56). Laws impinging on the Second

WRAP-UP continued from page 4

ing 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. H. 3964 was sent back to the Judiciary Committee for further study allegedly due to the amendments not being exposed to debate in subcommittee and committee meetings. But, no further debate was ever conducted over the next year.

The best available research shows virtually all multiple victim shootings now occur in “gun free zones.” “Gun free zones” are not really “gun free” because criminals still bring guns to do their evil work. “Gun free zones” only disarm law abiding people who could help innocent victims when the criminals attack.

H. 3974 sponsored by Rep. Todd Rutherford would have allowed a firearm to be stored under the seat of a vehicle.

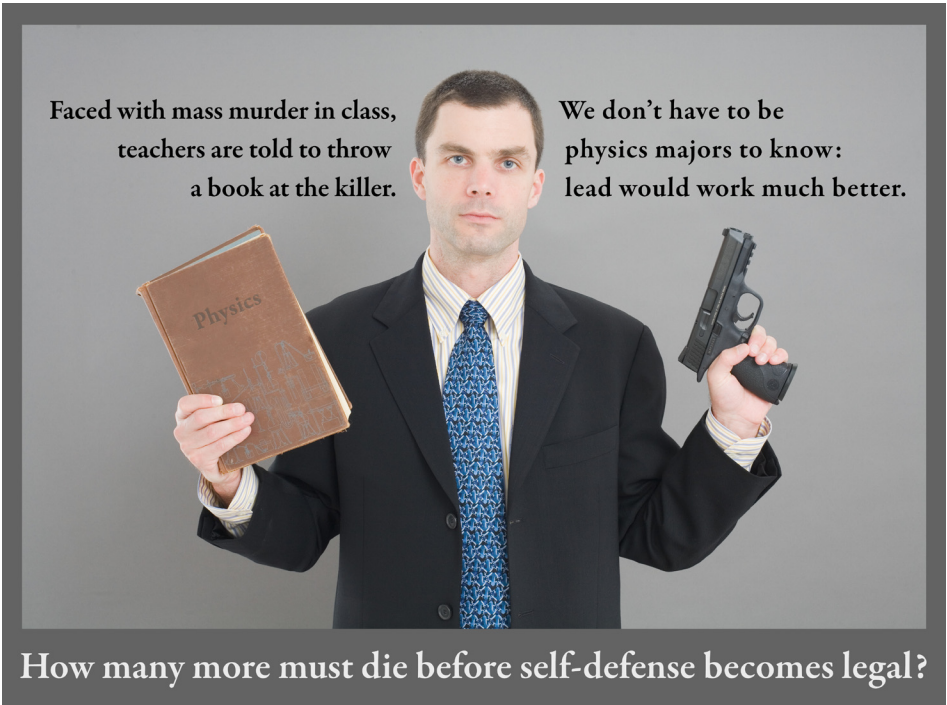
H. 4243 sponsored by Rep. Keith Kelley would have allowed legislators to carry anywhere in the state, including schools and restaurants that serve alcoholic beverages. GrassRoots refused to support this bill unless it was amended to treat *all* CWP holders equally. GrassRoots spoke against

Amendment can receive no lower level of review than any other “specific enumerated right” such as free speech, the guarantee against double jeopardy or the right to counsel (the Court’s list of examples).

This is a tremendous win, and overlooked in all initial reviews I’ve seen. Attorney Mike Anthony was the first to spot it, way to go Mike. “Strict scrutiny,” which many folks sought, is a term without formal definition that could prove problematic. I was hoping for a test of some sort and got more than I hoped for. By recognizing 2A as a “specific enumerated right” the majority ties 2A to the rigid standards and precedents of our most cherished rights. That’s as strong as there is. Very clever indeed.

Coupled with the Court’s destruction of a scrutiny scheme invented by Breyer in his dissent, 2A protection is now extra robust (but antis will continue their attacks). Seeking to justify the total-gun-bans-are-perfectly-OK school of thought (the one B. H. Obama supported until this decision came out and he immediately reversed himself),

See **HELLER** on page 12



PAC continued from page 1

to introduce pro gun legislation. Finally, the “gun guy” in the senate will actually be pro gun. Say “Hello” to Shane Martin.

In the Senate District 13 Republican primary race, Sen. Jim Ritchie faced off against challenger Shane Martin. When GunRights PAC found out Shane Martin was running against Sen. Jim Ritchie, we could not wait to help Shane Martin unseat Ritchie.

Gun-Rights PAC leadership talked with Shane Martin about his positions on the issues most dear to gun owners. But, we already knew Shane was our guy because he was a GrassRoots member, a GunRights PAC contributor, and a CWP holder. Shane knows CWP holders are the good guys, not the bad guys. Shane is one of us. Shane is forced to obey the very same laws that we are forced to obey - which are usually written to disarm us and make us more vulnerable to attack.

Shane Martin supports changing the CWP laws to recognize that the good guys are not the problem. Gang bangers and suicidal maniacs shoot up schools and malls, not honest law abiding CWP holders. To treat CWP holders as if there is no difference between them and gang bangers and suicidal maniacs is the real crime that only serves to make life more dangerous for all of us. Shane Martin shares the very same concerns other Grass-Roots members share. Shane Martin is truly one of us.

The more sponsors a bill has, the greater the chances the bill will move forward quickly. Unfortunately, Sen. Jim Ritchie has failed to sponsor pro gun rights legislation. Ritchie sponsored 466 bills while in the Senate, but only one of those bills had anything

remotely to do with protecting your gun rights.

Ritchie failed to sponsor legislation to do the following:

- repeal the one handgun per month law in both the 2001-2002 session and 2003-2004 session,
- keep the names of concealed weapon permit holders private in

the 2003-2004 session,

- prohibit the confiscation of firearms from otherwise law abiding citizens (which happened in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina) in the 2005-2006 session,
- allow a motorcycle rider the right to possess a

handgun in his saddlebag just like a person in an automobile can possess a handgun in his glove box or console in the 2003-2004 session, or

- repeal the registration of new handguns in South Carolina in the 2005-2006 session.

Ritchie consistently failed to sponsor any legislation to improve the concealed weapon permit laws in South Carolina in the 2001-2002 session, the 2003-2004 session, and the 2005-2006 session. When gun owners needed Ritchie, Ritchie was AWOL.

Shane Martin promised to do for fellow gun owners all that Jim Ritchie has consistently failed to do. GunRights PAC has every reason to believe Shane Martin because

Shane Martin is a GrassRoots member.

GunRights PAC spent \$5,000 to send a flat (an 8.5”x11” postcard) to all Republican primary voters in Senate District 13 to let the voters know the truth about how Jim Ritchie had consistently failed to stand up for our gun rights. GunRights PAC also let the voters know how Ritchie had teamed up with anti gun Sen. Ralph Anderson to gut H. 3212 - the CWP recognition bill - in 2008. Gun owners in Senate District 13 needed to know the truth about Ritchie.

GunRights PAC was extremely pleased to see Shane Martin beat Jim Ritchie in the Republican primary runoff election. Gun owners will have a real friend in Shane Martin. Shane Martin will sponsor pro gun rights legislation, not run from it.

In the Senate District 23

Republican primary race, Sen. Jake Knotts faced off against challenger Katrina Shealy. GunRights PAC leadership met with Katrina Shealy to talk about her positions on the issues most dear to gun owners. We found out Katrina and her husband both have a concealed weapon permit (CWP). Katrina believes CWP holders are the good guys, not the bad guys. Katrina is one of us. Katrina is forced to obey the very same laws that we are forced to obey - which are usually written to disarm us and make us more vulnerable to attack. In contrast, Knotts is a retired law enforcement officer. Knotts does not have to obey the same laws we have to obey. Knotts can carry a firearm to ensure his safety virtually anywhere he so desires, including restaurants that serve alcoholic beverages, schools, and across state lines without a need for a reciprocity agreement. Knotts is not one of us.

Katrina believes a CWP should be honored state to state just like a driver’s license is honored state to state. Just as we do not need to get a driver’s license from each state we travel through or have South Carolina enter into a reciprocity agreement with another state before we can drive in that state, we should not be forced to do the exact same thing to be able to carry our self defense sidearms when we travel. Knotts fought to gut CWP recognition bills that would have helped SC CWP holders be able to legally carry while traveling in many more states in both the 2007-2008 and 2005-2006 legislative sessions. Since Knotts can already carry wherever he travels, this issue is not as important to him as it is to us.

Katrina believes parents who possess a CWP are not a threat to our children. Thus, when a parent with a CWP drops off or picks up their child from school, there would be no threat to the public safety if the parent was carrying a concealed self defense sidearm while doing so. As it is now, a parent who gets a call at work from the school about a sick child must go home first to drop off their self defense sidearm before going to pick up their sick child.

Or, a parent who has a child attending college far from home must travel unarmed and at greater risk when dropping off and picking up their child from the distant college. Since Knotts can already carry on school grounds, this issue is not as important to him as it is to us and he has opposed allowing CWP holders to possess a self defense sidearm when dropping off and picking up their children. Interestingly, the federal “Gun Free School Zones Act” allows SC CWP holders to carry on school grounds, it is state law that prohibits doing so.

Katrina Shealy believes CWP holders should be allowed to carry in restaurants that serve alcoholic beverages for on premises consumption. This idea is a mainstream idea since almost 75% of the population of the US lives where CWP holders can carry in such restaurants. But, since Knotts can already carry in such restaurants, he does not feel the need to change the law the same way that we do.

For the reasons detailed above, GunRights PAC decided to support Katrina Shealy over Jake

Knotts for the Senate District 23 seat in Lexington County. Even though it was the right thing to do, we knew it would be a tough fight. Sen. Jake Knotts was known to have one of the largest campaign war chests in the entire General Assembly. As of January 1, 2008, Knotts had almost \$175,000 in his campaign war chest while Shealy had not yet decided to run for office and had zero dollars in her campaign war chest. Most people would have decided to stay

out of this race because of the huge dollar difference in campaign war chests. But, GunRights PAC is not most people.

GunRights PAC spent over \$20,000 sending several direct mail flats to everyone in Senate District 23 who had voted in an earlier Republican primary in addition to sending flats to lists

of gun owners. GunRights PAC knew we needed to get as much support for Katrina Shealy as we could and not limit our support to just gun owners.

“This legislative season exposed two politicians who richly deserved our attention during the Republican primary election season. Senators Jake Knotts and Jim Ritchie...”

“So, how do people in other districts let those politicians know how angry they are? The answer is GunRights PAC.”

“Finally, the “gun guy” in the Senate will actually be pro gun. Say “Hello” to Shane Martin.”

“It is not unusual that politicians forget about small individual contributions. This is exactly why GunRights PAC was started, so we can package many smaller pro gun rights contributions together into larger contributions.”

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GrassRoots Member Wins Primary Election!

In June, GrassRoots GunRights member Shane Martin ran in the Republican primary for SC Senate District 13, *and he won*. He now faces James Tobias, the Democrat candidate in the November general election.

Shane Martin joined GrassRoots in 2006 and possesses a Concealed Weapon Permit (CWP). Recently, GrassRoots asked Mr. Martin some questions and these are his answers.

GRSC: Who first taught you to use a firearm safely?
Martin: My father.

GRSC: How long have you been a gun owner?
MARTIN: Since I was 12 years old.

GRSC: What are your favorites among the firearms you own?
MARTIN: .243 single shot – rifle, .357 Sig - pistol.

GRSC: What shooting activities do you enjoy?
MARTIN: Pistol target practice, hunting.

GRSC: Which gun rights organizations are you a member of?
MARTIN: NRA, GrassRoots GunRights. of course!!

GRSC: How long have you been a gun rights supporter?
MARTIN: Since I was a child.

GRSC: How much do you attribute your primary win to the issue of gun rights?
MARTIN: Not sure about the percentage. People were ready for a change and wanted to have a businessman in office. The fact that my opponent was against protecting our concealed weapon permits certainly didn't sit well with gun owners – including myself. The NRA called my house (and other NRA members) asking us to vote for my opponent – but I am glad the true pro-gun-rights people understood the difference and voted for me!!!!

GRSC: What do you think your chances are against your Democrat opponent in November?
MARTIN: I feel like my chances are extremely high. The district I

am seeking to represent is largely Republican and I am also proud to be a part of a party that is Pro-Gun Rights.

GRSC: If elected, what gun-related legislation do you plan to sponsor next session?
MARTIN: If elected, next session will be my very first legislative session. I plan to introduce legislation that makes our CWP more useful and recognized by more states. If I have trouble building support because I am new, please know I will co-sponsor any legislation to help us. We can start by recognizing CWP's from other states. We also need to fix some of the red tape with our current CWP - it is unacceptable that a law-abiding CWP holder cannot pull into a school yard to pick up his/her child without having to first take the weapon home. Criminals commit crimes, not law-abiding CWP holders!

GRSC: What current SC gun laws do you think need to be changed or repealed and why?
MARTIN: We need to recognize CWP's from other states and make

our reciprocity better while also fixing the “red-tape” portions of our current law (picking up kids at school, other prohibited areas, etc.)

GRSC: What is your position on Concealed Weapon Permit carry in schools, churches, and other areas where it is currently prohibited?
MARTIN: As a law-abiding CWP holder, I shouldn't be limited to where I can carry my weapon. Criminals target areas that prohibit CWP's.

GRSC: What message do you want to leave with our readers in District 13?
MARTIN: I would love to have the support of my fellow gun owners in District 13. I promise to remain accessible, conservative, and protect our gun rights. Please visit my website at www.ShaneMartinForSenate.com or call me on my cell phone at 864-804-8499.

GrassRoots GunRights of SC does not endorse candidates. But we do educate the public on how candidates for office stand on gun rights issues.

A composite image showing two women. On the left, a woman is holding a large, thick spiral-bound notebook in front of her face, peeking over the top edge. On the right, a woman is holding a handgun directly at the camera, with her finger on the trigger. The background is a solid dark color.

Notebooks didn't stop bullets at VT. Return fire would have.

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A Summary of What Happened With H. 3212

Representatives Greg Delleney and Mike Pitts introduced H. 3212 on January 10, 2007, as a pure concealed weapon permit (CWP) recognition bill. Thus, South Carolina law would have changed to automatically honor a CWP issued by another state. Later that month Reps. Haley, Chellis, Owens, and Rice added their names as cosponsors to H. 3212.

The House General Laws subcommittee scheduled a meeting to discuss H. 3212 on February 14, 2007. GrassRoots Leaders met with Rep. David Weeks, a black Democrat sitting on the General Laws subcommittee, to discuss the bill and ask for his support. Rep. Weeks did not initially support H. 3212 because he felt a “trained” CWP holder was a better CWP holder. GrassRoots showed Rep. Weeks the research proving that CWP “training” had no positive impact upon public safety. In fact, mandated CWP “training” actually has a negative effect upon public safety. Thus, mandated CWP “training” could not reasonably be based upon a public safety argument.

GrassRoots asked Rep. Weeks if he also thought an educated voter was a better voter. Rep. Weeks replied in the affirmative. GrassRoots then asked Rep. Weeks if he supported literacy tests as a legal requirement prior to exercising the right to vote. It was then that Rep. Weeks saw the

light – legally mandated literacy tests prior to being able to exercise the right to vote were no different than the legally mandated CWP “training” prior to being able to exercise the right to keep and bear arms. Both literacy tests and CWP “training” serve to limit and restrict the exercising of fundamental rights whether that be the right to vote or the right to keep and bear arms.

GrassRoots leaders attended the House Judiciary General Laws subcommittee meeting on February 14, 2007, to speak in favor of H. 3212. SLED Captain Joe Dorton also addressed the subcommittee. Capt. Dorton told the subcommittee H. 3212 could allow a 16 year old from New Hampshire to lawfully carry a concealed weapon while visiting Myrtle Beach. GrassRoots stated SLED was wrong about what the law would allow.

H. 3212 passed the House Judiciary committee General Laws subcommittee with Rep. Weeks’ support. The following day Rep. Weeks added his name as a cosponsor of H. 3212.

A few days later GrassRoots faxed a letter to the General Laws subcommittee proving GrassRoots was correct and SLED was wrong about the law. Federal law 18 USC § 922(x)(2) states “It shall be unlawful for any person who is a juvenile [i.e., under 18 years of age] to knowingly possess a

handgun or ammunition that is suitable for use only in a handgun.” Thus, a 16 year old from New Hampshire might be able to obtain a CWP and carry it in his wallet, but Federal law would still prohibit him from possessing or carrying a handgun.

GrassRoots leaders and GrassRoots Gorillas attended the House Judiciary committee meeting on February 20, 2007, to support H. 3212. The bill passed unanimously. That day Rep. Thad Viers added his name as a cosponsor of H. 3212. Over the next few days, Reps. Gary Simrill, Eric Bedingfield, Ted Vick, Jeff Duncan and Mick Mulvaney added their names as cosponsors of H. 3212.

On February 28, 2007, the House debated H. 3212. Rep. Herb Kirsh spoke against the bill. Eighteen lawmakers requested debate on the bill. Later that day Rep. Jackie Hayes moved to send H. 3212 back to the House Judiciary committee, which was adopted.

The following day, Rep Jim Merrill moved to reverse the decision to send H. 3212 back to the House Judiciary committee, which was adopted. Rep. John Scott moved to stop the House from bringing H. 3212 back up for discussion, which motion was defeated.

The House voted to give H. 3212 a second reading by a margin of 101 to 2. That day Reps. Leon Stavrinakis, Alan Clemmons and Annette Young added their names as cosponsors of H. 3212. The following day, H. 3212 received its third reading and was sent to the Senate.

Thanks to the efforts of GrassRoots GunRights, H. 3212 picked up multiple co-sponsors and made it through the House Judiciary General Laws subcommittee, the House Judiciary committee, and the SC House of Representatives.

The SC Senate was not nearly so friendly to your 2nd Amendment rights. On March 6, 2007, the Senate gave H. 3212 it’s first reading and sent it to the Judiciary committee. The following day, H. 3212 was sent to a Senate Judiciary subcommittee consisting of Senators Joel Lourie, Vincent Sheheen and Lewis Vaughn, and chaired by Sen. John Hawkins.

On May 2, 2007, under the watchful eye of GrassRoots leaders and GrassRoots Gorillas, H. 3212 passed unanimously through the Senate Judiciary subcommittee and was sent back to the Senate Judiciary committee.

The Senate Judiciary

committee meeting to discuss H. 3212 took place on May 8, 2007. The Senate Judiciary committee passed H. 3212, but Sen. Ralph Anderson placed a “minority report” on H. 3212. Sen. Anderson said it was his intent to kill the bill.

A minority report puts a bill onto the contested calendar, where bills often die. Bills on the contested calendar usually die unless they are moved off the contested calendar. A bill can be removed from the contested calendar either by having the minority report withdrawn or being put onto the special order calendar. Moving a bill from the contested calendar to the special order calendar requires a two-thirds majority vote of Senators or a two-thirds majority vote of the Rules committee.

Ten months passed while the Senate took no action on H. 3212. On February 6, 2008, GrassRoots leaders met with Sen. Larry Martin, chairman of the Rules committee, to ask him to get H. 3212 placed on the special order calendar. Sen. Martin agreed. On March 12, 2008, Sen. Martin made a motion to have H. 3212 placed on the special order calendar, which passed.

During Senate debate on March 13, 2008, Sen. Knotts stated he had “held up the bill, and vowed to hold it up indefinitely” if he could. Senators Jake Knotts and Jim Ritchie conspired with anti-gun Sen. Ralph Anderson on an amendment to H. 3212 that made it worse than existing law.

During the debate, Sen. Ritchie said the amendment would “more than double” the number of states with which South Carolina has reciprocity. Sen. Martin claimed the crippled version of H. 3212 was “the best we can do” if the bill was to pass the Senate.

The Knotts-Ritchie-Anderson amendment would keep SC a “reciprocity” state rather than a “recognition” state, and would limit reciprocal states to those which require a “federal and state background check” and “a course in firearms training and safety” to obtain a CWP. The amendment also left SLED in charge of deciding which states would qualify for reciprocity and which would not. Sen. Knotts said he did not want to allow CWP holders

See **SUMMARY** on page 11



“My, what a long bayonet you have!”

Finding Red Riding Hood well protected,
the wolf called for more gun control.

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So Where Are Those New States?

On March 13th, 2008, during debate on the Senate amendment of H. 3212, Senator Jim Ritchie said, "...under this amendment we will expand [concealed weapon permit (CWP) reciprocity] by 15 new states..." He went on to say the Senate version of H. 3212 would "more than double" the number of states with which South Carolina has CWP reciprocity.

During that same debate, Senator Jake Knotts said he did not want "untrained" citizens from other states to be able to carry a concealed weapon in our state. Georgia requires no training to obtain a CWP, and Georgia has no problems with their CWP holders. Unfortunately, Sen. Knotts' opposition to Georgia CWP holders carrying in SC means SC CWP holders must travel at greater risk of harm while in Georgia. Does Sen. Knotts think law-abiding CWP holders from Georgia would suddenly go berserk if they cross into South Carolina?

On May 8, 2007 during a Senate Judiciary Committee meeting on H. 3212, Sen. Jake Knotts said that his amendment would "increase [CWP reciprocal states] from eleven to twenty three." During that meeting Sen. Knotts said "second amendment groups need to be working on these other states to at least require some type of training, similar to South Carolina, and at least a background check."

There are at least two major problems with Sen. Knotts' statement that come immediately to mind. First, GrassRoots believes – just as our founding fathers believed – that the right to keep and bear arms is a pre-existing right bestowed upon us by our

Creator and that government has no right to infringe upon that right. No organization that truly believes in the 2nd Amendment would work to increase infringements on our 2nd Amendment rights. Second, GrassRoots needs to be working to fix the problems in South Carolina where we have the power to vote to replace politicians, not in other states where we are not allowed to vote.

GrassRoots strongly supported the original version of H. 3212 – without amendments. If the original bill had been allowed

to pass, South Carolina would have begun honoring CWPs from all other states as soon as the bill became law. Many states would have

automatically begun honoring SC CWPs with no "reciprocal agreements" needing to be signed. Some states that require CWP reciprocity agreements but did not qualify for reciprocity with SC under the old SC CWP reciprocity law would have qualified under the new SC CWP recognition law and would have started honoring SC CWPs as soon as CWP reciprocity agreements were signed.

The Senate version of H. 3212 is what finally passed both the House and Senate. On June 9, 2008, GrassRoots spoke with Mr. Jeff Schultz on the Governor's staff and urged the Governor to veto the Senate version of H. 3212. Mr. Schultz told GrassRoots that SLED had assured him this bill would "double" the number of states with which South Carolina has CWP reciprocity. Mr. Schultz would not reveal who at SLED had told him this. Governor Sanford signed the bill into law on June 16, 2008.

GrassRoots called SLED Regulatory to ask if what we were being told was in fact SLED's

position on H. 3212. GrassRoots spoke with "Linda" at SLED Regulatory. Linda said "nobody knows" how many states the new law will add, or even if it will add any states, until the bill is received and SLED legal experts have had time to examine it.

GrassRoots found this information troubling. Senators Knotts' and Ritchie's claims that the number of reciprocal states would double is what caused the Senate to pass the amended bill. The Governor's staff said the number would "double" which caused the Governor to sign the bill into law. Where were Sen. Knotts, Sen. Ritchie and the Governor's staff getting this information? SLED was not saying this to GrassRoots. SLED told GrassRoots that their legal expert will have to take a look at H. 3212 to decide which states qualify, if any.

On August 6, 2008, GrassRoots leaders spoke with Captain Cliff Weir of SLED Regulatory to ask which new reciprocal states would be added as a result of the new law.

Until actual agreements were signed, Capt. Weir could not officially name any states, but he speculated that approximately seven states might qualify to be added. Capt. Weir stated that Virginia, West Virginia, Kentucky, Nevada and Florida appeared likely to achieve CWP reciprocity with South Carolina.

On September 12, 2008, SLED's website posted the addition of Kentucky and Florida as reciprocal with SC. Virginia was added later that month. Kentucky and Virginia already

honor a SC CWP without a signed reciprocity agreement, so CWP reciprocity with KY and VA adds nothing for SC CWP holders.

It will be nice if SC eventually adds a total of five or seven new reciprocal states. But five or seven new states is nowhere near "double" as SC CWP permit holders were told during legislative debates.

As H. 3212 was being gutted in the Senate, our politicians were claiming the bill would either add 15 new states or it would "double" the number of states with which SC has CWP reciprocity. So, if our politicians were right, CWP holders should expect to end up with 24 to 27 CWP reciprocal states total. SC currently has 15 CWP reciprocal states.

So where are all those new states Senators Knotts and Ritchie promised us? If H. 3212 never results in twelve additional CWP reciprocal states, then our lawmakers should be held accountable for their deception at the ballot box.

Our 2nd Amendment rights are given to us by our Creator, not by our government. We should never allow a man made government to deny us our God given rights. The rights we fail to vigorously fight for now are the rights our children and grandchildren will not have in the future.

[NOTE: Until a new state is posted on SLED's website, it should not be considered an officially approved reciprocal state. SLED's list of reciprocal states can be found at: <http://www.sled.sc.gov/Reciprocity1.aspx?MenuID=CWP>]

“GrassRoots strongly supported the original version of H. 3212 - without amendments.”

“If H. 3212 never results in twelve additional CWP reciprocal states, then our lawmakers should be held accountable for their deception at the ballot box.”

No Sales Tax on Guns?

Your next gun purchase could be tax-free. In June, the South Carolina General Assembly passed bill S. 1143. Among other things, the new law created the "Second Amendment Recognition Act."

The law now exempts "sales of handguns [as defined pursuant to Section 16-23-10(1)], rifles, and shotguns" from state sales tax during the forty-eight hours of "Second Amendment Weekend." Second Amendment Weekend begins at 12:01 a.m. on the Friday after Thanksgiving and ends at twelve midnight the following Saturday.

The weekend after Thanksgiving is well known as the beginning of the Christmas shopping season. Shoppers are often out in large numbers that weekend seeking bargains.

South Carolinians will now be able to take advantage of the tax-free holiday to make firearms purchases during Second Amendment Weekend.

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PAC continued from page 6

Campaign costs in state senate primaries are supposed to be relatively inexpensive. Unfortunately, this race turned out to be the most expensive Senate race in SC history - approximately \$1 million was spent on this race! Katrina Shealy raised and spent less than \$200,000, while Jake Knotts raised and spent almost \$500,000! The rest was spent as independent expenditures by third parties such as GunRights PAC.

Another source of trouble was The State newspaper's lies about the positions of the candidates on non gun rights issues. The State newspaper endorsed Jake Knotts and then lied about his position on school vouchers and tax credits to conceal the truth from their readers. It is unfortunate when a "free press" resorts to lies to try to ensure their endorsed candidate wins rather than reporting the truth.

The primary returns did not give any candidate a majority, so there was a runoff election between Jake Knotts and Katrina Shealy. While Jake Knotts won the primary runoff election, it is interesting to see how he did it.

In a July 20, 2008 internet news report by John O'Conner of The State newspaper, Mr. O'Conner wrote that Sen. Knotts has "many Democrats to thank for a last minute cash infusion" that helped him win. A review of Knotts' campaign disclosures show contributions

from prominent Democrats such as former Governor Jim Hodges, Sen. John Land (Land led the fight to kill our "shall issue" CWP law in 1996), and 22 Political Action Committees (including the SC Trial Lawyers Association PAC).

Of particular interest, the Bridge PAC chaired by US Rep.

James Clyburn (D-6th Congressional District) donated to Sen. Knotts' campaign. Rep. Clyburn is the Democratic Whip and part of the Democratic Party leadership. Rep. Clyburn has an 80% lifetime rating from the

ACLU and the Bridge PAC is dedicated to "progressive change." One wonders why a "pro gun" "conservative" would get contributions from such liberal sources.

After a Senate Judiciary Committee meeting in 2007, Sen. Knotts told GrassRoots leaders his prior support for your gun rights had cost him an additional \$10,000 during his 2004 re-election bid.

Knotts complained his opponent "beat him up" over the gun issue, and said GrassRoots was not there to help him. This probably explains why Knotts has abandoned gun owners since becoming a senator. Unfortunately,

Knotts has a very poor memory and lacks knowledge of the law. As a 501(c)(4) non-profit organization, GrassRoots GunRights is prohibited by law from endorsing candidates. Thus, GrassRoots would have lost its non profit tax status if it had endorsed

“GunRights PAC collected lots of small donations from all over South Carolina and then used those donations where they would make the greatest impact.”

“The success of our future legislative efforts depends upon you and your donations to GunRights PAC!

“The most important thing you can do right now to protect your gun rights is to help replenish the GunRights PAC war chest.”

The most important thing you can do right now to protect your gun rights is to help replenish the GunRights PAC war chest. How much money GunRights PAC has to use to punish the politicians who betray gun

owners is a mater of public record on file with the SC Ethics Commission. Lets make sure when the politicians look to see whether GunRights PAC has the money to punish them for betraying us that they will see a war chest big enough to strike fear in their hearts and soul. That is how we will get legislation passed next legislative season.

The success of our future legislative efforts depend upon you and your donations to GunRights PAC!

Please send donations to:
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220 Isobel Ct.
Lexington, SC 29072

Knotts. But, Jake Knotts was mentioned positively 19 times in the November 2004 issue of The Defender which came out just prior to the election. Additionally, GrassRoots members made individual contributions to his campaign. It is not unusual that politicians forget about small individual contributions. This is exactly why GunRights PAC was started, so we can package many smaller pro gun rights contributions together into larger contributions and ensure the politicians will remember how gun owners help our friends and punish our enemies.

Sen. Jake Knotts started this campaign with one of the largest campaign war chests in the General Assembly. Knotts spent almost half a million dollars to win the Republican primary race. Now, Knotts only has about \$25,000 left in his campaign war chest. The fact he had to spend so much money to win this race makes him much more vulnerable the next

time. Unless Knotts starts voting to support our gun rights during the next legislative season, GunRights PAC will be there to fight him again during the next election season.

The best way to protect your gun rights is to let politicians know there will be a price to pay come election season for betraying gun owners during the legislative season. GunRights PAC was able to do all that we did because hundreds of gun owners contributed to GunRights PAC over the last few years. GunRights PAC collected lots of small donations from all over South Carolina and then used those donations where they would make the greatest impact. Those small donations helped get rid of

GrassRoots Instructors To Give Out Free Memberships

GrassRoots leaders have recently adopted a new idea to increase membership. We are authorizing GrassRoots Instructor Members to award a six-month free trial membership to each of their CWP students.

Only GrassRoots Instructor Members will be permitted to award the trial memberships. If you are a CWP instructor and you wish to participate, you must first join GrassRoots GunRights at the Instructor Member price of \$25 per year.

This program is not for renewing memberships. This will be a "one-time only, one per customer" campaign. Trial memberships will expire after six

months unless renewed at regular prices.

This program will begin immediately. GrassRoots may decide to discontinue the program at any time.

To participate, GrassRoots Instructor Members should first check their membership to be sure it is current. If your membership expires, you will not be permitted to give out the trial memberships until you renew your Instructor Membership.

Instructor Members must use only the PDF application form found on our website at [http://www.SCFirearms.org/join/app.pdf]. No other form will be accepted for the trial membership.

(If you cannot download the form, please contact GrassRoots Executive Officer Bill Rentiers. A correct form will be mailed to you. You will be able to make copies of it for your classes.)

The forms must be collected by the instructor and mailed to GrassRoots to be eligible for the trial membership. Instructors should check each application for completeness and legibility, and mark them with the words "trial membership" at the bottom, along with the Instructor Member's name.

GrassRoots Instructors will not permitted to hand out the forms and tell their students to "mail them in for a free trial

membership." Trial memberships will only be accepted when mailed in by the instructor. Students who send in a membership form separately can get a one-year membership at the regular price of \$25.

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SUMMARY continued from page 8

from other states to carry handguns in South Carolina unless they first undergo CWP “training.”

GrassRoots’ analysis of the Knotts-Ritchie-Anderson amendment uncovered serious flaws. Since existing SC law requires only a “fingerprint review” and not a “federal and state background check,” GrassRoots pointed out the Knotts-Ritchie-Anderson amendment would cause SC to *lose* reciprocal states, not gain them. Under the Knotts-Ritchie-Anderson amendment, SC could not even qualify for reciprocity with itself.

On March 17, 2008, GrassRoots sent a letter to each member of the Senate explaining these flaws. Evidently, the Senate realized the GrassRoots analysis was correct, because on March 18, 2008, the Senate amended H. 3212 a second time to replace “federal and state background check” with the “fingerprint review” language currently in SC law. Senators Knotts, Ritchie and Martin sponsored this amendment. Unfortunately, other serious flaws were left uncorrected. The Knotts-Ritchie-Martin amendment left nobody in charge of determining which states were eligible for CWP recognition. Senators Bryant and Verdin requested the official Senate Journal show they voted against the Senate amendment.

On March 19, 2008, GrassRoots sent a letter to each member of the Senate, again explaining the serious problems still remaining in the amendment. GrassRoots urged the Senate

to remove the Knotts-Ritchie-Martin amendment and return H. 3212 to the clean recognition bill passed by the House. Failing that, GrassRoots urged the Senate to kill the bill entirely.

Despite urging from GrassRoots to return H. 3212 to a recognition bill, the Senate failed to do so. On March 20, 2008, the Senate voted to amend H. 3212 for a third time, but serious problems remained in the bill. Senators Knotts and Ritchie sponsored this third amendment. The Knotts-Ritchie amendment replaced “federal and state background check” with the words “background check.” A flawed H. 3212 was given third reading in the Senate and sent back to the House for approval on March 20, 2008. Sen. Ryberg requested the official Senate Journal show he voted against the Senate amendment.

The House informed the Senate on March 26, 2008, they did not concur with the Senate’s proposed amendment to H. 3212. On April 29, 2008, GrassRoots sent out an Action Alert asking South Carolinians to contact their Senators and Representatives and ask them to accept the House version of H. 3212. Failing that, GrassRoots asked our lawmakers to assign a conference committee with “free conference powers” so lawmakers could amend H. 3212 and fix the serious flaws in the Senate version.

A conference committee without “free conference powers” cannot compromise and amend a bill. They must either accept

the House version or the Senate version, with no changes. Failing that, the committee simply would not agree and the bill would die.

On May 20, 2008, GrassRoots sent out another Action Alert asking supporters to urge their Senators and Representatives to act on H. 3212 and assign members to a conference committee.

On May 21, 2008, GrassRoots leadership was told by a confidential source at the statehouse that the Senate planned to let H. 3212 die without assigning delegates to the conference committee. The following day, GrassRoots sent out an Action Alert asking everyone to contact their Senator and insist they pass the House version of H. 3212.

Ignoring the concerns of many gun owners, the Senate waited almost three months to respond to the House’s rejection of the Senate version of H. 3212. On June 3, 2008, the Senate informed the House that they insisted on the Senate version of H. 3212. The Senate assigned Senators John Hawkins, Jake Knotts and Kent Williams to a conference committee on H. 3212. With the end of the legislative session only days away, it appeared the Senate might let the session end before any action would be taken on the bill. The conference committee on H. 3212 was not given free conference powers.

On June 4, 2008, the House assigned Reps. Greg Delleney, Jeff Duncan and Ted Vick to the conference committee. That same day, GrassRoots leaders asked Rep.

Delleney not to accept the Senate version of H. 3212. Rep. Delleney told GrassRoots he and the House members of the conference committee had already signed paperwork accepting the Senate version of H. 3212, and it would be announced the following day. Rep. Delleney said the clean recognition bill would be re-introduced next legislative session (which begins January 2009).

The House and Senate passed the flawed Knotts-Ritchie version of H. 3212 and sent it to Governor Sanford for his signature. GrassRoots leaders expressed serious concerns about H. 3212 to Jeff Smith of the Governor’s staff. Mr. Smith told GrassRoots that Governor Sanford planned to sign the bill. Governor Sanford signed the flawed Senate version of H. 3212 into law on June 16, 2008.

Since H. 3212 was enacted, SLED has signed reciprocity agreements with Florida, West Virginia, Kentucky and Virginia. The states of Kentucky and Virginia already honored SC permits without an agreement, so SC CWP holders gained nothing new by adding those two states.

SC CWP holders have long desired reciprocity with Florida. But lack of a training requirement or background check to obtain a Florida CWP was not the reason SLED gave for denying reciprocity with Florida. In years past, SLED claimed Florida law would allow a CWP to be obtained by a felon, thereby allowing felons to carry concealed handguns in our state. GrassRoots disputed this claim because state law may not allow that which federal law prohibits.

Virginia Honors SC CWPs - Again!

In early September, Mr. Phil Van Cleave, President of Virginia Citizen’s Defense League (VCDL) posted an alert on the VCDL website that the commonwealth of Virginia no longer honors SC CWP permits. Mr. Tom Lambert of the Virginia State Police (VSP) told VCDL this was because South Carolina does not have a system in place to verify the validity of SC CWP permits 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

GrassRoots leaders suspected SLED did have such a system in place. GrassRoots Executive Officer, Bill Rentiers called SLED Regulatory to get the facts. Tina at SLED told

GrassRoots that SC *does* have a 24/7 verification system in place.

GrassRoots contacted Mr. Lambert to inform him of our findings. Mr. Lambert told GrassRoots the VSP got their information from Captain Drakeford of SLED Regulatory and from the SC Communications Center. Mr. Lambert stated: “based on your contact we have re-contacted Capt. Drakeford at SLED who indicated that they may have been mistaken in their initial response and we will verify the availability for 24/7 verification shortly.”

On September 22, 2008, Mr. Lambert announced that Virginia has full reciprocity with South Carolina. He wrote: “... Virginia and South Carolina entered into a reciprocal agreement effective September 12. It is now reflected on the Virginia State Police web page.” [Editor’s note: Virginia already recognized a SC CWP for legal concealed carry in Virginia, so the new reciprocity agreement added nothing for SC

CWP holders.]

The following was posted on the VCDL website: “VCDL would like to thank Tom Lambert with the VSP, as well as Bill Rentiers with GrassRoots GunRights of South Carolina, for their help in getting this arrangement finalized.”

GrassRoots GunRights is committed to protecting the 2nd Amendment rights of all South Carolinians. No other organization in South Carolina is on the front lines, fighting for your gun rights like GrassRoots GunRights of SC.

Have you told a friend about GrassRoots lately?

REMEMBER!

Our success depends on YOU!

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My Karate is Weak



Yet I Am Safe

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HELLER continued from page 5

Justice Breyer proposed a brand new level of scrutiny, not just the familiar strict, intermediate or rational-basis levels (from highest to lowest). He invented a new low he calls “interest-balancing inquiry.” The Court calls it a “judge empowering... freestanding” approach wholly without merit or precedent and dismisses it completely as a worthless subterfuge. p62

The decision works hard in many ways to preclude further abuses, to establish the primacy of the fundamental rights in the Second Amendment, to foreclose future mischief against the rights protected, and to take certain policy choices off the table -- like banning handguns for self defense at home -- regardless of how bad criminals are or how they do their dirty work. Government has other tools to fight crime, and has to use those. p64

Critics and anti-rights advocates are almost gleeful at the Court’s acceptance of Mr. Heller’s request for registration and a license to carry his gun in his own home, as long as the terms aren’t arbitrary or capricious. Agreed this is a weak and unsavory intermediate step with potential for abuse, while on the way to greater freedom than D.C. currently has. It has a very dangerous potential for abuse that will be exploited. Antis will try to imply that registration and licensing are more than OK, they are the new standard. This is completely false:

-- It is not a national requirement, it’s a response to a specific request.
-- Heller’s request applies specifically to his case, at home, in D.C., to be acted upon by D.C. for its residents.

-- Because RKBA is now recognized as a “specific enumerated right” (a phrase you should start using), laws related to it will be subjected to stringent standards like those protecting freedom of speech, protection against double jeopardy or the right to counsel (among the most safeguarded rights we have).
-- Registration and a license to practice free speech would obviously never be permissible, so Mr. Heller’s request should hold little sway, if any, outside the context of his “prayer” (the Court’s word) for relief from the onerous disability he suffered as a D.C. resident. Anti-rights lawyers and legislators will try to argue otherwise, but the ammunition is piled high in the pro-rights arsenal. Our argument is compelling, do not yield. To wit again:

From the Counterintuitive Department: The antis are actually trumpeting our side -- People will want less restrictions! Gun bans

will fall! Gun-free-zones will come under legal attack! And we’re promoting their side for Pete’s sake -- More licensing and registration is coming! Assault weapon bans are around the corner! The Court has put another nail in the gun-rights coffin! Be careful about turning a win into a loss, and giving voice to what the other side wants. Don’t be a gloomsayer.

The biggest issue for me perhaps is the fact that, on June 25, the day before this decision, not knowing which way it would go, I had this right to keep and bear arms intact. I had it in my home, in my environs, on my steed. I cherished this right, exercised it every day with the keeping and from time to time with the bearing.

It is a right I consider mine, and my country’s, and a sign of my status as a free man. And I relish that it’s unique in the world -- that this country and no other had advanced this right for me, from well before my birth to the present day. I do not care to relinquish this long-held right of mine on some unknown tomorrow. And I cannot see a valid reason even if nine people sitting in a room thousands of miles away say I’ve been mistaken all this time, or never had it in the first place, or have to give it up for some reason they can imagine or concoct.

Certainly, the fact that criminals are doing their nefarious work is not cause or grounds for me to give up my human and civil rights (yet this is the essence of Breyer’s dissent).

“It is a cruel hoax to seek to persuade the American people that the Bill of Rights should be watered down in response to rising crime rates.” --Nicholas Katzenbach.

And I practically resent, even though I accept the nature of our system, that those nine people actually have the power to deny me the rights my countrymen and I have held since birth, and have held since the birth of this nation. Thank God we dodged this bullet and won. The consequences of a loss are too dire to contemplate.

THE DISSENT

A trial judge hears a prosecutor’s case and remarks, “You’re right.” But then the defense makes his case, and the judge says, “You’re right.” To which the bailiff says, “But your honor, they can’t both be right.” And the judge replies dryly, “You’re right too.”

As is so often the case when reading Supreme Court holdings, after absorbing and agreeing in large measure with the elegant treatise of the majority, the dissent reads well and holds

sway on its own grounds. This is true in Heller, and the dissent is quite compelling in spots, puts forth arguments not well rebutted by the majority, and makes its points as you would expect a team of top experts to do. You’re left to wonder, what if the minority of dissenters is actually the right decision? The opposition will do everything in their power to raise that specter of course, just as we would if the single vote went the other way.

The startling realization is that both sides don’t really know with absolute certainty which argument is correct. What did the Founders and the public during the period between the Revolution and the drafting of 2A really think about gun ownership, possession and use? Hint: Always choose freedom if such doubts arise.

Each side nips at the surviving documents, assembles the evidence their own way, sprinkles it with clever scholarly wiggle phrases like, “it seems certain that,” or “it’s unreasonable to assume otherwise,” and draws their summation. If you could poll the public in 1791 on the key questions, maybe you’d end up with a five-to-four split of opinion. The record does not inform the debate with crystalline clarity.

What is clear is that the nation has enjoyed private firearms ownership and use for all of its history, and for most of that time, objections have been few, peripheral, and have not abandoned those rights. In recent times, various government entities have encroached on those rights, in niggling or great ways, and we find ourselves today trying to decide if we should continue to exercise the rights we have always previously enjoyed.

Should we somehow justify the removal of the hundreds of millions of guns Americans presently own? (And do all those people have to get Fifth Amendment compensation for their taken property?) By a single vote in Heller, we decided no, not at this time. And those who have attempted such must reverse their course. They will do so grudgingly at best.

If Stevens’ dissent is actually the correct assessment (a point, like the majority’s holding, we must admit cannot be determined with absolute certainty), and 2A is all about the militia, then what of it? Are we no longer the militia armed and ready to serve?

The fact that we have not had to take up our arms and repel invaders, suppress an insurrection, execute our laws or resist tyranny from within, are we no longer the

impregnable force the founders expected us to be when the clarion moment arrived? In the grand scheme, if Stevens’ dissent controls, we would and should still retain our arms. It might be prudent to promote training with a militia purpose in mind, whatever that might look like.

As a practical matter, one facet of being an American is that you agree, implicitly, if the ship is sinking you will pick up a bucket and bail water. This loyalty is owed in principle to any nation with which you align, where you enjoy its fruits, and serve as a thread in its fabric -- but especially so here, where it is codified in statute (10 USC §311 et. seq.). You can abandon ship and run at the slightest wave, but this is without honor. This brings disgrace to you and your house. In this country at least, aside from principle, it’s the law. No part of the Heller results touch on this, but its no less true for the omission.

Breyer’s dissent cannot be reviewed so favorably, for he admits you “may” have this right, but it can be regulated into oblivion because criminals are bad, guns are dangerous, and government has or should have the power to deny your rights if it thinks a greater purpose is served. It is so off target it’s hard to address. His alliance with the principles that make American go are missing in action. He spends inordinate time invoking stats on how bad criminals are, since he holds that this justifies denial of your rights, and firmly believes that a gun ban will stop criminals and save lives (despite the evidence to the contrary, which he refutes ambitiously but poorly).

Detailed, step-by-step review of the decision, the dissents, and the events leading up to the case will form the heart of my next book, “The Heller Case: Supreme Court Gun Cases Volume 2.” Leading experts will contribute their view of where the Heller case will lead us, and suggest a course of action for using this landmark decision in defense of liberty.

Every gun case the Court has ever heard -- all 96 -- will be discussed, along with summaries of all 66 amicus briefs filed in the Heller case, and the full text of the case. Hundreds of juicy quotes from Heller will be highlighted for easy reading and navigation through the thick legal discussions.

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Concealed Carry for South Carolinians Travelling in Other States

by Paul Peters,
Firearms Instructor

South Carolina has concealed weapon permit (CWP) reciprocity with fourteen states: Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Missouri, North Carolina, Ohio, Tennessee, Texas, and Wyoming. Reciprocity with Florida and Kentucky are both effective as of Sept. 9, 2008. The passage of House Bill 3212 in 2008 by the SC General Assembly may further change the list of reciprocal states. (H. 3212 also seems to have changed SC’s definition of reciprocity.) “Reciprocity” means that two states have officially agreed to honor each other’s permit. However, a number of additional states will also honor your SC CWP, even though SC does not reciprocate. You may check the SLED website periodically to see which states SLED says are reciprocal states (www.sled.sc.gov/Reciprocity1.aspx?MenuID=CWP). You can extend further your ability to carry in still more states by getting non-resident permits from other states.

Some states will honor non-resident permits. Some will not. For example, Michigan will honor resident permits only. Michigan will honor resident permits from SC, but will not honor SC permits held by individuals who do not live in SC. Georgia will honor certain resident and non-resident permits but not others. Georgia will honor a non-resident permit

from New Hampshire but will not honor a resident permit from SC. The single, most useful and price-worthy non-resident permit for South Carolinians is the NH permit (\$20), which adds the adjacent state of Georgia and several other states.

I believe this information is up to date (as of Sept. 11, 2008). Be aware that the legal requirements for concealed carry and the list of prohibited places (places where a permittee cannot carry) vary from state to state. **Do**

not rely on the information in this article. Laws change. The information herein is unofficial. It is your responsibility to check official sources for the laws for each state in which you carry.

Two websites for unofficial CWP information for the various states are www.handgunlaw.us and <http://carryconcealed.net/index.php>. To get official information for each state, go to each state’s website. You will find some links to states’ websites at the two above websites. Concealed carry information for a number of states is on the attorney general’s website for each of those states.

States that will honor your resident SC CWP: Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Idaho, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Missouri, Montana, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Tennessee,

Colorado, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, New Hampshire, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Utah, Wyoming. You will have to wait until you receive your SC CWP before you can apply for your NH CWP. To apply for your NH CWP, make a copy of your SC CWP, complete the NH application, write a check for \$20, and send all three to the address on the application. Website to download a PDF version of a 2-page NH Non-Resident Pistol/Revolver License application: www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/nhsp/ssb/permitslicensing/plupr.html (NH Permits and Licensing Unit’s phone: 603-271-3575.)

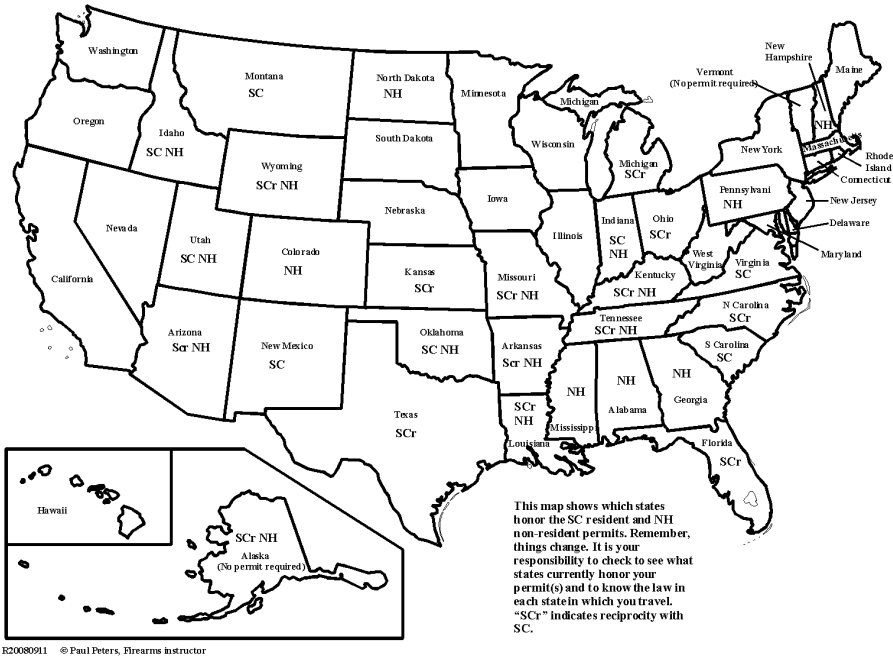
Summary: Twenty-one other states will honor your SC CWP (including Alaska). However, both Alaska and Vermont allow concealed or open carry without a permit. You can apply for a NH CWP for \$20. Seven additional states (including NH) will honor a NH non-resident CWP.

Result of getting SC and NH permits:

SC = Concealed carry in 23 states (21 other states honor the SC CWP, plus SC and Vermont)

SC + NH = 30 states (adds 7 states: Alabama, Colorado, Georgia, Mississippi, New Hampshire, North Dakota, and Pennsylvania)

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not rely on the information in this article. Laws change. The information herein is unofficial. It is your responsibility to check official sources for the laws for each state in which you carry.

States that honor a non-resident NH CWP: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas,

Texas, Utah, Virginia, Wyoming. (Vermont and Alaska do not require a permit, although SC and Alaska have reciprocity, and Alaska does issue permits, which enables Alaskan permittees to carry in SC and some other states.)

States that honor a non-resident NH CWP: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas,

GrassRoots Welcomes New Gun Show Coordinator

After four years volunteering as the GrassRoots gun show table coordinator for the Florence area, Dr. John Clarke decided it was time to step aside. GrassRoots wishes to express our heart-felt thanks to Dr. Clarke for his years of much appreciated help.

GrassRoots appointed long-time member Don Cody as the new coordinator for the Florence area. Don has volunteered at GrassRoots gun show tables in Florence and Columbia, often accompanied by his wife Rita. Don is an air force veteran, an avid shooter, a CWP holder, and an NRA Basic Pistol Instructor.

The next gun show in Florence is September 26 & 27, 2008. If you are a GrassRoots member living in Florence, or the surrounding area, please consider volunteering to help Don at the GrassRoots booth. GrassRoots gun show table volunteers get into the gun shows for free and they earn the coveted GrassRoots Activist lapel pin for their efforts.

Helping GrassRoots at gun shows is important work. GrassRoots volunteers distribute copies of The Defender, packed full of pertinent information about the gun rights issues and gun legislation happening in South Carolina. Volunteers also help sign up new members, renew current members, and have fun chatting with like-minded gun folks.

Even if you can’t help out by volunteering at the booth, be sure to stop by and say “hi” to Don Cody at the next Florence gun show!

Please use the many Firearms Instructors, FFL Dealers and General Merchants who are members of GrassRoots GunRights of SC when you have purchases to make during the coming year. It is very important that we in the Pro-Gun community stick together and conduct business with Pro-Gun establishments whenever and wherever possible.

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The Georgia Boogey Men

Lets be honest, the reason South Carolina has not passed a concealed weapon permit (CWP) recognition law - as H. 3212 was before it was gutted in the SC Senate - is because some people are being hoodwinked while other people are doing the hoodwinking.

The real fight is over whether SC should be a CWP recognition state or a CWP reciprocity state. Many people do not understand the difference between the two. The difference is important because CWP recognition is about freedom while CWP reciprocity is about gun control.

A SC CWP recognition law would mean SC would honor a CWP from another state without any need for the two states to first enter into a reciprocal agreement. A CWP recognition law would mean a CWP was treated just like your driver's license is treated when you travel in other states. Just as one does not need to get a driver's license from every state in which he travels, one would not need to get a CWP from every state he enters either. Just as there is no need to have SC and NC enter into a formal reciprocity agreement before a NC driver's license is honored in SC, there would be no need for a formal reciprocity agreement before a NC CWP would be honored in SC. The reason SC CWP holders can carry in as many states as they can is due largely to other states already having CWP recog-

nition laws. A CWP recognition law is a step towards freedom.

A SC CWP reciprocity law means SC and another state must enter into a formal agreement to honor each other's CWP before CWP holders can legally carry in the other state. The reason SC CWP holders can not carry in Georgia is because SC law refuses to allow CWP reciprocity with Georgia. A CWP reciprocity law is just another form of gun control.

The reason SC will not allow CWP reciprocity with Georgia is because Georgia does not require CWP "training" prior to issuing a CWP. SC law requires another state to mandate CWP "training" prior to allowing CWP reciprocity.

The best available research (see Dr. John Lott's book *More Guns, Less Crime*) proves mandatory "training" prior to issuing a CWP does NOT save any lives. In fact, such mandatory "training" has

been proven to actually cost lives. One would think the fact that mandatory CWP "training" actually costs lives should be enough to change the law in SC. But, some people are not as interested in the facts or saving lives as they are in maintaining control over others.

Georgia - since it shares a common border with SC - is the state most often cited as not requiring CWP "training" prior to issuing a CWP. Yes, it is fear of all those lunatics from Georgia who have a CWP and are just waiting to come to South Carolina and kill people that stops the politicians in South Carolina from being able to see the truth. Because SC politicians are afraid of CWP holders from Georgia, you and your family must travel unarmed and at greater risk whenever you travel out of SC.

So, what do the people who run the CWP program in Georgia have to say about their CWP program? GrassRoots wanted to hear from these people before Grass-

Roots started pushing for a CWP recognition law. Please read the letter from Judge Helen W. Harper. Judge Harper has been involved with Georgia CWP holders for 33 years. During that time, only 2 or 3 permits were revoked. The following words of Judge Harper are words of wisdom that South Carolina politicians should take to heart: "Good citizens that have been issued concealed weapons permits, regardless of what state they come from, or what formal training they've had, are basically good people and are not a problem no matter where they are." GrassRoots could not say it any better than that.

If you truly believe that the right to keep and bear arms is a right handed down by your Creator, and that such right is not to be infringed upon by government, then you too must support a CWP recognition law over a CWP reciprocity law. The life of a loved one could hang in the balance.

HELEN W. HARPER
Judge, Probate Court Laurens County
P. O. Box 2098, COURT SQUARE STATION
DUBLIN, GEORGIA 31040

PHONE 912-272-2566
FAX 912-277-2932

May 4, 2001

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group/scfirearms/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/scfirearms/)

Grass Roots of South Carolina
1730 Augusta Road
West Columbia, S. C. 29169

Att: Ed Kelleher

Dear Mr. Kelleher

I was President of the Probate Court Judges Council of Georgia last year. During this time, there never was an issue of problems with people having concealed weapons permits.

I have 33 years of experience in the Probate Court of Laurens County, Georgia. Before we issue a permit, we do a very careful review of criminal records. During my experience, the Court has been asked to revoke approximately 2 or 3 permits that were issued.

Good citizens that have been issued concealed weapons permits, regardless of what state they come from, or what formal training they've had, are basically good people and are not a problem no matter where they are.

Sincerely,



Judge Helen W. Harper

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

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 post-card. 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.

Are you a GrassRoots MEMBER?

You can join the GrassRoots Leadership discussion forum at:

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/grassroots_leadership/

Please use the many Firearms Instructors, FFL Dealers and General Merchants who are members of GrassRoots GunRights of SC when you have purchases to make during the coming year. It is very important that we in the Pro-Gun community stick together and conduct business with Pro-Gun establishments whenever and wherever possible.

Check out the GrassRoots website:

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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- Sept. 20-21, Dec. 20-21

Columbia Jamil Shrine Temple
2008- Nov. 15-16

Columbia SC State Fairgrounds
2008- Dec. 13-14

Florence Florence Civic Center
2008- Sept. 27-28

Charleston Exchange Park Fairgrounds, Ladson
2008- 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 GunShow Organizer (list below), a week or so prior to the show date and ask to help. You will probably be paired with an experienced show worker for one of the half – day shifts, and you can see how you like it. **When you're at one of these shows please tell the promoters "Thank You for giving GrassRoots a Table", so we can promote SC GunRights, and stop by our table to tell the volunteers thanks too.***

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: Don Cody (803) 803-499-2285
doncody77@yahoo.com

Columbia: Mike Walguarnery (803) 315-8112
CWPTrainer@sc.rr.com

GrassRoots GunRights Gun Show Director:
Mike Walguarnery (803) 315-8112 gunshows@scfirearms.org

Please do NOT call GrassRoots Gun Show Coordinators to ask about renting vendor table space at these gun shows. GrassRoots is not the show promoter for these gun shows. You should contact the show promoter directly if you want tables for the show.

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.