

The Concealed Carry Newsletter for Over 17,000 South Carolinians!  
**Grass Roots South Carolina**

P.O. Box 1181  
Sumter, South Carolina 29151  
Internet: www.scfirearms.org

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These Merchants have REMOVED their signs in response to the efforts of GRSC's educational program.

## ***"Welcome Back!"***

<i>Piggy Wiggly of Chesterfield</i>	<i>Systems Plus Computers</i>	<i>If It's Paper</i>
<i>Gloriosa Florists</i>	<i>Blythewood Feed and Hardware</i>	<i>Denny's Restaurants</i>
<i>Hiller Hardware</i>	<i>McDuffie's Home Furnishings</i>	<i>Burlington Coat Factory</i>
<i>Ace Parker Tires of Sumter</i>	<i>Lowes Hardware All Locations</i>	<i>Collins Jewelry</i>
<i>Hot Spot Convenience Store of Camden</i>	<i>Rush's Restaurants</i>	<i>Wal-Mart #2214 of Columbia</i>
<i>Office Max All Locations</i>	<i>Little Pigs Barbecue</i>	<i>Lee's Grocery</i>
<i>Special Effects Hair Salon</i>	<i>Thyme Out Exxon</i>	<i>Spann's Store</i>
	<i>Greenville Carmike Cinemas</i>	<i>Becknell Cleaners</i>
		<i>Camden Gas and Oil</i>

## **States' Differing Approaches to Carrying Concealed Weapons** by Jeffery A. Showell

Since 1987 there has been a remarkable increase in the number of states allowing ordinary citizens to carry concealed weapons via a permit system. These are aptly termed "shall issue" states, since these laws typically obligate the issuance of a permit within a certain number of days if the applicant is not disqualified by convictions for a felony or violent misdemeanor, adjudicated mental problems, drug use, or other narrow, objective criteria. Fingerprinting, a background check, verification of firearms training and proof of a rudimentary knowledge of applicable laws are usually part of the application process. A few states additionally require references. Denied applicants typically have the right of appeal to a commission or a court, with the burden of showing ineligibility falling on the issuing authority. Permits in these states are valid statewide, since the standards used for issuance are uniform statewide, though locations like schools, government offices and liquor serving establishments are commonly excluded. The permits issued by the various states vary in validity from 1 to 5 years, and in cost from \$6 to \$140. Several of these states also allow non-residents to apply for permits, or grant reciprocal rights to permittees from certain states.

Vermont is unique among American jurisdictions. The carrying of handguns, either openly or concealed, has never been regulated by

the state, although a few cities apparently do so. No permit of any kind is required of residents or non-residents.

The concealed carry laws of several other states are conveniently termed "discretionary." To differing extents, applicants have the burden of showing need for a permit. Standards vary widely not only between states, but also frequently internally where decisions are made locally, such as in California and Colorado. In other states where permits are administered centrally, standards seem to be more uniform, though usually stringent.

There have been and are currently various bills in both the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate that would either facilitate or mandate recognition by states of other states' CCW permits. These bills' eventual fate and constitutionality are unclear. In the following database, I have tried to make the included information as accurate as possible, but do not rely upon it! State laws can change quickly, and there is no substitute for consulting the proper law enforcement authorities and an attorney in your jurisdiction for complete and up to date information and laws. Fees listed generally do not include the cost of mandated training classes.

cont. see "States Differing Approaches" pg. 5

## Who We Are and Our Purpose

Modeled after similar organizations in other states, Grass Roots South Carolina is a project of **Mid-Carolina Rifle Club**. Our mission is to educate and promote acceptance of responsible firearms ownership within the State of South Carolina and to protect the rights of law abiding citizens who have chosen to obtain concealed weapons permits.

Our main effort is in educating merchants who post against concealed weapons. Our operating protocol is available upon request and explains how our organization works. Briefly, we initially contact merchants who have posted signs against concealed weapons and attempt to educate them. Afterwards, we hope that they will either remove their signs or post an alternative sign which we provide. If they do neither we distribute the name of the business to thousands of South Carolinians via gun clubs, hunt clubs, shooting sports associations, business supporters, wildlife groups, the Internet, and any other available means encouraging CWP holders and others to not shop where they are in jeopardy of violating the law.

We have had cards printed for those of you who want to report businesses that are posting signs against concealed carry permit holders. If you are interested in being a part of this effort and would like more information regarding this grass roots effort please contact us and we will place you on the supporter list. With your help we can succeed.

We currently meet the second Monday of each month at Joe's Crab Shack in Cayce, SC at 6:30 PM.

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### Fact:

The South Carolina Law Enforcement Agency is directed to coordinate with other states issues of concealed weapons permit reciprocity. As of April 9, 1998 S.L.E.D. has completed reciprocity agreements with: Arkansas, Utah, Wyoming, and Tennessee.

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## Announcing the Corporate Sponsorship of Logic South!



A story is in order here... Recently I was speaking to fellow gun owner and CWP supporter Greg Ferrante, owner of Logic South Internet Provider in Columbia, SC when he mentioned how impressed he was with the Grass Roots effort and the positive effect GRSC was having in the business community. Greg turned the conversation to Internet exposure and offered to sponsor GRSC's Internet exposure effort! "WoW!" was all we had to say when he offered to register our domain name and provide webspace for our organization at no expense to GRSC! So Update your bookmarks or visit us for the first time at our new home: [www.scfirearms.org](http://www.scfirearms.org) Also be sure to drop by Carolina Computer Systems - Logic South to support those who support you. Greg tells me they now offer Internet service to over 50 cities throughout the southeast. They have some great Internet service plans that will save you money (several GRSC committee members have already switched!) Call them at: 803-732-7757 and tell them GRSC sent you!

Greg has responded to our voiced appreciation of his sponsorship with the following comment, "Why shouldn't I support the efforts of CWP holders? I am a gun owner myself and a small businessman. CWP holders are exactly the type of customers I want - proven law abiding people who have demonstrated a lifetime of excellent citizenship."

### Our Current Wallet Card

#### Grass Roots South Carolina Wallet Card The Following Business Posts Against CWP:

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Owner/Manager Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Return to: GRSC, P.O. Box 1181, Sumter, SC 29151  
or Fax to: (803) 791-1981

Get Your Wallet Card by Sending in the back page of this newsletter. (pssst, Get some for your friends too!)

### Fact:

As of November 19, 1998 there are 17,735 licensed CWP holders in South Carolina!

### Congratulations!

### Thanks for the Support!

For over a year Grass Roots South Carolina has been supported solely by contributions from interested groups, clubs, businesses, and individuals like you. We have no dues, no fees, and no services or products to sell. We exist to serve the concealed weapon permit holder and merchants interested in obtaining more information regarding The Law Abiding Citizens Act of 1996. Please consider a donation to keep GRSC growing.

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### GRSC Wants You!

Our mission is to educate and promote acceptance of responsible firearms ownership within the State of South Carolina. We make change because we operate at a personal level with affiliated clubs, merchants, and supporters.

We welcome input from anyone within the State of South Carolina. In fact, unlike big organizations or politicians, we are seeking your input and your help! Currently we are looking for people throughout the state who can help us increase our contact and information flow to various like-minded clubs, organizations, and groups. If you belong to such a club consider acting as a liaison between GRSC and your club.

Write, E-mail, or Fax us and let us know how you'd like to help. There is no need to attend one of our meetings to actively participate, however if you'd like we typically meet once a month on the second Monday at 6:30pm at Joe's Crab Shack in Cayce, SC

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GRSC Internet Site:  
[www.scfirearms.org](http://www.scfirearms.org)

## GRSC Letters from the Editor's Desk

### You Are the Key!

by Ralph Baker

Are you the bashful type? Don't like to speak to strangers? Want to make your Carry Permit more useful? If you answered "yes: to any of the above, then read on. As you know, some of the merchants in South Carolina are telling you they don't want you and your personal protection device in their store. That, of course, is their right. My experience is that in many cases they do not have an understanding of the issue and have been influenced by others (including business groups) who, themselves, do not have a complete understanding.

You are the key to providing the facts to your local merchants who have posted. Armed (pun intended) with the facts any reluctance to speak to management of those establishments will vanish. After all you are their bread and butter. Without enough paying customers they cease to exist. These are the same merchants who spend vast advertising dollars to get you into their stores so why not have a word with them while you are there. If they don't want to acknowledge the facts and remove the postings there is always a competitor who will welcome your business.

So..... how do you proceed?

Look at it from the merchants point of view. Their concerns are generally sales, profits, and avoiding business risks. You must address these issues. They will be convinced by these facts that it is in their interest to remove their sign prohibiting concealed carry.

Be sure you are speaking to an owner or manager who can make the decision to take the posting sign down. Anyone else will not have the necessary business understanding.

1) No one is as effective as an existing customer. At the least, you must be from the area. An outsider is a lobbyist. You are a customer. Big difference! Call on the stores you shop at, want to shop at, or used to shop at before they were posted.

2) Be courteous. The facts are on our side but even so, others have the right to

disagree just as you have the right to shop elsewhere.

3) Have the facts. Here they are:

a) **The CCW law specifically provides that a store which does not post does not increase its' liability as a result of not posting.** Most stores are not aware of this. In fact, they probably incur additional liability for your safety if they do post as they have removed your ability to protect yourself and thereby assumed that responsibility. That increased liability would begin in their parking lot.

b) **Permit holders are the ONLY class of customers who have been verified by SLED and the FBI as honest citizens.** They have already proven they are law abiding. They are so law abiding they won't break the trespass law by entering posted businesses.

c) **Permit holders have disposable incomes well above the average.** While certainly not intended, the cost of required training and the firearms makes this a fact. Merchants in general want customers with money to spend, not window shoppers. Why would they "rule out" the very customers they have spent vast sums to attract through advertising?

c) **Permit holders are level headed and act appropriately.** Florida has the longest history and never, to our knowledge, has a permit holder intervened inappropriately or injured a bystander. South Carolina has almost 18,000 permit holders with an additional 1300 each month. If they were irresponsible it would be headline news!

d) **Posted signs create a "free fire zone" for the criminal.** These are by definition people who do not obey the law. They are already violating far more serious laws than carrying weapons where they shouldn't. Do you honestly believe that an illegally armed person will not enter a store because of a posted sign?

e) **Stores such as Walmart and Lowes have removed their signs.** They have extensive legal departments and must have studied the risks and rewards and concluded we are valued customers. Why shouldn't smaller stores follow their lead in this area?

Be sure to present the facts and ask for the removal of posted signs so you can once again begin to do business there. If you are

not successful shop elsewhere. It's that simple. And remember, if a merchant removes a sign, be sure to thank them for allowing you to bring your business back to his/her store.

### To BB&T by Ralph Baker

Dear Mr. Barkley:

Last week my wife and I stopped in the BB&T office on Main Street in Sumter and noticed that it is posted against firearms. I am retired and making an evaluation of banking services. We are also shopping for a mortgage as well. The staff were courteous and told me they would have a BB&T person who could discuss this issue call me. That has not happened.

Why in the world would you want to keep out the only customer class you have who have been SLED and FBI "inspected" and certified as honest citizens. Our family income is well above average and it would seem we are the customer you spend considerable advertising dollars to attract.

Neither of us shop where we are not wanted. Willie Sutton was once asked why he robbed banks. His reply was "That's where the money is". Well, I for one will not do bank business where I must leave my firearm in my car. This exposes the gun to theft, and leaves me vulnerable to, from, and in the bank. The South Carolina law specifically exempts merchants from liability if not posted. Why would you want to accept the additional liability of posting and thereby accept responsibility for my safety.

There are banks in the Sumter area which are not posted and they will be the ones I consider until your policy changes. Until that point please don't tell me "We want your business", your sign says otherwise.

I would like to discuss this with you at your convenience. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
Ralph Baker

# GRSC Featured Shooting Clubs and Organizations

## A Place to Shoot!

### Mid-Carolina Rifle Club South Congaree, SC [www.scfirearms.org/mcrc](http://www.scfirearms.org/mcrc) 803-796-1009

Are you looking for a place to shoot? South Carolina's The Mid Carolina Rifle Club (MCRC) has an outdoor shooting range located about 2 miles south of the towns of South Congaree and Pineridge. Facilities include a 100 yard rifle range with covered shooting benches. A 50 yard Bullseye pistol range, and several other general purpose shooting bays for rifle, pistol and shotgun.

Membership dues are \$100 for a yearly, family, membership, or \$50 for a half year. A student rate of \$50 per year is also available. The range is open during daylight hours all year long. Members get the combination to the gate lock.

MCRC is a typical, average sized, marksmanship club with about 250 regular members. Club dues pay for range upkeep and improvements, newsletter publication, insurance (\$2,000,000 general liability through the NRA), and supplies for the JUNIOR's and other shooting programs. Membership in a national gun organization such as the NRA, GOA, or JFPO is required of all members.

MCRC is a 501c7 Federal Corporation. It was founded over 20 years ago by Clayton Tapp ( Tapp's Department stores) and John Thompson (Thompson's Funeral Home). MCRC does NOT discriminate by Sex, Race, Religion, Sexual preference, or Political party. If you're a safe shooter, you are welcome to be a member.

Visitors are welcome to our meetings and matches. MCRC meets the second Monday of each month, at 7:30 PM at Joe's Crab Shack with 30-50 people in attendance to report on club activities, transact business, and induct new members. The minutes of each meeting are compiled by our Secretary, published in a newsletter and mailed to all members. Show up a little early (6:30PM) and have something to eat or drink with us.

The mission of MCRC, according to our bylaws, is to promote the shooting sports.

We do this by:

- 1) Providing a safe, convenient shooting range.
- 2) Having an active, involved membership that meets regularly to help new shooters.
- 3) Hosting regular MONTHLY, PUBLIC shooting matches in a variety of disciplines.
- 4) Supporting local community shooting activities.

Our monthly matches are all sanctioned by national shooting organizations and include:

- 1) NRA High power Rifle shooting match (2nd Sunday each month)
- 2) USPSA Practical Pistol shooting match (2nd Saturday each month)
- 3) NRA Bullseye Pistol shooting match (3rd Saturday each month)
- 4) SASS Cowboy Action Shooting match (1st Saturday each month)
- 5) NRA Steel Silhouette shooting match (3rd Sunday each month)
- 6) IDPA International Defensive Pistol match (1st Sunday each month)

Matches are open to the public and start around 9AM. It's a good time to go see the range. Hearing and Eye protection is REQUIRED and is available from the Match Director. We usually have from 10-60 people from all over the state, Georgia, and North Carolina, participating in each match.

We support numerous local groups that from time to time need a safe, outdoor place to shoot:

Midlands Technical College uses our range to hold training classes for Concealed Weapons Permit applicants.

FN Manufacturing, a large Columbia area employer, uses our range on occasion for publicity purposes.

The University of South Carolina Naval ROTC Pistol Team uses our range.

The Lexington High School Jr. ROTC has an active Junior Shooter program that we sponsor.

The Town of South Congaree holds an annual fund raising RODEO, and has used our range for some of their activities.

The VC Sumner Nuclear Plant Security Team has used our range for training.

The Town of Forest Acres uses our range for annual officer qualifications.

At the start of hunting season, we make special provision for hunters to come and SAFELY check their rifles.

MCRC also has numerous law enforcement and military members from the following agencies: SC State and National Guards, US Army, Lexington and Richland County Sheriff's Departments, Columbia, Forest Acres, and West Columbia Police Departments, SLED and South Carolina Highway Patrol, and the US Treasury Department.

Visit the range on one of our match days listed above, or attend one of our meetings!

For more Information, please call Regena Bruner, VP at 803-796-9911 or Ed Kelleher, President at 803-796-8858.

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## Are You An Instructor?

### South Carolina Concealed Weapons Permit Instructors Association

South Carolina's Statewide  
Association of Concealed Weapons Instructors  
[www.scfirearms.org/sccwpia](http://www.scfirearms.org/sccwpia)

Beginning this month GRSC proudly hosts the newsletter pages of the South Carolina Concealed Weapons Instructor's Association. By joining the communication efforts of our two organizations we hope to improve information delivery to both the CWP holder as well as instructors.

If you are an instructor and not yet a member of SCCWPIA consider joining this group of individuals dedicated to improving CWP instruction in South Carolina.

Members of the South Carolina Permit Instructors Association have demonstrated dedication to seeing that the quality of firearms instruction in South Carolina exceeds that required by current state law. All SCCWPIA Instructors are NRA and S.L.E.D. certified to teach firearms instruction. Furthermore, members of SCCWPIA have organized to provide ongoing improvement in firearms training in South Carolina.

For More Information contact Lon Currey at 803-731-0230 or fax 803-798-7444.

## States' Differing Approaches (cont from Pg. 1)

STATE	DURATION	COST	VALID STATEWIDE	NON-RESIDENT PERMITS OR RECOGNITION	CONTACT AGENCY
<b>UNREGULATED (1)</b>					
Vermont	na	na	na	na	na
<b>SHALL ISSUE (29)</b>					
Alaska	5	<99	yes	yes	Dept. of Public Safety
Arizona	4	50	yes	yes	Dept. of Public Safety
Arkansas	4	100	yes	yes	State Police
Connecticut	5	70	yes	yes	State Police
Florida	5	123	yes	yes	Dept. of State
Georgia	5	40	yes	yes	Judge of Probate Court
Idaho	4	56	yes	yes	Sheriff
Indiana	4	25	yes	yes	Chief of Police in towns, Sheriff elsewhere
Kentucky	3	60	yes	yes	Sheriff takes the application, State Police issue the permit
Louisiana	4	100	yes	yes	Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections
Maine	4	35	yes	yes	Chief of Police in towns, State Police else.
Mississippi	4	100	yes	no	Dept. of Public Safety
Montana	4	50	yes	no	Sheriff
Nevada	5	99	yes	no	Sheriff
New Hampshire	4	10	yes	yes	Chief of Police
North Carolina	4	105	yes	no	Sheriff
North Dakota	3	60	yes	yes	Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Oklahoma	4	135	yes	yes	State Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Oregon	4	65	yes	yes	Sheriff
Pennsylvania	5	19	yes	yes	Chief of Police in large cities, Sheriff else.
South Carolina	4	50	yes	yes	State Law Enforcement Division
South Dakota	4	6	yes	no	Chief of Police in towns, Sheriff elsewhere
Tennessee	4	100	yes	yes	Department of Public Safety
Texas	4	140	yes	yes	Dept of Public Safety
Utah	5	59	yes	yes	Dept. of Public Safety
Virginia	5	50	yes	yes	Clerk of Circuit court
Washington	5	60	yes	yes	Judge, Chief of Police or Sheriff
West Virginia	5	75	yes	yes	Sheriff
Wyoming	5	50	yes	yes	Attorney General
<b>DISCRETION (13)</b>					
Alabama	1	15-25	yes	no	Sheriff
California	1	28	yes	no	Sheriff, Chief of Police
Colorado	varies	10-100	yes	no	Sheriff, Chief of Police
Delaware	2	35	?	no	Protnotary of the Superior Court
Hawaii	1	10	no	?	Chief of Police
Iowa	1	10	yes	yes	Sheriff
Maryland	2	117	yes	yes	Superintendant of State Police
Massachusetts	5	20	yes	yes	Chief of Police
Michigan	3	39	yes	yes	Concealed Weapons Licensure Board
Minnesota	1	free	yes	yes	Police or Sheriff
New Jersey	2	20	?	yes	Superior Court
New York	indef	45	no	no	Sheriff
Rhode Island	4	40	yes	yes	State Attorney General

# States' Differing Approaches to Carrying Concealed Weapons

by Jeffery A. Showell

States PROHIBITING CWP: District of Columbia, Illinois, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, Ohio, Wisconsin.

## NOTES:

AK: Apparently recognizes permits from AZ, AR, CT, FL, LA, ME, NV, NJ, NC, ND, OK, OR, SC, TN, TX, UT and WY.

AR: Apparently recognizes permits from SC, TX, TN, OK and UT.

AZ: Has recently enacted a reciprocity provision. It has not yet determined which states' permits will be recognized.

CT: Applicants must first obtain a permit in a town. Non-residents can, in theory, apply in any town.

ID: Out-of-state permits honored

GA: Permits from ID, MI, NH, TN and TX are recognized, as long as the holder is not a resident of GA.

IN: Out-of-state permits are honored if held by non-residents

KY: A recently passed modification of the law apparently means that all out-of-state permits will be honored.

LA: Has the authority to enter into reciprocity agreements with other states. Apparently recognizes permits from TN and TX.

ME: Issuing authority for non-residents is the State Police. Cost is \$60

MI: Will apparently recognize an out-of-state permit, if the holder is NOT a resident of Michigan.

MS: Will recognize the permit of any state which recognizes its permit. So far this is apparently TN and WY.

ND: Will apparently recognize NH and WY permits. Will issue to non-residents if the firearms training is taken in ND

NH: Issuing authority for non-residents is the State Police. Cost is \$20. Will apparently recognize permits issued by states which recognize its permit.

NM: Apparently, is it legal to carry an unloaded weapon concealed, even with the ammunition nearby.

NY: Permits issued elsewhere in state not valid in NYC

OK: Recognizes permits from AR, TX, UT, NV and WY if the weapon is carried fully concealed.

OR: Will apparently issue to residents of neighboring states with demonstrated need. Can recognize out-of-state permits if the Attorney General declares the permits to be "equivalent." None has yet been so declared.

## Teaching the Kids

by John Boch, Certified Firearms Instructor

America has more guns than ever before yet crime is down. Murder rates, for instance, are at a thirty year low. Guns, therefore are not the problem; the criminals are the problem. We need to lock up juvenile offenders - rehabilitation doesn't work.

School gun bans have ironically made schools safe for those who are intent on doing harm to our children - schools are one of the few places you can go in America, and be assured that no one is legally armed. Teaching kids to be responsible about gun safety is the key. Studies have shown that young people who legally own and use guns are MUCH less likely to be involved in criminal activity than are other teens.

Kids in schools, boys and girl's clubs, and elsewhere need to be taught the Eddie Eagle Gun Safety message: Stop; Don't Touch; Leave the Area; Tell an Adult. If they are taught this, not only does it make them safer, it increases the likelihood that they will tell an adult when Johnny brings a gun to school.

PA: Many sheriffs unaware that they can issue to non-residents. Two of the few jurisdictions which will issue to out-of-staters without hassles are apparently Montgomery and Wyoming Counties. There is a provision for reciprocity with other states, if the Attorney General decides it.

SC: Recognizes permits from AR, WY, UT, and TN. South Carolina CWP holders may legally carry in AK, AR, ID, IN, KY, MI, WY, OK, and UT.

TN: Permits from AR, AZ, GA, KY, MS, OK, VA and WV are apparently recognized.

TX: Permits from other states can be recognized if the DPS decides that the required training is equivalent. Apparently, AR, LA and OK have been recognized. Also, residents from the states which do NOT issue permits apparently may apply for special permits valid in TX.

UT: Apparently recognizes permits from AK, AZ, HI, LA, NC, NV, SC, TN and OK.

VA: Has the statutory authority for reciprocity with states with similar standards. Apparently, just TN's permit has qualified.

VT: Apparently, a few cities have some restrictions, though these were apparently recently struck down in state court as unconstitutional.

WV: The Governor has statutory authority to enter into reciprocity agreements, but has not made any.

WY: Will recognize out-of-state permits issued by a "state agency."

(Editor's Note) In order to assist GRSC Members in determining which states recognize their permits, GRSC has created this guide. This guide is not to be considered as legal advice or a restatement of the law. It is important to remember that state carry laws vary considerably. Be sure to check with local authorities outside your home state for a complete listing of restrictions on carrying concealed in that state. Many states restrict carrying in bars, restaurants (where alcohol is served), establishments where packaged alcohol is sold, schools, colleges, universities, churches, parks, sporting events, correctional facilities, courthouses, federal and state government offices/buildings, banks, airport terminals, police stations, polling places, any posted private property restricting the carrying of concealed firearms, etc. In addition to state restrictions, federal law prohibits carrying on military bases, in national parks and the sterile area of airports. National Forests usually follow laws of the state wherein the forest is located.



# South Carolina Concealed Weapons Permit Instructor's Association

## Minimum Standards

by Lon Currey

At the last SCCWPIA meeting Captain Joe Dorton of SLED told us about an instructor in the state who was shorting his students on training. This instructor was conducting concealed weapon permit classes in two to four hours. We all KNOW THE MINIMUM REQUIRED TIME FOR ALL SUCH CLASSES IS EIGHT HOURS. Captain Dorton made it very clear that such short changing the students was not going to be tolerated. In fact he indicated SLED would in every such instance attempt to prosecute the instructor(s) involved.

Ladies and Gentlemen, who was this instructor cheating? He may have thought he was being a "nice guy" by not keeping people out all day for this activity. In fact he was taking their money under false pretenses. He was defrauding every student he taught. He was not giving them full value for their money ... even if they weren't paying him. He was cheating them of the opportunity to learn all they could about a really serious topic. That is, the application of deadly force.

What about the public? When an instructor is training large groups of people to carry concealed weapons and that instructor is short cutting the training, what impact does that have on the public and their safety? If the students have not been taught all of the aspects of legal, and safety, and home storage, and the duty to retreat it places the public at risk. That untrained person constitutes a clear and present danger when carrying a concealed weapon.

Instructors who do not give full value and do not obey the letter of the law are not just cheating their students. They are cheating us as well. If one instructor can cut corners then the public perception may be that all instructors can and should cut corners. And when we don't they will be upset with us. They will shop around for an instructor hoping to find one that will cut corners. I know that very often, if we have a smaller than average class we may be hard pressed to use up a full eight hours. If we have a larger range, and don't have to shoot in orders it may take a little less time. No one is going to be standing in the back of your class with a stop watch to make absolutely

certain that you don't release a student in seven hours and fifty five minutes. But ... are you giving your trainees "full value"?

Those of you who belong to the South Carolina Concealed Weapon Instructor Association have taken a vow to maintain a professional standard of training. Professionals do not take short cuts. Professionals do not cheat their customers, and their neighbors. Professionals take pride in their every accomplishment and do their utmost to ensure they turn out the safest, best trained concealed weapon carriers possible.

## Refresher Training For CWP Holders: Pro's and Con's

by Lon Currey

The need for ongoing training/qualification for CWP holders is a touchy subject. Many members of our association are dead set against it. Why? Because it interferes with the freedom to carry we were given by the second amendment. Because if the state were to pass a law or regulation requiring periodic retraining or recertification we would be the ONLY state with such requirements, making reciprocity with other states very difficult to achieve. Are those valid reasons for not pushing for such a requirement? I don't know.

The South Carolina Legislature, in 1996 passed the Law Abiding Citizens Self Defense Act. This law enables every South Carolina citizen, who is free of criminal convictions, to carry a concealed weapon upon the completion of a minimum eight hour block of instruction by a certified instructor. I think this is good!

If we can believe the statistics published by the FBI and other independent studies, private citizens shoot three times more criminal perpetrators each year than law enforcement officers, (800 by the police to 2000 by private citizens). Citizens who use guns are said to have used those guns in self defense or defense of others up to 2.5 million times per year. (The U. S. Department of Justice survey, 1997). This means that in less than one percent of the use was the gun actually fired. That makes

a very strong argument for the case of citizens right to carry.

When the new concealed carry law was passed it was determined that concealed carry permit holders would be required to submit a check for fifty dollars and three new photographs each four years to maintain their concealed carry status. There are no other proficiency requirements after the initial training. Once trained, permit holders would be permitted virtually forever without need to update their legal education nor refresh their proficiency skills. Law enforcement officers of nearly every agency, on the other hand, are required to prove their proficiency with their firearms at least annually, and many of them as often as monthly. It would seem to me that if John Q. Citizen is shooting bad guys as much as three times more than the police would it not make sense to at least require the citizen weapon carrier to retrain and prove their proficiency with a firearm at least every three to four years?

At the present time there is no requirement that fresh fingerprints or background checks be done on permit holders. The assumption seems to be that once a person is granted a permit to carry they are never again going to need the clearance procedures used during the initial application process. Any one with any degree of common sense realizes that is not the case. We all know the purpose of the law is to allow as many "Law Abiding Citizens" as possible to carry. It puts a lot more protection out there on the street for everyone ... but let's not lose sight of the danger people long out of training pose to others when carrying a firearm concealed. We must remember, every case heard in a court of law has the potential to change the laws. Should our citizens not be informed of those changes?

If we truly wish to give our citizens the protection they deserve we will push for training standards that provide the latest training in both the law and changes in firearms equipment and techniques at least every three years.

I started this article off the con's. Here then are the pro's: Tri-annual retraining

(continued next page)

## South Carolina Concealed Weapons Permit Instructor's Association

would benefit the carrier by updating their skills and knowledge making them more comfortable and secure in their safety and abilities. It would benefit the public by placing more concerned citizens on the street with the knowledge and ability to protect themselves and others safely. It would benefit law enforcement through the better trained backup potential they have every time they get into a situation they can't handle alone, and lastly it would benefit us, the instructors through the increase in classes to be conducted throughout the life time of every concealed weapon permit holder.

### THOUGHTS OF A CONCERNED CITIZEN

by Lon Currey

I was at the computer today thinking about the 2nd amendment and just what it means. My concerns were related primarily to the specific language that our fore fathers used in declaring our rights. In the wording "THE RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE TO KEEP AND BEAR ARMS SHALL NOT BE INFRINGED." broken into it's simplest language is as follows; The term "THE RIGHT" is defined as "That to which one is legally or morally entitled". The term "THE PEOPLE" has been defined and redefined over the years by every court in the land to mean ALL of the citizens of this great nation, without regard to sex, color, race, or religion. The term "BEAR" is defined by the new Websters to mean "to carry". "ARMS" in every available definition means a "WEAPON" (without restriction). "SHALL NOT BE" is the strongest available language of that day and time meaning most emphatically is not to be done. "INFRINGED" The Webster definition, again, is to encroach, or violate, but even more important are the words Webster's relate that can be used to replace infringe, like trespass, encroach, invade, violate, breach, break, contravene, infract, offend, and transgress.

I recently read an article; written by, of all people a politician, who stated that any compromise of any amendment to the U. S. Constitution was in fact not a compromise at all but in fact complete capitulation of a right and or a freedom expressly granted by the founders of this great nation. I agree

whole heartedly with the man who wrote those heroic sentiments. My question, then, is who gave Sarah Brady and her unenlightened crew the right to challenge our fore-fathers? They did. While I not only do not agree with her, I have learned over time she is not to be believed. I MUST defend to the death her right to challenge the second amendment.

Having said that, I must also say, the people we elect to office to represent us in government are paid specifically to protect our rights as declared in the constitution. The people we pay DO NOT HAVE THE RIGHT TO DENY US WHAT OUR FOREFATHERS DIED FOR!!! I fail to see why so many politicians can not understand this. Exactly what part of the United States Constitution do they NOT understand?

### GRSC Humor:

This is off-topic for GRSC, but I suppose since felons are mentioned in it, and since sometimes seems the Federal government is trying to turn gun owners into felons, it might be of interest.

#### Is Bread a health hazard?

A recent Cincinnati Enquirer headline read, "Smell of baked bread may be health hazard." The article went on to describe the dangers of the smell of baking bread. The main danger, apparently, is that the organic components of this aroma may break down ozone (I'm not making this stuff up).

I was horrified. When are we going to do something about bread-induced global warming? Sure, we attack tobacco companies, but when is the government going to go after Big Bread?

Well, I've done a little research, and what I've discovered should make anyone think twice...

- 1: More than 98 percent of convicted felons are bread eaters.
- 2: Fully HALF of all children who grow up in bread-consuming households score below average on standardized tests.
- 3: In the 18th century, when virtually all bread was baked in the home, the average life expectancy was less than 50 years; infant mortality rates were unacceptably high; many women died in childbirth; and

diseases such as typhoid, yellow fever and influenza ravaged whole nations.

4: More than 90 percent of violent crimes are committed within 24 hours of eating bread.

5: Bread is made from a substance called "dough." It has been proven that as little as one pound of dough can be used to suffocate a mouse. The average American eats more bread than that in one month!

6: Primitive tribal societies that have no bread exhibit a low occurrence of cancer, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's disease and osteoporosis.

7: Bread has been proven to be addictive. Subjects deprived of bread and given only water to eat begged for bread after only two days.

8: Bread is often a "gateway" food item, leading the user to "harder" items such as butter, jelly, peanut butter and even cold cuts.

9: Bread has been proven to absorb water. Since the human body is more than 90 percent water, it follows that eating bread could lead to your body being taken over by this absorptive food product, turning you into a soggy, gooey bread-pudding person.

10: Newborn babies can choke on bread.

11: Bread is baked at temperatures as high as 400 degrees Fahrenheit! That kind of heat can kill an adult in less than one minute.

12: Most American bread eaters are utterly unable to distinguish between significant scientific fact and meaningless statistical babbling.

In light of these frightening statistics, we propose the following bread restrictions:

- 1: No sale of bread to minors.
  - 2: No advertising of bread within 1000 feet of a school.
  - 3: A 300 percent federal tax on all bread to pay for all the societal ills we might associate with bread.
  - 4: No animal or human images, nor any primary colors (which may appeal to children) may be used to promote bread usage.
  - 5: A \$4.2 zillion fine on the three biggest bread manufacturers.
- Please send this on to everyone you know who cares about this crucial issue.

Remember: Think globally, act idiotically.



# Politics and Guns

## WHY GUNS?

by L. Neil Smith

Over the past 30 years, I've been paid to write almost two million words, every one of which, sooner or later, came back to the issue of guns and gun-ownership. Naturally, I've thought about the issue a lot, and it has always determined the way I vote.

People accuse me of being a single-issue writer, a single-issue thinker, and a single-issue voter, but it isn't true. What I've chosen, in a world where there's never enough time and energy, is to focus on the one political issue which most clearly and unmistakably demonstrates what any politician -- or political philosophy -- is made of, right down to the creamy liquid center.

Make no mistake: all politicians -- even those ostensibly on the side of guns and gun ownership -- hate the issue and anyone, like me, who insists on bringing it up. They hate it because it's an X-ray machine. It's a Vulcan mind-meld. It's the ultimate test to which any politician -- or political philosophy -- can be put.

If a politician isn't perfectly comfortable with the idea of his average constituent, any man, woman, or responsible child, walking into a hardware store and paying cash -- for any rifle, shotgun, handgun, machinegun, anything -- without producing ID or signing one scrap of paper, he isn't your friend no matter what he tells you.

If he isn't genuinely enthusiastic about his average constituent stuffing that weapon into a purse or pocket or tucking it under a coat and walking home without asking anybody's permission, he's a four-flusher, no matter what he claims.

What his attitude -- toward your ownership and use of weapons -- conveys is his real attitude about you. And if he doesn't trust you, then why in the name of John Moses Browning should you trust him?

If he doesn't want you to have the means of defending your life, do you want him in a position to control it?

If he makes excuses about obeying a law he's sworn to uphold and defend -- the highest law of the land, the Bill of Rights -- do you want to entrust him with anything?

If he ignores you, sneers at you, complains about you, or defames you, if he calls you names only he thinks are evil -- like "Constitutionalist" -- when you insist that he account for himself, hasn't he betrayed his oath, isn't he unfit to hold office, and doesn't he really belong in jail?

Sure, these are all leading questions. They're the questions that led me to the issue of guns and gun ownership as the clearest and most unmistakable demonstration of what any given politician -- or political philosophy -- is really made of.

He may lecture you about the dangerous weirdos out there who shouldn't have a gun -- but what does that have to do with you? Why in the name of John Moses Browning should you be made to suffer for the misdeeds of others? Didn't you lay aside the infantile notion of group punishment when you left public school -- or the military? Isn't it an essentially European notion, anyway -- Prussian, maybe -- and certainly not what America was supposed to be all about?

And if there are dangerous weirdos out there, does it make sense to deprive you of the means of protecting yourself from them? Forget about those other people, those dangerous weirdos, this is about you, and it has been, all along.

Try it yourself: if a politician won't trust you, why should you trust him? If he's a man -- and you're not -- what does his lack of trust tell you about his real attitude toward women? If "he" happens to be a woman, what makes her so perverse that she's eager to render her fellow women helpless on the mean and seedy streets her policies helped create? Should you believe her when she says she wants to help you by imposing some infantile group health care program on you at the point of the kind of gun she doesn't want you to have?

On the other hand -- or the other party -- should you believe anything politicians say who claim they stand for freedom, but drag their feet and make excuses about repealing limits on your right to own and

carry weapons? What does this tell you about their real motives for ignoring voters and ramming through one infantile group trade agreement after another with other countries?

Makes voting simpler, doesn't it? You don't have to study every issue -- health care, international trade -- all you have to do is use this X-ray machine, this Vulcan mind-meld, to get beyond their empty words and find out how politicians really feel. About you. And that, of course, is why they hate it.

And that's why I'm accused of being a single-issue writer, thinker, and voter.

But it isn't true, is it?

L. Neil Smith is the award-winning author of Bretta Martyn, The Probability Broach, The Crystal Empire, Henry Martyn, The Lando Calrissian Adventures, and Pallas. He is also an NRA Life Member and founder of the Libertarian Second Amendment Caucus.



## GUN ACCIDENTS AT ALL-TIME LOW

For the third consecutive year, fatal gun accidents again hit an all-time low in 1996, totaling 1,134 nationwide, according to the National Center for Health Statistics. This translates into a per capita fatal firearm accident rate of 0.4 per 100,000 for the first time ever.

Among children (ages 0-14), the 1996 number of fatal firearm accidents nationwide was 138, also an all-time low and a 24% decrease from 1995. Since 1975, such accidents have decreased about 5%.

# These Merchants Don't Want CWP Permit Holders To Carry Firearms In Their Stores

## LIST 11/98 COPY & DISTRIBUTE

### Statewide:

**Security Finance, All Locations**  
**Klig's Kites, All Locations**

### Midlands:

**CVI - Cablevision Industries**, Ms. Mary Barnes, General Manager, 1125 B Avenue,  
West Columbia, SC 29169-6772  
**First Citizens Banks**, All Midlands Locations  
**Hardee's Restaurants**, Some Midlands Locations  
**Kroger's Sav-On Food Stores**, 7467 Woodrow St., Irmo, SC 29063, 803-732-0423  
**SMI Steel**, Mr. Avery Hilton, VP of Operations, 310 New State Rd., Cayce, SC 29033  
**Taco Bell Restaurants**, All Midlands Locations, Mexican Restaurant Ventures, P.O.  
Box 24709, Columbia, SC 29224  
**The Factory Outlets**, Mr. Keith Mink, Corporate Manager, Corporate Headquarters,  
5244 Festival Trail Rd., Salley, SC 29137, 803-258-3426  
**Wendy's Restaurant**, 1410 Lake Murray Blvd., Irmo, SC 29063, 803-732-9999

### Columbia:

**Thomas & Howard Co.**, Mr. John White, President, 209 Flintlake Road, Columbia  
**South Carolina Merchants Association**, 1735 St. Julians Pl., Columbia, SC  
**Eckerd Drug #2744**, Two Notch & Polo Rd., Columbia, SC 29223  
**St. Andrews Multi-Cinemas**, 527 St. Andrews Rd., Columbia, SC  
**Hancock Motor Company**, Mr. Bill Hancock, Owner, 3905 West Beltline Blvd,  
Columbia, SC 29250, 803-252-7271  
**Bojangles**, 542 St. Andrews Rd., Columbia, SC 29210, 803 772-7720  
**Custom Pizza Company**, Quail Valley Plaza, 6801-3 St. Andrews Rd., Columbia, SC  
**Hair We Are**, 9810 Two Notch Rd., Columbia, SC 29223  
**Fashion Florists**, 9810 Two Notch Rd., Columbia, SC 29223  
**Ed's Paint Center, Inc.**, 9810 Two Notch Rd., Columbia, SC 29223  
**Exxon / Blimbie's of St. Andrews**, 800 St. Andrews Rd., Columbia, SC 29210  
**Tiger Express #8**, 418 Piney Grove Rd., I-26 & Piney Grove Rd., Columbia, SC  
**BC&BS of South Carolina**, Mr. Ed Sellers, President, I20 & Alpine Rd., Columbia  
**State Farm Insurance Claims**, I20 & Bush River Rd., Columbia, SC 803-731-3000  
**Gaz-Bah Mini Shops**, Mr. Bill Keenan, President, 2923 W. Beltline Blvd., Columbia  
**Carolina Convenience Amoco and Citgo Stations**, Mr. Madhu Shrivastava,  
President, 209 Stoneridge Dr., Columbia  
**Domino's Pizza**, 9810 Two Notch Rd # B, Columbia, SC 29223

### Charleston:

**First Federal of Charleston, All Locations**

### Sumter:

**Greater Sumter Chamber of Commerce**, Mr. Grier Blackwelder, President,  
32 E. Calhoun Street, Sumter, SC 29150, (803) 775-1231  
**McCall's Supply, Inc.**, James McCall, owner, 1155 South Guignard Drive,  
Sumter, SC 29150, 803-773-1296  
**Dixon's Grocery**, Mr. Frances R Dixon, Owner, State Highway 261, Sumter, 29154  
**Regional Acceptance Corp.**, 678 Bultman Dr., Sumter, SC 29150, 803-773-1007  
**H & S Wholesale, Inc.**, Anhauser Busch Distributor, Mr. David Shaw, Owner, 200 S.  
Harvin St., Sumter, SC 29150 803-773-6923  
**Spee Dee Cash**, 1171 Broad St., Sumter, SC 29150, 803-469-5495  
**Hill Plumbing & Electric**, 438 N. Main St., Sumter, SC 29150, 803-773-6689  
**Kwik-Fare**, 1768 Pinewood Rd., Sumter, SC 29150  
**Save Mart**, Mr. Bill Patel, Owner, 378A Manning Avenue, Sumter, SC 29150  
**SAFE Federal Credit Unions**, 180 Wesmark Blvd. Exten., Sumter, SC 29150  
**Nilson Van and Storage**, 16 South Pike Rd., Sumter, SC 29150  
**Sumter Check Casher**, 1084A Broad St., Sumter, SC 29150  
**Gerry's & Things**, 130 W. Liberty St., Sumter, SC 29150  
**Atlas Transmission**, Mr. Jerry McCoy, Owner, 301 W. Liberty St., Sumter, SC  
29150  
**Time Finance Company**, 31 Liberty Street, Sumter, SC 29150

**Hodge Auto/Truck Service**, Mr. Charles Hodge, Owner, 491 E. Liberty St., Sumter  
CP & L, 180 Wesmark Blvd., Sumter, SC 29150  
**Time Finance Company**, 31 Liberty Street, Sumter, SC 29150

### Blythewood:

**Blythewood Pharmacy**, 420-B McNulty Road, Blythewood, SC 29016  
**Plum's Ice Cream Factory**, Wilson Rd., Blythewood, SC  
**Jim Hall's Auto Service**, 421 McNulty Rd., Blythewood, SC  
**JR's United Convenience**, 10447 Wilson Rd., Blythewood, SC 29206  
**Blythewood Oil Company, Sharpe Exxon #1**, Mr. Larry Sharpe, President,  
Highway 21, Blythewood, SC 29016  
**Vision Quest Video of Blythewood**, 420-D McNulty Road, Blythewood, SC 29016  
**Blythewood IGA Camden IGA**, c/o FLOCO Foods Company, Lake City, SC  
**Blythewood McDonalds**, 250 Blythewood Road, Blythewood, SC 29016

### Lexington:

**Piggly Wiggly Food Stores**, 4360 Augusta Rd., Lexington, SC  
**First Community Bank**, 5455 Sunset Blvd., Lexington, SC 29072  
**BB&T** All Locations, Mr. Max Crowe, Regional President, 309 Columbia Avenue,  
Lexington, SC 803-359-5111  
**Cooper Power Tools**, 670 Industrial Dr., Lexington, SC, 803 359-1200

### Greenville:

**Sam's Club**, 2519 Laurens Rd., Greenville, SC

### Georgetown:

**Georgetown County Chamber of Commerce**, Miss Squeaky Swenson, Board  
Chairperson, 1001 Front St., Georgetown, SC 29440, 800-777-7705  
**Wayne's Sporting Goods and Trophies**, Mr. and Mrs. Gary Wayne, owners,  
929 Front Street, Georgetown, SC 29440, 843-546-1511  
**Thomas Cafe**, Eddie and Holly Fesperman, owners, 703 Front Street, Georgetown,  
SC 29440, 843-546-7571  
**Georgetown Art Gallery, Inc.**, Ms. Myrna McMahon, Owner, 732 Front Street  
Georgetown, SC 29440, 843-527-7711  
**Tomlinson's Dept. Store**, Mr. Rick Tomlinson, owner, 806 Front Street,  
Georgetown, SC 29440 843-546-7571  
**Law Firm of Hinds, Cowan, Strange, and Greer**, Douglas Hinds, Senior Partner,  
604 Front Street, Georgetown, SC, 29440 843-527-2441  
**Edward Jones Investments**, Mr. Kent P. Vanner, 936 Front Street, Georgetown,  
SC 29440, 843-546-6163  
**Greenwood: Burger King**, c/o Southwind Enterprises, P.O. Box 8130,  
Greenwood, SC 29649

### Bishopville:

**Logan's Appliance Center**, 139 N. Main St., Bishopville, SC  
**Mr. Travis Windham**, R. Travis Windham Insurance Agency, 204 N. Main St.,  
Bishopville, SC 29010

**Seneca: Carquest Auto Parts**, Mr. Jerry Prince, Owner, 507 N. First St., Seneca,  
SC 29678

**Latta: Dilmar Oil**, Latta, SC

**Myrtle Beach: Klig's Kites**, Owners: Richard and Bruce Kligman, Corporate  
Office, 811- C Seaboard St., Myrtle Beach, SC 29577 (803)448-7881

### Swansea:

**Shelton's Rainbow BP**, Mr. Steve Shelton, Owner, 100 West First Street, Swansea,  
SC 29160

### Batesburg/Leesville:

**Owner/Agent State Farm**, Mr. Larry Brigham, Agent, 605 W. Church St., Batesburg,  
SC 29006, 803-532-4485

### Ridgeway:

**Bank of Ridgeway, Blythewood Branch**, Mr. William A. Harwell, President,  
P.O. Box 8, Ridgeway, SC 29130

**Merchants, if your business is no longer posted against Law Abiding Citizens please notify GRSC for removal from this list.**

This list maintained by GRSC volunteers. Please report corrections to:

**Grass Roots South Carolina, P.O. Box 1181, Sumter, South Carolina 29151**

## Found on the Internet

### Wall Street Journal Article

by John Lott

Here's a nice synopsis of a John Lott article in the Wall Street Journal which was distributed by the Ludwig von Mises Institute. The Mises group is an educational and public policy organization dedicated to the advancement of true free-marked economics, including strong property rights (e.g., gun ownership). Enjoy!

The Clinton administration is tightening regulations concerning gun purchases, on the theory that gun ownership leads to crime. But today's Wall Street Journal runs an eye-opening piece by John R. Lott, Jr., a fellow at the University of Chicago Law School. He is author of "More Guns, Less Crime: Understanding Crime and Gun Control Laws" (University of Chicago Press, 1998). Here are some excerpts:

"America may be obsessed with guns, but much of what passes as fact simply isn't true. The news media focus on tragic outcomes, while ignoring tragic events that were avoided. Rarely do we hear about the more than two million times each year that people use guns defensively--including cases in which public shootings are stopped before they happen. Dramatic stories of mothers using guns to prevent their children from being kidnapped by car-jackers seldom even make the local news.

"Myths about guns can threaten people's safety, by frightening them and preventing them from using the most effective means to defend themselves. Here are five of the most prevalent myths:

"When one is attacked, passive behavior is the safest approach. The Department of Justice's National Crime Victimization Survey reports that the probability of serious injury from an attack is 2.5 times greater for women offering no resistance than for women resisting with a gun. Men also benefit from using a gun, but the benefits are smaller: Offering no resistance is 1.4 times more likely to result in serious injury than resisting with a gun. Resistance with a gun is the safest course of action for victims to take.

"Friends or relatives are the most likely killers. This myth is usually based on two claims: that 53% of murder victims are

killed by either relatives or acquaintances and that anyone could be a murderer. With the broad definition of 'acquaintances' used in the FBI's Uniform Crime Reports, most victims are indeed classified as knowing their killer.... Only one U.S. city, Chicago, reports a precise breakdown on the nature of acquaintance killings, and the statistic gives a very different impression: between 1990 and 1995, just 17% of murder victims were either family members, friends, neighbors or roommates of their killers...

"The U.S. has a high murder rate because Americans own so many guns. There is no international evidence backing this up...

"The family gun is more likely to kill you or someone you know than to kill in self-defense. The 1993 study yielding such numbers, published in the New England Journal of Medicine, never actually inquired as to whose gun was used in the killing. Instead, if a household owned a gun and if a person in that household or someone he knew was shot to death while in the home, the gun in the household was blamed. In fact, virtually all the killings in the study were committed with guns brought in by an intruder. No more than 4% of the gun deaths in the study can be attributed to the homeowner's gun...

"We must not lose sight of the ultimate question: Does allowing citizens to own guns on net save lives? The evidence strongly indicates that it does."

### Half Empty - or Half Full?

by John Naese

It was interesting to read the headlines on the press releases put out by NRA and GOA (Gun Owners of America) upon passage of the Omnibus Spending Bill (the 4,000 page bill that funded the Federal government for another year).

**The NRA: "Clinton Gun Tax Defeated!"**

**GOA: "Smith Decries the Gutting of His 'Anti-Brady' Amendment"**

The Smith Amendment was passed in the Senate version of the budget in late July - with 69 votes! It had three basic provisions:

It prevented the FBI from charging gunowners a fee (a tax) for doing a NICS

check (the FBI was contemplating up to \$30.00 per gun purchase).

It required the "immediate" destruction of gunowners names when a check was requested and approved.

It allowed private citizens to sue the FBI if it violated the "immediate destruction" rule.

The House version of that budget bill was passed without the Smith language, and so the budget bill went to a House-Senate conference committee. That committee sent the 4,000 page budget to the Congress for an up or down vote - with only the first item of the Smith Amendment intact. The budget passed, and the watered-down version of the Smith Amendment became law.

The NRA, in its reporting, chose to accentuate the positive - trumpeting the defeat of the gun tax and vowing to take the Dept. of Justice to court if they proceed with their plans to keep gunowners names for 18 months after a check is done.

GOA, on the other hand, emphasized the defeat suffered by gun owners - the elimination of the "immediate" destruction requirement and the elimination of the right to sue the FBI for infringement of gunowner's rights.

So, two nationwide gun lobby organizations, two takes on the same bill. Who is right?

In my opinion, both are right. To the credit of the NRA, 1 out of 3 is better than none out of 3. And some of the other minor provisions (making sure BATF does not reclassify some muzzleloaders as modern firearms) were worthwhile. But GOA correctly pointed out that the "teeth" were taken out of the Smith Amendment. They also correctly pointed out that the cost of the NICS checks did not go away; the cost was just spread out to all taxpayers, instead of just gunowners.

So the NRA sees a partial victory in getting the gun tax nixed; the glass is half full. GOA looks at the provisions left on the conference room floor, and sees the glass as half empty. The bottom line for me is, there's still half a glass. I'm going to keep fighting until the glass is full, or until it's totally empty.

## Are You On Our Mailing List?

**Grass Roots South Carolina, P.O. Box 1181, Sumter, South Carolina 29151**

**www.scfirearms.org**

\_\_\_\_\_ Keep me on the mailing list. (Please check if you received this from another club.)

\_\_\_\_\_ I'd like \_\_\_\_\_ two-part cards.  
(Please send donation to defray our printing and postage.)

\_\_\_\_\_ Enclosed is my donation to support your efforts ! (May we recognize your contribution in our newsletter? \_\_\_\_\_)

\_\_\_\_\_ I am a merchant requesting more information and GRSC Alternative Signs.

Name/Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

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