

GrassRoots South Carolina

P.O. Box 1181
Sumter, South Carolina 29151
Internet: <http://www.scfirearms.org>



Spring, 2000

Vol.4 No.1

Jeff Cooper in South Carolina! Mid Carolina Rifle Club Open House Family Picnic and 1911 Raffle Saturday April 22, 2000 8AM – 5PM

The Mid Carolina Rifle Club (MCRC) Columbia, South Carolina cordially invites all GrassRoots Members, family, and friends to our 2nd Annual Open House and Family Picnic Saturday April 22, 2000 from 8AM to 5PM. Col. Jeff Cooper, his lovely wife Janelle (Jane Ellen) and their youngest daughter, Lindy Cooper Wisdom will be our guests of honor. Lindy is the author of her father's biography, **Jeff Cooper, the Soul and the Spirit**. We will be renaming our *West End Pistol Ranges* to the **Jeff Cooper Pistol Ranges** in his honor.

EASTER weekend is how it's popularly known, but we prefer the less well-known, but more fitting appellation, **Patriot's Day** weekend.

COST is none, nada, zip! (Free) Free parking too! Hourly Door Prizes!

EYE and EAR PROTECTION is required in the shooting areas. Bring eyeglasses and earmuffs if you have them. If not, free earplugs will be available.

FOOD to be served includes "free range" hotdogs, chips and canned soft drinks.

SHOOTING EXHIBITIONS will include all the different types of rifle and pistol shooting we do at MCRC. You'll see Cowboys and Cowgirls, High Power Rifles, Action and Practical Pistols and Steel silhouettes. The Columbia Police Department will also demonstrate their training program.

MACHINE GUN DEMONSTRATIONS, while lacking in subtlety, will nonetheless be very pleasing to the eye and ear of the discriminating gun nut.

SHOOTING GALLERIES will be setup for young and old to try .22 rifles, Glock handguns and old fashioned black powder muzzleloaders. You'll be able to shoot real Cowboy guns too!

AN EXHIBITION AREA will have tents and tables setup for different groups to promote their causes and wares. Tables are FREE to non-profit groups who are interested in participating.

AWARDS will be given to deserving young people involved in the shooting disciplines. We'll have high school drill teams, the USMC, politicians and rousing patriotic speeches and music. Hurrah! It **will** be a fun; old fashioned American event - very uplifting. We look forward to seeing you all!

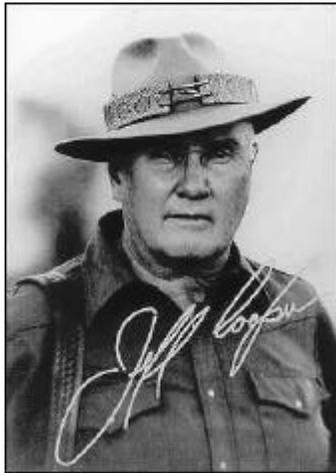
JEFF COOPER SPECIAL EVENTS!
IF YOU ARE A FAN OF JEFF COOPER, THIS IS THE EVENT YOU'VE BEEN WAITING FOR! To help us raise funds to cover the expense of bringing Col. Cooper here to South Carolina we have three fund raising events planned. Any funds raised in excess of our expenses will be donated to the *Jeff and Janelle Cooper Rifle Walk* at the NRA Whittington Center in Raton, New Mexico.

Col. Jeff Cooper (USMC retired) is a world-renowned writer, thinker, philosopher, teacher and instructor. He's the originator of the "Scout" rifle concept. He's the "father" of modern pistol shooting. He is the founding President and Honorary Lifetime Chairman of the International Practical Shooting Confederation (IPSC). He is Founder of the American Pistol Institute and the Southwest Combat Pistol League. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the National Rifle Association and Editor-at-Large of *Guns and Ammo Magazine*.

1) GO ON A RUSSIAN BOAR HUNT WITH JEFF COOPER. Wednesday, 4/19/2000 we'll be going to Estill, SC (towards Savannah) and the Bostick Plantation where we'll have a BBQ dinner and social time together with the Colonel. We'll spend the night there. Thursday morning bright and early we'll have the actual hunt. We have room for 24 people at **\$500 per person**.

2) HAVE DINNER WITH JEFF COOPER

Friday night, 4/21/00 at Seawell's gorgeous new facility next to the State Fairground. This will be a buffet style dinner with lots of time for socializing with the Coopers. There will be a cash bar available. Jeff and Janelle will both turn 80 in May, so we'll have a little pre-birthday surprise for them as well. **Tickets will be \$35 per person.** Seating will be limited to 100 people to make for a cozy get together. Jeff will speak and autograph books.



3) RAFFLE OF THE Colt 1991-A1 .45 CARRIED AND SHOT BY JEFF COOPER.

When he arrives in South Carolina, we'll present Col. Cooper with a 1911 .45 Colt automatic pistol. It will be a **Colt 1991-A1** that we've had custom made exactly the way Col. Cooper likes, by Rich Wyatt of Gunsmoke gunsmiths. Rich is a close associate of Col. Cooper from Wheat Ridge, Colorado. The piece will be engraved, "**DVC Jeff Cooper, Mid Carolina Rifle Club Open House, April 22, 2000**". Col. Cooper will be carrying this piece and shooting it at our open house. Jeff has agreed to let us raffle the piece off at the conclusion of the Open House. How would **you** like to own a 1911 worn and shot by Jeff Cooper? **Chances are \$2 each, 3 for \$5, 20 for \$30, or 75 for \$100.** Drawing at 5PM Saturday by Col. Cooper. You need not be present to win.

CAVEATS: (AS IN, PLEASE NOTE YOU ALL)

Shooting will be in areas away from the main exhibit area so as not to frighten young children, or interfere with other activities. However, we are a rifle club. There will be **lots** of shooting. In the Exhibit areas it will not be loud, but it will be noticeable. **If the sound of gunfire or smell of gunsmoke disturbs you, this may not be the event for you.** All legally and safely carried firearms are welcome at MCRC. But, **ONLY** those involved in the scheduled shooting exhibitions are to be used. All firearms **must** remain holstered or safely secured. No handling of firearms is permitted except for designated shooters at the scheduled shooting events and by vendors at their exhibition area tables. While **liberty** is our paramount concern and we want everyone to have a fun, exciting, enjoyable day we must insist that all behave in a **SAFE and COURTEOUS** fashion as well. Anyone acting in an unsafe or unseemly manner will be required to leave MCRC immediately. No alcoholic beverages will be allowed at MCRC during this event.

LOCATION: We are located at 3433 Fish Hatchery Road, Gaston, SC. We're 5 miles from the intersection of I-26 (exit 115) and I-77 (exit 1) southwest of Columbia, SC up Fish Hatchery Rd. Fish Hatchery road originates on US-321 near this intersection. The closest motel is the Ramada Limited, near this intersection, phone 803-794-7500. We're convenient to the Columbia Metro Airport and all motels in West Columbia near I-26.

To purchase **HUNT, DINNER and RAFFLE** tickets, make check payable to Mid Carolina Rifle Club, and send to: (or for further detailed information on activities with Jeff Cooper contact):

Mid Carolina Rifle Club
C/O Ed Kelleher, President
1730 Augusta Road
West Columbia, SC 29169 USA
Phone: **803-796-8858**
Fax: **803-791-7349**

Email: EJKelleher@aol.com

Web: <http://www.scfirearms.org/mcrc/index.html>

DIRECTION DETAILS:

The Mid Carolina Rifle Club is located at 3433 Fish Hatchery Road, Gaston South Carolina.

From the West (**Atlanta**) Take **I-20 East** to Columbia, then get onto **I-26 East** to Charleston and Airport. Be careful to stay in right 2 lanes, else you'll get onto I-126 going into Columbia.

From the East (Florence, **I-95**) Take **I-20 West** towards Columbia, get off onto **I-77 South** to Charleston.

From **I-95** in the southern part of the state, take **I-26 West** to Columbia.

On I-26 east bound: Coming from Greenville-Spartanburg area or I-20, take exit 115 and take a right off the exit ramp (toward Swansea). At the traffic light at the top of the hill (2nd light) take a right onto Fish Hatchery Road.

On I-26 west bound: Coming from Charleston or I-95 South, take exit 115 and take a left from the exit ramp (toward Swansea). Go under the interstate and continue to the traffic light at the top of the hill. Take a right onto Fish Hatchery Road.

From I-77 Southbound coming from Charlotte or I-20 West (Exit 76) to I-77 South. As you approach the I-77 and I-26 interchange, you will see a sign for Exit 1 (Cayce, Swansea - 21 - 176 - 321). Exit here (before getting to I-26). At the end of the exit ramp, at the traffic light, proceed straight onto Fish Hatchery Road.

From Fish Hatchery Road: About 2 miles down you'll hit a traffic signal in beautiful downtown Pine Ridge. Go straight. After about 3 miles, you will come to a stop sign, and a road sign that indicates Busbee Rd to the left, and Fish Hatchery Rd to the right. Turn Right. Once you pass Forest Manor Mobile Home Park, look for a dirt road and the Mid Carolina Rifle Club sign on the left. Turn left onto the dirt road.

(Come on dad! Do something really different with the family on this special weekend!)

GrassRoots South Carolina
P.O. Box 1181
Sumter, SC 29151
Fax: 803-755-1201
<http://www.scfirearms.org>

Modeled after similar organizations in other states, GrassRoots South Carolina is a South Carolina 501(c)4 non-profit corporation. Our mission is to educate and promote acceptance of responsible firearms ownership within the State of South Carolina and to protect the rights of law-abiding citizens who have chosen to obtain concealed weapons permits. Our objectives are to improve all aspects of lawful ownership and carrying of firearms in South Carolina.

GrassRoots South Carolina, Inc. is registered as a Lobbyist's Principal in South Carolina and employs lobbyists to promote or oppose legislation concerning CWP holders and the RKBA in South Carolina.

Officers and Staff:

President:	Ed Kelleher	803-796-8858
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Note: The GrassRoots South Carolina Newsletter is distributed quarterly to the membership of GrassRoots. Publication is in January, April, July, and October with articles for publication due by the 15th of the preceding month.

Regarding Reciprocity...

As of April 3, 2000: South Carolina recognizes permits from AR, WY, UT, and TN. South Carolina CWP holders may legally carry in AK, AR, TN, ID, IN, KY, MI, WY, OK, UT, and VT. Remember to contact these states prior to visiting to determine their laws regarding CWP.

Inside this Issue:

Letters from the Editor's Desk:

- *Save-Way Foods Unposts Over Twenty Stores!*
- *Wal-Mart in Charleston Violates Corp. Policy*
- *NRA Sticks It to Clinton*
- *S&W Makes a Bargain with Administration*
- *Posted Stores Building a Record of Becoming Easy Target for Criminals*
- *Newspapers and TV Fight Against CWP Carry in Restaurants*

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- *Businesses that Post Against CWP Holders*

Articles of the Month:

- *Extending Your Right to Carry to Other States*
- *Women and Guns*
- *The Right to Bear Arms*
- *Cooper VS Terrorism*
- *CWP Permit Information in Various States*
- *Better Communication with Members*
- *FAQ Regarding Our Merchant Program*

Legislative Update:

- *H-4797 CWP Reform Legislation for YOU!*
- *GrassRoots Range Protection Passes!*
- *Pre-Written Letter to Your Representative*

GrassRoots Instructors' Update:

- *Maximizing Your Survival and Minimizing Risk of Criminal & Civil Liability*

GrassRoots Volunteers in Action:

- *GrassRoots Volunteers in Your Community*

Fact:

As of April 3, 2000 there are 24,466 licensed CWP holders in South Carolina! (20,300 men and 4,166 women) All of who have been deemed law-abiding citizens by their county, state, and the FBI! ***Congratulations!***

Visit GrassRoots's Internet Site:

<http://www.scfirearms.org>

Sponsored By:


"The Logical Network Service Provider"

GrassRoots RANGE PROTECTION PASSES!

H3419 should be called the "GrassRoots Shooting Range Protection Act" in honor of GrassRoots members' efforts!

**CONGRATULATIONS
GrassRoots ACTIVISTS!**

**ALL H3419 NEEDS IS THE
GOVERNOR'S SIGNATURE!**

YOU, the GrassRoots members, are responsible for saving the shooting sports and shooting ranges in SC, both now and for your children. You, the GrassRoots members, deserve credit for standing up and demanding that **GOOD** range protection be passed.



You made all the difference in getting GOOD range protection passed! Your faxes, letters, e-mails, and phone calls in support of the GrassRoots amendments made legislators take notice!

The original H3419 had serious problems:

1. it gave no protection to existing pistol and rifle ranges,
2. it would have forced all shooting ranges to close off membership to new members or give up any immunity from nuisance noise lawsuits for five years each time it increased membership,
3. it would have killed pistol and rifle shooting sports,
4. it would have killed IDPA and USPSA (the shooting sports most useful to CWP holders), and

5. it had loopholes that would have allowed ranges to be closed regardless of range protection being passed.

The amendments proposed by GrassRoots changed H3419 to protect ALL shooting ranges, allowed ranges to increase membership without losing immunity, saved all the shooting sports, and closed the loopholes that could be used to shut down a shooting range due to noise.

The Labor and Employee subcommittee of the Senate LCI Committee had a hearing on Wednesday, February 9, 2000, to discuss H3419. **The Senators adopted EVERY ONE of the GrassRoots amendments WORD FOR WORD**, except reducing statutes of limitation to 1 year! The subcommittee was made up of 4 Democrats and 1 Republican. They voted UNANIMOUSLY, "Favorable on the amendments, Favorable on the bill" to be sent out of subcommittee to the full LCI committee. The Chairman asked GrassRoots to speak and explain our amendments. They acknowledged the complete and utter correctness of our logic - not one word of argument against ANY of our statements. Earlier, when the amendments had been read and it was announced they were from GrassRoots, **Senator Moore (D) said, "Is that where all these faxes, e-mails, calls and letters have been coming from?"** You could tell they made a real and POSTIVE impression on

him. Then, H3419 was sent to the Senate LCI Committee which adopted the GrassRoots amendments approved earlier by the subcommittee. The votes in both the subcommittee and the full committee (which are both controlled by Democrats) were unanimous in support of the GrassRoots amendments, and to pass the bill.

H3419 passed the Senate on Tuesday, March 28, 2000, with the GrassRoots amendments intact. GrassRoots knew we had to do two things if we wanted to get good range protection passed in the Senate. First, GrassRoots had to show Senators range protection benefits ALL SC citizens, not just gun owners. Second, GrassRoots activists had to flood the Senate offices with faxes, letters, e-mails and phone calls. GrassRoots sent detailed letters to Senators of both the subcommittee and committee showing how range protection benefits ALL SC citizens. You, the GrassRoots Activists, did your part and flooded the Senate.

The House concurred with the H3419 amendments proposed by GrassRoots and adopted by the Senate on March 30, 2000. GrassRoots members should be proud of this accomplishment. GrassRoots members took a bad bill and made it into a good bill.

**CONGRATULATIONS!
Winning GOOD range
protection required a team
effort, and we did it!!**

GrassRoots Leadership Report

A Message From Your GrassRoots President, Ed Kelleher

From time to time we get mail that criticizes our efforts. People will say we're "compromising" or "fools" or "selling out". People will say they're NOT going to support our work in this area or that area because, "I don't need any law to say that I can <whatever>, it's my God given right".

People write us and say, "Where I came from the law was a lot better. Politicians here are shameless, greedy, pandering know nothings, selling out our rights for a few pieces of silver". Often, this too is used as a reason to do nothing.

We take this mail seriously. People that care strongly about their rights are the ones we want and need working with us. We feel strongly about our rights also. People who feel strongly will not be turned around by weakness. A strong reply is necessary.

Here is a typical reply I might make. I'm publishing it for several reasons. One is that through criticism I might do better. Also, that those sitting on the fence might jump off and help us. Lastly, that our confidence that we're on the right road would be built up and we all would be encouraged to do more in the fight to restore our liberties.

Dear Sir:

I can understand your taking a principled stand apart from what we are doing. However, I think you are wrong in not supporting the current legislation GrassRoots is working on. Let me courteously, but firmly, explain why this is so.

I too believe that good citizens shouldn't need a permit from the state to carry a concealed firearm anywhere or anytime. I believe we have a God given unalienable right to carry. Yet, like many, I do not exercise that right as fully as I might because of the great cost the state will inflict on me if I do so.

So, many of us are working to change the existing laws that unnecessarily restrict our liberty with the ultimate goal of having the state fully recognize

our right to keep and bear arms without anyone's damned permission.

Through first hand experience, others and myself have come to the conclusion we can not eliminate all these fell laws in one swoop. Maybe better men or women than we could, but until they come along, we're just going to try and do the best we can.

One of the things we've done is form GrassRoots to help achieve our goals.

I regret that you are not willing to help and frankly have little sympathy with your position of not supporting us in this work.

In essence you're saying if I can't get something in 1 step, I'm not going to take 2 steps to get it. We feel a step towards liberty is a good step and gets us closer to our goal and is much better than taking no steps at all.

Fortunately, while many are not happy with our present laws and legislation, they are willing to work to get them changed as one more step on the way to recovering the liberty we've allowed to be taken from us.

If I have misunderstood your position, I beg your forgiveness.

You came to South Carolina from another state. You say the CWP law in your old state is better than South Carolina's. Are you aware of the genesis of the CWP law in your old state? Did it spring full-blown into the situation you described and liked? Or did it too come about through many smaller steps?

Perhaps, if you were a minority in that state you might not like their CWP system as much. I don't say that to imply that you are a bigot. I say that to make the point that in many ways our present CWP law is very good, though when passed in 1996 it was a step "backwards", a "compromise" in some regards.

Prior to 1996, CWP holders in South Carolina could carry practically anywhere without restriction. They could even drink in bars if they so chose. The only problem was, not everyone could get a CWP. Not many were issued. If you got a CWP you were in Fat City. If not, you were SOL.

But in 1996, we as individuals, (GrassRoots wasn't in existence at the time) passed a law allowing any good citizen to get a CWP if they wanted one. That was one step towards our goal. It also increased our political base and power enormously (more people with CWP's). It helped us organize GrassRoots. But, it came at the cost of many restrictions. We didn't want or seek the restrictions; anti-gun legislators and others added them. But nonetheless, we worked to get the bill passed, even with all its flaws, because it was a step in the right direction. Now, we're working to eliminate the restrictions.

Do you know a better way to do this?

I hope you do not take offense. None is intended.

But really, how do you expect me to respond to an email saying I'm a "fool" and "selling out" our rights and working for "asinine" and "shameful" legislation when I think I'm doing the best I can on a volunteer basis at great cost in neglecting my work and family? Should I beg and cajole and ask you "pretty please"?

No, I'll point out why I think you're wrong, and if you're the type of person I think you are you'll work with us.

Some of the legislation now being considered wasn't proposed by GrassRoots. Legislators introduced these bills, independent of GrassRoots. But, thinking the bills would go nowhere, they put no effort into pushing them.

It was GrassRoots that took these bills and beefed them up into something that would really benefit CWP holders and started pushing to get them passed through the committees and the legislative process.

GrassRoots has also proposed many amendments to the laws to further our goals. The legislators went along with many of them but balked at others. We've not giving up on them. But lambasting the legislators certainly won't get them to change.

Not everyone believes as strongly or clearly as you and I do about our rights. We have to teach and convert others (legislators and voters). As you know there are effective ways to teach and there are ways that will actually keep people from ever learning.

GrassRoots Leadership Report

I spoke recently to my daughter's high school government class about lobbyists and how laws are passed. I didn't have long but I was able to take them from natural law and our God given liberty to the necessity of laws to preserve our liberties, yet at some cost to them. We read the preamble to the Constitution. I quoted Washington and Burke. I told them of the necessity of their involvement.

Should I have lined them all up and harassed them because they couldn't grasp everything I was saying? Should I have stayed at work and not gone? No, what I did was NOT a waste of time. Working with our legislators, imperfect in their understanding as they might be, is not a waste of time.

Just as I think writing this letter to you is not a waste of time.

Let me leave you with the quote from Edmund Burke I gave to those high school students,

"For evil to triumph, all that is necessary is that good men do nothing."

I told them they had to be involved in the process. A few of them got the point. I hope that you do also.

Again, I write this not with the intent to offend, but rather to enlist your support in our worthy fight to regain our precious liberty.

Ed Kelleher, President, GrassRoots

GrassRoots Recognized Community Volunteers

The following people have responded to our call for community volunteers to assist their communities in carrying out the goals of GrassRoots, to educate merchants who post, and promote lawful and safe firearms ownership within their communities. GrassRoots salutes these activists for coming forward to lead the way within their communities. Those marked with a double asterisk ** attended our Volunteer meeting in West Columbia, February 12, 2000. They are primed and ready to go. They just need YOU to call! Another Volunteer meeting is planned for late May, early June.

It is hoped that GrassRoots can assist each community effort via statewide organization and assistance with goals that each community selects as they see specific needs within their community. Our vision is that through organization, GrassRoots will enable each community to effectively handle pro-firearms issues. We hope that this list will be a start for each community to begin to develop a network which unites lawful citizens who wish to make change at the local level.

What To Do: Start with calling a local volunteer below and arrange an informal breakfast or lunch meeting at a non-posted fast food restaurant. Discuss the needs of your community as you see them. Decide on an action plan if possible and start making change. Contact merchants that post, get people to call their legislators, setup a table at a gunshow. Contact GrassRoots for help or specific needs like postcards, membership mailings, etc. If you let us know the date, time, and place you want to meet, we'll mail a postcard to other GrassRoots members in your area. We're here to help you make change in your community. Most of all, have fun! You'll be surprised at how effective you can be!

AREA	NAME	TELEPHONE	FAX	E-MAIL
Aiken	Jeff E Burris	803-648-7258		jeb@palmetto.net
Anderson	Bill Feith	864-287-2045	864-287-7418	bfeith@carol.net
Anderson	John S Griffin	864-296-9841		griff@statecom.net
Aiken**	Bill Walton	803-642-9004		
Beaufort	Russell Faulkner	843-524-4192	843-524-4192	
Belton	Joseph M Orfetel	864-338-8006	864-338-1882	jmjo@webtv.net
Charleston	Fred (Larry)rgan	843-571-0992		
Charleston	Vince Ott	843-744-1722	843-744-8242	vcott@cchat.com
Chapin	D.L. Takach	803-932-2747		dtakach@prodigy.net
Cleveland	Joseph L Payne III	803-836-0304	864-836-4008*51	chaneyhill@mindspring.com
Cleveland**	Robert L. Williams	864-836-4368		emrys@mindspring.com
Columbia	Wendell Patton	803-754-9975	803-754-9073	wmpatton3@aol.com
Columbia	John E. Black	803-776-8823	803-776-8823	blackjl@hotmail.com
Cowpens**	Joseph Cash	864-463-6659		
Denmark	Pearlstine Deloach Jr.	803-793-4367		
Denmark**	Doug Gore	803-793-5821	803-793-6248	dmgore@sc-online.net
Ehrhardt	Barbara M Hiers	803-267-3442		
Ehrhardt	G.D. Varn, Jr.	803-267-3882	803-267-3241	
Florence	John Germain	843-667-9702		ka3jal@aol.com
Florence	Jeffery W Lee, Sr.	843-665-6818		jeffleesr@aol.com
Fairforest**	Ronald Rutledge	864-576-6035	864-439-0423	rrtech@bellsouth.net
Fountain Inn**	Paul Campbell	864-862-5515	864-409-9699	pwcampbell@juno.com
Gaffney	Rodney Medley	803-489-9660		dale448@aol.com
Georgetown	Dane A Davis	843-546-3640		
Graniteville	Billy B. Jones	803-663-6516	803-663-6516	magnumprod@netscape.net
Graniteville**	Howard Wayt	803-502-1398		wayt@scescape.net
Great Falls	Fred Earl	803-482-2825		fredearl@infoave.net
Greenwood	James P Farnham	864-943-1248		
Greenwood	Bennie Lowe	864-223-7323		bubbaleecalhoun@yahoo.com
Greenwood	Carroll Killian	864-223-1725		
Greenwood	Joe Dan Elliott	864-229-6179		
Greenville	W.C. Daniels	864-268-7319		
Fountain Inn	Paul Campbell	864-862-5515	864-409-9699	pwcampbell@juno.com
Hartsville**	Jeffery P Boatman	843-383-0656	843-339-6507	jeff.boatman@sonoco.com
Hartsville	Thelbert Grantham	843-332-9910		

Hartsville**	John & Janet Clark	803-552-4215	843-552-4215	redvert@aol.com
Hilton Head	Dennis E Wedeking	843-785-8429	843-837-3737	denmeisterhi@hotmail.com
Hilton Head	Inst. Des Darazs	843-842-2060		
Hilton Head	R.M. Lieberman	843-671-4078	843-671-7237	k49j@aol.com
Irmo	Craig Reese	803-781-1194	803-794-1831	rblack@microbyte.net
Irmo	Ken Uschelbec	803-781-6102	803-781-9527	
Kiawah Island	Frank D Dinardo	843-768-0266	843-768-1168	frankbake@mindspring.com
Lancaster	James Spears	Spears Glass Service	1350 W. Meeting St.	
Lancaster	Fred Earl	803-482-2825		fredearl@infoave.net
Leesville**	Bob McLaughlin	803-532-9014		twomcscl@aol.com
Little River	William V Meyer	843-249-4885	843-272-5215	wilmmeier@aol.com
Little River	Jerry Rounbehler	1-800-823-0516 code 59	843-280-6338	GJRPI@prodigy.net
Loris**	Neal & Melissa Seaman	843-756-5311		freeusa@fi9.com or skypod@fi9.com
Marion	Franklin Williams	843-423-2362		
Mt. Pleasant**	Doug Huffman	843-884-6019		dhuffman@awod.com
Myrtle Beach	Louis A Martino	803-497-8532		happyday@scoast.net
Myrtle Beach	Glen McKinney	843-650-3618	843-448-8457	ramp87@aol.com
Newberry	William A Smith, Jr.	803-276-2415		
Ninety Six	Michael Cornett	864-223-7849		
North Augusta	David A Owings	803-279-9346	803-279-9000	
Pickens**	Tim Sullivan	864-878-4700	864-878-0507	timsullivan@ieee.org
Richburg	Stanley G Pettit	803-789-6457		
Rock Hill	Edgar H Walker, Jr.	803-329-5988		
Seneca	Annette Lowman	864-972-9290		
Spartanburg	Wendell H Tiller	864-579-0797		
Spartanburg**	Michael E Henline	864-582-7226		
Spartanburg	G.R. "Chip" Desjardins	864-574-1410		
Spartanburg	Inst. Dennis Crocker	803-212-6024	864-587-8722	crocker@logicsouth.com
Summerville	Robert E Temple	843-821-4477		
Summerville	Wesley A Matt, Sr.	843-871-6642	815-327-9144	wamair@worldnet.att.net
Swansea**	Donald Preston, Sr.	803-568-3865	803-568-3865	red_baron1@prodigy.net
Walterboro	William Kofron	843-549-1654		react@vrdom.com
Westminster	Robert R. Sullivan	864-972-0733		alliebob@bellsouth.com
W. Columbia**	Paul Peters	803-356-1728	803-356-1728	papeters@msn.com
W. Columbia	Robert L. Sleigher	803-926-1826	803-926-9752	sleigher@bellsouth.net
Yonges Island	James T Truesdale	843-873-4400	843-873-7227	

Please exercise the same consideration for using these numbers as you would like to have for your own telephone number.
For changes and/or updates to the information above please contact Larry Coble 803-791-1988 or lcoble@netside.com

WANTED!

GrassRoots is Looking for More Community Volunteers!

Job Description

Make It
Right

General: Volunteers are sought for each SC House district. They will be the "field force" to expand the effectiveness of GrassRoots throughout South Carolina. Within GrassRoots guidelines they will be responsible for actions and events within that House district. Volunteers assist other GrassRoots members in accomplishing the goal of GrassRoots. You'll decide which posted merchants on which to concentrate, get people organized and calling their legislators, setup tables at gunshows telling others about GrassRoots, develop other programs as appropriate for their community, develop an educational relationship with political persons and entities, newspapers in your area..

Qualifications: Community Volunteers need organizational skills to mobilize other GrassRoots members in their district. They need writing and speaking skills sufficient to convey the GrassRoots position to merchants, political entities, newspapers and other GrassRoots members. Internet / email access is most helpful for rapid communication between GrassRoots and volunteers. Fax is also useful. Most important is a desire to See the goal of GrassRoots accomplished, "That good people may carry concealed firearms wherever and whenever they choose."

Action Components: Be available for contact by interested persons in the home district and arrange an organizational meeting. Based on consensus in each district, determine which posted merchants will be contacted and how they will be approached. Act as district spokesman to GrassRoots. Act as GrassRoots spokesman to district participants. Organize district participants to support GrassRoots statewide initiatives.

GrassRoots Support: We'll mail GrassRoots members in your area. We'll provide supporting facts, position papers, speakers, wallet cards, alternative signs, legislative alerts, and individuals to help organize initially. **Interested?** Contact GrassRoots and let us place you on the Community Volunteer List for further updates as the Community Volunteer Program develops.

GrassRoots Letters from the Editor's Desk

Save-Way Food Store Chain Unposts

Dear GrassRoots Members:

This letter is submitted to thank Mr. Rick Rainwater, President and Chairman of Save-Way Food Stores for his kind attention and understanding regarding CWP posting.

I spoke with Mr. Rainwater approximately two weeks ago and presented the views of our members.

After due consideration and reflection, Mr. Rainwater met with me to inform that he had directed his twenty-some stores to remove the signs and advised me to notify him if I encountered any remaining.

I visited the three stores in my area of Florence, and true to his word, the signs had been removed.

GrassRoots provided the alternate signs which I delivered to Mr. Rainwater's office this date.

Folks, I believe we in turn owe Mr. Rainwater's stores preferential patronage. Besides, they do have the best chicken!

Thanks, Mr. Rainwater.

Sincerely,

Dr. John Clark, Florence

Open letter to Mr. Lynn Willard, Manager, Piggly Wiggly, Florence Mall

March 23, 2000

Dear Mr. Willard:

I wish to thank you for the time and attention granted me regarding posting against CWP.

I understand and accept that you inherited this policy from your predecessor, and your superior Mr. John Crawford, at Piggly Wiggly Carolina Co., inherited it from his as well.

Inasmuch as you have been informed that it is a corporate policy to post beyond your control, I respect and sympathize with your position.

Oh, by the way, may I impose on you one last time? Would you ask Mr. Crawford

why, a mere three miles from your store, in a more congested, less genteel area, the Piggly Wiggly on Cherokee does not post? Why Piggly Wiggly in Lamar does not post? Why Orangeburg Piggly Wiggly does not post?

Forgive me, I'm a little fuzzy on this corporate policy stuff.

Sincerely,

Dr. John Clark, Florence

(Editor's Note: Piggly Wiggly stores are sometimes Corporate Stores and sometimes independently owned. For that reason, you may find some posted and some not. GrassRoots promotes shopping in only those stores that are unposted where you may ensure your safety.)

Winter Newsletter Picture Sends Wrong Message

I was shocked to see the photo on page 3 of our latest newsletter (Winter 1999-2000). Did you get this from HCI? As an instructor one of the most important skills I teach is safe gun handling! The casual way the guns are held in an unsafe direction and the fact that the male person has his FINGER ON THE TRIGGER should have told someone to find another photo.

D.C., Columbia

(Editor's Response: I've had my ear twisted and rightly so by GrassRoots astute readers and instructors. To all those that have mailed me on this one, all I can say is, "You're right on the mark and I want to be the first to say I concur with your assessment." I promise, I won't do it again!)

Fritz Hollings

Comments: Does GRSC have any effect on Fritz Hollings? I just sent him the following letter:

Logic, reason, and the existence of more than 22,000 gun laws up to and prohibiting murder don't matter to the anti-gun crowd. The only time the anti-gun crowd can make any progress is when they are dancing in the blood of fresh victims. None of the various proposals - even the Washington Post's demand to prohibit all handgun sales-would have prevented neither the Michigan school shooting nor the racist killing at two Pennsylvania

fast-food restaurants. For example the druggie that allowed the boy to get the gun was not concerned about civil or criminal liability for letting the boy get the gun. Michigan already has such a law! Nor would a "gun-free schools" law have made any difference. Michigan has one of these laws too. This child was a product of his environment and (in my opinion) knew right from wrong. Why else did he hide the gun and then lie about giving it to another student, whom he claimed did the shooting. In October 1999, a 14-year-old boy was charged with killing a 13-year-old classmate by stabbing him in the head with a screwdriver at Deady Middle School in Houston, TX. Did that hit the evening National news, like the news about the 6-year-old boy, who fatally shot a fellow first-grader? Of course not! Of course not.

Again I say that the anti-gun crowd will use any opportunity to further their attack on our constitutional liberties even if that means dancing in the blood of fresh victims. It's a "bumper sticker" but this old soldier believes it with all his heart "I fear the government that fears my guns." In my 28 years of military service I have seen the power of the gun to do evil as well as good.

I firmly believe the Second Amendment is the teeth of liberty, it guarantees all the rest of our constitutional liberties. Hitler, Stalin, Pol Pot, and others all disarmed the people before they implemented their plans for the future.

James O. O'Kelley, Seneca, SC

Florida Out of State CWP

I am a CWP instructor. Had read the recent Grassroots mailing and wanted to make some comments.

The most notable is that we can now get a Florida non-resident CWP that is accepted by Georgia. I have known about the New Hampshire, but it isn't valid in Florida. (Florida only accepts permits issued to residents of the permitted state.) In doing the research I felt compelled to add that it appears Florida's lawful use of deadly force in self-defense criteria is stricter than SC. We need to be VERY aware of that. "That's how we do it in SC." isn't going to fly. Additionally, we need to be VERY aware of the permitted

GrassRoots Letters from the Editor's Desk

carry rules in EACH State we are in and where we are allowed to carry.

Finally, Belks in Hilton Head is posted prohibiting carry. Their unconnected, in the same mall, Junior's store doesn't post. Shows a lot of thought. I commented on the posting. No reply. But left the unposted issue alone. Why? That way I can carry while with my daughter in the Junior's store. She isn't as committed to not patronizing posted locations as I am. (Let's see, clothes or guns? For the 13-year-old girl, she chooses clothes.)

Inst. Kevin Hood, Hilton Head

(Editor's Comments: Excellent points Kevin! We all need to make sure when visiting other states that we have checked the laws for lawful carry *in the state we are visiting*. They very well may be different than our laws in South Carolina!)

Wal-Mart in Charleston

LET'S GET THIS STORE UNPOSTED!

Wal-Mart #1748
Ms. Cathy Robinson, Manager
2245 Ashley Crossing Drive
Charleston, SC 29414-5704
(843) 763-5554

This store is posted at the manager's discretion contrary to Wal-Mart's policy recognizing CWP. The store manager has given no response to a contact by a local permit holder.

Charleston GrassRoots members are encouraged to IMMEDIATELY...Call the General Manager, Ms. Cathy Robinson, and politely but firmly remind her that it is Wal-Mart's corporate policy to recognize concealed carry by customers with concealed carry permits REMEMBER: YOU HAVE A CONSUMER COMPLAINT. DO NOT DISCUSS THE NATURE OF YOUR CALL WITH THE SWITCHBOARD OPERATOR, ASSISTANT MANAGER, OR ANY OTHER WAL-MART EMPLOYEE EXCEPT THE GENERAL MANAGER.

Inform the manager that you will follow up by contacting Wal-Mart's Corporate Affairs Department at (800) 925-6278 or send an email to: public@walmart.com Include you full name, mailing address, telephone number, and return address.

LET'S GET THIS PROBLEM TAKEN CARE OF.

Letter to Charleston Wal-Mart

Cathy Robinson, Manager
Wal-Mart
2245 Ashley Crossing Drive
Charleston, SC 29414

Dear Ms. Robinson,

I am writing you as one of over 23,000 licensed concealed weapon permit holders in South Carolina. All of who have been deemed law-abiding citizens by their country, state, and the FBI. I do not write as one holding any official position with any organization, although I am a member of Grass Roots South Carolina and the NRA.

A few days ago I spoke with you on the telephone concerning the "no concealed weapons" policy of your store. Your response was that you thought it was corporate policy.

I don't know if you have had a chance to follow-up on our conversation or not, but I have found some additional information. I have been given a copy of a letter from Wal-Mart letters@wal-mart.com regarding firearms. I quote a portion of that letter, "If a Wal-Mart customer has been awarded a concealed handgun license by the state government, Wal-Mart will follow the direction of the state."

I have no reason to doubt the authenticity of this letter and as I stated during our phone conversation I know that other Wal-Mart stores do not prohibit legally concealed weapons. I trust you will confirm my opinion on this subject. If I am mistaken please let me know.

You may believe that prohibiting legally carried weapons in your store makes it a safer place for your customers. That is a mistaken concept that many criminals strongly support. Statistics are clear that just the opposite is the case. Legally carried weapons REDUCE crime. LEAA (Law Enforcement Alliance of America), the largest nonprofit coalition of law enforcement professionals, crime victims and concerned citizens says, "no American with a right-to-carry permit, has had 'a serious incident anywhere in the country even with two million people with permits.' Moreover, no one with a permit has ever shot anyone."

I could go on with more evidence, but I won't. I will tell you however, if you choose to support the rights of law-abiding Americans, Grass Roots South Carolina will be glad to supply you with alternative signs which read "NO ILLEGAL WEAPONS No Firearms Permitted Except by Law Enforcement and those Legally Licensed to Carry Concealed Handguns".

A criminal entering your store will ignore the sign you are presently displaying, but he may take notice if he sees the sign telling him that there may be individuals inside the store legally carrying weapons and trained in their use.

I hope to hear soon that you have changed your store's policy.

Thank you,
Lowell Knouff, John's Island SC

Regarding GrassRoots Legislative Updates

Thank you Grassroots, for what you are doing and for keeping me informed. Already I believe I did the right thing by joining Grassroots. And I believe we have the greatest opportunity to build a most favorable reputation for CWP holders. I will try to help in every way I can to obtain this favorable legislation. **Clayton**

Thanks from Colorado

Dear GRSC,
I came across your web page while visiting cssa.org, the Colorado State Shooting Association page, and I just wanted to tell you that I think it's very well done, attractive and loaded with good information and other references. Thanks for your efforts. Keep up the good work!

Dennis W. Yost, Parker, CO



GrassRoots Letters from the Editor's Desk

Greenwood Wal-Mart

Unposts

The sign came down in Sept. or Oct. 1999 after the following letter was send to Corporate Wal-Mart:

Dear Sirs:

I have read the letter that was published about Wal-Mart in our newsletter Grass Roots South Carolina about allowing concealed weapons in their stores but the one in Greenwood, SC still has their sign up on all their doors NO CONCEALED WEAPONS ALLOWED. Why is this the only store that has the sign up? Thanks.

W.W., Greenwood, SC

NRA Sticks it to Clinton

Please, everyone send a letter to the two addresses below and thank the NRA for the remarks that they made on



TV the other night. If they stick to them, I may once again be proud to be a member.

Cope

13 March 2000

NRA says Clinton exploits gun deaths

The quote that is hitting the National news is as follows:

"LaPierre said, 'I've come to believe he needs a certain level of violence in this country. He's willing to accept a certain level of killing to further his political agenda.'

'He's willing to accept a certain level of killing to further his political agenda and his vice president, too,' the NRA leader added."

Please, send the NRA and e-mail at: groots@nra.org or membership@nrahq.org

Encourage the NRA to stand steadfast on their comments and NOT to back down.

Cope Reynolds

Letter to U.S. Senators

Dear Senators:

I find it disgusting that Pres. Clinton would use the occasion of a heart-breaking personal tragedy to further his own agenda of gun control and eventual confiscation. There are 22,000 gun laws on the books nationwide, and not one of them, nor a trigger lock, would have saved the life of that poor little 6-year old girl in Michigan. The boy who committed this crime brought the gun to school from a "crack" house; a den of criminals, if you will. By their nature, criminals do not respect any laws, gun control or otherwise.

The fact is, 99.998% of all privately owned handguns in the U. S. are not used in a murder in any given year, and 99.96% of all privately owned handguns in the U. S. are not used in any crime in a given year! (Source: Neal Boortz)

The fact is, guns in the hands of honest, law-abiding citizens prevent up to 2.5 million crimes of aggravated assault, murder, rape, mugging, and robbery every year. (Source: Gary Kleck) Compare this to 100,000 more cops on the street! (What 100,000 cops?)

The fact is, "More Guns, Less Crime." (Source: John Lott)

And lastly, quoting from the editorial "'Smart' guns, dumb laws" in the March 6-12 edition of The Washington Times National Weekly Edition, "The problem never was and never has been the availability of handguns. This point hardly merits debate among well-informed and intellectually honest people."

I'm glad the president's agenda on

gun control has been stalled in Congress for months. His proposals would make for bad laws that would serve no other purpose than to harass law-abiding citizens exercising their God-given right to defend themselves!

RALPH J. WIENEKE, Lexington, SC

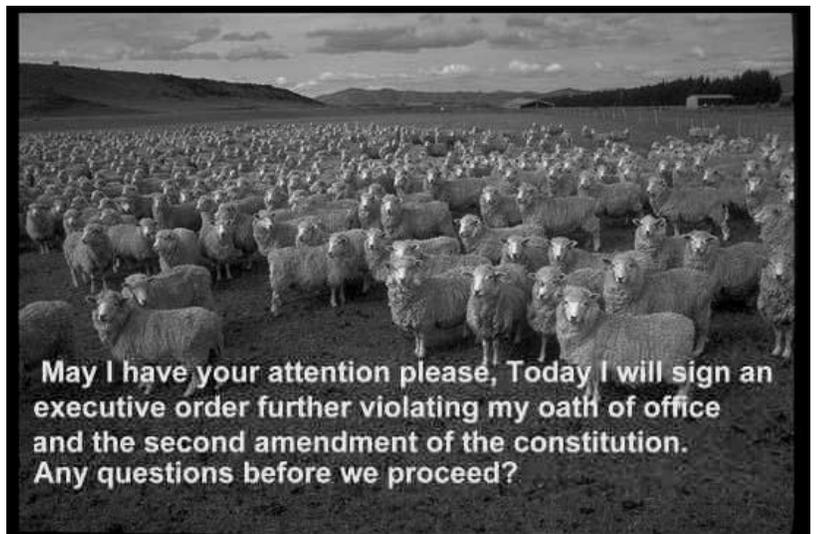
True Value Hardware in Moncks Corners

I just had an interesting call from Kevin Housand at True Value Hardware in Moncks Corners. He was visited by a GrassRoots member last year and as a result removed the posted sign. He only recently discovered that they are still listed as not wanting our patronage. Please be certain that this listing moves to the "Welcome Back" group. Mr. Housand will also be sending a letter, from the merchants' point of view, which can be printed in the newsletter. He very correctly points out that our actions impact his livelihood and that of his 38 employees. We both agreed that we must strive to be correct due to the impact of our actions.

Mr. Housand was cordial and only wanted us to do what we, in fact, want to do. I expressed my gratitude that he took the time to call with his concerns. This is the kind of interchange that we want with merchants. When his letter is received I will forward it on.

Ralph Baker, Sumter, SC

(Editor: We extend our apologies to Monck's Corner True Value Hardware. They are off the "posted" list and on the Welcome Back list.



GrassRoots Letters from the Editor's Desk

"The Best Defense Loads for Handguns"

For those interested, the March issue of Gun World has an informative article entitled "The Best Defense Loads for Handguns" (Part I). It compares .22 Long Rifle through .357 Magnum and gives the One Shot Stop Rating for various factory loads within each caliber. Next month's issue will cover .357 SIG through .45 Colt. I found my copy at Wal-Mart.

Paul Peters, W. Columbia



ing the issue of firearms misuse, whether it be criminal, accidental or self inflicted. We have sought a dialogue with various groups in order to separate real issues from rhetoric. This is a continuation of a long-standing tradition to help communities address issues of concern. We will not always agree with the solutions proposed but we can not disregard the concerns, nor can we ignore the opportunities to make a difference when it is in our power to do so."

Smith & Wesson acknowledges this decision will not be popular with everyone. The company noted that there will always be those with no knowledge of the circumstances and no stake in the future of the company. These individuals are not spending millions on lawsuits or seeing their ability to stay in business seriously threatened. Others are willing to sacrifice our company, our employees and our customers for their principles. We will not allow this to happen when we can make choices to prevent it. Smith & Wesson has provided security and safety to the world for a century and a half and we are not abandoning our goals or our obligations.

From the S&W web site...

Smith & Wesson News

March 17, 2000

Smith & Wesson Announces Agreement Impacting Liability

Smith & Wesson has announced that it has signed an agreement with the federal government and many of the cities seeking to hold firearms manufacturers responsible for the violence in American communities. The company stated that these actions are about insuring the viability of Smith & Wesson as an ongoing business entity in the face of the crippling cost of litigation.

"We can let others make choices for us and determine our fate or we can be actively involved in the process and exercise some control," stated company spokesperson Ken Jorgensen. "Our goal in reaching an accord is to continue to sell to the consumer market. It would have been easy to agree to sell to the law enforcement and military communities only, but that has never been an option. The effect of this agreement will mean a change in the way Smith & Wesson does business. It will not sacrifice the Second Amendment rights of gun owners, something we will not do."

We have always stated we are willing to work with anyone serious about address-

GrassRoots Members Respond to S&W

Have you read the full agreement that S&W signed with Big Brother? This is tantamount to outlawing dealers who sell pocket pistols, concealable pistols, or clips for your AR 15. This British owned company, who wants to get out of the business anyway, is setting a God Awful precedent. Frankly, I'm scared to death! It'll be a cold day in hell when I buy another Smith & Wesson product. We need to boycott this company now.

Sincerely,

T.B., Irmo, SC

More on S&W

The REAL issue is the issue itself.

Let's get one thing straight. There is something that liberal politicians want even more than your guns! And that's to maintain power by being re-elected.

One way they do that is by hammering away at guns year after year and calling it a campaign to make the citizens safe. Liberal politicians intend to use gun control as long as they can. That's why

Clinton doesn't enforce existing laws. If he locked up all the violent criminals, crime would decline (a lot more than it has) and calls for new laws would fall on deaf ears. By failing to enforce the laws against violent criminals, he keeps the violent crime rate up and (with the help of compliant news reporters) keeps the issue of gun control on the front page. Violent crime is down, but you'd never know that by watching the news. The major, for-profit news corporations are reporting crimes that previously received only local play.

If voters lost all interest in new gun laws, liberals would have to find a new issue to replace it. For a long time, gun control has been a great issue for them. Gun control appeals to a lot of misguided people, and by deceitfully implying that it is a remedy for violent crime, political demagoguery makes it an emotionally charged issue. Emotions motivate voters.

We will NOT see relief from the enemy. The S&W (and maybe Glock) acquiescence will spur the enemy on. The truth is that we can expect to see incremental gun control measures offered up each year until the issue (through confiscation) is dead.

Paul Peters, W. Columbia

Original Letter to S&W

To: Ed Shultz, C.E.O S&W Corp.

Your recent "cave in" to the anti-gun crowd (and it's hard to see it in any other light) may be good strategy from an MBA's short term point of view, but it can have only disastrous consequences in the long run.

Once you show the bully that you're afraid of him, he'll never stop pushing you for whatever he wants to get. A short look at the failed strategy of the tobacco companies should have told you that before you even began to consider this move.

Once you pay the Danegeld, you'll never get rid of the Dane. The automobile manufacturers have been aware of this problem for about 40 years now. The pharmaceutical companies have been fighting it even longer. The tobacco companies are just beginning to realize what's behind the camel's nose that's pushed into their tent. Once the govern-

GrassRoots Letters from the Editor's Desk

ment decides to lay even more (and considerably more stupid) "suggestions" on your industry, you'll have the Devil's own time figuring out how to run your business without coming to depend entirely on government money and government "help" to remain solvent.

You goofed. Badly.

Tim Butler

S&W's Reply

I'm sorry you disagree with the action taken by Smith & Wesson. There are two reasons why we came to the decision we did.

1. To provide for the future viability of the company. Defending the lawsuits will ultimately put the company out of business.

2. Insuring that we will be able to provide individual citizens with our product in the future. The majority of Smith & Wesson products are sold to private citizens and by making some changes in the way we design and distribute our present products, we will be able to continue providing our products to those individuals legally entitled to own them.

Thanks for your message.

Ed Shultz

And Final Rebuttal:

You pretty much confirm the reasons I thought were behind your actions.

I reiterate, "you goofed". Big time.

As to 1., the lawsuits will disappear quickly enough. More and more states are pre-empting them and even many of the anti-gunners are not happy with "legislation from the bench", as these suits are coming to be known. As you no doubt are aware, several of them have already been thrown out by presiding judges, and with precedent now well set, the rest of them will no doubt follow. What can't be undone are the terms of the agreement you have already entered into. Due to the effect of those terms on the market, especially as they will be twisted and torqued by hostile attorneys, the viability of your company will rest directly on its ability to keep selling weapons to the government(s), and only the government(s).

This is because 2. The government agents pushing this agenda have every interest in seeing to it that individual citizens are not allowed to purchase firearms from you, or from any other manufacturer. In case it has escaped your notice, the entire POINT of this exercise is to insure that the only individuals "legally entitled to own" the goods you manufacture will be those carrying government badges. This is the stated intent of every major supporter of this "voluntary agreement"...which, if reported accurately, will have the force of law once signed.

In addition, once this particular battle is resolved, those of us still buying guns will be unlikely to be interested in acquiring any more of your products. Arms, in general, are for those with courage, patience and persistence. Your company seems to be demonstrating none of those qualities at present.

An Instructor's Letter to S&W

Mr. Schultz:

I personally do not own any Smith & Wesson products and it looks like I'm not likely to in the future. I had been interested in your new lightweight technology (I have a concealed carry permit) but it looks like I'll be spending my money on suspenders instead. It used to be that Taurus was imitating Smith & Wesson and then it looked like Smith & Wesson was imitating Taurus. Now it looks like Smith & Wesson is imitating Liggett and Myers.

I know your British owners are probably recommending what you are doing and your weak kneed lawyers and caving in to the blackmailing Clinton terrorists is "just business." It's the same with me. It's just business and I'll be taking mine elsewhere. And, as a firearms instructor, I will be recommending that my students do the same.

Sorry,

Bill Osborne

**Founder and Past President,
South Carolina Concealed Weapon
Permit Instructors Association**

From the NRA Instructors Digest

Dear Mr. Schultz:

If at any time your company fails to provide a choice of firearms that can be maintained in condition one for self defense I will file a class action suit against Smith & Wesson for failure to provide proper firearms for Senior Citizens to be able to use for self defense. We don't need any complicated apparatus to prevent us from using. Also remember we are on fixed incomes. There may be more than one person in the house that uses the same Firearm for self-defense at any given time.

We don't care what kind of Firearms you provide for the Bodyguard protected Mayors as long as you provide plain simple to operate, non failing at all times Firearms, for multi-person use for us Senior Citizens.

R W Baumer

Dear Mr. Schultz,

I have been an avid supporter of S&W for many years. My first new revolver was a .38 S&W Combat Masterpiece purchased in 1954, which I still have and I consider it my favorite.

Needless to say that I am very disappointed with the recent action S&W took concerning its stand on appeasing those who would like to sue firearm manufacturers in the event one of its guns were used in a crime.

In my opinion, as well as the opinion of others, you have 'caved in' to a bully pulpit of HUD and other anti-second amendment activists to the US Constitution.

It saddens me to state that I will no longer be an advocate for the once great name of Smith and Wesson and the great heritage it once had in this country. I feel betrayed by a company that I thought would stand up for our right to own a firearm and not be considered a criminal by doing so.

You made history by this action, but a historical event which has brought shame to a once great company. What a loss.

THOMAS R. SUTTON, Bluffton, SC

GrassRoots Letters from the Editor's Desk

Another CWP Instructor Viewpoint on S&W

Dear Mr. Schultz,

I am responding to a press-release which states that you have settled various lawsuits by agreeing to immediately provide trigger-locks with your handguns and by agreeing to develop "smart-gun technology" in the very near future.

As a LEO firearms instructor, I am privileged to be able to carry the weapon of my choice. I carry a .40 S&W, Model 4006. Yes, it is a more complex weapon than a Glock, but I can do things with it that one cannot do with a heavy-trigger pull Glock. As I'm certain you are aware, the widespread adoption of Glock by LEO's represents a massive trade-off between liability and effectiveness.

I don't have a problem with your decision to provide new handguns with trigger-locks that are designed to fit them. From a safety perspective, this is a good idea. Trigger-locks are designed to put responsibility where it should be- on the gun owner. A purchaser can use the trigger-lock, throw it away or let it set in the box it came in.

I do have a problem with the anticipated future "smart-gun technology." As I'm certain you already know, any mechanical device, even one as simple as a safety can fail. I don't want to rely on a "smart-gun weapon", that may fail me when I need it most.

I strongly suspect that "smart-gun technology" will be aimed at the civilian market and that LEO's will be exempt from this requirement, just as they are currently exempt from the 10-rd magazine ban. If the police were required to use "smart-guns", we would have a better idea of what a terrible idea "smart-gun technology" is, but we're never going to hear their screams- because I feel absolutely certain that they will be exempt.

One of these days, I won't be a LEO firearms instructor anymore and then I'll be stuck with 10-rd. magazines and if my predictions are accurate, "smart-gun technology."

I would encourage you to do whatever needs to be done to insure that "smart-gun technology" never becomes a reality. This may require renegotiating with the other side and pointing out to them that

trigger-locks in and of themselves are sufficient to protect the children.

I suspect that the question that I need to ask, which will answer the rest for me is- Are LEO's going to be exempt from "smart-gun technology?"

Sincerely,
Tim Finley, Greenville, SC

From Florence Regarding WPDE

I am glad to be on the GrassRoots mailing list. I live in Florence SC and intend to write a letter of protest to our local ABC TV station WPDE 15 regarding a biased news story early this morning. There was a shooting incident at a dive in Darlington, SC and the local reporters were dancing in his blood. Reporters mentioned the bill to allow CWP into restaurants that serve alcohol. They even trotted out some older gentleman who they said was a sheriff (no name given-no county given) and his stance was that this wouldn't have happened etc. The news-woman finished up the report with her own damnation of guns - no viewpoint from any other side -no facts, just opinions. I have never read or heard of a CWP shooting anyone on the premises of restaurants serving alcohol.

Spartanburg Herald Journal

The editorial in today's paper is entitled "Pistol-packing drinkers" - Lawmakers shouldn't mix alcohol and concealed weapons.

The last paragraph pretty much sums up the article:

"Lawmakers need to come to their senses and keep guns and alcohol as far apart as possible. Those determined to drink while armed should have to stay home to do so. That way they won't drive either."

I hope someone with persuasive eloquence will rebut this article. I would try but am afraid I wouldn't do it justice.

I truly admire all the work being done. Hopefully one day I will be able to do more.

Thanks,
Bob Kinard, Spartanburg, SC

Posted Stores Building Record of Becoming Attractive Targets for Criminals

Some recently recorded incidents of robbery at posted merchants in SC include:

BB&T Sumter (Valentine's Day)

Sam's Playstation, Sumter

Best Stop Convenience Store, Ridgeway
First Citizen's and BB&T in Columbia have had several locations robbed since the CWP law went into effect.

A Charleston area Piggly Wiggly was supposedly robbed, and a store employee beaten.

Applebee's in Columbia has been robbed twice lately.

Thanks from SAF

I want to thank you for all the fine work you do in South Carolina protecting the right to keep and bear arms. You make the job much easier for all the national groups.

Alan Gottlieb

Second Amendment Foundation

From the Editor:

We are turning the corner in South Carolina in our pro-gun legislative efforts. That is, we have more pro-gun bills coming forward than I can remember in any recent years - and they are being supported by the people of South Carolina in numbers which the members of the legislature have never before seen.

Because we are responding in large numbers, legislators are also surely becoming cautious of introducing anti-gun bills as well. I sometimes wonder how many legislators have told their anti-gun constituents, "Now, is NOT a good time for your bill." They are right!

Just as we do not know how many merchants decide not to post against CWP because of their knowledge or exposure to our group, likewise we can not measure the positive effect we are having on decreasing anti-gun bills in South Carolina. It can't be measured, but we know it exists. Thanks to you.

Now we are asking for your support for the most important, CWP specific, pro-gun bill we have yet seen since GrassRoots was formed - H4797. GrassRoots Activists, we have been dancing with the

GrassRoots Letters from the Editor's Desk

bridesmaids up until now. It's now time to take the bride to the dance floor. Many, many of you joined GrassRoots for exactly this opportunity - to advance and strengthen our South Carolina CWP law. You've responded to our alerts in the past and done some impressive things. All of those GrassRoots alerts were important, but this is the most important yet for CWP holders.

Please don't fail to 1) write; 2) fax; and at the very minimum 3) use our Internet auto-e-mailer to send your representative a note supporting CWP Reform H-4797.

Remember, it's why we came to *this* dance.

Larry Coble, West Columbia, SC

Our Apologies...

GRSC wished to extend it's apologies to all those who may have sent in letters and/or comments which we were unable to publish in this newsletter. As you can see we simply run out of room. Please keep them coming though and we will make every attempt to publish as many as space permits in future newsletters.

Extending Your Right to Carry into Other States

Extending Your Right to Carry into Other States

By Paul Peters

Your South Carolina CWP gives you the “privilege” (to exercise your God-given right) to carry a concealed handgun. Your SC CWP is recognized in several other



states. (Remember, when you carry in those states, you must abide by their state and local laws and limitations.) Unfortunately, your SC CWP does not extend that privilege to every state. Non-resident CWPs can expand your territory.

The first thing you must understand is that the “Concealed Weapon Permits by State” table and this article are not intended to give legal advice. Do not rely on this information. Check with each appropriate state or jurisdiction to get the most up-to-date and accurate information. This table is intended only as a guide to direct you to information that you might find useful. Two other sources of information that you might want to consult are the state index of the Concealed Carry Database at www.packing.org and the NRA’s information about state and federal laws at www.nraila.org/research/statelaws. The NRA also offers printed material about state and federal firearms laws. The Packing.org web site has additional information about how to obtain non-resident CWPs in each state that issues them.

South Carolina has reciprocity agreements with only four states (Arkansas, Tennessee, Utah, and Wyoming). However, research appears to indicate that five additional states will accept your SC CWP. That leaves forty states in which you cannot carry with only a SC CWP.

The State Law Enforcement Division (SLED) is the agency that evaluates the feasibility of establishing reciprocity agreements with other states. According to a letter dated January 20, 2000 from Chief Robert Stewart, SLED has been reviewing the possibility of such agreements with Florida, Kentucky, Louisi-

ana, and North Carolina. Captain Joe Dorton confirmed that his office expects to have some announcement within the next two months regarding new reciprocity agreements with other states and that those four states are still under consideration.

If you want to be allowed to carry in another state and that state doesn’t recognize your SC CWP, you might be able to obtain a non-resident CWP that will enable you to do so. Sixteen states issue non-resident CWPs.

Fourteen of those states do not have reciprocity with South Carolina. However, one non-resident CWP could cover several states. As a matter of fact, it might even be advantageous to apply for a non-resident CWP from a state with which SC does have reciprocity. For example, a non-resident CWP from Utah will give you carry privileges in Oklahoma.

Our neighboring states, North Carolina and Georgia, each present different problems. North Carolina neither issues non-resident permits nor recognizes permits from any other state. Consequently, right now there is no way to obtain carry privileges in North Carolina. SLED could solve that problem with a reciprocity agreement. In contrast, obtaining carry privileges in Georgia is fairly easy. A non-resident permit (\$117) from Florida is recognized in Georgia. However, a non-resident permit from New Hampshire (\$20) will work in Georgia and usually is issued in two or three weeks.

The way to use the table is first to list the states that will honor your SC CWP. Then look at other states in which you’d like to carry. See if those states issue non-resident permits. Then check to see which other states’ non-resident CWPs are honored in that state. Look at the rows for those other states and compare the costs of getting each permit. Ultimately, cost may be the deciding factor as to how many non-resident CWPs you apply for. Of the forty states in which your SC CWP is not honored, a combination of non-resident CWPs could enable you to carry in as many as seventeen.

When you read the table and look at which states honor another state’s CWP, be careful to notice whether or not that

state honors only resident permits from other states. You can determine that by looking for a footnote number. The number “1” indicates that the honoring state honors only resident permits from the other state. A “2” indicates that the honoring state honors both resident and non-resident permits. The absence of a footnote number indicates that the state appears to honor both, but that that fact has not been confirmed.

If you want to extend your carry privileges around the South with the biggest *bang* for the buck, non-resident permits from Florida (\$117) and Texas (\$140) are worth considering. Those two add these southern states: Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee, and Texas. They also add: Alaska, Arizona, North Dakota, and Oklahoma. The bargain CWP is New Hampshire’s (\$20) which by itself nets you New Hampshire, Georgia, and North Dakota. (Even Georgia residents pay more than that for the privilege to carry in their own state.)

So ten (your SC CWP and the nine states that honor it) plus seventeen (with non-resident permits) equals twenty-eight states in which you could have privileges to carry. Twenty-eight? Yup. The good news is that there is one freebie. Vermont. The Green Mountain State is the only state that truly recognizes your Second Amendment right by prohibiting neither open nor concealed carry without a permit.

If you don’t need CWPs for certain other states right away, you might wait a couple of months to see if SLED strikes some other reciprocity agreements. I hope they do, but I’m not holding my breath. Even if they did work something out with the four states mentioned above, Florida and Texas non-resident permits would cover more states. Of those two, Florida looks like a good choice.

My recommendation? If you haven’t already done so, at least get your New Hampshire CWP. Oh ... and vacation in Vermont.

Paul Peters is a freelance writer and editor. He was a Columbia police officer and a member of Lexington County Council. From USC he received a B.S. in Criminal Justice and a Master’s degree in Public Administration. He can be reached at papeters@msn.com

(see accompanying table next page)

Concealed Weapon Permits by State

State of issue	States in which permit is probably valid	Permits from states probably valid in issuing state	Issues Res CWP?	Issues Non-res CWP?	Shall issue?	Must apply in person?	Approx. total cost/term
AL	ID IN ² KY ² MI ¹ WY ²	None	Y	N	N	Unk.	\$1/1yr
AK	IN ² KY ² MI ¹ MT ² ND ² UT WY ²	TX	Y	N	Y	Y	\$200/5yr
AZ	AR ² ID IN ² KY ² MI ¹ MT ² TX ² UT WY ²	AR KY TX UT	Y	Y	Y	N	\$50/4yr
AR	AZ FL ¹ ID IN ² KY ² MI ¹ MT ² OK SC ¹ TN TX ² UT WY ²	AZ ² FL ² KY ² OK ² SC ² TN ² TX ² UT ²	Y	N	Y	Y	\$100+/4yr
CA	ID IN ² KY ² MI ¹ MT ²	None	Y	N	N	Unk.	Unk./2yr
CO	ID IN ² KY ² MI ¹ MT ²	None	Y	N	N	Y	Unk./unk.
CT	ID IN ² KY ² MI ¹ MT ² WY ²	None	Y	Y	N	N	\$59
DE	ID IN ² KY ² MI ¹ WY ²	None	Y	N	N	Y	\$250+/2yr
FL	AR ² GA ² ID IN ² KY ² LA ² MI ¹ MS ² MT ² NH ¹ ND ² TN ² WY ²	AR ¹ GA ¹ ID ¹ IN ¹ KY ¹ LA ¹ MI MS ¹ MT ¹ NH ¹ ND ¹ TN ¹ WY ¹	Y	Y	Y	N	\$117/5yr
GA	FL ¹ ID IN KY MT ² TN	FL ² ID ² IN ² KY ² MI ² NH ² TN ² TX ²	Y	N	Y	Y	\$24+/5yr
HI	KY UT	None	Rare	N	N	Unk.	Unk./unk.
ID	FL ¹ GA ² IN ² KY ² MI ¹ MT ² NH ¹ ND ²	AL AZ AR CA CO CT DE FL GA IL IN IA KY LA ME MD MA MI MN MS MT NE NV NH NJ NY NC ND OK OR PA RI SC SD TX UT VA WA WV WY	Y	Y	Y	Y	\$56/4yr
IL	N/A	None	N	N	N/A	N/A	N/A
IN	FL ¹ GA ² ID KY ² MI ¹ MT ² NH ¹ ND ² WY ²	AL ² AK ² AZ ² AR ² CA ² CO ² CT ² DE ² FL ² GA ID ² IL ² IA ² KY ² LA ² ME ² MD ² MA ² MI ² MN ² MS ² MT ² NE ² NV ² NH ² NJ ² NY ² NC ² ND ² OK ² OR ² PA ² RI ² SC ² SD ² TN TX ² UT ² VA ² WA ² WV ² WY ²	Y	N	Y	Y	\$30/4yr
IA	ID IN ² KY ² MI ¹ MT ² WY ²	None	Y	Y	N	Y	\$27/1yr
KS	N/A	None	N	N	N/A	N/A	N/A
KY	AZ AR ² FL ¹ GA ² ID IN ² LA ² MI ¹ MS ² MT ² NH ¹ TN WV WY	AL ² AK ² AZ ² AR ² CA ² CO ² CT ² DE ² FL ² GA HI ID ² IL ² IN ² IA ² LA ² ME ² MD ² MA ² MI ² MN ² MS ² MT ² NE ² NV ² NH ² NJ ² NY ² NC ² ND ² OK ² OR ² PA ² RI ² SC ² SD ² TN TX ² UT ² VA ² WA ² WV ² WY ²	Y	N	Y	Y	\$60/3yr
LA	FL ¹ ID IN ² KY ² MI ¹ MT ² TN TX ² UT WY ²	FL ² KY ² TN ² TX ²	Y	N	Y	N	\$100 or \$150/4yr
ME	ID IN ² KY ² MI ¹ WY ²	None	Y	Y	Y	N	\$60/4yr
MD	ID IN ² KY ² MI ¹ MT ² WY ²	None	Y	Y	N	Y	\$117/2yr

Concealed Weapon Permits by State

State of issue	States in which permit is probably valid	Permits from states probably valid in issuing state	Issues Res CWP?	Issues Non-res CWP?	Shall issue?	Must apply in person?	Approx. total cost/term
MA	ID IN ² KY ² MI ¹ MT ² WY ²	None	Y	Y	N	N	\$50 (non-res)/1yr
MI	FL GA ² ID IN ² KY ² MT ² NH ¹ ND ¹ WY ²	AL ¹ AK ¹ AZ ¹ AR ¹ CA ¹ CO ¹ CT ¹ DE ¹ FL ¹ ID ¹ IL ¹ IN ¹ IA ¹ KY ¹ LA ¹ ME ¹ MD ¹ MA ¹ MN ¹ MS ¹ MT ¹ NE ¹ NV ¹ NH ¹ NJ ¹ NY ¹ NC ¹ ND ¹ OK ¹ OR ¹ PA ¹ RI ¹ SC ¹ SD ¹ TX ¹ UT ¹ VA ¹ WA ¹ WV ¹ WY ¹	Y	N	N	Y	\$49/3yr
MN	ID IN ² KY ² MI ¹ MT ² WY ²	None	Y	N	N	Unk.	\$10/1yr
MS	FL ¹ ID IN ² KY ² MI ¹ MT ² TN WY ²	FL ² KY ² TN ² WY ²	Y	N	Y	Y	\$124/4yr
MO	N/A	None	N	N	N/A	N/A	N/A
MT	FL ¹ ID IN ² KY ² MI ¹ ND ² WY ²	AL ² AZ ² AR ² CA ² CO ² CT ² FL ² GA ² ID ² IN ² IA ² KY ² LA ² MD ² MA ² MI ² MN ² MS ² NV ² NJ ² NY ² NC ² ND ² OK ² OR ² PA ² SC ² TN ² TX ² UT ² VA ² WA ² WV ² WY ²	Y	N	Y	Y	\$50/4yr
NE	N/A	None	N	N	N/A	N/A	N/A
NV	ID IN ² KY ² MI ¹ MT ² UT WY ²	None	Y	N	Y	N	\$119/5yr
NH	FL ¹ GA ² ID IN ² KY ² MI ¹ ND ² WY ²	FL ¹ ID ¹ IN ¹ KY ¹ MI ¹ ND ¹	Y	Y	Y	N	\$20/4yr
NJ	ID IN ² KY ² MI ¹ MT ² WY ²	None	Y	N	N	Y	\$20/2yr
NM	N/A	None	N	N	N/A	N/A	N/A
NY	ID IN ² KY ² MI ¹ MT ²	None	Y	N	N	Y	Unk./unk.
NY City	None	None	Y	N	N	Y	\$244/unk.
NC	ID IN ² KY ² MI ¹ MT ² UT WY ²	None	Y	N	Y	Y	\$90/4yr
ND	FL ¹ ID IN ² KY ² MI ¹ MT ² NH ¹ WY ²	AK ² FL ² ID ² IN ² MI ² MT ² NH ² WY ²	Y	Y	Y	N	\$25 + test fee up to \$50/3yr
OH	N/A	None	N	N	N/A	N/A	N/A
OK	AR ID IN ² KY ² MI ¹ MT ² TX ² UT WY ²	AR TX UT WY	Y	N	Y	Y	\$125/4yr
OR	ID IN ² KY ² MI ¹ MT ²	None	Y	Y	Y	Y	\$65/4yr
PA	ID IN ² KY ² MI ¹ MT ²	None	Y	Y	Y	Y	\$19/5yr
RI	ID IN ² KY ² MI ¹ WY ²	None	Y	Y	N	Y	\$40/4yr
SC	AR ² ID IN ² KY ² MI ¹ MT ² TN UT WY ²	AR ¹ TN ¹ UT ¹ WY ¹	Y	N	Y	N	\$50/4yr
SD	ID IN ² KY ² MI ¹ WY ²	None	Y	N	Y	Y	\$10/4yr
TN	AR ² FL ¹ GA ² IN KY LA ² MS ² MT ² SC ¹ UT VA	AR FL ² GA KY LA MS SC VA	Y	N	Y	Y	\$115/4yr
TX	AK AZ AR ² GA ² ID IN ² KY ² LA ² MI ¹ MT ² OK UT WY ²	AZ ² AR ² LA ² OK ²	Y	Y	Y	N	\$140/4yr
UT	AZ AR ² ID IN ² KY ² MI ¹ MT ² OK SC ¹ WY ²	AK AZ AR HI LA NV NC OK SC TN TX	Y	Y	Y	N	\$59/5yr
VT	N/A	N/A. No permit is required for concealed or unconcealed carry. Local ordinances vary.	N	N	N/A	N/A	N/A

Concealed Weapon Permits by State

State of issue	States in which permit is probably valid	Permits from states probably valid in issuing state	Issues Res CWP?	Issues Non-res CWP?	Shall issue?	Must apply in person?	Approx. total cost/term
VA	ID IN ² KY ² MI ¹ MT ² TN WY ²	TN	Y	N	Y	Y	\$50/5yr
WA	ID IN ² KY ² MI ¹ MT ² WY ²	None	Y	Y	Y	Y	\$60/5yr
Wash DC	None	None	Y	N	Unk.	Unk.	Unk./unk.
WV	ID IN ² KY ² MI ¹ MT ²	KY	Y	N	Y	Y	\$70/5yr
WI	N/A	None	N	N	N	N/A	N/A
WY	FL ¹ ID IN ² KY ² MI ¹ MS ² MT ² ND ² OK SC ¹	AL ² AK ² AZ ² AR ² CT ² DE ² FL ² IL ² IN ² IA ² KY LA ² ME ² MD ² MA ² MI ² MN ² MS ² MT ² NE ² NV ² NH ² NJ ² NC ² ND ² OK ² RI ² SC ² SD ² TX ² UT ² VA ² WA ²	Y	N	Y	Y	\$50+/5yr

¹Must be resident of issuing state.

²Need not be a resident of issuing state, confirmed

When Was the Last Time You Saw a Newspaper Article About a Person Using a Weapon in Self-Defense?

By Robert W. Whitaker

The right to bear arms cannot survive tragedy after tragedy being reported in the news as a simple failure to control guns. We never read about the two million times a year that private guns are used to prevent crime.

Professor John Lott of the University of Chicago did extensive studies of FBI statistics and wrote a book called "More Guns, Less Crime." It gave instance after instance of how armed, HONEST citizens prevent crime. He did statistical studies proving this fact. The book lived up to its title.

Let me tell you how effective Lott is. I saw a 1990's debate between him and gun control advocates on public television. No one is going to accuse public television of not giving the left all the odds it can. Lott was outnumbered, but he made an unbeatable case that when the honest public is armed, crime goes DOWN. His case was so good that the gun control advocates were reduced to arguing that allowing honest people to carry concealed weapons had NO EFFECT on violent crime!!!

Now here is the CRITICAL point: this occurred in the mid-nineties. This was when concealed weapons permit laws were being passed that gave the public more access to firearms. In response to these proposals, these exact same anti-gun people were shouting "BLOODBATH!" They were saying that if these new concealed weapons permit laws were passed, "It will be Dodge City!"

Respectable conservatives don't remember that, but I do. The very second a roomful of these anti-gun screamers had to face a knowledgeable scholar, they were reduced to arguing that the permits shouldn't be allowed because they didn't MATTER.

The laws they were screaming against were passed and they have worked beautifully.

If the nonsense they were screaming in the mid-nineties were repeated today, the anti-gun nuts would be laughed to shame. If respectable conservatives had any memory at all, the gun-grabbers would be in very deep trouble. But respectable conservatives are an intellectually inbred bureaucracy of city people who know nothing about guns. Whenever the subject comes up, they are truly pathetic.

The problem is that they speak for us in public debate, and we never object.

Our Masters are Upset That They No Longer Own the Gun Permit Business

By Robert W. Whitaker

There have always been concealed weapons permits, despite the fact that liberals speak of them as if they were a right wing innovation. What has changed, and outraged the left, is the WAY the right wants such permits to be handed out. In South Carolina and other states, it used to be that you got a gun permit because you knew the right people. Now you have to EARN a permit, and the media considers that a dangerous and evil thing.

The old concealed weapons permits, the ones you got by knowing the right people or having political pull, had no restrictions. In South Carolina, if you

helped the sheriff win his election or otherwise pleased him, he could appoint you a Special Deputy, an unpaid police officer. You would get a badge and the right to carry a gun anywhere a deputy could. Judges and other petty officials got unlimited permits routinely.

For citizens in general, there were no permits except under extreme conditions. If you wanted a permit and didn't have political pull, the burden of proof was on you.

Then came what is now known as "the concealed weapons permit movement." A majority of states, including almost all of the South and west, have passed laws which shift the burden of proof from the honest citizen to the petty officials. In other words, if a person proves his qualifications to have a permit, and if the CITIZEN feels he needs one, it is up to the police to prove he SHOULDN'T have one.

This movement, from political pull for permits to making people EARN permits, has infuriated the media, the political left, and many of our pettiest petty officials.

South Carolina's version of the EARNED permit is contained in the Law Abiding Citizens' Self-Defense Act of 1996. To get a permit, one must take a day long course, demonstrate competency on the firing range, and then undergo a three-month background check by SLED.



Guest Editorialist – Robert W. Whitaker

As what was called "the concealed weapons movement" advanced, the establishment panicked. To repeat, there had always been a concealed weapons law in every state and every county in the United States. The change was that one would have to EARN a permit rather than simply being a buddy with the local authorities.

"There will be a BLOOD BATH!" shrieked the press from coast to coast. Since then, some 24,500 permits have been EARNED in South Carolina. Nation-wide, the number of EARNED concealed weapons permits is well into the hundreds of thousands.

For the last half of the 1990's, the national and local media searched hungrily for some instance of misuse of these permits. There were NONE.

Since respectable conservatives have no memory, no one will ever remind the media that they screamed "BLOODBATH" when these EARNED permits were proposed. It would embarrass them, and respectable conservatives never say anything to embarrass liberals. That's how they stay respectable.

So, now that we have hundreds of thousands of permits and many years of experience with EARNED gun permits, it would seem obvious that the opponents were not only wrong, but laughably wrong.

Back when the establishment was screaming "BLOOD BATH!," liberal legislators could not stop the EARNED permits, so they did what the gun grabbers considered the next best thing. They heaped special restrictions on EARNED concealed weapons permits that were never even considered for permits handed out under the old buddy system. Clearly, permit holders have earned the right to rid themselves of the special restrictions they are under, the ones no one even considered putting on permits awarded under the old buddy system.

Back in 1996, when they were shrieking "BLOODBATH!," the press demanded that people not be allowed to carry guns to the bank. They had lines like, "the law would allow armed men to go into banks!," evoking images of bank robbers. Needless to say, not one instance of any problem has been recorded anywhere when a permit holder carried his gun into a bank.

Now the papers say, "people carrying guns in bars!!" Right now, someone who has an EARNED concealed weapons permit cannot carry his gun into any place that serves alcoholic beverages, including most restaurants. Once again, no such restriction was ever considered when permits were awarded on the buddy system.

It turns out that criminals like this restriction. Criminals know that if they see someone coming out of a restaurant that sells beer, the law guarantees that that person will not be armed.

Grassroots, South Carolina (<http://www.scfirearms.org>) is leading the growing fight in the state legislature to get these absurd limitations removed.

Many states do not have this restriction. And once again, where this restriction has not been applied, there has, once again, been NO INSTANCE of abuse of it by EARNED permit holders.

Nonetheless, once again the shriek is "BLOODBATH!," and all permit holders are portrayed as drunken bums who will shoot up the place.

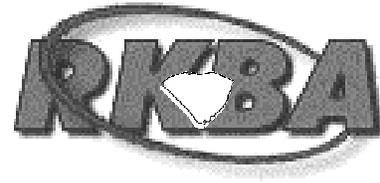
There is a fundamental point here, though, that goes beyond whether or not a person has a gun permit. The theory of the media is that the average law-abiding citizen is exactly the same as the criminal population. A person who EARNS a permit and undergoes a three-month background check to prove he has no criminal record or any other problem, should be banned from self-defense as completely as a career criminal. They are the same.

This is not only factually absurd, it hideously insulting, and not just to permit holders. It reflects the establishment's attitude toward all law-abiding citizens. It is time for everyone to back the regular citizens who have EARNED their permits. <end>

Robert W. Whitaker was born and raised in South Carolina, went to the University of South Carolina and the University of Virginia Graduate School. He has been a college professor, international aviation negotiator, Capitol Hill senior staffer, Reagan Administration appointee, and writer for the Voice of America. He has written numerous articles and two books. Mr. Whitaker now lives in Columbia, SC. He has asked us to inform female readers that he is di-

vorced and "wildly attractive." Grass-Roots agrees that he is divorced."

Legislative Update
By Rob Butler, J.D.



H4797 - GUN LAWS MADE BETTER!

GrassRoots activists, here is what we have been waiting too long to see! The first GrassRoots proposed CWP reform legislation has been introduced! It is not all we want, but it is what we have a chance of passing this year.

H4797 is more than just GrassRoots CWP reform. H4797 also contains GrassRoots proposed reforms of SC gun laws to help everybody. Ed Kelleher (Pres., GrassRoots), Rob Butler (Legislative Dir., GrassRoots), Rep. Jakie Knotts, Capt. Joe Dorton (SLED Regulatory), and Chief Stewart (SLED) sat down and talked about GrassRoots' CWP reforms. During the discussion, GrassRoots learned SLED interprets SC law to prohibit carrying a firearm in your vehicle's glove box into the parking lot of a nice restaurant. We were told some people had already been charged with this crime! SLED also interprets SC law to prohibit carrying a firearm in your vehicle's glove box into the parking lot of a publicly owned building, such as when you go to register to vote or pay your taxes (or talk to SLED). Chief Stewart, Rep. Knotts, and GrassRoots were all astonished that SLED would try to make good people into criminals for having a gun in the glove box in a parking lot, with penalties so great the penalties would then cause a lifetime firearms disability. H4797 will fix this problem. (H4508 is a separate bill which would allow CWP carry into restaurants and is currently being considered by the House Judiciary Committee. GrassRoots is also trying to improve H4508.)

Shortly after GrassRoots revealed SLED's interpretation to the GrassRoots E-Mail Action Alert subscribers, the Attorney General (AG) issued an opinion stating the AG did not agree with the interpretation by SLED. Unfortunately, the AG's opinion does not have the force of law. An AG's opinion can be changed by a different AG, and does not have to be obeyed by judges and police. Therefore, GrassRoots proposed amendments to fix these problems, and Rep. Knotts introduced the proposed amendments as part of H4797. GrassRoots feels we are better off with the written law on our side, which judges and police must obey, rather than just the AG's opinion.

H4797 will change the law to allow CWP holders to carry in parks and other facilities under the control of the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism. This change would allow CWP holders to be able to defend themselves and their families while walking the wilderness nature trails, where you seldom see park rangers when you need them.

H4797 will require businesses that post against CWP holders to use a uniform sign placed where it would be clearly visible. No more having to look from the ground to the eaves of a building to see if it is posted. No more signs that can only be seen AFTER entering the building.

H4797 will eliminate the prohibition against CWP holders carrying in a church. A Columbia woman was recently raped in her church restroom. One recent hate crime was directed at a religious group. H4797 is needed to allow religious people to be able to defend themselves and their families. No religious group should be forced by the State to be defenseless against the attacks of hate mongers or criminals.

H4797 will eliminate the one year residency requirement to get a SC CWP. Good people moving to SC need to protect themselves and their families just as much as long term residents do. Background checks are done on a national level, so only good people will qualify for SC CWP's

regardless of how long they have lived here.

H4797 will only require one photograph to be submitted with a CWP application instead of three. SLED uses your driver's license photo for your CWP and does not need three photos from you.

Rep. Knotts surprised GrassRoots by including a mandatory retraining requirement to get your CWP renewed. One hour in the classroom to update CWP holders on legal issues, and one hour at the range to re-qualify. As soon as GrassRoots found out about this requirement, we worked to get it removed. GrassRoots pointed out three major problems with mandatory retraining:

- 1.) Mandatory retraining will kill reciprocity with other states. NONE of the states SC currently has CWP reciprocity with requires retraining. Since SC law requires other states to have requirements as strict as SC to allow CWP reciprocity, this means SC would no longer have reciprocity with any state!
- 2.) Mandatory retraining is not needed. The vast majority of shootings occur within 7 feet. Retraining is not needed at the distances CWP holders would use their weapon. GrassRoots stated SLED should send out legal updates as they are needed, regardless of CWP renewal date, and to provide legal updates with each CWP renewal. Other states do not have mandatory CWP retraining, and they have no problems.
- 3.) Mandatory retraining will threaten the safety of all SC citizens. Some CWP holders will just give up and say "to heck with it" before jumping through more hoops, and SC will then have fewer CWP holders. John Lott, in his book More Guns, Less Crime, proved less restrictive CWP laws saved lives. He showed less restrictive CWP laws lowered crime rates and benefitted ALL citizens, not just CWP holders, because of a "halo" or "umbrella" effect created by CWP holders. He also proved crime went down further as each CWP was issued. Therefore, any law making CWP's more difficult to get will only make SC a more dangerous place to live for all SC citizens.

Rep. Jackie Knotts checked with SLED and confirmed SC would lose reciprocity with other states if retraining was part of the SC CWP law. Rep. Knotts told GrassRoots he would amend the bill in subcommittee to delete the mandatory retraining requirement because he did not want to kill reciprocity.

H4797 will also change state law to allow good people to carry a firearm in their glove box while dropping children off at school, or parking in a school parking lot. GrassRoots learned at the meeting with SLED that a teacher had just been arrested and charged with a felony. The female teacher carried a firearm in the locked glove box of her vehicle in case she needed it for protection going to and from work. She also locked her vehicle. But, she parked in the teacher's parking lot on school property. Another teacher reported her to police because it is a felony to have a firearm on school property, even inside a locked glove box inside a locked vehicle. This teacher could now do hard time and lose her teaching certificate. GrassRoots does not feel this is justice.

Do you remember the school shooting in Pearl, Mississippi? A teacher had a gun in his vehicle and retrieved the gun to put a stop to the slaughter. The teacher was charged with violating the gun free school zone law. Some people feel it would have been better to let the slaughter continue than to allow a good person with a gun to stop the slaughter. GrassRoots feels differently. Good people are not the problem, they are part of the solution.

Even if GrassRoots can change state law regarding firearms on school property, federal law still prohibits firearms on school property. The first federal "Gun Free School Zone" law was held to be unconstitutional. But, our federal legislators passed another "Gun Free School Zone" law. It has not

been tested in an appeals court, yet. Just driving by a school with a gun in your glove box is a federal crime. Think about that the next time you want all gun laws enforced with zero tolerance. You could easily be the next victim, especially since you are required to declare you have a gun because of your CWP. Do you think you deserve to serve 5 years for driving by a school? Changing state law is a first step that must be taken. Then, we can work to get the federal law declared unconstitutional, again.

We, the GrassRoots activists, must now get to work. We must contact our legislators **every week** until H4797 gets passed. Just because your legislator has cosponsored H4797 is not a reason to stop contacting him or her. Keep contacting your legislator **every week** because then they will work harder to get more cosponsors and to push H4797 into law.

GrassRoots ACTION STEPS * GrassRoots ACTION STEPS**

1.) Fax (803.734.2925), call (803.734.2402), and write (South Carolina House of Representatives, P.O. Box 11867, Columbia, SC 29211) your Representative and ask him or her to cosponsor H4797, and to work hard to get H4797 passed into law this year. For your convenience, use the pre-written letter found in this newsletter. Make copies for your friends and relatives to use. It is not important that your letter be original, it is only important that you contact your legislator. Legislators are only concerned with the numbers of contacts, not the eloquence of the letters. In fact, pre-written messages are better because then the legislators know there is an organized effort in place.

2.) Use the GrassRoots e-mail auto mailer with a pre-written letter to get your message about H4797 to your Representative and any other Representative you so desire. Visit our web page at <http://www.scfirearms.org> to send the latest pre-written letter.

3.) Fax (803.212.6299), call (803.212.6700), and write (South Carolina Senate, P.O. Box 142, Columbia, SC 29202) your Senator and ask him or her to VOTE YES on H4797 when H4797 gets to the Senate. Please use the pre-written letters when writing your Senator, if possible.

Dear Representative

:

Please cosponsor and support H4797. I support this GrassRoots initiative that will protect citizens of SC from death and serious bodily injury. Every person has the right to defend themselves or others when threatened with death or serious bodily injury. This right comes from our maker and has been recognized by governments for centuries. Unfortunately, SC law restricts the right of self defense by restricting the ability of good people to defend themselves with the most effective tool used in self defense - a firearm. US government statistics (National Crime Survey public use computer tapes (ICPSR, 1987)) show ***cooperating with, running away from, or calling for help when confronted by a robber or assaulted, INCREASES the victims' chances of being injured by 50-200% when compared to resisting with a firearm.*** Therefore, any restrictions limiting the right of good people to carry a firearm whenever and wherever they choose will only result in more good people getting injured. Remember, only the good people are going to obey the laws restricting the carrying of firearms, not the criminal element. We must eliminate the carry restrictions on good people.

H4797 will eliminate several unneeded restrictions so good people may carry firearms to protect themselves and all SC citizens from death and serious bodily injury. I support this GrassRoots initiative. John Lott ([More Guns, Less Crime](#)) proved ***less restrictive concealed weapon permit (CWP) laws are responsible for a decreased violent crime rate*** everywhere these laws are passed. This lower violent crime rate effects ALL citizens, not just those with a CWP. Fewer murders, fewer rapes, fewer aggravated assaults, and fewer robberies mean fewer lives ruined. Fewer murders, fewer rapes, fewer aggravated assaults, and fewer robberies mean fewer children growing up in homes devastated by crime. The good people of SC deserve better than SC law currently allows. Please turn H4797 into law.

GrassRoots has pointed out many areas where present law unnecessarily restricts good people from protecting themselves, their loved ones, and other good people. H4797 is good because it will eliminate several unneeded restrictions. SC needs to let good people protect themselves with the most effective means to do so. SC needs to do this NOW, before more good people are harmed. Please turn H4797 into law.

GrassRoots pointed out, and SLED has confirmed, the retraining requirement included in the current draft of H4797 would kill CWP reciprocity with the states SC currently has CWP reciprocity agreements with. This is not good for SC citizens. Rep. Jake Knotts agreed to remove the retraining requirement after learning this would severely restrict South Carolina in keeping and establishing CWP reciprocity with other states. GrassRoots supports this change in H4797. Please support Rep. Jake Knotts as he makes this change and assist him in speeding H4797 through the legislature and into law.

Sincerely,

South Carolina Concealed Weapons Permit Instructors Information

Maximizing Your Survival and Minimizing the Risk of Criminal & Civil Liability Arising Out of the Defensive Use of a Hand- gun

By Inst. Tim Finley

Surviving armed violence is a two-edged sword. In this liability-laden and litigious age we are living in, it is not enough to master the skills necessary to survive armed violence. It is incumbent upon us to also take the necessary steps to survive the potential criminal and civil liability aftermath of a self-defense or defense of others shooting.

Does the possession of a CWP mean that you will not be charged with murder or sued as a result of using your weapon in self-defense or the defense of others? After all, in obtaining your CWP, you have complied with state law in passing a test on your knowledge of the law of self-defense and the defense of others in South Carolina as well as shown a CWP instructor that you have the ability to safely handle a handgun and fire it with some degree of accuracy. The answer to the question- right or wrong- is that the mere possession of a CWP does not mean that you will not be charged with murder or sued as a result of a self-defense or defense of others shooting.

Unfortunately, nothing can guarantee that you won't be charged with murder or sued in the aftermath of an armed encounter. There are no guarantees, but there are steps we can take to minimize potential liability. These steps consist of continued training with documented proof in the form of training records. Continued training is the key to surviving the actual armed confrontation and the potential aftermath of criminal and civil liability.

Law enforcement knows this and that is why law enforcement spends so much time and money on firearms qualification and continued training with documented training records. Accordingly, it is a rare reviewing body or jury who does not acquit a law enforcement officer who is involved in a shooting incident. The reason for this is because the public perceives and the law

enforcement agency will be able to produce- documented training records that their officer has received training of the type that would all but eliminate the possibility that the shooting was not justified. Stated another way- they are presumed to have acted appropriately as a result of their extensive training.

One of the best tools that law enforcement has to train with is live-fire video-projection shoot/don't shoot scenarios which teaches deadly-force decision-making. This training teaches the officer to accurately react in a split-second, while protecting innocent life and neutralizing the threat or threats. Live-fire video projection is like being the central role in a movie. As the events unfold on screen, the officer takes the appropriate action. It is so realistic that the "don't shoot" scenarios will make you sweat, cringe and thank God that you didn't squeeze the trigger and take that shot. Live-fire video projection teaches situational awareness where it reveals in no uncertain terms that your response time to an actual armed confrontation requires such an immediate response, that if you are not aware of your environment, you will not see the threat coming until after you've been taken out. Split-second shoot/don't shoot paper targets are good training, but they do not rise to the level of live-fire-video projection deadly-force decision making training. Unfortunately, the cost of providing such training- which requires controlled lighting and expensive equipment, has placed it outside the reach of many instructors- where there isn't a proven demand for such training in the private sector.

There is one thing that all of the experts agree on and that is- "In an actual armed confrontation, we will follow our training, or lack thereof, as the case may be!" The fact that you have merely successfully completed a basic CWP course translates to your not having received any practical training in surviving an armed confrontation and protecting innocent life. There is so much more that you need to learn that cannot be self-taught and which does not come naturally. If you carry a concealed weapon, you owe it to yourself and those you love to obtain advanced training. <End>

Tim Finley is a South Carolina CWP Instructor in Greenville, SC. He owns

and operates BeSafe Firearms Training - specializing in advanced training above and beyond that required to obtain a CWP!

BeSafe Firearms Training
P.O. Box 2992, Greenville, SC 29602
Phone/Fax (864) 271-6899
E-Mail- tefinley@mindspring.com
BeSafeWebsite-
<http://tefinley.home.mindspring.com>

BeSafe offers split-second shoot/don't shoot paper target scenario training as part of its CWP course. BeSafe is now offering live-fire video-projection "shoot/don't shoot" deadly-force decision making scenarios and night-firing, among other tactical training in its **ADVANCED TACTICAL HANDGUN I and II** courses. Tac I differs from Tac II in that Tac II features an entirely different line-up of live-fire video projection "shoot/don't shoot" scenarios and includes training in structure clearing. (Tac I is a prerequisite to Tac II.) Tac II also features training in the tactical use of a shotgun for home defense. BeSafe no longer offers a twelve (12) hour CWP course that includes tactical handgun training, but is currently offering an eight (8) hour CWP

course and advanced tactical training in separate courses designated as **Advanced Tactical Handgun I and II**. A CWP is a prerequisite to enrollment in either **Advanced Tactical Handgun I or II**. Tac I is a one-day ten (10) hr. course and Tac II is a one-day twelve (12) hour course held on Tuesdays. Both Tac I and Tac II include a refresher on the law of self-defense in South Carolina.

BeSafe Courses:

Basic Handgun (4 hours) Designed for the beginning handgunner. Course requirements- 50 rounds of ammo, eye and ear protection.

Concealed Weapon Permit (8 hours) Course requirements- 100 rounds of ammo, eye and ear protection, and concealment holster.

Advanced Tactical Handgun I (10 hours) Course requirements- 150 rounds of ammo, eye and ear protection, flashlight, concealment holster, spare magazine or speed-loader.

Advanced Tactical Handgun II (12 hours) Course requirements- 200 rounds of ammo, eye and ear protection, flashlight, concealment holster, spare magazine or speed-loader; shotgun, 5 rds.

South Carolina Concealed Weapons Permit Instructors Information

slugs, 10 rds. 00 Buck. If you do not have a shotgun, one will be provided for you. A Certificate of Training, suitable for framing, will be provided to those who complete Advanced Tactical Handgun I and II, so as to serve as a record of training. Advanced registration is required in the form of pre-payment. Advanced Tac I and II are limited to 8 participants per session.

If you don't take this training from BeSafe, take it somewhere! One of our former students said it best after he and his wife took our tactical training, where he had previously completed a basic CWP course elsewhere. He said- "From the perspective of surviving an armed confrontation and protecting innocent life- after completing your tactical handgun training, I learned that the little knowledge I received during my prior CWP course was a dangerous thing."

Question: When I took the class to receive my concealed weapons permit, I was told by my instructor that when there was any change in the law concerning our permits, that SLED would keep us informed by mail of any changes in the law. I feel that there have been changes that we are not aware of... Were we told wrong or is SLED really supposed to be mailing changes? I don't want to be a CWP holder and be breaking the law. If there is not a government requirement keeping us informed about law change, I think there should be don't you?

Answer: I am not aware of any duty of SLED to keep CWP holders abreast of changes in the law. Although I have been informally advised that they will they will be updating permit holders with information with CWP renewal requests.

They **are** required by law to publish a list of states with reciprocity, however I have never seen it published. They are quite helpful on the telephone whenever I have called (ask for "Regulatory").

They (SLED) do periodically hold update classes for instructors. I agree with you that education updates are vitally important. This is one of the primary reasons GrassRoots promotes instructor input to our membership via this newsletter.

In short, it is the CWP holder's responsibility to stay current with the law. One of the best ways to accomplish that coincides with a primary goal of GrassRoots South Carolina - to educate its members.

Question: My CWP will expire soon. What are the requirements for renewal?

Answer: There are specific guidelines which, upon being met, result in requiring S.L.E.D. to re-issue a CWP permit. Here is the text as taken from our SC CWP law:

(P) A permit issued pursuant to this article is valid for four years. Subject to subsection (Q) of this section, SLED shall renew a permit upon:

(1) payment of a fifty-dollar renewal fee by the applicant. This fee must be waived for disabled veterans and retired law enforcement officers;

(2) submission of three current one-inch by one-inch full color photographs of the applicant; and

(3) a complete set of fingerprints. A law enforcement agency may charge a fee not to exceed five dollars for fingerprinting an applicant.

(Q) Upon submission of the items required by subsection (P) of this section, SLED must conduct or facilitate a local, state, and federal fingerprint review of the applicant. If the background check is favorable, SLED must renew the permit.
<End>

The Four RULES

One of Col. Cooper's best, yet least appreciated, contributions to shooting in general has been the **Four Rules** of firearms safety. These four rules distill the often multitudinous rules promulgated by many organizations into four easy to remember principles that if followed explicitly will guarantee firearms safety. (NRA please take note.)

- **All firearms are loaded.** - There are no exceptions.

Don't pretend that this is true. Know that it is and handle all firearms accordingly. Do not believe it when someone says: "It isn't loaded."

- **Never let the muzzle of a firearm point at anything you are not willing to destroy.** - If you would not want to see a bullet hole in it do not allow a firearm's muzzle to point at it.
- **Keep your finger off the trigger until your sights are on the target.** - Danger abounds if you keep your finger on the trigger when you are not about to shoot. Speed is not gained by prematurely placing your finger on the trigger as bringing a firearm to bear on a target takes more time than it takes to move your finger to the trigger.
- **Be sure of your target and what is behind it.** - Never shoot at sounds or a target you cannot positively identify. Know what is in line with the target and what is behind it (bullets are designed to go *through* things). Be aware of your surroundings whether on a range, in the woods, or in a potentially lethal conflict.

**Remember, safety is a state of mind, not mechanics!
Take nothing for granted!**

Cooper VS. Terrorism by Jeff Cooper

So here we are in the "Age of Extortion." Our local friendly felons have finally discovered what has long been taken for granted in what we used to call "more backward countries"—that crime does pay—in millions. All you need to

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do is threaten to do something terrible and people will throw money at you. You don't need any particular talent or skill to get rich this way, and you don't need education or training. The only requisite is nastiness, and that is no rare quality.

We can speculate at length upon why this foulness has come upon us so strikingly at this point in our history, but I doubt that any incontrovertible conclusion will result. My own suggestion is simply overpopulation. Like rats, we get testier as we get crowded. By simple arithmetic, if the proportion of goblins to people in our society remains constant, doubling our population doubles the number of goblins. And they reinforce each other as their numbers rise.

But such speculation is academic. We have the problem; never mind why. What shall we do about it? In a socialist atmosphere, the immediate response is to hand the problem to the state. Pass a law! Any law. Just so you can say that something has been done. And above all, spend money. We have come to assume that the more money we spend on a problem, the quicker it will go away.

Now it is quite true that the state can indeed abolish extortion, terrorism, and crime. History offers many examples of nations in which none of these things existed. We can start with Senacherib of Assyria and browse on up to Porfirio Diaz of Mexico. An iron fist will do it. That's the state's simple and effective answer to disorderly conduct. If you want it arranged so that the state will protect you, you can do so. What you give up in return is your liberty.

No deal.

The man to protect you is you. Not the state, not the agent of the state, and not your hired hand—YOU!

How often is our intelligence insulted by the fatuous claim that we should rely on the police for our physical security! I cannot believe that the people who advance this idea believe it themselves. The police do indeed abort a certain amount of violent crime by their coincidental presence on the scene, and that's fine. But to tell us that all we have to do is call a cop when confronted by a troll is

to talk like a fool—and those who tell us this know it.

The "in" crime today is kidnapping. The police have never prevented a kidnapping. Not once. On the other hand, the intended victim often has. You don't hear much about these latter episodes, because a crime that does not take place is not newsworthy, but it is my business to know about such things and I keep track of them as best I may, and there have been at least a dozen instances brought to my attention in the last two years.

Hiring other people, public or private, to protect yourself, is perhaps not totally futile, but it must never be considered more than marginally effective. Both policemen and bodyguards can be suborned, and skill levels are problematical.

Pistol skill is not something to count on in a hired hand. Two recent examples stand out because they were caught by television cameras. These were the attempts on Governor Wallace and Imelda Marcos. In each case, guards were plentiful, and armed, but not sufficiently skilled. In each case, there was plenty of time to hit the attacker before he acted, but those responsible reacted only afterward.

On the other hand, the intended victim can seek his own skill level, and he can put it to use more quickly than any other person when he suddenly finds that he himself is a target.

Your best protector is you!

Apart from the skill factor, there is the matter of reliability. A man you hire to protect you can be hired by somebody else not to. It is nerve-wracking to be dogged about by armed men on your daily rounds, and it is also both conspicuous and un-private.

Some years ago, I undertook to train the personal guard of a certain chief of state in pistolcraft. When the course was completed, I was able to address my client thus:

"Your excellency, 24 of your 28 men are now distinctly more efficient with their sidearms than the generality of those who guard the President of the United States. They are very good, but I don't know who they are—I hope you do."

He knew what I meant. One of his predecessors in office had been murdered by one of his own guards. Of my students who previously employed bodyguards, most now do not, except as car watchers.

Your best protector is you!

Still we hear, over and over again, that we should not be armed, that we should not resist, that we should rely on the police for our personal safety—that our best answer to violence is to give up. Such drivel demands a stronger stomach than mine.

One bleeding-heart type asked me in a recent interview if I did not agree that "violence begets violence." I told him that it is my earnest endeavor to see that it does. I would like very much to ensure—and in some cases I have—that any man who offers violence to his fellow citizen begets a whole lot more in return than he can enjoy.

Your best protector is you! The obvious way to eradicate crime is to eradicate criminals, but neither the lawgivers nor the constabulary seem inclined to do this. The man who elects to prey upon society deserves no consideration from society. If he survives his act of violence, he rates a fair trial—but only to be sure that there has been no mistake about his identity. If he is killed in the act, there can be little doubt about whose act it was.

But we don't want a "Porfiriato," in which the police simply shoot all suspects out of hand. Such a regime may indeed have a certain austere appeal in today's climate of urban chaos, but to trade one's liberty for security is to sell one's soul to the devil, as Ben Franklin noted. And, to quote James Burnham, it is both our lives and our liberties that are at stake.

Laws are not the answer. We have laws against murder. We have laws against kidnapping. We have laws against extortion. And murder, kidnapping, and extortion are on the rise. The answer, it seems to me, is wrath. Let the thug take his chances with an alert, prepared, and angry citizenry. It may very well spoil his whole career.

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This is not a call for vigilantism: It is a call for self-reliance. For those who feel short on self-reliance, I have a suggestion. Take up practical pistol shooting as a recreation. It is a good game. It is fun. It is "relevant." And it does wonders for your self-reliance.

Your best protector is—as it always has been—you!

This article was written by Col. Cooper and published in the 1975 *Guns & Ammo Annual*.

Better Communication with GrassRoots Members

Better Communication with GrassRoots Members

By Rob Butler

GrassRoots learned valuable lessons this legislative session. One of them is, we got to have a fast draw. GrassRoots must be able to quickly communicate with our members if we want to be most effective in getting legislative changes made. GrassRoots activists calling and writing their legislators has made a big difference in the legislature. Other groups have approached GrassRoots and asked us to help them get their messages out because they admire and recognize the power of the GrassRoots activists' support. That support is what

makes GrassRoots the most effective pro gun

rights organization in SC. But, GrassRoots knows we have only scratched the surface. GrassRoots can be even more efficient than we are now.

Ideally, all GrassRoots members would be connected to the Internet and have e-mail. This is an instantaneous and cheap way to communicate with the GrassRoots membership. This is what GrassRoots has been using this legislative session. But we only reach about one third of the GrassRoots members this way. GrassRoots uses the US mail to deliver the newsletter, but that's not cost effective for legislative alerts. And, it only comes once every three months. Legislative alerts every three months are not often enough during the quickly changing legislative season. Therefore, GrassRoots needs to be able to find another means to quickly communicate with our members, and still be cost effective.

GrassRoots has decided to create our very own phone tree software for use on computers. We're testing it now. This software will use the voice modem found on most computers. It will automatically dial the number of a GrassRoots member and deliver a message. It can be used to ask your opinion and to have you vote by pushing a button. The software can be installed on computers around SC so as to avoid long distance charges to most members, which keeps the cost down to GrassRoots. This software will allow Grass-

Roots to find out your opinions on important issues quickly. It can be used to quickly get the message to legislators that some particular legislation is good or bad.

GrassRoots needs your permission to call you on important matters with this computerized voice messaging system. GrassRoots respects your privacy and will not call you unless you tell us we can. Therefore, it is important that you let GrassRoots know we have your permission to call you.

GrassRoots is getting geared up to make bigger and better changes in the 2001 and 2002 legislative session. We must be able to contact more than one third of our members when we need



immediate GrassRoots support! To be successful, all GrassRoots activists must work together. A phone tree can triple the GrassRoots influence! Starting with membership renewals, we will be including a space to indicate whether you would like to be included when we send out phone alerts. Please check "yes!" Or, sign on now by contacting any GrassRoots officer via e-mail, phone, or fax. Together we become a powerful force!

Low Cost Internet Access: as Close as Your TV Set

By John Ponti

The advent and continuous growth of the Internet had provided shooters with a tremendous amount of information on products, techniques, and legislative happenings. There are however some 2nd Amendment types who have shyed away from the internet as being too complicated or requiring a computer which still represents a substantial cash outlay.

Nonetheless, the internet is here to stay, and those of use who fight for our 2nd Amendment rights depend on this medium for fast access to news and the ability to contact our elected representatives not to mention buy holsters and other cool stuff online.

An inexpensive and easy to use alternative to the personal computer is the

Internet terminal box sold under the brand name Webtv. This is a device that resembles a cable box and plugs into your TV set and phone jack. Both Phillips Magnavox and Sony manufacture these units.

There are several different models available with prices ranging from \$100 to \$250, depending on features. Older terminals sold under the name "Webtv Classic Units" can be purchased for somewhat less through discount outlet stores. A very necessary accessory item is the wireless keyboard, which retails for about \$50. This frees the user from having to use a "hunt and peck" on screen keyboard operated by a TV-style remote control which comes

standard with all units. Webtv terminals are

compatible with a variety of Hewlett-Packard printers which vary in price.

Unlike standard Internet access, Webtv uses only the Microsoft-owned Webtv Networks, Inc. for Internet access. Service runs \$20-25 a month depending on the terminal used. The more advanced terminals use the more expensive service.

With Webtv, you have almost complete access to the Internet. You can send and receive e-mail, shop online, "chat" with others sharing similar interests, read and post opinions in thousands of "Usenet" groups (bulletin boards), build and maintain a simple web site, send web pages, electronic greeting cards and a variety of other tasks from the comfort of your couch. You can also explore and save as "favorites" web sites in a variety of folders not to mention the ability to chide your state and federal legislators for supporting various gun-control schemes.

Webtv is extremely simple to use and requires no previous computer skills or technical knowledge. The user always starts out each session at a "home page" which features access to news, weather, sports, stock market quotations, and other information links. The remote control or wireless keyboard features direction keys that operate much the same way as a computer "mouse" directs a cursor on a computer screen.

Better Communication with GrassRoots Members

As Webtv has no memory or hard drive, there is no danger of contracting a damaging "computer virus". Webtv is particularly suited for those individuals who have a professed interest in Internet access but still have a severe case of "techno-fear". Online help is only a click away should you experience problems. With a "call waiting" feature supplied by your local phone company, you can be alerted to incoming phone calls while you are "web surfing".

Webtv units do have some disadvantages: They are not computers. There is no hard drive, so you cannot download files from the Internet or other Internet users. You cannot use floppy disks or CD-ROM disks. Streaming "live" videos and certain sound files and computer games are not compatible with Webtv. As all your information is stored on Webtv's mainframe computer, you will not be able to access your service if Webtv experiences a service interruption (common with all Internet service providers) or during periodic maintenance which usually takes place in the wee hours of the morning. During periods of heavy Internet use (evenings and weekends) connection speeds may slow down somewhat. Despite these drawbacks, Webtv remains a cost-effective option for shooters wishing to remain in the know about their hobby as well as taking part in the fight for our constitutionally guaranteed right to keep and bear arms.

(This article is not an advertisement for Webtv, Webtv Networks, Inc., Sony Corp., Hewlett-Packard or Phillips Magnavox.)

The Right to Bear Arms

The Right to Bear Arms

By Gary McLeod

Any discussion of Rights should begin with an understanding of the following:

Rights do not come from government. Governments can only grant privileges. Privileges that be granted can also be taken away. Rights do not come from the Constitution either. The Constitution only protects Rights by establishing a government designed to provide protection for We The People.



All Rights come from God and are inalienable, which means that they cannot be taken away. Those who violate God-given Rights must believe themselves superior to God or they must believe that God does not exist.

The Constitution *identifies* many Rights, e.g., speech, press, religion, etc., all of which fit into one of three categories - Life, Liberty, or Property. The possession of all of these basic Rights is necessary for the Pursuit of Happiness. Violation of any one of the three by government is tyranny. Several of the Founders suggested the following slogan for our Great Seal, "Resistance to Tyranny is Obedience to GOD".

Attached to and an essential part of God-given Rights is the sacred duty to protect and defend those Rights with whatever means necessary. It is the Right To Bear Arms that protects all other rights. Therefore, if it is lost, all other rights will surely be lost as well.

We should never allow ourselves to get drawn into a frivolous discussion over what type of gun is suitable for hunting, sport shooting, etc., because those issues have nothing what-so-ever to do with the Right to Keep and Bear Arms. Peace Through Strength is always the best policy for the military and for individuals.

The right to keep and bear arms not only predates the writing of the Second Amendment, it also predates the discovery of firearms, because the right to defend one's right to Life, Liberty, and Property came with the Creation of Man.

Some Interesting History & Quotations

In 1623, Virginia forbade its colonists to travel unless they were 'well armed';

In 1631, it required colonists to engage in target practice on Sunday and to 'bring their "pieces" to church'.

In 1658, it required every householder to have a functioning firearm within his house and,

In 1673, its laws provided that a citizen who claimed he was too poor to purchase a firearm would have one purchased for him by the government, which would require him to pay a reasonable price when able to do so. In Massachusetts, the first session of the legislature ordered that not only free-men, but also indentured servants own firearms, and,

In 1644 it imposed a stern 6 shilling fine upon any citizen who was not armed." W. Cleon Skousen from *The Making of America* p. 696.

"Arms like laws discourage and keep the invader and plunderer in awe and preserve order in the world as well as property." Thomas Paine

The militia of each state includes "all able-bodied males at least 17 years of age and under 45 years of age who are or have [made] a declaration of intent to become citizens." Title 10, section 31 of the U.S. Code

"Before a standing army can rule, the people must be disarmed; as they are in almost every kingdom in Europe. The supreme power in America cannot enforce unjust laws by the sword, because the whole body of the people are armed, and constitute a force superior to any band of regular troops that can be, on any pretense, raised in the United States." Noah Webster.

"The Constitution shall never be construed...to prevent the people of the United States who are peaceable citizens from keeping their own arms." and,

"The best we can hope for concerning the people at large is that they be properly armed." Alexander Hamilton.

"Firearms stand next in importance to the Constitution itself. They are the American people's liberty teeth and keystone under independence... From the hour the Pilgrims landed, to the present day, events, occurrences, and tendencies prove that to ensure peace, security, and happiness, the rifle and pistol are equally indispensable...The very atmosphere of firearms everywhere restrains evil interference--they deserve a place of honor with all that's good." George Washington.

"Arms in the hands of citizens [may] be used at individual discretion...in private self-defense..." John Adams.

"No freeman shall ever be debarred the use of arms. The strongest reason for the people to retain the right to keep and bear arms

is, as a last resort, to protect themselves against tyranny in government." Thomas Jefferson.

"The right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed. A well-regulated militia, composed of the body of the people, trained to arms, is the best and most natural defense of a free country..."and,

"Americans need never fear their government because of the advantage of being armed, which the Americans possess over the people of almost every other nation." James Madison.

"To preserve liberty it is essential that the whole body of the people always possess arms and be taught alike, especially when young, how to use them..."Richard Henry Lee.

"Guard with jealous attention the public liberty. Suspect every one who approaches that jewel. Unfortunately, nothing will preserve it but downright force. Whenever you give up that force, you are ruined.... The great object is that every man be armed." Patrick Henry

"If gun laws in fact worked, the sponsors of this type of legislation should have no difficulty drawing upon long lists of examples of crime rates reduced by such legislation. That they cannot do so after a century and a half of trying... establishes the repeated, complete, and inevitable failure of gun laws to control serious crime." Senator Orrin G. Hatch (R-Utah)

In 1982, Kennesaw, Georgia passed a city gun ordinance that required heads of households to keep at least one firearm in their homes. Crimes against persons which include homicide, rape, armed robbery, aggravated assault, and burglary, plummeted 74 percent the first year, dropped another 45 percent the next year, and has remained notably low ever since, despite a doubling of the population. From 1983 to 1993, armed robberies averaged a mere 1.6 annually, rapes 1.5, and murders (none with firearms) 0.2. <End>

Gary McLeod leads the constitutionalist group, Citizens for Constitutional Government a nonprofit un-incorporated organization. Route 6, Box 46, Manning, South Carolina 29102 Ph: 803-473-2320 Fax: 803-473-2444. He has been a candidate for U.S. House of Representatives and is currently considering a bid for South Carolina Senate District 36 - Lee, Clarendon, Calhoun, Sumter & Florence counties currently represented by Sen. John Land. <http://www.garymcleod.org/index.htm>

Women and Guns

Women and Guns

by **Dr. Michael S. Brown**

One of the great ironies of the cultural war over gun rights is that women are generally more anti-gun than men. Violence against women is an extremely serious problem, yet women are constantly told to forgo the most effective means of self-defense.

A young woman known to my wife was abducted and raped recently by a sex offender on parole. She is now HIV-positive and the assailant left town before police could build an airtight case. Another woman in our area was forced to change her own name and move to a new home because her attacker knows her identity. A woman I know and two female family members were terrorized by an intruder who entered their home at 5 AM. The man escaped before police could respond to a 911 call and he has not been caught.

Contrast this to a case in Arizona where an unarmed woman was raped, shot and left for dead. The attacker then forced his way into a private home where he was promptly shot and killed by a second woman with a handgun. He will not rape again. Episodes like this happen around the country, but are totally ignored by the national media.

The bias against armed self-defense is one of the most insidious forms of victimization of women. The dominant cultural conditioning tells women that they are not capable of defending themselves with a gun. They are told that if they arm themselves, the attacker will simply take the gun away and use it against them. Although this rarely happens, millions of women have accepted the degrading concept that they are not capable of learning to defend themselves and their children with a firearm, should they so choose.

Many women are afraid of guns because they have never been encouraged to understand them. They are often afraid that guns go off on their own. A man who provides firearms training to women helps allay his student's fears with a story from his childhood. It seems that his mother was a dressmaker and kept several sewing machines in the house. The boy was terribly afraid of them, because he thought that they might sud-

denly start up and sew through his hand. Once he understood that sewing machines are simply tools that will not function without human control, he lost his unreasonable fear.

Some women have conquered the conditioning and acquired firearms training. It can be an empowering and life changing experience. They lose some of the fear that all women are forced to live with, because they can now provide security for themselves and their children. Once they discover that they can handle a gun safely and responsibly, they resent the way they have been lied to all their lives.

Although firearms accidents have steadily declined for the last century, concern for child safety has been a major weapon of anti-self-defense groups like Handgun Control Inc. While there are legitimate concerns about keeping guns in a house with children, there are many excellent options for childproof storage and many effective ways to raise children safely around guns.

Unfortunately, firearms training and safety programs are also under attack, since certain political factions have a vested interest in perpetuating the myth of the incompetent woman. Women who feel helpless and vulnerable are more likely to vote for greater government control, while those who can provide security for themselves and their families are not.

There are some women who are speaking out against this unfair stereotyping and conditioning. Authors Camille Paglia and Claire Wolfe have written in support of gun rights. Respected firearms trainer Gila Hayes at the Firearms Institute of Seattle said that,

"Women are taught from childhood to fear guns and to believe they are not capable of fighting back. They are literally taught to be victims. When

properly trained in gun safety and marksmanship, they realize the gun is just a tool -- one with which they can save their own lives."

There is always much discussion in women's media about what to do when attacked. Armed self-defense is invariably discouraged. Unarmed resistance has not been very effective, so the current topic is whether a woman should ask a rapist to wear a condom. It is difficult to understand how a nation that has been heavily influenced by the feminist movement can sink to this level of collective cowardice.

In 1966 the city of Orlando responded to a wave of sexual assaults by offering firearms training classes to women. The number of rapes dropped by nearly 90%. Thanks to the efforts of the anti-self-defense movement, such an effective and common sense solution to violence against women would be impossible today. No doubt the folks at HCI would rather have women ask a rapist to use a condom.



Dr. Michael S. Brown is an optometrist in Vancouver, WA who moderates a large email list for discussion of gun issues in Washington State. He may be reached at mb@e-z.net

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

LIST 4/2000 COPY & DISTRIBUTE

Statewide:

Carolina Tire
South Carolina Federal Credit Union-all locations
Angler's Mini Mart
Carolina Bank
Thomas and Howard Cash and Carry-all locations
American Federal Banks All locations
Security Finance, All Locations
BB&T, All Locations
Carolina First, All Locations www.carolinafirst.com
First Citizens Banks All Locations
Gaz Bah Mini Shops
Hot Spot Convenience Stores
Will-Mart
Klig's Kites, All Locations

Aiken:

McDonalds Pine Log, and Whiskey Rd
Captain "D'S" Whiskey Rd
Aiken Mall 2441 Whiskey Rd

Anderson:

Anderson Yamaha/Honda 110 Miracle Mile Plaza
Perpetual Bank

Andrews:

H&S Oil Co

Barnwell:

Rainbow Gas Garden Dunbarton Blvd

Batesburg/Leesville:

Owner/Agent State Farm 605 W. Church St.
B & L Sports 514 West Railroad Ave.
Wiz's Eatery 110 West Church St. Suite A

Bishopville:

Holland Enterprises, Feed and Seed
R. Travis Windham Insurance Agency 204 N. Main St

Blythewood:

Plum's Ice Cream Factory, Wilson Rd.
JR's United Convenience, 10447 Wilson Rd.
Blythewood Oil Company, Sharpe Exxon #1, Highway 21,
Vision Quest Video of Blythewood, 420-D McNulty Road
Blythewood IGA
Blythewood McDonalds, 250 Blythewood Road

Camden:

Food Chief 433 Sumter Highway

Charleston:

Evening Post Publishing Co. 134 Columbus St.
Pagemart of SC
Goodwill Industries of Lower SC 5640 Rivers Ave
Wal-Mart 2245 Ashley Crossing
Check Care Systems 4790-A Trade St
Henry's Sporting Goods, 1662 Highway 17 N

Charleston (cont):

Gallman Personnel Services 3175 W. Montague Ave
Piggly Wiggly Harborview Rd
Hay Tire Company, Inc. 444 Savannah Hwy
James Island Cleaners 1739 Maybank Hwy
Charleston Steel & Metal
Belks @ Northwood Mall www.belk.com
Lenz's Dry Cleaners 2665 Ashley Phosphate Rd.
CPM Federal Credit Union

Columbia:

Colonial Life/Unum Life Insurance 1200 W. Colonial Life
Hair Cuttery 150 Harbison Blvd.
Columbia Steel and Metal 1148 Shop Road
Chipco Computer Distributors, Inc.
Carolina Convenience Stores
Boozler Lumber Atlas Rd
Goodwill Industries 555 St. Andrews Road
One Price Clothing Store Broad River Road
RBMG, Inc. 7909 Parklane Road
Frankie's Fun Park
Pelican Company 919 S. Edisto Ave.
Western Steer Steakhouse, St. Andrews Rd
Crowon-Stone Printing Co 819 Main Street
Tuesday Morning 282 St. Andrews Rd
Columbia Mall 7201 Two Notch Road
South Carolina Merchants Association 1735 St. Julians Pl.
Eckerd Drug #2744 9810 Two Notch (& Polo Rd.)
St. Andrews Mult-Cinemas 527 St. Andrews Rd.
Hancock Motor Company 3905 West Beltline Blvd
Bojangles 542 St. Andrews Rd.
Custom Pizza Company 6801-3 St. Andrews Rd.
Hair We Are 9810 Two Notch Rd.
Exxon / Blimbie's of St. Andrews 800 St. Andrews Rd.
Tiger Express #8 418 Piney Grove Rd.
BC&BS of South Carolina I20 & Alpine Rd.
State Farm Insurance Claims I20 & Bush River Rd.
Richland Fashion Mall Forest Drive
National Tax Svc 3707 Main St.

Cottageville:

Main Street Diner 10716 Cottageville Hwy.

Midlands Area:

Sansbury Eye Center 205 Columbia Ave.
Hair Cuttery 3028 Charleston Hwy.
Hair Cuttery Two Notch Road
Huddle House 327 E. Columbia Ave.
SC Farm Credit Bureau 724 Knox Abbot Drive
#1 Flea Market Hwy 1
Ramada Inn West I-26 and US Hwy 378
Allstate Claims Office 172 McSwain Drive
CVI - Cablevision Industries 1125 B Avenue, W. Cola
Hardee's Restaurants Some Midlands Locations
Kroger's Sav-On Food Stores 7467 Woodrow St., Irmo,

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

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Email posted_merchant@webtv.net

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Midlands: West Cola., Lexington, Irmo (cont).

SMI Steel 310 New State Rd., Cayce
Taco Bell Restaurants All Midlands Locations,
The Factory Outlets All Midlands Locations
Wendy's Restaurant 1410 Lake Murray Blvd., Irmo
Piggly Wiggly Food Stores, 4360 Augusta Rd., Lexington
First Community Bank, 5455 Sunset Blvd., Lexington
Cooper Power Tools, 670 Industrial Dr., Lexington

Conway:

Rods Pawn & Jewelry

Darlington:

Henry's Pantry 438 N. Main St

Easley:

Goodwill of Upper SC

Florence:

Piggly Wiggly Florence Mall

Georgetown:

Georgetown County Chamber of Commerce 1001 Front St.
Georgetown Seafood 1902 Highmarket St
Beverage Depot 254 ST Delight Rd
Prince George Framing and Gallery 805 Front Street
Nightingale's Professional Apparel 924 Front Street

Georgetown:

Thomas Cafe, 703 Front Street
Piggly Wiggly 1620 Highmarket Street
Georgetown Art Gallery Inc. 732 Front Street
Tomlinson's Dept. Store 806 Front Street
Law Firm of Hinds, Cowan, Strange, and Greer 604 Front Street
Edward Jones Investments 936 Front Street

Greenville:

AAA Supply 203 Haywood Rd.
Grady Miller's Honda 2019 Wade Hamton Blvd.
Rogers Stereo 525 Woodruff Rd

Greenwood:

Burger King
Greenwood Bank & Trust

Hilton Head:

Belks @The Mall at Shelter Cove

Hollywood:

Piggly Wiggly

John's Island:

Piggly Wiggly (Corp. owned) 3575 Maybank Hwy.

Ladson:

Piggly Wiggly (Corp. owned) 119 College Park Road

Lugoff:

Food Chief 840 Highway 1 South

Manning:

H & R Block, Inc. 36 West Boyce St
Clarendon County Chamber of Commerce
Freedom Finance, Inc. 14 N. Mill St
New Country Corner 521 Bloomville Rd

Marion:

Donut Hole

Mt. Pleasant:

Pantry Pride 2171G Hwy 17 North

Mullins:

Pee Dee Office Systems Main St

Murrells Inlet:

Old House Memories Antiques
Inlet Square Mall 10125 HWY 17 By-Pass,

Myrtle Beach:

Schlotzsky's Deli 812 S. King's Hwy.
Federal Express 1600 Stack Holder Ave
VPS Geo. Bishop Parkway
Dixie Discount Beverage S Kings Hwy
Time Warner Cable 1901 Oak St.

Pacolet:

Pacolet Express 441 N Hwy 150

Pawley's Island:

Tuesday Morning 364 Highway 17 North

Pickens:

AAA Marine

Rembert:

B and D Grocery Pisgah Road

Ridgeway:

Bank of Ridgeway, Blythewood Branch

Saluda:

Caper House 401 N. Main St.

Summerville:

Money Man Pawn 135 Farmington Rd.
Tiger Express Ladson & Dorchester locations
Lenz's Dry Cleaners 1625 N. Main Street
Belks 1301 N. Main St.
Maxway Boon Hill Rd
The Consignment Gallery N Cedar St

Sumter:

Jessamine Mall 1057 Broad St
Black River Electric Cooperative 1121 North Pike Road W.
Neal's Cafeteria 16 E. Liberty Street
Freedom Finance, Inc. 3 N. Main Street
Boykin Air Conditioning Services 845 S Guignard Dr
Sportsman's Shop and Stop 2810 Hwy 15 South
Greater Sumter Chamber of Commerce 32 E. Calhoun Street
Tri Star Storage II / Cash Advance 2220 Peach Orchard

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

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Sumter (cont.):

Freedom Finance, Inc. 3 North Main Street
Dixon's Grocery State Hwy 261
H & S Wholesale Inc. 200 S. Harvin St.
Spee Dee Cash 1171 Broad St.
Hill Plumbing & Electric 438 N. Main St.
Kwik-Fare 1768 Pinewood Rd., Sumter 29150
SAFE Federal Credit Unions 180 Wesmark Blvd. Exten.
Sumter Check Casher 1084A Broad St.
Time Finance Company 31 Liberty Street
Hodge Auto/Truck Service 491 E. Liberty St.
CP & L 180 Wesmark Blvd.
Time Finance Company 31 Liberty Street

Swansea:

Shelton's Rainbow BP 100 West First Street

Walterboro:

Wholesale Bedding Outlet 111 Eddie Chasteen Dr
Parks Auto Parts 555 Bells Hwy.
Carpet Country
Low Country Marine 903 Green Pond Hwy.
Clearvision Optical 501A, Bells Hwy.
Piggy Wiggy 251A Bells Hwy.
Jus Sports 253D Bells Hwy.
Gold Collection 501 Bells Hwy.
Seigler Brothers One Hour Photo 501 Bells Hwy.
Carpets of Walterboro 601 Bells Hwy.
Hunan Chinese Restaurant 339 N. Jefferies Blvd.
S.C. Electric and Gas - All Locations
Costal Electric Co-operative 2269 Jefferies Hwy.
Allied Department Store 205 E. Washington St

Winnsboro:

Wal-Mart

Welcome Back!

The Following Merchants Have REMOVED Signs
Which Discourage Law Abiding CWP Holders
from Entering Their Stores!

B-Mart

Piggly Wiggly of Chesterfield

Gloriosa Florists

Hiller Hardware

Ace Parker Tires of Sumter

Office Max - All Locations

Special Effects Hair Salon

System Plus Computers

Blythewood Feed and Hardware

McDuffie's Home Furnishings

Lowe's Hardware - All Locations

Rush's Restaurants

McCall's Supply

Little Pigs Barbecue

Chamber of Commerce Walterboro

Discount Auto Parts

Domino's Pizza on Two Notch

Cost Cutter's Barber Shop

Dixie Furniture in Walterboro

Walterboro Chamber of Commerce

Wayne's Sporting Goods and Trophies

Walterboro McDonalds

Burger King Walterboro

Warshaws Mens Shop

Perkin's Family Resturant

Food Chief Store #22

Crosby Herndon Music

Thyme Out Exxon

Greenville Carmike Cinemas

If It's Paper

Best Stop Stores (pending)

Denny's Restaurants

Burlington Coat Factory

Collins Jewelry

Wal-Mart #2214 in Columbia

Lee's Grocery

Spann's Store

Becknell Cleaners

Camden Gas and Oil

Granger in Columbia

Food Lion of Ravenel

Ed's Paint Center

Jim Hall's Auto Service

Central True Value Hardware

Gerry's & Things

Northwoods Mall

Citadel Mall

Ben Satcher Motors

Galleria Liquors

Wicker World, Myrtle Beach

Jones Department Stores, Myrtle Beach

Pro-Glo Body Shop

Granny's Cafe, Walterboro

Blythewood Pharmacy

Sav-Way Convenience Stores

Logan's Appliance Center

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Email posted_merchant@webtv.net

Frequently asked questions about the Merchant Contact program:

Question: There are posted merchants in my area but they are not on your list.

Answer: If the list of posted merchants, be it on the Grass Roots web site or the newsletter, doesn't list posted merchants in your area it means that Grass Roots has not received any information from permit holders living in or traveling through that particular area re: posting activity. Certain business, such as BB&T or First Citizens Bank, are posted statewide and listed as such. If there are posted merchants in your area then please send COMPLETE information, meaning the owner's name or president's name and corporate mailing address to: posted_merchant@webtv.net or the GrassRoots P.O. Box listed elsewhere in this newsletter.

Question: Is there a list of posted merchants in the county where I live?

Answer: Not yet. As of right now, the posted merchants are listed by city only. It has been suggested we eventually list by county and have a click-to map on our web page that will list all posting activity with a particular county. This is a long way off due to logistical constraints.

Question: I sent you some information on a posted store and it isn't listed yet.

Answer: Please be patient. It takes quite an effort to coordinate GrassRoots staff efforts throughout the state. Sometimes your correspondence with us makes quite a journey before getting to the particular GrassRoots volunteer handling your inquiry. All of this work is done on a voluntary basis. The position of Merchant Contact Program Coordinator is in transition, a computer is currently being built to dedicate to the merchant posting efforts.

Question: I sent you some information on posting activity, and I received a message that said you can't process the information I sent in.

Answer: Most likely the information you sent in was incomplete. The most important piece of information and the one piece that's usually missing is the name of the person with the authority to remove the posting and that is the owner of record of an independently-owned business or the president or CEO of a corporately-owned or chain store. We also need the complete business name and corporate mailing address for corporate/chain stores. We need that name because the letter has little or no impact if it goes to a merchant or chain HQ with "Dear Business Owner" on it. It's the same principal if you received a letter marked "occupant" ...tends to be ignored.

Question: (Name of merchant here) is still posted...why haven't you people gotten them to remove their signs?

Answer: The Merchant Contact Program exists for the purpose of informing permit holders where posted merchants are located so that permit holders do not break the law by carrying concealed weapons into said businesses. GrassRoots has no authority to force merchants to remove postings. GrassRoots will contact the merchant (provided we have complete contact information) with a letter explaining why posting is a bad idea and informing them that their business will be placed on the list and remain there until the posting is removed or alternate posting is made. The merchant will also be given the option of placing an alternate sign which GrassRoots provides. GrassRoots will send follow-up letters to merchants who wish to remain off limits to concealed carry.

Merchants remove postings because they realize that posting is an attraction to criminal activity and/or the loss of profits by persons doing business with their CWP-friendly competitors. Businesses are responsive to their customer base (and need to be if they intend to stay in business) and this is where the action of local activism comes into play. Merchants may very well be unswayed or contemptuous of an organization with a mailing address two hundred miles away but the pressure of a local customer base cannot be ignored. Merchants need to hear from YOU, the permit holders, as to why you are doing business elsewhere.



The experts agree...

Prohibiting Firearms Makes for Easy Victims



GrassRoots South Carolina
P.O. Box 1181
Sumter, South Carolina 29151
Fax: 803-755-1201

Thursday, April 6, 2000

Open Letter to the Merchants of South Carolina Who Post Against CWP Holders

Dear Merchant:

We are the Good Guys. We want to do business with you.

But we've noticed something that has forced us to encourage the over 24,000 Concealed Weapons Permit Holders in South Carolina to take their business elsewhere. I'm sorry for that because our members would probably prefer to be able to do business with you. At the front of your business is posted a sign that states that concealable weapons are not allowed inside. Consequently, our members don't really feel safe in your business. Neither should you. Here are seven things to think about:

You're excluding the good guys. When merchants post "No Concealable Weapons" signs, most think that this sign puts the bad guys on notice saying: "Don't bring your illegal gun in here." Unfortunately, quite the opposite is true. It is already illegal for criminals to carry weapons. Your sign tells criminals that your business is a "preferred safe haven" for violent criminals. According to law, the "No Concealable Weapons" sign applies only to law-abiding adults. It does not apply to criminals, and it does not apply to juveniles. Why is that?

Section 23-31-220 of the South Carolina Code of Laws says that the sign applies to Concealed Weapon Permit (CWP) holders. All South Carolina CWP holders have undergone a criminal history check by the State Law Enforcement Division (SLED). They have also had their fingerprints sent to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to be checked for any criminal history. Only adults over 21 without a criminal history (the good guys) are issued CWPs.

How many of your average customers have been subjected to this kind of scrutiny? Wouldn't you rather have customers with a clean record in your store? Wasn't that really what you wanted your sign to do? Unfortunately, the sign just sends a lot of the good guys and gals to other merchants. Gals? Yes, many women are CWP holders.

How much business can you afford to lose? The new CWP law took effect in 1996. By the end of 1999 over 24,000 South Carolinians had been issued CWPs. That's about one out of every 100 adults. Since a lot of people are ineligible to get a CWP, and since yours is one of the better businesses, drawing a nice clientele, the percentage of your potential customers with a CWP could easily be between 2% and 4%. Can you afford to turn away that percentage of business?

What kind of people are CWP holders? By and large they are middle to upper income individuals. A great many are professionals—doctors, lawyers, accountants, business owners, etc.

The impact of CWPs. What impact do CWP holders have? Most criminals have no desire to confront anyone who is able to defend himself or herself successfully. Criminals prefer to

(over)

prey upon the defenseless. The new CWP law has made it difficult for criminals to guess who is defenseless and who isn't. As a result, violent crime rates have dropped, not only in South Carolina, but in every state that has enacted a CWP law. Research has shown that there is a direct correlation between the passage of such laws and a reduction in violent crime (read [More Guns, Less Crime: Understanding Crime and Gun-Control Laws](#) by John R. Lott, Jr.). Any place where CWP holders are likely to be, criminals are more likely to avoid.

You're inviting the bad guys into your business. Criminals don't obey signs. If there is a bad guy out there toting a gun, he's already breaking the law. A sign saying "No Concealable Weapons" isn't going to deter him. On the contrary, such a sign declares that your business is a "Gun-free Zone." It's almost a written invitation to criminals.

On December 20, 1999, three robbers entered the B and D Grocery near Sumter, South Carolina, then shot and murdered the merchant. The store had a sign out front that said "No Concealable Weapons." This demonstrates that criminals don't obey such signs. If anything, such a sign is likely to attract potential robbers. This is happening with increased frequency at businesses that have decided to post - Sam's Playstation, Best Stop Convenience Store, First Citizen's, BB&T (several locations), Piggly Wiggly, Applebee's and others. Large Corporations like Lowe's Hardware, Wal-Mart, and Office Max have discovered that posting against CWP holders is 1) illogical, and 2) bad for business. They have already removed their signs nationwide.

We feel less safe. Because such signs serve as an invitation for bad guys, legitimate customers have reason to feel less safe anywhere that they see "No Concealable Weapons" signs. That is one of the reasons we don't do business at places where we see the sign. Another reason is that we find it too much trouble to change what we do to accommodate your sign. A third reason is that we are offended by the implication of the sign that CWP holders are less desirable customers. *The truth is that CWP holders may be your only customers that have had background checks and have been shown to be law-abiding.*

The signs may increase liability. CWP holders have taken the steps necessary to provide a higher level of protection for their own safety. A merchant who posts a sign against CWP holders denies them the right to protect themselves. It seems reasonable then to assume that the merchant intends to provide a high level of security for his customers. If he fails to do that and a customer is attacked, the merchant may accrue some liability for denying the customer the right to self-defense. In contrast, state law [§23-31-215(R)] says the "absence of a sign prohibiting concealable weapons shall not constitute negligence or establish a lack of duty of care."

Alternative signs are available. Free of charge you can obtain a new, professionally made sign from GrassRoots SC to replace your current sign. There are two to choose from. One says: "No Illegal Weapons." The other says: "No Firearms Permitted except by law enforcement and those legally licensed to carry concealed handguns." Either of these signs may accomplish what you originally intended without excluding us good guys. Signs may be obtained by writing to GrassRoots or faxing your request to 803-755-1201. We have representatives throughout the state and are more than happy to answer any questions you might have.

GrassRoots South Carolina

Join Us in Our Grass Roots Efforts!

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

_____ 1-year membership: \$15.00 (includes newsletters and mailings, alerts, e-mail updates)

_____ (Renewal) I'm already a member. Please extend my membership for one year: \$15.00

_____ I am a merchant requesting more information and GrassRoots Alternative Signs.

_____ I am a pro-gun legislator. Add me to your notification list to keep current on CWP issues.

Name: _____

For Alerts: Join Our Fax and E-Mail List!

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Fax: _____

Phone: _____

Make Checks Payable to GrassRoots * Please notify GrassRoots of any change of address.**

More Guns, Less Crime