

# GrassRoots GunRights

Spring 2001

Volume 5 Number 1

## GrassRoots in Action

As this newsletter goes to press, more and more postcards are arriving at the Statehouse from GrassRoots members. These postcards are getting noticed. Legislators are starting to sign on as co-sponsors! Thank you, GrassRoots members! You are the power that makes change!

On Thursday, March 1, 2001, the Senate held a subcommittee hearing on S. 261. I was the only person to speak on the bill. I asked the subcommittee to consider amendments to S. 261. GrassRoots wanted the

subcommittee to consider amendments to do the following:

- Provide that carrying a firearm in one's closed glove box, closed console, or trunk is legal notwithstanding any other state law. This would change current law into what most people believe it already is, but is not.
- Bring South Carolina law into line with federal law by excepting concealed weapon permit holders from school zone

(Continued on page 8)

## CWPs and Nice Restaurants: Condon Distorts the Truth

Attorney General Charlie Condon is playing politics with your and your family's safety. Back in December, 2000, Mr. Condon told the listening audience of Keven Cohen's talk

show on the WVOC radio station in Columbia that he would issue an opinion *the very next morning* if he determined that the GrassRoots' analysis of the law was correct. The Attorney General did not issue an opinion the next morning. He did not issue an opinion after GrassRoots members and CWP holders flooded his office with postcards asking for an opinion. Four months later, he still has not issued an opinion. Mr. Condon has failed to issue an opinion supporting the rights of CWP holders even after being asked by the State Law Enforcement Division (SLED) to do so. In fact, Mr. Condon recently implied that he *will not* issue an opinion supporting the rights of CWP hold-

(Continued on page 32)

### Inside this issue:

Communications	3
Why South Carolina Exile is Bad	4
Of Special Interest to Women	5
Legislative Update	11
Opinions and Advice	18
Posted Merchants	21
Welcome Back!	25

## Grass Roots of South Carolina, Inc

P.O. Box 6383 Columbia, SC 29260

Fax: 803-755-1201

Grass Roots of South Carolina, Inc. is a South Carolina 501(c)4 non-profit corporation. Our mission is to educate and promote acceptance of responsible firearms ownership within the State of South Carolina and to protect the rights of law-abiding gun owners. Our objectives are to improve all aspects of lawful ownership and carrying of firearms in South Carolina.

GrassRoots of South Carolina, Inc. is registered as a Lobbyist's Principal in South Carolina and employs lobbyists to promote or oppose legislation concerning all gun owners and issues surrounding the Right to Keep and Bear Arms in South Carolina.

### Board of Directors, Officers, and Staff

President:	Ed Kelleher	803-796-8858	EJKelleher@aol.
Vice President	Rob Butler, D.C., J.D.	803-957-3959	rbutler1@sc.rr.com
Secretary:	Tom Burkizer	803-782-9210	kaliburk@logicsouth.com
Treasurer:	Robert Holliday	803-957-5181	FlyChamps@aol.com
Legislative Director	Rob Butler, D.C., J.D.	803-957-3959	rbutler1@sc.rr.com
Merchant Contact:	John Ponti	803 938 8014	jrponi@yahoo.com
Logistics:	Charlie Robinette	803-359-3698	cer@logicsouth.com
Communications	Larry Coble	803-755-1242	lcoble@logicsouth.com
Newsletter Editor:	Patrick Nolan, PhD	803-254-9543	marcum@infoave.net
Assistant Editor:	Paul Peters, M.P.A.	803-356-1728	papeters@msn.com
Gun Shows:	Terry Hicks	803-414-7794	specops@outdrs.net
CWP Instructors:	Tim Finley	864-271-6899	tefinley@mindspring.com

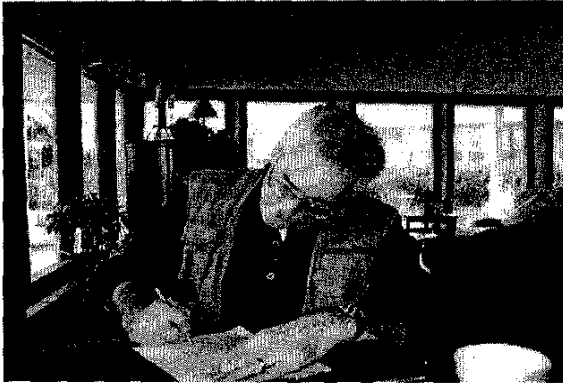
*The GrassRoots GunRights Newsletter is distributed quarterly — January, April, July, and October — to the membership of GrassRoots. The deadline for submissions is the 15<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month. Submissions can be sent by mail to: Patrick Nolan, Editor, C/O Grass Roots, P.O. Box 6383, Columbia, SC 29260, or electronically to: marcum@infoave.net. Original material on local issues will be given highest priority, and since permission must be received to reprint previously published materials, items without an author and source will not be considered for publication.*

Visit the GrassRoots Web Page at [www.scfirearms.org](http://www.scfirearms.org)

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## From the Editor



This is the first edition of the GrassRoots GunRights Newsletter that I have edited. I hope you will bear with me as I learn the ropes and the new software. You can expect to see some changes as I try to keep the newsletter on the trajectory that Larry Coble so ably initiated. From time-to-time I may have something to say.

I would appreciate your comments on what you like, what you don't like, and what you might like to see added — I've inserted a picture so you will know who to buttonhole on the range and at meetings. Through trial and error, your feedback, the editorial assistance of Paul Peters, and the new software, we can make this newsletter an even more effective voice of our organization and advocate for the gun rights of all South Carolinians.

**Patrick Nolan**

## From the Members

I have been a CWP holder since June 4, 1999. I recently received a GrassRoots membership request from in the mail. I had never really heard of your group. But after looking into the work that GrassRoots does I realize how many more laws and how much more work still needs to be done.

I just wanted to let you know that I will be sending my membership fee in, in a cou-

ple of days. I am a father of two and I am disabled, so there are times that I feel a need to carry my firearm.

I did not realize how many places of business did not allow someone with a CWP, a person who goes by the rules and who has been trained and deemed by the state to be safe and legal to carry and use a firearm if and when necessary to protect himself and his family from harm, to carry a firearm.

I support the work that GrassRoots works so hard to do. I look forward to being a member and I hope that my support helps in some way.

**Billy Frady**

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Just wanted to say I did get the special mailing from Grassroots -- I think it was wonderful. The newsletter is great, but there's sooooo much in it, I find that I'm "tired" by the time I get the political stuff -- which is usually heavy and provides much thought.

I think the special mailing gives it a better focus and certainly keeps us more informed. Rob does an EXCELLENT job -- especially with explanations. I find that I am much more informed with his insight and explanation -- sometimes I have greed with a bill only to find that his view gives a more thorough and bigger picture.

In fact, I enjoyed the special mailing so much that I sent a check -- not much, but enough to at least cover the cost of my own.... and maybe a few others.

Thanks for all your hard work and a special thanks to Rob!!!

**Donna Hollis**

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**I Believe in  
Self-Defense**

## South Carolina Exile Would Hurt Innocent Gun Owners

By Rob Butler D.C., J.D.

South Carolina Exile would hurt innocent gun owners. The hurt might be subtle and small in the short term, but it would be devastating in the long term. In fact, the very existence of private gun ownership may be at stake.

Individuals who commit crimes of criminal sexual conduct (rape), infliction of great bodily harm upon a child, kidnapping, engaging a child for sexual performance (pornography), or criminal sexual conduct with a minor (rape of a child) are allowed to receive work credits, education credits, good conduct credits, or any other credits that would reduce the mandatory term of imprisonment. In my opinion, these criminals are the scum of the earth, but SC law allows them to get out early if they behave themselves, work, or go to school. The law does not designate special punishment for these low life degenerates.

But Exile would *deny* persons sentenced under it the opportunity to receive work credits, education credits, good conduct credits, or any other credits that would reduce their *mandatory* term of imprisonment. Exile teaches that guns, and the people who possess them, are especially evil and deserving of punishment. So evil that they are not worthy of receiving the same credits that other criminals receive.

Exile says to the world that a person who merely possesses a pistol has committed a more heinous crime and is more deserving of the public's condemnation, than a person who has committed rape, sexually molested or abused a child, or who has used children in pornography. Exile would single

out a person who merely possessed a gun during a crime, but did not use the gun, and deny that person the opportunity to get out of prison early by earning any work credits, education credits, or good conduct credits. *How is mere possession of a gun worse than committing rape, sexually molesting and abusing children, or using children in pornography?* We must not teach people that it is the gun that is inherently evil. We must teach people that it is the crime that must be punished.

If we allow a generation or two of our young people to be taught that mere possession of a gun is more evil than rape, child molestation, and child pornography, how long do you think it will be before all gun owners are considered evil and guns are outlawed? This is what makes Exile so dangerous and harmful to innocent gun owners.

Exile would hurt honest gun owners because it would stigmatize those who possess guns in the eyes of the general public. Exile tells everyone that mere possession of a gun is so evil that it deserves extra punishment regardless of the facts and circumstances of the specific case. The mass media would continue to tell everyone that guns are evil and that possession of a gun warrants extra punishment. The general public would be taught that guns are evil, and using guilt by association, that the "gun culture" is evil too.

Exile proclaims that mere possession of a pistol is worthy of severe punishment, regardless of whether the pistol is used improperly or not. We must not allow legislation to be enacted that maintains that *mere possession* of an inanimate object is worthy of punishment; punishment beyond that warranted by any criminal acts committed

*(Continued on page 10)*

## Of Special Interest to Women

### I Am Woman, Hear Me Shoot!

By Melissa Seaman

They tell you in the anti-gun women's magazines to be aware of your surroundings and to take precautions so you are not caught in high-risk situations (don't go out by yourself at night; don't go into high-crime neighborhoods; don't talk to strangers; etc.). They tell you to always check the back seat of your car before you get back in; to walk on the street-side of the sidewalk (rather than the building-side); and to get inside a well-lit store if you suspect someone is following you.

These are all good suggestions that I practice all the time.

What the anti-gunners don't tell you is that no matter how prepared you are, and no matter how careful you are, you are still at risk of being attacked. And if attacked, your chances of being maimed, raped or dead are much higher if you have no adequate means to defend yourself (screaming, running, and passivity, contrary to what they would have you believe, are NOT adequate!)

I was originally from Long Island, New York, and before I met my husband, I didn't even know that regular citizens like myself could legally own a gun for self-defense. Then my husband taught me about the Constitution, how to shoot a pistol, and how to use a gun for self-defense.

Now I know that as long as I am prepared, I have a vastly better chance of surviving an attack by a predatory criminal. It is exciting to know I have control over my own body and life, and I don't have to live in



**Girls, do not carry guns.**  
99.8% of rapists polled prefer you unarmed

### Not Enough Women Use Handguns for Self-Defense, Study Shows

A new study done by the Violence Policy Center (a leftist, anti-gun organization, hereafter referred to as the VPC) claimed that the use of handguns to kill attackers was not very high, and furthermore, these statistics proved that we should ban guns.

Their report went on to say that in 1998, for every time a woman used a handgun in the United States to kill in self-defense, 101 women died in handgun homicides. This

was all according to a new VPC report, "A Deadly Myth: Women, Handguns, and Self-Defense." The VPC report analyzes unpublished Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Supple-

mentary Homicide Report (SHR) data.

According to the VPC analysis of the FBI data, a woman is far more likely to be the victim of a handgun homicide than to use a handgun in a justifiable homicide. In 1998, handguns were used to murder 1,209 women. That same year, 12 women used handguns to kill in self-defense. And when a woman does use a handgun to kill in self-defense, it is usually against someone she knows, not a stranger. Of the 12 handgun self-defense killings by women reported to the FBI in 1998, eight of the attackers were known to the women, while only four of the attackers were strangers.

According to the report, of the 47 states reporting SHR data to the FBI in 1998 only the states of California, Colorado, Georgia, Michigan, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and Texas reported incidents of

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

women using handguns to kill in self-defense.

In each state, the number of women murdered with handguns outnumbered the number of women who used a handgun to kill in self-defense. (See the chart below for the number of women killed with handguns in these eight states compared to: women who used handguns in self-defense to kill a stranger; intimate acquaintance (i.e., spouse, common-law spouse, ex-spouse, or boyfriend); or, friend or acquaintance.)

The study also reports that in spite of gun industry marketing efforts, handgun

ownership among women remains rare, with no statistically significant change since the 1980s.

It seems more likely that handguns should be more accessible to women in life-threatening positions. According to this report, the reason women were

murdered was due to not having a weapon to use in self-defense.

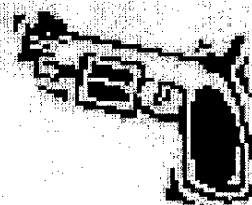
Looks like we need to work on that, huh?

From: *The Sierra Times* <http://www.sierratimes.com>, posted February 2, 2001



Number of Women Who Killed Someone with a Handgun in Self-Defense vs. Number of Women Killed by Handguns				
Women Who Used a Handgun in Self-Defense to Kill:	Stranger	Intimate Partner	Friend or Acquaintance	Women Murdered
California	2	1	0	178
Colorado	0	1	0	21
Georgia	1	0	0	46
Michigan	0	0	1	41
North Carolina	1	0	0	59
Oklahoma	0	1	0	20
Tennessee	0	2	0	34
Texas	1	1	1	124

**SELF DEFENSE IS  
COMMON SENSE**



(Continued from page 5)

fear.

Some say I am selfish -- that I am putting my life above that of the criminal. I say: When it comes to criminals, they are putting their lives above mine. Someone who would rape, maim, or kill me is an animal without morals or conscience. The strongest and most well-prepared will survive. Thanks to my handgun and the lessons my husband gave me, I am more likely to be stronger and more well-prepared than my attacker.

Some say I am stupid -- that my gun can be taken away from me and used against me. I say: That is why I take self-defense lessons, and practice my draw, my stance, and my grip.

Some say I am naive -- what if the criminal has a gun too? I say: May the best aim win. If my attacker has a gun, I certainly wouldn't have a chance without one, would I?

Some say I am lazy -- that if I "really" cared about self-defense, I'd go learn Karate. I say: I am disabled, and I have a RIGHT to be able to defend myself ADEQUATELY against an attack!

What do you say?

*Mrs. Melissa Seaman, a member of Grass-Roots, GOA, and Wildlife Action, has been fighting for American Rights since she married Neal 10 years ago. She is also the Newslinks Director and a member of [www.KeepAndBearArms.com](http://www.KeepAndBearArms.com)*

**Be Safe**

## You Have Your CWP, Is That Enough?

By Greg Gardner

When I was a law enforcement officer, my co-workers and I watched a training film that depicted a man running twenty-five feet and stabbing an officer with a knife before the officer could realize what was happening, draw his weapon, and fire. I've also seen this demonstrated on my person when I was taking a self-defense class.

Now consider this: it usually takes even longer to draw a firearm from a concealed holster than it does from an exposed duty holster. Someone carrying a concealed weapon might not be able to react and fire unless the assailant has to run forty feet or more. Much of the total amount of time required to respond is used up in *evaluating the threat*. You have to assess the situation first because you can't just shoot everyone who happens to be running in your direction. A CWP holder is legally constrained from drawing until he has determined that there is a threat. The criminal cares nothing about being legal or fair.

Unfortunately, very few knife-wielding assailants begin their attacks from thirty feet or more. Someone standing at conversational distance (four to ten feet) could suddenly draw a knife and stab you before you could come close to drawing. Alertness and good "tripwire" decision-making skills can help you react faster, but they may not be enough. What else can you do?

Self-defense training can give you the edge that just might make that essential difference. Employing effective self-defense techniques could give you another second to react. That second could save your life.

If you choose martial arts training, choose carefully. As a martial artist of many years, I

(Continued on page 10)



(Continued from page 1)

- prohibitions just as federal law does.
- Provide that self-defense is a legal defense against violating the laws prohibiting the possession of firearms in certain places. Thus, a good Samaritan who stopped a school massacre could not get prosecuted for having a gun on school grounds.
- Recognize concealed weapons permits (CWP) issued in other states just as SC recognizes driver's licenses issued in other states. This relieves SLED from the burden of evaluating other state's CWP laws and will increase the number of states in which SC CWP holders can carry.
- Provide that CWP holders can carry at rest areas and public parks.
- Change the size of required photographs to a more easily obtained and less expensive size.
- Provide that CWP's can only be denied for reasons that would prohibit a person from owning a pistol.
- Provide that CWP holders need not carry their CWP when not carrying a concealed weapon.
- Eliminate some of the law's prohibited CWP carry zones to allow people the right to choose where to do business. Then, parents could choose a day care or pre-school facility where CWP's were welcome, and their children would be safer. Parents should have the right to

choose a safer place for their children. Politicians should not deny the parents the right to choose.

- Allow property owners the right to give CWP holders the right to carry even in prohibited areas.
- Provide that legislators and others using the parking garage on the capitol grounds can possess a firearm in compliance with Section 16-23-20(9), i.e., in the glove box.
- Substitute language for standardizing signs prohibiting the carrying of concealable weapons by CWP holders so as to better describe the sign.
- Only three of the five Senators on the subcommittee showed up for the hearing.

The alternatives open to the subcommittee were to: (1) pass S. 261 without amendment, (2) pass S. 261 with amendment, (3) postpone the hearing on S. 261, or (4) kill S. 261. The most reasonable alternatives seemed to be to pass S. 261 without amendment, or to postpone the hearing. The chances of passing with amendment were slim because the subcommittee members had not had time to properly consider the amendments.

GrassRoots was only given short notice of the subcommittee hearing, so we only had time to mobilize our e-mail and internet members. But, they turned up the heat and got the attention of the Senators. GrassRoots did not want the subcommittee to pass

(Continued on page 9)





(Continued from page 8)

S. 261 without considering all the proposed amendments, so it asked that the hearing be postponed to allow time for our members to contact the Senators, and to allow the Senators time to consider the amendments.

Sen. Danny Verdin spoke up in favor of some of the amendments, and asked that the hearing be postponed until the amendments could be more carefully considered. The subcommittee decided to postpone the hearing to allow more time to consider the proposed amendments.

Ideally, the amendments proposed by

GrassRoots will be adopted by the subcommittee and sent to the full Judiciary Committee. Then, the full Judiciary Committee would vote to either adopt or reject the amendments accepted by the subcommittee. Most amendments adopted at the full committee level were first adopted at the subcommittee level. That is why we must work to get the GrassRoots amendments adopted at the subcommittee level.

Once our bill gets to the floor of the Senate, it will be fair game for all kinds of amendments. If you were around for pas-


(Continued on page 32)

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GrassRoots GunRights

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Page 9

(Continued from page 4)

by its possessor. We must not, by our silence or inaction, tacitly agree that some have lesser rights and merit greater punishments, simply because they own or possess guns. If we do, then firearm possession will become the scarlet letter of contemporary American society.

Exile teaches the general public that merely possessing a gun because makes a person more evil than a person without a gun. This is not a good lesson to teach people. It is lessons like this that make the liberal mass media, Rosie O'Donnell, Hillary Clinton, and Charles Schumer happy because they know that legislation like this furthers their goal of eventually banning all guns.

Making mere possession of a gun a crime, not its brandishing or use in the furtherance of a crime, is tantamount to teaching the general public that guns are evil and

those who possess them are too. It is guilt by association. Once we start teaching that guns are inherently evil and that mere possession of a gun is an especially heinous crime, then it will only be a short period of time before the entire culture and heritage of gun ownership is destroyed. Then, we can kiss our self-defense and Second Amendment rights good-bye.

GrassRoots GunRights expressed our concerns with Exile to Rep. Jeff Young at a House subcommittee hearing. Rep. Young pulled Exile from the hearing agenda so that we could try to resolve the problems identified by GrassRoots. GrassRoots submitted some proposed amendments to fix Exile so that it would not stigmatize gun owners. Rep. Young has taken our amendments under consideration and is trying to resolve the matter prior to the next subcommittee hearing.

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can tell you that schools that teach practical hand-to-hand (HTH) techniques are few and far between. I recommend police- or military-based HTH classes or *self-defense*-oriented Jujitsu, Aikido, or hybrid styles of martial arts.

A good HTH self-defense program will include empty-hand disarming techniques against a firearm and a knife. The techniques will be relatively simple and easy to learn, execute, and retain. There will be few, if any, kicks taught that are directed above the waistline. Those kicks require greater skill. The instructor should not teach students to kick at the knife-hand. Instruction will emphasize self-defense instead of competition or tradition. Training should be done in shoes rather than barefoot. The very best courses might also teach weapon-retention. Any weapons training will focus on the stick, the knife, and the gun rather than exotic weapons like samurai swords.

Self-defense instruction should emphasize taking cover and/or gaining distance *then* drawing. If someone gets the drop on you, Col. Cooper's rule, "don't draw against a drawn gun," applies. In that situation, you need to do something to gain a new advantage. The most common mistake made by police officers killed in the line of duty is getting too close or failing to use cover.

Now, if you don't have any choices and your life is already all but forfeited, well, you do what you must. The recent incident of a Columbia man defending himself with a small sword by mortally wounding a gun-wielding home invader illustrates how a man with a blade, in close quarters, may win against a man with a gun. It is something to keep in mind.

You got your CWP so that you could have a weapon on hand to defend yourself when the need arises. But what if you can't get to it in time? To give yourself an added advantage, get some good self-defense training.

## Legislative Update: Firearms Related Bills 2001-2002

**H. 3010 & S. 261** - These are the current GrassRoots reform bills which are part of our larger effort to reform the gun laws. They eliminate: (1) the restricted areas of churches, parking lots of nice restaurants, publicly owned buildings, schools, and state parks; and (2) the one year residency requirement. They change the law to only require one photograph for application and renewal, and they standardize signs used to post against CWP holders.

**Principles Involved:** It is unconstitutional to have a one year residency requirement, or to legislate what a church can or can not allow into the sanctuary. Gun laws only restrict the good guys, not the bad guys. Thus, restricted areas only create disarmed victim zones for the benefit of the criminals. Since SLED only needs one photo, why require more? CWP holders should be fairly warned that they are about to enter a prohibited area, thus signs need to be standardized.

**GrassRoots Position:** *We strongly support these bills.* While they are not everything we want, they are a good first step. We also believe that we should try to amend these bills to include the full GrassRoots reform proposal.

**Current Status:** In House and Senate Judiciary Committees

**Full Text:** <http://www.leginfo.state.sc.us/sessions/114/text/1143010t.html>, <http://www.leginfo.state.sc.us/sessions/114/text/1140261t.html>

**H. 3050** - The Home Invasion Protection Act. While protecting people's homes is a good thing, the devil is in the details. This bill requires mandatory minimum sentences of up to 25 years, and provides that no part of the sentence can be suspended, and a person sentenced under this bill would not be eligible for parole or early release.

**Principles Involved:** Justice demands that the facts and circumstances of every case be considered. When it comes to justice, one size does not fit all. Realistic situations like the one described below show how mandatory minimum sentences can result in injustice.

**GrassRoots Position:** *We strongly oppose this bill.* This bill could result in a father getting a mandatory minimum 20 years in prison merely because he goes to his daughter's home to rescue her from an abusive husband

or boyfriend, and tells the abuser that next time there will be serious consequences for beating his daughter. No physical violence is required to get a conviction.

**Current Status:** In House Judiciary Committee

**Full Text:** <http://www.leginfo.state.sc.us/sessions/114/text/1143050t.html>

**H. 3079** - This is a firearms ballistics and registration bill. Retailers are required to provide SLED with a discharged bullet from every firearm sold. Firearms owners must report every sale, transfer by gift, theft, loss, or destruction of a firearm.

**Principles Involved:** Firearms registration is the first step towards confiscation. A free people should not have to register with the government to exercise their Constitutional rights.

**GrassRoots Position:** *We strongly oppose this bill.* This bill registers all firearms owners and firearms.

**Current Status:** In House Judiciary Committee

*(Continued on page 12)*

(Continued from page 11)

**Full Text:** <http://www.leginfo.state.sc.us/sessions/114/text/1143079t.html>

**H. 3113** - A lock up your safety bill. You must lock up your pistol when it is not in use.

**Principles Involved:** Everyone is entitled to exercise their God-given right to self-defense. Laws already exist to punish people who create an unreasonable risk to others. Whether that risk is unreasonable requires a cost benefit analysis. We do not need a law that punishes gun owners simply for having a self-defense weapon available.

**GrassRoots Position:** *We strongly oppose this bill.* Ambiguities in it create the possibility that it could be deemed illegal to leave unlocked any firearm that is not currently being fired. It would thus be illegal to have an unlocked pistol in your night stand while you were sleeping.

**Current Status:** In House Judiciary Committee

**Full Text:** <http://www.leginfo.state.sc.us/sessions/114/text/1143113t.html>

**H. 3165** - A bill to create firearms disabilities for domestic violence misdemeanors, and for mere allegations of threatened abuse.

**Principles Involved:** The right to keep and bear arms is a fundamental God-given right. To allow the government to revoke this God-given right is to turn it into a mere governmental privilege. A misdemeanor with a maximum penalty of a \$500 fine or thirty days in jail is not sufficient justification to revoke a God-given right. Additionally, the burden of proof required to convict someone of a crime is "beyond a reasonable doubt," yet this bill would allow a person to be denied the right to keep and bear arms using the much lesser standard of "preponderance of the evidence."

**GrassRoots Position:** *We strongly oppose this bill.*

**Current Status:** In House Judiciary Committee

**Full Text:** <http://www.leginfo.state.sc.us/sessions/114/text/1143165t.html>

**\*\*\* H. 3167 & S. 96** - The South Carolina Exile Act. It must be understood these bills do NOT address or even consider the use or misuse of a pistol. The primary effect of these bills is to punish people for mere possession of a pistol. These bills would create mandatory minimum sentences without regard to the facts or circumstances of the case for mere possession by a prohibited person. In fact, these bills specifically repeal existing punishments which allow the facts and circumstances of a particular case to be taken into consideration and replace those punishments with one-size-fits-all mandatory minimum sentences.

**Principles Involved:** GrassRoots used the following guiding principles to evaluate H. 3167 and S. 96:

- We should always seek to be fair and just regardless of who is involved because when justice suffers, we all suffer, and that includes gun owners.
- People change. Some people become born-again Christians and dedicate their lives to doing good, others just finally grow up and start being respectable. We should recognize and accept that fact. We should not deny people the opportunity to be judged on who they are instead of who they used to be.
- More gun control laws in the name of fighting crime are wrong and should be opposed.

(Continued on page 13)

(Continued from page 12)

We tell anti-gunners that more gun control passed under the guise of “protecting the children” or “crime control” is wrong. Trying to pass this gun control bill under the guise of fighting crime is wrong, too.

- The right to keep and bear arms is a Constitutionally-guaranteed God-given right. We should not allow the government to revoke such rights and create a second class citizenship. Once the government sets the precedent that 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment rights can be revoked, what stops them from revoking any of the your other rights? We should not allow such precedents to be set or stand.
- Teaching that simple possession of a firearm is inherently evil and deserves punishment is wrong. People should be punished for doing things which are harmful to others, not for mere possession of an object.
- Our limited resources should be spent protecting our Constitutionally-guaranteed God-given rights, not wasted on a politically motivated agenda. Resources wasted on this bill could be better spent passing the GrassRoots reform bill, or repealing the one-gun-per-month gun rights rationing law, or repealing the racist law prohibiting low cost handguns.

Since H. 3167 and S. 96 violate each of these principles, GrassRoots strongly opposes them. A more detailed explanation of our principles and reasoning follows.

One guiding principle is that justice demands that the facts and circumstances of every case be considered. When it comes to justice, one size does not fit all. It matters not whether the victims of injustice are at first just the dregs of society. Most bad laws start out targeting the dregs of society first so as to get popular support, and to establish a precedent. Then, once the precedent is set, the law can be expanded to include more and more people.

Sen. Barry Goldwater said it best when he stated "extremism in the defense of liberty is no vice. Moderation in the pursuit of justice is no virtue." Also, remember the following words:

*First they came for the Communists, but I was not a Communist, so I said nothing. Then they came for the Social Democrats, but I was not a Social Democrat, so I did nothing. Then came the trade unionists, but I was not a trade unionist. And then they came for the Jews, but I was not a Jew, so I did little. Then when they came for me, there was no one left to stand up for me.*

We should stand firm in support of the principle of “justice for all,” and not support injustice merely because we don’t sympathize with the targets of the injustice.

Another guiding principle is that people change and should be judged by who they are, not who they used to be. Suppose that thirty years ago a teenager grew five marijuana plants (which weighed a total of ten pounds) in his back yard, got busted and served his time. South Carolina law defines this as a violent crime even though no violence ever occurred. This person gets out of prison, changes his ways, leads a respectable life, and has a family. Now, his family is being threatened by someone stalking his daughter, so he gets a

(Continued on page 14)

*(Continued from page 13)*

pistol to defend his family. Just obtaining the pistol is a felony. This bill would require a mandatory minimum prison sentence for this father. This bill would treat this father just the same as it would treat a gang banger out committing crimes. That is wrong. Justice does not come in a one-size-fits-all law. Justice demands that the facts and circumstances of the case be considered when deciding how to make the punishment fit the crime, and this bill does not do that.

A third guiding principle is that passing more gun control in the name of crime control is wrong. We constantly ask the anti-gunners why they think that if 30,000 gun control laws haven't stopped crime, another gun control law will. How does this gun control bill help control crime? It doesn't. It only replaces punishments that are able to be made to fit the crime, with punishments that ignore the facts and circumstances of the case in question. How does this help gun owners? It doesn't. When justice suffers, we all suffer, and that includes gun owners too.

A fourth guiding principle is that we should be repealing existing laws which attempt to revoke our Constitutionally-guaranteed rights, such as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment, by treating them as mere governmental privileges, not passing more such laws. A high-ranking police officer once asked me why the government can't just revoke a prior criminal's 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Amendment rights, since we have already allowed the government to revoke a prior criminal's 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment rights. The officer stated it would be much easier for the police to get convictions if they could raid people's homes without probable cause or warrants, and then just beat confessions out of suspects who were prior criminals. The officer said this to illustrate his point that every ex-criminal should have all his Constitutionally-guaranteed rights restored after paying his debt to society, and that laws which allow the government to revoke such rights even after the debt to society has been paid are wrong. There should be no second class citizens in America.

We should not pass laws that set bad precedents and can later be used to hurt us. This law is supposed to apply only to people convicted of violent crimes, but as we have noted, in this Orwellian age "violent crimes" don't have to be violent, they only need to be *labeled* violent by politicians. Thus, there is nothing to stop the law from being expanded to include other "politically incorrect" categories. Remember how the Lautenberg amendment was used to expand the federal firearms disability law from applying only to felonies to include misdemeanor domestic violence, even where the domestic violence did not involve firearms or physical contact, and was made retroactive to include misdemeanors committed at any time during a person's lifetime?

A fifth guiding principle is that we should not teach society that mere possession of a pistol is worthy of severe punishment, regardless of whether the pistol is used improperly or not. See my analysis: "South Carolina Exile Would Hurt Innocent Gun Owners," on page 4 of this newsletter, for my views on the dangers of this.

A sixth guiding principle is that our limited resources should be spent effectively. Lost opportunities to do good are another cost of this bill. By wasting valuable time and resources on this bill, we are not able to work on repealing bad gun laws or passing good gun laws, such as the GrassRoots CWP reforms

*(Continued on page 15)*

*(Continued from page 14)*

**GrassRoots Position:** *We strongly oppose these bills for the reasons detailed above.*

**Current Status:** In House and Senate Judiciary Committees. H. 3167 came up for a hearing at the subcommittee level, but Rep. Young withdrew the bill from the agenda when GrassRoots explained how the bill would hurt innocent gun owners. GrassRoots is trying to work with Rep. Young to amend H. 3167 to get rid of the provisions which stigmatize guns and gun owners. S. 96 passed a Senate subcommittee with proposed amendments, and an unfavorable minority report. The presence of the unfavorable minority report means that the bill will not be taken up by the full Senate unless two thirds of the members vote to do so. Thankfully, this bill will most likely not become law.

**Full Text:** <http://www.leginfo.state.sc.us/sessions/114/text/1140096t.html>

\*\*\* S. 3295 - The Citizen's Self-Defense Act of 2001. This bill is not worded as well as it should be to prevent unnecessary litigation. GrassRoots sent proposed amendments to this bill to Rep. Sharpe, Rep. Young, and Rep. Easterday. We are waiting to hear their responses.

**Principles Involved:** Self-defense is a God-given fundamental natural-law right. It should be the law, too.

**GrassRoots Position:** *We must withhold judgment until the wording is clarified.* We are trying to amend this bill into one we can support.

**Current Status:** In House Judiciary Committee

**Full Text:** <http://www.leginfo.state.sc.us/sessions/114/text/1143295t.html>

S. 3297 - This bill would create another class of persons prohibited from owning a pistol in SC. Currently, a person who has been pardoned and has had his civil rights restored may own a pistol. It bill would prohibit a person who has been pardoned for a crime of violence from owning a pistol in SC. It does not, and cannot, explicitly define what a "crime of violence" is because it gives official recognition to the laws of every state, commonwealth, territory, possession, District of Columbia, and the federal government. Thus, there could be more than 50 different definitions of what constitutes a "crime of violence" recognized by this law, including something as innocuous as yelling at a family member. This is just another gun control bill, not a crime control bill.

**Principles Involved:** 1.) Redemption is a good thing. If a person has changed their life and become one of the good guys, and proven he has changed to such an extent as to warrant getting a pardon, then additional punishment is not necessary. 2.) This bill helps perpetuate the stereotype that it is the gun that makes people do bad things, not the person holding the gun. A gun in the hands of a good person is not a threat to other good people, and a redeemed person is a good person. 3.) Every SC citizen is entitled to equal protection under the law. This bill could create as many as 50 different classes of citizens with respect to who was guilty of a "crime of violence." Thus, equal protection under the law would be denied to SC citizens. 4.) SC should not allow itself to become the enforcement agent of anti-gun states who would be free to define the mere possession of the "wrong" type of firearm,

*(Continued on page 16)*

*(Continued from page 15)*

or possession of drugs (e.g., see S. 255 below), as a “crime of violence.” Good people who move away from anti-gun states should not be punished because the anti-gun state they left chose to classify as a “crime of violence,” something that reasonable people would consider non-violent.

**GrassRoots Position:** *We strongly oppose this bill.*

**Current Status:** In House Judiciary Committee

**Full Text:** <http://www.leginfo.state.sc.us/sessions/114/text/1143297t.html>

**H. 3486 & S. 86** - Current law prohibits the carrying of a pistol unless one meets a particular exception to the law. This bill would allow a certified law enforcement officer from ANYWHERE who complies with his employer’s firearms policy to carry firearms while off duty ANYWHERE IN THE STATE. Additionally, this bill would delete the requirement that retired law enforcement officers be currently commissioned and employed as private detectives or private investigators to be able to carry under the law enforcement officer exception.

**Principles Involved:** The Declaration of Independence states “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life ... .” Off duty police officers and CWP holders both carry firearms to protect the lives of self and family. The principles of being “created equal” and “unalienable rights” found in the Declaration of Independence tell us CWP holders are as entitled to exercise effective self-defense as are off-duty police officers. Both are concerned with protecting life. There should not be two classes of citizens. We do not support the philosophy found in George Orwell’s *Animal Farm* that: “All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others.”

GrassRoots supports the right of every good person, even people from out-of-state, to carry virtually wherever and whenever they feel the need for effective self-defense. In fact, GrassRoots has proposed that SC change from a CWP reciprocity law to a CWP recognition law. A CWP recognition law would mean that if a person had a CWP in his home state, then it would be legal for that person to carry in our state. If every state adopted a CWP recognition law, then CWP holders would be able to carry in every state. CWP recognition is the right thing to do. Special privileges for off-duty police officers is not. We need to work together to protect the gun rights of *all* the good guys, police officers and CWP holders alike.

GrassRoots opposes the unequal treatment of citizens and giving special privileges to government agents while denying SC citizens the same opportunities. A police officer from New York on vacation in Myrtle Beach should not have greater rights in South Carolina than a South Carolina citizen with a CWP. This bill would allow foreign police officers to carry in SC bars while the State of SC continues to hold that the good citizens of SC who have CWPs do not have the right to carry into nice restaurants if they serve alcohol for consumption.

**GrassRoots Position:** *We oppose these bills as currently written.* But we would support a version which included CWP recognition, and gave CWP holders carry-rights equal to those of off-duty police officers.

*(Continued on page 17)*



(Continued from page 16)

**Current Status:** In House and Senate Judiciary Committees

**Full Text:** <http://www.leginfo.state.sc.us/sessions/114/text/1143486t.html>

**\*\*\*H. 3734** - This bill would allow out-of-state, off-duty police officers to carry anywhere in South Carolina. It would give more self-defense carry-rights to off-duty, out-of-state police officers than present law gives to South Carolina CWP holders. This bill also explicitly states that currently and previously commissioned law enforcement officers can carry anywhere in the state.

**Principles Involved:** We are opposed to any law which divides the good guys into two groups - one group being off-duty police officers and the other being CWP holders. A house divided cannot stand. We are opposed to giving off-duty out-of-state police officers more rights to carry self-defense weapons than SC CWP holders.

**GrassRoots Position:** *We oppose this bill as currently written, but would support it if it were amended to give CWP holders the same self-defense carry rights as off duty police officers.*

**Current Status:** In House Judiciary Committee.

**Full Text:** <http://www.leginfo.state.sc.us/sessions/114/text/1143734t.html>

**\*\*\*H. 3744 & S. 488** - These bills would turn South Carolina into a "Class Three" state. South Carolina residents would be able to legally own machine guns.

**Principles Involved:** The Second Amendment was written to protect the pre-existing right of citizen soldiers, also known as the militia, to defend their homes, families, and communities. Any right must necessarily come with the ability to effectively exercise that right. Thus, the people should be allowed to possess machine guns.

**GrassRoots Position:** *We strongly support these bills.*

**Current Status:** In House and Senate Judiciary Committees.

**Full Text:** <http://www.leginfo.state.sc.us/sessions/114/text/1143744t.html>

<http://www.leginfo.state.sc.us/sessions/114/text/1140488t.html>

**\*\*\*H. 3857** - This bill would remove the one year residency requirement to obtain a SC CWP for new residents from states with which SC has established CWP reciprocity, but only if they had a CWP for at least one year in the state from which they moved.

**Principles Involved:** The one year residency requirement is unconstitutional. This minor change only applies to some CWP holders from four states who move to SC. We should delete the unconstitutional one year residency requirement for everyone. This bill would still be

(Continued on page 24)

**GrassRoots GunRights**  
**NO COMPROMISE**  **NO SURRENDER**  
**of South Carolina**

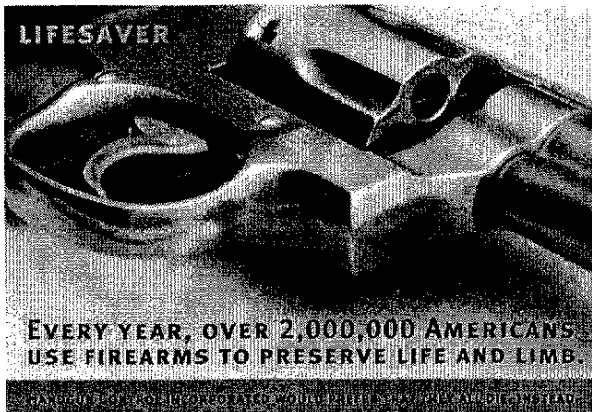
## Condon's Stand on Home Invasion

By John Ponti

While our state's concealed weapons law stipulates that one has no duty to retreat on their own property, common sense applies. If you are working in your yard, close to the house, and a car pulls up at the foot of your driveway and three thugs get out and approach you, are you going to meet them halfway down the driveway and engage in a shootout? Or are you going to retreat to the confines of your dwelling and call law enforcement for assistance? The difference between "justifiable homicide" and "hunted down three people" may hang in the balance.

UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES should you leave the confines of your home to seek out an intruder on your outlying property unless the lives of loved ones are at stake. Again, you risk being accused of "hunting someone down."

On the subject of "shooting at mid-kick" let me say in my own opinion that unless you are absolutely certain without a shadow of a doubt that the person on the other side of the door is a home invader, you'd better think twice about shooting through a door as such action is regarded as being criminally irresponsible in today's politically correct age. IDENTIFY YOUR TARGET.



## School Shooting in California

By Joseph G. Lolli

First, I must preface my comments by saying that any death of a child is a tragedy. But before we go running off to our congressmen demanding more and more gun laws, let's remember that over the past twenty two years, there have been a total of 86 children killed by guns in our schools. That figure includes the two that died yesterday. That's 3.9 children per year.

That's 3.9 children out of the 46 million children in our schools each year. 3.9 children out of 280 million guns owned by 90 million families, or about 16 fewer children that were killed by government mandated airbags last year.

After recently having some family members visit Israel, I feel compelled to ask how many students would have been killed or injured had California's Santana High School shooter Andy Williams committed this same outrageous attack in an Israeli high school, where almost every teacher is armed.

Remember when Colin Ferguson carried out is vicious attack on the commuters aboard a Long Island commuter train, killing almost twenty people? The next morning, Miami's WTVJ Channel 7 put a camera crew on a downtown Miami commuter train platform and had their attractive evening news anchor lady hold up a sign that said, "Miami, Show Us Your Guns."

With cameras rolling, they saw that approximately one out of every seventy or eighty Miami commuter carried a firearm. Florida was the first state to allow "shall issue" firearms carry permits to any honest law-abiding citizen that ask for one and passed a background check and training course.

*(Continued on page 20)*

## South Carolina CWP Instructors:

Instructor Members of GrassRoots South Carolina enjoy the following additional benefits of GrassRoots membership:

- Free Web Space Advertising on the GrassRoots Instructors' Home Page at: [http://www.scfirearms.org/cwp\\_inst.htm](http://www.scfirearms.org/cwp_inst.htm). (Referrals from the webpage alone more than pays membership dues of \$25.00 - Please send us the information as you would like to be listed including your contact information.)
- Copies of the GrassRoots Newsletter to distribute to your students.
- Free Posting of Special Class Offerings in the GrassRoots South Carolina Newsletter.
- Free Subscription to GrassRoots South Carolina Newsletter.
- Full Membership Privileges in GrassRoots South Carolina.
- Publication of Your Instructor Related Articles.
- Referrals to you when GrassRoots Receives Inquiries for CWP Instruction in your area of South Carolina.

If you are a CWP Instructor and would like further information on any of the above benefits please contact GrassRoots or send the necessary information for us to use when making referrals.

## Words Worth Remembering

### Mesh-back Baseball Cap!



Navy with distinct emblem.  
Top Quality!  
\$7.50 +\$2.50 S&H.  
Remit to Ed Howell,  
P.O. Box 73, Folly Beach, SC

"To disarm the people (is) the best and most effectual way to enslave them..." -George Mason, 3 Elliot, Debates at 380.

"The Constitution of most of our states (and of the United States) assert that all power is inherent in the people; that they may exercise it by themselves; that it is their right and duty to be at all times armed."

-Thomas Jefferson.

"They that can give up liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety." - Benjamin Franklin, Historical Review of Pennsylvania.

"(The Constitution preserves) the advantage of being armed which Americans possess over the people of almost every other nation...(where) the governments are afraid to trust the people with arms." -James Madison.

"Guard with jealous attention the public liberty. Suspect everyone 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. Everyone who is able might have a gun." -Patrick Henry.

*(Continued from page 18)*

Channel 7's lead story, that evening, was a "What if Mr. Ferguson had tried his assault on a Miami commuter train?" instead of the one in New York. With an average of at least two armed citizens on each commuter car, they concluded that Ferguson would never have survived the first time he stopped to reload his 9mm pistol.

At California's Santana High School, the media says Andy Williams carried a .22 revolver... a gun that is FAR slower to reload than Colin Ferguson's high capacity pistol, yet witnesses saw Mr. Williams laughing while he reloaded numerous times. Had Williams tried his attack in an Israeli high school, he never would have lived past his first attempt at reloading that weapon.

Unlike the 32 states that permit law-abiding citizens to carry a concealed firearm, the voters in California and in New York have chosen to relegate themselves to the legal status of "Victim." Neither New York or California allow their citizens to be anything but a victim in the event of an assault or an attack by a hostile perpetrator.

Check the FBI crime statistics. The states that have the fewest restrictions on gun ownership have the lowest amount of crime. In states with the most restrictive gun laws, crime is rampant.

Again... think about what would have happened if that Santana High School shooter had tried his deadly stunt in an Israeli school. Then, think about the next time your lawmakers try to limit your right to buy a handgun.

© Joseph G. Lolli 2000

## **Juniors Only Match**

To help get more young people involved in competitive IDPA -- International Defensive Pistol Association -- shooting, the MidCarolina Rifle Club will host a "Juniors Only Match," April 21, 2001. Directions and a map to the range can be found at <http://www.scfirearms.org>.

There is no minimum age, instead participants are required to have mastery of the following basic skills and knowledge:

- A thorough Knowledge of *firearm* safety
- A thorough Knowledge of the handgun they will be using.
- The ability to safely draw from a holster (from concealment).
- The ability to safely reload their handgun (there will only be one stage requiring a reload).
- The ability to "clear" simple malfunctions and misfeeds that their pistol might have during the match.
- The ability to shoot while moving (the movement will be limited, and will only be included on one stage).
- A basic understanding of IDPA rules. A hand-out will be available with IDPA safety rules, a description of range commands, the scoring system, etc. (contact me before the match to receive one)

A parent must attend the match with their child, and stay at the range during the match. If possible we will have an experienced shooter with each junior to act as a "coach". To ensure we have enough "coaches" on hand the day of the match, we need competitors to "register" for the match. Call or e-mail me in advance if you can serve as a coach so I will know

*(Continued on page 30)*

# **Warning! These Merchants and Businesses Prohibit Firearms on Their Premises**

**April 2001 — Copy and Distribute**

## **Statewide:**

Angler's Mini Marts  
BB&T  
Carolina Bank & Trust  
Carolina First!  
Carolina Tire  
Central Carolina Bank  
Coastal Federal Bank  
First Citizens Bank  
First Union  
Gaz-Bah Mini Shops  
Hot Spot Convenience Stores (Jordan Oil Co)  
One Price Clothing  
Santee-Wateree Regional Transportation Authority  
(all vehicles posted "NO CWP")  
Security Finance  
South Carolina Federal Credit Union  
Suburban Propane  
Thomas and Howard Cash and Carry  
Tiger Mart (Rogers Oil Co)  
United Parcel Service Customer Service Centers

## **Aiken:**

Aiken Electric Cooperative  
Aiken Mall 2441 Whiskey Rd  
Belk Department Store  
Captain D's Seafood 1907 Whiskey Rd  
McDonald's 1902-A Whiskey Rd  
Shoney's Restaurants 1909 Whiskey Rd  
The Aiken Standard 326 Rutland Drive

## **Anderson:**

Anderson Yamaha/Honda 110 Miracle Mile Plaza  
Hamrick's 3132 N. Main St.  
Perpetual Bank 907 Main St

## **Andrews:**

H&S Oil Co

## **Batesburg/Leesville:**

B & L Sports 514 W Railroad Ave  
Huddle House 327 E Columbia Ave  
State Farm Insurance 605 W Church St  
Wiz's Eatery 110 West Church St Suite A Bishopville:

## **Bishopville:**

Holland Enterprises, Feed and Seed

R Travis Windham Insurance 204 N Main St  
Blythewood:  
Bank of Ridgeway 115 McNulty St  
Blythewood Oil Co /Sharpe Exxon #1 Hwy 21  
IGA McNulty St  
JR's United Convenience 10447 Wilson Rd  
McDonald's 250 Blythewood Rd  
Plum's Ice Cream Factory Wilson Rd  
Vision Quest Video 420-D McNulty Rd

## **Camden:**

Food Chief 433 Sumter Hwy  
IGA 1816 Jefferson Davis Hwy

## **Charleston:**

Belk Department Stores  
Charleston Steel & Metal 107 Brigade St  
Check Care Systems 4790-A Trade St  
Citadel Mall 2064 Sam Rittenburg Blvd  
CPM Federal Credit Union 5600 Virginia Ave  
Evening Post Publishing Co 134 Columbus St  
Gallman Personnel Services 3175 W Montague Ave  
Goodwill Industries of Lower SC 5640 Rivers Ave  
Henry's Sporting Goods 1662 Hwy 17 N  
James Island Cleaners 1739 Maybank Hwy  
Kaufman Mobile Home Supply 6842 Rivers Ave  
Lenz Dry Cleaners 2665 Ashley Phosphate Rd  
Lenz Dry Cleaners Greenridge Road, N. Charleston  
Northwoods Mall 2222 Northwoods Blvd  
Pagemart of South Carolina  
Piggly Wiggly 1005 Harborview Rd  
State Farm Insurance 8300 Dorchester Road  
Tuesday Morning 8780 Rivers Avenue N. Charleston

## **Columbia:**

Alpine Road Amoco 8404 Two Notch Rd  
Arch Paging 1724 Broad River Rd  
Blue Cross/Blue Shield of SC I-20 & Alpine Rd  
Bojangle's 542 St Andrews Rd  
Builders FirstSource (was Pelican Cos)  
919 S Edisto Ave  
Carolina Collegiate Federal Credit Union  
710 Pulaski St  
Carolina Convenience Corp  
209 Stoneridge Dr Suite 102  
Chipco Computer Distributors 122-F Old Mill Rd

*(Continued on page 22)*

*(Continued from page 21)*

Colonial Life & Accident Ins (Unum)  
1200 W Colonial Life  
Columbia Mall 7201 Two Notch Rd  
Columbia Steel and Metal 1148 Shop Rd  
Crown-Stone Printing Co 819 Main St  
Custom Pizza Co 6801-3 St. Andrews Rd  
Eckerd Drug #2744 9810 Two Notch Rd  
Express Personnel Services 4464 Devine, Suite L  
Exxon / Blimpie's of St. Andrews 800 St. Andrews Rd

**Columbia (cont'd)**

Goodwill Industries 555 St. Andrews Rd  
Hair Cuttery 9710 Two Notch Rd  
Hair We Are 9810 Two Notch Rd  
Hancock Motor Co 3905 W Beltline Blvd  
Moovies at Polo Road 9700 Two Notch Road  
National Tax Service 3707 Main St  
RBMG 7909 Parklane Rd  
Richland Fashion Mall 3400 Forest Dr  
South Carolina Merchants Assoc 1735 St Julian Pl  
St. Andrews Multi-Cinemas 527 St. Andrews Rd  
Star Music 1322 Assembly St  
Star Music 9810 Two Notch Rd  
Tuesday Morning 282 St. Andrews Rd  
United Oil Marketers Garners Ferry Rd  
United Oil Marketers N Main & I-20  
Western Steer Steakhouse St. Andrews Rd  
Young's True Value Hardware 7734 Two Notch Road

**Conway:**

Belk Department Store

**Cottageville:**

Main Street Diner 10716 Cottageville Hwy

**Midlands Area:**

#1 Flea Market Hwy 1  
Allstate Insurance Claims 172 McSwain Dr  
Cooper Power Tools, 670 Industrial Dr, Lexington  
Cooper's Corner Exxon/Hardee's/Laundromat/Car Wash 1910 S Lake Dr, Lexington  
CVI-Cablevision Industries 1125 B Ave, W Cola  
First Community Bank 5455 Sunset Blvd, Lexington  
Hair Cuttery 3028 Charleston Hwy  
Kroger's Sav-On Food Stores 7467 Woodrow St, Irmo  
Old Cherokee Amoco 1104 N Lake Dr, Lexington  
Ramada Inn West I-26 & US Hwy 378, W Columbia  
SC Farm Bureau 724 Knox Abbot Dr, Cayce  
Sansbury Eye Center 205 Columbia Ave  
SMI Steel 310 New State Rd, Cayce

Taco Bell - All Midlands Locations  
The Factory Outlets - All Midlands Locations  
Wendy's 1410 Lake Murray Blvd, Irmo

**Darlington:**

Henry's Pantry 438 N Main St

**Easley:**

Goodwill of Upper SC 5155 Calhoun Memorial Hwy

**Florence:**

Rack Room Shoes Florence Commons Center

**Fountain Inn:**

Burger King 1101 N Main St

**Georgetown:**

Beverage Depot 254 St Delight Rd  
Edward Jones Investments 936 Front St  
Georgetown Art Gallery Inc 732 Front St  
Georgetown County Chamber of Commerce 1001 Front St  
Georgetown Seafood 1902 Highmarket St  
Law Firm of Hinds, Cowan, Strange, & Greer 604 Front St  
Nightingale's Professional Apparel 924 Front St  
Piggly Wiggly 1620 Highmarket St  
Prince George Framing & Gallery 805 Front St  
Thomas Cafe 703 Front St  
Tomlinson's Department Store 806 Front St

**Gilbert:**

First Community Bank of Gilbert 4325 Augusta Hwy

**Greenville:**

AAA Supply 203 Haywood Rd  
Burger King 1513 Poinsettia Hwy  
Comfort Inn 545 N Pleasantburg Dr  
Rogers Stereo 525 Woodruff Rd  
Spinx Oil Convenience Store  
UPS Customer Counter 291 Fairforest Way

**Greenwood:**

Burger King  
Cross Creek Mall  
Dixie Drive-In 600 Montague Ave  
Greenwood Bank & Trust

**Hartsville**

Belk Department Store

*(Continued on page 23)*

*(Continued from page 22)*

**Hollywood:**

Piggly Wiggly  
Honea Path  
Little General Convenience, Hwy 176

**Jefferson:**

B&M Grocery Hwy 151 South

**Lugoff:**

Food Chief 840 Hwy 1 S

**Manning:**

Clarendon County Chamber of Commerce 19 N  
Brooks St  
Freedom Finance, Inc 14 N Mill St

**Marion:**

Donut Hole

**Mauldin:**

Golden Strip Mirror and Glass 343 Miller Rd

**Monck's Corner:**

Scotsman Conv. Store 1446 South Live Oak  
The Berkeley Independent 320 E. Main Street

**Mt. Pleasant:**

Pantry Pride 2171G Hwy 17 N

**Mullins:**

Pee Dee Office Systems Main St

**Murrells Inlet:**

Inlet Square Mall 10125  
Hwy 17 Bypass & Tadlock Rd  
Old House Memories Antiques

**Myrtle Beach:**

Advantage Realty 9622 N Kings Hwy  
Dixie Discount Beverage S Kings Hwy  
Federal Express 1600 Stockholder Ave  
Galleria Liquors 9658 N Kings Hwy  
Klig's Kites 4824 Hwy 17 S, N Myrtle Beach  
Klig's Kites Kings Hwy, Surfside  
Remax at the Coast 2423 Hwy. 17 South  
Schlotzsky's Deli 812 S Kings Hwy  
Shell Lamp Outlet 9600 F3 North Kings Hwy.  
Surfwood Office Supply  
809 2nd Avenue N Myrtle Beach  
Time Warner Cable 1901 Oak St

VPS Geo. Bishop Parkway  
White Realty, Inc. 210 17th Ave. South N. Myrtle  
Beach

**Pacolet:**

Pacolet Express 441 N Hwy 150

**Pawley's Island:**

Tuesday Morning 364 Hwy 17 N

**Rock Hill:**

Three Bells Beauty Salon 803 Willowbrook Ave

**Saluda:**

Saluda Farm and Garden Supply 508 N Main St

**Seneca:**

Carquest Auto Parts 507 N First St  
Hometown Food Store N Walnut St

**Spartanburg:**

Progress Lighting 110 Corporate Drive  
Westgate Mall 205 W Blackstock R  
Summerville:  
Maxway Boon Hill Rd  
North Main Market 1301 N Main St  
The Consignment Gallery N Cedar St

**Sumter:**

Belk Department Store  
Black River Electric Cooperative  
1121 N Pike Rd W  
Boykin Air Conditioning Services  
845 S Guignard Dr  
CP & L 180 Wesmark Blvd  
Dixon's Grocery State Hwy 261  
Greater Sumter Chamber of Commerce  
32 E Calhoun St  
H & S Wholesale 200 S Harvin St  
Hill Plumbing & Electric 438 N Main St  
Hodge Auto/Truck Service 491 E Liberty St  
Jessamine Mall 1057 Broad St  
Kwik-Fare 1768 Pinewood Rd  
Manchester Farms 3525 Old Hwy 521 N. Dalzell  
SAFE Federal Credit Union 180 Wesmark Blvd  
Sportsman's Shop and Stop 2810 Hwy 15 S  
Sumter Check Casher 1084A Broad St  
Time Finance Co. 31 Liberty St  
Tri Star Storage II/Cash Advance  
2220 Peach Orchard Hwy

*(Continued on page 24)*

**Swansea:**

Shelton's Rainbow BP 100 W First St

**Taylors:**

Spinx Oil Convenience Store  
3226 Wade Hampton Blvd

**Walterboro:**

Allied Department Store 205 E Washington St  
Carpet Country  
Carpets of Walterboro 601 Bells Hwy  
Coastal Electric Cooperative 2269 Jefferies Blvd  
Gold Collection 501 Bells Hwy  
Hunan Chinese Restaurant 339 N Jefferies Blvd

Jus Sports 253D Bells Hwy  
Low Country Marine 903 Green Pond Hwy  
Parks Auto Parts 555 Bells Hwy  
Seigler Brothers One Hour Photo 501 Bells Hwy

**Merchants:** *If your business is no longer posted against Law-Abiding Citizens, please notify GrassRoots for removal from this list. This list is maintained by GrassRoots volunteers. Please report corrections to email: [jrponti@yahoo.com](mailto:jrponti@yahoo.com)*

*If you are reporting a posted merchant you MUST include the name of owner of record or president/CEO. GrassRoots South Carolina, PO Box 6383, Columbia, SC 29260 <http://www.scfirearms.org>*

*(Continued from page 17)*

unconstitutional because it still discriminates against people from 46 other states.

**GrassRoots Position:** *We oppose this bill as currently written. We urge these legislators to support the GrassRoots proposed amendment which would delete the one year residency requirement for everyone.*

**Current Status:** In House Judiciary Committee.

**Full Text:** <http://www.leginfo.state.sc.us/sessions/114/text/1143857t.html>

**\*\*\*H. 3860** - This bill changes and creates penalties for bank robbery, armed robbery, and discharging firearms while committing these crimes.

**Principles Involved:** "Thou shalt not steal" seems appropriate here.

**GrassRoots Position:** *We don't have a dog in this fight because we are law-abiding citizens of SC and don't commit these crimes, and the penalties are not unconscionable.*

**Current Status:** In House Judiciary Committee.

**Full Text:** <http://www.leginfo.state.sc.us/sessions/114/text/1143860t.html>

**\*\*\*S. 78** - A trigger lock bill. This bill would make it a criminal offense to have a loaded firearm on the premises if the loaded firearm is misused by a child.

**GrassRoots Position:** *We strongly oppose this bill.*

**Current Status:** A Senate Judiciary Subcommittee had a tie vote of 3-3 on this bill, so it did

*(Continued on page 36)*





## ***Welcome Back!***

### ***The Following Merchants Have REMOVED Signs Discouraging Law-Abiding CWP Holders From Entering Their Establishments***

B-Mart Manning  
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  
Lowes 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 Men's Shop  
Perkin's Family Restaurant  
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  
Ben Satcher Motors  
Wicker World, Myrtle Beach  
Jones Department Stores  
Pro-Glo Body Shop, Sumter  
Granny's Cafe, Walterboro  
Blythewood Pharmacy  
Sav-Way Convenience Stores  
Grady Miller's Honda  
Circle K/Smile Gas in Sumter  
Logan's Appliance Center, Bishopville  
Wal-Mart 2245 Ashley Crossing, N. Charleston  
B and D Grocery, Rembert  
Spee Dee Cash, Sumter  
Piggly Wiggly, Lexington  
Lube Express, Surfside Beach  
Horry Telephone Cooperative  
Piggly Wiggly, Ladson  
Heavenly Ham #B2 Myrtle Beach  
H and R Block Manning  
Beach Ford Myrtle Beach  
Freedom Finance Sumter  
Food Chief Johnsonville  
Food Chief Pamplico  
Frankie's Fun Park Lexington  
Buddy's Pizza and Subs Pelion  
Custom Pizza Co. Chapin  
Dick's Pawn Shop N. Myrtle Beach  
Hay Tire Co., Charleston  
New Country Corner, Manning  
Caper House, Saluda  
Bi Rite, Swansea  
Sub Terminal, Aiken  
Low Country Ford, Summerville  
Hair Cuttery, Harbison Blvd, Columbia  
Dick's Pawn Shops, Myrtle Beach  
Target, Myrtle Beach  
Goodys, Myrtle Beach  
Wal Mart Supercenter, Florence  
Will Mart Convenience Stores  
Rod's Pawn and Jewelry, Conway

#### ***Notice:***

***Merchants, if your business is no longer posted against Law-Abiding Citizens please notify GrassRoots. This list maintained by GrassRoots volunteers. Please report corrections to: GrassRoots South Carolina, P.O. Box 6383, Columbia, SC 29260, or E-mail [jrponti@yahoo.com](mailto:jrponti@yahoo.com)***

## Answers to Frequently Asked Questions

Along with the many positive letters we receive in our mailbox, we also get a fair number of questions, such as.....

*Q: Who are you?*

A: Grass Roots of South Carolina, Inc. is a 501(C4) Non-Profit Corporation. Our officers, staff, and directors are listed on the inside cover of all of our newsletters. We started as a group of concerned individuals interested in seeing positive change take place for all South Carolina gun owners. Initially we focused on educating merchants who posted against lawful concealed carry, however it soon became apparent that we needed to broaden our objectives if we were going to make a meaningful difference and impact for all SC gun owners. We are no longer a small group of individuals. Our officers and staff are all volunteers and represent various areas of South Carolina. Anyone may join our organization and anyone may take part in our grass roots efforts.

*Q: I used to get your newsletter but it seems I've been dropped from your mailing list. What gives?*

A: The most likely reason is that you have moved or your membership has expired. To contain costs we use bulk mail to distribute our newsletter. Bulk mail is cheap but the post office will not forward bulk mail. First class mail would cost us almost a dollar per newsletter. By using bulk mail we generally keep the cost down to under twenty cents. The other reason you may have been dropped from our mailing list is because in June 1999 we became a membership organization (dues and all). We attempted to contact everyone who was on our previous mailing list but perhaps we missed you. Remember: If you move contact us so that we can make the necessary corrections to our database.

*Q: Do you have copies of your previous newsletters available?*

A: We have a limited number of only a few of our recently printed newsletters. You may have them as far as long as they are available. If you are asking us to send you hard copies of our previous newsletters, a gift to cover our printing and postage would be graciously appreciated! We hope to have the complete archive of newsletters available on CD-ROM available soon.

*Q: Can I send you my neighbor's name and address so you can send him a newsletter?*

A: We try to accommodate all requests as resources permit. Once a year for the past three years we have mailed fliers to the complete list of CWP holders in South Carolina. Another time we distributed 7,000 newsletters to gun shops. Recently, we mailed newsletters to 6,000 gun owners using a subscription list obtained from a popular gun magazine. It's highly likely that your neighbor has already received a communication from us. Consider copying or sharing your newsletter with your neighbor or anyone you think might be interested. Tell them how they join us in our efforts. Always recycle your newsletter by giving it away or leaving it in a waiting room.

*(Continued on page 27)*

*(Continued from page 26)*

*Q: Do you sell your mailing list?*

A: Absolutely not! Don't even ask! We consider your participation in our efforts to be your business and for you to participate as much or as little as you like. We will not jeopardize your privacy.

*Q: Are you affiliated with a national organization such as the NRA or GOA?*

A: No, we are not officially affiliated with any national or state RKBA organization. However most of our officers do hold memberships in a variety of national and state firearms organizations - we just can't get enough of second amendment activism!

*Q: How did you get my name and address as a CWP holder, isn't it private?*

A: The Law Abiding Self Defense Bill was originally drafted with the assistance of pro-gun constituents who placed, within the proposed bill, a clause restricting access to information regarding CWP holders. While debated in the South Carolina House committees, this clause came under fire from the newspaper lobby who wanted access to the names of CWP holders under the Freedom of Information Act. The original drafters of the bill fought this effort however they lost. In retrospect, inclusion of this restriction would have improved the final bill but since we're stuck with lemons let's make lemonade!

*Q: I've heard that New Hampshire concealed weapons permits are honored in Georgia and that you have some. Can I get one?*

A: Yes, we have New Hampshire CWP permit applications, and Georgia currently has reciprocity with New Hampshire (even NH Out of State Permits). We have had these reprinted in the original N.H. State application color of blue. They are available from GrassRoots free of charge. We ask that you send a stamped self-addressed envelope requesting the N.H. permit application to our published address and we will get one out to you ASAP. Any donation for this service would be gleefully accepted, but it is not required.

*Q: When are you guys going to do something about the Greasy Spoon Restaurant in my town that posts against CWP?*

A: When we learn that a merchant has posted against CWP holders we send a well-written (polite) letter covering all of the various reasons they should consider removing their sign. Additionally we send alternative signs, offer to send additional signs, and extend an offer to further discuss the issue with them. We also include a copy of our most recent newsletter which, presents sound arguments against prohibiting lawful conceal carry and demonstrates that we publish the name of establishments who endanger their patrons by prohibiting lawful carry. While this often works, when it doesn't, we suggest you voice your concern and opinion directly to the merchant. Merchants are much more likely to respond to local customers who may take their business elsewhere, than they are to a letter postmarked from Columbia or Sumter.

*Q: I had a permit before the current CWP law went into effect. It was better and had fewer*

*(Continued on page 28)*

*(Continued from page 27)*

*restrictions. Why did you guys mess it up?*

A: Don't shoot the messenger! GrassRoots wasn't even an idea when the current CWP law was passed. We're on your side; we are working to make your CWP as unrestricted as possible. Instead of getting angry, get busy with us to make the CWP law better!

*Q: I'm visiting South Carolina, how can I legally carry?*

A: If you have a CWP from the states of AR, WY, UT and TN, South Carolina recognizes your out of state permit as equivalent to a SC CWP. However, even if you don't have a CWP, you may legally carry a loaded handgun in the closed (not necessarily locked) glove box, console, or trunk of your vehicle. You may also carry the handgun from your vehicle to a room on which you have paid an accommodations tax (motel room), and you may carry while engaged in, and going to or from hunting or fishing if you have a valid SC hunting or fishing license.

*Q: How do I get a South Carolina CWP?*

A: First, current law mandates that you must be a resident of South Carolina for at least one year, and be at least 21 years of age. Call your county sheriff and see where and when you can pick up the CWP application package, and ask if they will do the fingerprinting without charge, or recommend someone who will. A notarized copy of your driver's license will certify your residence and vision. You currently need to provide three photos. Since they will use the digital picture from your driver's license for your permit, these need not be special (e.g., passport) quality photos. You will also need to take a training class (minimum of 8 hours) with a SLED-certified instructor, and pass a written, and a shooting proficiency test. Send your completed application to SLED with a money order or certified check for \$50.00 and wait 90 days.

*Q: How do I know if my GrassRoots membership has expired?*

A: If you're still receiving your newsletter then you are current. We mail renewal notices to all members prior to memberships expiration. We now print expiration dates on the mailing labels of the newsletter. Check your last newsletter for a date. (BTW: Yes, it helps us a great deal, and saves postage, if you renew before we mail a renewal notice - thanks!)

*Q: How can I get active in GrassRoots South Carolina? Do you hold meetings?*

A: We welcome participation! You can become active in several ways depending on your interests. If you have a project locally we'll try to help you accomplish your goals. The officers and staff of GrassRoots meet 6:30 PM on the third Monday of every month at Shoney's on Bush River Road in Columbia (across from Dutch Square). Although this is a working meeting where we discuss progress as well as short term and long term plans, we welcome and encourage members to attend and give us their input. After all, we are a GrassRoots organization!

*Q: How can I stay up-to-date with what's happening?*

A: GrassRoots purposefully set up different levels of communication to accommodate the

*(Continued on page 29)*

*(Continued from page 28)*

various levels of interest held by South Carolina gun owners. You may participate in as many of these communication levels as you'd like.

At the minimum we'd like every CWP holder in South Carolina be on our quarterly newsletter mailing list. We always try to include important news and information in our hardcopy newsletter even if it has already been covered on our webpage or e-mail alerts. We are aware that this is the only communication some of our members will receive from us so we attempt to make it as complete as possible.

We also encourage you to regularly check — at least once a month — our webpage <http://www.scfirearms.org> for legislative updates, the latest news and for links to other gun rights organizations and forums.

If you have e-mail, we'd like to place you on our e-mail "alerts" list. This list is used sparingly (about once a month) to send you GrassRoots Updates and Legislative Alerts. It is our primary method of communicating in situations that require immediate action on your part.

If you'd like more frequent e-mail concerning South Carolina firearms issues please join our e-mail discussion group. This chitchat e-mail discussion is available in the form of a "digest" (once a day single message) or by more "real time," individual message delivery. Currently the traffic on this e-mail newsgroup is approximately 10-15 messages a day.

Fax Service. We maintain a list of fax numbers provided to us by our members who wish to receive fax alerts. Due to the costs involved we use this in cases where immediate communication with our members is critical, such as when communication with members within a particular legislative area or merchant area is important.

Coming Soon! Voice messaging. Soon we will have voice messaging. This will allow us to communicate with you by recorded message delivered to your telephone, if you wish.

*Q: I think I joined your organization at the last gun show but I'm not getting the newsletter or information that's on the web page. What gives?*

A: GrassRoots mails all new members a package of materials upon joining. Thereafter you will receive a newsletter by postal delivery every January, April, July, and October. Avoid cheap imitations; we are, simply, GrassRoots GunRights (of South Carolina) - the true GrassRoots effort in South Carolina. Accept no substitutes!

*Q: My CWP is about to expire. How do I renew my CWP?*

A: SLED has stated that 30-45 days is all that is needed to complete the necessary items and issue a renewal permit. Second, when renewing, please call SLED, ask for Regulatory Services, and request a "CWP Renewal Package." *Warning: the permit applications at your local sheriff's department are NOT FOR RENEWALS.* If you use a "new applicant" packet to attempt a renewal, it will be returned to you without processing. The Renewal Package will tell you what you need to do, or you may call SLED at 803-737-9000 (ask for Regulatory) to request a CWP renewal packet. Yes, under current law, you will need to do pictures and fingerprints again.

Regarding some of the requirements for renewal, remember that SLED isn't making this

*(Continued on page 30)*

*(Continued from page 29)*

stuff up. It's the law. Unfortunately many requirements, such as fingerprints and photos (which they don't use on your permit), are currently required by law. GrassRoots is working to change this. Hassling the folks at SLED won't remove these requirements. Joining GrassRoots will. So, join us in our efforts to make our CWP law a better law for you. Yup, it's a crock, but it's the law. Work with GrassRoots to make it better.

Please call your state senator and representative. Tell them you support GrassRoots and you want them to support our proposed changes.

GrassRoots has verified the following report with SLED Regulatory (803-896-7014): Color photos made with a digital camera and inkjet printer are permissible. The photos should be no smaller than 1"x1" and no larger than they can fit in a standard folder - try to keep them to 3"x5". You may even copy your driver's license picture three times and send it. Renewals may be accompanied by Postal Money Order, Certified Check, or even a personal check!

*Q: How many CWP holders are there in South Carolina?*

A: As of March 15, 2001, there were 31,437 licensed CWP holders in South Carolina! (25,940 men and 5497 women) All of whom have been deemed law-abiding citizens by their county, state, and the FBI! Can someone without a CWP *prove* that they are law-abiding?!

*Q: Which states allow me to carry when I visit?*

A: As of March 15, 2001: 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.

*Q: Did you move recently?*

A: A little over a year ago we moved our postal address from Sumter to Columbia.

**Write to GrassRoots at: GrassRoots South Carolina, P.O. Box 6383, Columbia, SC 29260, or E-mail GrassRoots at: [lcoble@logicsouth.com](mailto:lcoble@logicsouth.com)**

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*(Continued from page 20)*

how many are coming. All IDPA rules will apply with one exception. Although rimfires will not be allowed, there is no minimum caliber for this match, .32s, 380s, and .25s are welcome. The match will be five stages, and will include all the skills found in our monthly matches, scaled down somewhat for juniors. It will require 42 to 45 shots, so it can be done with one 50-round box of ammunition. The fee for the match is \$5.

*For more information, contact: Charles Ferree, IDPA Match Director MCRC, 201 Shum-pert Rd., West Columbia, SC 29172, 803-755-6771, [ferreec@bellsouth.net](mailto:ferreec@bellsouth.net)*

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### **Rifle Raffle!**

The South Carolina Chapter of the FreeRepublic is raffling a Remington 270, and two free CWP classes. Chances are \$2 each. For further information contact Julie Nichols at [JRUSC1@aol.com](mailto:JRUSC1@aol.com), or Patrick Nolan at [Marcum@infoave.net](mailto:Marcum@infoave.net).


## GrassRoots Members Get 5% Discounts at these Merchants

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## Carolina Concealed Carry

Terry L. Hicks

Your CWP Specialists

*(Continued from page 9)*

sage of the original CWP law, then you know how ugly things can get. There needs to be one source that politicians can contact to know what gun owners want in this bill, and that one source must be GrassRoots! So, be sure to tell every politician that GrassRoots speaks for you!

Please contact your Senators and Representatives and ask them to support all of the GrassRoots proposed amendments. Remember, the squeaky wheel gets the grease. So, contact your elected representatives regularly until our bill gets passed.

SC House of Representatives  
P.O. Box 11867  
Columbia, SC 29211  
(803) 734-2925 fax  
(803) 734-2402 switchboard

South Carolina Senate  
P.O. Box 142  
Columbia, SC 29202  
(803)212-6299 fax  
(804)(803) 212-6700 switchboard

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ers.

**Background:** Some time ago at a meeting at SLED headquarters, Capt. Joe Dorton of SLED mentioned that because of SC Code of Laws Section 16-23-465 (see below), CWP holders could not carry in establishments (including restaurants) licensed to allow the consumption of alcoholic beverages on the premises. Capt. Dorton further said that CWP holders could not park in the parking lot of such a restaurant and leave a firearm *anywhere* in the vehicle. Unfortunately, this interpretation of the law would apply not only to nice restaurants, since virtually all of them serve some type of alcoholic beverage somewhere on the premises, but it also raises questions about hotels and privately owned sports arenas.

Section 16-23-20 (see below) says plainly that it is unlawful to carry a pistol. That same section says that prohibition does not apply to several classes of individuals including police officers and CWP holders carrying under the provisions of their permits. The provisions of the permit are listed in the CWP law (Sections 23-31-205 through 23-31-240). Within the CWP law there is a list of locations into which "a permit issued pursuant to this section does not authorize a

permit holder to carry a concealable weapon." An establishment licensed for the on-premises consumption of alcoholic beverages is not one of those locations.

Section 16-23-465 says there is an additional penalty for carrying a concealed weapon into an establishment with an on-premises license. In addition to what? In addition to the penalties spelled out in Sections 16-11-330 (regarding armed robbery, see below) and 16-23-460 (regarding the forfeiture of illegally concealed weapons, see below). Section 16-23-460 does not apply to CWP holders because they have a permit to carry, and 16-11-330 applies to CWP holders only if they are committing an armed robbery. Since Section 16-23-465 is predicated on a violation of some other section of law, it does not apply to law-abiding CWP holders at all.

Section 16-23-465 goes on to say: "In addition to the penalties described above, a person who violates this section while carrying a concealable weapon pursuant to Article 4, Chapter 31, Title 23 must have his concealed weapon permit revoked." Again, in addition to what? In addition to penalties for another violation of the law, specifically armed robbery.

*(Continued on page 33)*



(Continued from page 32)

Capt. Dorton agreed to consider the GrassRoots' perspective on the law if it was sent to him in writing. After reading what was sent to him, Capt. Dorton could not find fault with the Grassroots analysis. Capt. Dorton wanted SLED's legal department to study the GrassRoots analysis, so he sent it to Capt. Mark Keel for an opinion. Capt. Keel could not find fault with the GrassRoots analysis either and sent it to Attorney General Condon, requesting his opinion. Capt. Keel sent the material to the Attorney General in December 2000, but for months Mr. Condon did not respond.

On February 28, 2001, Attorney General Condon was again on WVOC. GrassRoots called in to ask Mr. Condon when he intended to issue the opinion he had promised back in December. GrassRoots reminded Mr. Condon this matter had great bearing on the rights and safety of CWP holders. GrassRoots asked Mr. Condon to explain why he had chosen not to issue an opinion even though his office had already done the legal research. GrassRoots mentioned the Attorney General's prior opinion dated August 8, 1996, which was written for Lt. D. C. Beaty of the Horry County Sheriff's Office (Opinion 1996 WL 549532).

Mr. Condon told the WVOC audience that his prior opinion upheld the legality of police officers' carrying firearms into an establishment serving alcoholic beverages based upon their need to perform their job. Mr. Condon should read the opinion again because his own opinion states otherwise.

The August 8, 1996, opinion specifically stated that the request for an opinion was for determining whether "*an off duty law enforcement officer, outside of his/her jurisdiction, may carry a pistol into a business which sells alcoholic beverages; and that the said officer is at that business merely to engage in social activities, not related to law enforcement* [emphasis added], and consuming alco-

holic beverages." As stated in the opinion itself, it was not based upon the need of a police officer to perform his/her duties. Mr. Condon did not tell the truth.

Mr. Condon then stated it has been illegal for a CWP holder to carry into a nice restaurant since 1977 because of Section 16-23-465. Once again, Mr. Condon did not tell the truth. The question of whether Section 16-23-465 made it illegal to carry into nice restaurants after 1977 was raised and answered in the August 8, 1996, Attorney General opinion. The Attorney General's answer was that *Section 16-23-465 did not repeal Section 16-23-20, which is the section of law which allows CWP holders and police officers to carry where other people cannot*. Again, Mr. Condon should read his own opinion.

The 1996 CWP law says: "Nothing contained herein may be construed to alter or affect the provisions of Sections 10-11-320, 16-23-420, 16-23-430, 16-23-465, 44-23-1080, 44-52-165, 50-9-830, and 51-3-145." You can read all those other sections, but the other sections aren't relevant to this issue.

Moreover, if you ask anyone who had a CWP prior to the new 1996 CWP law, they will tell you that carrying into a nice restaurant wasn't illegal then.

Since the 1996 CWP law specifically stated it did not change the provisions of Section 16-23-465 and it was not illegal for a CWP holder to carry into nice restaurants prior to 1996, it is not illegal now.

**Here is a short logical path to understanding this issue:**

- Section 16-23-20 prohibits the carrying of pistols, with certain exceptions. Two of those exceptions are for police officers and CWP holders according to the conditions of their permit.
- The Law Abiding Citizen's Self-Defense Act of 1996 did not prohibit CWP carry into nice restaurants, and specifically

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stated that "nothing contained herein may be construed to alter or affect the provisions of" Section 16-23-465.

- Condon claims Section 16-23-465 is the legal basis for prohibiting CWP holders from carrying into nice restaurants.
- A prior Attorney General opinion held that passage of Section 16-23-465 DID NOT change the legal effect of Section 16-23-20, and that carrying a pistol into nice restaurants continued to be legal.

Thus, the law upon which Condon relies to claim it is illegal for CWP holders to carry into nice restaurants has been proven by his own office to NOT DO what Condon claims it does.

The real questions are: Why is Mr. Condon failing to support the rights and safety of law-abiding CWP holders and their families? Why is Mr. Condon working so hard to harm CWP holders and their families by suddenly re-interpreting laws and using them against gun owners, laws that his own office previously found should not be used against us? Why turn on the honest law abiding citizens of SC?

It has been suggested that Mr. Condon has sold out to the liberal mass media in a bid to become Governor. Does Mr. Condon really think he can get more votes for Governor by turning his back on gun owners? He should remember who brought him to the dance. It was not the anti-gun crowd. If gun owners don't vote for Mr. Condon, he won't become Governor.

It would be so easy for Charlie to support gun owners if he wanted to do so. It is the right thing to do and the law is already on our side. Additionally, a prior Attorney General opinion supports CWP holders as pointed out by GrassRoots. It is not too late for Mr. Condon to issue an opinion supporting the rights of honest gun owners.

People interested in reading the Attorney General's opinion should call his office at

(803) 734-3970 and request a copy of the opinion dated August 8, 1996, written for Lt. D. C. Beaty of the Horry County Sheriff's Office (Opinion 1996 WL 549532).

Maybe if enough people request and read the opinion for themselves, Mr. Condon will realize that while he can fool some of the people all of the time and all of the people some of the time, he can't fool the CWP holders in SC with GrassRoots acting as watchdog.

#### **Applicable sections of the SC Code of Laws:**

SECTION 16-11-330. Robbery and attempted robbery while armed with deadly weapon.

(A) A person who commits robbery while armed with a pistol, dirk, slingshot, metal knuckles, razor, or other deadly weapon, or while alleging, either by action or words, he was armed while using a representation of a deadly weapon or any object which a person present during the commission of the robbery reasonably believed to be a deadly weapon, is guilty of a felony and, upon conviction, must be imprisoned for a mandatory minimum term of not less than ten years or more than thirty years, no part of which may be suspended or probation granted. A person convicted under this subsection is not eligible for parole until the person has served at least seven years of the sentence.

(B) A person who commits attempted robbery while armed with a pistol, dirk, slingshot, metal knuckles, razor, or other deadly weapon, or while alleging, either by action or words, he was armed while using a representation of a deadly weapon or any object which a person present during the commission of the robbery reasonably believed to be a deadly weapon, is guilty of a felony and, upon conviction, must be imprisoned not more

*(Continued on page 35)*

(Continued from page 34)

than twenty years.

SECTION 16-23-20. Unlawful carrying of pistol; exceptions.

It is unlawful for anyone to carry about the person any pistol, whether concealed or not, except as follows:

- (1) Regular, salaried law enforcement officers and reserve police officers of a municipality or county of the State, uncompensated Governor's constables, law enforcement officers of the federal government or other states when they are carrying out official duties while in this State, deputy enforcement officers of the Natural Resources Enforcement Division of the Department of Natural Resources, and retired commissioned law enforcement officers employed as private detectives or private investigators.

.....

- (12) Any person who is granted a permit under provision of law by the State Law Enforcement Division to carry a pistol about his person, under conditions set forth in the permit.

Persons authorized to carry weapons pursuant to items (6) and (12) of this section may exercise this privilege only after acquiring a permit from the State Law Enforcement Division as provided for in Article 4 of Chapter 31 of Title 23.

SECTION 16-23-460. Carrying concealed weapons; forfeiture of weapons.

Any person carrying a deadly weapon usually used for the infliction of personal injury concealed about his person is guilty of a misdemeanor, must forfeit to the county, or, if convicted in a municipal court, to the municipality the concealed weapon, and must be fined not less than two hundred dollars nor more than five hundred dollars or imprisoned not less than thirty days nor more than ninety days. *Nothing herein contained may be construed to apply to (1) persons carrying concealed weapons upon their own premises or*

*pursuant to and in compliance with Article 4 of Chapter 31 of Title 23 [refers to the CWP law and emphasis added], or (2) peace officers in the actual discharge of their duties. The provisions of this section do not apply to rifles, shotguns, dirks, slingshots, metal knuckles, or razors unless they are used with the intent to commit a crime or in furtherance of a crime.*

SECTION 16-23-465. Additional penalty for unlawfully carrying pistol or firearm onto premises of business selling alcoholic liquors, beers or wines for on-premises consumption.

*In addition to the penalties provided for by Sections 16-11-330 [armed robbery] and 16-23-460 [illegally carrying a concealed deadly weapon] and by Article 1 of Chapter 23 of Title 16 [pistol laws], a person convicted of carrying a pistol or firearm onto the premises of a business which sells alcoholic liquor, beer, or wine for consumption on the premises is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, must be fined not more than two thousand dollars or imprisoned not more than three years, or both.*

In addition to the penalties described above, a person who violates this section while carrying a concealable weapon pursuant to Article 4, Chapter 31, Title 23 must have his concealed weapon permit revoked.

The other sections of law and their topics:

SECTION 10-11-320. Carrying, or discharging firearm, dangerous weapon, explosive or incendiary device.

SECTION 16-23-420. Carrying or displaying firearms in schools and public buildings or areas adjacent thereto.

SECTION 16-23-430. Carrying weapons on school property.

SECTION 44-23-1080. Patients and prisoners denied access to alcoholic beverages, firearms, dangerous weapons and controlled substances.

SECTION 44-52-165. Patients receiving al-

(Continued on page 36)

(Continued from page 35)

cohol and drug addiction services prohibited from possessing alcohol, firearms, weapons or drugs; penalties; unlawful to allow such

activity.

SECTION 50-9-830 (repealed)

SECTION 51-3-145. Certain acts unlawful at state parks.

(Continued from page 24)

not pass and is dead. Sen. Jackson has vowed to attach it as an amendment to another bill.

**Full Text:** <http://www.leginfo.state.sc.us/sessions/114/text/1140078t.html>

\*\*\*S. 86 - See H. 3486 above.

\*\*\* S. 87 - This bill has been completely rewritten. GrassRoots proposed amendments to protect innocent gun owners and its amendments were adopted. It is now primarily a hunter safety bill.

**Principles Involved:** This bill no longer presents a threat to innocent gun owners. Thus, GrassRoots takes no position on this bill.

**GrassRoots Position:** *We don't have a dog in this fight.*

**Current Status:** Passed by Senate, now in House Judiciary Committee

**Full Text:** <http://www.leginfo.state.sc.us/sessions/114/text/1140087t.html>

\*\*\*S. 96 - See H. 3167 above.

S. 255 - This bill would define "crime of violence" so as to include distribution or trafficking of narcotic drugs regardless of whether or not any violence or weapons were actually involved.

**Principles Involved:** We should never allow words in laws to mean things that are not true. Words have meaning so that we can easily communicate. Life is confusing enough without purposefully making it more so.

**GrassRoots Position:** We oppose this bill.

**Current Status:** In Senate Judiciary Committee

**Full Text:** <http://www.leginfo.state.sc.us/sessions/114/text/1140255t.html>

S. 261 - See H. 3010 above.

S. 488 - See H. 3744 above.

\*\*\*S. 489 - This bill would prohibit the unlawful discharge of firearms into occupied vehicles used for transportation (e.g., cars, trucks, boats, airplanes).

**Principles Involved:** "Thou shalt not murder" seems appropriate here. People should be able to travel without being shot at by others.

**GrassRoots Position:** We thought it was already against the law to do what this law proposes to make illegal. *We support this bill.*

**Current Status:** In Senate Judiciary Committee.

**Full Text:** <http://www.leginfo.state.sc.us/sessions/114/text/1140489t.html>

(Continued on page 39)

Internet as a public service. Your business will be added to that list if it isn't there already.

**3. You are inviting the bad guys into your business.** Criminals don't obey signs. Any bad guy who is totting a gun is breaking the law already. A sign saying "No Concealable Weapons" isn't going to deter him. On the contrary, such a sign declares that you and your customers are easy prey. To criminals, that's a written invitation.

Around the state, a number of banks and retail businesses that have "No Concealable Weapons" signs have been robbed at gunpoint, and customers have been robbed in those businesses or in the parking lots.

**4. Customers feel less safe.** Because such signs serve as an invitation to bad guys, legitimate customers have reason to feel less safe anywhere they see "No Concealable Weapons" signs. If CWP holders feel less safe, they will do business elsewhere. In addition to feeling less safe, CWP holders are offended by the implication of the sign that they are less desirable customers.

**5. You may invite litigation by posting.** CWP holders have taken the steps provided by law to attain 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 is reasonable then to expect that a posting merchant must provide a higher level of security (such as security guards) for his customers. If he fails to do that and a customer is victimized in the

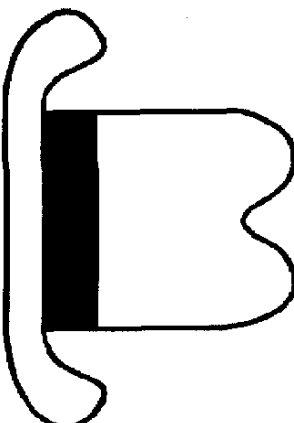
business or parking lot, the merchant might be sued for denying the customer the right to a reasonable self-defensive measure. In stark contrast, South Carolina law clearly states that the "absence of a sign prohibiting concealable weapons shall not constitute negligence or establish a lack of duty of care" [SC State Code § 23-31-215 (R)].

**6. Alternative signs are available.** *Free of charge* you can obtain new, professionally made signs from GrassRoots SC to replace your current signs. 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.

GrassRoots South Carolina  
P. O. Box 6383, Columbia, SC 29260  
Fax: (803) 755-1201  
E-mail: [jrpont@yahoo.com](mailto:jrpont@yahoo.com)  
Web site: [www.scfirearms.org](http://www.scfirearms.org)

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**We're the  
Good Guys,  
  
and we  
want to be  
your  
customers.**



We are the Good Guys, and we want to be your customers.

Okay, so we don't wear white hats and ride white horses, but we're still good guys. Who are we? We are professional men and women. We are family members. We are single men and women. We are young adults and senior citizens. Some of us are ex-military, and some of us are ex-police officers. We are many different types of people, but we *all* are *law-abiding citizens*. Some of us want to be your customers.

Unfortunately, something at your place of business stands between us and you. It's the sign at your business or at the outer perimeter of your mall or property

that says: "No

Concealable Weapons Allowed."

You see, another thing we good guys have in common is a permit to carry a concealed handgun. In order to obtain this permit, we have had special training in the use of firearms and in the law. We have undergone criminal history checks

by the State Law Enforcement Division (SLED) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

We got this permit so that we could protect ourselves should the need arise. That need could arise almost anywhere, even near places people go to do business. Many are victimized as they go to and from their cars in parking lots or on the street.

Here are 6 things to think about:

**1. Your sign does not exclude the bad guys.** When a merchant posts a "No Concealable Weapons" sign, he probably thinks that this sign puts the bad guys on notice by saying: "Don't bring your illegal gun in here." Unfortunately, quite the opposite is true. It is *already* illegal for criminals to carry weapons. Ironically, according to South Carolina law, the "No Concealable Weapons" sign applies only to Concealed Weapon Permit (CWP) holders. A "*No Concealable*

*Weapons*" sign *does not apply to criminals, and it does not apply to juveniles*. CWP holders are the good guys and gals. Wouldn't you rather encourage law-abiding citizens to

come into your business to be your customers? Wasn't that what you really wanted your sign to do? Unfortunately for you, the sign sends a lot of the good guys and gals to your competition.

**2. Your "No Concealable Weapons" sign will cost you good business.** The new CWP law took effect in 1996. Almost 30,000 South Carolinians have been issued CWPs. That's about one out of every 100 adults. And that number is growing every year. Since your business draws from a wide-ranging clientele, the percentage of your potential customers who have a CWP could easily be between 2% and 4%. Can you afford to turn away that percentage of business? Do you want to lose a significant portion of your profit margin?

What kind of people are CWP holders? The vast majority are middle to upper income individuals. A great many are professionals—doctors, nurses, lawyers, accountants, business owners, sales representatives, etc.

GrassRoots SC is an organization of firearms owners. In our newsletter we publish the names and locations of all the known businesses in the state that post "No Concealable Weapons" signs. As a percentage, there aren't very many businesses that post signs against CWP holders. Chances are that your competition does not. This list is also published on the



(Continued from page 36)

**\*\*\*S. 534** - This bill would eliminate the state law that rations our right to keep and bear arms to just one pistol per month. This is a good bill.

**Principles Involved:** Laws should restrict bad behavior, not good people or fundamental rights such as the right to effective self-defense or the right to keep and bear arms.

**GrassRoots Position:** *We strongly support this bill.*

**Current Status:** In Senate Judiciary Committee

**Full Text:** <http://www.leginfo.state.sc.us/sessions/114/text/1140534t.html>

**\*\*\* denotes a change since the last report**

*Rob Butler, D.C, J.D, is Legislative Director and Vice President of GrassRoots*

GrassRoots Poll Results			
Do You Support or Disagree with the NRA's Project Exile?		What Newsletter items do you want increased?	
Yes, I totally support Project Exile!	27%	Letters to the editor	8%
Yes, I basically support Project Exile.	8%	Legislative issues information	22%
Yes, but with reservations.	4%	Articles	13%
No, I have some small problems with Project Exile	2%	Humor	6%
No, I have concerns about the NRA's push for gun laws.	6%	IDPA and match information	8%
No! Why should the NRA push for enforcement of more Constitutionally - illegal gun laws?	51%	Merchant postings information	14%
Other	2%	Instructor information	10%
		Graphics	4%
		Volunteer tactics	10%
		Leave it the way it is!	7%
255 People Responded		310 People Responded	
		(Due to rounding, percentages do not add to 100%)	



#### GUN REFRESHER COURSE

- An armed man is a citizen. An unarmed man is a subject.
- A gun in the hand is better than a cop on the phone.
- If guns cause crime, then pencils cause misspelled words.
- 64,999,987 firearms owners killed no one yesterday.
- Guns only have two enemies: Rust and Politicians.

## Join GrassRoots GunRights!

GrassRoots South Carolina is your No Compromise Gun Rights Organization  
in South Carolina - Protecting the rights of all South Carolina Gun Owners!

**GrassRoots South Carolina**

**P.O. Box 6383**

**Columbia, South Carolina 29260**

- ☐ 1-year membership: \$15.00 (includes newsletters and mailings, alerts, e-mail updates) Additional contributions are welcomed and used to promote the goals of GrassRoots.
- ☐ 1-year GrassRoots Firearms Instructor membership: \$25.00 (additional benefits)
- ☐ Send me \_\_\_\_\_ GrassRoots Bumper Stickers @ \$1.00 each.
- ☐ Renew My Current Membership. (Your current membership expiration date is on your mailing label.)
- ☐ Change of Address
- ☐ Gift Membership: Please Enter a Membership for My Friend or Family Member Listed Below

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