

Putting Teeth Into Concealed Carry  
**Grass Roots South Carolina**

P.O. Box 1181  
Sumter, South Carolina 29151  
Internet: <http://www.netside.com/~lcoble/grsc>

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Spring, 1998

Vol.2 No.1

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***"Welcome Back!"***

**Hiller Hardware**

**Blythewood Feed  
and Hardware**

**If It's Paper**

**Ace Parker Tires  
of Sumter**

**Denny's Restaurants**

**McDuffie's Home  
Furnishings**

**Hot Spot  
Convenience Store  
of Camden**

**Burlington Coat  
Factory**

**Lowes Hardware  
All Columbia  
Locations**

**Office Max  
All Columbia  
Locations**

**Collins Jewelry**

**Rush's Restaurants**

**Wal-Mart #2214  
of Columbia**

**Little Pigs Barbecue**

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**These Merchants have removed their signs in response to the efforts of GRSC  
and other Pro Right to Carry Organizations. Support their decision by  
shopping with them!**

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## **GRSC Advisory Committee**

**Ralph Baker  
Tom Burkizer  
Robert D. Butler  
Linda Chico  
Larry Coble  
Lonnie Currey  
Rick Daniel  
John Hutchins  
Bill Osborne  
Jeff Quinton  
Charlie Robinette  
Roger Thorndike  
Jeffery M. Wells**

## **Who We Are and Our Purpose**

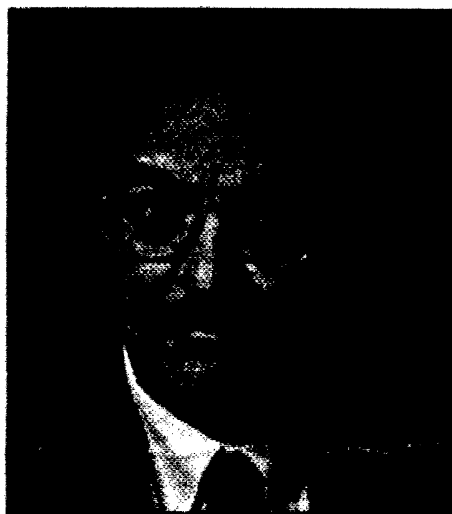
Modeled after similar organizations in other states, Grass Roots South Carolina is a joint project of **Mid-Carolina Rifle Club** and **Gun Owners of South Carolina**. Our mission is to educate and promote acceptance of responsible firearms ownership within the State of South Carolina and to protect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

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

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

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

## **In Memory Of**



After receiving many positive comments after reprinting Mark Bockman's article "Why I Carry a Concealed Handgun" in the our Winter newsletter, we were saddened by the news that he has passed away. To his survivors we extend our sympathies as we dedicate this issue of the GRSC newsletter to him.

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### **Fact:**

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

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## **Our Current Wallet Card**

### **Grass Roots South Carolina Wallet Card**

**The Following Business Posts Against CWP:**

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Owner/Manager Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Return to: GRSC, P.O. Box 1181, Sumter, SC 29151  
or Fax to: (803) 791-1981

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

### **Fact:**

There are currently 13,564 licensed CWP holders in South Carolina!

## **Thanks for the Support!**

Grass Roots South Carolina is supported solely by contributions from interested groups, clubs, businesses, and individuals like you. We have no dues, no fees, and no services or products to sell. We exist to serve the concealed weapon permit holder and merchants interested in obtaining more information regarding The Law Abiding Citizens Act of 1996. We would like to acknowledge the following businesses and individuals for their generous assistance.

## **Currey Training Enterprises**

**CURREY  
TRAINING  
ENTERPRISES**



**LONNIE (LON) E. CURREY, CEO**  
Training Programs Design and Development  
e-mail: [lraine29@mail.idt.net](mailto:lraine29@mail.idt.net)

Concealed Weapon Permit Instructor  
Certificate #1996-00027  
1013 Broad River Road #60-122  
Columbia, S.C. 29210

Phone (803) 318-5600  
Fax (803) 798-7444  
Home (803) 731-0230

\*\*\*\*\*

**Second Amendment Sales**  
**Your Source for Quality Firearms**  
**and Accessories**

**803-796-8858**

**Look for Us at the Next Gun Show!**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Mid-Carolina Rifle Club**  
**South Congaree, SC**  
**803-796-1009**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Gun Owners of South Carolina**  
**P.O. Box 12658**  
**Columbia, SC**  
**29211-2658**

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**FSC Educational Resources**  
CPR and CWP Instruction

1732 Terrace View Drive  
West Columbia, SC 29169

Phone: (803) 791-1988  
Fax: (803) 791-1981

**These Merchants have removed their signs in response to the efforts of GRSC and other Pro Right to Carry Organizations**

**Hiller Hardware**

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**Lowes Hardware  
All Columbia Locations**

**Rush's Restaurants**

**Little Pigs Barbecue**

**Taco Bell's of Sumter**

**Welcoming Back Merchants  
Who Remove Signs Means  
Returning Your Business!**



Several Members of GRSC  
meeting for impromptu lunch at  
Rush's Restaurant

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**Memo Received:  
Subject: Denny's - It's Over!**

Just got a call from Mr. Don Spice of Denny's - this is official, Denny's policy regarding the signs is: The Signs will NOT go up or will be taken DOWN if they did go up. Mr. Spice was very concerned that they offended so many people and that was not Denny's intention. I told Mr. Spice that I would spread the word that Denny's has no intention of infringing on the rights of law-abiding citizens. Please remove and Denny's boycott posts and pass the word. Mark one up for responsible law-abiding citizens! Regards, Charlie Parrott

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**GRSC at Office Max**



GRSC members Larry Coble and Rob Butler purchasing a printer for the GRSC newsletter. Assistance kindly delivered by Manager Steve Bauer.

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**How you can make change:**

Sometimes we get calls asking us what individuals should say when talking to a merchant who posts signs against CWP holders. Many people tell us they simply stop shopping where they have seen signs. For your information, by the time a merchant has been placed on the list as posting against concealed weapons permit holders they have received at least one letter from us and sometimes two. We have found that most merchants would rather know your concerns than simply have you disappear from their stores without any reason as to why you have moved your patronage elsewhere. By learning why you are upset with their practices, whether it's the way they cut their chicken, bag your groceries, or a rude sales clerk, they have an opportunity to change the way they do business and retain you as a customer.

So, the next time you see a sign posting against CWP holders you may want to practice a little diplomacy and simply tell the owner or manager that unfortunately you will not be able to continue to shop in his store because of his decision to post against law-abiding citizens. Without arguing, remind him that you, unlike criminals, have spent a lifetime of good citizenship as verified by County, State, and FBI background checks. You might add that while you will continue to be a good citizen and not shop where you are not wanted (i.e. you will shop elsewhere) he is endangering himself and others by posting a sign to criminals that his store is "the place" to be! In fact, the law specifies that "not posting" does not increase his liability while by posting against CWP holders he may be assuming total responsibility for his customers wellbeing and safety. Sometimes you will find that the manager or store owner is unaware that he is offending customers. Other times the merchant may say that you are the first to mention this and that he will take it under consideration. Either way, you have assisted him in evaluating how he is conducting business and perhaps your comment will be the one that changes his mind.

## GRSC Letters from the Editor's Desk

### A Very Special Quality of Fear

by Tim Conner

To: The Greenville News

This is in response to the article you carried Sunday, March 29 entitled "A Very Special Quality of Fear." The article deals with the Jonesboro shootings and suggests that the blame for this incident may stem from Southern culture. The synopsis quote lifted from the article states:

"Recent research suggests that Southerners are more inclined than Northerners to react aggressively if insulted, perhaps because they have historically placed a high value on personal honor."

I am a Southerner, born and raised, and I found this article (which originated in Los Angeles) highly insulting. My "aggressive reaction" was to defend the highly valued honor, not of myself, but of the South.

In the increasingly sensitive atmosphere of "politically correct" socialism with its multiculturalist propaganda, it is all too painfully obvious that it is still perfectly acceptable, if not required, to malign and demonize the South.

The South has had to stand subject to systematic and unwarranted derision, contempt, and undisguised hatred since well before the War for Southern Independence. It is long past time for the good Southern people to say "ENOUGH! We want the same respect and civility that is demanded for every other culture and creed in our now multiculturalist, "P.C." country.

Yes, personal honor has always been held as a prized value in the South. Personal honor is also held as a prized value by the Italians in New York, the Irish in Boston and the Hispanics in southern California. "Southern honor" does not kill children in public schools. It is the severe lack of honor that breeds aggression; by way of example I give you General Sherman, a Northerner.

\*\*\*\*\*

**CWP=OK!**

### E-mail from the Web:

Name Withheld

I just thought I would add to your statistics on how guns are used to stop crimes. Just before Christmas last year, I ran by a discount department store on the way home from work. It was still early evening, but dark. I did my shopping, returned to my car and put my purchases in the trunk. There was a van with 3 males inside parked next to my car, their doors were open. I had to squeeze by one of them to get my door open. I got in and as I tried to close the door, he grabbed it and said something about coming with them. I said, "No thanks," and tried to close the door again. He grabbed the door more forcefully and said, "I said, why don't you come with us?" Of course by then, I was pretty scared, but I reached into the seat and picked up my little Bersa .380 and pointed it at him. At that point he released the car door, jumped back, and said, "Hey lady, I was only kidding!" Of course, I then slammed the door and got the heck out of Dodge! I didn't call the police because I didn't know if I would be the one in trouble for having the gun, and I knew they would not or could not do anything about it anyway. I am thankful I didn't have to use it, because I was so scared, I don't know if I would have remembered to take the safety off! Using a gun in a gun range and under real circumstances is a completely different thing!! I learned a lot about myself and life because of that experience, and I am thankful no one got hurt. I don't know what would have happened if I had NOT had the gun, and I don't want to find out! Thanks for your great webpage and keep up the good work.

Regards,

Name Withheld

Editors Note: I too am thankful that all ended well for you in this situation. I am equally impressed that you have taken it upon yourself to seek out training and your Concealed Weapons Permit. Few people realize that South Carolina had a Concealed Weapons Permit before the current one with one BIG difference - CWP holders are now trained regarding the law, avoiding conflict, and use of their weapon - previously this was not a requirement! The current law makes for greater safety than the previously law.

### On CWP State Reciprocity

by Rick Daniel

Nine states either have signed or are in the process of signing reciprocity agreements with South Carolina. Those states are: Wyoming, Utah, Oklahoma, Tennessee, West Virginia, Connecticut, Kentucky, Louisiana, Arkansas.

Florida will issue an out of state permit to CWP holders from other states. The cost is high (about \$120). I've heard, although I have not confirmed, that Florida will issued a TEMPORARY permit for little or no cost.

My understanding of the main obstacle to reciprocity is that South Carolina has a vision requirement (20/40) and most other states do not. If we can get that problem resolved, states like Georgia will sign reciprocity agreements.

The North Carolina law did not have reciprocity written into it, however, I'm told that is either changing or has changed this year. Once that happens reciprocity is likely with North Carolina.

Also, New Hampshire will issue a non-resident CWP to current out of state holders for a fee of \$20. Georgia recognizes New Hampshire permits, therefore, I've learned that a number of South Carolinians are applying for non-resident New Hampshire permits and carrying in Georgia under the authority and reciprocity of that permit. I have not confirmed the legality of this, however, it makes sense (I'm getting one).

Finally, SLED told CWP Instructors at the last meeting (which I attended as an Instructor) that most of the southern states have a general rule of recognizing other southern states permits. You are on your own exercising this because it is totally up to the officers discretion.

That's what I know. I'm sure there is more information that I don't have, but this is info I've gotten from reliable sources. I hope this is helpful.

Rick Daniel

Since writing the above I've learned that Idaho, Michigan, and Indiana have complete reciprocity. Presumably this means that they recognize out of state permits whether or not the issuing state recognizes theirs.

# These Merchants Don't Want You In Their Stores

## So Shop Elsewhere!

LIST 4/98 COPY & DISTRIBUTE

### South Carolina Merchants Association

#### Hancock Motor Company

Mr. Bill Hancock, Owner  
3905 West Beltline Blvd.  
Columbia, SC 29250  
803-252-7271

#### The Factory Outlets

Mr. Keith Mink,  
Corporate Manager  
Corporate Headquarters  
5244 Festival Trail Rd.  
Salley, SC 29137  
803-258-3426

#### Bojangles

542 St. Andrews Rd.  
Columbia, SC 29210  
803 772-7720

#### Custom Pizza Company

Quail Valley Plaza  
6801-3 St. Andrews Rd.  
Columbia, SC 29210  
803 781-6004

#### Exxon / Blimbie's of St. Andrews

800 St. Andrews Rd.  
Columbia, SC 29210  
803 772-6768

#### Tiger Express #8

418 Piney Grove Rd.  
I-26 & Piney Grove Rd.  
Columbia, SC 29210  
803 772-1540

#### Cooper Power Tools

670 Industrial Dr.  
Lexington, SC  
803 359-1200

#### Wendy's Restaurant

1410 Lake Murray Blvd.  
Irmo, SC 29063  
803-732-9999

#### Kwik-Fare

1768 Pinewood Rd.  
Sumter, SC 29150

#### SMI Steel

Mr. Avery Hilton,  
VP of Operations  
310 New State Rd.  
Cayce, SC 29033

#### Piggly Wiggly Food Stores

4360 Augusta Rd.  
Lexington, SC

#### Cellular One

317 Wesmark Blvd.  
Sumter, SC 29150  
803-469-2345  
Owned by GTE

#### BB&T All Locations

Mr. Max Crowe,  
Regional President  
309 Columbia Avenue  
Lexington, SC  
803-359-5111

#### CVI - Cablevision Industries

Ms. Mary Barnes,  
General Manager  
1125 B Avenue  
West Columbia, SC 29169-6772

#### First Citizens Banks

All Midlands Locations

#### Hardee's Restaurants

Some Midlands Locations

#### Shelton's Rainbow BP

Mr. Steve Shelton, Owner  
100 West First Street  
Swansea, SC 29160

#### Taco Bell Restaurants

All Midlands Locations  
Mexican Restaurant Ventures  
P.O. Box 24709  
Columbia, SC 29224

#### Greenville Carmike

##### Cinemas

225 S. Pleasantburg Dr.  
Greenville, SC 29607

#### Hodge Auto/Truck Service

Mr. Charles Hodge, Owner  
491 E. Liberty St.  
Sumter, SC 29150

#### CP & L

180 Wesmark Blvd.  
Sumter, SC 29150

#### BC&BS of South Carolina

Mr. Ed Sellers, President  
I20 & Alpine Rd.  
Columbia, SC

#### State Farm Insurance Claims

I20 & Bush River Rd.  
Columbia, SC  
803-731-3000

#### State Farm Mutual Auto Insurance

Mr. Edward Rust, President  
One State Farm Plaza  
Bloomington, IL 61710-0001  
309-766-7554

#### Gaz-Bah Mini Shops

Mr. Bill Keenan, President  
2923 W. Beltline Blvd.  
Columbia, SC

#### Owner/Agent State Farm

Mr. Larry Brigham, Agent  
605 W. Church St.  
Batesburg, SC 29006  
803-532-4485

#### Plum's Ice Cream Factory

Wilson Rd.  
Blythewood, SC

#### Regional Acceptance Corp.

678 Bultman Dr.  
Sumter, SC 29150  
803-773-1007

#### Hill Plumbing & Electric

438 N. Main St.  
Sumter, SC 29150  
803-773-6689

#### H & S Wholesale, Inc.

Anhauser Busch Distributor  
Mr. David Shaw, Owner  
200 S. Harvin St.  
Sumter, SC 29150  
803-773-6923

#### Spee Dee Cash

1171 Broad St.  
Sumter, SC 29150  
803-469-5495

#### Blythewood Pharmacy

420-B McNulty Road  
Blythewood, SC 29016

#### Thomas & Howard Co.

Mr. John White, President  
209 Flintlake Road  
Columbia, SC 29223

#### Save Mart

Mr. Bill Patel, Owner  
378A Manning Avenue  
Sumter, SC 29150

#### Waffle Houses

All Locations Statewide

#### Time Finance Company

31 Liberty Street  
Sumter, SC 29150

#### Spann's Market

Mr. Eugene Spann, Owner  
4140 Wedgefield Road  
Sumter, SC 29150

#### Carolina Convenience

Amoco and Citgo Stations  
Mr. Madhu Shrivastava, President  
209 Stoneridge Dr.  
Columbia, SC

#### Bank of Ridgeway, Blythewood Branch

Mr. William A. Harwell, President  
P.O. Box 8  
Ridgeway, SC 29130

#### Blythewood McDonalds

250 Blythewood Road  
Blythewood, SC 29016

#### Black River Shell

#### Black River Oil Company

Phillip and Gill Reames, Owners  
Black River Road  
Camden, SC 29020

#### Blythewood Oil Company, Sharpe Exxon #1

Mr. Larry Sharpe, President  
Highway 21  
Blythewood, SC 29016

#### Gloriosa Florists

412 McNulty Road  
Blythewood, SC 29016

#### Special Effects Hair Salon

412 McNulty Road  
Blythewood, SC 29016

#### Vision Quest Video of Blythewood

420-D McNulty Road  
Blythewood, SC 29016

#### Becknell Cleaners

Mr. Kevin Becknell, Owner  
157-A Wilson Road  
Blythewood, SC 29016

#### Blythewood IGA Camden IGA

c/o FLOCO Foods Company  
Lake City, SC

#### Kroger's Sav-On Food Stores

7467 Woodrow St.  
Irmo, SC 29063  
803-732-0423

If you have a business you would like to report we'd love to hear from you!

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

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

## GRSC Article of the Month

### Everything I Need To Know About Gun Rights I Learned In Grade School

By Brock Hamper

What is this article about? Well, I'm a gun owner and gun sports enthusiast. I love to target shoot and am looking forward to getting involved in competitive pistol shooting at some point. I've done some hunting and may want to do more. My main reason for gun ownership is out of concern for the safety of myself and my family. Each day I hear more news about laws in the works that will reduce my right to keep and bear arms.

Each day I listen to my scanner, eavesdropping on all the police calls regarding crime, assaults and criminals in my neighborhood. It's been said many times and it is true; all those calls come in after the fact. The crime has already been committed, the police come in to clean up the mess and see if they can find the suspect.

This article is another piece submitted to the world consciousness in black and white. An article regarding my rights and yours. An article that asks - why?

Do you remember back in grade school? You had a teacher named Mrs. Brown, maybe it was Mrs. Green. Anyway, Bobby Jones came to class chewing gum. Bobby decided it would be great fun to fling that big gooeey wad at Mrs. Brown while she was writing on the blackboard. Slaa-plop! Just missed Mrs. Brown's left ear and permanently affixed itself to the black board. Mrs. Brown is furious. Did anyone in the class turn Bobby Jones in? NO! Everyone was too busy taking notes and listening to Mrs. Brown. (Actually, most folks were afraid of Bobby Jones, it had been said that he carried a slingshot in his pack and they had no way to defend themselves if Bobby Jones lashed back at them for turning him in.) So, who did Mrs. Brown punish? Yep, you're right, the whole class...

Does this sound familiar? "If the person who just threw that disgusting wad of gum doesn't admit to it right now, the entire class will stay after school for an hour." As legal, law abiding gun owners, why are we being punished when Bobby Brown is the one who's done the crime? This isn't grade school.

Nope, we're not in grade school anymore, but where are we? In a perfect universe perhaps we wouldn't need guns. All life-forms no matter their age, would be equally friendly, fair and good. Life-forms would be equally intelligent thus enabling equal opportunities for all eliminating burglary and theft. Intelligence, goodness and fairness would prevail over intense emotional situations thus eliminating crimes of passion, stupidity and youth. If a life-form wanted a weapon to train with as a pure art form, intelligence would prevail and good training and safety practices would be learned and used.

Do you think we're near this perfect universe? If so, I have some waterfront property in Florida to sell you, and the number to call if you're interested is 1-800-Get-Real!

Where are we really? We really live in a universe of confusion, blindness and ignorance with a glimmer of hope that keeps us moving forward. Sounds harsh, but think about how much we know about ourselves now vs. what mankind knew about itself a hundred years ago and how much more we'll know a hundred years from now. How much more do you know about yourself now than you did when you were in grade school?

Don't get me wrong. I think mankind has great hope and is genuinely good at heart and things are getting better (although sometimes taking a step forward causes some falls backwards). But, we as individuals of the human race are raised and developed in many, many different ways. Many random events shape each and every person. Some of these events create scholars and gentle good hearted saints. Most of these ways and events create your average Joe. Some of these events create dictators, killers, rapists, burglars, gangsters and just your all around general thug types. This previous category of humans (and I use the term human lightly) don't care what kind of laws you create. They don't read 'em. They aren't even interested in them except in how to get around them. They dropped out of grade school.

So what's all this got to do with gun control? It's simple. Outlawing guns will NOT help us get closer to a perfect universe. Outlawing guns will not change the shaping and molding of human beings. What happens after the guns are all gone? Outlaw knives, sharp sticks and slingshots? Law makers and anti-gunners can't punish the entire class. The entire class didn't use the gun for the wrong reasons like Bobby Jones. Fear

of Bobby Jones and not having the courage to take care of oneself is the cry of the anti-gunner. "Mrs. Brown will take care of us" they say." She's got that big ruler in her desk to ward off the bad guys." The funny thing is, that ruler in Mrs. Brown's desk didn't worry Bobby Jones. Criminals are NOT worried about laws and governments. They live in their own world. A microcosm or a subset of the so called real world. But you already know this. You learned it in grade school.

Taking care of and defending yourself is the way it's always been. Mrs. Brown wasn't there to save you during your walk home when Bobby Jones was lurking in the alley, waiting for you. The police can't be everywhere. (It's not even their job to protect the individual citizen, just society, whatever that is...) It is very, very scary to think of confronting a life threatening situation or even breaking leather to attempt to curtail a crime. But if the crime is happening to you it's going to be scary regardless of if you can defend yourself or not and I would imagine much more so if you can't defend yourself. A wise man once said that a sailing ship is safe in port but that's not what they're built for. We could remove all the guns, knives, sharp sticks, broken glass and rough stones from the world. We could make laws to require everyone to wear rubber suits for protection. But, we then would most certainly not resemble the elegant, sleek sailing ship cutting through the waves heading out of port. Laws (or big rulers) won't stop Bobby Jones from snapping and deciding to throw a wad of gum at Mrs. Brown. Have you thought about who takes care of the class if Mrs. Brown gets hit with the wad of gum and is no longer there to protect the class? "Who's gonna protect us now!," they'll cry. Think about it! I learned it all in grade school...

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Brock Hamper is the Web Master at Washington Arms Collectors. He can be reached on the internet at: <http://halcyon.com/wac/>

#### Fact:

"ACCIDENTS WITH GUNS STEADILY DECLINING...the underlying problem has been declining for decades. Since 1979, the number of fatal firearm accidents has dropped from 2,004 to 1,225 in 1995, according to the National Center for Health Statistics." - Mark Johnson, Richmond Times-Dispatch, Sep. 1, 1997

## GRSC Humor

### The Big Lie

O.K., folks. I will be the first one to admit that I am not a rocket scientist. Not the kind of guy whom NASA would want to have attaching tiles to the Space Shuttle with Elmer's glue. But, as an interested participant in the "firearms and freedom" debate, I believe that I have finally figured out at least one, critical component of the opposition's strategy. At last, I think that I know how Uncle Chuckie Schumer and Wee Willie of Washington have achieved some notable successes in their ongoing Islamic jihad against firearms owners in America.

They have conferred upon guns mysterious, magical powers. To Chuckie and Willie, firearms are tools of the devil, sinister amulets, evil versions of a talisman. Guns are symbols of what Wee Willie calls the "dark underside". Guns change their male owners into Terminators and their female owners into Stepford Wives. Guns turn Mother Teresas into Susan Smiths. Say it ain't so, Kokomo Joe!

Well, I'm not from Indiana, but, "It ain't so!" Intent on investigating the Schumerian theory that one's closeness to guns leads one to behave like Sly or Ahh-nold during a bad hair day, I cautiously opened up my Fort Knox gun safe last night and waited. Breathing shallowly to avoid inhaling any residual WD-40 or Break Free fumes which had not been recycled and repurified by Al Gore's Gun Safe Air Quality Police, I prepared to undergo a psychological metamorphosis. My guns were less than two feet away as I watched them lie still in their racks. I watched. I waited. Nothing. Zip.Nada. The big goose egg. Zero. After fifteen minutes, I began to wonder if Chuckster the Huckster had sold Americans "a line" about guns. Hey, perhaps physical contact would commence this alleged, horrific change in behavior hinted at by Clintonista Control Freaks, Inc.?

What the heck? I decided to be courageous. To be brave. To be a sacrificial lamb. To be part of an experiment. I touched my rifles with my fingers. Tentatively. Then, next, my shotgun. Finally, my pistols and revolvers. Cautiously, I removed one handgun from the safe, rechecked its

condition, and then carefully inserted it (now loaded) inside the waistband of my trousers, the grip concealed under my navy blue T-shirt. Minutes passed. Then, hours. Every now and then, I would glance in the mirror to look for subtle changes in my appearance. No change. Same old, same old. (My wife was probably hoping for a "Tom Cruise" kind of theme. No such luck, honey. Sorry. Yes, that's "all there is". I love you, too.)

I began to think that Schumer and his gang had been lying all along about guns exerting strange, weird powers over their owners. I mowed the lawn. I did not mow down my neighbors. I shot hoops with my teenager. I did not shoot holes in my neighbor's above ground pool. I fired off a letter to my best pal, my old room-mate from college. I did not fire at a passing ice cream truck. Why, I even felt content and happy and, in fact, pretty damn well adjusted, uh huh, you betcha. No Bates Motel desk clerk alter ego hiding inside me. No Lee Harvey O. waiting to cut loose. No way, Jose'.

Gun concealed in my waistband, I still exuded kindness. I remained courteous, polite and sensitive. I still treasured my wife and kids. I shared reading a Dr. Seuss favorite with my eight year old at bedtime. I did the dishes. I respected my neighbors. I went out to fetch a quart of milk at 7-11 and I didn't shoot up the store. I still believed in God. I thanked Him for all of the blessings showered down upon me. I sang off key as I fixed my youngest daughter's bike as she ran off in the opposite direction, hands clasped over her ears, shouting, "Dad, I don't know you!" (Just wait 'til I pick her up at her first high school dance!)

Schumer's and Clinton's rant-and-rave-a-thons aside, the immediate presence of a gun in my life did not change my character one bit. My personality was unaltered. My "nice nature" was unaffected. The gun did not did not change me into the Clintonistas' stereotypical crazed, cousin-marrying, beer-swilling, road sign-shooting yahoo, a creation of Washington Post editorial page cartoonists. Nope. The gun changed nothing about me. Except perhaps that, feeling the slight weight pressing into my side, I was reminded that I would be able

to well defend, in extremis, my beloved spouse and the wonderful kids she gave me. Yeah, I was still the ultimate "nice guy" who tries to see "the good" in everyone, but I was a nice guy able to safeguard my family, to aid neighbors or strangers under attack, or to defend myself against a life-threatening assault. Not Superman. Just a man. A man able to protect precious people worth protecting. A man able to do what God would want him to do, should the need ever arise. (God and I hope it doesn't. I pray it doesn't.)

What about "the presence of a gun"? Well, the BIG LIE repeated ad nauseam by Chuckie, Wee Willie and the Board of Directors of The White House Rose Garden Gun and Freedom Haters Club is that the simple presence of a gun (especially a black, politically incorrect one) somehow turns good Americans into bad Americans. Evil people. Crazed killers. Unstable sociopaths. Well, Chuck Barris fans out there, Chuckie S. and Super Prez get a "double gong" for their flawed assumption and their chronic BIG LIE.

The presence of a gun does nothing to change the inherent "goodness" of the vast majority of American gun owners. Whenever you hear the BIG LIE, redefine who you are and what you believe, with pride. Remember, character counts, and we've got it, while Schumer and Clinton wouldn't know what it was if they were to find it. Send a clear message to your neighbors, your business associates and the media that the BIG LIE is a classic example of the tactics employed by bigots who hate and distrust people whom they cannot control. Above all, do not fear the BIG LIE. Turn the BIG LIE against the big liars who fear you, who fear me, and who fear, most of all, the TRUTH, the most potent weapon in our arsenal, and a weapon that has, over the centuries, defied attempts at control by a wide range of tyrants in whose footsteps Chuckie and Wee Willie so gleefully follow.

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## GRSC - Found on the Internet

### No Smoking Guns: Answering Objections to Right-to-Carry Laws

National Center for Policy Analysis, Brief Analysis No. 246 (by Morgan Reynolds & H. Sterling Burnett):

Since 1986 the number of states in which it is legal to carry concealed weapons has grown from nine to 31, representing 49 percent of the country's population. Should we feel safer?

Opponents of right-to-carry laws predicted a sharp decline in public safety because minor incidents would escalate into killings and more children would be victimized by more guns in irresponsible hands. Further, critics claimed that criminals would be undeterred by any increase in armed citizens. Indeed, they claimed that right-to-carry laws would increase crime rather than deter it. Experience has proven them wrong.

What objections do the critics offer?

Objection #1: Citizens are safe enough without handguns.

Criminals commit 10 million violent and 30 million property crimes a year. Hospital emergency rooms treat an estimated 1.4 million people a year for injuries inflicted in violent attacks, according to a recent Department of Justice study.

Since the U.S. Supreme Court and lower courts have held that the police are not obligated to protect individuals from crime, citizens are ultimately responsible for their own defense. Carrying a handgun allows millions to effectively provide for their own protection.

Objection #2: Concealed weapons do not deter crime.

In choosing their crimes, criminals weigh the prospective costs against the benefits. If criminals suspect that the costs will be too high, they are less likely to commit a crime. The possibility of a concealed weapon tilts the odds against the criminal and in favor of the victim. A survey of 1,847 felons in 10 states found them more concerned about meeting an armed victim than running into the police.

Their concern is well founded. Victims use handguns an estimated 1.9 million times each year in self-defense against an attack by another person, according to a survey conducted by Florida State University criminologist Gary Kleck. Studies have found that robbery and rape victims who resist with a gun cut the risks of injury in half.

Moreover, a study by economists John Lott and David Mustard of the University of Chicago, published in the January 1997 *Journal of Legal Studies*, examined the impact of concealed carry permits. Using data from all 3,054 U.S. counties between 1977 and 1992, the study found that:

- \* Concealed handgun laws reduced murder by 8.5 percent, rape by 5 percent and severe assault by 7 percent.

- \* Had right-to-carry prevailed throughout the country, 1,600 fewer murders, 4,200 fewer rapes and 60,000 fewer severe assaults would have occurred during those 15 years.

In addition, the deterrent effect of concealed handgun laws proved highest in counties with high crime rates. For example, FBI statistics showed that in counties with populations of more than 200,000 (typically the counties with the highest rates of violent crime), laws allowing concealed carry produced a 13 percent drop in the murder rate and a 7 percent decline in rapes.

Case Study: Vermont. Vermont has long had the least restrictive firearms carry laws, allowing citizens to carry guns either openly or concealed without any permit. Vermont also has maintained one of the lowest violent crime rates in the country. For example:

- \* In 1980, when murders and robberies in the U.S. had soared to an average of 10 and 251 per 100,000 population, respectively, Vermont's murder rate was 22 percent of the national rate and its robbery rate was 15 percent.

- \* In 1996 Vermont's rates remained among the lowest in the country at 25 percent of the national rate for homicide and 8 percent for robbery.

Objection #3: Right-to-carry laws boost killings on impulse.

Widespread gun availability was supposed to lead to a "wild-west" mentality with more shootings and deaths as people vented their anger with pistols instead of fists. Yet FBI data show that, as a share of all homicides, killings that resulted from arguments declined. In addition:

- \* Dade County, Fla., kept meticulous records for six years, and of 21,000 permit holders, none was known to have injured an innocent person.

- \* Since Virginia passed a right-to-carry law, more than 50,000 permits have been issued, not one permit holder has been convicted of a crime and violent crime has dropped.

Moreover, those who have broken the rules have lost their privilege to carry a gun.

- \* Texas has revoked or suspended nearly 300 permits for minor violations like failure to conceal or carrying a gun in a bar.

- \* Between 1987 and 1995, Florida issued nearly 300,000 permits, but revoked only 19 because the permit holder had committed a crime. That's one crime per 14,000 permit holders during a nine-year period, an incredibly low rate compared to a criminal arrest rate of one per 14 Americans age 15 and older each year.

Objection #4: Concealed carry puts guns in untrained hands.

Before issuing a concealed carry permit, most states require that the applicant prove he or she has been thoroughly trained, with:

- \* 10 to 15 hours emphasizing conflict resolution.

- \* A pre-test and a final test covering the laws of self-defense and the consequences of misuse of deadly force.

- \* A stress on gun safety in the classroom and on the firing range.

- \* A stringent shooting accuracy test which applicants must pass each time they renew their permit.



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### Smoking Gun (cont.)

Of course, a person who has only a split second to decide whether to use deadly force can make a mistake. However, only about 30 such mistaken civilian shootings occur nationwide each year. The police kill in error three times as often.

Objection #5: Concealed carry increases accidental gun deaths.

The Lott-Mustard study found no increase in accidental shootings in counties with "shall issue" right-to-carry laws, where authorities have to issue the permit to all who meet the criteria. Nor have other studies. Nationally, there are about 1,400 accidental firearms deaths each year -- far fewer than the number of deaths attributable to medical errors or automobile accidents. The national death rate from firearms has declined even while firearm ownership has almost doubled in the last 20 years (figure at (<http://www.ncpa.org/ba/gif/firearms.gif>), and 22 more states have liberalized right-to-carry laws:

- \* The fatal firearm accident rate has declined to about .5 per 100,000 people -- a decrease of more than 19 percent in the last decade.

- \* The number of fatal firearms-related accidents among children fell to an all-time low of 185 in 1994, a 64 percent decline since 1975.

#### Conclusion:

Concealed carry laws have not contributed to a big increase in gun ownership. Nor has allowing citizens the right to carry firearms for self-protection led to the negative consequences claimed by critics. In fact, these laws have lowered violent crime rates and increased the general level of knowledge concerning the rights, responsibilities and laws of firearm ownership.

Putting unarmed citizens at the mercy of armed and violent criminals was never a good idea. Now that the evidence is in, we know that concealed carry is a social good.

This Brief Analysis was prepared by Morgan Reynolds, Director of the NCPA Criminal Justice Center, and H. Sterling Burnett, Policy Analyst with the NCPA.

Original document is on the Web at:  
<http://www.ncpa.org/ba/ba246.html>

This list is edited by Eugene Volokh, who teaches constitutional law and copyright law at UCLA Law School, and organized with the help of Terry Wynn and the Federalist Society.

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO FORWARD THIS to anyone you think might be interested.

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### PERMIT HOLDERS OUT-PERFORM CRITICS

In an Austin, Texas, press conference yesterday, the Violence Policy Center (VPC) announced it opposes lawful gun-carrying. Notably, the group may have failed to emphasize it opposes lawful gun ownership as well.

"Here is the simple, irrefutable fact about Right to Carry," said NRA's Tanya K. Metaksa. "Permit holders out-perform their critics. Whether it's the permit holders of Texas, those in any of 31 states where Right to Carry is the law, or permit holders in all those states combined, the story is the same. Permit holders out-perform their critics."

"The little Washington-based gun ban lobby faces a mountain of genuine, peer-reviewed research that demonstrates that Right to Carry cuts crime," said Mrs. Metaksa, Executive Director of the National Rifle Association Institute for Legislative Action. "The landmark study on Right to Carry by University of Chicago researchers demonstrates that Right to Carry is associated with decreases in violent crime. In the wake of that study -- a genuine study by academicians, not advocates -- anti-gun researchers have been left to argue only about the degree to which Right to Carry reduces crime."

"As a class of citizens, permit holders are more law-abiding and more problem-free than non-permit holders. Only two-tenths of one percent of the permits issued have been revoked for any reason in Texas, including reasons unrelated to crimes of any sort."

In its last public display, the VPC was discredited by the press for attacking the National Rifle Association for its

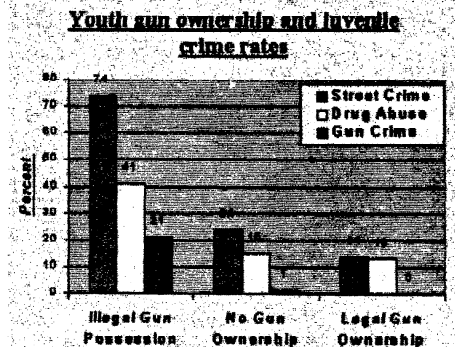
award-winning Eddie Eagle Gun Safety Program. Adopted by the FBI, the accident prevention program teaches elementary school-aged children to refrain from touching guns.

Mrs. Metaksa urged Texans to heed Texas law enforcement, not discredited Washington-based advocates of bans on gun ownership. "As Glenn White, President of the Dallas Police Association, told the Dallas Morning News, (December 23, 1997), 'I lobbied against the law in 1993 and 1995 because I thought it would lead to wholesale armed conflict. That hasn't happened. All the horror stories I thought would come to pass didn't happen. No bogeyman. I think it's worked out well, and that says good things about the citizens who have permits. I'm a convert.'"

This and other information is available at:  
<http://www.netside.com/~lcoble/grsc>

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#### Fact:



Fact: Boys who own legal firearms have much lower rates of delinquency and drug use and are even slightly less delinquent than non-owners of guns." Source: U.S. Department of Justice, National Institute of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, J-143454, "Urban Delinquency and Substance Abuse," August 1995.

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