

Grass Roots South Carolina

P.O. Box 1181

Sumter, South Carolina 29151

Internet: <http://www.scfirearms.org>

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Texas Case Weakens Lautenberg Amendment

The U. S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas has dismissed an indictment against a man, Timothy Joe Emerson, brought under 18 U.S.C. Sec. 922(g)(8), the Lautenberg amendment.

WASHINGTON TIMES

APRIL 10, 1999 by James Bovard

Federal Judge Sam Cummings issued a decision on April 1 that chilled the hearts of gun grabbers across the nation. Judge Cummings struck down as unconstitutional a provision in a 1994 law that routinely turned husbands and others targeted by domestic restraining orders into felons. The Clinton administration is appealing the decision - and this could be a great test case for the Supreme Court to finally resolve one of the areas of fiercest disputes about the Bill of Rights.

Timothy Joe Emerson, a Texas doctor, was placed under a domestic restraining order last September after his wife claimed he had threatened violence against the man with whom she was having an adulterous affair (not an unusual response for a Texas husband). Dr. Emerson had made no threats of violence against his wife or their child; the court did no investigation, but simply slapped on the restraint.

Yet, because of a little known provision in the 1994 Clinton crime bill, Dr. Emerson suddenly became classified as a dangerous felon. The 1994 act decreed that no person under a domestic restraining order can possess firearms. However, neither the county judge nor the local lawyers involved in the case were aware of the federal provision.

Dr. Emerson found out about the law when federal prosecutors indicted him, seeking a five-year prison penalty because he was still in possession of a handgun. Federal Judge Cummings saw this as a violation of due process, since Dr. Emerson was not forewarned about any duty to sell, give away, or surrender his guns.

In many states, domestic restraint orders are issued practically automatically - simply another boilerplate part of divorce proceedings. As Judge Cummings noted, thanks to the 1994 federal law, "a person can lose his Second Amendment rights not because he has committed some wrong in the past, or because a judge finds he may commit some crime in the future, but merely because he is in a divorce proceeding." And because millions of Americans get divorced each year, this creates the opportunity for the U.S. Justice Department to wrongfully prosecute many peaceful gun owners.

Judge Cummings also explained at length the historical origins of the Second Amendment. "The individual right to bear arms, a right recognized in both England and the Colonies, was a crucial factor in the Colonists' victory over the British Army in the Revolutionary War," he noted.

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Who We Are and Our Purpose

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

Initially we focused all of our attention on Merchants who posted against the lawful carrying of concealed weapons in their stores. Since then we have broadened our scope and are currently increasing information delivery to the concealed weapons permit holder and instructor. No doubt as we continue to grow we will further broaden our objectives to improve all aspects of lawful ownership and carrying of firearms in South Carolina.

We have already learned that making positive change with merchants, communities, and others is greatly improved when we use the resources of many. By having increased numbers of educated individuals in each community our efforts are multiplied many times over.

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

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

Regarding Reciprocity...

The South Carolina Law Enforcement Agency is directed to coordinate with other states issues of concealed weapons permit reciprocity. As of April 12, 1999:

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.



Our Current Alternative Merchant Sign

**No Firearms Permitted
Except by
law enforcement
and those
legally licensed to carry
concealed handguns**

Actual Sign is 4"x 6" in size, red print on white background, and applies to the inside of any window.

Fact:

"The data from the 1990 Harvard Medical Practice Study suggest that 150,000 Americans die every year from doctors' negligence -- compared with 38,000 gun deaths annually. Why are doctors not declared a public health menace? Because they save more lives than they take. And so it is with guns. Every year, good Americans use guns about 2.5 million times to protect themselves and their families, which means 65 lives are protected by guns for every life lost to a gun."

Dr. Edgar Suter, San Francisco Chronicle, 7/12/94, Opinion (p. A17).

Fact:

As of April 12, 1999 there are 21,051 licensed CWP holders in South Carolina! (17,545 men and 3,506 women) All of whom have been deemed law abiding citizens by their county, state, and the FBI!

Congratulations!

Thanks for the Support!

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

GRSC Wants You!

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

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

Write, E-mail, or Fax us and let us know how you'd like to help.

Visit

GRSC's Internet Site:

www.scfirearms.org

Sponsored By:

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Part of being a Grass Roots movement involves two way communication with those we represent. If you'd like to stay informed, please use the back cover of this newsletter to send us your contact information. Thanks!



GRSC Letters from the Editor's Desk

Letters to the Editor

Carry In Church

South Carolina Code Section 23-31-215 (M) (9) prohibits carry into a "church or other established religious sanctuary". Does this mean anywhere in a church building, or just in the sanctuary proper? The section should at very least be clarified to remove this ambiguity, although there are good reasons to delete it entirely.

In most churches staff members and volunteers are in and out of the buildings at all hours of the day and night. These people should be able to protect themselves in the same way they do elsewhere, especially during hours when no services are in progress and the buildings almost deserted.

Some people argue against the presence of weapons on religious grounds. This is a weak argument. There are many examples in scripture of weapons in the Temple or Tabernacle. For example, when David was fleeing King Saul he obtained the sword of Goliath out of the Tabernacle which was then at Nob (1 Samuel 21). There are frequent references to guards in the Temple, and weapons were stored there.

Although not quite in point, during the intertestamental period Mattathias led a revolt against Antiochus Epiphanes' order to worship pagan gods (I Macc. 2). Many Jews were killed when they refused to fight or even defend themselves on the Sabbath. Mattathias ruled that it was lawful to fight back if attacked (I Macc. 2:41). The Hasideans (forerunners of the Pharisees, Essenes and today's Hasidim) supported this ruling. While the type of weapons we use today is different than those used in Maccabean times, if self-defense is permitted then carrying reasonable means for that purpose should also be permitted. We can draw a parallel between a special day (the Sabbath) and a special place (house of worship).

John K. Warsaw

jwarsaw@mindspring.com

CWP Issues on Gordon Liddy

Professor John Lott was on the Gordon Liddy show today, 18 March 1999 and I

heard him make the following statements that are grist for the GRSC newsletter:

- There are 45 cases on record of a permit holder coming to the assistance of a police officer.
- Never has a permit holder killed a police officer.
- An unarmed woman is 2 1/2 times as likely to be injured in a confrontation as a woman armed with a handgun.
- The "hot" (entry while occupied) burglary rate in the U.S. is 13%.
- The "hot" burglary rate in Canada is 40%.
- The "hot" burglary rate in Britain is 58%.

How about that for the real effect of so called gun control!

Ralph

Removing Merchant Signs

It is great that someone has taken the incentive to keep us informed.

For your information: A Crown gas station posted "no guns" & "no smoking" signs on their door.

I went in and spoke with the "man in charge" and told him that I would not be patronizing the store any longer; (I had been purchasing gas, cigarettes, as well as various sundries, on a daily basis).

I then told him that if I happened to be in the store and anything happened, I would hold him, and his management responsible, since they would not let me protect myself.

The fact that the FBI and SLED found me responsible enough to grant me the "privilege" to exercise my Constitution rights, should indicate to them that I am not a threat to them.

About two weeks later I checked. The "no smoking" sign was still there, but it was the only "NO" sign on the door.

I asked the "man in charge" how come they took the offensive (no guns) sign down. He told me that it was, possibly, the discussion that I had with him.

Tega Cay, SC

From a lady who made her own wallet cards:

Dear Manager/Business Owner,

I am a 30 year-old, 115 pound female (and a good-looking one at that). I am aware that I am at risk of violent attack; I knew two women who were murdered by thugs. One was left to die just inside the front door of her own home. The guys followed her home from shopping. Her children, returning from school, found her in a pool of blood.

This is why I carry a concealed weapon. I carry a gun. I have a permit from the State of South Carolina to do so. I have passed the training, testing, and FBI background check. I rely on this gun to defend me if anyone should try to kill, rape, kidnap, or rob me.

Why do you insist that I disarm myself when I enter your place of business? Do you think that I will rob you? Do you think I will kill your patrons or workers? Why? Why did I just have to go put my gun in the trunk of my car, all because you have a sign on your door saying I have to? Are you afraid of **me**?

If there is any way I can avoid it, I will not enter your business again. I feel unsafe! The bad guys know by reading the sign on the door that your customers will not be able to foil his robbery attempt. Do you carry a gun in your store? Will you protect me as I walk from my car, unarmed, to your store? Will you protect me as I shop/eat in your store? What about in the parking lot? Will you escort me to my car when I leave?

Please reconsider your stand against certified persons bringing concealed weapons into your place of business. If you don't like the looks of guns it's okay because by law, they must be out of sight. Thank you for your consideration.
Irmo, SC



Everyone should be informed that Anheuser-Busch financially supported Missouri's Prop. B (CWP) ballot. Should anyone want to THANK Anheuser-Busch for their support of our Second Amendment rights, call or write: Anheuser-Busch Companies, Inc.

One Busch Place

St. Louis, MO 63118-1852

Tel: (314) 577-2000 / 1-800-DIAL-BUD

GRSC Letters from the Editor's Desk

More Letters to the Editor:

Postings in Pickens

After receiving the Grass Roots flier, I have noticed that the two banks I have my business and personal accounts with in Pickens, post against concealed carry.

As of 3-22-99 these banks post:

American Federal Bank

210 W. Cedar Rock Street
Pickens, SC 29671

Carolina First Bank

333 E. Main Street
Pickens, SC 29671

I do regret that I have not noticed this before now. I am currently searching for a new bank!

Hallmark Donates to Anti-Gun Campaign

I understand that Budweiser was big SUPPORTER of Proposition B in Missouri, Unfortunately Hallmark Cards donated \$20,000 to help defeat CWP in Missouri. Let's dump Hallmark and go have a Bud!

Sirs:

I've always been pleased to exclusively use Hallmark cards to send to my family, friends, and business associates at holiday times. At Christmas for many years we've had the family tradition of taking our children (1 boy, 2 girls) to a Hallmark store to purchase cards and gifts for their friends. My office manager has instructions only to use Hallmark cards for the various notes, thank yours, and sympathy's we send out quite often to employee's, vendors and customers.

This policy of mine was engendered by my perception of Hallmark that you have worked very hard, and successfully to create - "When you care enough..."



No longer. Your despicable actions to keep the citizens of Missouri from carrying firearms if they so choose have completely changed my perception of your company.

For 30 pieces of silver you have chosen to side with thieves of personal liberty and those who have the blood of innocent Missourian's upon their hands.

I want nothing more to do with your company and products. From now on I will tell my children, my family, my friends, my employees, my customers, my vendors, my business associates, that because I care enough to send the very best, I WILL NOT SEND THEM HALLMARK PRODUCTS!!!!!!

Hallmark was an important part of this country. I'm sorry that you have so chosen to so besmirch your name that I, and many liberty-conscious Americans, wish for your complete and utter ruin.

Sincerely,
EJK

Working With Merchants

Thanks for the Info. you sent to me in the snail mail. I fully agree that a merchant who posts a "no concealed weapons" sign should be approached by someone who lives in his area - the possible loss of sales to the merchant is a powerful factor. But what should someone like myself say to a merchant? I know some of the arguments, but certainly not all of them.

Is there some place on the GRSC web page where this information is listed?

Ralph Baker of GRSC Responds:

Thanks for the reply. I had written a "how to letter" which was included in a past newsletter.

Merchants are interested in two areas, risk containment and profits. Anything we do must address these issues.

Risk:

1) Most merchants do not understand that the CCW law specifically includes a provision that they do not incur additional risk by not posting.

2) There is a body of opinion that they may accept risk for the personal safety of permitted customers who enter posted areas, having left their guns elsewhere. (This has yet to be decided in court)

3) Florida has about 134,000 CCW holders and has never, to our knowledge, had a permit holder intervene inappropriately or shoot a bystander. Their law has been in effect since 1987.

4) Wal-Mart and Lowes have substantial legal departments, which undoubtedly have evaluated risk and have removed their posted signs. What do the smaller stores know that Walmart doesn't?

5) The CCW holders are the ONLY customer group that has been evaluated as honest, law-abiding citizens by SLED and the FBI.

6) The criminals, who none of us want to be armed, have always ignored the law and carried illegally wherever they choose. Do the merchants really think a posted sign will sway them? It just creates a "free fire zone" for them!

Profits

1) CCW permit holders are above average in disposable income. That is evidenced by the cost of firearms and related training. They simply have more money to spend.

2) CCW permit holders are law abiding in the extreme. They will not shop posted stores where they are not wanted. They will not leave their firearms in their vehicles, exposing themselves to risk the firearms to theft while in transit.

3) There are about 21,000 permit holders. In addition to not shopping posted stores, they influence family members not to shop those stores. (The 21,000 is a constantly growing number.)

4) Any product can be gotten at a permit friendly store with little effort.

The vast majority of potential customers will not take the time to explain to a store decision-maker why they are losing business. You may take the time, but how many just turn away and shop where they are valued as customers. We support the right of business owners to make the choice to exclude us, just as we demand the right to protect ourselves. They should understand all the facts involved and not make "knee jerk" decisions. We have never understood why any merchant would choose to exclude scrupulously honest customers with more than the average amount of money to spend.

I hope this will provide the talking points to assist your merchants discussion. If you wish, I will travel to visit any merchant as long as we have a specific appointment with a person empowered to remove the poster.

The Natural Right of Self Defense

The Natural Right of Self Defense

by Timothy Wheeler, MD

Editor's Note: This article was written prior to the April 6, 1999 vote in Missouri. Voters rejected Proposition B by a vote of 52 to 48 percent.

The people of Missouri will decide on April 6 whether to reclaim a right as natural as springtime's blooming dogwood and redbud trees; the right of self-defense.

That right has been theirs all along. Statesmen from ancient Rome to the American Revolution laid the foundation in law for the right of self-defense. America's Founders were influenced by these classic philosophic teachings and the European tradition derived from them. "Civilized people are taught by logic, barbarians by necessity, communities by tradition; and the lesson is inculcated even in wild beasts by nature itself," wrote the great Roman orator Marcus Tullius Cicero. "They learn that they have to defend their own bodies and persons and lives from violence of any and every kind by all the means within their power."

Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, and Samuel Adams were among the political minds that shaped the American vision of firearms in society. These and many other statesmen of the founding era left a clear record of their belief that individual Americans had the right to own firearms and to use them for defense of self and family, not just for "sporting purposes."

Most states have enshrined those ancient lessons in their laws, allowing law-abiding citizens to possess firearms outside their homes for protection against contemporary barbarians. Missouri is one of seven remaining states that still denies residents that right.

Missourians find themselves in a tough position. Outside their homes, the law forbids them to defend themselves against deadly assailants by using the proven most-effective tool; the firearm.

But American courts have ruled again and again that police have no duty to protect individuals from

those same assailants. The only alternatives for a person in such danger are to rely on the mercy of criminals or to carry a gun illegally. No one should be forced to break the law to exercise a basic right.

Can law-abiding Missourians be trusted to carry self-defense firearms? There is no mystery about what happens when a state enacts a concealed carry law. The amazingly consistent experience of one state after another has been that firearm misuse among permit holders has been virtually nonexistent.

The laws are strict. Usually, applicants are required to complete firearms training, to have no record of violent criminal behavior, and to have no drug or alcohol dependence.

The result? Violent crime actually decreased following the implementation of these laws. That facts run contrary to the objections of anti-gun activists, who warned that allowing concealed-carry would result in shootouts over fender-benders, gun fights to settle trivial disputes, and innocent blood in the streets.

But in state after state, the anti-gunners have been awed into silence by reality. Concealed-carry permit holders almost never committed violent crimes, particularly with the guns they were licensed to carry. To their credit, previously skeptical public officials are changing their minds after seeing the undisputed success of concealed carry laws in their own states. "It has impressed me how remarkably responsible the permit holders have been," said Colonel James Wilson, Director of the Texas Department of

Public Safety. After monitoring Florida permit holders for over two years, Metro-Dade Police Department Director Fred Taylor conceded that "further research was not conducted due to the small number of . . . permit holders found to be involved in incidents during the initial study period."

What will happen if Missouri enacts a concealed-carry law? Past experience suggests that fewer than 5% of eligible people will apply for a permit. This tiny percentage will be among Missouri's most responsible and prudent men and women. The cost of licensing, both in dollars and in the burden of responsibility, will be borne only by license holders.

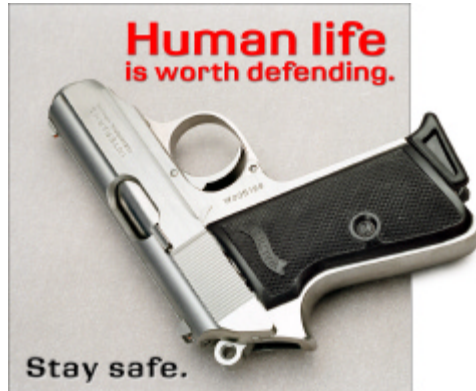
But the protective effect will benefit both them and those who choose not to carry a

gun, because criminals won't know who is carrying and who isn't.

Those permit holders in higher-crime Kansas City and St. Louis will have even greater protection than will rural and suburban dwellers. Because they are at greater risk for victimization, women and minorities will enjoy a greater than average reduction in that risk.

Should we be surprised that concealed-carry laws have conferred great benefits? America's Founders knew much about human nature, both the dark side and the life-affirming. They counseled trust in good people everywhere to use the personal power of armed self-defense with wisdom and discretion. So too can the people of Missouri be trusted to exercise that power with humility and courage, for the general good of their society. It's only natural.

Timothy Wheeler, MD is the Director of **Doctors for Responsible Gun Ownership**.



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Doctors for Responsible Gun Ownership

Where's Your Gun?

Where's your gun?

By Ed Kelleher

It's hard to maintain 100% concentration or awareness. Especially when we're doing something we've done a million times before. We get distracted, our minds drift, and we briefly lose track of what we were doing. For example, you're talking with your neighbor in the yard, notice a bald spot on the lawn, and then it's, "Sorry, what did you say?" Or, you get home from work and don't remember a thing about the drive. You know - *familiar* things. Maybe if you were talking to the Pope or Charlton Heston you'd not be so easily distracted. Or, if you had just learned to drive, you'd not soon forget rush hour traffic on I-20. But, when we're doing something *familiar*, it happens - we get distracted.

Ordinarily a distraction is an annoyance, and nothing more. But, when you carry a gun, distraction or lack of awareness can be deadly. A moment's inattention can bring a lifetime of regret, or worse. Now, I'm not talking situational awareness here - being aware of your surroundings and potential threats. That's another topic. I'm talking about that time when you slap your hip (or ankle, or navel, or where ever) and think, "Oh No, where's my gun?"

I want you to have a good answer to that question when you ask it. I don't think it's reasonable to *count* on our always having 100% gun awareness such that we never lose track of our gun. So, we should take steps to ensure that if we do lose track of our gun, it's in a safe place, and no harm will be done.

Maybe you've just started carrying and are thinking, "It'll never happen to me!" Maybe so, *if* you've never misplaced your wallet or keys, or forgotten to wear a belt (or bra). But for most of us, it's just a matter of time and familiarity.

When you first start to carry, you're very aware of your gun. But, after you've carried awhile, your gun becomes just another part of what you wear or carry. Like a hat, a pocket

knife or lip balm, it might be misplaced.

The bad news is, this is human nature and we can't change it. The good news is there is one certain, simple, positive step we can take that will prevent our human nature from producing a tragedy. Taking this step will make sure you always have a good answer to the question, "Where's my gun?"

The problem with losing your gun can only arise when you remove your gun from your person and place it somewhere else.

Thus, that is the time to deal with it - ***when you take the gun off!*** Right then, not a moment later.

Thus, whenever you take off your gun, ***always put it in the same place!*** ***Always!*** Make it a habit. Never put the gun anywhere else, not even for a second!

By the "same place" I mean a safe secure place you have thought about and chosen ***before hand*** - when your head is clear and you're not distracted. You'll need one safe, secure place for your gun at each location you might have to take it off. Primarily these will be in your home and in your vehicle. Here are some examples:

When you take your gun off at home - if you keep it on top of the dresser, put it on top of the dresser. If you keep the gun in a lock box, put it in the lock box.

DO NOT throw the gun on the bed as you're changing clothes. Maybe the phone will ring, or the kids will start fighting, or the cat will knock over the fish bowl and you'll get distracted. Trust me, you do not want to have to phone your wife from the vets (getting cat sewn up) saying, "Honey! I left my gun on the bed, get it before David does!"

Do not put your gun on top of the refrigerator, or microwave, or TV or clothes dryer, unless you determined before hand that it was a secure location (unlikely).

When you decide to take off your gun, go to your safe place first, ***then*** take it off and put it up. Why?

POP QUIZ: Imagine you just got home, it's hot, you're sweaty, you take

your gun off and walk back to the bedroom to put it up. The phone rings - what do you do?

A) Let phone ring, go put gun in safe place.

B) Put gun back on as you normally carry it and answer phone.

C) Answer phone, put gun on table, pickup pencil, go hunt for paper (oops!).

Actually, I don't like any of the above answers. It is much better to leave gun on till you get to your safe place (answering the phone while still wearing gun if necessary) and then put gun up.

In your vehicle, again, choose a good, safe, secure and ***legal*** place to put your gun when you have to take it off and ***always put it there.*** Don't throw it on the seat, or on the floorboards. You'll just be begging for trouble as a SC CWP holder recently found out.

Another place you might remove your gun is in the bathroom. If I'm going to be sitting, I take gun and put it in my pocket so I won't forget it. Trust me again, you don't want to have to call office and say, "Mike, go to the bathroom and get my gun. I left it on top of the toilet tank cover."

It's the voice of experience talking here. I've made some dumb mistakes and by the grace of God have just wound up being embarrassed. This is a rule that works for me. Hopefully, you're smarter than I and will learn from my mistakes.

When you take your gun off always put it in the same place! Always!

Ed Kelleher is President of Mid-Carolina Rifle Club located in South Congaree, SC.

WANTED!

GRSC Looking for a Mascot

Must be representative of our mission, hardworking, easy to draw, and work cheap. If you have an idea for a mascot or if you can draw editorial pictures please contact us. **GRSC**

Graphic Art used throughout the GRSC newsletter is used with permission and courtesy of Oleg Volk of Volkstudio.

My Transformation from Anti-Gun Feminist to Armed Feminist

by Katherine von Tour

Most people who support the Second Amendment have probably Wondered at one time or another how to change the thinking of anti-gunners.

Since I was once a staunch gun-control proponent, including being a member of Handgun Control Incorporated (HCI) in the 1970's, but am today a fervent and virtually no-compromise Second Amendment supporter, perhaps the story of my mental shift will be of interest.

When I recall my mindset in the 1960's, when I was in college in Chicago, and in the early 1970's, when I was teaching grade-school in a private school in Pennsylvania, what I remember most is how completely convinced I was that government was the best and ultimate answer to all of society's ills -- war, poverty, crime and injustice.

I was a true Sixties liberal, who protested the Vietnam War, sported a "Question Authority" bumper sticker on my Volvo, who was a charter member of the National Organization for Women (NOW) and a charter subscriber to Ms Magazine.

I voted for George McGovern. I hung out with other earnest liberals, many of whom were also members of NOW. It wasn't that I believed government was perfect - far from it! - but I had blind faith that, with enough effort and money, it could be made so.

My idea of a perfect government was one which had a generous welfare program, free medical care for all, lots of benign and helpful social programs, and government-mandated fairness and equality for all.

I joined NOW because it promised to fight for equality under the law for women; it encouraged women to empower themselves, and to be independent. Since I was a single woman, these all sounded like a sensible ideas to me.

I joined HCI because it had convinced me that guns were a root cause of violence and crime, and that only criminals owned and used them.

The Liberal Years

I had grown up stationed with my family overseas, and had been sent to private boarding school in Honolulu, where my family is from, and then to Chatham Hall, a young ladies' "finishing school" in Virginia.

Most of my life had been protected and privileged; while my family didn't have a lot of money, we somehow gave the illusion that we did, since we lived overseas, complete with servants and first-class travel paid for by my father's company.

I had been raised, as my mother puts it, "to be a lady," and certainly "ladies" in our social circle weren't trained in self-defense, particularly self-defense involving firearms, which, in any case, were completely banned in the countries where we lived.

After graduating from Northwestern, and doing graduate work at Lehigh, I got a job teaching 6th grade at a private day school in Pennsylvania, where I stayed for 10 years, during which time I was an earnest and unwavering liberal.

It was during this time that I joined HCI and NOW, and crusaded loudly and vociferously against "violence," "intolerance" and "unfairness."

The "Bubble" Bursts

After ten years of teaching, I was still making very little money, and had burned out. I decided to move back to Hawaii, which was my home, and where my parents had retired after 25 years of being stationed overseas, and purchase a franchise of a skin-care and cosmetic business, whose products were sold through home shows.

I spent five ghastly years in Honolulu, struggling to run a business in a government climate which was as socialistic and larded with welfare And social programs as any I had previously worked towards; those five years were the undoing of my liberalism.

I tried in vain to recruit women who were on welfare to work to do home shows and make money by being independent, but I could in no way compete with the obscenely generous welfare benefits they were receiving

for staying home and doing nothing, except in many cases growing pakalolo, (marijuana) which they had plenty of time to do, since all of their needs were more than being met by the state.

The Hawaii State Labor board delivered the final death blow to My business by declaring that all of the independent contractors who worked for my company - and whom I could hardly convince to work at all - were to be classified as "employees," and that I had to pay unemployment, workers' compensation and health care for them.

The government cared not a whit that there was no money in my company to fund this state-mandated largess. I was forced to close down the business, to file bankruptcy, and I moved back to the Mainland, my formerly liberal tail between my legs, a newly-hatched libertarian conservative.

I no longer saw government as the solution to social problems. It certainly hadn't solved mine, nor had it encouraged my trying to create Jobs for the people of Hawaii, jobs which they didn't want to do because it Was too much work, even though the Honolulu Star Bulletin was filled almost every week with whining letters from people complaining that there were no jobs to be had, and imploring the government to "create" more jobs.

With the fervor and passion I had previously reserved for trying To get the government to expand its powers and programs, I began to read The writings of conservative and libertarian authors -- Bastiat, Hayek, Thomas Sowell and others. I also plunged into the writings of the founders of America - Jefferson, Franklin, Madison, Paine, George Mason.

I started meeting people who had also been abused by government agencies - the police, Customs, DEA, IRS and others. I started hearing stories of people having property seized without due process, and of people calling 911 and not having the police not show up in time.

But the pivotal turning point for me was the Los Angeles riots. Armed in L.A.; guns save lives I was living in

GRSC Feature Article of the Month

Orange County at the time, but had to go up to LA regularly on business. At that time there had been a rash of violent car-jackings, many of them committed against women who were driving alone.

A friend, who knew a great deal about guns and had grown up around them, told me that, because I was a woman living and driving alone, he wanted me to start carrying a pistol in my car.

He lent me a .38 Special, and showed me how to load, unload and fire it.

One day, just before the riots exploded, I was driving in Downtown LA in a scary part of town. It was dusk.

As I was stopped at a stop-light, with one car in front of me, two men who

had been watching me began quickly and menacingly approaching my car from the sidewalk. One of them was carrying a tire iron.

I grabbed the pistol, which I had laid on the seat beside me, and held it up so they could see it.

The look in their eyes changed in an instant from threatening to fearful, and they immediately turned around and ran in the opposite direction. The light changed. I drove away.

No one was hurt, but a gun in my formerly liberal hand had, I believe, probably saved my life, or at least prevented me from likely injury.

L.A. Riots turn anti-gun advocates into pro-gun supporters.

Within a week, the very street where this incident happened had erupted in rioting, looting and killing.

I watched on television as the Korean grocers defended their property with AK-47's and AR-15's, and thus prevented it from being torched and looted. The police couldn't stop the violence and killing.

I had friends who worked in the garment district in LA who Barely made it out alive, and who told tales of pulling out pistols and having would-be attackers turn tail and run away. Guns were saving lives and property.

As the riots threatened to spill over into Beverly Hills, myriad Hollywood types stormed gun stores to arm themselves, only to be told that there was a 15-day waiting period; radio talk shows boiled with people calling in and screaming about how unfair this was, and how the law was leaving them helpless.

Some of them even admitted that they had previously supported the waiting period, and that they were now furious that it had left them unarmed.

Coming full circle: From HCI to GOA

My transformation was complete. I joined the National Rifle Association (I didn't know about Gun Owners of America or Jews for the Preservation of Firearms Ownership yet) and started reading their literature. I bought and read "Armed and Female" by Paxton Quigley - another ex-gun-control woman.

I fell in love with and married the friend who had lent me the .38 Special, and started learning in earnest about guns and how to use them. We joined GOA and JPFO.

And the National Organization for Women? Here's the thing that Makes me crazy about an organization ostensibly dedicated to the empowerment of women - NOW is uncompromisingly and adamantly anti-gun, including urging All women to disarm themselves, and supporting legislation to force their disarmament.

The incongruity and hypocrisy of this stance is simply stunning. How can such an organization claim to be "for women?" In my experience as a single woman, there is nothing more effective than a gun for protection.

In my experience as a married woman, when my husband can't be there to pull out a firearm to protect us and our home, he has made sure that I can do so. What could be more empowering and independent and equalizing for a woman than that?

And what could be more threatening to women than women like Sarah Brady, Barbara Boxer, Diane Feinstein, Carolyn McCarthy and Barbra Streisand who, while beating the drum for "women's rights" are attempting to disarm women as well as men, and leave them at the mercy of criminals? I still believe fervently in the original NOW position supporting the empowerment of women.

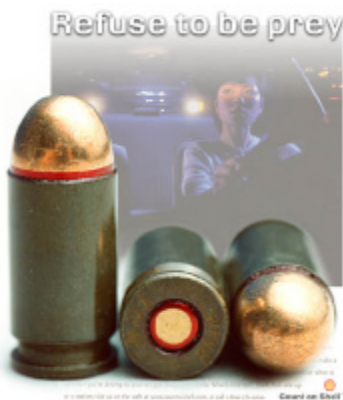
And I believe that the most effective thing any woman can do to empower herself is to acquire and learn to use a gun, and to become vocal and aggressive in defending gun rights and the Second Amendment.

When I look back on my mindset when I supported gun control, I see that I was naïve, idealistic and swayed by irrational, baseless propaganda, especially the absurd myth that, by disarming law-abiding citizens, society will be made safer.

There is absolutely no hard evidence to support this. Criminals by definition disregard laws, especially gun control laws. In Australia, which has disarmed its population, it is reported that violent home invasions have increased in some areas by 44%. Rapes and murders have also increased substantially.

In being confronted by the reality that government cannot and will not guarantee my personal safety, I am infinitely thankful, both as a woman and an American, that the Bill of Rights still guarantees my right to defend myself with a gun. Any true feminist must support this position. Any woman who claims to be a feminist, but who supports disarmament of law-abiding citizens is simply a dangerous hypocrite.

Katherine von Tour is presently working on a book comprised of interviews of women who support the Second Amendment; she is looking for women who have personal stories about having used a gun for self-defense, or who simply believe in the right to own and use a firearm. Anyone wishing to be interviewed for this project can contact her through GOA.



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

LIST 4/99 COPY & DISTRIBUTE

Statewide:

Security Finance, All Locations

BB&T, All Locations

Carolina First, All Locations www.carolinafirst.com

Klig's Kites, All Locations

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

CVI - Cablevision Industries 1125 B Avenue, W. Cola

First Citizens Banks All Midlands Locations

Hardee's Restaurants Some Midlands Locations

Kroger's Sav-On Food Stores 7467 Woodrow St., Irmo,

SMI Steel 310 New State Rd., Cayce

Taco Bell Restaurants All Midlands Locations,

The Factory Outlets All Midlands Locations

Wendy's Restaurant 1410 Lake Murray Blvd., Irmo

Piggly Wiggly Food Stores, 4360 Augusta Rd., Lexington

First Community Bank, 5455 Sunset Blvd., Lexington

Cooper Power Tools, 670 Industrial Dr., Lexington

Columbia:

Tuesday Morning 282 St. Andrews Rd

Thomas & Howard Co. 209 Flintlake Road

Columbia Mall 7201 Two Notch Road

South Carolina Merchants Association 1735 St. Julians Pl.

Eckerd Drug #2744 9810 Two Notch (& Polo Rd.)

St.Andrews Mult-Cinemas 527 St. Andrews Rd.

Hancock Motor Company 3905 West Beltline Blvd

Bojangles 542 St.Andrews Rd.

Custom Pizza Company 6801-3 St. Andrews Rd.

Hair We Are 9810 Two Notch Rd.

Exxon / Blimbie's of St. Andrews 800 St. Andrews Rd.

Tiger Express #8 418 Piney Grove Rd.

BC&BS of South Carolina I20 & Alpine Rd.

State Farm Insurance Claims I20 & Bush River Rd.

Gaz-Bah Mini Shops 2923 W. Beltline Blvd.

Carolina Convenience Amoco and Citgo Stations 209 Stoneridge Dr.

Charleston:

Belks Northwood Mall www.belk.com

First Federal of Charleston, All Locations

CPM Federal Credit Union

Camden:

Carolina Tire 1110 Broad Street 803 432-7969

Systems Services Group 2512 Broad Street (803) 424-1600

Food Chief #46 136 East DeKalb St. 29020

Sumter:

Greater Sumter Chamber of Commerce 32 E. Calhoun Street 775-1231

Sam's Playstation 1091 Broad Street

GTE Wireless 317 Wesmark Blvd. (803) 469-2345

Tri Star Storage II / Cash Advance 2220 Peach Orchard

Dixon's Grocery State Hwy 261

Regional Acceptance Corp., 678 Bultman Dr.

H & S Wholesale Inc. 200 S. Harvin St.

Spee Dee Cash 1171 Broad St.

Hill Plumbing & Electric 438 N. Main St.

Kwik-Fare 1768 Pinewood Rd., Sumter 29150

Save Mart 378A Manning Avenue

SAFE Federal Credit Unions 180 Wesmark Blvd. Exten.

Nilson Van and Storage 16 South Pike Rd.

Sumter Check Casher 1084A Broad St.

Gerry's & Things 130 W. Liberty St.

Atlas Transmission 301 W. Liberty St.

Time Finance Company 31 Liberty Street

Hodge Auto/Truck Service 491 E. Liberty St.

CP & L 180 Wesmark Blvd.

Time Finance Company 31 Liberty Street

Blythewood:

Blythewood Pharmacy, 420-B McNulty Road

Plum's Ice Cream Factory, Wilson Rd.

Jim Hall's Auto Service, 421 McNulty Rd.

JR's United Convenience, 10447 Wilson Rd.

Blythewood Oil Company, Sharpe Exxon #1, Highway 21,

Vision Quest Video of Blythewood, 420-D McNulty Road

Blythewood IGA

Blythewood McDonalds, 250 Blythewood Road

Greenville:

Sam's Club, 2519 Laurens Rd.

Georgetown:

Georgetown County Chamber of Commerce 1001 Front St.

Prince George Framing and Gallery 805 Front Street

Nightingale's Professional Apparel 924 Front Street

Wayne's Sporting Goods and Trophies 929 Front Street

Thomas Cafe, 703 Front Street

Piggly Wiggly 1620 Highmarket Street

Georgetown Art Gallery Inc. 732 Front Street

Tomlinson's Dept. Store 806 Front Street

Law Firm of Hinds, Cowan, Strange, and Greer 604 Front Street

Edward Jones Investments 936 Front Street

Greenwood:

Wal-Mart Supercenter 508 ByPass 72NW

Burger King

Goose Creek:

Alexs Restaurant 309 St. James St.

Bishopville:

Logan's Appliance Center, 139 N. Main St.

R. Travis Windham Insurance Agency 204 N. Main St.

Seneca:

Carquest Auto Parts 507 N. First St.

Walterboro:

Low Country Marine 903 Green Pond Hwy.

Dixie Auto Parts 501 E Bells Hwy.

Discount Auto Parts 205 Chasteen Dr.

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

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

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

Email irish@logicsouth.com

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

LIST 4/99 COPY & DISTRIBUTE

Walterboro: (continued):

Texemarts 3 locations Owned by Rhodes Oil, 305 Moore St.

Clearvision Optical 501A, Bells Hwy.

Piggy Wiggy 251A Bells Hwy.

Jus Sports 253D Bells Hwy.

Treasure Chest Jewelers 395 Bells Hwy.

Warshaws Store for Men 216 E. Washington St.

Lil Caesars Pizza 255B Bells Hwy.

Gold Collection 501 Bells Hwy.

Seigler Brothers One Hour Photo 501 Bells Hwy.

Burger King 250 N. Jefferies Blvd.

Carpets of Walterboro 601 Bells Hwy.

Hunan Chinese Restaurant 339 N. Jefferies Blvd.

Washington Street Café' 242 Washington St.

S.C. Electric and Gas - All Locations

Costal Electric Co-operative 2269 Jefferies Hwy.

Murrells Inlet:

Inlet Square Mall 10125 HWY 17 By-Pass,

Swansea:

Shelton's Rainbow BP 100 West First Street

Myrtle Beach:

Klig's Kites Corporate Office, 811- C Seaboard St.

Batesburg/Leesville:

Owner/Agent State Farm 605 W. Church St.

Ridgeway:

Bank of Ridgeway, Blythewood Branch

Saluda:

Caper House 401 N. Main St.

Darlington:

Henry's Pantry 438 N. Main St.

Florence:

Piggly Wiggly Florence Mall

Summerville:

Belks 1301 N. Main St.

Pickens:

American Federal Bank 210 W. Cedar Rock Street

Aiken:

Aiken Mall 2441 Whiskey Rd

Latta:

Dilmar Oil

To have a merchant added to this list, please provide complete contact information; which includes Business name, mailing address, city, zipcode, and the name of the person who can make the decision to remove the sign.

Welcome Back!

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

*Piggy Wiggy of Chesterfield
Gloriosa Florists
Hiller Hardware
Ace Parker Tires of Sumter
Camden Hot Spot Convenience
Office Max - All Locations
Special Effects Hair Salon
System Plus Computers
Blythewood Feed and
Hardware
McDuffie's Home Furnishings
Wal-Mart #2214 in Columbia*

*Lowes Hardware - All
Locations
Rush's Restaurants
Little Pigs Barbecue
Thyme Out Exxon
Greenville Carmike Cinemas
If It's Paper
Best Stop Stores (pending)
Denny's Restaurants
Burlington Coat Factory
Collins Jewelry*

*Lee's Grocery
Spann's Store
Becknell Cleaners
Camden Gas and Oil
Granger in Columbia
Food Lion of Ravenel
Ed's Paint Center
Domino's Pizza on Two Notch
Cost Cutter's Barber Shop
McCall's Supply of Sumter
Dixie Furniture in Walterboro
Perkin's Family Restaurant*

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GRSC Humor

Attention! (The following letter was written last year by Tina Terry to a Phoenix newspaper. The notorious "Teacher Timothy" of Columbia, SC, sent it to me and I publish it for the edification of readers anxious to rid our communities of dogs in order to protect children.)

Dear Editor,

I am gratified to read in this morning's paper that someone has finally called attention to an urgent situation which I have known about for a long time: annually 334,000 victims of savage dog bites, most frequently children, average age 15, are taken to the nation's emergency rooms. As the article states: "That's more ER visits than injuries from skateboards, baby walkers and in-line skates combined." Total annual cost of ER dog bites: \$102.4 million. Twenty or more people killed annually by dogs, almost all of them children.

Because these dogs are so readily obtainable on the streets of our nation, I implore all your readers to immediately deluge their Congressmen with letters, phone calls, faxes and telegrams to support the federal "Save the Widdle Childwen Fwo the Vicious Dog-Bite Act of 1998", which would require the following: mandatory muzzles fitted with muzzle-locks to be kept at all times on all dogs, licensing and paw-printing of all dogs, fingerprinting and house-monitoring of dog owners, including mandatory, federally-monitored safe storage of dogs and a immediate 1,000% tax on all dog food. This Act is sponsored by Canine Control Incorporated, an organization dedicated to eliminating canine violence in America by the year 2000. The Act also provides for the immediate banning of all "assault dogs", the definition of which term will constantly change according to the emotions of the board of C.C.I. "Saturday Night Special" dogs, such as Chihuahuas and other cheap,



Self-defense: a basic human right

million dollars in ER charges!

My husband's face was horribly mauled at the age of four by a Pit Bull; today he is the poster child for C.C.I. Now, when not being used as a drooling doorstep or for first base, he is routinely wheeled out at charity fund-raising events at which he repeatedly mumbles, "Bad dogs! Ban dogs!"

We urgently need your help to get these vicious dogs off the streets now! Please help end canine violence in America! Send donations to: C.C.I., 1111 B.S. Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20004. Make the checks out to me.
Tina Terry

easily concealed ankle-biters, will also be banned. In addition,

the Act bans all sharp canine teeth, all canine teeth longer than a federally-mandated length, all spiked collars and sharp canine toenails. It also mandates that all dogs be transferred only through federally licensed dog dealers, and provides for the changing of the BATF to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Assault Dogs, or BATFAD.

I hope that the physicians' organizations that champion total handgun banning will rally behind this urgent cause to save our nation's children. Anyone who opposes this type of legislation obviously hates children. We need this Act desperately - after all, if it saves only one life, it is worth it. Not to mention the \$102.4

c) 1998 by Tina Terry. Author's note: The author's husband's face really was mauled at age 4 by a Pit Bull, an incident in which he almost lost an eye. He's not in a wheelchair, true but he also doesn't blame dogs in general for his early experience and he loves and owns dogs to this day. He also has never tried to enlist the author to run around the country trying to ban all dogs.



A lady surprised a burglar in her kitchen. He was all loaded down with the things he was going to steal. She had no weapon and was all alone. The only thing that she could think to do was quote scripture. So, she holds up a hand and says: "ACTS 2:38!!!"

The burglar quakes in fear and then freezes to the point that she is able to get to the phone and call 911 for the cops. When the cops arrive, the burglar is still frozen in place. They are very much Surprised that a woman alone with no weapon could do this. One of them asked the lady: "How did you do this?"

The woman replied: "I quoted scripture."

The cop turned to the burglar: "What was it about the scripture that had such an effect on you?"

The burglar replied: "Scripture! What scripture? I thought she said she had an ax and two 38's."



South Carolina Concealed Weapons Permit Instructors Association

The Legal Carry That Wasn't by Lon Currey

As Concealed carry instructors we run into all kinds of questions that we end up passing on to wiser minds than our own. One of these came to my attention recently through our Grass Roots connection.

A concealed permit holder was stopped by a city police officer. (city to remain un-named for now). Being the good law abiding citizen he is, our permit holder gave the officer his driver's license and concealed carry permit. When asked if he was carrying at that time our good citizen said, "Yes. I have one gun in the door panel pocket and one gun in the zipped carry-all bag behind my seat." The officer proceeded to write a ticket while reading Mr. Good Citizen the riot act for illegally carrying a concealed weapon.

What did Mr. Good Citizen do wrong? Most instructors would say "He did nothing wrong!" Well that is not so. According to the law the gun must be carried on or about your person. The Attorney General has interpreted that as meaning within arms reach or in a briefcase or purse within arms reach. The rules for carrying in a vehicle require the gun be in "a closed, latched glove box or center console in the vehicle.

In the case quoted above the officer interpreted the law in the strictest possible sense. That is allowed! Police Officers have been granted the discretion to interpret the law when it is not CLEARLY defined as otherwise. I was informed by Captain Joe Dorton, at SLED that this was a case that would have to be determined in a court of law. Until some of the issues attached to the concealed carry laws have been tried we may not know in some cases exactly

where we stand. It seems a shame that someone may have to lose his/her right to carry for the rest of us to learn the rules.

I would encourage all of those associations and organizations that I am diligently paying dues into to come to the defense of Mr. Good Citizen, and others like him to clarify our laws, slow down over zealous police officers, and protect the right to carry for all of us.

Editor: "The Legal Carry That Wasn't" was originally published on our website. Here is one reader's response:

It is truly a shame that this citizen must undergo such treatment. It is hard to believe that a police officer would ticket a legal carrier. If the truth is known, and there are no hidden facts, I'd bet this officer has a hidden agenda. I'd like to know what his fellow officers must think of him. Sure the citizen should have had lawful concealment, but give me a break. This officer should have issued a verbal warning and been on his/her way. To me, this is another case of the innocent being unfairly punished. Had this officer been under attack, I'm sure this "unlawfully armed citizen" wouldn't have hesitated in drawing his "unlawfully concealed weapon" to come to the officer's defense. What a shame.

A friend of mine told me the other day that he was stopped for speeding in a small town. He handed the officer his "permit". The officer thanked him for presenting the permit, gave him a verbal warning for speeding and told him to have a nice day. A true southern gentlemen in my opinion. Too bad all officers are not rational.

Keep up the good work.
Spartanburg

Rule No. 1: 'Always treat a firearm as if it is loaded' by Joe Macaluso

Gunsmith David Reynerson's list of do's & don'ts for firearms owners is simple, and the first item, he believes, is

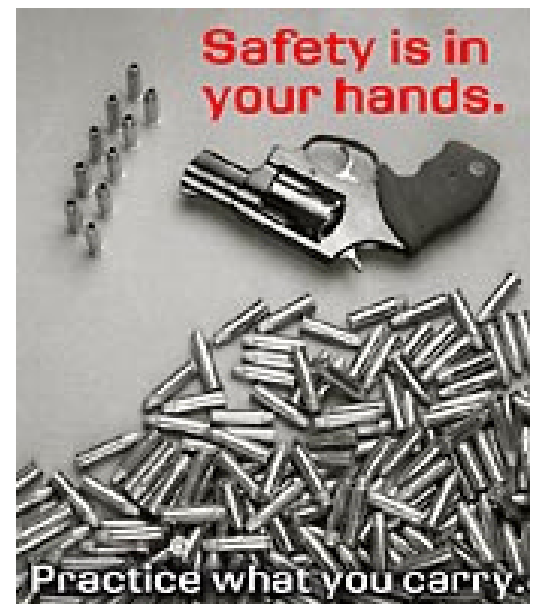
always the most important, so much so that it hangs outside the door of his shop. "Always treat a firearm as if it is loaded," he said emphatically. "Double and triple check to make sure there 's no round or shell in the chamber, and open breeches and bolts. Safety first!"

After that he recommends gun owners take their rifles and shotguns down only if they're completely familiar with the weapon and follow the manufacturer's instructions to the letter.

The other items on his list include:

Don't fool with the trigger mechanism. "There are too many parts to handle if the person doesn't have the expertise and the proper tools," he said. "Some people think they know enough to work on the sears, either the hammer sear or the trigger sear, to make the gun fire quicker, and what they wind up with is a gun that fires when the bolt slams forward. It's almost an automatic weapon, and that's not safe."

Use solvent to clean barrels. Reynerson said a solvent like Hoppe's No. 9 is good. He runs a solvent-damp patch down the barrel and sets it aside



while cleaning other parts. He goes back to the barrel, runs a clean patch through it, then runs an oil patch through, then another dry patch.

Use oil sparingly. "Most people load up on the oil. They use way too much," he said. "One or two

South Carolina Concealed Weapons Permit Instructors Association



drops is all that's needed for the barrel and other working mechanisms." Reynerson said too much oil explains why guns get dirty, that oil attracts dirt and too much oil on a gun leads to as many breakdowns as not using oil.

Use compressed air.

The advice here is when breaking a gun down to blow out as much of the loose dirt as possible before starting with solvent and oil. "I even use the air to blow out residual oil after the gun is cleaned," Reynerson said.

Use a silicone-impregnated cloth.

He said silicone on the outside parts of a gun is usually the only treatment the exterior parts need.

Check spent shells and cartridges.

"If you're having trouble with a weapon, it's misfiring or not working properly; the first indication is usually found on the spent casing. If there are any dents or nicks then stop firing immediately, unload the weapon and take it to a gunsmith to check it out," he advised.

Do not use oil sprays like WD-40.

"It hardens into a shellac. It forms a varnish on rifles and shotguns that becomes very hard to remove. Besides, it holds dirt and grit," he said.

While WD-40 and other lubricants like it have their uses, Reynerson recommends high-quality gun oil only for rifles and shotguns.

Store guns upside down.

"Oil seeping from the working parts of a gun will eventually seep into the gun's stock and ruin the wood," Reynerson said. "Turn them over when company comes so the guns look good, then turn

them over so that you will have that gun for as long as you want it."

Conducting a Concealed Carry Class

by Lon Currey

Have you ever had to sit through a high school or college class for several hours where the teacher/instructor droned on and on about the most mundane matters with little regard to your interest and or comfort? Have you ever had to take a lengthy class on the law? Have you ever signed up for a course thinking it was going to be fun and active, only to find out, after you got there, it was all lecture on theory? If you have, you have very probably experienced what many CWP students go through as they suffer through the legally required CWP course.

So, what do we, as the instructors in this very important 2nd amendment issue, do about it? We utilize the principles of GOOD adult education theory. When the NRA teaches a course they teach TPI or total participant involvement. Basically stated it is the old military theory of tell them what you are going to do, tell them how to do it, tell them what you have done, show them how to do it, lead them through doing it, let them do it! The techniques of classroom discussion and questions will lead to greater student involvement in the training process. Asking students to read sections from their handouts or from your lesson plan will keep them involved AND awake!

The use over overhead or film slides gives the students something to look at, illustrate a point, and keep the instructors on track. That is, they keep students and instructors alike, focused on the topic. Videos, and/or movies can help to demonstrate difficult to grasps concepts so they can actually see what you are trying to tell them. Written/printed handouts give them material to take with them so the learning continues even after they leave the classroom, and serves as reference material when they get home so they can check points they may have forgotten.

Training aids that students can pass around the classroom and handle and

familiarize themselves with helps them to become familiar with new material, and helps to keep their interest up. The use of posters and displays give them something of a relative topic to discuss and look at while on breaks from instruction.

And, one of the most important things you can do is to use more than one instructor. People do get tired of hearing one person's view point for prolonged periods of time, so try to share the load. Different instructors have differing styles and different paces of delivery. This will often help the class to grasp new points.

A good instructor will be in the classroom one hour before class time to check the teaching area and materials. It's very embarrassing to turn on an overhead when the class starts only to find it doesn't work, or you've forgotten your slides. Remember, Instructors, we have a legal responsibility to teach a course that is a MINIMUM of eight hours in length, and taking fingerprints and pictures is NOT a part of that eight hours. If you were to ask my partner, Norman Price I'm sure he would tell you we are seldom done in eight hours. If you are honest, and you give your students what they are paying for, and you fulfill the requirements of the law it is going to take at least eight hours.

Another really important topic is how to handle a student who is not cutting it. Obviously if you teach long enough you will eventually run into a student, who for whatever reason, can not cut it. First understand that you have an obligation to teach all those who come to you. Second you have a greater obligation to the public. To certify a student who can not, or will not learn what is necessary to be a certified gun carrier on our public streets is to place the public, our friends, neighbors, relatives in great danger. Don't do it!

If I have a student who fails the written test I will generally go over the test with them. Point out the areas where they went wrong and after a couple of hours allow them to retake the test. I always mark those tests as retests and keep BOTH tests on file. If they fail the test a second time I require they attend the entire course again at a later date, for

South Carolina Concealed Weapons Permit Instructors Association



free of course.

Those students who fail the shooting course are immediately given some remedial training and given the chance to shoot again. In nearly three years and hundreds of students there have only been two of these. If they fail again we invite them to come back with the next class and try again, for free of course. Once a student has enrolled with us we will see to it they accomplish their goals no matter how many times they have to come back. On the range I have a hard fast rule. We will put no more than six students on the line per instructor at any given time. We usually have a ratio of 4:1. This gives us the opportunity to train as we go, and makes for a much safer environment.

The point of this article is to get those of you who are teaching to teach as professionals. If you are charging for your services, and you should be, see that your students/clients get what they are paying for. Give them every possible chance to learn. Conduct your training just the way you would want it conducted if you were on the other side of the desk. And for goodness sake, teach according to the law.

By the way, there are some instructors out there who have no range to use for training. These instructors are conducting the classroom portions of the training and telling their students to go to other instructors for the range portion of their training. If you do not have a range to complete the required training then you should not be offering these classes. If a student comes to you and says, "Instructor so and so taught me all I need to know and said I should come to you for the range test." I STRONGLY encourage you to politely send them on their way. If you did not conduct the

entire program of training you should NOT be signing off on their application.

Lon Currey is President of the South Carolina Concealed Weapons Instructor's Association.

Frequently Asked Question: How Does One Become a CWP Instructor?

The process to becoming a concealed weapon instructor in South Carolina is relatively simple. First you must be a certified instructor. That is you must have received instructor training from one of three sources. These include the military, law enforcement, or the NRA. You will have to provide SLED with the proof of such certification. Second you must submit an application to SLED accompanied by the lesson plan you intend teach from. The lesson plan MUST include all the information required by law to be taught in these classes, which MUST run a minimum of eight hours. I suggest you contact Captain Jim McClary, Training Officer of SLED at 803-869-7034 for the application and particulars.

There are many people out there who can assist you with the lesson plan requirements. If you have any other questions please feel free to contact me: Lon Currey, President of the South Carolina Concealed Weapon Instructor Association, at (803) 731-0230 or (803) 318-5600 or by e-mail: traine29@idt.net

Regarding Instructor Recertification:

I spoke with one of the responsible individuals at S.L.E.D. this morning in reference to CWP instructor recertification. They are VERY aware they have a bunch of instructors whose certification will expire shortly. It is their intent to conduct some training this year and explain the recertification process during this training. They have NOT decided if there will be a fee required, a minimum training requirement, and/or pictures. I can only believe they will allow those of us whose certification may expire in the interim to continue training until they decide. They did mention the training this year will be

done by districts rather than all in the Columbia area. That should be an advantage to those who live outside the midlands, and bring greater participation.

GRSC E-mail Box:

I recently reported that "PERKINS FAMILY RESTAURANT & BAKERY" located at 7451 Rivers Ave., North Charleston, SC 29406 had a "No concealed Weapons" sign posted at their facility. I left one of the cards along with the flyer with the Manager, (David D. Messinger, Jr.)

I am now happy to report that the sign has now been removed. It is my understanding that it was removed approx. March 1, 1999. I talked with one of the assistant managers recently and was informed that they removed the sign because they were losing a lot of business and had finally decided that should they be robbed, it certainly would not be by a person that was licensed to carry a concealed weapon. I informed them that I would also inform Grass Roots so their name could be removed from the list of facilities that post a no concealed weapon sign.

Please remove this facility from your list as posting the "No Concealed Weapons Allowed" sign.

Thanks for your help and keep up the good work. I visit your web site often and enjoy the newsletters.

Best Regards,
H.M.
Goose Creek

Harold, this just points up that we REALLY ARE grass roots. It is local people like you, taking action on local issues that make the difference. All of us local folks banded together can do it on the state level.

Thank you!

GRSC Question From a Reader:

Q: Do I have to carry the gun with which I qualified?

A: No, this early restriction has been changed by S.L.E.D. You may carry a gun different than the one you qualified with.

Legislative Update

Legislative Update

By Rob Butler

Current as of April 12, 1999

These bills are currently in the SC legislature for consideration:

(*** indicates a change from the last report, please be sure to read)

*** **S621** - A bill to reserve to the state the right to institute and maintain certain civil actions against firearms or ammunition manufacturers and dealers, and to create a state preemption law so as to prevent political subdivisions of the state from enacting gun control laws.

Our position: The best bill currently in the legislature for gun owners. Contact your legislators now and get them on the bandwagon. Please note the important differences between S621, which is a good bill, and H3420 (see below), which is a bad bill. While both claim to stop lawsuits against firearms manufacturers, only S621 really does so, and S621 does not punish gun owners as H3420 does. Additionally, S621 creates a needed state preemption law.

Principle used: The person who misuses a firearm should be held responsible, not the manufacturer or dealer. A state preemption law provides uniformity so that SC citizens do not have to try to learn the laws of every town they pass through.

Bill is still in committee.

Current status and text can be found at: <http://www.lpittr.state.sc.us/bills/621.htm>

H3420 - A bill to allow only the State, and not its political subdivisions, to sue firearm manufacturers, dealers, and trade associations for damages arising out of the lawful design, marketing, or sale of firearms to the public, unless certain conditions are met by the political subdivisions of the state. The conditions that need to be met are loopholes big enough to drive the state of SC through. Most importantly, this bill would also prevent gun owners from suing an importer, manufacturer, or dealer for damages for any injuries, including wrongful death, arising from the proper use of the firearm. This bill would make gun owners the only citizens in SC who could not sue the manufacturer of a product for injuries suffered from a defective product.

Our position: Kill the bill, do not wait for it to move. Kill it now. While it is important to protect the firearms industry from lawsuits filed by victims of those who use firearms in a criminal or negligent way, it is not necessary to punish honest gun owners in the process. Please see S621 above, a bill that does all that should be done plus some, but does not punish gun owners too.

Principle used: Gun owners should not have to give up their right to sue for damages suffered from using a defective firearm. There is no good reason to take the bad with the good when it is possible to get just the good, see S621 above.

Bill is still in committee.

Current status and text can be found at: <http://www.lpittr.state.sc.us/bills/3420.htm>

*** **H3804** - A bill to supposedly combat bombs and weapons of mass destruction.

Our position: This bill is a danger to those shooters who reload. The definitions section is written so as to include primers and smokeless powder as bomb components. It makes it a felony to have bomb components in ones possession. It allows for forfeiture of property (your home) used to facilitate a violation of the law (possessing and storing the bomb components - primers and smokeless powder). The exclusions section excludes those things regulated by the SC Explosives Control Act, but the SC Explosives Control Act specifically does not apply to components of small arms ammunition. This bill needs to be amended to protect reloaders, or killed. Every reloader should not be punished because of a fear of future criminal activity. The criminals are not going to obey the law any ways, therefore the only people to be punished by this bill are the law abiding reloaders. We should not all have to buy commercial ammunition. This bill is on the fast track since it has 80 cosponsors, more than enough to pass the bill.

Principle used: Our unalienable right to keep and bear arms is infringed when gun owners can not legally reload ammunition.

Bill is still in committee.

Current status and text can be found at: <http://www.lpittr.state.sc.us/bills/3804.htm>

*** **H3419** - A very poorly written range protection bill that does not protect ranges. Let's examine this bill closely.

First, whom does this bill protect? The only real protection provided is to existing ranges. But, it fails to give protection to the USERS of the range, the operators of the range, or the owners of the range. See Section 31-18-30(A). Then, a so-called "protected" existing range loses all of its protection as soon as it has an "expansion of activity." The term "expansion of activity" is not defined and would force existing ranges to comply with new regulations if the range increased its membership, the number of shooting bays, the number of matches held, or number of rounds fired. This would force existing ranges to close to new members and limit the matches held if the range wanted to protect itself from new regulation. See Section 31-18-40(C). This is a prescription for the death of the shooting sports. We need to be expanding shooting sports opportunities, not limiting the opportunities.

Second, the bill gives virtually no protection to new ranges. A new range is left at risk of being closed down for 5 years after it opens. See Section 31-18-30(B). This is too long. It effectively prevents the building of any new ranges in any part of the state where there are enough people to support a range, and if there are not enough people to support a range, it will not get built. Once again, this is a prescription for the death of the shooting sports. We need to be expanding shooting sports opportunities, not limiting the opportunities.

Third, this bill would allow zoning changes to shut down an existing range just like they did to the adult businesses in Richland County. See Section 31-18-50. This is no protection at all. Once again, this is a prescription for the death of the shooting sports. We need to be expanding shooting sports opportunities, not limiting the opportunities.

These are not the only problems with H3419, but they are enough to show that this bill is no protection for the shooting sports. We can not afford to use whatever influence we have with our legislators to get a bill passed that is simply a prescription for death of the shooting sports. We need to protect the shooting sports for generations to come,

Legislative Update

not just a few of us now. We need to rally behind a good range protection bill. There is a good range protection bill ready to be introduced; we just need to find a sponsor. Let us know if your legislator would be willing to be a sponsor.

Our position: Those in favor of killing the bill point out this bill is only good for existing ranges and shooters, and it dooms the shooting sports to die a slow withering death on the vine because it limits the shooting sports to its present size. This bill does more harm than good to future ranges and future shooters because once we get legislators to fight to get this bill passed, they are not going to want to fight a second time to solve the problems for future ranges and future shooters when we should have had the foresight to ask for what we wanted the first time. Those in favor of passage point out any protection is better than no protection, even if it means abandoning protection for future shooters.

Principles used: Those in favor of killing this bill would rather fight for a good bill that gives protection to not only the present shooters and ranges, but provides for the protection of the shooting sports for their children and grand children, too. We see ourselves as the stewards of liberty and freedom for the generations to come, just as our forefathers fought for the liberty and freedom that we now enjoy. We do not want to be known as the generation that sold our children's rights for our own selfish wants.

Bill is still in committee.

Current status and text can be found at: <http://www.lpittr.state.sc.us/bills/3419.htm>

S505 & H3632 - Bills that change the definition of "military firearm" so as to allow citizens of SC to legally own firearms being sold by the US government to US citizens.

Our position: These are good bills, support them.

Principle used: Our unalienable right to keep and bear arms is infringed when SC citizens can not purchase the firearm of their own choosing.

Bill is still in committee.

Current status and text can be found at: <http://www.lpittr.state.sc.us/bills/505.htm> & <http://www.lpittr.state.sc.us/bills/3632>

H3079 - A bill originally meant to let SC residents own machine guns, at least it did until changed in committee. This bill would have made SC a class 3 state. Changes made in committee keep SC a state that prohibits its citizens from owning machine guns.

Our position: This was a good bill, now it doesn't help SC citizens.

Principle used: The only principal involved after the changes made in the House has to do with money, there is no principle to fight for in this bill now.

Current status and text can be found at: <http://www.lpittr.state.sc.us/bills/3079.htm>

H3196 - A firearms and gun owner registration bill. This bill would create a state registry of guns and gun owners. It would require gun owners to report to the state the transfer of all firearms so as to keep the registry current. It does this under the guise of ballistic testing of all new firearms.

Our position: This is a truly horrible bill. Gun registration is the first step to gun confiscation. We need to kill this bill if it starts to move.

Principle used: Our unalienable right to keep and bear arms is infringed, along with our rights to privacy, when SC citizens have to register their guns and themselves with big brother.

Bill is still in committee.

Current status and text can be found at: <http://www.lpittr.state.sc.us/bills/3196.htm>

H3142 & S147 - Bills to give law enforcement and retired law enforcement officer's special privileges with respect to carrying firearms.

Our position: These are bad bills that need to be defeated.

Principle used: Any law that creates two classes of people, one being elite government officials and the other mere peasants working to pay taxes to the state, is wrong. Police officers are regular citizens, not a superior special class of citizen. If police officers do not like the current ridiculous restrictions of a CWP, then let them work with us to get rid of those restrictions for all honest law abiding citizens, not just police officers. Any argument made that it is important to have armed off duty and retired law enforcement officers everywhere in the community is made an even better argument when used to include all honest law abiding citizens because there are

more armed citizens than there are off duty police officers.

Bills are still in committee.

Current status and text can be found at: <http://www.lpittr.state.sc.us/bills/3142.htm> &

<http://www.lpittr.state.sc.us/bills/147.htm>

H3137 & S208 - Bills to restrict possession of anything that could be used as a weapon around schools. These bills would change the law from prohibiting weapons on your person around elementary and secondary schools to prohibiting weapons around elementary, secondary, and post secondary schools period. S208 deletes firearms from the list of prohibited weapons, but H3137 does not.

Our position: These are bad bills that need to be defeated. To make it a felony to take any object that "may be used to inflict bodily injury" onto any school property makes it possible to convict anyone of a felony. The tire iron in your car fits the description above.

Principle used: These are bad bills because they further infringe our 2nd Am. rights, do nothing to improve safety, and are extremely overbroad and ambiguous which would lead to problems with selective enforcement of the law.

Bills are still in committee.

Current status and text can be found at: <http://www.lpittr.state.sc.us/bills/208.htm> &

<http://www.lpittr.state.sc.us/bills/3137.htm>

S43 - Another trigger lock bill. Would impose prison terms of up to three years and/or fines up to \$2,000.00. We all know the evils of trigger lock bills.

Our position: A one size fits all solution to a non-existent problem. Kill the bill if it starts to move.

Principle used: Trigger locks can not be used on a loaded firearm, therefore this bill would effectively disarm most people. Disarming the people is an infringement of the right to keep and bear arms.

Bill is still in committee.

Current status and text can be found at: <http://www.lpittr.state.sc.us/bills/43.htm>

H3380 - Another trigger lock bill. Would impose prison terms of up to one year and/or fines up to \$1,000.00. We all know the evils of trigger lock bills.

Legislative Update

Our position: A one size fits all solution to a non-existent problem. Kill the bill if it starts to move.

Principle used: Trigger locks can not be used on a loaded firearm, therefore this bill would effectively disarm most people. Disarming the people is an infringement of the right to keep and bear arms.

Bill is still in committee.

Current status and text can be found at: <http://www.lpitr.state.sc.us/bills/3380.htm>

H3128 - A bill to stop the discharge of firearms within one-half mile radius of a school. This bill would make felons of anyone who discharges a firearm "too" close to a school.

Our position: This bill would include all schools - public, private, and home schools - in the definition of a school. It is not possible for any person to know where all such schools are located. Any person who discharged a firearm safely while hunting could become a felon and lose their 2nd Am. rights merely because there was an unknown home school nearby. Kill the bill if it starts to move.

Principle used: People should be able to know beforehand when the acts they commit are criminal acts. Under this bill innocent good people could unknowingly become felons.

Bill is still in committee.

Current status and text can be found at: <http://www.lpitr.state.sc.us/bills/3128.htm>

Editors Note: Grass Roots South Carolina is monitoring these bills and will report to you any need to activate against bills that infringe on your right to carry. To that end, we are building an e-mail alert registry, fax alert registry, and telephone call tree. If you want to make sure you are on our alerts registry drop us a line advising us how we can best notify you in cases where your input is needed with legislative efforts.

WE STAND ON PRINCIPLE, THAT'S WHY

By Rob Butler

After the last legislative update I was asked how GRSC decides whether to say a bill is a good bill or a bad bill. Specifically, I was asked how I could say H3142 and S147 were bad bills when certain members of the GRSC advisory board were retired or present law enforcement officers and would have personally benefited from passage of either of these bills. My answer is simple - WE STAND ON PRINCIPLE, THAT'S WHY.

Our founding fathers spoke of certain unalienable rights. Unalienable rights are those rights bestowed upon us by our creator. They are not bestowed upon us by mere mortal men simply because they are in the majority at the time. The right to keep and bear arms is one of those unalienable rights. The right to keep and bear arms is fundamental to being able to protect yourself and your family from harm, whether the harm comes from wild animals, criminals, or tyrants. Without the right to keep and bear arms we would be reduced to the law of the jungle - which is that brute force alone is all that matters or might makes right. To deny a person the right to keep and bear arms is just the first step in subjugating that person.

Our founding fathers were also concerned about a police state. While there are many definitions of a police state, one is quite simple to understand - a police state exists when only the police have guns. An early form of a police state is when the police can bear arms in public, but the rest of us have to restrict ourselves to bearing arms only at home or other designated areas.

"God created man, but Sam Colt made them equal." This saying came about because for the first time in history a man small in physical stature, but large in character, could successfully stand up to not only a large person, but to a mob of people. It no longer had to be a death sentence for a small courageous person to stand up for principle against a mob because a pistol was the great equalizer. But, I digress.

This brings us back to bills H3142 and S147. We think these are bad bills because they help to create two classes of people in the eyes of the law - a special privileged class of police officers and a subordinate unworthy class of citizens. As a matter of principle, we can not support this type of bill even when it helps some of us. As we stated when we initially opposed these bills, if the restrictions on concealed carry are ridiculous for police officers, then they are just as ridiculous for citizens too. Let's all work together to get rid of the bad laws for everyone, not create a special privileged class of police officers.

Future legislative updates will state the principle involved as to why we support or oppose any given bill. This will give you the opportunity to better understand why we take the positions we take. Compare our values with our positions, let us know if you think we are taking the principled stand. If you think we should be taking a different position, please tell us why. We look forward to your comments.



Would You Post Your Property Like This?

We doubt it...and most gun-control advocates wouldn't either! But isn't this just what merchants in your



hometown are doing when they post against law-abiding citizens with CWP? Demand they stop putting you at risk by guaranteeing criminals a safe haven!

The South Carolina Shooting Event of the Year (and you're invited!)

Here's Your Invitation!

MID-CAROLINA RIFLE CLUB OPEN HOUSE and FAMILY PICNIC

Where: 3433 Fish Hatchery Road, near South Congaree/Pineridge, SC

When: Saturday, April 24, 1999, 8AM - 6PM

What: The Mid Carolina Rifle Club (MCRC) cordially invites you and your family to attend our open house and family picnic. It will be held on our 25-acre outdoor shooting facility off Fish Hatchery Road near South Congaree. Our club was started over 25 years ago to provide local people a safe and affordable place to shoot. We presently have about 200 members with room for more. Drop in to help us celebrate the completion of our \$60,000 range improvement program (and signup new members) as we have this family oriented, patriotic, non-political, fun affair, Saturday, April 24th, from 8AM to 6PM.

Cost: None, nada, zip! Free parking too. But, donations gladly accepted for food. If you want to watch the shooting exhibitions bring eyeglasses and ear muffs. If you forget, we'll provide safety glasses and ear muffs for a small deposit (\$2/\$5) that will be promptly refunded in full when you return the items. Soft, disposable, earplugs will be provided free.

Food: We'll be serving "free range" hotdogs, chips and canned soft drinks, with paper plates and napkins.

Prizes: 20 Gate (door) Prizes to be awarded throughout the day. They must be picked up that day.

Exhibit Area: We'll have large area setup with awnings and tables for local organizations, vendors (mini gunshow), and gunsmiths to promote their activities.

Organizations Represented:

Glock Inc., FN Manufacturing, Grass Roots South Carolina, S.L.E.D., Forest Acres PD with NRA Eddy Eagle, Columbia Police Department, Richland County Sheriff's Dept., Lexington County Sheriff's Dept., Vietnam Veterans Association, Korean War Memorial Association, NRA and NRA State Association, Midlands Technical College, USC Pistol Team, USC Color Guard, USMC Color Guard.

Hands On: All day we'll have .22 rifles and ammo available for kids to shoot in a special area - free! All day we'll be letting people shoot handguns provided by Glock Inc.

From 12:30 to 3:00 try out a machine gun, real "assault" rifle, or suppressed ("silenced") firearms. Most shooting exhibitions will let spectators "try their hand" where safe and practicable (it'll help if you're patient and courteous).

Schedule of Events:

8:00 AM Open gate to visitors. Handout programs, eye, and ear protection. Exhibit area open to visitors. Other ranges closed off for opening ceremonies.

9:00 AM @ Rifle Range: Opening Ceremony. Rousing, Patriotic Speech by El Presidente. Awards given to Lexington High School Junior ROTC shooters. Introduction and firing of Ceremonial cannon to honor MCRC founder "Doc" Bumgardner. Ribbon Cutting by MCRC founders John Thompson (Funeral Homes) and Clayton Tapp (Dept Stores) to open ranges.

9:30 AM @ General Purpose Bay:

FN Manufacturing demonstrates "REAL" assault rifles. M2 heavy .50 caliber machine gun, M240B .30 caliber machine gun, M249 .223 Squad Automatic Weapon, P90 submachine gun.

10:30 AM @ West End Range: If machine guns aren't your cup of tea, walk over to the west end, and step back in time as the Single Action Shooting Society (SASS) Cowboy (and Cowgirl!) action shooters recreate the old west. All "duded up" in their colorful outfits watch them take care of pesky varmints and outlaws, "Western Style"!

11:00 AM @ West End Range: International Practical Shooting Coalition (IPSC) will "Run and Gun in the Sun" with modern handguns.

11:30 AM @ West End Range: International Defensive Pistol Association (IDPA) will demonstrate defensive shooting with Concealed Carry type handguns and equipment.

High Noon @ West End Range: Midlands Technical College will demonstrate Concealed Carry practical exercises.

12:30 - 2:00 PM @ Main Parking Lot: Visit the "Chuck Wagon" for your "free range" hot dogs. Break for lunch, look at exhibits and try out some of the guns.

2:00 PM @ General Purpose Bay: More machine-guns from local South Carolina Class II manufacturers. Special guest appearance by the "Shorty" .30 caliber. See why assault weapons ARE entirely appropriate for private ownership. Touch the "Deadly AK47" and make a wish for Charles Schumer and Dianne Feinstein (Howabout, they marry each other and go live happily ever after - in Serbia!)

2:30 PM @ 2700 Pistol Range:

NRA 2700 Bullseye Pistol shooters will demonstrate pistol marksmanship and match procedures.

3:00 PM @ Silhouette Bay: See demonstration of Steel Silhouette shooting in our "BIG" shooting gallery.

3:30 PM @ General Purpose Bay:

Black Powder Muzzle Loading rifle shooters will show how our forefathers used to do it. And, what our children might be forced to use to defend themselves with if we aren't careful.

4:00 PM @ 2700 Pistol Bay: Columbia Police Department will demonstrate their Officer Firearms Training program.

4:30 PM @ Silhouette Bay: NRA High Power rifle shooters will demonstrate rifle marksmanship and match procedures.

Special Notes:

Shooting will be in areas away from main exhibit area so as not to frighten young children, or interfere with other activities. We are a rifle club however, and there will be lot's of shooting. So, if the sound of gunfire or smell of gunsmoke disturbs you, this may not be the event for you.

All legally and safely carried firearms are welcome on the range. But, ONLY those involved in the scheduled shooting exhibitions are to be used. All firearms must remain holstered or safely secured. No handling of firearms is permitted except for designated shooters at the scheduled shooting events and by gunsmiths at their exhibition area tables.

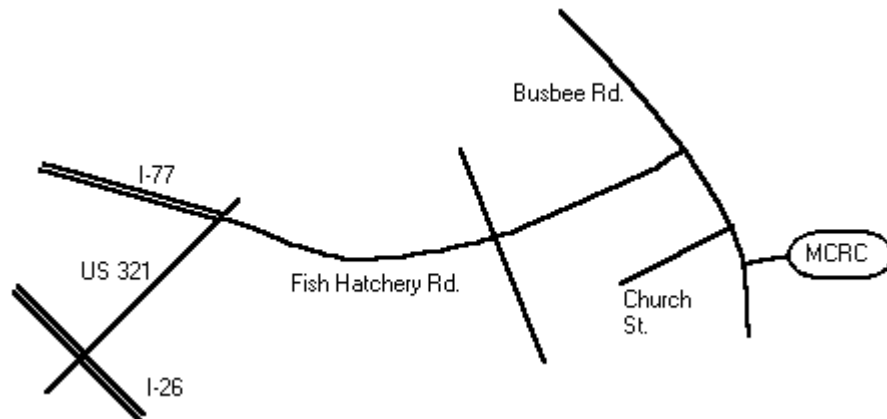
Though we want everyone to have a fun, exciting, enjoyable day - Safety is the paramount concern. Anyone acting in an unsafe or undesirable manner will be required to leave the range immediately.

For more Info. or directions call: Ed Kelleher, President, Mid Carolina Rifle Club in West Columbia at 803-796-8858, Fax: 803-791-7349 or email at: ejkelleher@aol.com.

When's the last time you took the family to something really different? Huh dad?

The South Carolina Shooting Event of the Year (and you're invited!)

Directions to Mid Carolina Rifle Club



From I-26 East

Coming from Greenville-Spartanburg area or I-20 East to I-26 East Take exit 115 and take a right off the exit ramp (toward Swansea). At the traffic light at the top of the hill take a right onto Fish Hatchery Road. After about 5 miles, you will come to a stop sign, and a road sign that indicates Busbee Rd to the left, and Fish Hatchery Rd to the right. Turn Right. Once you pass Forest Manor Mobile Home Park, look for a dirt road to the left.

From I-26 West

Coming from Charleston, Orangeburg or I-95 South Take exit 115 and take a left from the exit ramp (toward Swansea). Go under the interstate and continue to the traffic light at the top of the hill. Take a right onto Fish Hatchery Road. After about 5 miles, you will come to a stop sign, and a road sign that indicates Busbee Rd to the left, and Fish Hatchery Rd to the right. Turn Right. Once you pass Forest Manor Mobile Home Park, look for a dirt road to the left.

From I-77 South

Coming from Charlotte or I-20 West (Exit 76) to I-77 South As you approach the I-77 and I-26 interchange, you will see a sign for Exit 1 (Cayce). Exit here (before getting to I-26). At the end of the exit ramp, at the traffic light, proceed straight onto Fish Hatchery Road. After about 5 miles, you will come to a stop sign, and a road sign that indicates Busbee Rd to the left, and Fish Hatchery Rd to the right. Turn Right. Once you pass Forest Manor Mobile Home Park, look for a dirt road to the left.

(Cont. from front page "Texas Case Weakens Lautenberg Amendment")

And Judge Cummings did not shy away from recognizing that the Second Amendment was also enacted as a curb on abusive government: "A foundation of American political thought during the Revolutionary period was the well-justified concern about political corruption and governmental tyranny." Discussions on federal gun control measures often focus on whether specific guns serve "sporting purposes." However, if the Founding Fathers had added a clause to the Second Amendment specifying that people will be "permitted to own guns for hunting rabbits," the Constitution would have been overwhelmingly rejected as Americans would have been alerted to how far politicians intended to stretch their power.

The judge's honesty about the Second Amendment's purpose is in sharp contrast to the craven attitude shown by many academics. At a 1997 American Society of Criminology conference, one professor argued that among signs of "hate group ideology" were "discussion of the Bill of Rights, especially the Second Amendment or the Federalist Papers," "discussion of military oppression, in the U.S. or elsewhere," and "discussion of the Framers of our government." Bentley College Professor Joyce Lee Malcolm, who attended the conference session, observed that the professor "was anxious to have militia classified as hate groups because then federal legislation on hate groups would apply to them." Professor Malcolm was surprised that the proposed expansive definition of hate groups elicited no objections from the scholarly audience.

If Judge Cummings' decision is upheld, then other federal gun control laws will also likely be struck down. For instance, the so-called Lautenberg Domestic Violence Prevention Act of 1996 made it a felony, punishable by 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine, for anyone who has ever been convicted of a misdemeanor of domestic use or attempted use of force against a spouse or child to possess a firearm or a single bullet. (Some states consider even verbal threats to be a "domestic assault.") Experts estimated that the law created 1 million new felons overnight, in part because few people are aware of the bill's retroactive sweep.

Judge Cummings concluded, "The rights of the Second Amendment should be as zealously guarded as the other individual liberties enshrined in the Bill of Rights." It is to be hoped his decision will be read far and wide - and perhaps may even knock some sense into a few members of Congress. It is time for a restraining order on politicians hungry to violate constitutional rights.

James Bovard is the author of "Freedom in Chains: The Rise of the State & the Demise of the Citizen" (St. Martin's Press, 1999).

Join Us in Our Grass Roots Efforts!

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

www.scfirearms.org

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_____ I'd like #_____ wallet cards. (Please send donation to defray our printing and postage.)

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

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

_____ Include me in your legislative alerts registry. I want to help make some change!

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CWP - If It Saves Just One Life!