

Grass Roots South Carolina

P.O. Box 1181

Sumter, South Carolina 29151

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

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GRSC Grows! Becomes *GRSC, INC.*!

Past Financial Contributors Inducted Into Full Membership for the Upcoming Year!

by Larry Coble

Grass Roots South Carolina has now declared its independence and become a formal membership organization. Since our last newsletter we have been busy making the transition from Mid-Carolina Rifle Club Committee to South Carolina 501c4 corporation. GRSC committee members decided last year that to become a more effective and useful tool for CWP holders, instructors, and gun owners in South Carolina, organizational changes would be required. This change is now complete allowing GRSC to become even more active in education, leadership, community outreach, and legislation issues of concern to all South Carolina gun owners.

Grass Roots South Carolina started out as an effort of the NRA's state organization shortly after South Carolina's current CWP law was signed into law by then Governor Beasley. Its task then was clear - to stem the tide of merchants who were choosing to post against lawful concealed carry in their stores. Although well funded for its task, this initial effort soon faltered. Always active in the midlands, Mid-Carolina Rifle Club members became aware of the necessity of membership support if Grass Roots South Carolina was to stay active in combating merchant postings. A membership vote showed overwhelming support for Grass Roots South Carolina and an ad hoc committee was formed to begin restructuring the effort.

Since then GRSC has evolved to become a valuable information source for all South Carolina CWP holders, CWP instructors, and law abiding gun owners in South Carolina. In

addition, GRSC has become the leading information source for second amendment, legislative issues, and grassroots activism in South Carolina. Grass Roots South Carolina has prided itself on the notion that communication with its "roots" was paramount to success. To that end we have chosen to communicate openly and frequently with the people we represent via quarterly newsletters, Internet web services, fax communication, personal phone calls, and individual letters. Grass Roots South Carolina believes communication with you is paramount if we are going to succeed in our task. Because of this we are continuing to develop information pathways to keep you informed.

So where are we going? Initially we have many more items to complete to take GRSC to its next level of providing service to its members. Organizational issues and obstacles will be overcome and reported to the members as we cross those bridges. One of the first decisions made was to fully credit all previous financial contributors to GRSC with one year's dues and induction into our new membership. Many more items are on our organizational agenda in the near future - look for complete information in each coming newsletter. Look inside this issue for more information as to how you can join us in our efforts.

Welcome aboard!

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The GRSC Don't Carry List:

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SCCWPIA - Instructors' Association:

- *No CWP Signs Alert Criminals to Safe Haven*
- *Instructor Recertification*
- *Tips for Ladies Who Travel at Night*
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- *Instructor Recertification Planned*

Visit Us Online at <http://www.scfirearms.org>

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

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VP for Districts:	Ralph Baker
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Note: The Grass Roots South Carolina Newsletter is distributed quarterly to the membership of GRSC. Publication is in January, April, July, and October with articles for publication due by the 15th of the preceding month.

Regarding Reciprocity...

As of June 28, 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.

WANTED!

GRSC is Looking for District Directors!

GRSC District Director Job Description

General: District Directors will be sought for each SC House district. They will be the "field force" to expand the effectiveness of GRSC throughout South Carolina. Within GRSC guidelines they will be responsible for actions and events within that House district. The District Director will organize other GRSC members, decide which posted merchants on which to concentrate, develop other programs as appropriate for that district, develop an educational relationship with political persons and entities, newspapers, and maintain open and complete communications with GRSC.

Qualifications: District Directors need organizational skills to mobilize other GRSC members in their district. They need writing and speaking skills sufficient to convey the GRSC position to merchants, political entities, newspapers and other GRSC members. Internet / email access is most helpful for rapid communication between GRSC and District Directors. Fax is also useful. Most important is a desire to enhance the value of your CCW permit and its usefulness.

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

GRSC Support: Interested GRSC members. Supporting facts, position papers, speakers, wallet cards, alternative signs, legislative alerts, and individuals to help organize initially. Some financial support for postage will be available although it is anticipated that costs will be minimal.

Interested? Contact GRSC and let us place you on the District Director List for further updates as the District Program develops.

Fact:

As of June 28, 1999 there are 22,108 licensed CWP holders in South Carolina! (18,392 men and 3,716 women) All of who have been deemed law-abiding citizens by their county, state, and the FBI!

Congratulations!

Visit GRSC's Internet Site:

<http://www.scfirearms.org>

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GRSC Letters from the Editor's Desk

Regarding Merchants that Post

I saw a No Gun sign in the Burger King Restaurant in Laurens. I called their Headquarters & found out that they also own the Burger King in Greenwood (which is already on the Grass Roots List. I spoke with one of the Partners. He was very cordial! Here's the gist of our conversation:

After telling him who I was, I brought the No Gun sign to his attention. I told him that as a CWP holder, I was a law abiding citizen & that he was violating my Second Amendment: Right to Bear Arms. I added that only law abiding citizens would honor his sign, therefore, by removing my right to defend myself, he was taking full responsibility for my safety.

Then I told him about Grass Roots, adding that the Greenwood Store was already on the "List" & that I was going to report the Laurens Store as well. I explained that we (CWP holders) were not going to patronize his establishments until the signs were removed & that we were going to ask our family members, friends, neighbors, & coworkers to do the same.

I closed with this: "Please understand that the decision is up to you, after all it's your place of business. But there are 22,000 of us & that's bound to have an impact on your sales.

He explained that several years ago, they were required by their insurance company to post those signs but now there are new laws. He stated that he would look into the matter & see what could be done. He thanked me for bring this to his attention.

I took this to mean that he will investigate the insurance company's policy regarding the sign. I feel that he will address this situation & correct it if at all possible. Perhaps the Grass Roots Alternative Merchant Sign would suffice instead of the one that states: No Guns.

Laurens, SC

A Letter to Our Legislators:

Dear Madams and/or Sirs:

Freedom is the precious gift we have given to ourselves because of the tyranny and oppression we have felt and

witnessed over the very few years our country has existed.

We have fought long and hard to establish a freedom from the "mighty governments" who have tried time and again in the past and present to limit our potential for growth and development. We have allowed these people too much power and control over the personal fabric of this nation.

We, the people of these great United States, have each taken an oath, from the moment of birth or from the moment of attainment of the Citizenship of these United States, to uphold and protect, to defend with our lives, the freedom that we hold dear.

We have voluntarily, since the beginning, promised to our forefathers, our children, and ourselves not to let the government destroy our individuality. This is the reason we established a nation, This is the reason we established a Constitution; this is what we need to remember.

Remember each and every person from old to young, from every walk of life. Remember the men and women who stand on the boundaries of our country, day after day, night after night, week, month, year, decade, and century after century. They have sworn, with their lives, to protect our way of democracy to protect the RIGHTS OF THE PEOPLE.

Do NOT allow our rights to be demolished. Do NOT allow our rights to be revoked. Do NOT allow the people, our people, our elected officials, the right to remove any piece of your freedom to choose the way you live, to choose the way you think, or to choose your life for you. Only you can choose your life, Only you can make the right decision on what you will do with your life.

This was and is the intention of our forefathers. This was and is the intention of our Constitution.

Stand up for our rights. We have elected you to protect our freedoms, to protect our right to choices, to protect our way of life.

Remember our torment in the beginning and now. Remember the Holocaust and Hitler - his method of control. Gun registration, people registration, secret testing on unwilling humans, lies, deceit,

Rape, Murder and the destruction of anything and everything he didn't like or want. Remember Milosevic and his method of rule: Rape, Maim and Murder of men, women and children that he did not like or want.

People are they only ones who can control their actions and the actions of their children. The tools used to cause destruction should not be blamed when they are used.

As once recently heard "...when Cain killed Abel, no one blamed the method of his killing if a wooden club was used, no one blamed the person(s) who built or made the club the person who committed the act was to blame"

Please, help change society's way of thinking. Help people understand that killing is not right. Do not remove our freedom of expression. By inhibiting our ability to grow and evolve, we then become caged. And like any caged animal, the animal will retaliate forcefully. (note: I am not advocating violence)

Vote NO on any and all regulations, laws, bills, amendments, etc., such as S. 254 "Lautenberg Gun-Control," which go against the very fabric of our nation.

Thank you for your time and immediate attention to these matters.

**Adam Drobnis,
Columbia, SC**

To Rosie O'Donnell:

Dear Rosie:

I am a 31 year-old woman from South Carolina. Yes, I am a woman, and I own a gun. What is more, I carry that gun (which I am legally allowed to carry) almost everywhere I go. I protect the gun from children, and it protects me from anyone who would try to kidnap, rape or otherwise force themselves upon me. I would no more allow a child to get near my gun than I would allow a child to drink Drano. One must keep such things out of the reach of children; any fool should know that!

When it is time and my husband and I have children, I will continue to carry my weapon in order to protect them. I will also teach my children that they are not to touch my gun, just as my parents taught me. It is just that simple.

GRSC Letters from the Editor's Desk

The only way I would give up my gun is if you could personally promise me that the bad men on the streets have given up theirs. But you can't promise me that, can you? So I will keep my gun, thank you, because it is the only thing that I have to equalize the threat of force out there, and one day it may be the only thing between me and death or disfigurement.

I think that your suggestion that women toss out their husbands' guns is irresponsible and shortsighted. More children drown around the home than die from gunshots! Did you know that? Or did you even bother to check? Or do you not care about the heartache parents feel when their children die face down in a toilet? I say we should we throw out our wash buckets and toilets!

Or maybe we should all just be more responsible and careful with our children and dangerous things! Sometimes dangerous things are good to have around, like matches, gasoline, propane, medications, cars, swimming pools, dogs, hammers, bricks, knives and guns.

Blame the criminal, not the tool!
Irmo, SC

FROM: WalMart letters@wal-mart.com
Subject: RE: Firearms

Thank you for contacting Wal-Mart regarding our concealed handgun policy. Wal-Mart was founded by Sam Walton on three basic principles. Strive for Excellence, Service to our Customers, and Respect for the Individual. It is that respect for the individual that led us to create the current policy pertaining to concealed handguns.

The following is our policy:

If a Wal-Mart customer has been awarded a concealed handgun license by the state government, Wal-Mart will follow the direction of the state. However, if at anytime while on Wal-Mart property, that customer's concealed weapon becomes visible to Wal-Mart associates or customers, Wal-Mart reserves the right to ask the customer to either reposition the weapon so that it will not be visible, to remove the weapon completely or to leave Wal-Mart property.

With the exception of law enforcement personnel, Wal-Mart does not allow any

exposed weapons to be worn or carried in public view on Wal-Mart property or in Wal-Mart stores. Customers other than law enforcement personnel wearing or carrying a weapon in an exposed manner will be asked to leave the property immediately.

We appreciate your concern and trust that this message has addressed your concerns regarding this issue.

Thank you,

Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.

New to South Carolina:

I am an NRA member...belonged to a great gun club when I lived in Michigan...but I am truly impressed by GRSC!!!! I live in Little River and we have a problem with places to shoot....I wish that you folks were in this area....I will have to look at your web site to see about membership....at the very least, I will be sending you a donation to help you in your efforts.

Bob in Little River

On Firearm Owners Impact on K-Mart Stores:

...stores keep computerized records of all sorts of stuff. K-Mart knows on a daily basis how much ammunition or sporting goods they sell. They also know if a credit card used to buy \$10 worth of ammo also paid for \$100 worth of automotive accessories, and with a little effort they could predict the overall profit lost to the parent company for every round of .22 they don't sell here in South Carolina. This may not show up in share price, but you can bet management will be aware of these figures. We must understand that small actions on our part can have big impacts on management decisions. For example, if only 1,000,000 gun-owning families (a small per cent of the total) each shifted only \$100 from K-Mart to Wal-Mart, the gross impact on sales would be \$100,000,000. While a hundred million dollars may not sound like much to a multi-billion dollar company, it might get their attention.

But shifting our spending isn't enough. We must also let the company know why we are spending elsewhere. Just as the "experts" dream up all sorts of reasons to explain why the nations economy (or weather) is doing whatever it is they think it is doing, so also K-Mart's internal

"experts" have all sorts of explanations for changing patterns of consumer spending. We must point them in the right direction by telling them that we as gun owners are shopping elsewhere, and making clear the reasons why. Lets face reality here: If K-Mart management had a better understanding of their business, they would be in better financial shape.

Management should realize that every person who takes the time to write about their anti-gun attitude represents many more who don't.

We cannot expect K-Mart to respond in the way we want. They will not dump Rosie for fear of offending the many people who like her personality or dislike guns. Our objective should be to bring about a gradual, long-term shift in the way the company looks at gun owners as customers, and to make sure they keep us happy (or at very least don't offend us). K-Mart management thinks in terms of years, quarters, months and days. We look at the bigger picture. We're in this for the long haul.

John

More on Rosie O'Donnel:

I sent this to K-Mart....wouldn't it be nice if they got a million just like it?

I can no longer tolerate Rosie O'Donnell...her mannerisms are irritating at best, her 'comedy' is sophomoric, and accepting her as a voice for gun control is the straw that broke this camel's back! Her treatment of Tom Selleck was pure ambush tactics and not fair to a classy guy like him. I am informing you that I will never enter a K-Mart store again until that woman is no longer a representative of your organization. You had no hesitation in dropping Fuzzy Zoeller when he became controversial and I suggest that you do the same with this ignorant loud mouth. I will be forwarding this letter to the NRA...of which I am proudly a member...and suggest that they convey my thoughts to the rest of the membership. I think you are aware of the potential here. Let me point out that there are so many other retailers available, some of whom have been very fair to gun owners, (i.e. Wal-Mart) which reversed its stand on not allowing concealed weapons held by permit holders in its SC stores. This

GRSC Letters from the Editor's Desk

action by Wal-Mart is much appreciated and recognized by all in this area. I fully realize that the loss of one retail customer is not going to break K-Mart, nor is it my intention to do so, but in conscience I cannot patronize you if you continue your association with this walking, talking, irritating source of misinformation.

Little River, SC

Another Good Letter to Congress:

Dear Representative:

Isn't it amazing? Before 1968, when rifles and shotguns could be bought mail order by any adult (and minors easily evaded the law), and there were far fewer gun control laws at either the state or Federal level, we didn't have these massacres in junior highs and high schools. This should be a clue that the cause isn't a lack of gun control, but something else.

Every time we hear about one of these massacres, we shudder, because we know that it could easily happen here, where we live. We can see the rage in the kids, even by fifth grade. My

wife is a substitute teacher about one day a week, and has had first graders say to her, "I'll have my uncle kill you." There's something terribly wrong in our culture right now, and just about everyone but the violent entertainment industry and the Democrat party can see it.

It would be tempting to blame this all on the violent entertainment industry, and certainly, they aren't helping any when they present murder, torture, and violence as "cool." But the underlying problem is a bit more serious, and we don't think you are going to be happy when we point it out, since you have been a longtime champion of the policies that have unwittingly brought on this problem.

Large numbers of children are growing up today emotionally abandoned. In many cases, it is because the parents

divorce. Not only economic instability results, but also emotional instability, as kids try to handle the parents sniping at each other over child support, financial obligations, and Mom or Dad's current live-in boyfriend or girlfriend. The chaos this is creating is painfully visible -- our kids both figured out by fourth grade that we are a "weird family," because we are still together.

Emotional abandonment isn't just driven by divorce; sometimes it is driven by the irrational need for both parents to have important full-time careers with which to buy more toys. The Denver Post coverage of the Littleton killers demonstrates that there are way too many parents focused on their careers to pay attention to their kids.

Dylan Klebold's mother (who is Jewish) somehow missed that her son was wearing swastikas to school.

The parents of both Klebold and Harris were so busy with their careers that they didn't notice sawed-off shotgun barrels around the house, or know that their kids were illegally purchasing guns. They seem to have ignored warning signs, such as the death threats they were making on their web site. Talk about paying no attention -- Klebold and Harris both came from homes where the

parents were passionate gun control activists!

We know that this won't go over well with you, but think about this for a moment. Who is the better daycare provider? The parent? Or someone who works daycare because they couldn't find a better paying job? Who is the better role model for a preschooler? His own mother or father? Or the 4-6 other kids at daycare? We have seen the damage being done by warehousing small children eight hours a day while both parents are off doing their important jobs -- while the most important job of all, raising children, is relegated to someone who, more often than not, didn't graduate high school.

True, not every family has a choice about this. We know that there are men who run off, leaving a mother with no choice

but to go on welfare, or to start working full-time.

But as we look around our area, it is abundantly clear that for every child in daycare because there was no choice, there are at least two kids in daycare because Mom and Dad both want shiny new BMWs. Not surprisingly, two parents come home at the end of long days, and lack the energy for their children, or for each other; and then, divorce starts to seem like an easy way to correct the lack of love they begin to feel.

If we want to fix what's wrong; gun control is a Band-Aid solution on a bleeding stump of a severed arm. If the Federal government wants to "do something", the first step might be some sort of incentive in the tax code for at least one parent to stay home until the kids are at least 10.

But that won't get you many votes from all those model consumers out there, who think that raising children is a lousy job that ought to be contracted out.

Regarding the current "Range Protection" Bill:

I didn't read every comment that you offered to each section/sub-section but I read enough for me to say, "kill this piece of crap!"

I want real range protection for South Carolina, not what a national organization like the NRA thinks is okay or adequate...we know what they think is okay as to the private ownership of AK 47's don't we?

The 'enemy' demands that we read this and every piece of proposed legislation as if we were looking for the loophole/s that would allow us another opportunity to restrict the ownership and free use of firearms...I don't need to be a lawyer to recognize that this bill offers many of those opportunities.

We may have only a small impact on what our 'representatives' are doing to us in Washington but I'd like to think that we have a little more 'influence' here. Thanks for all you do,

Lexington, SC



So Rosie, you wanna arrest Hardyville?

As published in WorldDailyNet © 1999 Claire Wolfe

I don't care if you think it's your right. I say: Sorry, it's 1999. We have had enough as a nation. You are not allowed to own a gun, and if you do own a gun I think you should go to prison.

-- Talk-show host and Kmart spokesperson, Rosie O'Donnel

I usually ignore the mouthings of 15-minute celebrities. I grit my teeth and quietly boycott corporations that fund unfreedom. But Rosie, you and your handlers at Kmart have finally gotten to me.

You want to arrest me -- ME! -- and just about every one of my neighbors. You want to haul away the folks who own the Hog Trough Grill and Feed -- and Dora-the-Exiled-Yalie -- and the Young Curmudgeon -- and old cowboy Nat Lyons -- and my dear Significant Sweetie. All of us!

You want, Rosie -- and don't try to make it sound prettier -- you want uniformed men, armed to the eyeballs, to smash into our houses, ransack our possessions, and haul every one of us to prison. Fifty million Americans locked into cells. That's your dream, Rosie. Fifty million Americans rotting in idleness, or plodding through forced labor, while their children go into foster homes, their businesses go broke and their assets are seized by creditors or alphabet-soup agencies.

And don't say you didn't mean it to happen quite like that, Rosie. "Own a gun ... go to prison." That's how it works.

But worse than you, Rosie, is Kmart, the cheap-goods chain that hires you as its spokes-celebrity. Kmart, dear Friends of Hardyville, says they can't fire Rosie because "she has the right of speech."

Well, make no mistake, she does have that right. And a good thing, too. Even violently-inclined, hate-spewing people like Rosie O'Donnell shouldn't be prosecuted by government for the mere squirting of effluvious verbiage. And that, as any homeschooled child knows, is the protection offered by the First Amendment -- a protection against government censorship or prosecution.

But you also know Kmart's contract with Rosie allows them to bounce her -- hard and fast -- if she offends the customers. The First Amendment's got nothin' to do with it. It's a private agreement they and their lawyers chose to make. On the other hand, Kmart is free to keep Rosie, even if she babbles death threats or racial epithets or starts claiming Kmart is controlled by aliens from the planet Prolapse (which, indeed, it may be).

I'd just shrug if off as one more act of celebrity bigotry if it weren't for a nagging detail:

Kmart turns out to have a ... shall we say, ever so slightly inconsistent ... record on this alleged "right of free speech." A few years ago, their then-spokeshing, golfer Fuzzy Zoeller, blatted this embarrassing remark about Tiger Woods:

That little boy is driving well and he's putting well. He's doing everything it takes to win. So, you know what you guys do when he gets in here? You pat him on the back and say, "Congratulations" and, "Enjoy it" and tell him not to serve fried chicken next year. ... Or collard greens or whatever the hell they serve.

And Fuzzy was gone, gone, gone. Banished from the Big K forever.

Why the double-standard, Kmart? Why does Fuzzy have no right to his views, while Rosie has an absolute right to hers? I asked Kmart. Kmart dodged the question, simply insisting they intend to stand by Rosie.

Could it be that Kmart is so suddenly tolerant of violent bigotry against an American minority because it agrees? My, my, isn't that interesting?

Well, we all know it's okay to demonize gun owners, don't we? So, Kmart, lemme ask you a different question -- a question about those other minorities you do hesitate to offend:

How many of the folks your Rosie wants to haul away are black, Mexican, Korean, Jewish, Puerto Rican, disabled or "disadvantaged" -- Hm, Kmart? How many official, government-sanctioned, Kmart-approved minorities does Rosie want to lock up -- just because they're also gun owners?

Do you really think the idea of being slung into a dank pit for years isn't offensive to those minorities??? Heck, I can't speak for others. I'm merely Irish-hyphenated-American. But I can tell you that if I had to choose between listening to one drunken-Irishman crack from Fuzzy Zoeller or spending 10 years in prison at the behest of Rosie-the-Raider, I probably wouldn't require more than three or four hours to decide which hurt my feelings worse.

Enough, already!

Well, Kmart and Rosie can do as they please.

Question is, what do we please? We gun owners have taken it up the backside, down the throat, and in the heart for 30 years. But some of us just ain't gonna take it any more. No boxcar rides to your camps for us, Rosie. No, not even a polite trip in handcuffs to the local cop shop.

But what do we do besides bluster -- as we wait for whatever Final Solution the Fans of Rosie decide to impose? And what do we do, knowing "they" probably won't arrest us out of the blue -- knowing we'll first have to undergo more of the slow hell described by activist Russ Howard:

The m.o. is the death of a thousand cuts. Ugly guns, large magazines, detachable magazines, flash suppressors, economical guns, effective guns, effective bullets, victimization periods, registration, safety-free zones, one gun a month/year/life, Lautenberg, gun show restrictions, personal transfer prohibitions, etc., etc., etc. Each stab makes it a little more difficult or risky to exercise our rights, until finally the last step -- total confiscation -- isn't so big after all.

Next week, we'll look at some possible answers to the very tough question: What hard decisions will gun owners make, someday soon, to save themselves and freedom?

For today, if you simply want to let Rosie and Kmart know what you think of their sneering contempt, here are a few actions that fall into the category of "protest lite."

You can tell Kmart what hypocrites they are and that you don't shop at bigot-controlled corporations: Kmart2@envnet.com, kmartccn@kmart.com, kmartcustserve@o-ds.com.

Bargain-hunting FreeLife readers might want -- instead of rushing to Kmart -- to rush to this site and get a free webpage with 20MB of storage -- in The Official Rosie O'Donnell Show Community. Russ Howard, who sent this information, hinted that pro-gun webpages would add a welcome touch here. (And Rosie will have to respect your "right of free speech" -- won't she?)

You can flood the mail form on Rosie's Web site with messages asking "Why do you want to have me thrown in prison?" But don't be surprised when no one listens.

1-800 numbers, like this Kmart customer service line, 1-800-635-6278, have been known to be completely shut down by angry callers. And when millions of calls do get through, it costs Kmart a fortune. Don't make serial protest calls from your home phone. It's considered "harassment," and most commercial 1-800 lines are now set to refuse repeated calls from one line. (Remember, 1-800 lines read your phone number, even when you've got caller ID blocking.)

Join Jews for the Preservation of Firearms Ownership to help remind the world that gun control is racist and leads to genocide. If you still have the slightest hope in legislative solutions (which I don't), join Gun Owners of America, the only uncompromising gun lobby.

But all these are momentarily satisfying, ultimately inadequate. Let's quit pretending gun owners have the slightest long-term hope "within the system." One day the Fans of Rosie will come knocking.

We must -- and a few million of us will -- prepare for the day when both we and

See you next week to talk about that. If Rosie doesn't send her armed thugs to Hardyville first, the arms we bear will cease to be "sporting."

GUNS IN AMERICA: THE FACTS...what the media WON'T tell you!!

Preventing law-abiding citizens from carrying firearms for self-defense does not end violent crime - it just makes victims more vulnerable! Society benefits from ordinary people who accept the responsibilities of firearm ownership - not from gun-control laws. Here's why:

SELF-DEFENSE & CRIME

* In 1990, a convicted felon could expect to serve the following prison time: 1.8 years for murder, 60 days for rape, 23 days for robbery, 6.7 days for arson, and 6.4 days for aggravated assault. According to a U.S. Justice Department survey in 17 states, of felony offenders placed on probation in 1986, 43% were re-arrested on other felony charges within 3 years of their release. (1)

* Passage of the Brady Law in 1994 has not been accompanied by a statistically significant decline in murder or robbery. It has been associated with significant increases in rape and aggravated assaults, presumably from the increased difficulty encountered by law-abiding citizens in obtaining firearms for self-defense. (2)

* In 1987, Florida's concealed-carry law went from "may-issue" to "shall-issue" (also known as "Right-To-Carry", or RTC). This meant that issuing authorities must provide a concealed-carry handgun license to all qualified applicants. Other states followed suit, and modeled their own RTC laws after Florida's. On 4/7/98 (the latest date such figures were available), Florida's Dept of Law Enforcement announced that the state's murder rate had dropped, again, in 1997, just as it had in each of the 5 previous years. The additional drop marked the lowest murder rate experienced by "Dodge City East" since 1933. (3)

* In 1982, Kennesaw GA (pop. 17,000) passed a law requiring heads of households to keep at least one firearm in their home, exempting those with criminal records or religious objections. Seven months after it took effect, the residential burglary rate dropped 89%, vs. 10.4% statewide. Since 1982, only 2 murders have

occurred (1984 and 1989), both committed with knives. (4)

* Allowing citizens to carry concealed handguns reduces violent crime. The reduction corresponds very closely to the number of concealed-handgun licenses issued. On average, murder rates in states banning concealed-carry are 127% higher than in states having the most liberal carry laws. A 1% increase in firearm ownership reduces violent crime by 4.1%. Large, densely populated urban areas benefit the most from concealed-carry laws. (5)

* Ordinary, law-abiding Americans use guns defensively 2.5 million times, or more, each year. About 75% of these instances are with handguns. That translates to rapes prevented, injuries avoided, medical costs saved, and property protected. (6)

* Firearms provide the safest and most effective means of resisting violent criminal attack. For robbery and assault, resistance by defenders armed with a gun leads to termination of the incident with the smallest chance of injury to the victim. In U.S. gov't studies, victims resisting robbery with a gun were injured 17.4% of the time. Those who did nothing at all were injured 24.7% of the time. Those who used non-violent resistance, like trying to run away, were injured 35.9% of the time. Those who resisted with a knife were injured 40.3% of the time. For assault, injury rates were 12.1%, 27.3%, 25.5%, and 29.5%, respectively. While 17.4% of those who resisted robbery with a gun were injured overall, this includes victims who were first injured before they used their guns; less than 6% of robbery victims were injured after using a gun to resist. (7)

* Women who carry concealed handguns provide a greater margin of safety for other women. While murder rates decline when either more men or more women carry concealed handguns, the drop is even greater among women than among men. Rapists are particularly susceptible to the deterrence of a potentially armed woman. (5)

* Increased incidents of "road rage" from allowing more citizens to carry guns have not materialized. In the 31 states where it is currently legal for citizens to carry a concealed handgun,

there have been no documented instances of such acts by armed law-abiding citizens. (2)

* Armed defenders lose their guns to an attacker less than 1% of the time. (7)

* The net value of private firearm ownership - the dollar savings from defensive gun use, minus the costs of "gun-violence" - has been estimated at up to \$38.9 billion, annually. (8)

* So-called "assault weapons" are military look-alike semi-automatic firearms, and are exactly the same as guns which have been around for over 100 years -only their looks have changed. Semi-automatic firearms do not "spray" bullets, and are not machine guns - they require a separate pull of the trigger for each shot to be fired, just like a revolver - and are used in 3% or less of all firearm-related crimes. They are the most modern tools the law-abiding citizen can use for self-defense and protection of home and family. They are especially valuable for physically handicapped victims. (9)

* In 1856, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that local law-enforcement had no duty to protect individuals, but only a general duty to enforce the laws. (10) In 1982, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 7th Circuit held that "there is no Constitutional right to be protected by the state against criminals or madmen. The Constitution does not require Federal or State government to provide services, even so elementary a service as maintaining law and order."(11)

* In Great Britain, handguns are outlawed, and possession of long guns is severely restricted. Yet, despite strict gun-control, as of 1995, rates for robbery, assault, burglary, and motor vehicle theft in England and Wales had surpassed those here in the States. On average, for all 4 crimes, English rates were double U.S. rates. (12)

MASS SHOOTINGS & "GUN-FREE" SCHOOL ZONES

* Deaths and injuries from mass public shootings (like Jonesboro AR, and Littleton CO) fall dramatically after RTC concealed-handgun laws are enacted. Where data was available both before and after passage of such laws, the average death rate from mass shootings plummeted by up to 91%

GRSC Feature Article of the Month

after such laws took effect, and injuries dropped by over 80%! (2,13)

* Armed with a hunting rifle, 16-year-old Luke Woodham killed his ex-girlfriend and her close friend, then wounded 7 other students, in 1997 at a high school in Pearl, Mississippi. Assistant Principal Joel Myrick retrieved a handgun from his car, and interrupted Woodham's shooting spree, holding him at bay until police arrived. Earlier that morning, Woodham had stabbed his mother to death. (14)

A similar script played out in 1998 in Edinboro, Pennsylvania, when local merchant James Strand used his shotgun to "coax" 14-year old Andrew Wurst into dropping his gun, and surrendering to police. Wurst had just killed one teacher, wounded another and two classmates. (14)

* "...the recent rash of public school shootings...raise[s] questions about the unintentional consequences of laws. The five public school shootings [which occurred during the 1997-98 school year] took place after a 1995 federal law banned guns (including permitted concealed handguns) within a thousand feet of a school. The possibility exists that attempts to outlaw guns from schools, no matter how well meaning, may have produced perverse effects. It is interesting to note that during the 1977 to 1995 period [of our study], 15 shootings took place in schools in states without right-to-carry laws and only one took place in a state with this type of law. There were 19 deaths and 97 injuries in states without the law, while there was one death and two injuries in states with the law." (13)

* A July 1993 U.S. Department of Justice study found that "boys who own legal firearms...have much lower rates of delinquency and drug use [than those who obtained them illegally] and are even slightly less delinquent than nonowners of guns." It concluded that, "for legal gunowners, socialization appears to take place in the family; for illegal gunowners, it appears to take place 'on the street'." (15)

ACCIDENTS & SUICIDES

* In 1994, fatal firearms accidents dropped 11% from 1993 figures, to the lowest annual number since record-keeping began in 1903. They dropped even lower by almost 7% in 1995.

Motor vehicle accidents, falls, fires, drownings, poisonings, suffocation, and other accidents all accounted for more deaths than did firearm accidents. Among children aged 0-14 years, there were 185 fatal firearms accidents, vs. 500 per year in the mid-1970s. (16)

* In 1993, there were 1,334 drownings and 528 firearm-related accidental deaths from ages 0-19. While firearms outnumber pools by a factor of over 30:1, the risk of drowning in a pool is nearly 100 times higher than from a firearm-related accident. From ages 0-5, the risk of drowning skyrockets to 500 times the risk from a gun! (16,17)

* "Trigger-lock" laws don't equal safety. While California has such a law on the books, it saw a 12% increase in fatal firearm accidents in 1994. Texas doesn't have one, and experienced a 28% decrease, instead. (16) "Trigger-locks" do, however, render guns inaccessible for self-defense.

* Accident and suicide rates are unaffected by the passage of Right-To-Carry concealed handgun laws. (2)

* Suicide rates fluctuate independently of gun control laws and gun ownership. Banning guns will not affect the suicide rate - other equally deadly implements would only be substituted in their place. (18)

THE U.S. CONSTITUTION

* The scholarship on the 2nd Amendment overwhelmingly agrees that it protects an individual right to keep and bear arms, and not simply the right to arm the "militia". (19) In 1982, the Senate Subcommittee on the Constitution evaluated the historical record, and unanimously came to the same conclusion. (20)

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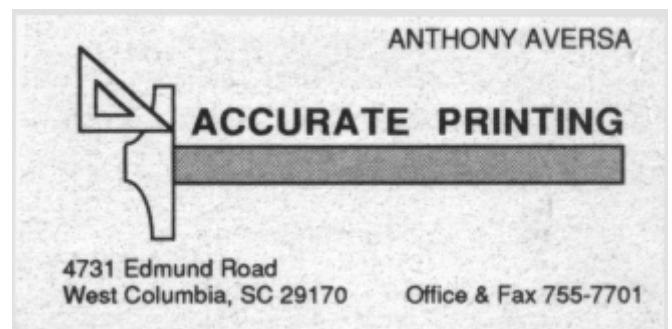
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GRSC Article

Though this may not reflect everyone's view that reads this, I submit this piece as an RKBA article that shows a brave man who put blame where it needed to go: Not to the NRA or Gun Owners, but to the evil within a man's heart. It is a powerful testimony, given to some very corrupt and evil Politicians in Washington, D.C. Let the chips fall where they may. Chris W. Stark

Testimony of Darrell Scott, father of two victims of Columbine High School shooting Littleton, Colorado, before the Subcommittee on Crime House Judiciary Committee, United States House of Representatives.

THURSDAY, MAY 27, 1999
2:00 P.M., 2141 RAYBURN HOUSE
OFFICE BUILDING

Since the dawn of creation there has been both good and evil in the heart of men and of women. We all contain the seeds of kindness or the seeds of violence.

The death of my wonderful daughter Rachel Joy Scott, and the deaths of that heroic teacher and the other children who died must not be in vain. Their blood cries out for answers.

The first recorded act of violence was when Cain slew his brother Abel out in the field. The villain was not the club he used. Neither was it the NCA, the National Club Association. The true killer was Cain and the reason for the murder could only be found in Cain's heart.

In the days that followed the Columbine tragedy, I was amazed at how quickly fingers began to be pointed at groups such as the NRA.

I am not a member of the NRA. I am not a hunter. I do not even own a gun. I am not here to represent or defend the NRA - because I don't believe that they are responsible for my daughter's death. Therefore I do not believe that they need to be defended. If I believed they had anything to do with Rachel's murder I would be their strongest opponent.

I am here today to declare that Columbine was not just a tragedy - it was a spiritual event that should be

forcing us to look at where the real blame lies!

Much of that blame lies here in this room. Much of that blame lies behind the pointing fingers of the accusers themselves.

I wrote a poem just four nights ago that expresses my feelings best. This was written way before I knew I would be speaking here today.

Your laws ignore our deepest needs
Your words are empty air.
You've stripped away our heritage.
You've outlawed simple prayer.

Now gunshots fill our classrooms.
And precious children die.
You seek for answers everywhere.
And ask the question "WHY"?

You regulate restrictive laws.
Through legislative creed.
Add yet you fail to understand.
That God is what we need!

Men and women are three part beings. we all consist of body, soul, and spirit. When we refuse to acknowledge a third part of our makeup, we create a void that allows evil, prejudice, and hatred to rush in and wreak havoc.

Spiritual influences were present within our educational Systems for most of our nation's history. Many of our major colleges began as theological seminaries. This is a historic fact.

What has happened to us as a nation? We have refused to honor God and in doing so, we open the doors to hatred and violence.

And when something as terrible as Columbine's tragedy occurs, politicians immediately look for a scapegoat such as the NRA. They immediately seek to pass more restrictive laws that continue to erode away our personal and private liberties.

We do not need more restrictive laws. Eric and Dylan would not have been stopped by metal detectors. No amount of gun laws can stop someone who spends months planning this type of massacre.

The real villain lies within our OWN hearts. Political posturing and restrictive legislation is not the answers.

The young people of our nation hold the key. There is a spiritual awakening taking place that will not be squelched!

We do not need more religion. We do not need more gaudy Television evangelists spewing out verbal religious garbage. We do not need more million dollar church buildings built while people with basic needs are being ignored.

We do need a change of heart and a humble acknowledgment that this nation was founded on the principle of simple trust in God.

As my son Craig lay under that table in the school library and saw his two friends murdered before his very eyes. He did not hesitate to pray in school. I defy any law or politician to deny him that right!

I challenge every young person in America and around the world to realize that on April 20, 1999 at Columbine High School - - prayer was brought back to our schools. Do not let the many prayers offered by those students be in vain.

Dare to move into the new millennium with a sacred disregard for legislation that violates your conscience and denies your God-given right to communicate with Him.

To those of you who would point your finger at the NRA - I give to you sincere challenge. Dare to examine your own heart before you cast the first stone!

My daughter's death will not be in vain. The young people of this country will not allow that to happen. (end)



GRSC Treasurer Bob Holliday at the Machine Gun Range

Where Kids and Guns DO Mix by Stephen P. Halbrook

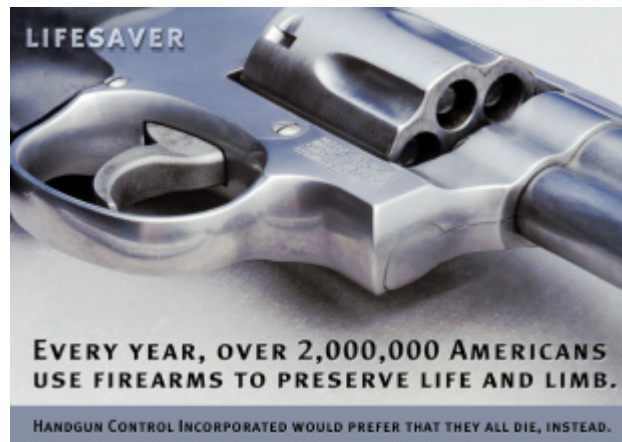
It's a commonplace that the U.S. is far more violent than Western Europe because Americans have easy access to guns. It's also false. To see why, visit Switzerland. Traveling around by car or train, you see shooting ranges everywhere. If there's a Schuetzenfest (shooting festival) in town, you'll find rifles slung on hat racks in restaurants, and you'll see men and women of all ages walking, biking and taking the tram with rifles over their shoulders, to and from the range. They stroll right past the police station and no one bats an eye.

Switzerland has more firepower per person than any other country in the world, yet it is one of the safest places to be. The Swiss Federal Police Office reports that in 1997 there were 87 intentional homicides and 102 attempted homicides in the entire country. Of these 189 murders and attempts, 91 involved firearms. With its population of seven million (including 1.2 million foreigners), Switzerland had a homicide rate of 1.2 per 100,000. There were 2,498 robberies and attempted robberies, of which 546 involved firearms, resulting in a robbery rate of 36 per 100,000. Almost half of these crimes were committed by non-resident foreigners, whom locals call "criminal tourists." In 1993, not a single armed robbery was reported in Geneva. By contrast, Britain, which has strict gun control laws, had a homicide rate in 1994 of 1.4 per 100,000 population, and a robbery rate of 116 per 100,000.

In the wake of the Littleton, Colo., school massacre, Congress is rushing to pass new gun-control measures; the House next week will take up proposed legislation that has already passed the Senate. But there have been no school massacres in Switzerland, where guns and kids mix freely. At shooting matches, bicycles aplenty are parked outside. Inside the firing shelter, competitors pay 12 year-olds to keep score. Sixteen - year - olds shoot rifles with men and women of all ages. A tourist brochure in Zurich recommends September's Knabenschiessen (boy's shooting contest): "The oldest Zurich

tradition ... consists of a shooting contest at the Albisguetli (range) for 12 to 16 year-old boys and girls and a colorful three-day fun-fair."

While many shoot for sport, all males age 20 to 42 are required to keep rifles or pistols at home. Gun shops abound. Yet firearms are rarely used in crime. In America, firearms take on a sinister reputation from the nightly news and violent movies. But in Switzerland, firearms symbolize a wholesome, community activity. And since its founding in 1291, Switzerland has depended on an armed populace for its defense. William Tell used a crossbow



not only to shoot the apple from his son's head, but also to kill the tyrant Gessler. For centuries, the cantonal republic defeated the powerful armies of the European monarchs. "The Swiss are well armed and enjoy great freedom," Machiavelli wrote in 1532.

The Swiss militia model inspired the rebellious American colonists. John Adams praised the democratic Swiss cantons, where every man was entitled to vote on laws and to bear arms. Patrick Henry lauded the Swiss for maintaining their independence without "a mighty and splendid President" or a standing army. The Swiss influence is clear in the Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which provides: "A well regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed."

There may have been various reasons why the Nazis did not invade Switzerland, but one of those reasons is that every Swiss man had a rifle at home. For this we have no better record than the Nazi invasion plans, which stated that, because of Swiss shooting skills, Switzerland would be difficult to

conquer and pacify. European countries occupied by the Nazis had strict gun controls before the war, and the registration lists facilitated confiscation of firearms.

Traditionally, the Swiss cantons have had few firearm regulations, and the first federal firearms law was recently enacted. Certain firearm purchases require a permit, but others do not. On retirement, every soldier may keep his rifle or pistol. And any Swiss citizen can purchase surplus military assault rifles.

Why is well-armed Switzerland so free from crime? The bottom line is one of attitude. Populations with a strong sense of civic virtue do not experience sensational massacres or high crime rates. To the contrary, armed citizens deter crime. America's lawful "gun culture" is as peaceful as the Swiss. Sadly, some of America's subcultures are not.

For an in-depth look at Switzerland, it guns and it's low crime rate, go to <http://www.goa-texas.org/swiss-1.htm>

Mr. Halbrook, an attorney in Fairfax, Va., is author of "Target Switzerland" (Sarpedon, 1998).

A Place to Shoot in South Carolina!

INTERNATIONAL DEFENSIVE PISTOL ASSOCIATION

IDPA is a shooting sport based on practical weapons 9mm or larger, pistol or revolver, with barrels under 5" which are suited for self-defense rather than competition. Iron sights only, no compensators. holsters and ammo carriers are carry type rather than competition equipment. We shoot the first Sunday of each month at **Mid-Carolina Rifle Club** on Fish Hatchery Road in South Congaree, SC. Sign-up is at 8:30 AM and we start shooting promptly at 9.00 AM. You will need three magazines or speed loaders and 50-75 rounds of full power ammunition. We shoot four to six stages and usually finish around Noon. The first match is free! Subsequent matches are \$10.00 You are expected to join IDPA after 2-3 matches. For more information call Sam Jones at 803-791-5498.

South Carolina Concealed Weapons Permit Instructors Association



'No Concealable Weapons' signs alert criminals to safe haven

By William Powell

Article originally published in the Florence Morning News

Signs on the doors of business establishments saying "No Concealable Weapons Allowed" promote crime and are bad for business.

How can this be? Doesn't gun prohibition reduce or prevent gun related crimes? Doesn't this sign "protect" my business and my customers? In a word, no. And here is why: To the criminal predator this sign says, This place is a "watering hole" I think I'll hang around and prey on the defenseless.

To the honest citizen it says, "This place is a watering hole for criminals; I think I'll be safer elsewhere." In a study comprising every county in the United States, Professor John R. Lott and economist David B. Mustard of the University of Chicago concluded, "If those states that did not have right-to-carry concealed gun provisions had adopted them in 1992, approximately 1,570 murders, 4,177 rapes and over 60,000 aggravated assaults would have been avoided yearly" This reduction in crime, according to Professor Lott, would have saved society \$6.21 billion!

Concealed carry alters the environment. 'Where concealed carry is permitted, the criminal knows there is a greater likeli-

hood that someone is carrying a concealed firearm and knows how to use it. But, he doesn't know whom. If only one person in a group of 100 may be armed, the other 99 derive benefits from the one.

'Where concealed carry is prohibited the criminal isn't faced with the problem. If the prohibition is advertised with a sign, that location becomes a "watering hole" where the criminal predators can come to feed on the defenseless. The South Carolina Law Abiding Citizens Self-Defense Act of 1996 asserts the law abiding citizens' right to carry a concealed firearm for defense of self, family and others. Do you know what these law-abiding citizens had to do to obtain a permit to carry a concealed gun? Unless you have read the law you may not be aware of the extensive process of securing a permit.

Let me take you through the process of securing a concealed weapons permit. Applicants must go to a sheriff's office and get an application packet (that is the only free part). Applicants then must be fingerprinted: \$5. Applicants must be photographed: \$10-\$20. Applicants must have their driver's license photocopied and notarized: \$3-\$5. Applicants then fill out an application answering 13 questions dealing with their suitability to obtain a permit, and to purchase and own a handgun. (Falsification of the application is a crime). Purchase of a suitable handgun: \$250-\$750.

Applicants then must find a South Carolina State Law Enforcement Division (SLED) Certified Instructor willing to provide them the training required for permit application. Instruction is not cheap. Courses range from \$50 to more than \$100. Then applicants must obtain a concealment holster \$30-\$50; safety glasses, \$10-\$20; ear protection, \$1 --\$250; and ammunition, \$10- \$20. The course must be at least eight hours long (add a lunch: \$5 -\$10). Applicants are taught handgun use and safety, safe handling and storage of firearms, statutory and case law relating to firearms, self-defense and the judicious use of lethal force. By SLED regulation, applicants also must pass a written test and shoot a 50 round qualification course of fire. Applicants

must score 70 percent or better on each.

Instructors' lesson plans are reviewed and approved by SLED before applicants are allowed teach, and their conformance to the laws and regulations is monitored.

Once the instruction is complete, the instructor certifies the application - but only if the instructor is satisfied that the applicant has the knowledge, skill, and attitude to safely and responsibly carry a firearm. The instructor has the absolute power to refuse to certify anyone by simply refunding his/her money.

The wait then begins. The law-abiding citizen, by now has shelled out well over \$100 for instruction, holster, ammunition, ear and eye protection and lunch. Several more hundred dollars for the cost of a quality gun. The applicants then fork over \$50 to SLED (non-refundable, by the way) as a fee to process the application. The first thing SLED does is to check to see if the applicant's fingerprints were "good enough" to be sent to the FBI. If not, applicants had to do them over \$5. Applicants are then subjected to a FBI fingerprint check, a National Crime Information Computer check, and a SLED check.

'When all that is accepted, SLED then contacts the applicant's sheriff to see if he has any objections. This is a 90-day process. If there are no valid reasons to deny it, the permit is issued - but only for four years. Then applicants have the "privilege" of doing it all over again!

How many people are going to go to this much trouble and spend this much money? The population of South Carolina, according to the 1990 census, is 3,486,703. To date, about 22,000 concealed carry permits have been issued. The rate in Florida, which has had concealed carry since 1987, is 2.6 percent. If Florida is any gauge; there could be 90,000-plus permit holders in South Carolina in a few years. And, collectively applicants will have spent more than \$50 million getting their permits.

As a last thought, do you really believe that a sign is going to cause anyone with criminal intent to leave his gun in the



South Carolina Concealed Weapons Permit Instructors Association

of your certification. They did NOT mention a related cost.

SLED Mandatory Training:

For those instructors who have not received the word, SLED is conducting mandatory training for CWP Instructors next month as follows:

Columbia - Tuesday, July 27th 10:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M. and 6:30 P.M. - 8:30 P.M. Beltline Campus of MTC room 110

Greenville - Wednesday July 28th 6:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M. Greenville Tech Auditorium

Florence - Thursday July 29th 6:30 P.M. - 8:30 P.M. Florence-Darlington Tech 400 Building, room 401

Charleston - Monday, August 2 6:30 P.M. - 8:30 P.M. Trident Tech, Palmer Campus Auditorium

It is my understanding if you miss this training you will be decertified (that's what mandatory means), and unable to teach. There will be NO make up training. As they are offering five sessions around the state it should be possible for all instructors to make one of these sessions.

LADIES WHO TRAVEL AT NIGHT-TAKE HEED! By KAREN L CAMPBELL Attorney at Law

In case you haven't seen the following...please read...very important for your safety. I headed for home by myself at approximately 10 P.M. I was...between exits...when a car pulled into the rightmost lane beside me (I was in the center lane) and started matching speeds with me.

After a minute, I tried to slow down so he would pass. He slowed, too. I regained my previous speed, and he sped up with me. Finally after a few minutes of this, he pulled slightly ahead of me, rolled down his window and motioned towards my tire as though something was wrong.

The man had already begun to make me nervous by driving alongside me for

some distance on the mostly empty highway, and now my training took over. "This man is trying to get me off the road by myself here in the dark," I thought. This, in case you are unfamiliar with the area, is basically the middle of nowhere.

I know my car. I am very careful with maintenance, and I am an experienced driver. I know what a flat tire feels like. I knew my car was fine. I put on my turn signal and moved to the rightmost lane behind the man anyway and slowed down slightly (there is always the chance that something could have been wrong, better to be prepared).

The other car pulled onto the shoulder and started slowing down. Now I knew he was definitely trying to get me to pull over. I passed him; he swerved back on the road and drove right behind me. At the next exit, there were two gas stations. They were well lit and there were a few people there. I exited; he followed. Not only this, but a car I had not previously noticed, that was in front of us suddenly swerved off the exit when I put my turn signal on.

I know this scenario. I grew up in some pretty bad areas. I have had training in this. At this point, everything I had learned was in control. I decided not to stop anywhere. By now there was absolutely no doubt that my car was fine.

When we approached the stop sign at the dark, empty intersection after the gas stations, the car ahead of me put on his left turn signal and stopped. I checked for traffic as I approached the intersection, then pulled around him to the right, and headed straight back for the highway. Both the car that had been ahead and the one that had been following me turned left across the highway and did not pursue further.

I have now carefully checked my car in a safe place when I knew I was no longer being followed. It is in perfect condition. This is a classic scenario for car jackers to use at night. I feel lucky that I was well prepared and didn't have to think too much about what to do.

1. Don't ever let yourself be caught between two cars. Car jackers often work in pairs, attempting to corner your vehicle.

car? I don't think so. However a law-abiding citizen, with a concealed weapon permit, will leave his in the car, although doing so leaves him helpless to protect himself against a criminal predator. And why would many people, with money to spend, want to go where they stand a good chance of being robbed, injured, or killed and unable to defend themselves? Their right of self-defense is denied at any place that prohibits concealed weapons. Are you, the merchant, ready to assume the right of self-defense for these law-abiding citizens who have been certified to be among the most law abiding citizens in the United States of America? Please take your signs down. Help prevent crime and save some lives.

William J. "Bill" Powell of Florence is a SLED certified concealed weapon permit training instructor.

Regarding Instructor Recertification By Lon Currey

I had a chance to talk to Captain Jim McClary at SLED yesterday about the CWP Instructor's recertification that most of us are facing soon. Captain McClary said they will be sending out a letter to all instructors in their month of certification asking them: 1. If they wish to be recertified, 2. How many classes they have taught in the last year, and 3. How many students they have taught in the last year. SLED will require that each instructor provide proof that they are still certified through another agency such as NRA, law enforcement, or the military. In other words DO NOT LET YOUR CERTIFICATION LAPSE!!!

The recertification will simply consist of filling out the enclosed form and returning it to SLED and adding a copy

South Carolina Concealed Weapons Permit Instructors Association



2. Don't ever pull off the road at night by yourself in a dark, unpopulated place.
3. Carry a cell phone - I'm going to get one!
4. Stay calm. Don't try any tricks. If you are in an accident, you are vulnerable.
5. Remember that most criminals want easy victims...DON'T LET YOURSELF BECOME ONE!
6. Make sure you find out how to react BEFORE you are in the situation! These situations are unfortunately real and dangerous. Thinking about it when it happens is too late!
7. ALWAYS make sure you do not stop until you are CERTAIN that help is present or head straight for the police station, and don't stop until you are there. Car jackers often slightly damage vehicles by bumping them from the rear to try to get the driver to get out.

Subject: Incident and Lessons Learned - A Training Discussion Scenario By Dr. Jeff Edwards

We had an incident in our office last month that bears retelling because of several tactical lessons that can be drawn from the scenario.

My 9:00 AM dental patient had been a no show, so I was sitting at the Front desk talking to my receptionist and my assistant. My partner was in back with a patient. Nobody was in the reception area. Our front door looks out directly into the parking area. Anyone coming to our side of the building walks directly toward our door. I saw this guy headed

our way and immediately thought, "Here comes trouble; I hope he's not coming in here." Sort of halfway between geek and redneck. Boots, blue jeans, plaid shirt, the obligatory Buck knife pouch on the belt, and very strange eyes peering from behind thick glasses. I had never met him before, but he was a long time problem child patient of my partner's. As he walked in the door, my assistant greeted him "You must be B---- A-----." "I have to be", he replied, "Nobody else will." The voice had an edge to it and the eyes were not laughing. All three of us caught it.

He had driven fifty miles for his appointment and was two hours early. He wasn't happy to hear that and immediately started complaining about "our" scheduling error. He wasn't a happy camper to begin with. This was an extra appointment to seat a remade crown. The first had been defective as it came from the lab. My partner was tied up, but I had some time. To ease the tension, I offered to deliver the crown. All parties agreed, but as I settled in to work, he shot me a gratuitous sarcastic remark, to which I gave a tactful, but pointed reply. "Whatever", he said. Clearly we were not going to become lifelong friends. My alarm bells continued to ring louder. The guy just was not right.

Our lab man never misses twice on crowns, but this time he did. The crown had to go back for a minor, but essential porcelain touchup. An hour or so turnaround time. We put BA in his original time slot with my partner and called the lab. BA was quietly fuming, but not doing anything overtly threatening. The entire staff approached me individually to mention that they were all scared to death of the guy. My partner shared with me that BA had always been odd because "...he's a recovering alcohol and coke addict and his brain is fried..." My take was that he was probably on something even as we spoke. I began to think of my regular carry Glock 19 back in my study.

I got busy with my regular patients, so could not keep tabs on what went on from there, although the staff gave me periodic updates. BA paced the reception area, stepped outside to chain-

smoke, and made repeated trips to his truck for who knows what. Both my patients commented that he frightened them.

Shortly before our lab man returned with the crown, BA started harassing our receptionist. My partner intervened and there was a sharp verbal exchange. I was too far in back in the office to hear it. It was over before I knew it had happened. When I found out, my vote was to dial 911 and have the guy escorted out. My partner was thoroughly upset, but nixed the idea. He just wanted to finish the job and get BA gone. He had been an irregular patient in the office for ten years, often a butthead, but never dangerous. By now I was convinced the guy was potentially violent. If I couldn't have him put out, I needed to at least be able to handle whatever he might do. Thoughts from De Becker's "Gift of Fear" were much on my mind as I stashed the Glock in an elastic waistband holster under my scrubs. This was in addition the ASP Key Defender that lives in my scrub jacket pocket and the CQC7 I always carry. I began thinking serious tactical applications. Everyone at the office knows that I routinely carry concealed and that in my other life I am a part-time tactical shooting and CCDW instructor. So nobody would do anything stupid, I made sure all staff knew I was carrying the Glock. If anything went down, they were to give me room to operate.

My very nervous partner seated our problem patient. In a few minutes he asked me to step in and try to talk some sense into BA. Politeness on our part was only empowering this guy. He was starting to verbally escalate.

I stepped to the door to try to deescalate the situation. BA took offense and told me to get the hell out. I told him to calm down or I would call 911 and have him removed from the office. Wrong thing to say! Instantly he was up out of the chair and backed against the back wall of the operatory. His hand hovered above the flap of the Buck knife pouch. He challenged me.

"Do you want to dance??!!"

South Carolina Concealed Weapons Permit Instructors Association



In my best command voice, I told him to sit down and chill out. We had a couple seconds' staredown that seemed to last forever. The distance was 9 feet; way inside Tueller distance, but his hand wasn't moving for the knife flap. Actually, I felt relieved that he would be going for the knife; not a gun. Having practiced knife presentations from a similar rig, I knew my draw and fire time with the Glock was way faster than BA was likely to get the Buck up and running. Also, a sidestep offline would put a wall between us, if he charged, and I could back out of the hole all the way down the hall.

I had my hand on the OC in my pocket, but ready to go for the Glock. If he took a step without the knife he was going to get sprayed. If his hand so much as twitched on the pouch flap, the gun was coming out and BA was in all probability going to get shot - several times.

As we faced off, I had two conflicting thoughts:

"Thank God for my training. Unless things go all to hell, I've got this guy cold." And...

"Here I am with people's lives, (not to mention my professional career) on the line, and the entire decision on what happens next is his!"

Politeness and respect for my partner's prerogatives with his own patients had left us all in an escalated situation that could have been avoided, had we all paid sufficient attention to the signs.

Just as I was about to reinforce my position by drawing the gun, my partner

moved to defuse the situation. He stepped in between us, right into my line of fire, and put his hands on BA's shoulders to settle him down!

He had been so deep into fear and auditory exclusion that he had not heard me when I told him I had the Glock, and it had not registered with him, even though he looked directly at it! He also had no clue that BA had a knife and was about to draw it.

But anyway, his move worked. It broke the moment, gave BA an excuse to back down, and let me disengage. Later he told me that BA must have been scared to death. It took him a good ten minutes to stop shaking, and he was on his best behavior the rest of the way. I'm sure BA never knew I was armed or how close he came to being shot. Meanwhile, I composed myself and thought just how close I had come to winning a fight and seeing my career go down the tube. I could see the headlines. "Dentist tries to cap tooth; ends up capping patient." Not good.

Checking BA out with my LEO connections revealed a long history of alcohol related incidents; at least one involuntary / forcible detention at the local state mental hospital; and a Signal 10-B officer safety alert - "police fighter".

Lessons learned:

1. Trust your instincts.
2. Have a gun.
3. There is no substitute for training; particularly force on force with "paint" loads.
4. Do not expect proper cooperation from untrained bystanders. (In this case, my partner has karate training and some tactical handgun courses. But he's a dilettante and totally lacks the tactical mindset.)
5. Do not let this sort of thing escalate. Let the police handle it if possible.

6. Things may escalate suddenly, so that 911 is no longer an option.

6. #4 and #5 suggest you may have to call the police before it becomes clearly necessary. That is very likely to leave you with a highly pissed off subject who hasn't **actually** done anything. (Yet.)

7. For legal and professional reasons LEO's may be able to escalate preemptively much earlier than a non-LEO. That puts the average citizen closer to the edge of the time, distance, and tactics equation. Yet the LEO has greater training and experience in reading the subject's propensity for violence.

8. Preparedness, mindset, tactics, recognition / response, mobility, and instant weapon accessibility are at least as important for the non LEO as for his/her badge carrying counterpart. The non-LEO often must be more reactive than proactive. That is a tactical disadvantage.

9. Psychological dominance of the scenario is critical. I knew BA was potentially dangerous and stacked the deck accordingly. He could only guess about me.

10. Having tactical dominance is fine if you have to fight. Far better to avoid the fight. Let things go too far, and the choice passes from your hands. (end)



SCCWPIA President Lon Curry and GRSC's Jason Dickey at MCRC Picnic

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

LIST 7/99 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:

Crown-Stone Printing Co 819 Main Street

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.

National Tax Svc 3707 Main St

Charleston:

Charleston Steel & Metal

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:

Sportsman's Shop and Stop 2810 Hwy 15 South

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

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

Tri Star Storage II / Cash Advance 2220 Peach Orchard

Sumter (Continued):

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

Pro-Glo Paint and Body Shop 2085 Jefferson Road

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:

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.

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 7/99 COPY & DISTRIBUTE

Walterboro:

Low Country Marine 903 Green Pond Hwy.
Dixie Auto Parts 501 E Bells Hwy.
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.
Warshaws Store for Men 216 E. Washington St.
Gold Collection 501 Bells Hwy.
Seigler Brothers One Hour Photo 501 Bells Hwy.
Carpets of Walterboro 601 Bells Hwy.
Hunan Chinese Restaurant 339 N. Jefferies Blvd.
Washington Street Café' 242 Washington St.
S.C. Electric and Gas - All Locations
Costal Electric Co-operative 2269 Jefferies Hwy.
Cannady Agency 305 E. Washington St
Sweet Grass Washington St
American General Finance 475 Bells Hwy
Allied Department Store 205 E. Washington St

Murrells Inlet:

Inlet Square Mall 10125 HWY 17 By-Pass,

Pawley's Island:

Tuesday Morning 364 Highway 17 North

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

Myrtle Beach:

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

Swansea:

Shelton's Rainbow BP 100 West First Street

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 Wiggly 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
Lowes Hardware - All Locations
Rush's Restaurants
McCall's Supply
Little Pigs Barbecue
Chamber of Commerce Walterboro
Discount Auto Parts
Domino's Pizza on Two Notch
Cost Cutter's Barber Shop
Dixie Furniture in Walterboro
Walterboro Chamber of Commerce*

*Burger King Walterboro
Warshaws Mens Shop
Perkin's Family Restaurant
Food Chief Store #22
Crosby Herndon Music
Thyme Out Exxon
Greenville Carmike Cinemas
If It's Paper
Best Stop Stores (pending)
Denny's Restaurants
Burlington Coat Factory
Collins Jewelry
Wal-Mart #2214 in Columbia
Lee's Grocery
Spann's Store
Becknell Cleaners
Camden Gas and Oil
Granger in Columbia
Food Lion of Ravenel
Ed's Paint Center*

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

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Email irish@logicsouth.com

Legislative Update

Legislative Update

By Rob Butler, J.D.

Current as of June 10, 1999:

These bills are currently in the SC legislature for consideration:

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

*** THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT BILL IS H3419 ***

*** **H3419** - A so called range protection bill that will close most shooting ranges and force clubs to limit membership in the few shooting ranges that do not close. H3419 will cause the death of the shooting sports in South Carolina if passed by the Senate in its present form. H3419 needs major changes to be acceptable to gun owners. The major problems with H3419 are listed below, along with proposed solutions.

PROBLEM 1: The definition of "shooting range."

The definition of "shooting range" will require all ranges to guarantee that a discharged bullet can not leave the premises of the range. H3419 states this can be accomplished by either:

- 1) owning enough land such that any discharged bullet would still fall on the range property, or
- 2) having impact barriers to stop any discharged bullet.

Owning enough land to ensure the discharged bullet would land on range property if it did not impact a berm is prohibitively expensive for private ranges. Therefore, the end result is that only the government would have shooting ranges. This is an unacceptable alternative.

Providing impact barriers to ensure a discharged bullet could not leave the range premises would require a roof over the firing points, and walls or berms around the range. Any outside shooting sport that required movement would be eliminated due to the prohibitive expense of building a roof over all possible firing points. Cowboy action shooting, USPSA, and IDPA would all come to a quick end in SC. Many smaller ranges would close even to those shooting sports where all shooting is done from one firing point because of the expense of building roofs over the firing points.

SOLUTION TO PROBLEM 1:

Amend the definition of shooting range. The legal standard required by most laws where human life is involved is a reasonableness standard, i.e. a standard that requires reasonable efforts to prevent harm to others. A definition requiring a range to make reasonable efforts to prevent the escape of projectiles to protect surrounding property owners must be adopted, not the absolute standard that is currently included in H3419. Shooting ranges can meet a reasonableness standard, but not an absolute standard.

PROBLEM 2: The definition of "substantial change in the use" and Section 31-18-40(C).

The definition of "substantial change in use" and Section 31-18-40(C) will both force all ranges to close to new members because each provides a range will lose its immunity from lawsuits if there is an "expansion of activity." The term "expansion of activity" is not defined in the law. A court would look to the purpose of the law to determine how to interpret the term. The purpose of the law is to strike a balance between the rights of the range and the rights of the surrounding property owners. Therefore, the court would most likely find any action taken by the range to increase the amount of noise produced was an expansion of activity. The following actions could increase the amount of noise: 1) any increase in membership of the range, 2) any increase in the number of rounds fired, 3) any increase in the number of matches held, 4) any increase in the number of participants at matches, or 5) any increase in the types of firearms that produce louder noises. Since no range would be willing to lose its immunity from lawsuits, the shooting sports will close to all new shooters. This is a death sentence for the shooting sports, not protection.

SOLUTION TO PROBLEM 2:

Delete the phrase "expansion of activity" from the definition of "substantial change in the use" and delete the original Section 31-18-40(C).

PROBLEM 3: The failure to protect the owners, operators, and users of a shooting range.

The bill does not give protection to the owners, operators, or users of the range.

A good attorney could close down a shooting range just by suing the owners, operators, and users of the range and not the range itself.

SOLUTION TO PROBLEM 3:

Amend H3419 to include protection of the owners, operators, and users of a shooting range everywhere protection is provided to the shooting range.

PROBLEM 4: No protection from county or municipal zoning regulations.

H3419 would allow local government to close shooting ranges due to zoning changes. This would allow local governments to circumvent the range protection law by using zoning regulations instead of noise control ordinances to close ranges.

SOLUTION TO PROBLEM 4:

H3419 needs to be amended to close this loophole by either deleting Section 31-18-50, or inserting the word "new" as a qualifier to the shooting ranges that a local government can regulate with zoning regulations.

PROBLEM 5: The failure to protect shooting ranges from state agency rules or regulations.

H3419 grandfathers in ranges existing as of January 1, 1999, with respect to county or municipal noise control ordinances, but gives no protection from state agency rules or regulations. Shooting range protection should require the legislature to enact any changes affecting shooting ranges, not a state agency not accountable to the voters.

SOLUTION TO PROBLEM 5:

Amend H3419 to include state agency rules and regulations along with county or municipal noise control ordinances as not being applicable to shooting ranges under certain circumstances.

PROBLEM 6: No protection for new shooting ranges where there are no existing noise control ordinances.

If a new shooting range is established where no noise control ordinance exists, H3419 would give the shooting range no protection. This loophole needs to be closed.

SOLUTION TO PROBLEM 6:

Amend H3419 by adding a new Section 31-18-40(C) to replace the original Section 31-18-40(C) which must be deleted.

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PROBLEM 7: Statutes of limitation.

The statutes of limitation are too long. Subjecting a shooting range to up to 5 years of liability to suit is an unreasonable period of time.

SOLUTION TO PROBLEM 7:

Amend H3419 to shorten the statutes of limitation to one year.

Below is H3419 with the above proposed solutions included in the text.

~~Strikeout text~~ is text to be deleted.

Underlined text is text to be added.

A BILL

TO AMEND TITLE 31, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO HOUSING AND REDEVELOPMENT BY ADDING CHAPTER 18 SO AS TO ENACT THE "SOUTH CAROLINA SHOOTING RANGE PROTECTION ACT OF 1999"; TO DEFINE "SHOOTING RANGE" AND "SUBSTANTIAL CHANGE IN USE"; TO REGULATE NUISANCE ACTIONS IN CONNECTION WITH THE ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY NEAR EXISTING SHOOTING RANGES, THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SHOOTING RANGES NEAR EXISTING PROPERTY, AND DORMANT SHOOTING RANGES; TO PROVIDE CONDITIONS AND LIMITATIONS FOR REGULATION OF NOISE CONTROL OF A SHOOTING RANGE BY COUNTY OR MUNICIPAL ORDINANCES; AND TO PROVIDE THAT THIS CHAPTER DOES NOT PROHIBIT A LOCAL GOVERNMENT FROM REGULATING THE LOCATION AND CONSTRUCTION OF A SHOOTING RANGE AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS ACT.

Amend Title To Conform

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

SECTION 1. Title 31 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

"CHAPTER 18 South Carolina Shooting Range Protection Act

Section 31-18-10. This chapter may be cited as 'The South Carolina Shooting Range Protection Act of 1999'.

Section 31-18-20. As used in this chapter: (1) 'shooting range' or 'range' means an area that is:

(a) designated, utilized, and operated by a person for the firing of firearms; where, (b) the firing of firearms is the usual, regular, and primary activity occurring in the area; and where,

~~(c) the improvements, size, geography, and vegetation of the area ensure that a projectile discharged from a firearm in the general direction of a target does not escape its boundaries by virtue of the trajectory of the projectile, or by virtue of a backstop, berm, bullet trap, impact barrier, or similar device designed to prevent the escape of such projectiles.~~

(c) reasonable measures have been implemented to prevent the escape of projectiles discharged from firearms from leaving the premises of the shooting range by virtue of a berm backstop, bullet trap, impact barrier, or similar device designed to prevent the escape of such projectiles.

(2) 'person' means an individual, partnership, limited liability company, corporation, club, association, governmental entity, or other legal entity.

(3) 'substantial change in use' or 'substantial change in the use' means that the current primary use of the range no longer represents the activity previously engaged in at the range ~~or an expansion of the activity at the shooting range.~~

Section 31-18-30. (A) Except as provided in this subsection, a person may not maintain a nuisance action for noise against a shooting range, or the owners, operators, or users of the range, located in the vicinity of that person's property if the shooting range was established as of the date the person acquired the property. If there is a substantial change in the use of the range after the person acquires the property, the person may maintain a nuisance action if the action is brought within ~~three years~~ one year from the beginning of the substantial change.

(B) A person who owns property in the vicinity of a shooting range that was established after the person acquired the property may maintain a nuisance action for noise against that shooting range, or the owners, operators, or users of the range, only if the action is brought within ~~five years~~ one year after establishment of the range or ~~three years~~ after a substantial change in use of the range.

(C) If there has been no shooting activity at a range for a period of three years, resumption of shooting is considered establishment of a new shooting range for purposes of this section.

Section 31-18-40. (A) A county, ~~or~~ municipal, or state agency noise control ordinance, rule, or regulation may not require or be applied to require a shooting range to limit or eliminate shooting activities that have occurred on a regular basis before January 1, 1999

(B) A county, ~~or~~ municipal, or state agency noise control ordinance, rule, or regulation may not be applied to a shooting range that was in compliance with a noise control ordinance as of the date of its establishment, provided there is no substantial change in the use of the range subsequent to its initial compliance.

(C) A county, municipal, or state agency noise control ordinance, rule, or regulation may not be applied to a shooting range that was in existence prior to the enactment of a noise control ordinance, rule, or regulation, provided there is no substantial change in the use of the range.

~~(CD) Nothing in this section limits the ability of a county or municipality to regulate noise produced by the expansion of activity at a shooting range.~~

Section 31-18-50. Except as otherwise provided in this chapter or the law of this State, this chapter does not prohibit a local government from regulating the location and construction of a new shooting range after the effective date of this chapter."

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

Our position: Either amend H3419 or kill it. This bill is bad. H3419 will close

Legislative Update

most shooting ranges. The few shooting ranges that remain open will be forced to close to new members. This bill does more harm than good because once legislators can claim they passed a "range protection" bill, they are not going to pass another range protection bill to fix the problems in the first one. We must ask for what we want the first time.

Principle used: We are the protectors of liberty and freedom for the generations to come, just as our forefathers fought for the liberty and freedom we now enjoy. We do not want to be known as the generation that sold our children's rights for our own selfish temporary wants. We would rather fight for a good bill that gives protection to all shooters and ranges, and provides protection of the shooting sports for our children and grand children, too.

Major Problem: There is some misguided support for this bill. The NRA, GOSC, and some existing gun clubs are supporting this bill. Please read carefully the problems listed above. Can you HONESTLY SUPPORT this bill? You must let your legislators know YOU ARE A GUN OWNER AND YOU DO NOT SUPPORT H3419 regardless of what they are told by those who claim to represent gun owners in SC. This is the most important piece of firearms related legislation currently in the legislature because it can kill the RTKBA in SC.

Current Status: Passed House and in Senate Judiciary committee.

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

Other Bills Before the Legislature:

*** **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. This bill would include all schools - public, private, church, and home schools - in the definition of a school.

Our position: This bill is not needed because there are already felony laws to punish those who fire into an occupied building. This bill will only punish the innocent, not criminals. It is not possible for any person to know where all schools (public, private, home, and church) 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 school nearby. Our knee jerk legislators pulled this bill from committee immediately after the tragedy in Colorado and tried to pass it. Your grass roots activism initially convinced five legislators to put H3128 on the contested calendar, then it was put back into committee once the hysteria died down. We still need to kill this bill if it starts to move next year.

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.

Current Status: In House Judiciary Committee.

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

*** **S877** - A bill to deny people their RTKBA for mere misdemeanors if the misdemeanor is for threats of domestic violence, domestic violence, or violating a Family Court order. The legislature already provides punishment of those found guilty of violating Sections 16-25-20 and 16-25-50 with fines up to \$500 or jail time of no more than 30 days because they are considered minor offenses. Violation of Section 16-25-65 is currently punishable by up to a \$3,000 fine and up to 10 years in prison because it is considered a major offense. Violation of the major offense already denies a person the RTKBA. Why should minor offenses be treated the same as major offenses for gun owners and their RTKBA, especially when the threat of domestic violence, domestic violence, or violating a Family Court order does not even have to involve a firearm to get the penalty of denying a person the RTKBA? S877 would also deny people their RTKBA while subject to a protective court order. A person can have their RTKBA denied without ever being convicted of a crime.

Our position: This is a bad bill and needs to be killed.

Principle used: To deny a person the RTKBA is a major punishment and should not be permitted as punishment for misdemeanors. The RTKBA should not be denied to a person who has not been convicted of a crime.

Current Status: In Senate Judiciary Committee.

Current status and text can be found at: <http://www.lpittr.state.sc.us/bills/877.htm>

*** **S868** - This bill would mandate a minimum prison term of 2 years for transferring a handgun to a person under 21 years of age. Additionally, it would put armed police into our public schools.

Our position: We have other issues that need to be addressed first.

Principle used: The only issue we might want to address is why a person between the ages of 18 and 21 is responsible enough to tell other people how to live their lives through the power of the vote, but is not responsible enough to run their own life. We have limited resources and this issue does not make it to the top.

Current Status: In Senate Education Committee.

Current status and text can be found at: <http://www.lpittr.state.sc.us/bills/868.htm>

H3420 - The original version of this bill was completely discarded in the House Judiciary Committee and replaced with all new language thanks to your overwhelming grass roots efforts. This bill now prevents any level of government (other than the federal government) from pursuing a frivolous lawsuit against gun and ammo manufacturers and dealers.

Our position: GRSC was opposed to this bill as originally worded, but now it is a good bill and worthy of our support. It would be a better bill if it included the state preemption clause found in S621.

Principle used: The person who misuses a firearm should be held responsible, not the manufacturer or dealer. People should take responsibility for their own actions. Placing the blame on manufacturers and dealers just because they have "deeper" pockets is wrong.

Current Status: Passed House and in Senate Judiciary 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. Your grass roots activism persuaded the House to amend the bill to eliminate the felony threat to reloaders for merely possessing powder and primers.

Our position: This bill was amended to protect reloaders and we no longer need to take a position on this bill.

Principle used: We do not have a dog in this fight.

Legislative Update

Current Status: Passed House and in Senate Judiciary committee.

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

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 or zoning regulations.

Our position: S621 is a good bill because it expands the state preemption law, but H3420 is a better bill because it even prevents the state from filing a frivolous lawsuit. We need to get the preemption clause in S621 added to H3420.

Principle used: The person who misuses a firearm should be held responsible, not the manufacturer or dealer.

Current Status: In Senate Judiciary committee.

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

Current Status: S505 passed House and Senate and signed into law by Governor Hodges on 6/11/99. Bill H3632 has passed the House and is in Senate Judiciary 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.htm>

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: Who cares?

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.

Current Status: In House Judiciary committee.

Current status and text can be found at:

DisplayText cannot span more than one line.

H3142 & S147 - Bills to give law enforcement and retired law enforcement officers 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.

Current Status: In respective House and Senate Judiciary committees.

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.

Current Status: In respective House and Senate Judiciary committees.

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 which would impose prison terms of up to three years and/or fines up to \$2,000.00.

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.

Current Status: In Senate Judiciary committee.

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

H3380 - Another trigger lock bill which would impose prison terms of up to one year and/or fines up to \$1,000.00.

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.

Current Status: In House Judiciary committee.

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



*(below) Dr. Robert Butler Enjoying
MCRC Picnic with Roger Thorndike*

Grass Roots Activist's 1999 Year in Review Scorecard!

The first legislative session is just about over and it is time to evaluate how y'all have done. I say "y'all have done" because it is YOU who are the ones contacting your legislators and letting them know what you think. We at GRSC tell you the truth about these bills and let you do the rest. We act as a team and we either fail or succeed as a team.

One of our successes has been our auto mailer. Our auto mailer on the GRSC web site has been responsible for sending over 3,500 emails to our legislators. Unfortunately, some of our legislators think the expensive computers on their desks (paid for by your tax dollars) are merely paper weights and they do not check for or respond to email. Therefore, we need to be sure to send post cards in addition to our emails when we decide to try to influence legislation. It never hurts to call your legislators either. Every kind of contact helps.

Y'all can be proud for forcing changes to H3420. Because of your grass roots actions, H3420 was changed from a bad bill that discriminated against gun owners to a good bill which protects the gun industry from frivolous lawsuits. Next year we need to get this bill passed by the Senate.

Y'all can be proud for stopping H3128 from being voted upon in a knee jerk reaction to the tragedy in Colorado. While the nation mourned the tragedy in Colorado, our legislators unanimously pulled this horrible unneeded bill from committee and tried to get it passed without allowing for public hearings to expose the evils of this bill. Your grass roots actions got H3128 put on the contested calendar and then sent back to committee. Next year, we need to kill H3128 if it starts to move because it is a bad bill that will only punish innocent gun owners.

Y'all can be proud for forcing changes to H3804. This bill had 80 cosponsors and was assured of passage. Your grass roots actions saved reloaders from being turned into felons.

Y'all can be proud for getting passage of S505 in both the House and Senate. Once the governor signs the bill, SC citizens can buy firearms from the US government without becoming felons.

The above bills were all effected by your grass roots actions of email, letters, post cards, and phone calls. All of SC should be proud of and thankful for your hard work, I know I am.



Next year, we have a really big job ahead of us. Please read carefully all about H3419, the so called range protection bill which could have been written by HCI. We have been so busy trying to stop or change legislation at both the SC and Federal levels that we allowed this bill to pass the SC House in a form that will kill the shooting sports in SC. We need to change or kill H3419 in the Senate, or be responsible for our children not being able to enjoy shooting in SC. Do we protect our RTKBA, or do we sell out for thirty pieces of silver? The choice is ours.



A Parable

The Parable of the Sheep by Charles Riggs

Not so long ago and in a pasture too uncomfortably close to here, a flock of sheep lived and grazed. They were protected by a dog, who answered to the master, but despite his best efforts from time to time a nearby pack of wolves would prey upon the flock.

One day a group of sheep, bolder than the rest, met to discuss their dilemma. 'Our dog is good, and vigilant, but he is one and the wolves are many. The wolves he catches are not always killed, and the master judges and releases many to prey again upon us. for no reason we can understand. What can we do? We are sheep, but we do not wish to be food, too!'

One sheep spoke up, saying 'It is his teeth and claws that make the wolf so terrible to us. It is his nature to prey, and he would find any way to do it, but it is the tools he wields that make it possible. If we had such teeth, we could fight back, and stop this savagery.' The other sheep clamored in agreement, and they went together to the old bones of the dead wolves heaped in the corner of the pasture, and gathered fangs and claw and made them into weapons.

That night, when the wolves came, the newly armed sheep sprang up with their weapons and struck at them, crying, 'Be gone! We are not food!' and drove off the wolves, who were astonished. When did sheep become so bold and so dangerous to wolves? When did sheep grow teeth? It was unthinkable!

The next day, flush with victory and waving their weapons, they approached the flock to pronounce their discovery. But as they drew nigh, the flock huddled together and cried out, 'Baaaaaaaadddd! Baaaaaaaadddd things! You have bad things! We are afraid! You are not sheep!'

The brave sheep stopped, amazed. 'But we are your brethren!' they cried. 'We are still sheep, but we do not wish to be food. See, our new teeth and claws protect us and have saved us from slaughter. They do not make us into wolves, they make us equal to the wolves, and safe from their viciousness!'

'Baaaaaaaad!' Cried the flock, 'the things are bad and will pervert you, and we fear them. You cannot bring them into the flock!' So the armed sheep resolved to conceal their weapons, for although they had no desire to panic the flock, they wished to remain in the fold. But they would not return to those nights of terror, waiting for the wolves to come.

In time, the wolves attacked less often and sought easier prey, for they had no stomach for fighting sheep who possessed tooth and claw even as they did. Not knowing which sheep had fangs and which did not, they came to leave sheep out of their diet almost completely except for the occasional raid, from which more than one wolf did not return.

Then came the day when, as the flock grazed beside the stream, one sheep's weapon slipped from the folds of her fleece, and the flock cried out in terror again, 'Baaaaaaaad! you still possess these evil things! We must ban you from our presence!'

And so they did. The great chief sheep and his council, encouraged by the words of their advisors, placed signs and totems at the edges of the pasture forbidding the presence of hidden weapons there. The armed sheep protested before the council, saying, 'It is our pasture, too, and we have never harmed you! When can you say we have caused you hurt? It is the wolves, not we, who prey upon you. We are still sheep, but we are not food!' But the flock drowned them out with cries of 'Baaaaaaaadddd! We will not hear your clever words! You and your things are evil and will harm us!'

Saddened by this rejection, the armed sheep moved off and spent their days on the edges of the flock, trying from time to time to speak with their brethren to convince them of the wisdom of having such teeth, but meeting with little success. They found it hard to talk to those who, upon hearing their words, would roll back their eyes and flee, crying 'Baaadddd! Bad things!'

That night, the wolves happened upon the sheep's totems and signs, and said, 'Truly, these sheep are fools! They have told us they have no teeth! Brothers, let us feed!' And they set upon the flock, and horrible was the carnage in the midst of the fold. The dog fought like a demon, and often seemed to be in two places at once, but even he could not halt the slaughter.

It was only when the other sheep arrived with their weapons that the wolves fled, only to remain on the edge of the pasture and wait for the next time they could prey, for if the sheep were so foolish once, they would be so again. This they did, and do still.

In the morning, the armed sheep spoke to the flock, and said, 'See? To be a sheep does not mean to be food for wolves!' But the flock cried out, more feebly for their voices were fewer, though with no less terror, 'Baaaaaaaadddd! These things are bad! If they were banished, the wolves would not harm us! Baaaaaaaad!'

So they resolved to retain their weapons, but to conceal them from the flock; to endure their fear and loathing, and even to protect their brethren if the need arose, until the day the flock learned to understand that as long as there were wolves in the night, sheep would need teeth to repel them.

They would still be sheep, but they would not be food! (end)



GRSC President Ed Kelleher Speaking to media at MCRC Picnic

How Can We Blame it All on Guns? by Addison L. Dawson as published in the San Angelo Standard Times 4/27/99

Editor:

For the life of me, I can't understand what could have gone wrong in Littleton, Colo. If only the parents had kept their children away from the guns, we wouldn't have had such a tragedy. Yeah, it must have been the guns.

It couldn't have been because of half our children being raised in broken homes.

It couldn't have been because our children get to spend an average of 30 seconds in meaningful conversation with their parents each day. After all, we give our children quality time.

It couldn't have been because we treat our children as pets and our pets as children.

It couldn't have been because we place our children in day care centers where they learn their socialization skills among their peers under the law of the jungle while employees who have no vested interest in the children look on and make sure that no blood is spilled.

It couldn't have been because we allow our children to watch, on average, seven hours of television a day filled with the glorification of sex and violence that isn't fit for adult consumption.

It couldn't have been because we allow our children to enter into virtual worlds in which, to win the game, one must kill as many opponents as possible in the most sadistic way possible.

It couldn't have been because we have sterilized and contracepted our families down to sizes so small that the children we do have are so spoiled with material things that they come to equate the receiving of the material with love.

It couldn't have been because our children, who historically have been seen as a blessing from God, are now being viewed as either a mistake created when contraception fails or inconveniences that parents try to raise in their spare time.

It couldn't have been because our nation is the world leader in developing a culture of death in which 20 million to

30 million babies have been killed by abortion.

It couldn't have been because we give two-year prison sentences to teen-agers who kill their newborns. It couldn't have been because our school systems teach the children that they are nothing but glorified apes who have evolutionized out of some primordial soup of mud by teaching evolution as fact and by handing out condoms as if they were candy.

It couldn't have been because we teach our children that there are no laws of morality that transcend us, that everything is relative and that actions don't have consequences. What the heck, the president gets away with it.

Nah, it must have been the guns.

Addison L. Dawson
San Angelo

DCM, Military Gun Ban Repealed In South Carolina

by Joseph P. Tartaro

Individual activism on behalf of the right to keep and bear arms can still pay big dividends as the June 9 repeal of the South Carolina ban on semi-automatic military style rifles reveals.

The state legislature voted to change the language so as to safeguard thousands of gunowners who could have been prosecuted under the old statutory language which was an outright ban on all rifles, shotguns and handguns which had originally been designed and manufactured under a military contract.

The new language amending the statute is more precise to the legislature's intent. It reads: "Military firearm" means any military weapon, firearm, or destructive device, other than a machinegun, that is manufactured for military use by a firm licensed by the federal government pursuant to a contract with the federal government and does not include a pistol, rifle, or shotgun which fires only one shot for each pull of the trigger.

The careful wording of the "one shot for each pull of the trigger" eliminated the usual legislative debate over "assault weapons" and "semi-automatic" actions.

Sponsor of the repeal measure was Rep. Dwight Loftis (R-19th Dist.) and Senator Larry Martin (R 2nd). The story of how he became the legislative champion for

this bill is a text book case in grassroots politics.

In 1994, Weldon Clark (a member of the 2ndAmendmentNews Team), a long time gun rights activist in Maryland, Pennsylvania, South Carolina and nationally as a member of the NRA board of directors, was asked by a friend, Rick Daniel, to help the election campaign of Loftis, then a candidate for the South Carolina House of Representatives.

With the help of other gunowners, including Frank Allen, Loftis was elected.

Another flashback is needed in the story: When Clark first relocated to his native South he was astonished to learn that it was illegal to transport, store, keep, posses, sell, rent or give away a "military firearm;" that is any firearm manufactured for military use by a firm licensed by the federal government pursuant to a contract with the federal government. Yet, when going to firearms events he saw many such firearms. Obviously the law was not being enforced.

Clark copied and read all sections of the South Carolina laws on firearms, and decided on a subtle approach. He decided to modify the definition in the law and wrote the new language with the help of Rob Butler.

Then Clark went to state Sen. Larry A. Martin (R-2nd Dist.) and Rep. Loftis (R19th) and asked them to introduce his proposal. They did as S-505 and H-3632. To avoid massive publicity which could be harmful, he did not notify or seek the help of any pro-gun group, including NRA which had opposed the governor for election.

Clark supported his proposal with a convincing justification argument and helped answer all questions about the amended law.

Now the bill has been signed by Democratic Gov. Jim Hodges and this issue is resolved. But the repeal of an onerous gun law in the Palmetto State, even if it was not being enforced, is a step forward for gunowners, and an example of what can be accomplished by dedicated activists anywhere.

Disarming Good People

As published in the Washington Times
Editor's note: The following is an open letter from 287 economists, law-school professors and other academics to Congress, regarding gun-control legislation before the House of Representatives. Some but not all of the names of the signatories appear here.

After the tragic attacks at public schools over the last two years, there is an understandable desire to "do something." Yet, none of the proposed legislation would have prevented the recent violence. The current debate focuses only on the potential benefits from new gun control laws and ignores the fact that these laws can have some very real adverse effects. Good intentions don't necessarily make good laws. What counts is whether the laws will ultimately save lives, prevent injury, and reduce crime. Passing laws based upon their supposed benefits while ignoring their costs poses a real threat to people's lives and safety.

These gun control laws will primarily be obeyed by law-abiding citizens and risk making it less likely that good people have guns compared to criminals. Deterrence is important and disarming good people relative to criminals will increase the risk of violent crime. If we really care about saving lives we must focus not only on the newsworthy events where bad things happen, but also on the bad things that never happen because people are able to defend themselves.

Few people would voluntarily put up a sign in front of their homes stating, "This home is a gun-free zone." The reason is very simple. Just as we can deter criminals with higher arrest or conviction rates, the fact that would-be victims might be able to defend themselves also deters attacks. Not only do guns allow individuals to defend themselves, they also provide some protection to citizens who choose not to own guns since criminals would not normally know who can defend themselves before they attack. The laws currently being considered by Congress ignore the importance of deterrence. Police are extremely important at deterring crime, but they

simply cannot be everywhere. Individuals also benefit from being able to defend themselves with a gun when they are confronted by a criminal.

Let us illustrate some of the problems with the current debate.

The Clinton administration wants to raise the age at which citizens can



possess a handgun to 21, and they point to the fact that 18- and 19-year-olds commit gun crimes at the highest rate. Yet, Department of Justice numbers indicate that 18- and 19-year-olds are also the most likely victims of violent crimes including murder, rape, robbery with serious injury, and aggravated assault. The vast majority of those committing crimes in this age group are members of gangs and are already breaking the law by having a gun. This law will primarily apply to law-abiding 18-to-21-year-olds and make it difficult for them to defend themselves.

Waiting periods can produce a cooling-off period. But they also have real costs. Those threatened with harm may not be able to quickly obtain a gun for protection.

Gun locks may prevent some accidental gun deaths, but they will make it difficult for people to defend themselves from attackers. We believe that the risks of accidental gun deaths, particularly those involving young children, have been greatly exaggerated. In 1996, there were 44 accidental gun deaths for children under age 10. This exaggeration risks threatening

people's safety if it incorrectly frightens some people from having a gun in their home even though that is actually the safest course of action.

Trade-offs exist with other proposals such as prison sentences for adults whose guns are misused by someone under 18 and rules limiting the number of guns people can purchase. No evidence has been presented to show that the likely benefits of such proposals will exceed their potential costs.

With the 20,000 gun laws already on the books, we advise Congress, before enacting yet more new laws, to investigate whether many of the existing laws may have contributed to the problems we currently face. The new legislation is ill-advised.

Sincerely,

Terry L. Anderson, Montana State University; Charles W. Baird, California State University, Hayward; Randy E. Barnett, Boston University; Bruce L. Benson, Florida State University; Michael Block, University of Arizona; Walter Block, Thomas Borchering, Claremont Graduate School; Frank H. Buckley, George Mason University; Colin D. Campbell, Dartmouth College; Robert J. Cottrol, George Washington University; Preston K. Covey, Carnegie Mellon University; Mark Crain, George Mason University; Tom DiLorenzo, Loyola College in Maryland; Paul Evans, Ohio State University; R. Richard Geddes, Fordham University; Lino A. Graglia, University of Texas; John Heineke, Santa Clara University; David Henderson, Hoover Institution, Stanford University; Melvin J. Hinich, University of Texas, Austin; Lester H. Hunt, University of Wisconsin - Madison; James Kau, University of Georgia; Kenneth N. Klee, UCLA; David Kopel, New York University; Stanley Liebowitz, University of Texas at Dallas; Luis Locay, University of Miami; John R. Lott, Jr., University.



Anonymous officer - gun control foe

By Tom Hennessy

As published in the Press-Telegram.



Last December, I invited a Long Beach police officer to write a column expressing his views on gun control; views that were the opposite of mine.

Today, I am doing this again for another officer. This will not become a habit, however. I spent 20 years in the news business before getting a column, and am not anxious to surrender my space - ever. But I am trying to understand the gun issue better.

As was the case with the last policeman, "Officer X," this officer, too, has requested anonymity. (I know who he is.)

Slightly edited, the comments of ... er, "Officer Y" are as follows:

"I believe I may work with 'Officer X,' who shared his view that more gun control legislation, on top of the 20,000-plus gun laws already on the books in this country, is not needed.

"Unfortunately, as fellow officers, we also share a politicized work environment in which rank-and-file officers like ourselves, who work with the realities of crime on the streets every day, are compelled to express our opinions anonymously. Pathetically, we fear retaliation from department brass- turned-politicians.

"Sixty percent of violent crime is committed by criminals on probation or parole. Street cops know that 'Saturday Night Specials' and 'assault weapons' are largely non-issues. Criminals use whatever is handy and appropriate. Small guns are too weak and rifles too unwieldy for easy transport.

"Conventional wisdom among street-savvy officers overwhelmingly rejects the false promise - and premise - of gun control. Poll after poll of rank-and-file cops confirms this. I (conducted) an impromptu survey one day at work and performed one with

another officer as I was on the phone with you one night, Mr. Hennessy. My question was 'Do you think there should be gun control?' All but one officer said no. The one who said yes added, 'For everyone but me.' "

Criminals favor control.

"Having worked for years as a correctional officer, I've had ample opportunity to speak at length with inmates about their crimes, how they committed their crimes, and what their concerns were at the time. Inmates, generally, are all for gun control. 'That way,' several told me, 'I know I'll be the only one with a gun.'

"That's how criminals want it. With police stretched thin, defenseless victims are easy prey. Prohibition doesn't work.

"There are roughly 230 million guns in this country, owned by some 80 million people. Well over 99 percent of those guns are never used in crime. But guns are used by law abiding citizens over 2 million times a year to save lives by defending against violent criminals - usually without the trigger even needing to be pulled. Just the sight of a firearm is usually enough to thwart an attack. This bears out what officers know from experience: criminals are not real smart, but they know enough to avoid pain. Deterrence works.

"This is not a theoretical discussion any more. Thirty-one states now have liberalized licensing systems for issuing permits to carry concealed firearms to law-abiding citizens with proper training. Why should one's ability to defend oneself end at the doorstep? The blood baths hysterically predicted by (opponents) simply have not happened.

"Only about 4 percent of the population applies for a permit, and only a small percentage of those actually carry the firearms on their person. (They quickly realize how cumbersome even a small one can be.) But that's enough.

Criminals are forced to guess whether their potential victim might be the one in 20 who can shoot back. And they don't like the odds."

More guns the answer?

"In the first comprehensive work on the subject, 'More Guns, Less Crime,' University of Chicago professor John Lott studied the phenomena. His study quantified the effect: violent crime dropped and criminals redirected their energies to property crimes when concealed carry permits (were made) available. USA Today touted the book as a study that would 'change the face of the gun-control debate.' Strangely, the ban-all-guns media in (Southern California) has paid little attention.

"Owning a gun carries responsibility. Safe storage, proper training, and knowledge of the law are all part of the decision. But for those who choose to own a gun to defend themselves and their families, cops should support them and soap-box politicians should not stand in their way."

As I did with Officer X, let me offer a small rebuttal, at least on one point. While I do not often defend the media, I think his broad-brush portrait of area media as having a ban-all-guns agenda is inaccurate. That certainly is not my position. I have no objection to reasonable, limited gun ownership, although I chose not to own weapons myself.

One further note: Officer Y's column sat on my desk for some time. In fairness to him, I should mention that he wrote it before the Columbine High School tragedy in Littleton, Colo (end)



GRSC's Ralph Baker making a point!

Second Amendment

Do You Really Understand the Bill of Rights? by Larry P. Arnn

Reprinted from Issues & Views, Spring 1997

In our country the term "right" is a powerful thing. If something is a right, then it is the whole purpose of our country--of any decent country--to protect it. In that case, the definition of rights matters very much. To help us understand the foundation of our rights, we should consider what is said in the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution.

According to America's Founders, a right is a claim that a person may rightfully make against someone who would deprive him of what is his own. If you own something, like your car, then you have a right to it. If someone takes it from you, then you have a legitimate claim against that person. He owes you back your car; he has a duty to give it back--or rather not to take it from you in the first place.

A "natural right" doesn't have to be acquired, like buying a car. You own it by birth, by your nature as a human being. Natural rights belong to all people, in all times and places. Whenever they are taken from us, we are deprived of something that is naturally our own, something that cannot belong to another.

The Declaration of Independence says, "To secure these rights, governments are instituted among men . . ." Three rights are named specifically: "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." Life and liberty belong to us at birth because every person is born free, and he remains free unless someone deprives him of that freedom. A person may only rightfully be deprived of his life or liberty if he neglects his duty to recognize the rights of others. A criminal who steals or kills may justly be deprived of his liberty, or even his life.

The Declaration also speaks of a right to the "pursuit of happiness." No one can have a right to happiness itself. Happiness is an achievement. It encompasses the right to acquire property. Both happiness and property-ownership depend upon our efforts and work. They depend, sometimes, upon good fortune. If we expect to keep our liberty, we must pursue the fulfillment of these rights ourselves. Government cannot give us happiness. It can give us

property, but only by taking it from someone else.

The Declaration says that life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness are "among" our natural rights. We have others. Among the most important of these are the rights of conscience, including freedom of religion, speech and press. These appear in the Constitution as the "Bill of Rights"--the first ten amendments. These are specific rights, preventing specific abuses of government power with which the Founders had become familiar through study or direct experience.

Before the Constitution was ratified, every state governed itself through elected representatives. A national Congress was elected by the state legislatures. But governments were not protecting equal rights. The rights of property--sometimes even life and liberty--were being violated by the state governments. For example, state legislatures routinely overturned court decisions in order to give special treatment to individuals. They failed to enforce contracts. Many also sided with debtors against lenders by printing worthless currency.

The protections outlined in the Bill of Rights were, in part, a response to these abuses. They are specific or "positive" rights because they are made by a positive act of human beings. We recognize these rights because we perceive them necessary to the preservation of our natural rights.

This can be seen most clearly in the Ninth Amendment: "The Enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people." Today, we do not hear much about the Ninth Amendment. That is because many judges and people in government have forgotten that we have rights which are not granted by government, but only protected by government. Government cannot take them away. Today, government again infringes on our rights. It discriminates between people according to their race. It deprives us of our property through zealous environmental regulation. It abridges speech through campaign finance laws, broadcast licensing, and bizarre definitions of "discrimination" and "harassment." To reclaim our rights we do not need to amend the Constitution.

The Bill of Rights is sufficient as it is. It simply needs to be enforced.

For that to happen we must properly understand the foundation of the Bill of Rights. We must understand that the positive rights of the Constitution are designed to protect our natural rights, as proclaimed in the Declaration--those rights that belong to us by our nature as free and equal human beings.

Larry P. Arnn is President of The Claremont Institute. For further information, visit The Claremont Institute online. (end)

Fax Us Your Fax!

Grass Roots South Carolina is forming a fax network for South Carolinians. We are seeking to build a fax network in order to deliver legislative alerts to our members as needed throughout the South Carolina legislative session. Frequently bills before the legislature move without warning and quickly pass a particular legislative body. An example of this all too frequently occurs in the aftermath of tragedy when some legislators feel a need to pass "feel good" legislation. Unfortunately "feel good" legislation is often poorly thought out and scapegoats gun owners while not benefiting anyone. For this reason, GRSC is forming a fax network so that South Carolinians can respond promptly to legislative issues. As you will see throughout this newsletter issue, South Carolina Grass Roots CAN make a difference- especially on a state level! Your legislator will listen to you but you need to be knowledgeable of pending legislation. Send us you fax number and we'll add you to the list for Grass Roots South Carolina Fax Alerts. Fax Us Your Fax Number!

GRSC Fax 803-791-1981

Junior Shooter's at MCRC Picnic



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