

The Concealed Carry Newsletter for Over 24,000 South Carolinians!

# Grass Roots South Carolina

P.O. Box 1181

Sumter, South Carolina 29151

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



Winter, 1999

Vol.3 No.4

## **THE GOOD NEWS - WE HAVE A SPONSOR FOR OUR CWP REFORMS!** **THE BAD NEWS - IT IS GOING TO TAKE MORE THAN 1 YEAR.**

Representative Jackie Knotts has stepped forward to sponsor the GRSC CWP reforms proposed in the Fall 1999 newsletter (also at <http://www.scfirearms.org>). Jackie tells us some of our provisions could well be passed this year, but others are going to face a more difficult time and will need at least the next two-year session of the General assembly to get passed.

Lets take a minute to understand how a bill becomes a law. First, someone has to come up with an idea for a new law. GRSC came up with many ideas on how to improve our current CWP law. Second, someone has to write those ideas down using the language of the legal profession into proposed legislation, known as a bill. GRSC did this, too. Third, a legislator has to introduce the bill. GRSC can NOT introduce legislation, only a legislator can introduce legislation. Rep. Jackie Knotts has agreed to not only introduce the bill, but to fight to get it passed. Then, once the bill is introduced into one of the chambers of the General Assembly, it can be acted upon by the General Assembly and either passed, defeated, or ignored.

The SC General Assembly works on a two-year legislative session calendar. The first year of each legislative session is an odd numbered year (i.e. 1999 or 2001) and the second year of each legislative session is an even numbered year (i.e. 2000 or 2002). Any bills not passed by the end of an even numbered year get thrown out. Any bill not passed by the end of a two-year legislative session can be re-introduced at a later date, but it will have to start over from the beginning.

Rep. Jackie Knotts tells us we can not get our whole package of proposed CWP changes passed in just the last year of a two-year session. Some of the proposed changes are too controversial to get passed in one year. Jackie only wants to introduce the less

controversial reforms this year. The idea is to get the less controversial changes passed this year, and to TEST GRSC MEMBERS to see how dedicated YOU are in getting these changes passed. At the end of this legislative session, we will evaluate how well things went, what got passed, and how hard YOU worked. Then, we will make plans for what to introduce in 2001, the first year of the next two year session.

It will be up to us - the grass roots voters of SC - to get the attention of our legislators and let them know how strongly we feel about CWP reform. We have to prove WE ARE DEDICATED to getting these changes passed, and let it be known our votes and our campaign help will be determined by how legislators vote on CWP reforms and whether they help to get our CWP reforms passed. Your firm, but polite, persistence with your elected representatives will eventually win the day. Any lack of dedication will show legislators you are either too satisfied with current CWP law or too lazy to hurt them in an election.

Here are talking points we must constantly stress. You can find the best talking points in John Lott's book, More Guns, Less Crime, and Gary Kleck's book, Point Blank: Guns and Violence in America.

1. CWP lowers the crime rate for ALL citizens of SC, not just CWP holders.
2. CWP is effective crime prevention with NO COST to taxpayers.
3. Every additional SC CWP holder lowers crime even more.
4. Women, old people, and the disabled are the people most helped by CWP. Empower those who choose not to be victims of violence.
5. Violent criminals seek out "gun free"

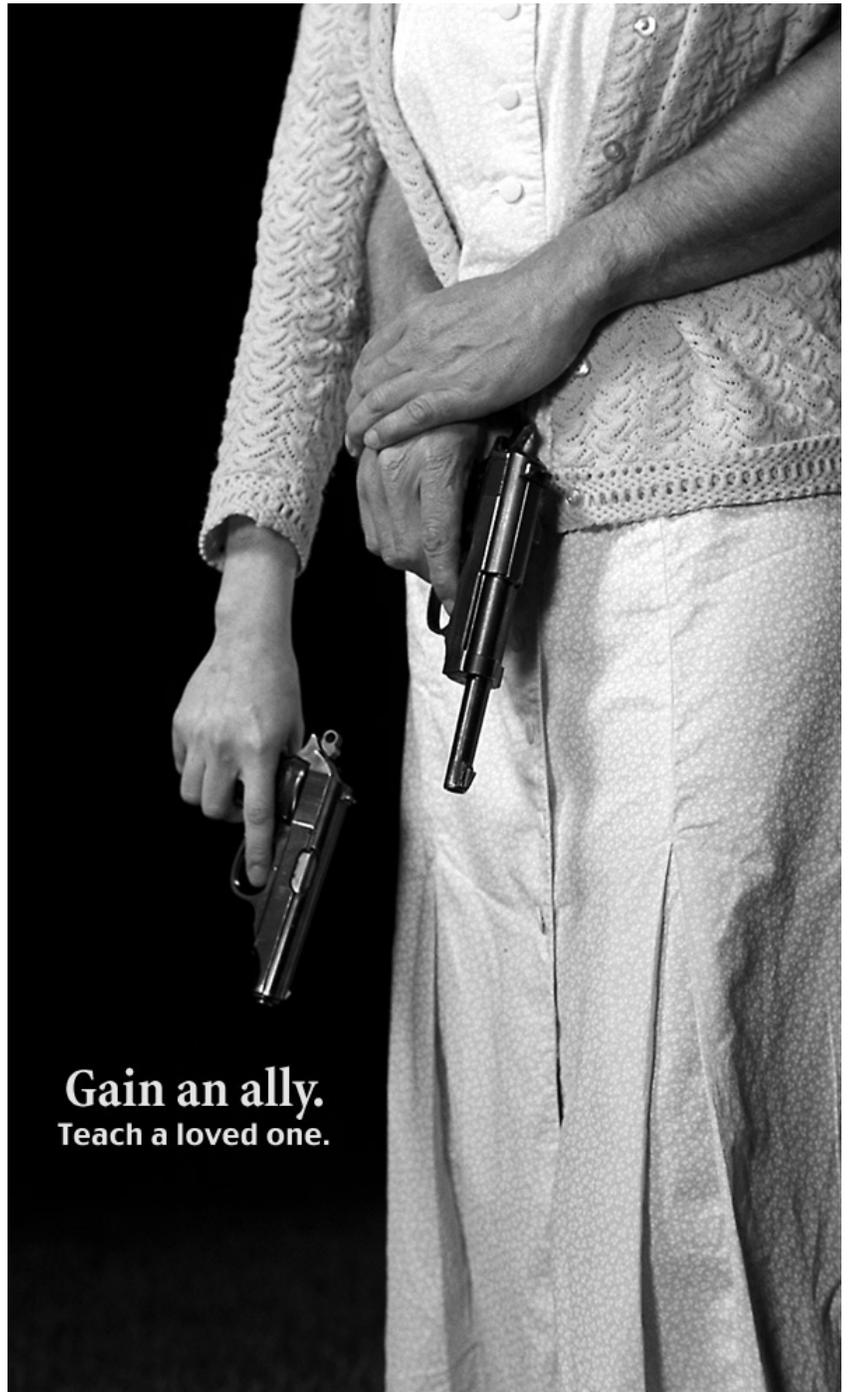
zones, even to the point of crossing over state borders. "Gun free" zones are not gun free, they are only "no self defense" zones. Therefore, get rid of "gun free" zones in SC because they only attract criminals.

6. More guns mean fewer murders, fewer raped women, and fewer brutalized people. Lets do this for the children and help families stay healthy and intact.
7. Armed resistance to violent crime is the safest response to an attack. It is safer than cooperating with the attacker, running away, or any other form of resistance. Do not deny honest people the best and safest alternative in protecting themselves and their families.

Make no mistake, getting CWP reforms passed will require hard work. Those who will work to see our CWP reforms fail come in all shapes and sizes. Anti gun people will try to kill our reforms because they do not like guns. The fear mongers and mass media will side with the anti gun people. Unfortunately, we will have to be prepared for anti gun forces trying to "poison the well," so to speak. They will tell legislators GRSC members are too radical and not to listen to GRSC. They want to see CWP reform fail by attacking us as a group rather than on the issues. All South Carolina citizens benefit from CWP reform! We must **ALL WORK TOGETHER** for the common good!

Here is what you must do now:

- 1.) Fax (803.734.2925), write (P.O. Box 11867, Columbia, SC 29211), and call (803.734.2402 in Columbia) your Representative and ask them to cosponsor the GRSC proposed CWP reforms being introduced by Rep. Jakie Knotts. If you get a response back from your legislator, let GRSC know what it is. If they have any questions or if they say they will cosponsor the legislation, let GRSC know. We will be happy to talk with them, provide information, and confirm their support. **BUT, YOU** have to make the first contact and tell



**Gain an ally.  
Teach a loved one.**

them how **YOU** feel because **YOU** are the person they have to answer to, not GRSC.

- 2.) Fax (803.734.2925), write (P.O. Box 11867, Columbia, SC 29211), and call (803.734.2402 in Columbia) Rep. Jakie Knotts and thank him for introducing the GRSC CWP reforms.
- 3.) Call your Representative each week and remind them of how you feel. Remember, the squeaky wheel gets the grease.

**Grass Roots South Carolina**  
**P.O. Box 1181**  
**Sumter, SC 29151**  
**Fax: 803-791-1981**  
<http://www.scfirearms.org>

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. Our objectives are to improve all aspects of lawful ownership and carrying of firearms in South Carolina.

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

### **Officers and Staff:**

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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 15<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month.

### **Regarding Reciprocity...**

As of January 28, 2000: South Carolina recognizes permits from AR, WY, UT, and TN. South Carolina CWP holders may legally carry in AK, AR, TN, ID, IN, KY, MI, WY, OK, UT, and VT. Remember to contact these states prior to visiting to determine their laws regarding CWP.

## ***Inside this Issue:***

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- *Richland Fashion Mall*
- *Press Release Regarding Rembert Shooting*
- *On N.C. and S.C. Reciprocity*
- *First Federal of Charleston*
- *Crime Going Down? Thanks to CWP!*

### **The GRSC Don't Carry List:**

- *Businesses that Post Against CWP Holders*

### **Articles of the Month:**

- *GRSC Frequently Asked Questions*
- *Carry Options for Women and Southpaws*
- *Registering Guns Like Cars?*
- *Hobgood Academy Raffles Guns*
- *The Power of One!*
- *Handgun Leather*
- *SC Attorney General Opinion of 1/5/2000*

### **Legislative Update:**

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- *Bills Currently before the SC Legislature*
- *GRSC CWP Reform Update*

### **GRSC Instructors' Update:**

- *CWP on WMA Lands*

### **GRSC Volunteers in Action:**

- *List of GRSC Volunteers in Your Community*

### **Fact:**

As of January 28, 2000 there are 23,665 licensed CWP holders in South Carolina! (19,647 men and 4,017 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>

### **Sponsored By:**

  
"The Logical Network Service Provider"

# Grass Roots South Carolina Recognized Community Volunteers

The following people have responded to our call for community volunteers to assist their communities in carrying out the goals of GRSC, to educate merchants who post, and promote lawful and safe firearms ownership within their communities. Grass Roots salutes these activists for coming forward to lead the way within their communities.

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

Suggestion: Start with calling a local volunteer below and arrange an informal breakfast or lunch meeting at a non-posted fast food restaurant. Discuss the needs of your community as you see them. Decide on an action plan if possible and start making change. Contact GRSC for help or specific needs like postcards, membership mailings, etc. We're here to help you make change in your community. Most of all, have fun! You'll be surprised at how effective you can be!

<b>AREA</b>	<b>NAME</b>	<b>TELEPHONE</b>	<b>FAX</b>	<b>E-MAIL</b>
Aiken	William H Crocker	803-648-2286		wcrocker@duesouth.net
Aiken	Jeff E Burris	803-648-7258		
Anderson	Bill Feith	864-287-2045	864-287-7418	bfeith@carol.net
Anderson	John S Griffin	864-296-9841		griffinjsg@webtv.net
Aiken	Bill Walton	803-642-9004		
Beaufort	Russell Faulkner	843-524-4192	843-524-4192	
Belton	Joseph M Orfetel	864-338-8006	864-338-1882	jmjo@webtv.net
Blythewood	Robert D Smiley	803-691-8843		
Charleston	Fred L Morgan	843-571-0992		
Charleston	Vince Ott	843-744-1722	843-744-8242	vcott@cchat.com
Chapin	D.L. Takach	803-932-2747		dtakach@prodigy.net
Cleveland	Joseph L Payne III	803-836-0304	864-836-4008*51	chaneyhill@mindspring.com
Columbia	Wendell Patton	803-754-9975	803-754-9073	wmpatton3@aol.com
Columbia	John E. Black	803-776-8823	803-776-8823	blackjl@hotmail.com
Cowpens	Joseph Cash	864-463-6659		
Denmark	Pearlstine Deloach Jr.	803-793-4367		
Denmark	Doug Gore	803-793-5821		
Ehrhardt	Barbara M Hiers	803-267-3442		
Ehrhardt	G.D. Varn, Jr.	803-267-3882	803-267-3241	
Florence	John Germain	843-667-9702		ka3jal@aol.com
Florence	Jeffery W Lee, Sr.	843-665-6818		jeffleesr@aol.com
Fairforest	Ronald Rutledge	864-576-6035	864-439-0423	rtech@spartanburg.net
Fort Mill	Bruce Smith	803-547-0753		
Fountain Inn	Paul Campbell	864-862-5515	864-409-9699	pwcampbell@sund.com
Gaffney	Rodney Medley	803-489-9660		
Georgetown	Dane A Davis	843-546-3640		
Goose Creek	Don W Blair	843-863-1229		
Graniteville	Billy B. Jones	803-663-6516	803-663-6516	magnumprod@netscape.net
Great Falls	Fred Earl	803-482-2825		
Greenwood	James P Farnham	864-943-1248		
Greenwood	Bennie Lowe	864-223-7323		
Greenwood	Carroll Killian	864-223-1725		killian@carol.com
Greenwood	Joe Dan Elliott	864-229-6179		
Greenville	W.C. Daniels	864-268-7319		
Hartsville	Jeffery P Boatman	843-383-0656		
Hartsville	Thelbert Grantham	843-332-9910		

Hilton Head	Dennis E Wedeking	803-785-8429	843-837-3737	
Hilton Head	Des Darazs	803-842-2060		
Hilton Head	R.M. Lieberman	803-671-4078	843-671-7237	k49j@aol.com
Irmo	Craig Reese	803-781-1194	803-794-1831	rblack@microbyte.net
Irmo	Ken Uschelbec		803-781-9527	
Kiawah Island	Frank D Dinardo	843-768-0266	843-768-1168	frankbake@mindspring.com
Lancaster	James Spears	Spears Glass Service	1350 W. Meeting St.	
Little River	William V Meyer	843-249-4885	843-272-5215	wilmmeier@aol.com
Little River	Jerry Rounbehler	1-800-823-0516 code 59	843-280-6338	GJRPI@prodigy.net
Loris	Neal & Melissa Seaman	843-756-5311	freeusa@fi9.com	or skypod@fi9.com
Marion	Franklin Williams	843-423-2362		
Mt. Pleasant	Robert W Ragin			
Myrtle Beach	Louis A Martino	803-497-8532		happyday@scoast.net
Myrtle Beach	Glen McKinney	843-650-3618	843-448-8457	ramp87@aol.com
Neeses	Larry D Widener			
Newberry	William A Smith, Jr.	803-276-2415		
Ninety Six	Michael Cornett	864-223-7849		
North	Blackie Collins	803-568-4283	803-568-2481	
North Augusta	David A Owings	803-279-9346	803-279-9000	
N. Charleston	G.W. Schrader	843-744-9379		gwschrader@yahoo.com
Pickens	Tim Sullivan	864-878-4700	864-878-0507	timsullivan@ieee.org
Richburg	Stanley G Pettit	803-789-6457		
Rock Hill	Edgar H Walker, Jr.	803-329-5988		
Seneca	Annette Lowman	864-972-9290		
Spartanburg	Wendell H Tiller	864-579-0797		
Spartanburg	Michael E Henline	864-582-7226		
Spartanburg	G.R. "Chip" Desjardins	864-574-1410		
Summerville	Robert E Temple	843-821-4477		
Summerville	Wesley A Matt, Sr.	843-871-6642	815-327-9144	wamair@worldnet.att.net
Walterboro	William Kofron	843-549-1654		react@vrdom.com
Westminster	Robert R. Sullivan	864-972-0733		
W. Columbia	Marquis Hallman	803-794-5009		
W. Columbia	Robert L. Sleigher	803-926-1826	803-926-9752	sleigher@bellsouth.net
Yonges Island	James T Truesdale	843-873-4400	843-873-7227	

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

# WANTED!

Make It  
Right

## GRSC is Looking for More Community Volunteers!

### Job Description

**General:** Volunteers are 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. Volunteers assist other GRSC members, decide which posted merchants on which to concentrate, develop other programs as appropriate for their community, develop an educational relationship with political persons and entities, newspapers, and maintain open and complete communications with GRSC.

**Qualifications:** Community Volunteers 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 volunteers. Fax is also useful. Most important is a desire to enhance the value of your CCW permit and its usefulness.

**Action Components:** Be available for contact by interested persons in the home district and arrange an organizational meeting. Based on consensus in each district, determine which posted merchants will be contacted and how they will be approached. Act as district spokesman to 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 Community Volunteer List for further updates as the Community Volunteer Program develops.

## A Message From Your GRSC President, Ed Kelleher

### Same Old Story

You're probably familiar with the story of David and Goliath. You know, young shepherd boy overcomes giant man of war. But, did you know David had more opposition than just the enemy giant?

First, a little background. The army of Israel was facing the army of the Philistines. The nine-foot tall champion of the Philistines, Goliath, came out daily and challenged Israel to send someone to fight him, mano a mano. Nobody from Israel answered the challenge, they were all afraid and went and hid.

One day (this had been going on awhile) David (too young to be a soldier) was sent to the front by his father to bring some food to his older brothers who were serving in the army of Israel. While there, David heard Goliath and saw the army of Israel flee and be "sore afraid". David was astounded and said, "Who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?" In short, David was indignant. He said, "I'll kill him if you won't!"

Well, you'd think Israel would be glad somebody rose to the challenge. Think again. King Saul told David, "You are not able to go against him because he is man of war and you are just a boy". Thanks for the encouragement king!

David's oldest brother said, "You naughty boy, you've just come to watch the battle and who is watching the sheep at home". Basically, he called him names and said leave this to us trained professionals (even though they weren't getting anything done).

Well, David wasn't deterred by *any* of his enemies or opposition. When

his fundamental core beliefs were challenged, he stood up to fight, ignoring the faithless cowards around him. You know how it turned out.

When our natural right to keep and bear arms is challenged and denied we *should* be righteously indignant! And when our so called "brothers" and "leaders" call us names and say, "You can't fight them, leave it to us" but do nothing, I think it's time for us to ignore them and follow David's example. You can read the full account in the Bible, 1 Samuel, Chapter 17.

Thinking about CWP reform and Shooting Range Protection, there's been enough cowardly hiding. Go get your rocks boys and girls - It's time to ignore the naysayers and stand up for our rights!

Incidentally, concerning the carrying of spare ammo on your person, though David *knew* God would give him the victory over the philistine giant, nonetheless, he brought 5 stones with him, though only 1 was needed.

**Ed Kelleher**

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### Nothing Happens Unless I Make It Happen By Ralph Baker

Your mail to GRSC has been opened (and hundreds replied to) by me since we began as a group of 5 or 6 with a taste for freedom and an idea to make the CCW permit more valuable. Because of an airplane to complete and a move to Montana I will have to step back from my position as mail boy effective in January. It is with regret, but necessary, that this happens and GRSC will continue to work for all SC permit holders. Thank all of you that have joined and supported us. There were those who provided seed money when we were just an idea and those who joined along the way.

There are two points which are important. One is that our name says it all. GRASS ROOTS. Only you, with personal involvement, can make change. Only you can present our position and factual information to your local businessmen and legislators. GRSC can provide facts, coordinate, and tie our efforts together into a team. GRSC cannot do what only you can do in your local area. I have worked for years to preserve our gun rights and am still amazed that some people feel intimidated by business owners and by politicians they have elected. The politicians work for you and the businesses only exist because of your dollars. You must of course, be factual and polite. Realize also that we will not win every battle. However, without action on your part as an individual we will lose each time. As a wall hanging from my business days said "Nothing Happens Unless I Make It Happen".

There is a second point, of which we should all be proud. There have been thousands of letters. Letters from all over SC. They had Christian fishes, Humane Society labels, NRA labels, Rebel flags, World Wildlife labels and many more. We got letters from more and less affluent areas. We got letters from men and women (sometimes the names were no help), I'm sure we got letters from blacks, whites, Asians, Hispanics, and many other segments of humanity. We make no effort to identify or classify any group and every CCW permit holder is welcome. In a time when there is so much fractionalization in our society I am proud of those of you stepped up to the plate to defend your rights with one voice. We are all in this together and I have been pleased to be part of this and serve with each of you. Once again, "Nothing Happens Unless I Make It Happen".

**Ralph Baker**  
Outgoing Mail Boy

## GRSC Letters from the Editor's Desk

### Piggly Wiggly Update

If you recall, I sent a letter to the manager of the Piggly Wiggly at Emmanuel Church Road and Platt Springs Road asking him to reconsider posting a no concealable weapons sign. He forwarded it on to the corporate people since they are the ones who controlled whether his store posted or not. A corporate VP called me and explained that he, too, would like to see the signs come down as he is an avid hunter and member of the NRA. However, he said that the decision was made by the corporate lawyers when the CWP law first passed. He said that my letter had prompted them to review their policy and that he would get back with me with in a couple of weeks. I sent that first letter at the end of September. Below is the letter I sent on November 1, just after the new Bi-Lo opened down the road, which, by the way, does not post. As of this morning, November 22, I have not received a response from Piggly Wiggly.

Therefore, on the way home this afternoon, I will buy my turkey and fixings at the new Bi-Lo. If all CWP holders across S.C. would do the same, maybe the Piggly Wiggly accountants would go have a chat with the lawyers.

Mr. James Hook  
Piggly Wiggly No. 79  
Caroline Square  
2702 Emmanuel Church Road  
West Columbia, SC 29169

Dear Mr. Hook,

If you recall, I recently sent you a letter concerning your store posting signs that do not allow law-abiding citizens who happen to have a Concealed Weapons Permit entry into your store. I appreciate your promptness in forwarding my letter on to the proper person in your company. I also appreciated his responding with a personal phone call instead of a form letter, which seems to be common among large businesses these days. Unfortunately, he called me as I was trying to herd my family of five out the door and although I did stop to talk to him, I did not have the time to get his name or contact information. Therefore, I am writing a follow-up letter to you,

assuming that you will pass this on to him also.

It has been over a month now and I have not heard from Piggly Wiggly concerning this issue, nor have I seen a change in your signage. I believe that your lawyers have had ample time to revisit this area that is vitally important to thousands of concerned South Carolinians. Because I was promised that this matter would be looked into and that I would receive a timely response from your company, I continued to shop

at your store even though I was defenseless against criminals who would not bother to obey your sign. However, now that the new Bi-Lo store has opened down the street from you, I can no longer continue to spend my hard-earned money with Piggly Wiggly. I used to go to the Piggly Wiggly in Red Bank, as they do not post against CWP-holders, but that too will stop with the new Bi-Lo so close to my home. You could probably look this up on your computer system since I use my PFC card every time I shop there, but I know that I spend at least \$200 per month at Piggly Wiggly stores. I'm sure Bi-Lo will be glad to have that \$2,400 per year coming to their new store. Of course, all CWP-holders in South Carolina will be made aware of your company's stance, so I'm sure that the amount will multiply many times over.

I understand that this is a corporate decision made by ill-informed lawyers and, therefore, I do not hold you personally responsible. Again, thank you for not ignoring my first letter and I am sorry that we will not be able to do business in the future.

Sincerely,  
**C.V. in Lexington, SC**

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### Sumter Merchant Attracts Criminals

Sumter Check Casher on Broad Street in Sumter was recently the scene of an armed robbery at approximately nine thirty a.m.

Did GRSC ask the merchant to remove the "no concealed weapons" sign? Yes. Did they listen to GRSC? No.

**J.P. in Sumter**

Editor: It's a mystery to us why merchants would want to attract criminals by placing signs designating their business as a free fire zone for cowardly criminals looking for easy prey - go figure!

### Richland Fashion Mall

My husband and I spent about an hour compiling our Christmas shopping list. We drove to Richland Fashion Mall, and as I reached out my hand to open the door to the mall, my husband pointed to a new sticker on the glass door. It was an anti-cwp posting. No weapons allowed! And we were both packing! Too bad for them! We had a huge list, and were itching to knock it out in one trip! That mall will NEVER see another penny of my money! I called the security office, and was told that the sign was up due to a new law in SC saying that you can't take a gun in a public place. It is sad how many of those persons who are charged with enforcing the law seem to be wholly unaware of what it says!

**K.C., Irmo, SC**

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### Letter to Richland Fashion Mall:

Mr. Tim Russell  
Richland Mall  
3400 Forest Drive, Suite 2048  
Columbia, SC 29204

Dear Mr. Russell:

Thank you for the time you spent patiently talking with me regarding the signs prohibiting the carry of weapons, concealed or otherwise, in Richland Mall.

I understand that this decision was made by the overseas owner of the mall. I also understand that your insurance carrier is under the mistaken impression that these signs clear you of any liability should a violent incident occur. But the law in South Carolina explicitly states that by placing such signs on your business, you assume the responsibility for protection of your patrons.

You told me that your guards are unarmed. To me, this seems to be a very



**I Believe in  
Self-Defense**

## GRSC Letters from the Editor's Desk

dangerous situation. Even if I had a guard escort me to and from my vehicle, he would not follow me as I shopped. And if he did, you cannot offer this security service to all your patrons.

The sign on the door says to me, "You are not thought to be competent to know when and how to defend yourself. Go elsewhere with your silly right to self-defense. You are not welcome here."

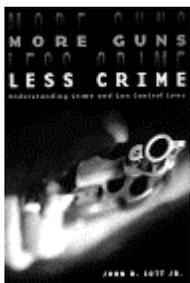
I sincerely hope that it doesn't take a violent occurrence on your property, to which your unarmed "guards" will be absolutely unable to respond, except by calling 911 for police to come with guns, to change this policy.

Persons with valid concealed weapons permits in the state of SC have been through a long, expensive and extensive process, even down to submitting fingerprints to SLED for a FBI check. Aren't these the very people you would wish to attract to your mall?

As I told you in our conversation, it truly saddens me that I cannot shop at this quality mall. My husband and I used to enjoy driving out from our home near Columbiana Center to shop at this mall, but we will do so no longer.

Sincerely,  
(name withheld at author's request.)  
cc: Grass Roots South Carolina

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### **More Guns, Less Crime**

In response to Neal Seaman's challenge to match his contribution of \$10.00 in an effort to purchase copies of John Lott's book,

More Guns, Less Crime to every SC legislator, we have collected \$250.00! If you haven't contributed to this cause, and think it's a good idea to educate your legislator with the facts, please consider meeting or beating Neal's challenge. This is a fantastic way to further our goals. It will educate our legislators, give scientific data to pro-gun legislators, and perhaps even win a few converts in the State House. If everyone kicked in just a little (or even half as much as Neal's challenge) we'd be able to send them all gift wrapped! Please consider helping out

with this project. We intend to buy as many of the books as possible to send to our legislators. If you'd like to designate your legislator please indicate such and we will make sure he/she gets the book. Just use the back cover on your Fall Newsletter to meet Neal's challenge!

While we have our hand out...GRSC is looking for interested individuals for the following: GRSC needs an artist for newsletter cartoons. We also need someone with recording equipment suitable for making radio ads. Also, someone interested in marketing GRSC in the South Carolina community for newsletter advertising and also to develop GRSC items for members such as hats, patches, pins, etc. If you are interested contact any GRSC officer or me.

L.C., GRSC December Online Update

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### **Kentucky Reciprocity**

To whom it may concern,  
I am a CCDW license holder and instructor for KY. There are many people, including myself, who would love to visit your state on vacations and such. However, there is one BIG problem. South Carolina does not recognize our concealed carry licenses. I, and many others that have permits, will not travel to or through states that do not allow my permit to be valid. If at all possible, amend your statutes to recognize our permits. You will be amazed at how much your tourist rates will raise.

Thanks,  
**Ray J.P., Jr.**  
**Stanton, KY**

Editor: Your preaching' to the choir Ray but we hear your chorus loud and clear! We're trying!

\*\*\*

### **Thanks!**

Some months ago I contacted you regarding the professional newsletter that you had published. I just wanted to comment that you have not lost your touch. It is indeed good to read something written by someone with insight and a want to "get it right."

Keep up the good work.

With kindest regards and best wishes,  
**J.J., Winnsboro**

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## **Rembert Store Robbed - Owner Shot**

Last night a convenience store in Rembert was the scene of a robbery murder. Two juveniles and one adult are under arrest and another adult is being questioned in the murder. The merchant in question was posted against concealed carry I saw the sign on the door during the newscast this morning.

If GRSC needs a worst case example of why posting doesn't work, they just got one.

**J.P., Sumter**

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### **Response from GRSC regarding Rembert Shooting:**

PRESS RELEASE December 27,  
1999

"More Guns, Less Crime"

Concerning: Robbery, Murder  
at convenience store in  
Rembert, SC

Background: Monday night,  
12/20/99, a convenience  
store was robbed and a  
person shot and killed. The  
storeowner had posted a sign  
prohibiting weapons on his  
premises.

GRSC position: This tragedy  
might well have been  
prevented.

By posting a sign preventing  
legally licensed and trained  
citizens from carrying their  
firearms in his store, the  
owner declared his store to  
be, "Gun Free!" and much  
safer for the perpetrators  
of crime.

Of course, the owner of the  
store was armed and shot at  
the perpetrators. However,  
did he unintentionally  
mislead the perpetrators?

GRSC believes that the  
perpetrators of violent  
crime are deterred by the

## GRSC Letters from the Editor's Desk

knowledge that armed citizens might be present.

John Lott, professor of law and economics at the University of Chicago has published a book, More Guns, Less Crime, (ISBN 0-226-49363-6) that proves this to be true.

Grass Roots of South Carolina is an organization of South Carolina citizens that have chosen to legally carry concealed firearms. The goal of GRSC is to promote the right of citizens to carry concealed firearms whenever and wherever they choose in South Carolina.

Ed Kelleher, President  
803-796-8858, Fax: 791-7349,  
[EJKelleher@aol.com](mailto:EJKelleher@aol.com)  
1730 Augusta Road  
West Columbia, SC USA  
<http://www.scfirearms.org>

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### More on Rembert Shooting:

The people who post against concealed carry and then arm themselves are the ones I have the most problem understanding.

I don't like it when a business posts because the owner is anti gun. I, of course, think there thinking is flawed, but I sort of understand it.

People who believe they have a right to protect themselves but others do not really confuse me!

D.M., West Columbia, SC

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### Charleston Piggly Wiggly

I feel kind of wowed, this being my first input to this! My slogan has been this: I am from North Charleston, the crime capital of the South. I saw a Piggly Wiggly grocery store with a "no CWP" stamp on the front door. I overheard one individual arguing with the manager that this is unfair, to no avail. The man pleaded with him, saying, "what if the store is robbed?" All to deaf ears. I listened. I finally spoke to the manager after the man left. I asked him if he

realized how much crime the area (volume) of North Charleston has, and he remarked that from what he hears a lot of crime here. Then I calmly said, "with that sticker on the door, you are saying to the criminals, "come rob me."" He laughed. A couple of weeks later they were robbed and the cashier seriously hurt. I came into the store afterward and the manager said, "look you were right."

**C.C., Jr. from Charleston**

(Editor: Employers who post anti-cwp signs are not only making their businesses targets for criminal predators (attractive nuisance of sorts), they are also asking their employees to be willing victims for criminal predators. I've often wondered how employees respond to their employer's wish to make them sitting targets!)

\*\*\*

### One Price Clothing Store on Broad River Road in Columbia

I went out to the One Price Clothing Store on Broad River Road (not a wholesome part of town) looking for some cheap workout clothes. I noticed a new sign on the door: No guns, no drugs allowed. I was carrying at the time, so I held the door open. The lady inside welcomed me in, but I told her that I could not come in. I asked her if it was true that I could not bring a weapon into the store. Her jaw dropped and she stuttered for a moment. "What kind of weapon do you have?" she blurted, extremely alarmed. I replied, "Say I have a permit to carry a concealed firearm from the State of SC, I couldn't bring it in

here, could I?" She came to the door as the 1/2 dozen or so ladies inside strained to hear the rest of the conversation. The lady asked me, "Can't you just put your gun in your car?" "No ma'am," I said, "That sign on the door tells me it's not safe to come in because everyone who comes by, all the bad guys, know that we are all unarmed. It's too dangerous for me to come in unarmed, and I don't break the law." I turned on my heel and left one stunned One Price Clothing employee holding the door open for no one.

**K.C., Irmo, SC**

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### More Thanks!

Great newsletter and email service. The newsletter is informative; with articles that reflect current situations and controversies that are of interest and concern to those of us interested in the shooting sports.

One of my biggest concerns and "problems" is not being able to carry in the neighboring states - Georgia and North Carolina. What a hassle! We need reciprocity with those states at a minimum, and at the federal level soon.

Keep up the good work.

**H.T.**

### On NC and GA Reciprocity:

Q: Is anything in the works for SC residents to carry concealed in North Carolina? Also, is anyone working on a CCW Reciprocity Agreement between SC and NC? I live in SC and have a CCW Permit.

However, I work and spend most of my time in NC. This puts me in a bind, as I would like to carry concealed legally in both states. NC does not issue Non-Resident Permits and I don't know how to push that issue, as I have no feel for the interest on the subject. Do you have an e-mail address for Grassroots NC? Thanks in advance.

Editor: Yes! GRSC is working on reciprocity.



## GRSC Letters from the Editor's Desk

Under the GRSC proposed CWP reform legislation SC will open its doors to other states where concealed carry is legal. That takes care of the SC end of the situation.

As for North Carolina: NC does not have reciprocity with any other state - that's their law. Fortunately there is a very active group in NC also called Grass Roots (North Carolina). They are working on reciprocity issues in NC. Their website is at: <http://gmc.org>

Both of the above have to occur for us to have reciprocity between NC and SC. The reason is because even if NC passes reciprocity tomorrow, SLED is unlikely to establish reciprocity with NC because the laws are too dissimilar.

\*\*\*

### Alternative Signs

If you can send me a couple of the alternate signs, I will talk to a couple of local businesses here in Charleston. They are "non-chain", so I have not thought it worth your while to address them, but I might be able to make some progress.

#### M.R.C., Charleston

(Editor: GRSC will gladly send out alternative signs to GRSC members free of charge. We only ask that you put them to good use and report back with your successes! Send a SASE to our P.O. Box on this newsletter and we'll get them to you!)

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### Rosie O'Donnel Update:

Some good news...I'm almost certain it is accurate...Rosie O'Donnel has been let go by K-Mart!! I feel great about this since I have been on her since she ambushed Tom Sellick; I've been threatened by her attorneys and attacked by her supporters but in the end it is all worth it. Now...to get her released by Warner Bros. network and off TV!!

#### B.M. in Little River

(Editor: I've been following this too. Actually K-Mart has not acknowledged that they let her go. Yes, I know it and you know it, but K-Mart is allowing her to claim the fame by saying it is her

decision to not work for a company that sells guns. Until K-mart comes out saying "We fired her." I'm not returning to K-mart.)

\*\*\*

### First Federal of Charleston S&L

I have returned my application and check for membership in GRSC and have submitted my CWP permit application. In going about my business and trying to teach myself to be aware of interdict signs, I have observed two businesses with noteworthy policies.

I knew from your "Merchants Who Post" web page that First Federal of Charleston S&L, where I bank, prohibits concealed weapons but couldn't recall seeing the notice on their doors. I have carefully searched the entryway at the 602 Johnnie Dodds Blvd., Mt. Pleasant branch and have concluded that it is not posted.

I have heard that federal law prohibits weapons on the premises of federally chartered banking institutions. This may be the source of their policy.

What would be the repercussions of a naive permittee being detected armed on premises prohibited by policy but not by posting?

Also, Henry's Sporting Goods, 1662 Highway 17 North, sells firearms and ammunition and is posted "No Concealed Weapons."

#### W.D.B. in Charleston

**Editor:** Thank you for the information. I am forwarding it to Jason Dickey who works with merchants. I am also cc:ing Ed Kelleher, President for any input he might have, Rob Butler our legislative officer, as well as Ralph Baker who

has looked into numerous merchant situations. I will add my input here.

Not knowing who reported First Federal of Charleston S&L, I do not know which branch they were visiting. If at all possible could you check another branch

to determine if, perhaps, they have unposted their premises? If so we can take them off of the list. Merchants on the list are there because of posted signs - not because of any policy (internal or external).

As for the elusive Federal law on banking institutions... During the three years I have been associated with Grass Roots I have heard mention of this "law" in several fashions. Federal Teaching Bank Law, Federal Funding Bank Law, etc. We have looked and looked for this law and can not find it! In fact, several banks have been asked, politely, to assist us by showing us a copy of this document and none has even been able to find it either. In fact, the last bank actually assigned the matter to one of their upper management and she eventually stated that their is no such law and conceded that posting was the choice of the individual bank. However, we have also learned that their exists a national organization similar to a local merchant's association titled, National (or Federal) Banking Association. This private organization has taken the position that all banks should be posted. In addition we believe they distribute signage and encourage posting by banks.

To answer your question on what would happen to an individual who carried in violation of a policy when the premises are not posted. It is clearly written in the law that the premises must be posted. The Attorney General's Office has issued a statement that by not posting in a clear and obvious manner it is not enforceable (basically entrapment). So if you walk onto the premises of place open for public business they should to be posted in a fashion so as to give you fair warning. All that being said, if you have inquired as to First Federal of Charleston S&L by talking to their representatives it could be argued that you have now been given notice of their desire.

Hope this helps. BTW: What's wrong with the owner of Henry's? I don't know anyone that would shop at a gun store that was posted against this fundamental second amendment right. Geezz!

\*\*\*



## GRSC Letters from the Editor's Desk

### To The Editor The State Newspaper

P. O. Box 1333  
Columbia, SC 29202

To The Editor:

Crime Going Down for all the Wrong Reasons

In the AP article in The State this morning (11/22/99), "Serious Crime falls 10 percent," the usual specious claims as to why this happened are proffered by the usual academic "experts", citing a series of federal, state and local anti-crime measures, a growing economy, the aging of baby boomers and the decline of crack cocaine as the reasons for the "astounding" drop in crime which "no one could have predicted." Also mentioned were "the growth of community policing, expanded incarceration of criminals, crime prevention and anti-gun efforts by federal and local authorities."

I say Balderdash! Some of the listed reasons may help a little; but gun control does not; it fails every place it is tried. The one element of fact in the above litany is the expanded incarceration of criminals. Atty.-Gen. Janet Reno predictably claims credit for this administration for the drop in crime. As for anti-gun efforts by federal authorities, how many gun-law violation cases did the so-called Justice Dept. prosecute last year? Around six?

The two main reasons why crime is going down are: 1) Hardcase criminals, comprising about 250,000 in the country, are being locked up in increasing numbers, many as a result of 3-strikes laws. The result is an "X" graph; as the number of these hardcase felons being jailed goes up, the crime rate goes down (FBI statistics). 2) The expansion of "right-to-carry" concealed weapons laws in more and more states.

In a definitive and exhaustive study of the effects of right-to-carry laws covering every county in the country for

several years, Prof. John Lott, in "More Guns, Less Crime," found that violent crimes such as rape, murder, robbery and aggravated assault dropped when right-to-carry laws were enacted. And they continue to drop in succeeding years.

**RALPH WIENEKE, Lexington, SC**

\*\*\*

### Response from Florida

Q: I travel and visit residents in Florida extensively and would like to know if a CWP is possible. I have had a South Carolina CWP for the last sixteen years including a current one which expires 02/04/2001. Any assistance would be greatly appreciated.

Major J.A.G., South Carolina

A: Florida's concealed weapon/firearm law allows for non-resident citizens to obtain a concealed carry permit. You can request an application online at our Web page. Unfortunately, the fact that you already possess a South Carolina license would not affect the licensing process here in Florida. You would still be subject to a criminal background history check (and the delay this entails), and you would have to pay the licensing fees.

However, before you proceed with applying for a Florida license, I would like to inform you about a new law that could affect your decision. The 1999 Florida Legislature passed a law allowing for reciprocity between states with regard to concealed weapon/firearm licenses. This law allows Florida to honor licenses issued by those states that will honor Florida licenses. So far, 14 states have agreed to enter into this mutual agreement. Citizens from these states can

visit Florida and carry their concealed weapons for as long as they choose. These out-of-state citizens must maintain a valid license in their home state, and they must apply for a Florida license if they declare residency in Florida. You can see the full list of reciprocity states at our Web page at [http://licgweb.dos.state.fl.us/news/concealed\\_carry.html](http://licgweb.dos.state.fl.us/news/concealed_carry.html).

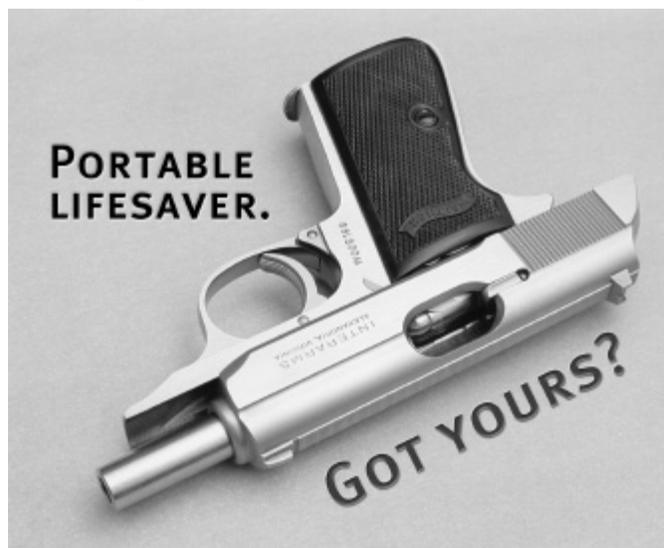
Three states have yet to respond to us regarding our offer of reciprocity: Texas, West Virginia, and South Carolina. The good news is that these states have not completely dismissed reciprocity completely either. I have been in touch with licensing officials and law enforcement authorities from these three states, and I hope to have a final word by the end of this calendar year. If South Carolina agrees to honor our licenses, we will in turn be able to honor South Carolina licenses. Your permit would then be valid in Florida, and you will be saved considerable expense and inconvenience.

Navigate to our Web page over the next four weeks to see what develops. We will post late-breaking news as it occurs. In the meantime, if you need further information or want up-to-date news regarding reciprocity, please call me or send me an email at the address below.

Ken Wilkinson  
Operations and Management Consultant  
Florida Department of State  
Division of Licensing  
The Capitol (Mail Station 4)  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0250  
850-488-6982

Editor: Since this letter was received it has come to our attention that SC will not be entering into a reciprocal agreement with Florida as implied in the above letter. The reason given is, yet again, Florida's permit process does not have greater standards than South Carolina for issuance of such permits. It is very apparent that if we wish to broaden the base of states where our permit is going to be accepted, and vice-versa, we are going to have to change OUR CWP law.

\*\*\*



## GRSC Letters from the Editor's Desk

### Pre-1995-95 CWP Permit Holders

Dear Sir or Madam:

Please count me in. As a permit holder since 1978, I have found this new permit with the restrictions absolutely worthless as compared to the old permit that was available for work reasons (it is no longer available).

Wishing you great success, I remain,  
Yours truly,  
R.S., Conway, SC

\*\*\*

### Is My Membership Due?

Don't know when my membership runs out. Here's a check for two more years. Keep up the good work.

By the way, the International Defensive Pistol is starting up here - it's fun!

Fred

Editor: Fred, We have started placing your membership expiration date on the mailing address - If all goes well, with this issue you should be able to cut this out to serve as your membership card.

### Myrtle Beach Convention Center

Just a note to thank you for all you are doing for the CWP holders in S.C.

I also think that all these restrictions are unnecessary. We are the law-abiding citizens. The public should have no fear of us.

Since I live almost on the North Carolina line and have relatives in Georgia, one of my concerns is the recognition of our CWP permits by these boundary states.

One thing that you might be interested in is that the Myrtle Beach Convention Center, which holds several gun shows a year, has "No Concealed Weapons Allowed" signs on all the doors. Talk about hypocritical!

In closing, thanks again and let's all work hard together for our common success.

M.F. Pageland, SC

Editor: If you'll send us a SASE we'll send you a New Hampshire out of state permit application. This will enable you to legally carry in Georgia. NH charges \$20.00 and will require a copy of your SC CWP.

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### GRSC Renewal

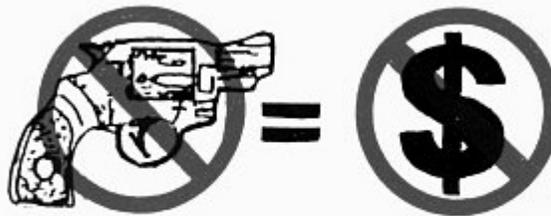
Enclosed please find \$15 for my wife's membership as well as \$15 for renewal of my membership. You need to only send one newsletter to our address.

We think getting the CWP restrictions lifted is a most worthy cause. We will be happy to put gentle pressure on the politicians. Merry Christmas  
H.H., Fair Play, SC

\*\*\*

### Boycott of Businesses that Support Restrictions

First, let me commend your organization for the tremendous step towards removing the ridiculous restrictions.



*We have noticed your sign, and are going to respect your wishes by shopping elsewhere.*

I have a suggestion that may help further our cause. Why not "boycott" all places of business that support these restrictions? It certainly couldn't do us any harm. Thank You.

J.P., Murrells Inlet, SC

### Pro-CWP Businesses

#### Signage

I agree with and appreciate your efforts to remove restrictions on where concealed weapons can be carried. Your idea of requiring a uniform sign for posting "against" admission to CWP holders is good. But it only goes halfway. You should also design a sign such as, "Notice to Would-Be Robbers and Law Breakers - The Proprietor of these Premises Welcomes CWP Holders - So Beware." Then give each business the choice of which sign they want to post.

C.B., Jackson, SC

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### Thanks to Rep. Jakie Knotts

I am very happy to see the progress GRSC is making on getting restrictions

removed from permits and educating business owners.

We need to personally thank Rep. Jakie Knotts for working for the 24,000 CWP holders plus all the citizens of South Carolina. It is absolutely necessary that all restrictions are removed from these permits and that we get reciprocity worked out with all other states in America!

Also, I'd like to make sure that Senator Tommy Moore and Representative Roland Smith receive copies of More Guns, Less Crime.

I'm enclosing \$50.00 to cover two memberships and two books.

Thanks for all the good work you are doing. I sure appreciate it.

B.J., Graniteville, SC

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### Jumping Firearm Myth Exposed

I carried my concealed weapon 6171 miles on vacation in June with not one problem. It did not jump out of my pocket and go on a shooting rampage as some of the anti-gun people would like to have the public believe.

I did not see as many "No Concealed Weapons" signs in Montana, Wyoming, Idaho, Utah, Colorado, and Kansas as I see here in South Carolina.

B.L., Greenwood, SC

\*\*\*

### Comments on Newsletter Vol. 3, No.3.

A couple of comments about the latest news as reported in the Newsletter Vol. 3, No.3.

- A) Why oppose the waiting periods for newcomers to the state? It is in our best interest to keep the group well selected and proven. Alternatively, this could be served by reciprocity of standards between states.
- B) Shameful as it is, lawsuits break a lot of barriers. A lawful pro-gun group should search for cases where a killing spree could have been stopped by armed citizens if they had not been forbidden to carry their weapons into the premises, then sue

## GRSC Letters from the Editor's Desk

for recognition of this fact. I wonder if police would support this.

- C) The crash of the Egyptian airliner has prompted reviews of similar accidents caused by desperate deranged behavior of pilots. They remind us that a plane is a weapon like a gun: innocent in itself, deadly in the wrong hands. "Planes control," anyone?
- D) Let's keep in mind that people who are afraid of guns often are afraid of what they might do with them because of their own instability, so they want to attribute the same to the gun owner.

A.B., Columbia, SC

### Input from Retired L.E.O.

I am glad to learn that you are going to attempt to have some of the restrictions lifted on CWP holders. I hope you will succeed.

I was a law enforcement officer for many years and carried a gun daily. About 19 years as a SC Highway Patrolman, two years in a police department, as well as a commission with the SC Wildlife Dept. for 25 years. One day I received notice that I would have to attend training at the Justice Academy at my own expense or lose my commission. Because I chose not to attend I ultimately had to settle for a CWP which I consider almost worthless because of the restrictions.

R.C., Andrews, SC

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### Request for Alternative Signs

Thanks for being there and providing much needed information on carrying a CWP. I need an application for a non-resident New Hampshire permit so I can carry in Georgia. I would also like some wallet cards and if you would send me an alternative sign I will try to change the mind of one of our local merchants.

D.W., Bishopville, SC

Editor: That's the spirit!

\*\*\*



### Agree with CWP Reform

We really enjoy the newsletter! We also agree with the proposed changes to the CWP laws. Keep up the good work.

P. and O. in Georgetown, SC

### Still Plugging Away

Just a little donation to help defray the postage. I appreciate the newsletter - very helpful. I wish I could be more active. All I am able to do is talk, try to get more membership, and promote safe gun handling. I still teach a few classes on CWP. Keep up the good work and I will keep plugging from this end!

W.P. Myrtle Beach, SC

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### Hi Gang!

When you target politicians to let them know what GRSC and the Second Amendment are all about, **please** work hard on **SC Senator John Land**. It is my understanding that this "fearless leader" is the person who put in the most of the CWP restrictions. I'd be happy to buy his copy of More Guns, Less Crime if you decide to send them out. Bill me if that's the way we decide to go.

I've been a CWP holder since July 1991 and carry all day every day.

R.N., Manning, SC

\*\*\*

### Waffle House

The Waffle House situation presents an interesting challenge for GRSC, CWP holders, and the merchant contact program. Here's why:

1. Waffle House is a franchise; they all look the same but they are not a chain.

2. As they are franchises, the franchisees are required to build and maintain these restaurants

according to a set of standards dictated by Waffle House, Inc. which is located in the Atlanta area. Ralph Baker received a letter from Waffle House,

Inc. stating that it is their policy that firearms be disallowed in their restaurants which leads to:

1. The fact that some (in fact, many) Waffle House locations are not posted.

2. The fact that many which are posted are not posted within the letter of SC's CWP law. The usual "posting" sign is a yellow, all-inclusive "no firearms/loitering/drugs/alcohol/whatever" sign located nowhere near the entrance. At this time it would be an impossible task to list all the hundreds of "posted" waffle house locations given we don't know who the owners of record are. Again, this goes back to the permit holders who patronize or used to patronize these locations. Perhaps Waffle House needs a listing of its own in the newsletter:

"Waffle House franchises are required to ban carrying of firearms per corporate guidelines, but most posted locations are not posted per state guidelines. Permit holders are advised to make local contact with the owners of record of these franchises for clarification of the "no firearms" issue. It is the experience of GRSC that most but not all Waffle House locations within South Carolina ban firearms."

### Our Apologies...

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

# South Carolina Bill H3419 IS NOT RANGE PROTECTION!

## H3419 IS NOT RANGE PROTECTION!

"Juvenile Justice," "Child Safety," and "Anti-crime" legislation sounds good. Only a cretin wants juvenile injustice, child endangerment, and rampant crime in the streets. Unfortunately, most anti gun legislation has a title that sounds good to hide the harm in the bill. The truth of the matter is the title of the bill does not represent what the bill actually does! The titles are just covers for more gun control. Gun owners know that and we oppose bills with nice sounding titles, but anti gun content.

H3419 is a well intentioned, but still harmful, bill with a nice sounding title. But, H3419 is not range protection. It is a poison pill for the shooting sports. H3419 gives no protection to existing pistol and rifle ranges. H3419 will force all shooting ranges to close off membership to new members or give up any immunity from nuisance noise lawsuits for five years each time it increases membership. H3419 will cause the death of the pistol and rifle shooting sports in general, and IDPA and USPSA (the shooting sports most useful to CWP holders) in particular. This prescription for the death of the shooting sports is something HCI could only dream to impose upon us. Why are we doing HCI's dirty work for them?

We should be passing good range protection, not this well intentioned, but none the less harmful, bill that is "range protection" in name only. Please read carefully the following analysis of H3419. Take the analysis to your attorney if you

want a legal opinion. We have asked for numerous legal opinions on this issue, and every attorney who has answered has agreed with the following analysis. *Remember, the law you will be forced to live with is what is written in the bill, not what the title claims the bill to be or what we want it to be.* The future of shooting ranges and the shooting sports is in your hands. Don't be sorry later, be certain now. Learn the truth, then act to help us amend or kill this horrible bill.

First, we should try to amend H3419 (as described below) to make it acceptable to all gun owners because we need a good range protection bill. Unfortunately, there are some in SC who are demanding H3419 get passed AS IS. They say H3419 may not be able to be amended even though SC is a pro gun state! Some say "half a loaf is better than none." Well, there is not a single slice of bread in H3419 for pistol and rifle ranges! Some say "get what we can now and amend the law later." If we can not get a good bill now, what will change to allow good amendments later? How many ranges will be shut down while we wait years for good amendments to pass? Gun owners should not allow H3419 to be passed as is. Gun owners deserve better and should stick together to protect ALL shooting ranges. Gun owners would be better off to kill H3419 and start over next year with a good bill than to accept H3419 as is.

Please distribute this analysis to the officers of the range where you shoot and to all who are concerned about the shooting sports and range protection. Any feedback from range leadership and or attorneys would be

appreciated so we can keep track of and try to coordinate the drive to amend (hopefully), or kill, H3419.

**The action plan: 1<sup>st</sup> - amend the bill, or 2<sup>nd</sup> - kill the bill if it is not amended.**

### Detailed Analysis of H3419

**Bold text** indicates the text of H3419.

~~**Bold-Strikeout text**~~ indicates text of H3419 to be deleted by a suggested amendment.

**Bold Underline text** indicates text to be added to H3419 by a suggested amendment.

Regular text is used to discuss the problems and the solutions of H3419.

**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 **are such ensure that a projectile discharged from a firearm in the general direction of at a target does would not reasonably be expected to 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.**

### The Problem:

It is critically important to note a "shooting *facility*" is NOT NECESSARILY a "shooting *range*" under H3419. A "shooting facility" is a place where people shoot. A "shooting range" is a "shooting facility" that also satisfies all of the elements specifically used in the definition of "shooting range" in H3419. A "shooting range" as defined by H3419 DOES NOT include all "shooting facilities." Only those "shooting facilities" that meet ALL of the elements set by the definition of "shooting range" in H3419 are "shooting ranges." This distinction is important because virtually ALL outdoor pistol and rifle ranges will not satisfy all of the elements of what constitutes a "shooting range" and will only qualify as a

# **South Carolina Bill H3419 IS NOT RANGE PROTECTION!**

“shooting facility.” “Shooting facilities” get no protection from H3419.

The word “ensure” means “guarantee; that will not fail; always effective; that can not be doubted, questioned, or disputed; absolutely true; or having no doubt.” Subsection (c) requires a “shooting range” to “ensure” no rounds will leave the range property. Subsection (c) provides this guarantee can be made by either: 1) owning enough property such that it is impossible to discharge a projectile off of the range, or 2) putting up barriers to prevent the escape of any discharged projectiles. If that guarantee can not be made by the shooting facility, then the shooting facility is not a “shooting range” as defined under H3419 and will not be able to avail itself of any of the benefits of H3419 since H3419 only addresses “shooting ranges” as defined by H3419.

Two primary types of outdoor shooting facilities exist. The differences between the two types of outdoor shooting facilities are critically important because H3419 gives some protection to existing shooting facilities of one type, but not to the other type.

One type of outdoor shooting facility consists of shotgun shooting facilities. Discharged shot only travels a few hundred yards before gravity pulls it to the ground. It is easy for a shotgun shooting facility to be able to own enough property to guarantee discharged shot will not leave the property owned by the shotgun shooting facility. Impact barriers will most likely not be needed or used. Most shotgun shooting facilities will be able to meet the legal definition of “shooting range” in H3419 and legally qualify as a “shooting range.” Once a shooting facility legally qualifies as a “shooting range” under the law, then and only then can it avail itself of the other benefits of H3419, most importantly the grandfather clause in Section 31-18-40 and immunity from nuisance noise lawsuits.

The other type of outdoor shooting facility consists of pistol and rifle shooting facilities. Discharged projectiles can easily travel over one mile before gravity pulls them to the ground. It is virtually impossible for a pistol or rifle shooting facility to be able to own enough property to guarantee

discharged projectiles will not leave the property owned by the pistol or rifle shooting facility. Impact barriers will definitely be needed to contain the discharged projectiles from pistols and rifles if a pistol or rifle shooting facility is to be able to meet the legal definition of “shooting range” in H3419 and legally qualify as a “shooting range.” If a pistol or rifle shooting facility can not legally qualify as a “shooting range” under the law, then it CAN NOT avail itself of the other benefits of H3419, most importantly the grandfather clause in Section 31-18-40 and immunity from nuisance noise lawsuits. Therefore, the major issue for pistol and rifle shooting facilities will be whether they have constructed or can construct impact barriers sufficient to guarantee discharged projectiles can not leave the shooting facility property.

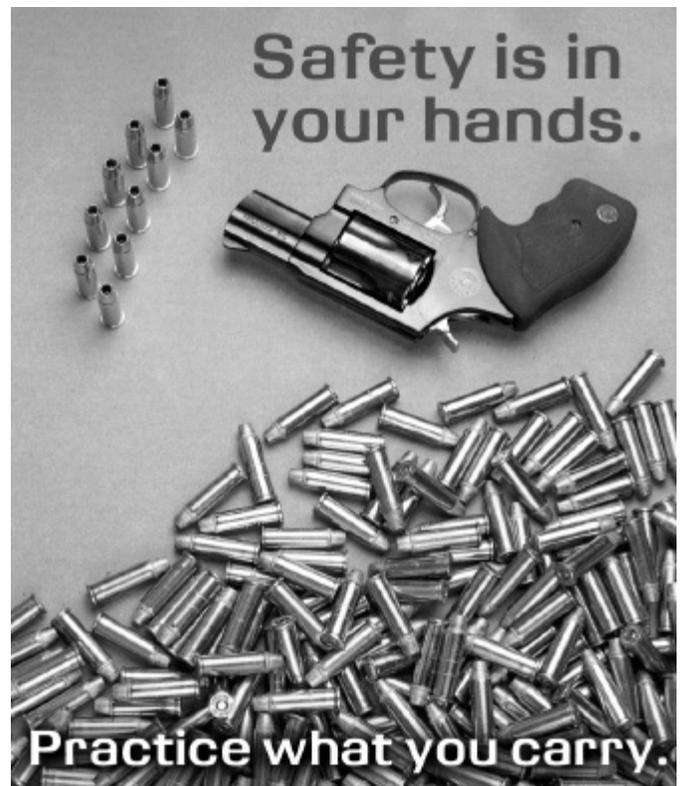
What types and sizes of impact barriers will be required to guarantee a discharged projectile can not leave the property boundaries? Types of impact barriers used are downrange berms, side berms, back berms, and bullet proof roofs and/or overhead baffles. Sizes are dependent upon many factors, but especially upon whether the shooting facility must protect against discharged projectiles in a 360 degree sphere from every shooting point, or only against those discharged projectiles aimed at a target, or something in between. Lets examine possible requirements.

At one extreme, a shooting facility would have to guarantee no discharged projectiles could leave the shooting facility property even if shooters were turning around and shooting upwards at 45 degree angles in the opposite direction of their targets. Shooters do not shoot in the opposite direction of their target, therefore, it would be unreasonable to require a shooting facility to construct such

extensive impact barriers to protect against behavior that does not occur. It would be cost prohibitive to require berms and bullet proof roofs and/or overhead baffles to guarantee that NO discharged projectiles could leave the shooting facility property regardless of the direction in which the discharged projectile was fired. H3419 protects against such a requirement by using the phrase “in the general direction of a target” as a maximum limit on where impact barriers must be used.

At the other extreme, a shooting facility might argue that a bullet trap the size of and directly behind the target was sufficient to guarantee a discharged projectile did not leave the facility property. It would be unreasonable to argue all shooters were of such outstanding ability that they would always hit the target and have the bullet trap contain the discharged projectile. H3419 prohibits the adoption of such an argument by using the phrase “in the general direction of a target” as a minimum limit on where impact barriers must be used.

Reality is somewhere between these two



extremes. The phrase “in the general direction of a target” has been used to set both the minimum and maximum limits on where impact barriers must be used. But, “in the general direction of a target”

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has not been defined. A mere ten degree upward shooting angle will cause the discharged projectile to be 50 feet high at 100 yards and 100 feet high at 200 yards (i.e., 1 MOA equals 1" at 100 yards, and there are 60 MOA's per degree). Few, if any, rifle shooting facilities have down range berms that high. A twenty degree upward shooting angle will cause the discharged projectile to be 50 feet high at 50 yards, 100 feet high at 100 yards, and 200 feet high at 200 yards. Very few shooting facilities have down range berms that high. And what if the impact barrier requirement had to "ensure" against a 40 degree upward shooting angle? H3419 does not protect against these impact barrier requirement possibilities, some of which would most likely be considered as "in the general direction of a target."

Down range berms will not be sufficient to guarantee discharged projectiles can not leave the shooting facility property. Bullet proof roofs and/or overhead baffles will be required to be able to guarantee discharged projectiles do not leave the shooting facility property.

Pistol or rifle shooting facilities not having bullet proof roofs and/or overhead baffles, along with adequate down range and side berms, will not meet the legal definition of "shooting range" in H3419 and will not be able to avail themselves of any of the benefits of H3419. A pistol or rifle shooting facility not meeting the legal definition of "shooting range" as of January 1, 1999, CAN NOT get grandfathered in under Section 31-18-40 and will get no protection.

The bottom line is that shotgun shooting facilities will most likely meet the definition of "shooting range" in H3419 and be able to avail themselves of the grandfather clause in Section 31-18-40 and have immediate protection from nuisance noise lawsuits. Pistol and rifle shooting facilities will not meet the definition of "shooting range" in H3419 and will not be able to avail themselves of the grandfather clause in Section 31-18-40 and will get no protection from nuisance lawsuits. Therefore, H3419 is currently ONLY A SHOTGUN RANGE PROTECTION bill. H3419 leaves the present rifle and pistol shooting facilities with NO PROTECTION.

Even if a pistol or rifle shooting facility decides to make expensive improvements to meet the legal definition of "shooting range" in H3419, the shooting facility will then be considered a newly "established" range and be subject to a nuisance noise lawsuit for five years after the completion of the expensive improvements. See Section 31-18-30(B).

While covered shooting points can be provided at great expense for those shooting sports which require all shots to be fired from a given position (i.e. 2700, high power rifle, and hunter and metallic silhouette), the action shooting sports will not be so lucky. Subsection (c) will be the death of all outside action shooting sports such as IDPA, USPSA, and Cowboy Action Shooting because all possible shooting points can not be economically covered. No shooting range will be willing to lose its immunity from nuisance noise lawsuits just to allow the continuation of action shooting sports. It would be safer for the shooting range to just eliminate the action shooting sports.

Another potential problem associated with subsection (c) is it sets a legal standard of what constitutes a shooting range. Step One is to define what constitutes a "shooting range" so as to get protection from nuisance noise lawsuits. Step Two is to apply that same legal standard to all existing "shooting facilities" and demand that all "shooting facilities" comply with those standards to be able to stay in existence.

## **The Solution:**

1) Ideally, subsection (c) should be DELETED. The subject matter contained in subsection (c) is not related to noise problems, it is related to safety problems. Safety problems should be handled as safety legislation, not part of nuisance noise legislation. If subsection (c) is deleted, then the courts would look at the legislative history when interpreting the law and would most likely find the legislature had considered and then rejected an absolute standard of ensuring discharged projectiles did not leave the range premises.

If we can not get the original subsection (c) deleted, then we MUST get it amended. The word "ensure" must be deleted (because it is the word that

requires the guarantee) and replaced with the words "are such." The words "does not" need to be changed to "would not reasonably be expected to." These changes would make subsection (c) require the range to make reasonable efforts to prevent the escape of projectiles to protect surrounding property owners. But, it would not require an absolute standard, only a reasonable man standard. Rifle and pistol ranges can most likely meet a reasonable man standard, but not an absolute standard.

2) The phrase "in the general direction of" should be replaced with the word "at." The phrase "in the general direction of" could include a 40 degree discharged projectile launch angle described above, and thereby require more impact barriers. Whereas the word "at" would be closer to the bullet trap example described above, and require fewer impact barriers. The greater the down range and overhead barrier requirements that are imposed upon ranges, the greater the chances that a shooting facility will not meet the legal definition of "shooting range."

**(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.**

## **The Problem:**

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 with respect to noise.

A 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 be construed to be an "expansion of activity" because they could increase the amount of noise: 1) any increase in membership of the range,

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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, 5) any increase in the types of firearms that produce louder noises, or 6) any physical expansion or additions to range facilities.

In order to maintain immunity from a lawsuit, ranges would be forced to close membership to new members, limit the number of matches held, and limit the number of participants at matches. Additionally, ranges could be required to keep track of the number of rounds fired and of what caliber if they wanted to keep their immunity from lawsuit. If you think these are unreasonable requirements, please be advised these requirements are already in existence at Ft. Gordon.

## **The Solution:**

We MUST delete the phrase “expansion of activity.” This phrase will be used to kill the shooting sports because of what it will force ranges to do - limit membership, matches, participants, and rounds fired. Even a qualifier to the phrase, i.e. “significant” or “substantial,” will still impact the range and the shooting sports, only at a later date.

**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.**

1) We MUST add owners, operators, and users to those protected from suit, otherwise a good attorney will not bring suit against the range per se, only the owners, operators, or users of the range to close the range.

2) We need to try to shorten the statute of limitations to better protect the ranges.

**(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.**

1) We MUST add owners, operators, and users to those protected from suit, otherwise a good attorney will not bring suit against the range per se, only the owners, operators, or users of the range to close the range.

2) We need to try to shorten the statute of limitations to better protect the ranges.

**(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. The three year period shall be tolled if shooting activity ceases due to legal action against the shooting range or the owners, operators, or users of the shooting range.**

This section, if left unamended, would remove protection from a shooting range if shooting were forced to stop due to a court order while legal action was being taken. Legal actions can take more than three years to resolve. A smart attorney could first close a range through a court order, and then drag the case out for more than three years. Even if the attorney lost the original case to close the range, the attorney could then claim there was a three year cessation of shooting and the range would lose its immunity from lawsuit and be liable for five more years.

**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.**

1) We need to include state agency rules and regulations as not being applicable to pre-existing ranges. We should try to ensure that an anti-gun administration must first get legislation passed before being able to adversely effect shooting ranges.

2) We MUST change the definition of shooting range or else virtually none of the existing outdoor pistol and rifle shooting facilities will get grandfathered in under this section.

**(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.**

1) We need to include state agency rules and regulations as not being applicable to previously complying ranges.

2) We need to add a section to cover those ranges established prior to the enactment of a noise control ordinance. See sub-section (C) below.

**(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.**

This proposed new section will give protection to a range established prior to the enactment of a noise control ordinance, rule, or regulation where no prior noise control ordinance, rule, or regulation existed. It closes a loophole in the original bill.

~~**(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.**~~

We MUST delete this section. Please refer to the discussion of “expansion of activity” in Section 31-18-20(3) above.

**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.”**

We need to add the qualifier “new” to the ranges that can be subjected to zoning and construction regulations. Then, when a court looked at the legislative history to interpret the law, it would reveal the legislature considered and rejected the idea that local government could use zoning and construction regulations to close an existing range.

(end)

# GRSC Frequently Asked Questions

## GRSC Frequently Asked Questions

Along with the many positive responses we receive in our mailbox, we also receive many, many questions. As time permits we have tried to answer as fully and completely as possible all questions. I thought that perhaps a column here might answer those same questions for everyone interested.

### **Q: Who are you?**

A: GRSC is a 501c4 Non-Profit Corporation. Our officers, staff, and directors are listed on the inside cover of all of our newsletters. We started as a group of concerned individuals interested in seeing positive change take place for all CWP holders. Initially we focused on educating merchants who posted against lawful concealed carry, however it soon became apparent that we needed to broaden our objectives if we were going to make a meaningful difference and impact for all SC CWP holders. We are no longer a small group of individuals. Our officers and staff are all volunteers and represent various areas of South Carolina. Anyone may join our organization and anyone may take part in our grass roots efforts.

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

A: The most likely reason is that you have moved. To contain costs we use bulk mail to distribute our newsletter. Bulk mail is cheap but the post office will not forward bulk mail. Ordinary first class mail would cost us almost a dollar per newsletter. By using bulk mail we generally keep the cost down to under twenty-five cents postage. The other reason you may have been dropped from our mailing list is because last summer we became a membership organization (dues and all). We attempted to contact everyone who was on our previous mailing list but perhaps we missed you. Remember: If you move contact us so that we can make the necessary corrections to our database. (Hey, more importantly, also remember you have ten days to notify SLED if you change addresses!)

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

A: We have a limited number of some of our recently printed newsletters. You may have them as for as long as they are available. If you are asking us to send you hard copies of our previous newsletters, a gift to cover our printing and postage

would be graciously appreciated! Also, we have many of our previous newsletters online at our website located at: <http://www.scfirearms.org>

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

A: We try to accommodate all requests as resources permit. Twice we have mailed fliers to the complete list of CWP holders in South Carolina. It's highly likely that your neighbor has already received a communication from us. Consider copying or sharing your newsletter with your neighbor or anyone you think might be interested. Tell them how they join us in our efforts.

### **Q: Do you sell your mailing list?**

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

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

A: No, we are not affiliated with any national or state RKBA organization. However I'll admit that most of our officers hold membership in multiple national and state firearms organizations - we just can't get enough of second amendment activism!

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

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

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

A: Yes, we have New Hampshire CWP permit applications and as of this time Georgia has reciprocity with New Hampshire (even NH Out of State Permits). We have had these reprinted in the original N.H. State application color of blue. They

are available from GRSC free of charge. We ask that you send a stamped self-addressed envelope requesting the N.H. permit to our published address and we will get one out to you ASAP. Any donation would be gleefully accepted but is not required.

### **Q: What can be done about the size of my permit? It's larger than my gun!**

A: S.L.E.D. has come out with a new, smaller permit. To get one, send in your old one requesting the new style. Keep a notarized copy of your permit until the new one arrives.

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

A: When we learn that a merchant is posted against CWP holders we send a well written letter covering all of the various reasons they should consider removing their sign. Additionally we send alternative signs, offer to send additional signs, and extend an offer to further discuss the issue with them. We also include a copy of our most recent newsletter which, we feel, usually covers the issues surrounding posting against lawful concealed carry as well as demonstrates that we will publish their name in an effort to educate our members and the public of their dangerous practice. However, sometimes this simply isn't enough and merchants do not remove their signs. We suggest you organize locally to voice your concern and opinion to the merchant directly. Merchants are much more likely to respond to local customers they stand to lose (read that "\$\$\$") than a letter postmarked from Columbia or Sumter.

### **Q: I had a permit before the current CWP law went into effect. It was better and had fewer restrictions. Why did you guys mess it up?**

A: Don't shoot the messenger! GRSC wasn't even an idea when the current CWP law was passed. We're on your side and want to make the necessary changes to make your CWP as unrestricted as possible. Don't get mad at us - instead join us in our efforts if you want it improved.

### **Q: I was one of the first to get a CWP under the current law. Am I still restricted to carrying only the gun I used to get my CWP?**

A: No. That restriction was lifted approximately one year after the law went into effect. You may now carry any firearm that meets the guidelines under the law.

## Characteristics of a Holster Purse, Fanny Packs; and Finding the Right Gun For Your Hand

by Janis Cortese

A holster purse is a purse that is specially designed to hold a handgun (of a variety of sizes) in a compartment separate from the ones into which your checkbook, car keys, etc. will be tossed. In a good quality holster purse, this compartment will be padded and reinforced to hold the heavy weight of your handgun discreetly and safely -- some models even contain a removable internal holster. The handgun is held securely, in the same position every time you insert it into the compartment, and separate from your stuff, so that you can go rooting around for that lighter without the slightest fear that your handgun will be revealed. The best purses seal with Velcro or snaps or both along a central seam on the top or side, and when this seam is pressed closed, there is literally NO visible evidence that the purse is any different from any of a dozen other kinds, provided it is not overstuffed.

The concerns of leaving the thing behind when you walk out of a store or restaurant won't be changed by the type of purse you own, nor will the concerns of having adult or children's hands around when you take it off your shoulder and set it down. These issues will just take increased vigilance on your part. Absentmindedness is just going to have to become a thing of the past. You can get yourself to the point where you won't forget the purse; after a while, checking to see if you have it on you will become second nature, like checking to see that you have your car keys on you before you slam your trunk shut.

Pursesnatching is another consideration entirely, and the one over which you have the least control. Most people recommend that you carry your purse over one shoulder only, so that if someone does run up behind you and grab the strap, you will not be thrown to the ground. But (and keep in mind that this is my opinion only), if you have a handgun in there, you have GOT to be ready to take the risk of hitting the ground to keep that purse on your body. Wear it slung diagonally from one shoulder to the opposite hip ALWAYS. And keep your hands on it AT ALL



## Handgun Info for Women & Southpaws

TIMES, holding it close to your body. You don't need to clutch fearfully like it's a life preserver -- but just make sure it's not dangling out there swinging back and forth and bouncing on your hip.

And let's face it, if a pursesnatcher sees that, he's probably just going to give you up and go looking for easier prey anyhow. Making it MORE difficult for someone to steal from you is never a bad move. The advice that tells a woman to wear her purse on one shoulder only so that she won't be tossed to the ground if she is nailed by a thief always struck me funny anyhow -- why the heck are we being told how to make THEIR job easier? \*SOAPBOX ALERT\* It reminds me of the crappy old advice that tells you not to resist if you're raped. With "advice" like that given solemnly to women, it's no damned wonder many criminals target us specially -- we're told all our lives how to cooperate with them and make their victimization of us easier! While you're at it, make sure that you don't lock your front door and that you do leave your keys in your car with the windows down as well. Heaven forbid someone should dent your doorknob while robbing your house or scratch the paint on your car door while stealing it.

So you've got to make sure that you are as poor a target for a pursesnatcher as you can be. Wear the thing diagonally.

Another way that some pursesnatchers go for their victims is to cut the strap of the purse when you are standing in a crowd, standing in a train, or in some other big, stationary mass of people. Many holster purses come with braided wire inside the strap that prevents this from happening, and it's worth the extra cost to get one that does. You'll want to make sure that you get one that's made of leather as well; denim won't cut it since after a lot of use the fabric might wear around the braided wire. Go for the leather or sturdy burlap purses.

So there are your major considerations, and the ways that a holster purse can help alleviate the problems they involve. Now, where the heck do you get one of the things?

Gun shows are sometimes a good place to go, but they are often geared towards the male market (lots of macho stuff), and will often have only a few purses for sale. The amount of marketing directed toward women is increasing, but still, you shouldn't rely on finding even a halfway decent selection of holster purses at a gun show. And if, like me, you are left-handed and would need one that opens on the other side, you're in for a pretty thin selection.

Mail order is a much better way to go, and one issue of Women & Guns will have a plethora of companies and prices listed for a variety of purses, or for catalogues through which you can get one. The January 95 issue had an article devoted to a variety of brands of holster purses, and is a nice place to start. They sell back issues, so you should be able to get this one without a hassle.

### A Holster Fanny Pack

Another excellent possible option is a holster fanny pack -- this solves the problem of run-and-grab pursesnatching as well as holding the thing closer to your midsection and hence more comfortably (your chiropractor will appreciate it, as will your spine). They are also more comfortable to leave on, so that also solves the problem of absentmindedly leaving it behind. Since these are purchased by men as well, their availability at gun shows and simple swap meets is greater (they are often sold under the name "law enforcement fanny pack" or "beltbag holster"), as is the availability of left-handed ones. I'd definitely opt for a fanny pack instead of a purse, but then I don't carry a purse anyhow. The only drawback, and it's not even a serious one, really, is that you can't carry larger firearms in them -- but if you are carrying concealed, you'll want a .38 snubby or slim autoloader anyhow. Keep the fanny pack option in mind!

One drawback to fanny packs that applies to certain areas is that, depending on where you live, they can be very uncommon. Many readers live in areas where fanny packs scream "concealed carry." In southern California where I live, everyone wears the things, so a

## Characteristics Of A Holster Purse, Fanny Packs, and Finding the Right Gun For Your Hand

fanny pack would be the most unobtrusive means of carrying you could get.

The following is a list of companies with addresses that make holster purses from W&G, but I heartily encourage you to grab the nearest issue and dig around in it for yourself. Some also carry fanny packs and are marked. Keep in mind that these things can be pricey sometimes -- you aren't just buying a purse from Sears but a special piece of emergency-oriented equipment:

OTE Inc.  
P. O. Box 372  
Harrisburg, NC 28075  
(704) 785-9567

CW Cases 2037 W. 4350 S.  
Roy, UT 84067-2730  
<http://www.cwcases.com/>

Love Leathers, Inc.  
3415 "O" Street  
Vancouver, WA 98663  
(360) 693-3812  
(360) 693-0596 fax

KG Products (carries fanny packs)  
1740W Churchill Dr.  
Oakland, OR 97462  
1-800-944-7717  
(541) 459-4854 fax  
<http://www.kgproducts.com/>

Lady B Safe  
6120 E. Admiral Place  
Tulsa, OK 74115  
1-800-627-8027

Feminine Protection (I adore this name!)  
10514 Shady Trail  
Dallas, TX 75220  
(214) 351-4500  
1-800-444-7090

Coronado Leather (carries fanny packs)  
1201 First St., Suite 105  
Dept. WG  
Coronado, CA 92118  
1-800-283-9509

Galco International  
Dept. WG  
2019 W. Quail Avenue  
Phoenix, AZ 85027

These people also make a very nice regular holster designed for women. Paxton Quigley Signature Line (carries fanny packs and briefcases)

Boyt  
P. O. Box 668, Dept WG  
Iowa Falls, IA 50126

GML Products  
29 Laredo Drive, Dept. WG  
Birmingham, AL 35226  
(205) 979-GUNS

Guardian Leather  
P. O. Box 277, Dept. WG  
Newton Centre, MA 02159  
(617) 527-1819

Custom Concealment Products  
P. O. Box 472  
Montgomery, TX 77356  
1-800-460-7793

Portfolio Plus (holster briefcases)  
224 N. Lansdown Avenue  
Lansdowne, PA 19050  
1-800-688-8173  
(610) 626-5421 fax

DeSantis Holsters (carries fanny packs)  
P. O. Box 2039, Dept. WG  
New Hyde Park, NY 11040

D and S Enterprise (carried fanny packs)  
<http://www.gungear.com/>

Northwest Security  
<http://www.geocities.com/rodeodrive/1994/>  
northwest@hevanet.com

Michael's of Oregon (carries fanny pack)  
Dept. WG-15  
P. O. Box 13010  
Portland, OR 97213

### Finding the Right Gun for Your Hand

Before I begin this section, I've got to warn the reader that I have large hands and as a result, finding smaller handguns simply is not an issue for me. My index finger rests too far up the trigger even on my .357 Magnum. Consequently, you may find better information elsewhere. Again, Women & Guns is your best resource as they routinely review handguns with this criterion in mind.

Many manufacturers are starting to recognize the increasing female market in handguns and are making some of their favorite models with smaller grips.

The grip and how it fits your hand is crucial when purchasing a handgun, as it will affect your reaction in a pinch as well as your aim. If your finger does not rest easily on the trigger or if you feel you have to reach for it, **DO NOT PURCHASE THE GUN**. For a revolver, your finger should rest very easily on the trigger, close to but not butted up against the first joint and behind the fleshy pad at the tip. With an autoloader, the preferred grip is one in which the fleshy pad of your index finger rests just atop the trigger.

Pick up the gun and see and feel if it is the right size for your hand; don't automatically assume that you must get a smaller handgun if you are a woman. I have very large hands capable of palming soccer and volleyballs, and despite this, I am sometimes admonished to get a smaller frame handgun because I am female. My 5'2" friend handles a Ruger GP100 large frame revolver (a very large .357 with a 6" barrel) with no qualms and no problems at all. While women statistically have smaller hands than men, this is not always the case, and many men seem to think that a grown woman's hand is the size of a five year old's. Pick up the gun and see!

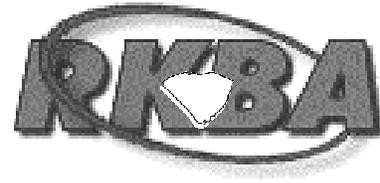
Many companies are now putting out handguns specially designed for customers with smaller hands. (Ruger makes a lovely revolver that is scaled down -- the SP101. This is the smaller companion to their standard GP100 large frame revolver; the GP100 is my own personal total fave-rave handgun! It's built like a tank, and shoots smooth as silk.) I've also heard good things about the Browning HiPower. There are others, but I am in the process of researching this right now and hope to have more information in the future. If you find a handgun you're interested in, write the company for more information. Most companies are more than willing to tell you about their products, and as I stated above, more are making products designed for users with smaller hands. And there are many special grips you can use to replace the factory grips the handgun came with that will reduce the reach from the rear of the grip to the trigger.

(end)

## Legislative Update

By Rob Butler, J.D.

**Current as of January 22, 2000:** 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** - This well intentioned, but still harmful, range “protection” bill will give no protection to pistol and rifle shooting ranges. It will force gun clubs to limit membership at the few shotgun 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 in the GRSC Winter 2000 newsletter and at <http://www.scfirearms.org>. The future of the shooting sports depends upon your getting involved in this matter, learning the facts, and then acting.

**Our position:** Either amend H3419 or kill it. This bill does more harm than good in its present form. We must ask for what we want the first time.

**Principle used:** Do not allow the gun community to be divided. H3419 divides the gun community into two groups, those who shoot politically correct shotguns and those who shoot politically incorrect rifles (either assault weapons or sniper rifles, which is what your deer hunting rifle is going to be called soon) and handguns.

**Major Problem:** There is misguided support for this bill. Please read carefully the problems described in the newsletter or on the web site. 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 will kill the RTKBA in SC and it will pass without your opposition.

**Current Status:** Passed House and now in Senate Judiciary committee.

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

\*\*\***S965** - “Assault Weapons Act of 2000.” This bill outlaws virtually everything but the kitchen sink. It is 21 pages long and will require the registration of politically incorrect firearms and prevent the sale of these firearms in SC. It imposes an additional 1 year penalty if a firearm is possessed, not used, in a felony, but increases the penalty to three years if the firearm is politically incorrect. It imposes a greater penalty upon a knowing UN-armed co-felon than it does upon the armed co-felon. This bill is too long to list all of the problems.

**Our position:** Gun registration is wrong. The bill is unconstitutional and stupid and should be killed.

**Principle used:** The RTKBA is one of our unalienable rights. If any weapons should be protected by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment, it would be specifically those being banned by this law, i.e. those most useful to the militia. Gun registration is the first step towards gun confiscation.

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

Current status and text can be found at: <http://www.lpittr.state.sc.us/bills/965.htm>

\*\*\***H4281** - This bill changes the definition of “resident” in the CWP law. It prevents SLED from requiring new residents of SC from having to wait two years to get a CWP, but it DOES NOT waive the one year residency requirement. The law was ambiguous on this point.

**Our position:** The bill is a good bill.

**Principle used:** Getting rid of ambiguous sections of the law is a good thing.

**Current Status:** In House Judiciary committee. Current status and text can be found at: <http://www.lpittr.state.sc.us/bills/4281.htm>

**\*\*\*H4321** - "The Citizen's Self Defense Act of 2000." This bill would create a statutory right to use firearms in self defense and defense of family, as opposed to a common law right to self defense, defense of family, and defense of others. The statute fails to specifically provide for the defense of others, which is part of the common law. Will the courts allow defense of others, or will the courts say the legislature meant to deny defense of others because they specifically failed to include defense of others when they wrote the statute? If defense of others is denied, then the statute is worse than the common law. Another question is whether all of the current limitations and requirements to retreat that are part of the current common law right to self defense would be imposed upon the statute by the judiciary, or would the plain language of the bill, which includes no requirement to retreat, prevail? If no duty to retreat is required of a person in the right, then the statute is better than the common law



because it would stop the judicial system from second guessing whether a righteous person yielded enough to a wrong doer prior to defending themselves. The only questions would be who was right, and was the perceived threat reasonably perceived. Another issue is what would happen if this law was first passed and then repealed? Since a statute preempts the common law, would SC citizens lose their common law right to self defense?

**Our position:** We support the citizen's right to self defense. This statute could be better than the common law, or it could be worse. We would like answers to the above questions. Anyone with answers to the above questions, please send them to GRSC.

**Principle used:** Self defense is part of natural law, God's law, our common law, and is an unalienable right.

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

Current status and text can be found at: <http://www.lpittr.state.sc.us/bills/4321.htm>

**\*\*\*H4339** - "The South Carolina Exile Act of 2000." This bill requires mandatory penalties. If you think requiring mandatory penalties without regard to extenuating circumstances is good public policy, then you can support H4339. But remember, an anti gun prosecutor could have sent the assistant principal in Pearl, MS, to prison for an additional mandatory 5 years because he had a gun on school grounds (a felony in SC) and he brandished the gun (a felony in SC). With mandatory sentences, extenuating circumstances such as he had possibly stopped carnage elsewhere would not matter. If you think mandatory sentences are bad public policy because every situation should be judged on the merits of that particular situation and that is what we pay judges to do, then you will oppose H4339. Does justice come in a one size fits all form, or does justice require consideration of the specifics of each particular case?

**Our position:** Each person needs to take their own position.

**Principle used:** We do not know the "right" answer for you.

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

Current status and text can be found at: <http://www.lpittr.state.sc.us/bills/4339.htm>

**H3128** - A bill to stop the discharge of firearms within one-half mile radius of a school. This bill would make felons of anyone who discharges a firearm "too" close to a school. 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 felony laws already exist 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Am. rights merely because there was an unknown school nearby.

**Principle used:** People should be able to know beforehand when the acts they commit are criminal acts. Under this bill, innocent 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 incur 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:** This bill discriminates against adults between the ages of 18 and 21, and denies them their unalienable right to keep and bear arms. This bill should die.

**Principle used:** If 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, then that person should be responsible enough to run their own life.

**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 in 1999. 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>

**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>

**H3804** - A bill to supposedly combat bombs and weapons of mass destruction. Your grass roots activism in 1999 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.

**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>

**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?

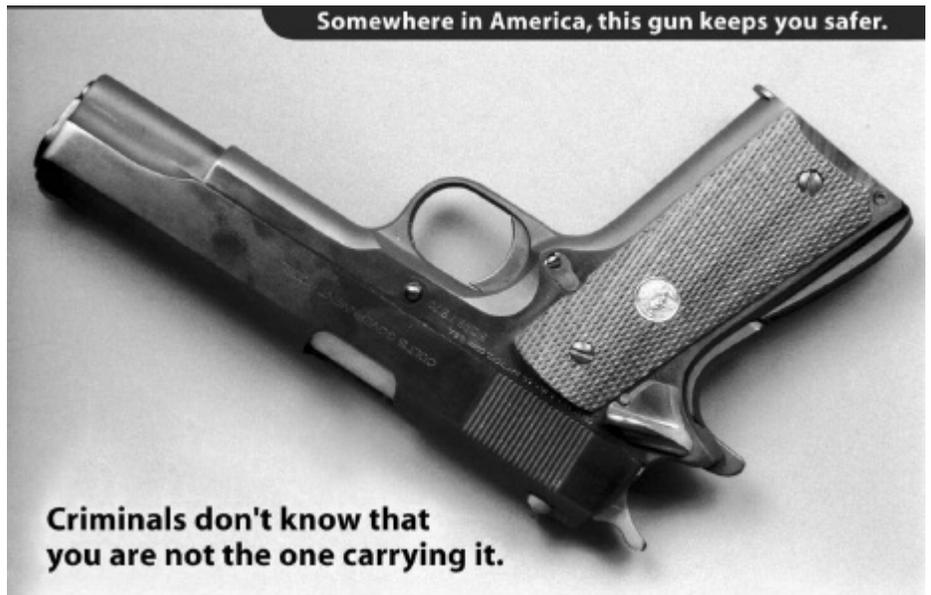
Current status and text can be found at: <http://www.lpittr.state.sc.us/bills/3079.htm>

**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:



<http://www.lpittr.state.sc.us/bills/3196.htm>

**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 & S209** - Bills to punish possession of anything that could be used as a weapon around schools. These bills would change the law from prohibiting carrying on your person anything that could be “used to inflict bodily injury” to prohibiting carrying “onto any premises or property owned, operated, or controlled by” any public or private schools, colleges, or other post secondary institution. This could include the tire iron in your vehicle, golf clubs, etc., etc.. This law is written too broadly and the amendment just makes it worse.

**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 who enters upon school grounds.

**Principle used:** These are bad bills because they further infringe our rights, do nothing to improve safety, and are extremely over broad 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. Conviction for failing to “lock up your safety” would impose a lifetime firearms disability.

**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 and deny them their most effective means of self defense. 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 and deny them their most effective means of self defense. 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>

## Taking It to the Streets - Why treating guns like cars might not be such a bad idea.

### Taking It to the Streets Why treating guns like cars might not be such a bad idea

By [David B. Kopel](#)

Should we treat guns like cars? Handgun Control Inc. has been saying so for years, and this summer Vice President Al Gore agreed. "We require a license to drive a car in this nation in order to keep unsafe drivers off the road," Gore said. "As president, I will fight for a national requirement that every state issue photo licenses [for handgun buyers]. We should require a license to own a handgun so people who shouldn't have them can't get them." Prospective licensees should have to "pass a background test and pass a gun safety test." Gore predicted that his plan would cause the gun lobby to "have a fit."

Actually, if Gore follows through on his promise to treat guns like cars, he will oversee the most massive decontrol of firearms in America since 1868, when the 14th Amendment abolished the Southern states' Black Codes, which prevented freedmen from owning guns. Although anti-gun lobbyists who use the car analogy are pushing for additional controls, laws that really did treat guns like cars would be much less restrictive, on the whole, than what we have now.

The first thing to go would be the 1986 federal ban on the manufacture of machine guns for sale to ordinary citizens. We don't ban cars like Porsches just because they are high-powered and can drive much faster than the speed limit. Even though it's a lot easier to go 50 miles per hour over the highway speed limit in a Porsche than in a Hyundai, we let people own any car they want, no matter what its potential for abuse.

After getting rid of the machine gun ban, the next step toward treating cars like guns would be repealing the 1994 federal "assault weapon" ban and its analogs in California, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and a few other jurisdictions. So-called assault weapons are actually ordinary guns that fire just one bullet each time the trigger is pressed, but they happen to look like machine guns. Just as we don't ban powerful Porsches (which actually can go very fast), we don't ban less-powerful vehicles that simply look like high-performance cars.

Likewise, we don't ban autos because they are underpowered, or because they're made with low-quality metal. If you want a Yugo, you can buy one. So the state-level bans on inexpensive guns (a.k.a. "junk guns" or "Saturday night specials") will have to go, along with the federal rules against the import of cheap guns.

Also slated for elimination under the treat-cars-like-guns rule are thousands of laws regulating the purchase of firearms and their possession on private property. The simple purchase of an automobile is subject to essentially no restrictions. When you show up at the dealer's showroom, he will not conduct a background check to find out if you have a conviction for vehicular homicide, or if you've been arrested for drunk driving, or even if you have a driver's license. All you need is money.

The only "waiting period" to buy a car runs from the time you pay for it (with cash, a certified check, or a loan document) to the time the salesman hands you the keys. This waiting period tends to run from 30 seconds to five minutes. In contrast, firearms are the only product in this country for which FBI permission (via the national background check) is required for every single retail purchase.

If you keep your automobile on private property, there are virtually no restrictions. Even though your driver's license was revoked last week, you can drive your Jeep on your ranch as much as you want. Indeed, you can drink a case of beer before you go driving around your ranch, and enjoy the ride knowing that you are not violating a single law. (Of course, if any form of negligent or reckless conduct with your auto on your own property results in injury to an innocent person or to someone else's property, you will be financially responsible, and you may be prosecuted for violating laws against reckless endangerment.)

Thus, we can get rid of all the laws concerning gun storage in the home, together with the laws that ban possession of guns by various persons on private property. Current federal law outlaws gun possession, on private as well as public property, by anyone who has ever been convicted of a felony (even a nonviolent one), anyone with a misdemeanor involving domestic

violence (such as two brothers who had a fistfight on their front lawn 30 years ago), anyone who has been dishonorably discharged from the military, any alcoholic, any illegal drug user (defined by regulation as anyone who has used drugs in the last year), any illegal alien, and various other "prohibited persons." Some states, such as Massachusetts, go even further, making all gun possession presumptively illegal, except for persons with special licenses. Once we really treat guns like cars, all of these laws will be swept away.

Most cities do prohibit property owners from storing their cars in an unsightly manner (say, on cinder blocks in the front yard), or from parking too many cars on the public street in front of their homes. Fair enough. Gun owners will have to accept laws against leaving nonfunctional guns strewn about their front yard, and they will not be allowed to leave excessive numbers of guns on the street. (Anti-gun groups frequently complain that there are "too many guns on the street.")

If you have a car on your own property, you can hitch it to a trailer, have it pulled to someone else's property, and drive the car on his property (assuming you have his permission). As long as your car is just being towed, you don't need a driver's license or plates. Thus, gun owners should be allowed to transport their unloaded guns to private property (a shooting gallery, for example) for use on that property. Jurisdictions such as New York City would no longer have the power to require a separate "target permit" just to take a gun to the local pistol range.

But now suppose that you want to use your car on public property, such as a street or an old logging trail in a national forest. Then a licensing system does come into play--but only because the car will be used in public. For a license that allows you to drive a car anywhere in public, most states require that you 1) be at least 15 or 16 years old; 2) take a written safety test that requires an IQ of no more than 75 to pass; and 3) show an examiner that you know how to operate a car and how to obey basic safety rules and traffic signs.

Your license may be revoked or suspended if, while driving in public, you violate certain safety rules or cause an accident. Except in egregious cases

## Taking It to the Streets - Why treating guns like cars might not be such a bad idea.

(such as killing someone while driving with extreme recklessness), first or second offenses do not usually result in license revocations. Once the driver's license is issued, it is good in every state of the union.

These driver's license requirements seem to be what Gore has in mind for handguns, although he fails to recognize that the requirements apply only to cars used in public, not cars possessed in private. The vice president's mistake is understandable, given his lack of driving experience in the years since the taxpayers have been paying for his full-time chauffeur. (In July, Gore warned that the 2000 election is "no time to take a far-right U-turn." He apparently did not realize that on American roads, it is impossible to make a U-turn to the right.)

The guns-like-cars licensing system touted by Gore is already in effect in 30 states, where adults with a clean record can obtain a permit to carry a concealed handgun for lawful protection. (Vermont requires no permit.) Making the concealed handgun licensing system exactly like the driver licensing system would involve a few tweaks, namely: 1) reducing the minimum age for a license (21 or 25 in most states); 2) reducing the fees (which can run over \$100 in many states); 3) mandating a written exam in the minority of states that do not currently have one; 4) adding a practical demonstration test, which most states do not currently have (but which Texas does); and 5) making the licenses valid everywhere, instead of just in the issuing state. And of course, the 19 states that currently don't give handgun carry permits to every person with a clean record would have to change their laws.

A few states already require licensees to register one or two specific guns that will be carried. Under the treat-guns-like-cars rule, every gun carried in public would have to be registered, and the owner would have to pay an annual or semiannual registration tax. The registration would also apply to hunting or target shooting guns used on public lands.

Once you get a driver's license, you can drive your car anywhere that is open to the public. Thus, we will have to repeal all the laws against carrying guns within 1,000 feet of a school, or in bars, or on government property.

Although legislative bodies regulate gun design (through laws banning machine guns, "assault weapons," and inexpensive guns), no federal agency has the authority to impose new design standards on firearms. In contrast, federal regulators do impose a wide variety of safety rules on automobiles. Some of these rules, such as mandatory passenger-side air bags, end up killing people.

So the one major way in which treating guns like cars would lead to more-restrictive gun laws would be to allow federal regulators to impose design mandates on firearms. Some of these regulations will, like automobile safety rules, cause the deaths of innocent people. Certain kinds of trigger locks, for example, can cause a loaded gun to fire when it is dropped, and a "magazine disconnect" can prevent a gun owner from firing his weapon when he is attacked. But if we accept death from regulation for cars, then perhaps we will have to accept it for guns as well.

Faced with the prospect of really treating guns like cars, gun prohibitionists tend to change their minds. They begin arguing that there are important differences in dangerousness between guns and cars. This is true. Cars are much more dangerous.

The Independence Institute's Robert Racansky points out that in 1994 (the last year for which data are available), there were 32 auto deaths for every 100,000 autos in the United States. The same year, there were 16 firearm deaths for every 100,000 firearms in the United States. Put another way, in any given year, the average car is twice as likely as the average gun to cause a death.

And more than 95 percent of gun deaths are intentional (suicide or homicide), while most auto deaths are accidents. This shows how dangerous cars really are: They are twice as likely to kill as guns are, even though the killer behind the wheel does not intend to take a life. Plus, most people who die from guns are suicides who choose to die, but almost none of the people who die in car crashes choose to die.

Another argument against treating guns like cars, of course, is that gun ownership is explicitly protected by the U.S. Constitution and by 44 state constitutions, while car ownership has no

such special status. On the other hand, if the groups that call for treating guns like cars followed their own advice, they would immediately disband. There are no major Washington lobby groups arguing that people should be able to buy a car only if the government decides they need one, or that people should use only public transportation, instead of private vehicles, during life-threatening emergencies.

Yet Handgun Control Inc.'s Sarah Brady favors "needs-based licensing" for firearms. "To me," she told the *Tampa Tribune*, "the only reason for guns in civilian hands is for sporting purposes." In response to the question of whether there are legitimate reasons for owning a handgun, Brady's husband and fellow anti-gun activist, Jim Brady, told *Parade* magazine: "For target shooting, that's OK. Get a license and go to the range. For defense of the home, that's why we have police departments."

Even if the anti-gun groups did not disband, they would have to change their style dramatically. People who own cars, and who belong to pro-car lobbying groups (such as the American Automobile Association), are treated respectfully by those who disagree with them. They are not routinely denounced when a criminal with a car kills someone.

A few days after the Columbine High School murders last April, Steve Abrams deliberately drove his Cadillac onto a playground in Costa Mesa, California, killing a 3-year-old and a 4-year-old. No one showed up on television to claim that General Motors, car owners in general, or anyone other than Steve Abrams was responsible for this crime. Politicians did not try to use Abrams' murderous act to create a campaign issue or stir up support for restrictions on law-abiding car owners. If gun owners were treated like car owners, they would not be vilified by smug moral imperialists with the energetic assistance of the president and most of the national news media. Sad to say, that would be progress.

*David B. Kopel*, research director at the Independence Institute in Golden, Colorado, ([i2i.org](http://i2i.org)) is the editor of *Guns: Who Should Have Them?* (*Prometheus*). This article originally appeared in Reason Magazine, November 1999.

# Just a Coincidence? - School Raffles Guns

## Just a Coincidence?

By Suzanna Gratia Hupp

An editorial read at the Claremont Institute's Constitution Day Conference, September 17, 1999 in Long Beach, California.

Another coward has made his presence known. A long-haired man wearing jeans and a black jacket opened fire yesterday on a teen prayer service in Fort Worth -- killing seven people, wounding seven more, and then taking his own life.

But wait, guns aren't allowed in most churches. Did the killer know that?

On another day, in another place, a killer claiming he wanted to kill "innocent" children, marched into a Jewish community center in California and opened fire on a dozen small children and their teachers.

But wait, guns aren't allowed in day care centers. Did the killer know that?

In the past year, we have witnessed several school shootings that have torn at the heart of America. At Columbine High School, two deranged teens took the lives of 13 helpless people. At Heritage High School in Atlanta, six students were shot and wounded. We have also seen shootings in Jonesboro, Edinboro, West Peducah, and Pearl.

But wait, guns aren't allowed in schools. Did the killers know that?

In Anaheim, California, a man went on a rampage in the West Anaheim Medical Center, killing three people.

But wait, guns aren't allowed in hospitals. Did the killer know that?

So let's see: churches, day cares, schools, hospitals, post offices, and universities -- all declared gun-free "safe" zones by the government -- are the popular targets for madmen. Yet we haven't seen a single mass-shooting at gun shows, NRA conventions, clay and skeet shoots, pistol and rifle competitions, or other gatherings of what the anti-Second Amendment folks call the "gun fanatics." You know, places where there are dozens, perhaps hundreds, of guns in the hands of regular citizens.

Hmm. Do the killers know that?

Suzanna Gratia Hupp is a member of the Texas House of Representatives.

## School Raffles Guns Despite Shootings - Decision Pits Academy Against Safety

### Advocates

By Amy Worden

HOBGOOD, N.C.  
(APBnews.com)

A decision to raffle five firearms as a school group fund-raiser has thrust a small private school into the center of the national gun control debate.

Hobgood Academy, which has 308 kindergartners through 12th-graders, organized the December raffle of five hunting guns to raise money to help pay for a new building and equipment for its Future Farmers of America club.

But as word of the raffle spread in newspapers, national television, radio shows and the Internet over the past six weeks, the school found itself catapulted into the middle of a pitched battle between school safety and gun control groups and firearms supporters.

"It's insensitive and inappropriate for a school to sponsor a gun raffle in view of the number of incidents of juvenile gun violence, especially the recent incidents at schools," said Lisa Price, executive director of North Carolinians Against Gun Violence.

'Never been an issue' for us

The school's headmaster said he is aware of the gun violence issue but that he felt the raffle was appropriate because hunting is a popular sport in rural eastern North Carolina.

"We're sensitive to that," said headmaster John Hardison. "But [school violence] has never been an issue before for us. In eastern North Carolina hunting is a very big thing. Shotguns and rifles are marketable. We just didn't expect it to go all over the news."

So far, the school has sold more than 1,000 tickets at \$10 apiece to purchasers

all over the country -- many of them buying the tickets as a protest against anti-gun groups. One gun will be raffled each day between Dec. 6 and Dec. 10.

Winners must complete all the necessary background checks required for gun purchasers, and if a juvenile wins, his parents will get the gun, Hardison said.

Groups  
'concerned with  
symbolism'



School safety and gun control groups said their concern is the kind of message such a raffle sends to the rest of the country.

"It's the idea of linking guns and schools," said Joanne McDaniel, assistant director of the Center for the Prevention of School Violence. "The school has a right to make the decision [to raffle the firearms]. We're more concerned with the symbolism."

Gun advocates expressed anger over what they perceive as an anti-gun effort to try to control a small school.

"I resent the interference by anti-gun groups, and I'm happy gun owners rallied around the flag on this," said Fred Bonner, editor of Carolina Adventure, an outdoors magazine, who wrote about the issue in his syndicated column. "It struck a nerve. I don't feel that guns are the cause of what's going on in schools."

'We didn't do anything wrong'

Price said her group never tried to stop the raffle and only commented because she was asked about the issue by media organizations.

Hardison said, despite the controversy, the school never considered canceling the raffle. "We didn't do anything wrong," he said. "The winners will have to do all the paperwork just like anyone purchasing a gun."

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THE CLAREMONT INSTITUTE

Doctors for Responsible  
Gun Ownership

# GUN CONTROL - A Simple Solution for Simple Minds

## GUN CONTROL-

A Simple Solution for Simple Minds

By Neal Boortz

Over twenty-five years of holding forth on talk radio has revealed certain undeniable truths to me. Among those is the fact that modern-day liberals are absolutely incapable of engaging in a logical fact-based discussion of important issues. Logic is to your typical big-government liberal what a clove of garlic is to Dracula. They can't handle it, so they hide from it.

Nowhere is this aversion to logic more evident than in discussions of gun control. Simply stated, the facts are not on the side of those who argue for either registration of our outlawing the private ownership of handguns, let alone so-called assault weapons.

I strongly feel that the people who founded this country absolutely meant for the people to have the right to own firearms. . If you will listen to some of the anti-gun types out there you will hear them make reference to a particular type of gun as a gun "not suitable for hunting or target shooting." The premise here is that hunting and sport shooting are the only legitimate reasons for gun ownership. Contrary to what some liberal commentators might have you believe, our founding fathers wanted us to have the right to bear arms so that we could protect our lives, our property and our freedoms. Not so we could target shoot or hunt deer.

You've seen the old (and somewhat tired) bumper sticker "If guns are outlawed, only outlaws will have guns." The beauty of this bumper sticker is that it is absolutely correct! There are no bona-fide gun control

proposals out there that would get the guns out of the hands of criminals or that would prevent predators from buying guns. All of the proposals only restrict the ability of law-abiding citizens to obtain and own firearms. I propose another bumper sticker ... one even more terrifying:

### **If Guns Are Outlawed, Only the Government Will Have Guns**

Last year Georgia made it easier for a citizen to obtain a permit to carry a concealed weapon. The liberals in this State were absolutely enraged! Cynthia Tucker, the Editorial Page Editor of The Atlanta Constitution, wrote that it would be "open season" on police officers, and that police officers would die in large numbers if it were easier for private citizens to obtain permits to carry concealed weapons. This is a good example of the aversion to facts that most lefties have on this issue. The fact is that there has never been one documented incident anywhere in this country where a police officer was shot in the line of duty by a private citizen carrying a concealed handgun for which he had a permit! Just where did she get this "police will die in the streets" nonsense? Straight out of her illogical mind, that's where. (Actually, Cynthia is really a nice person. She just can't think all that well.)

Oddly enough, the statistics --- the FACTS ---- show that violent crime rates go down when it becomes easier for private law-abiding citizens to carry concealed weapons. The reason is simple, and logical. Criminals don't like the idea that their victim may be armed!

An interesting thing happened in Florida in recent years when the law was changed to make it easier for people to get carry permits. The violent crime rate, including murders and armed robberies, went down. The predators were afraid! Finally they figured out where they could find some victims who would most likely have some cash, and who most likely would not have guns! Get them coming off the airplanes at Miami International Airport! These people are coming to Florida for a vacation, so they have cash. They have just been through airport security, so they don't have guns. Now that's the type of victim the predators want! Unarmed ones!

One more thought. This is a fact that draws a blank stare from the gun control crowd. They have no idea in the world how to handle it. Out of all the privately owned handguns, legal and illegal, in the United States, guess what percentage of them are not used in a murder in any given year? Guess what percentage of them are not used in a crime of any type?

99.998% of all privately owned handguns in the U.S. are not used in a murder in any given year.

99.96% of all privately owned handguns in the U.S. are not used in any crime in a given year.

Now that really screams for gun control, doesn't it?

How about some CRIMINAL control?

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# South Carolina Concealed Weapons Permit Instructors Information

## CWP on WMA Lands

By Instructor Tim Finley

**Q: CAN I CARRY MY CONCEALED WEAPON ON A WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA (WMA)?**

**A:** The answer is No, you cannot legally carry your concealed weapon on WMA land. WMA land is controlled by the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) and SCDNR Reg. 3.4 makes concealed carry illegal.

Reg. 3.4 requires that your HANDGUN be UNLOADED and stored either in a weapons case, trunk, or a LOCKED TOOLBOX, while you are on WMA land, even if you are just driving through it AND even if it's not posted as WMA land.

One of the major problems with Reg. 3.4, is that some WMA land is not posted. So, if you inadvertently wander onto it, are searched and your weapon confiscated, you then have the burden of proof to prove that the land was not posted in violation of Fifth Amendment due process "notice" requirements. At one time, you did not have to drive too far off of Main St. in either Pickens or Walhalla, before entering WMA land.

A few years ago, game wardens (SCDNR officers) and sheriff's department narcotics officers sat up a roadblock on WMA land in the upstate. It was a pre-textual weapons and narcotics search, because they were searching containers in vehicles that were too small to hold even a squirrel. When they found a 20 rd. box of CorBon ammo in my glovebox, they searched my entire vehicle looking for a firearm. Just moments before, I had inadvertently entered WMA property on a pleasant Sunday afternoon drive in the mountains. Possession of a firearm became illegal, solely because I was driving on an unposted gravel road which happened to be WMA property. Fortunately for me, no weapon was found during the search.

Unlike the search requirements for police officers, "entry onto WMA land equals a consent to search," so there's no sense telling SCDNR officers that they don't have permission to search your

entire vehicle, EVEN where they don't have legal "probable cause" to do so. SCDNR officers conduct these otherwise illegal searches by authority of SCDNR Reg. 2.3, which states: "Entry onto WMA land constitutes consent to an inspection and search of the PERSON, game bag or creel, and VEHICLE, TRAILER, CONVEYANCE, or CONTAINER." A "container" can be a film case or lipstick tube folks. You can't even squash a squirrel and make him fit in a film case, so the SCDNR is not looking for illegally taken wildlife.

It is my understanding that SCDNR is no longer conducting these pre-textual narcotics and weapons searches in the upstate. Instead they have closed off many of the roads, citing their inability to safely maintain the roads. Mind you, these are 4WD roads that have been in existence for years. It's not a safety issue; it's just an excuse to keep people out. My favorite 4WD road, the Bear Camp Rd. in the Horse Pasture area surrounding Lake Jocassee, has been closed for several years now. Where there is no liability for the SCDNR (See, Reg. 2.2 below), one realizes that it is not a road-maintenance safety issue as claimed by the SCDNR, but some other reason.

Then there's the time that my dog and I were attacked by a rabid coon on WMA land. Fortunately, I was carrying and was able to kill the coon before it bit either my dog or myself. I was fending the coon off with a stick as it made repeated charges to attack my dog and I. Just as the coon managed to get past my stick and was lunging to sink its teeth in my leg, it was dispatched.

Now, if I had not killed the coon and had contracted rabies, would the SCDNR be responsible for my safety or the expense of a series of rabies shots, where they denied me the right to protect myself? Nope, they've got that base covered too. Read it and weep! SCDNR Reg. 2.2 states as follows: "Entry onto WMA land is done wholly and completely AT THE RISK OF THE INDIVIDUAL. Neither the landowner nor the State of South Carolina nor SCDNR accepts any responsibility for acts, omissions or activities or conditions on these lands

which cause or may cause personal injury or property damage."

Instead of a coon, what if it had been a criminal intent on raping and killing? Criminals don't obey the law, so they're armed and dangerous. You, on the other hand, in accord with SCDNR Reg. 3.4, must open your locked toolbox and load your weapon to be able to thwart a criminal's attack. Guess who wins in this scenario? Most WMA land is located in the boonies, so there will be no one to witness the crime against you or to come to your rescue. Ultimately, some hunter or fisherman will probably stumble across your bleached bones that an animal dug up out of a shallow grave and then the powers that be can take you off of the missing persons list and add you to the unsolved murders list. How many times have we heard about bodies being found on WMA and Forest Service land?

Where poachers do not shoot wildlife with handguns, there is no compelling reason for SCDNR officers to be arresting concealed weapon permit holders for carrying a handgun while enjoying the wilderness beauty of WMA land.

I first recall seeing "entry equals a consent to search" type signs at military installations. Most folks don't realize that upon entering WMA property, (if it is posted as such or posted at all), that they have given a consent to search. There are certainly no signs stating "entry equals a consent to search," only a small sign, if any, stating "Wildlife Management Area."

I don't believe there is any comparison between federal military installations and WMA land located in the boonies, that would necessitate suspension of the guarantees of state law and the Fourth, Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments to the U.S. Constitution.

South Carolina State law 16-23-20, (4), (9) guarantees the following- exceptions to Unlawful Carrying of Pistols:

(4) "Licensed hunters or fisherman while engaged in hunting or fishing or going to or from their places of hunting or fishing."

# South Carolina Concealed Weapons Permit Instructors Information

Even though state law guarantees this right, this right does not exist on WMA lands according to Reg. 3.4. If you are fishing for trout in a mountain stream that happens to be on WMA land and you are otherwise legally carrying your weapon, you just broke the law.

(9) "Any person in a vehicle where the pistol is secured in a closed glove compartment, closed console, or closed trunk."

Contrary to SCDNR Reg. 3.4, state law does not require that the weapon be UNLOADED or for practical purposes, INACCESSIBLE. This right to carry, as guaranteed by state law, has been unilaterally suspended, revoked, and terminated by the SCDNR on the WMA land that it controls.

It's my understanding that many of the original landowners who formerly participated in the WMA program, have for one reason or another, removed their land from the WMA program. This is unfortunate because it results in fewer places for fishing, hunting, four-wheeling and other outdoor recreation.

Changing these SCDNR administrative regulations that have the force and effect of law, should be one of Grass Roots top priorities. These laws were promulgated administratively by the SCDNR, who have the power to revoke them unilaterally. As we have seen herein, the SCDNR has unilaterally created several laws that are in conflict with state law created by the legislature. The attorney for the SCDNR is fully aware that these regulations are in direct conflict with state law.

As a result of the "pre-textual narcotics and weapons roadblock" several years ago, a class-action lawsuit against SCDNR was contemplated. Unfortunately, not one of the witnesses who was arrested for possessing a firearm on WMA property was willing to testify in the lawsuit and so, the lawsuit was abandoned.

One of the problems with administrative law, is that the longer it is in effect without being challenged, the better the chance that it will remain in effect permanently. I have a copy of a short

primer on South Carolina administrative law that was featured in South Carolina Lawyer Magazine. It explains the above "time in effect" concept and many other concepts relating to administrative law. If anyone wants to review it, please e-mail me and I'll forward it to you.

There is currently 1.2 million acres of land in South Carolina, that is WMA land. The SCDNR does not guarantee that these lands will be posted as WMA. What the SCDNR says is: "WMA property SHOULD be marked with these yellow and black signs."

1.2 million acres equals a lot of roads and a plethora of opportunity to be arrested for violating SCDNR Reg. 3.4. If you see a road going into a remote area and it's not private property, it's probably WMA land. Keep on driving and carrying concealed there and you may end up arrested.

In short, understand that if you see a sign that says WMA, it might as well say POLICE STATE. If you enter therein, you will have effectively abandoned all of your rights under state law and the state and federal constitutions!

**Q: WHAT ABOUT PUBLIC-ACCESS LAKES THAT ARE BOUNDARIED BY WMA LAND?**

**A:** According to the SCDNR Legal Department- If a lake is bordered by WMA land, then that lake may also be subject to Reg. 3.4, which means that you can't carry a concealed weapon while in your boat. Reg. 3.4 has the potential to be enforced at all public-access lakes created by Duke Power, among others.

According to the SCDNR attorney I spoke with, not all lakes would necessarily be governed by Reg. 3.4, but he could not tell me which ones were. I was informed that it would require searching the specific agreement (contract) between the landowner (i.e., Duke Power, etc.) and the SCDNR, on a case-by-case basis, to determine if the lake itself was covered by Reg. 3.4.

If you want to be legal while carrying your concealed weapon on a lake that is bordered by WMA property, you need to

write the SCDNR Legal Dept., so that they can research the specific "WMA agreement or contract" that they have with the landowner. Only then can they tell you whether or not you can legally carry there. You should probably allow weeks for a response and it would be prudent to send your request for this information to the SCDNR legal department via certified mail.

What happened to the "notice" requirement that the 5th and 14th Amendment right of due process guarantees? WMA Land = Enter At Your Own Risk, from every perspective! As one observer commented- It's time to rein in the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources.

Tim Finley  
BeSafe CWP Training Website-



<http://tefinley.home.mindspring.com>  
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Tim Finley is a South Carolina CWP Instructor in Greenville, SC. He owns and operates BeSafe Firearms Training - specializing in advanced training above and beyond that required to obtain a CWP! Tim can be reached at: P.O. Box 2992, Greenville, SC 29602 Or tefinley@mindspring.com

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THE LAW OF SELF-DEFENSE IN SOUTH CAROLINA. These videotapes, approximately 30 minutes in length, are available at the very reasonable cost of \$15.95. Every CWP holder should have a copy of this video so that they can conveniently and periodically refresh their knowledge of the law of self-defense. If you would like to purchase a copy of this video, please mail your check or money order to GRSC, P.O. Box 1181, Sumter, SC 29151. Please allow 2-4 weeks for delivery.

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Those who expect to reap the blessings of freedom must, like men, undergo the fatigue of supporting it. - Thomas Paine

## GRSC Articles

### Violence Policy Center Lies

#### From: The Center For The Study Of Crime

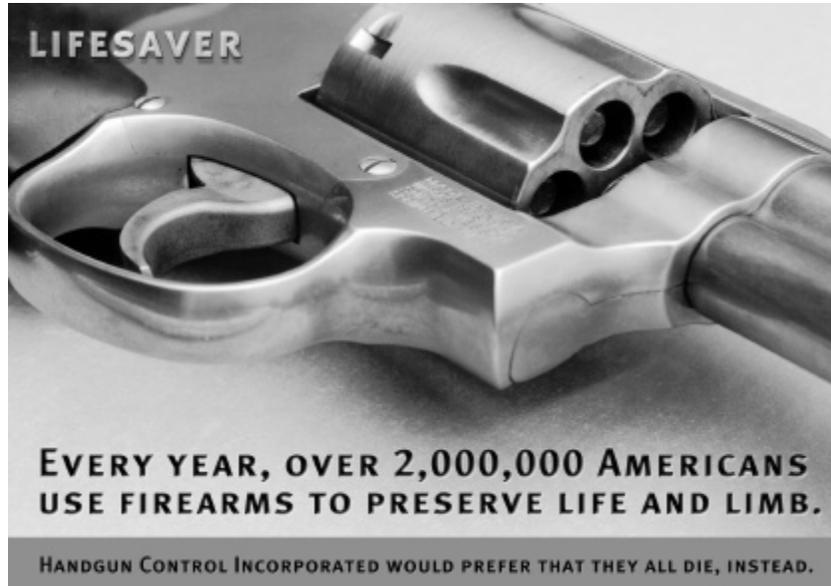
A few points regarding ways to educate the public about availability of firearms today, and Sugarman's claim that in the last 30 years more firearms of a more evil design ("high-power, high-capacity handguns") have become more available for use in crime. Especially note Point 3, which describes Sugarman's reason for pushing his latest propaganda.

1. Prior to 1968, there were very few gun control laws anywhere in the U.S. and most of them were fairly simple. You could buy firearms at gas stations, hardware stores, SEARS, Montgomery Ward, etc. You could mail order a Lahti 20mm semiauto anti-tank cannon for about \$300 and buy the ammo too. Just look at an old copy of Guns magazine or American Rifleman for all kinds of bargains like 1873 trapdoor Springfields for \$9.99 or Astra 9mm handguns for \$16 or Winchester 92's in .44-40 for \$22 or matching-numbers Lugers for \$35 or practically new Springfield 03A3's for \$25. The father of one of my childhood friends had a lower middle class job, but he was able to afford a collection of 100+ firearms. Even I, as a 12 year old urban kid owned my own .22 rifle and most of my male high school class mates owned their own firearms, and sometimes more than one. Those who didn't have their own were aware of who had firearms, so they could have gotten one if they had intended to commit a crime. Nobody had safes or other sophisticated storage devices then. And firearms incidents in school were unheard of.

2. The interesting thing about that era was its relatively low crime rate. During the 1950's, the U.S. murder rate was as low as 4.3, which is not much higher than Western Europe. However, after the 1968 GCA and numerous other gun control laws in the states, crime increased dramatically and didn't start

declining until 1991, by which time people had gotten tired of the crime and built prisons, passed CCW laws, instituted tougher sentences, reduced parole, etc.

3. "Assault weapons" (more properly called TRADITIONAL SEMI-AUTOMATIC FIREARMS WHICH HAVE BEEN COMMERCIALY AVAILABLE SINCE 1896--you might want to use that phrase when the other side says "AW's") and "high-capacity handguns" are not new technology, but



you'll notice that Sugarman has devised a clever, deceptive (what else would you expect from him?) plan which will place the blame for the post-1968-GCA crime increase on the firearms manufacturers and owners, and deflect it away from counter-productive gun control policies that kill innocent people. However, you can be sure that he will not credit the new wave of firearms for the 1991 crime turnaround. In other words, we get all the blame when something bad happens and none of the credit when something good happens.

4. 30 years ago, in 1969, there was no new wave of "high-powered, high-capacity handguns" being marketed to consumers. At that time, there were really only a few high-capacity handguns on the market, and none of them was particularly popular. The high-capacity trend really didn't take off until 1984 or so (which means that the trend only paralleled the rising crime trend for 7 years, until 1991, so the high-capacity trend has already spent more years, 8, on the declining part of the crime trend than it spent paralleling the increasing crime

trend). The problem is that the public doesn't know that, because they do not follow the design trends as many of us do. Therefore, they are vulnerable to Sugarman's lies unless we educate them. The first viable high-capacity "wonder 9" was invented in 1935 (Browning HP-35, known as the "High Power"), which means that the crime wave should have started 64 years ago, not 30 years ago. You can also point out that just 3 years ago (not 30), Sugarman and his cohorts were telling the public that the criminals' weapon of choice was the low-powered "Saturday night special"

5. Feel free to point out to the public that during the 7 years of the Clinton presidency, the most anti-self-defense, anti-2nd-Amendment President in U.S. history and the one who passed more gun control legislation than any other President, we have experienced more mass murders by students than the combined total for all the other 376 years of American history. A proud record for the efficacy of gun control.

### The Power of One Grass Roots Activism Catching on Everywhere! By Philip Van Cleave Richmond VA

Another success for activism!

How often have you heard someone say "What can I do? I am only one person, no one will listen to me..."?

The answer is "plenty."

About a month ago, I was talking to someone at a gun range here in Richmond. He said that he had gone to CarQuest Auto Parts and on his way out noticed a "No guns" sign on the door.

The next day, I went to the store, verified the sign and talked to the manager. The manager gave me the telephone number of the regional manager.

I called the regional manager, who told me that the "No guns" sign was a company policy nationwide which was

## GRSC Articles

made after a few holdups. I made the following points to him:

1. Since the stores had the "No guns" sign, I would have to put CarQuest on a "don't buy" list that would be visible to thousands of gun owners. I told him that CarQuest seemed like a good company and I did not want to have to do that unless I had to. Would CarQuest reconsider?
2. The sign "No guns" is an invitation to get held up as criminals are assured that they are the only ones armed.
3. It is an insult and a nuisance to law abiding gun owners to have to leave their guns in the car and come in unprotected. I pointed out that I did not see any armed security guards there to protect me while I was disarmed.
4. The sign gives a false sense of security to those who have not yet realized that criminals ignore such signs. After all, if a criminal is going to commit a felony, what does he care about a misdemeanor?
5. 50% of Americans own guns and people that buy car parts have probably an even higher percentage of gun ownership.
6. The competition has no such sign.

The regional manager seemed impressed with the information and promised to bring it up at the next corporate meeting.

I talked to the regional manager today and learned that the no guns signs had been ordered removed. Not just in Richmond, not just in Virginia, not just in the region, but \*nationwide\*!!! (I drove to my local store and indeed the sign was gone.)

One polite phone call from one activist changed a company policy from sea to shining sea.

I suggest that we call our local CarQuest stores and thank them for removing those signs.  
(end)

## Women and Children First!

The NRA is offering a new 24-page booklet from its Eddie Eagle firearm safety program designed to help teach kids

firearm safety. You can call them at 1-800-4-EAGLE-4 for a free copy.

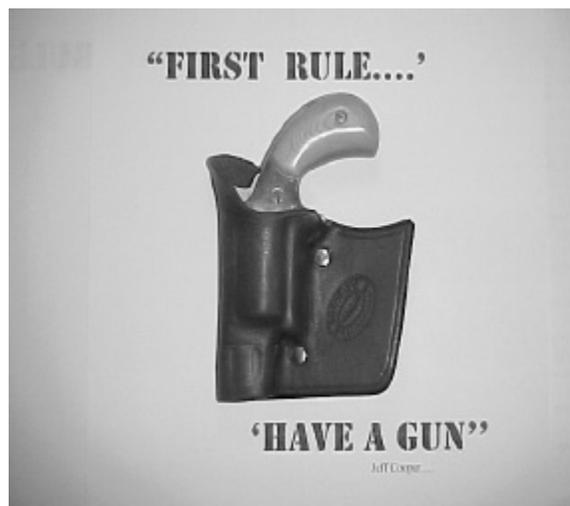
An excellent resource for women is the organization called "AWARE" (Arming Women Against Rape and Endangerment). Their motto is "Effective self-protection for intelligent women who want help, not hype". Among their many terrific resources is their "Self-Protection Quiz" at: [www.aware.org/quiz.htm](http://www.aware.org/quiz.htm). The quiz outlines a few common dangerous scenarios in which a woman may find herself, lists possible responses from which to choose, and then explains the possible consequences of each decision. Your thinking may well be challenged, and you will probably learn some very valuable things from this quiz! AWARE also has valuable links and suggested reading lists, plus they also welcome and even **insist** that women please contact them for help if they are in danger **right now!** This is one of the best organizations to which a woman can turn for good, sensible, and effective answers and information to help keep her from harm. Visit them online at [www.aware.org](http://www.aware.org) and be aware!

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## Famous Quotes

*"Laws that forbid the carrying of arms...disarm only those who are neither inclined nor determined to commit crimes. Such laws make things worse for the assaulted and better for the assailants; they serve rather to encourage than to prevent homicides, for an unarmed man may be attacked with greater ... confidence than an armed man."*

- Thomas Jefferson, quoting Cesare Beccaria in *On Crimes and Punishment* (1764)



## Handgun Leather

by Inst. Dennis Crocker

What kind of holster do I need? As a CWP instructor I hear that question often. I would like to share some of my thoughts on this with you. A holster should be comfortable to wear, provide concealment as well as retention, and enable ease of draw and reholstering. Most fabric holsters are not suitable for conceal carry. I think holsters such as Blade-Tech and the factory Glock holsters are OK, but I prefer leather.

Where does one find top quality leather holsters? Man, is that a good question! Some gun shops carry mid-line and low-end holsters. I have not seen many that carry Mitch Rosen, Milt Sparks, or Greg Kramer holsters. These are arguably three of the best on the market. As some of you know, I work a lot of gun shows for M&M Gun. Having not seen many top-end holsters in gun shops or at gun shows, I decided to do something dangerous; I started thinking!

I came up the idea of supplying good holsters to my CWP students. After researching this I knew there was a small market for this needed service. I chose Kramer holsters primarily because they specialize in horsehide. In this article I will give a brief history of Kramer holsters and answer some of the most frequently asked questions about holsters in general.

Greg Kramer started working for DeSantis Holsters in 1976. . After two years of learning the basics of holster making and design, he moved to Washington State. There he started a part-time business which by 1989 had grown into the large company it is today. Greg's philosophy remains the same as when he started - to make the finest gun leather available.

Now on to the questions: The question I get the most is, "Why choose horsehide?" Horsehide is an extremely dense, non-porous leather. This is the reason that horsehide does not dye as well as cowhide. Horsehide will last longer and withstand considerably more abuse than cowhide. U.S Navy Seals Teams use Kramer horsehide holsters for extended salt-water operations.

What kind of tanning process does Kramer use? They use bark tanned Horsehide. If you still want cowhide they will make you one from vegetable

## GRSC Articles

tanned cowhide. Chrome tanned leather is loaded with salt and other chemicals that can harm the finish on your gun.

What is a sight track? It is a channel either molded or sewn into the leather which allows the front sight of the gun to exit the holster without scraping or gouging the leather as it is drawn.

What is a thumb break? A thumb break is a retaining strap secured by a snap and released by a pushing motion of the thumb.

How long does it take to get a holster? I stock about twenty five to thirty holsters. They are in black and right-handed. I ship within twenty-four hours if I have a holster in stock or between four to six weeks if I have to special order it.

Will a Kramer holster wear the finish on my gun? Any leather holster will cause some wear marks on a gun. A gun is a tool and like any other tool you use you can expect some wear.

Will a holster fit more than one gun? Kramer holsters are made for specific handguns with few exceptions.

Why don't you stock the holster I want? They make holsters for over one hundred fifty handguns, in over sixteen different styles, three colors, right handed or left. You do the math.

You can order from Kramer on the net at [www.kramerleather.com](http://www.kramerleather.com) however, I will give South Carolina Grassroots South Carolina members a twenty- percent discount off list. If I stock the holster you need, you can return it with no restocking fee. If I special order it you can return it to me with a small restocking fee to cover expenses and shipping. The profits I make on all holster sales are used to defend our gun rights.

I believe we must take a stand now. No more compromising. No more new gun laws. We must work to repeal all unconstitutional gun laws no matter how well meaning.

Dennis Crocker is a CWP Instructor in Spartanburg, SC Dennis specializes in CWP Training, Basic Firearms Safety, Concealed Carry Techniques, Personal Protection, and Defensive Tactics. He can be contacted at:

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## FFL Changes

by Ed Kelleher

As of 10/1/99 SLED will no longer be doing instant checks. SC FFL's will have to call the FBI NICS to legally sell guns. I got letter from SLED yesterday saying this.

This is good for CWP's because now we will NOT have to phone in for handgun sales to CWP holders like SLED wanted us to.

Here's all an FFL has to do to get signed on to NICS to do background checks:

- 1) Have your full FFL number handy.
- 2) Pick a code word of at least 6 characters to authenticate you when you call NICS
- 3) Call 1-877-444-6427 (NICS "Customer" service). They'll enroll you on the spot and give you toll free number to call for NICS checks.
- 4) They'll send you in mail a signature form to sign and mail or fax back to them.

I've done it and it took about 1 minute. I've called the NICS operations center to verify and they said if had a 4473 to check I was good to go.

\*\*\*

## FAQ Continued:

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

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

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

A: First, you need to have been a resident of South Carolina for

at least 1 year and must be 21 or older. Call your county sheriff and see where and when you can pickup the CWP application package. You'll need to get a fingerprint card made up so see if the sheriff can do that when you pickup the application. You need to take an approved training class and pass a written and shooting test. Send your completed application to SLED with a money order for \$50 and wait 90 days.

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

A: If you're still receiving your newsletter you are current. When we incorporated the officers of GRSC declared that all previous financial contributors would be inducted as charter members. Those memberships are current until June 2000 at which time we will send renewal notices. We have begun printing expiration dates on the mailing labels of the newsletter. Check your last newsletter for a date. (BTW: Yes, it helps us a great deal and saves funds for members to renew prior to us sending renewal notices - thanks!)

\*\*\*

\*Graphics Courtesy of VolkStudio



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

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## Statewide:

**Carolina Bank**  
Thomas and Howard Cash and Carry-all locations  
American Federal Banks All locations  
Security Finance, All Locations  
BB&T, All Locations  
Carolina First, All Locations [www.carolinafirst.com](http://www.carolinafirst.com)  
First Citizens Banks All Locations  
Klig's Kites, All Locations

## Aiken:

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

## Anderson:

Perpetual Bank

## Andrews:

H&S Oil Co

## Barnwell:

Rainbow Gas Garden Dunbarton Blvd

## Batesburg/Leesville:

Owner/Agent State Farm 605 W. Church St.

## Bishopville:

R. Travis Windham Insurance Agency 204 N. Main St

## Blythewood:

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

## Camden:

Hot Spot Convenience Store  
Carolina Tire 1110 Broad Street 803 432-7969  
Systems Services Group 2512 Broad Street (803) 424-1600

## Charleston:

Northwoods Mall  
Citadel Mall  
Carolina Tire, 106 Goose Creek Blvd, Goose Creek  
Check Care Systems 4790-A Trade St  
Henry's Sporting Goods, 1662 Highway 17 N  
Gallman Personnel Services 3175 W. Montague Ave  
Piggly Wiggly Harborview Rd  
Hay Tire Company, Inc. 444 Savannah Hwy  
James Island Cleaners 1739 Maybank Hwy  
Charleston Area Federal Credit Union  
Charleston Steel & Metal  
Belks Northwood Mall [www.belk.com](http://www.belk.com)  
CPM Federal Credit Union

## Columbia:

BOOZER LUMBER Atlas Rd  
One Price Clothing Store Broad River Road  
RBMG, Inc. 7909 Parklane Road  
Frankie's Fun Park  
Pelican Company 919 S. Edisto Ave.  
Western Steer Steakhouse, St. Andrews Rd  
Crowon-Stone Printing Co 819 Main Street  
Tuesday Morning 282 St. Andrews Rd  
Columbia Mall 7201 Two Notch Road  
South Carolina Merchants Association 1735 St. Julians Pl.  
Eckerd Drug #2744 9810 Two Notch (& Polo Rd.)  
St.Andrews Mult-Cinemas 527 St. Andrews Rd.  
Hancock Motor Company 3905 West Beltline Blvd  
Bojangles 542 St.Andrews Rd.  
Custom Pizza Company 6801-3 St. Andrews Rd.  
Hair We Are 9810 Two Notch Rd.  
Exxon / Blimbie's of St. Andrews 800 St. Andrews Rd.  
Tiger Express #8 418 Piney Grove Rd.  
BC&BS of South Carolina I20 & Alpine Rd.  
State Farm Insurance Claims I20 & Bush River Rd.  
Gaz-Bah Mini Shops 2923 W. Beltline Blvd.  
Carolina Convenience Amoco and Citgo Stations Stoneridge Dr.  
Richland Fashion Mall  
National Tax Svc 3707 Main St

## Midlands: West Cola., Lexington, Irmo

#1 Flea Market Hwy 1  
CVI - Cablevision Industries 1125 B Avenue, W. Cola  
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

## Conway:

Rods Pawn & Jewelry

## Darlington:

Henry's Pantry 438 N. Main St

## Easley:

Hot Spot Convenience Store

## Florence:

Piggly Wiggly Florence Mall

## Georgetown:

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

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: [posted\\_merchant@webtv.net](mailto:posted_merchant@webtv.net)

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

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## Georgetown: (cont)

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

## Greenville:

Rogers Stereo 525 Woodruff Rd  
Sam's Club, 2519 Laurens Rd

## Greenwood:

Burger King  
Greenwood Bank & Trust

## Hollywood:

Piggly Wiggly

## Manning:

H & R Block, Inc. 36 West Boyce St  
Freedom Finance, Inc. 14 N. Mill St  
New Country Corner 521 Bloomville Rd  
B-Mart, Inc. 1 W. Rigsby Street

## Marion:

Donut Hole  
Sav-way 824 S. Main Street

## Moncks Corner SC:

Central True Value Hardware 502 E Main St  
Angler's Mini Mart Hwy 52 N.

## Mullins:

Pee Dee Office Systems Main St

## Murrells Inlet:

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

## Myrtle Beach:

Federal Express 1600 Stack Holder Ave  
VPS Geo. Bishop Parkway  
Dixie Discount Beverage S Kings Hwy  
Time Warner Cable 1901 Oak St.

## Pacolet:

Pacolet Express 441 N Hwy 150

## Pawley's Island:

Tuesday Morning 364 Highway 17 North

## Pickens:

AAA Marine  
Hot Spot Convenience Store

## Rembert:

B and D Grocery Pisgah Road

## Ridgeway:

Bank of Ridgeway, Blythewood Branch

## Saluda:

Caper House 401 N. Main St.

## Seneca:

Carquest Auto Parts 507 N. First St.

## Summerville:

Tiger Express Ladson & Dorchester locations  
Belks 1301 N. Main St.  
Maxway Boon Hill Rd  
The Consignment Gallery N Cedar St

## Sumter:

Jessamine Mall 1057 Broad St  
Neal's Cafeteria 16 E. Liberty Street  
Freedom Finance, Inc. 3 N. Main Street  
Boykin Air Conditioning Services 845 S Guignard Dr  
Sportsman's Shop and Stop 2810 Hwy 15 South  
Greater Sumter Chamber of Commerce 32 E. Calhoun Street  
GTE Wireless 317 Wesmark Blvd. (803) 469-2345  
Tri Star Storage II / Cash Advance 2220 Peach Orchard  
Freedom Finance, Inc. 3 North Main Street  
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.  
Sumter Check Casher 1084A Broad St.  
Gerry's & Things 130 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

## Swansea:

Shelton's Rainbow BP 100 West First Street

## Walterboro:

Wholesale Bedding Outlet 111 Eddie Chasteen Dr  
Parks Auto Parts 555 Bells Hwy.  
Carpet Country  
Low Country Marine 903 Green Pond Hwy.  
Clearvision Optical 501A, Bells Hwy.  
Piggy Wiggy 251A Bells Hwy.  
Jus Sports 253D Bells Hwy.  
Gold Collection 501 Bells Hwy.  
Seigler Brothers One Hour Photo 501 Bells Hwy.  
Carpets of Walterboro 601 Bells Hwy.  
Hunan Chinese Restaurant 339 N. Jefferies Blvd.  
Washington Street Café' 242 Washington St.  
S.C. Electric and Gas - All Locations  
Costal Electric Co-operative 2269 Jefferies Hwy.  
Allied Department Store 205 E. Washington St

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

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

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## 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*  
*Lowe's Hardware - All Locations*  
*Rush's Restaurants*  
*McCall's Supply*  
*Little Pigs Barbecue*  
*Chamber of Commerce Walterboro*  
*Discount Auto Parts*  
*Domino's Pizza on Two Notch*  
*Cost Cutter's Barber Shop*  
*Dixie Furniture in Walterboro*  
*Walterboro Chamber of Commerce*  
*Wayne's Sporting Goods and Trophies*  
*Walterboro McDonalds*

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



The experts agree...

## Prohibiting Firearms Makes for Easy Victims

<p>Proud Supporter of GUN CONTROL</p>  <p>I am not armed.</p>	<p>Proud Supporter of GUN CONTROL</p>  <p>This is a gun-free business.</p>	<p>Proud Supporter of GUN CONTROL</p>  <p>This is a gun-free home.</p>	<p>Proud Supporter of GUN CONTROL</p>  <p>This is a gun-free car.</p>
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**Grass Roots South Carolina**, P.O. Box 1181, Sumter, South Carolina 29151  
 Email: [posted\\_merchant@webtv.net](mailto:posted_merchant@webtv.net)

# SC Attorney General Opinion of January 5, 2000

Office of the Attorney General  
Charles M. Condon, Attny. Gen.

January 5, 2000

The Honorable Mike Fair  
Senator, District No. 6  
P.O. Box 14632  
Greenville, SC 29610

Dear Senator Fair,

Thank you for your letter of December 7, 1999, to Attorney General Condon, which has been referred to me for a response. You ask for an opinion on the validity of an employer forbidding its employees to carry firearms in their cars.

By way of background you inform us that the Department of Corrections prohibits all employees, including uniformed officers, from having firearms in their vehicles. Any employee violating this prohibition will be fired.

South Carolina Code Section 16-23-20, which provides exceptions to the unlawful carrying of pistols, states in part:

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

(9) Any person in a vehicle where the pistol is secured in a closed glove compartment, closed console, or closed trunk.

This provision specifically grants to all citizens the right to carry a firearm in their vehicle in certain locations, regardless of their standing as law enforcement officials or as holders of a concealed weapon permit. Department of Corrections employees are entitled to the same rights as any citizens of South Carolina. Thus, for purposes of this analysis, the status of the employee is irrelevant.

The "Law Abiding Citizens Self Defense Act of 1996," codified at S.C. Code Ann. Section 23-31-205, et seq., does allow a public or private employer to prohibit a person licensed to carry a concealable weapon from bringing the weapon onto the premises of the employer. Pursuant to Section 23-31-220, employers need only post a sign stating "No Concealable Weapons Allowed" to give notice to their employees of the prohibition. However, these provisions apply only to those carrying a firearm pursuant to a concealable weapons permit. The Act specifically states that "[n]othing in this article shall affect the provisions of Section 16-23-20." See S.C. Code Ann. Section 23-31-217. Thus, the statute does not apply to those carrying a weapon in manner allowed by Section 16-23-20.

A state agency is powerless to prohibit that which the State authorizes, directs, requires, licenses, or expressly permits. See generally *Law v. City of Spartanburg*, 148 S.C. 229, 146 S.E. 12 (1928) (striking as void a city ordinance that conflicted with state law). Because the General Assembly specifically granted, through enactment of Section 16-23-20, the right to carry a firearm in the closed glove compartment, closed console, or closed trunk of an automobile, the Department of Correction's prohibition against an employee's having a weapon in his locked motor vehicle would be without authority and inconsistent with state law.

This letter is an informal opinion only. It has been written by a designated Senior Assistant Attorney General and represents the position of the undersigned attorney as to the specific question asked. It has not, however, been personally scrutinized by the Attorney General nor officially published in the manner of a formal opinion.

With kind regards, I remain

Very truly yours,  
Robert D. Cook  
Assistant Deputy Attorney General

# GRSC Humor

## You Just Might Be a Gun Nut If...

...if you ever seriously thought about dabbing a little Hoppe's #9 on your neck before going out on a date.

...if you buy some checkering tools, you checker all your gunstocks, and then start on the bedposts.

...if you cannot recall how many firearms you own.

...if you buy a gun that's just like that other gun you have except the barrel is 1/2" shorter (or longer).

...if you buy a gun at a shop only to find out you used to own it a couple of years ago.

...if you know 12 different names for one caliber of cartridge.

...if you ever clean a gun that hasn't been shot in the week since you cleaned it last.

...if you consider naming your unborn child Winchester or Remington.

...if you purchased two Glocks and two Sigs just to see which brand was better.

...if you strip all the paint off our car and refinish it with cold blue.

...if you ever bought ammo in a caliber for which you have no gun, because you thought some day you MIGHT get a gun in that caliber.

...if your collection of American Rifleman back issues, Gun Digests, and reloading manuals cost you a premium the last time you moved.

...if you buy high capacity magazines for a gun you have not bought yet.

...if you take your guns out of the safe each night and handle them, just so you can wipe them off before putting them away.

...if your mother-in-law asks what new junk you want for Christmas this year.

...if you drive 300 miles just to ogle (and fire) HK-MP5s (and Stens, Uzis, BMGs and whatever else shows up at Knob Creek).

...if you consider it unpatriotic not to own at least one .45 and one .22LR

...if you named your pocket pistol "Little Guy" and your 12 gauge "Big Jake."

...if you own reloading dies for calibers that you do not shoot.

...if you tape American Shooter so you can pause, reverse and fast forward to do a complete analysis of the show.

...if you understand Smith & Wesson's model numbers.

...if, while watching the movie Terminator 2, you have to leave the room in tears and mournful sobs after Arnold Schwarzenegger throws the CAR-16 off the moving tractor trailer and it goes bouncing away.

...if you go to three different gun shows within a month and you're excited every single time.

...if your guns are cleaner than your residence.

...if your mom gives you a new Springfield Armory .308 rifle for Christmas.

...if four local gun shops know you by name.

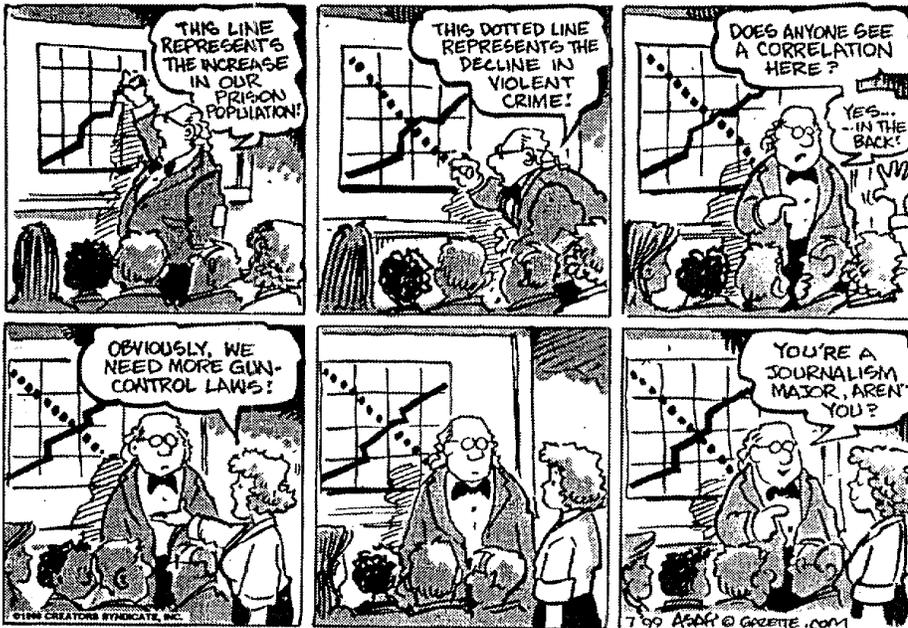
...if you're friends with 90% of the employee's at all the local gun shops.

...if you identify the gun on the cover of Dillons Blue Press before you even notice the girl.

...if, when you stop in at the local gun shop, they ask you questions like: "How was work?" "How are the wife and kids?" "We're gonna order some food, ya want in?" etc.

...if you can wallpaper your house with old issues of Shotgun News, Gun List, Guns & Ammo, etc.

...if all of your children are life members of the



...if you ever bought two brands of the same weight and type of bullet, just to see if one "shot better."

...if you keep a collection of different cartridges at your place of work as a "conversation piece."

...if you take your wife on vacation to a gun show for your 10th Anniversary and she is as excited to go as you are.

...if you and your new father-in-law go to a gun show on your wedding day.

...if you have life memberships in more than one shooting organization.

...if you read that "Brady II" would outlaw possession of more than 1,000 rounds of ammunition and think, "I have more than that rolling around loose in the trunk of my car!"

...if watching The Lion King gives you the itch for a .470 Nitro Express.

NRA, GOA, SAF, or JPFO.

...if your children are named "Ogive" and "Meplat."

...if you make \$30 per hour at work, but spend 30 minutes on your knees at the range looking for that last piece of .40 S&W brass.

...if you have Brownells on speed dial.

...if you trimmed down 100 10mm cases to form .357 Sig brass before commercial supplies of this brass were available.

...if the custom door lock pulls on your Jeep are .223 Rem cases and the gear shift knob is a .50 BMG.

...if your girlfriend thinks that aura of Hoppes #9 is your favorite after shave.

...if you have guns in your safe that you can't for the life of you remember how you came by.

(end)

# Join Us in Our Grass Roots Efforts!

Grass Roots South Carolina, P.O. Box 1181, Sumter, South Carolina 29151  
[www.scfirearms.org](http://www.scfirearms.org)

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_ Please send me the VHS Videotape on SC Laws of Self-Defense \$15.95 includes shipping

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

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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

## More Guns, Less Crime