

Firing Lines

Fighting for your Second Amendment Rights since 1965

2011 National Gun Rights Policy Conference



By Stephen Aldstadt

I recently attended the 26th annual Gun Rights Policy Conference in Chicago Illinois. The GRPC is a yearly gathering of gun rights advocates from all over the country hosted by the Second Amendment Foundation. This was the sixth conference I have attended on behalf of the members of SCOPE. Representatives from national, state, and local organizations meet to network, report on challenges and successes, and to plan coordinated strategies for the year ahead.

The GRPC draws many attendees from the local area, but it is also attended by a who's who of the leaders of the gun rights movement. The star of this year's conference was clearly Alan Gura, lead attorney in the DC vs. Heller, and Chicago vs. McDonald Supreme Court cases. Both lawsuits were landmark cases that established national precedents protecting the rights of all Americans to Keep and Bear Arms.

The DC vs. Heller case settled once and for all that the Second Amendment respects an individual right of the people to keep and bear arms. Chicago vs. McDonald incorporated those rights against the states. We now have a Supreme Court decision that clearly states that not only the federal government, but also state and local governments must respect the second amendment

the same as all the other rights enumerated in the bill of rights.

Chicago was not chosen as the site for this year's GRPC because it is gun friendly. In fact, the opposite is true. Chicago in particular and the state of Illinois remain most opposed to allowing the people their right to bear arms. This really is the focal point of the gun rights movement at this point. We have clearly established the right to keep arms. We are winning this argument in the courts and with the people. The case we need to push now is the second part: to bear arms.

More and more states are passing laws that respect the right of the people to bear arms. Forty nine states now provide for some form carry laws. Most now have shall issue standards for concealed carry permits. More states are now conceding the right to carry openly without obtaining license from the government. Four states now have a constitutional standard for bearing arms. No citizen who is not precluded from possessing arms by reason of felony conviction or adjudicated mental illness shall be infringed of his right to bear arms either openly or concealed.

I have frequently found myself in conversations with gun owners and sportsmen, people who are generally on our side of the gun rights debate, no doubt many of you,

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A well Regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the People to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed.



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Meetings will be held at the Clay Sportsmen's Club on Henry Clay Blvd. just north of Rte 31. The starting time will be 7:30 P.M. Call Michael Mastrogiovanni at (315) 652 4597 for date and directions.

DUTCHES CHAPTER
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Dutchess chapter meets the third Wed. of each month 7:30 PM at Dutchess County Pistol Assoc St. Nicholas Rd., Wappingers Falls, NY.

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Erie County Chapter holds monthly meetings every third Thursday of the month. Meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. in the Community Room at the Southgate Plaza, Union Road West Seneca.

GENESEE COUNTY
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585.219.4296
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Meetings are open to the public SCOPE members from neighboring counties are encouraged to participate.

MONROE COUNTY
Chris Edes - Chair
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Monroe County meetings take place the Third Monday of the month 7pm at Jays Diner 2612 W Henrietta Rd., Rochester, NY 14623. There are no meetings the months of December, May, June or July.

NIAGARA CHAPTER
Russell Petrie, County Chair
Phone: 585-733-5968
RussP@Rochester.RR.com

Niagara Chapter holds it's monthly meetings at the American Legion Post 410, 26 Niagara Street in Lockport, NY at 7:00pm on the third Wednesday of each month.

NEW YORK CITY COMMITTEE
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Michael Justice - Treasurer
NYC@SCOPENY.org

The NYC Chapter's Meeting is no longer being held at a Restaurant. Part of our Monthly Meeting is a visit to a gun store and/or a range. Normally we're doing this on a Tuesday evening, but that may change depending on the hours of our target location of the month.

Contact Dave Forgione at (646) 319-0106 for meeting details or join our low-volume email list by sending a message to: scope_nycsubscribe@yahooroups.com

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Meetings will be at 7:30 PM, the 3rd Saturday of each month. 21 Claremont Trail, Blooming Grove, NY. Call Mike at 496-1183 for information.

ORLEANS COUNTY
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(585) 765-9122

Orleans County SCOPE meets the 2nd Monday of every month, 7PM, VFW on Platt St. in Albion.

WAYNE COUNTY
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WayneCountyScope@yahoo.com
Larry Keown, Vice Chair
Treasurer Deane Fisher
Secretary Bob Brannan

Meetings are held the 2nd Wednesday of the month at the Marion American Legion Post, 4141 Witherden Rd., Marion NY at 7:00pm. All are welcome, for information call John Piczkur at (315) 597-2198

YATES COUNTY
Bill Button, Chairman
585-554-6868
Leigh Williams, Vice Chair
Marlene Button, Treasurer & Secretary

Stop by the SCOPENY.org website and check out the information, sign-up for e-mail alerts and much more.

Membership needs your help

By Mike Mastrogiovanni, CNY

America has hit tough times, not only economically but the American gun owner will soon be assaulted on every front, federal, state and local. We need to join together and fight back. I am asking every member in SCOPE to sign up a friend, gun owner or not. If this friend does not have the money to join do it for him.

Signing up just one new member will both double our membership numbers and resonate with the politicians that gun owners are paying attention. The best part of it is that it's only \$20.00.

This small amount will help Scope continue to fight the good fight, resisting the anti-gun politicians.

You are proud Second Amendment supporters - do not sit idle. The time to act is now before they pass their new gun control legislation (Membership application on the back page).

Under Fire

By Tommy Thompson

Greetings dear patriots... that's a far cry from the venomous speech being spewed today at those who love god & country. Today, more and more, our liberties are disappearing, the Constitution under attack, the Bill of Rights, our inalienable God given rights; the natural rights of man are being threatened in our lifetime.

We have an immigration policy, which recent decades has helped create, nurture and finance a climate of anti - American illegal aliens, a separatist nation, an invasion of our southwest and throughout our country. Wake up America. Our national sovereignty is apparently not defended against this invasion because there is a plan for a new world order that does not recognize our borders. Think about that for a mo-

ment. We are living in a time when we seem to be turning against ourselves. Yes the un-American leaders of our country have led us down a road to ruination. They ignore the doctrine of separation of powers. They now call those of us who love our country, barbarians and extremists. They spew this hate speech with impunity. We are not evil, we are not barbarians, we are patriots in defense of liberty and freedom. We must uphold the principles that our immigrant forefathers instilled in us. Those of hard work, obeying the law, learn English, pay taxes and assimilate, assimilate, assimilate!

"The tree of liberty, must be refreshed from time to time with the blood of patriots & tyrants, it is its natural manure." These words were spoken by Thomas Jefferson. That is free speech. Today Mr. Jefferson might draw some attention. That is because far too many citizens in positions of power and change are not at all familiar with our American heri-

tage, or an America outside of their own urban experience, as in a president who intends to visit all 57 states.

America should never experience a government that oppresses the people. Yet we have in the past and we will in the future. Remember men and governments are inherently evil, and given the power, men will use it. Has our government grown so large that we the people are no longer respected? Is our government turning on its citizens? Our government should fear, and respect we the people. America was designed to have a government dominated by the constitution, the Bill of Rights, and cared for by an armed lawful citizenry, we the people.

Another part of the puzzle would be eternal vigilance of all things political. Well, have we done that, have we nurtured our liberty? Have we done our best? Thomas

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WHERE DO THE MEXICANS GET THEIR GUNS?

By William Gibson

The press has given broad coverage to the claim that 90% of the guns seized in Mexico came from the U.S. This is patently untrue. The truth of the matter is that 90% of the firearms (1) submitted for tracing and (2) that could be successfully traced were shown to have come from this country. This represents less than 12% of the firearms seized by Mexican authorities. Furthermore, the average elapsed time from sale to seizure was 14 years. The Mexican authorities don't submit many of the seized weapons for tracing. This includes those identified as coming from the Mexican military, law enforcement or legal sales in Mexico. They also do not submit military weapons that clearly came from third countries.

It is very interesting how the Mexican government has attempted to shift the blame for its internal violence onto the United States. Rather than face up to its own corruption and the incompetent management of its economy, it blames its cartel wars on the U.S. demand for narcotics and, from their perspective, lax firearms laws. The political left in this country has been only too happy to accept the Mexican claims and call for legalizing narcotics and banning guns. Add a call for wide-open immigration and you have the ultimate liberal "agenda trifecta."

The truth of the matter is, as one might suspect, somewhat more complex. People have been traveling and trading between what are now Mexico and the United States long before either existed. The introduction of borders and their incumbent

regulations has been viewed more as a technical abstraction than as something having a bearing on daily activities. And part of this trade has been in firearms.

Ordinary Mexicans have much the same interest in guns as their neighbors to the north. The Mexican Revolution only ended in the 1920's (historians don't agree on an exact date) so the culture of firearms ownership is robust. Strict firearms laws (initiated, not surprisingly, by the winner of the revolution) restrict accessibility and limit types and calibers. Heavy caliber handguns and semi auto rifles are prohibited. Then only legal source of firearms is a retail outlet of the Mexican army. Accordingly, law abiding Mexicans have found other sources to meet their firearms needs.

The firearms seized by the Mexican authorities fall into four broad groups:

First, there are the guns legally available in Mexico. The guns sold by the Mexican military to legal purchasers often wind up on the wrong side of the law either through theft from the legal owner or through straw purchases. One must remember that corruption is endemic in Mexico, including in firearms sales. While most of these are low caliber handguns, these are popular with cartel hit men, particularly when equipped with locally manufactured silencers.

Incidentally, small caliber handguns are the type of firearm most often traced to the U.S. – not the semi-automatic rifles most commonly seen in the press.

The second category is comprised of those guns available legally in the U.S. that are prohibited in Mexico. This group includes handguns not legally available in Mexico and semi-automatic rifles. While this is the category that garners most of the attention from the press, it represents a minor part of the cartel supply chain. As noted above, the largest category of traced weapons is small caliber handguns and much of this

category is the traditional market of the cross border trade – regular Mexicans who just want firearms for their own protection. It is hard to deny that they need it.

The third category, which the Mexicans seem to want to ignore, is those weapons not legal for civilian purchase in either Mexico or the U.S. This includes fully automatic weapons, RPGs, mortars, grenades and the like. These are the preferred weapons of the cartels and are the only one capable of inflicting the carnage that we have seen in the media. With access to these weapons tightly controlled in the U.S., these weapons come into Mexico from three sources: 1. With Latin America awash in weapons from decades of insurgencies, there is no lack of supply. Combined with ineffectual and corrupt governments, the cartels can readily obtain weapons and move them across the poorly secured borders, such as Guatemala, utilizing their existing drug trafficking networks.

2. Weapons are smuggled into Mexico from Asia along with the precursor chemicals for amphetamine production. These weapons are sourced in the Asian weapons markets, primarily China and Chinese client states. This is a particularly attractive source as amphetamine manufacturing is highly attractive to the cartels because they get to keep all the money and do not have to split the take with the drug producers.

3. Weapons are purchased in Angola and shipped through Brazil and up the drug pipeline to Mexico. Angola is one of the largest arms markets in Africa and Brazil is also a supplier of large caliber handguns, originally destined for various legitimate civilian markets.

The last two sources show why the cartels are so intent on maintaining control of the major Mexican seaports.

One illustration of the dura-

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ble and fungible nature of weapons is the fact that some of the weapons captured by the North Vietnamese in South Vietnam were traded to Cuba in the 1970s and 1980s in exchange for sugar. The Cubans then supplied these and other Soviet era weapons to militant groups in Central and South America. These weapons were then used by insurgents in Latin American civil wars and in terrorist attacks in the 1980s in places such as Chile, El Salvador and Guatemala. More recently, some of these Vietnam-era weapons have made their way to Mexico, where they have been used by the drug cartels. We thus find a cartel hit man carrying an M-16 or an AK-47 that was manufactured before he was born — and in many cases even before his father was born.

The fourth source is from the Mexican military. Over the past 10 years, the Mexican army has had an

annual desertion rate of about 8% (the U.S. military desertion rate is about .65%). This high rate is due primarily to low pay, poor treatment and lately, by the unpopularity of having to fight the cartels. The Mexican army makes little effort to track down deserters. While the majority of them are recent recruits who decide that the army life is just not for them, many are trained troops that are lured by the high pay offered by the cartels. And many of these guys clean out the armory on their way out the door.

So while it is true that there is a long history of firearms being traded across the U.S. Mexican border, it must be recognized that these are not the primary weapons of the cartels and the 90% figure so blithely tossed around by the media is meaningless. Weapons are like any other item. If there is a demand, there will be someone willing to meet it. The

U.S. has clearly prevented any military weapons being sourced by the cartels from this country except in the most isolated instances so the cartels have gone shopping elsewhere.

As we have in the recent “Fast and Furious” case, there has been a less than stellar performance in the U.S. effort to thwart the cross border gun trade. While the street level personnel have worked hard and professionally to deal with the problem, management level fixation with internal agency politics and cross agency rivalry have limited the effectiveness of the effort. Coupled with little cooperation from Mexican law enforcement that has its own internal problems, the effort has not been effective.

Hence, we arrive at the typical liberal solution — “pass another gun control law.”



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who think the idea of constitutional carry is extreme. You mean you want to let just anyone carry a gun? Egad! Armageddon! It would be like the Wild West! Are you crazy?

It comes down to one basic principle. Do you believe, as the founders of our nation did, that the power to govern comes from the people, and is granted by the people to the government? Or do you think the people are not to be trusted and the government needs to decide who can be armed? Who do you trust more, the people or the government?

Depending on your philosophical bent, you can argue the issue one way or the other. Many have a predetermined idea and regardless of the evidence will have an unassailable opinion, not open to question or review. To those people all I can say is, either you agree with me or not.

The people I am addressing here are the ones who have an open mind, the ones who will actually look at the evidence. What does the evi-

dence show? Does crime and violence increase or decrease when you allow ordinary people the right, and the means to defend themselves? The factual truth is that crime increases when the government adds more restrictions and makes it more difficult for ordinary people to keep and bear arms.

John Lott's book, *More Guns, Less Crime*, details how in case after case, when states passed shall issue concealed carry laws, it consistently resulted in lower rates of violent crime. In the last few years record numbers of guns have been sold and nationwide crime rate are actually dropping. If you look at the areas with the highest crime rates in the nation, they coincide with the areas with the most restrictive gun laws. Don't take my word for it. Do your own research. The evidence is clear.

So has the implementation of a constitutional carry standard resulted in more violent crime? Look at the crime statistics for Vermont, the state that has respected Second

Amendment for generations. Few places in America are as safe. Few places have a lower rate of violent crime. In the states that have recently passed laws respecting constitutional carry crime rates have continued to drop.

The attendees of the 2011 GRPC have resolved to go back to their homes and work within their respective organizations to promote a national standard of constitutional carry. The Second Amendment to the United States Constitution respects the right to keep and bear arms. The founders of our nation knew what they were doing. They envisioned a land where the people lived in liberty, where every citizen was sovereign.

There will always be bad elements in society, just as there will always be corruption, oppression, and tyranny in governments. The founders of our nation placed their faith in the people and so do I. I will always stand for individual liberty. It works, every time it is tried.

Williams v. Maryland

By Paul Rusin

The SCOTUS has, once again, refused to do its duty, and due diligence. In the matter of Charles Williams v. Maryland, No.10-1207, a person, one Charles Williams, who was carrying without a permit while transferring his pistol from one residence to another, was arrested for trying to hide the pistol, a Glock with 15 rounds in the magazine, in a wooded area.

As I have written here in Firing Lines on previous occasions, and as I wrote 7 of the 9 justices during the Heller decision, precedent already stands in regards permits for rights. That precedent is written in Staub v. Baxley, and reiterated in Shutlesworth v. City of Birmingham. In part the ruling states that permits for rights are "unconstitutional censorships, or prior restraints" and as such, "one may engage with impunity in (the right) for which the law purports to require a license (permit)." In Williams case, he was charged and convicted, for "carrying" without a license, with a sentence of 3 years, 2

suspended, and 3 years probation. See the story here: <http://www.fox4kc.com/news/politics/sns-rt-us-usa-guns-courtre7923ox-20111003,0,2753689.story>

That means he will still spend a year in jail, convicted of a felony, which will further restrict his right to keep and bear arms, even though "the right to bear arms shall not be debarred any free man." Note the word "free." Free means unfettered, not bound, not in jail, etc. One might argue that debarring a free man the right to KABA could be cruel and unusual punishment, as it allows others of a criminal nature to take one's life, liberty, or property, unchallenged.

Many argue that there is a compelling interest of the state to stop someone convicted of a past crime from carrying a weapon, but how many times have we seen these same convicted of using a weapon in a future crime? The law can try, but it cannot regulate morality. That must be written in the individual's heart. What the law can do is penalize someone for an act which otherwise is wholly justified, guaranteed by our constitution, and which comes from "God, or nature's God."

Besides Shutlesworth, there is that little problem which most courts seem to refuse to accept. That being, "shall not be infringed." Infringed means "to encroach; to hinder," etc. Encroach means "to go beyond what is ORIGINAL, proper, or customary; to make inroads." All laws since the beginning which deny, disparage, hinder, etc., the right to keep and bear arms, are thus unconstitutional based on that premise that the right "shall not be infringed."

The court refused to take up the Williams case. Let us hope that they reconsider. It is essential that our individual right be declared unable to be compromised, denied, hindered, encroached, trespassed on or upon, or otherwise violated, at any level of government. No compelling state's interest should take away the right to protect one's life, liberty and property. All laws which infringe the right to KABA do just that. How much more innocent blood will we allow the states, and the courts, to let be spilled because they refuse to recognize our "individual" (see Heller v. D.C.) right to keep and bear arms?

Please write the justices of the SCOTUS and ask them to reconsider Williams case.

A letter from Congressman Gibson

Dear Stephen,

Thank you for contacting me concerning gun control. It is good to hear from you.

The Second Amendment of the Bill of Rights provides that "a well regulated Militia being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed" This is a fundamental American right and it allows for the people of our great nation to protect themselves, as well as their neighbors and communities.

I strongly oppose any legislation which will limit the Second

Amendment rights of the citizens of the United States, whether they are hunters, collectors, sportsmen, or any other individual who legally goes about obtaining and securing a firearm. We must enforce laws that are already on the books and prosecute those individuals who decide to break them to the fullest extent of the law, not law-abiding citizens who seek to peacefully obtain and maintain guns under their Second Amendment rights.

On January 18, 2011, H.R. 308, the Large Capacity Ammunition Feeding Device Act, was introduced by Rep. McCarthy (D-NY). This bill would amend the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act in order to prohibit the transfer or possession of large capacity ammunition feeding

devices, except those owned prior to this act, as well as banning all importation of such a device. In addition, those that are legally possessed prior to the enactment will be required to be identified by a serial number that identifies the device as having been manufactured prior to the enactment. I strongly oppose this piece of legislation, as it seeks to infringe on the liberties of gun owners across the country that adhere to the law.

Another bill, H.R. 822 the National Right-to-Carry Reciprocity Act of 2011, was introduced on February 18, 2011 by Rep. Stearns (R-FL). This bill is aimed at all individuals not prohibited by Federal law from possessing, transporting, ship-

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ping, or receiving a firearm, who have gone through the process to legally acquire a concealed carry permit or license, to exercise that right outside of his or her home state. As long as an individual is carrying valid government-issued picture identification as well as a valid license or permit to carry a concealed firearm, they would now be permitted to do so in any State in the United States, as long as the State in question allows for the carrying of concealed firearms. This would permit the millions of law-abiding American gun owners to use their conceal-carry permit out of state. Each person that is authorized to carry a concealed firearm undergoes considerable training, back-

ground checks, and regulatory measures to ensure their law-abiding intentions as well as the safety of all those around them. I strongly support this bill and have signed on as an original cosponsor.

Finally, the federal government has multiple law enforcement agencies which work together under the umbrella of the Department of Homeland Security to enforce the laws of the land, including federal gun laws. One of these agencies, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (BATFE), has increasingly come under fire for practices that overstep its legal authority and trample on our rights as American citizens. In addition, a series of hearings have recently begun to ad-

dress the practices and policies of the BATFE, including its "Fast and Furious" operation within the venue of the Project Gunrunner. I assure you that, as a gun owner, veteran, and proponent of limited government, I look forward to studying the findings of these hearings and doing everything in my power to ensure that this agency stays within its legal and constitutional authority.

Thank you, again, for contacting me with your thoughts. Please don't hesitate to inform me of your concerns in the future through my website <http://gibson.house.gov> or over the phone at (202) 225-5614.

Chris Gibson
Member of Congress

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Paine said "those who expect to reap the blessings of freedom must, like men, undergo the fatigue of supporting it." Good results seldom occur if the subject at hand is not nourished and cared for.

The day is never too far away when an out of touch, leviathan, government would see "we the people" as a threat and not as an assurance of liberty in good times or bad. Trust becomes a factor and there is indeed a lack of trust between government and her citizens. As trust erodes, we have witnessed an increase in unconstitutional laws and actions. Government agencies are out of control. Like the bureau of alcohol, tobacco and firearms in their deadly illegal & evil gun running schemes, with their Project Gunrunner or Fast and Furious. We witness strangling taxes and vast hostile regulations that interfere, stifle and choke business and our economy. Vicious hate speech from the left, banning this and banning that, political correctness run amuck, demands by the left to silence people who do not follow their agenda, or ridicule for those who defend the constitution. We see support for a corrupt United Nations that

is ripe with dictators and the worst thugs on the planet. A 4th amendment gutted by the so called patriot act and most unfortunately, the federalization and militarization of our police depts. You and I may feel like strangers in a strange land, witnesses to a world turned upside down. Not akin to the ideals of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

In the end, the sheriff in America, being the constitutional chief law enforcement officer in each county and guardian of states' rights; the sheriff duly elected by and responsible to we the people; the sheriff may be the saving hero who will protect his citizens from unconstitutional directives that could someday be thrust upon the American citizenry by an out of control government. As in a sovereignty smashing the United Nations small arms treaty that is wrongly promoted by our present secretary of state Hillary Clinton. Or a call to gut the Second Amendment and ban firearms in a contrived effort to disarm our citizenry during a false flag or national crises by those same people. Time will tell.

We will not stand again for a call to ban & confiscate firearms with house to house searches as in hurri-

cane Katrina. At a time when lawful citizens needed their arms the most, in times of chaos, our sheriff's must protect their citizens by recognizing unconstitutional laws as being null & void.

Be assured that in a nation turned upside down, we, the gun owners of America, would stand side by side with our sheriff's, to maintain law and order. Our county sheriffs may be our last hope for constitutional rule in times of tumult - stay tuned.

You know, I see no expiration date imprinted on the bill of rights. Do you? Seriously, do you? We must keep sacred our American values, get others involved and be certain to get the vote out come any election day.

Help SCOPE fight un-American anti-gun efforts by signing up new members. Be vocal in your support of liberty and freedom. Keep in mind; if you are afraid to speak out against tyranny, then you are already a slave. Your country needs you, for the defense of your property, your homes, your children, and most of all the yet unborn.

God save the United States

SCOPE Member Clubs

The following are clubs that are members of SCOPE. If you plan to join a club, please try to join one that is a SCOPE member. If your club would like to become a SCOPE club member please give Stephen Aldstadt a call or drop us an E-mail.

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Barrington Rifle Club
Bergen Rod & Gun Club
Bison City Rod & Gun Club Inc
Black Rock Fish & Game Club Inc
Blasdell Rod & Gun Club
Bog Trotters Rifle & Pistol Club Inc
Buffalo Revolver & Rifle Club Inc
Buffalo Rod & Gun Club Inc
Burlington Flats Fish
& Game Club, Inc.
Cal Shooting Club
Camillus Sportsmen's Club
Canaan Rifle Club, Inc.
Canandaigua Lake
Duck Hunters, Inc.
Canandaigua Sportsman's Club, Inc.
Canastota Conservation Club
Chautauqua County
Federation of Sportsmen
Chemung County Rod & Gun Club
Clarence Shooting Club
Clay Sportsman's Club
Clinton Fish & Game Club
Cloverbank Sportsman's Club Inc
Cooperstown Sportsmen's
Association, Inc.
Delchenego Rod & Gun Club
Depew Rod & Gun Club
Dunham's Bay Fish & Game Club
E Aurora Fish & Game Club Inc
Elbridge Rod & Gun Club
Evans Rod & Gun Club
Five Point Rod & Gun Club

Four Point Rod & Gun Club, Inc.
Freeport Junior Club
George Washington Fishing
& Camping Club Inc
Glen-Coe Conservation Society Inc
Gorham Coon Hunters
Gowanda Rifle Club
Hamburg Rod & Gun Club Inc
Hartland Conservation Club
Hidden Valley Lodge
Hill Top Gun Club
Himrod Conservation Club
Holley Rod & Gun Club
Honeoye Fish & Game Club
Hornell Sportsman Club
Hudson Valley
Sportsmen's Association
Iroquois Arms Collectors
Assoc of WNY
Lake Keuka Chapter, Izaak Walton
League
Lima Gun Club
Little Beard Club Inc
Livingston Co Federation of
Sportsmen's Clubs
Lloyd Rod and Gun Club Inc.
Mad River Club, Inc.
Mendon Conservation League
Mohawk Rifle & Pistol Club Inc
Monroe Chester Sportsmen Club Inc
Mt Morris Sportsmen's Club
Mumford Sportsmen's Club
Neighbors Gun Club, Inc.
New York Houndsmen
Conservation Association
New York State Muzzleloaders
Association, Inc.
Newark Rod & Gun Club
Niagara County Sportsmen's Assn.
Niagara Frontier Pistol League
Niagara Frontiersmen Pistol Club
North Forest Rod & Gun Club
North Star Sportsman's Club, Inc.
Northern Dutchess Rod
& Gun Club, Inc.
NYS Sporterifle, Inc.
Outlet Rod & Gun Club
Painted Post Field & Stream Club
Pathfinder Fish and Game Club, Inc.
Pearl River Gun Club
Phoenicia Fish & Game Association
Redfield Fish & Game Club
Richburg Rod & Gun Club
Rochester Rifle Club
Sackets Harbor
Sportsmen's Club, Inc.
Saranac Lake Fish & Game Club
Seneca County Federation
of Sportsmen's Clubs
Shawangunk Fish & Game Assn, Inc.
Sheridan Transit Rod & Gun Club
Sodus Bay Sportsman's Club
Somerset Conservation Club
Sons of the American
Legion Post 881
South Bristol Fish & Game
Association Inc.
South Shore Association
of Onedia Lake Inc.
Springville Field & Stream Inc
Springwater Rod & Gun Club, Inc.
Square Deal Sportsmen Inc.
Suburban Pistol League
Ten-X Shooting Club Inc
Three F Conservation Society, Inc.
Thruway Fish & Hunt Club
Tonawandas Sportsmen's Club
Twin City Shooting Club, Inc.
Walden Sportsmen's Club
Walworth Sportsman's Club, Inc.
Waterloo Rifle & Pistol Club
Wayne County Federation
of Sportsmen's Clubs
Williamson Conservation
& Sporting Club
Wilson Conservation Club Inc
Wolcottsville Sportsmen Club
Wood & Brook Sportsman's Club
Wyoming County
Wildlife Federation
Yates Carlton Lakeshore
Sportsmen's Club
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SCOPE Offers Business Associate Membership

SCOPE is now offering businesses that want to show their support for our 2nd Amendment rights a Business Associate Membership. Business membership dues will be \$50 annually, or \$250 annually for a Sponsor level membership. Business members will receive a window sign to display, a listing on our website with basic details of their store

and contact information. We will also supply them with membership applications and a supply of each issue of the Firing Lines for their store. Sponsor level businesses will have their listing on our website highlighted and they will receive a wall plaque for display in their store.

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SHOOTER'S COMMITTEE ON POLITICAL EDUCATION (SCOPE, INC)

PO 602, Tonawanda NY 14150 716-846-5448

Business Associate Membership Application

Date of Application _____ Donation, Annual \$50 _____ Annual Sponsor \$250 _____

Business Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Fax _____

Mailing address if different _____

Contact Name & Title _____

Secondary Contact _____

Website _____ Email _____

Type of business (gun shop, sporting goods, etc.) _____

(Donations to SCOPE are not refundable or tax deductible)

SCOPE PAC Needs Your Help

SCOPE-PAC

Announcing SCOPE-PAC, a political committee affiliated with SCOPE, Inc. but a separate organization conforming with New York State Election Laws and applicable federal laws.

SCOPE-PAC is raising funds specifically for the support of candidates for state offices that support your right to keep and bear arms. Now you can participate in the political process with more than just your vote; you can donate to SCOPE-PAC and be assured your contribution will go to those candidates that will fight for your rights.

Donate today!

Yes! I will help protect my Second Amendment rights
Here is my donation of: \$20 \$50 \$100 Other

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

Make checks payable to:
SCOPE-PAC, PO Box 12711, Rochester, NY 14612

Donations to SCOPE-PAC are not tax deductible
and are subject to all applicable state and federal laws, rules and regulations.

The elections are over and the state senate is back in friendly hands but that doesn't mean we can let our guard down or think the battle is over. Our friends and potential friends are always seeking and raising funds for future election battles. SCOPE PAC is your tool to help our friends of the Second Amendment through your donations. We expended most of our available funds during the last election cycle and donations have dropped off considerably. We need you to reach deep in your pocket and give any amount you can to build up our funds and keep them at a level where we can help when needed.

Please give any amount you can no matter how small (or large), you can rest assured it will be put to good use.

Ken Mathison
Treasurer SCOPE PAC

Let's talk SCOPE Web

By Webmaster Jim Nowotny

Let's talk SCOPE Web. Why we have it. What we do with it. Where are we going with SCOPENY.org.

Anyone who has watched the Walton's remembers the episode with they got their first Telephone. The family gathered around in amazement as they heard a familiar voice coming from the contraption.

At that time in history SEARS had a thriving Catalogue Business. They were well known. People all over the country were getting the items the needed by filling out a form and mailing it to SEARS.

I am sure that one day a brave young executive went before the board with a presentation that outlined the need for SEARS to install Telephones. I am just as sure that there were people present that day that were against such an investment because the Catalogue Business was doing just fine. Some people are simply resistant to any change.

Can you imagine where SEARS would be today if the cantankerous old dinosaurs who thought the telephone was a passing fad, or because others may be able to listen in was insecure, or just cost too much money were allowed to have their way?

Sears would have gone out of business many decades ago.

Today is no different except the medium has changed from a simple telephone to smart phones, computers, social media,

e-mail, texting and more. The medium today is the internet, which still travels via the phone lines.

The SCOPE web site is a necessary investment today just as buying a phone system was for SEARS. The SCOPE web gives members access to the SCOPE position papers in an instant. Members should become familiar with where they are so they can pass them along to others when the conversation merits.

Our web site also allows us to renew our membership online with options of paying with a check in the US Mail, or with a Credit Card to get points for future airline flights etc.

We also have a forum that is for members only but visible to all. As a member you can post information about an upcoming event at your Conservation Club or even your Church group. Are you part of a group that is putting on a Gun Raffle or Chicken Dinner? Put it in the SCOPE Forum.

We have an e-mail list of members that have a working email. We now can issue an Urgent Alert to mobilize people to call their politicians to support or oppose an upcoming bill or issue.

We have FaceBook which can also alert, announce and acknowledge our members with one push of a key.

If you have received SCOPE emails then your email address is on file. If you have not received any emails, and you have an email, then contact your chapter and have them update your records. Or send an email to webteam@scopeny.org.

We have Business Associates and Member Clubs that are listed on the web site. Remember that when you are visiting a local

business and sign them up. Don't see your club listed? Sign them up also. All forms are available from the web site.

Finally, where are we going with the web site?

2012 will be another important political year. SCOPE will be very busy throughout the year. I am sure we will be going to ALBANY again this year. We will be sending out Candidate Questionnaires, We will be hosting Meet the Candidates events.

To do all of these things efficiently we will be relying on the SCOPENY.org Site and our members to visit the site to stay informed.

- Make a pledge in 2012 that as a member I will get one person to sign up online.
- I will make sure my Conservation Club is up to date.
- When I receive an ACTION ALERT, I will pass it on to at least 5 other gun owners I know.

As a member of SCOPE you are not required to attend the meetings, but you are always welcome. In 2012 from September and October your chapter will be very busy preparing the reports cards for the elections and would appreciate any and all volunteers.

As a member of SCOPE, visit scopeny.org, read up on impending gun laws, become familiar with them and talk it up with your friends.

Please make it a point to stop by often, join the forum, check us on FaceBook. Use the web site to sign up new members, renew your clubs membership, or renew your own membership.

SCOPE Business Associate Members

The following are business members of SCOPE. If your business would like to become a SCOPE business member please fill out the application on page 9 or give Ken Mathison a call or E-mail.

Batavia Marine & Sporting Supplies

411 W Main Street
Batavia, NY 14020-1294
(585) 343-4131

Branchport Automotive

3719 RT54A
Branchport, NY 14418
315-595-2263
Thomas Rutherford
bportauto@yahoo.com
Auto Repair & Service

Brenna, Brenna & Boyce

Attorneys at law
31 E Main St
Rochester, NY 14614

Craig's Gold & Silver

3065 Delaware Ave.
Kenmore, NY 14217

D. Craig MacFarland
716-332-4444
Jewelry, gold, silver, coins
Save time and money

D & D Guns
1812 Culhane Rd
Penn Yan, NY 14527
Dick Culhane
315-536-3503
Retail gun sales, accessories, calls,
ammo

Red Sun Builders LLC
172 Gifford Rd
Greenville, NY 12083
518-966-4271
Ray & Patrick Kosorek
www.redsunbuilders.com
redsunbuilders@earthlink.net
Resedential remodeling, power tools

S & S Auto Body , Inc.
321 Englewood Ave
Buffalo, NY 14223
716-834-0183
Steve Gajewski Owner
Luigi Rodo Office Manager
Auto Body Repair and Painting

Seneca Gun Sports
4705 Route 14
Rock Stream, NY 14878
(607) 243-7243

senecagunsports.com
Firearms Dealer serving your
Hunting, Target, Personal Protection
and Law Enforcement needs

The Custom Shop
3712 Main St
Walworth, NY 14568
315-986-1717
Custom Gunsmithing, Repairs,
Ammo, New & Used Guns,
Accessories, Consignment & Estate
Sales

Walton's Service Center, Inc.
1634 RT 54
Penn Yan, NY 14527
315-536-6928
Darwin Walton
Auto Repair & Service

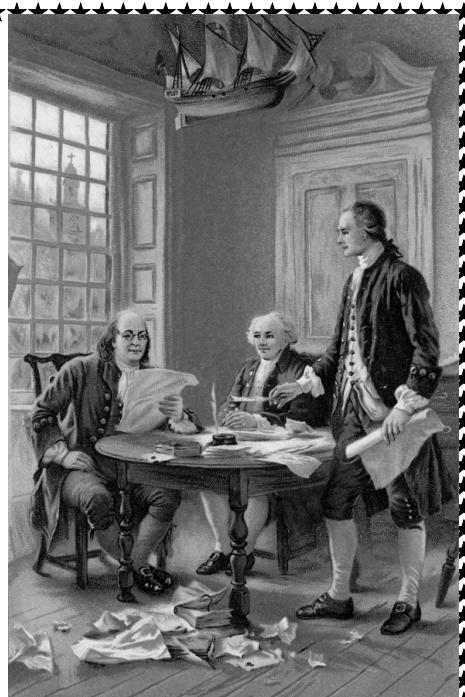
Yorkshire Battery & Tire
Freedom NY 14065
Cattaraugus
Eric Blom
716-492-5585

SCOPE Web Master

Jim Nowotny
Web Consulting, SEO
Web Site Monetization, Creation and
Hosting
716-584-1221

Check out SCOPNY.org
for up to the minute information
on legislation and SCOPE
activities.

Tune into the Second Amendment
Show, the link on the SCOPE
Website or stop by 2ndamendmentshow.com.



The New Segregation: Part 1, The Curley Effect

By Bill M. Cyrus

We're three months away from next year's Sportsmen's Day at the legislature in Albany. Based on this year's which I attended I'd like to offer some suggestions for improvement. I gather from observation that while the effort has looked good on its surface, the results clearly leave much to be desired as we still retain the same unacceptable state of the law and government year to year.

It seems there is a routine that has been repeated verbatim not only in person in the event, but in print coverage pertaining to it. Those of the anti gun side state their cause as being safety and well being of people in their districts versus the interests of "sportsmen" to be less regulated.

Mistakenly our side has played along with this mischaracterization of the issue. We present that "sportsmen" contribute heavily to the state's economy, preserve cultural heritage, and safe family friendly activity, and thus our rights are worth preserving despite opposition's insistence that they're harmful.

While a fine reason perhaps for our own to embrace our activities as we do, as an effective persuasion for those who do otherwise it has repeatedly failed over the course of decades. First it naturally puts our side at an immediate political disadvantage by addressing the matter in context that only applies to 10 to 20 percent of the population, rather than ownership and use of firearms in a broader context that applies to everyone, regardless of where they live, what other beliefs they hold, and their lifestyle.

Second it answers the first concern, safety, with an unrelated other matter that doesn't effectively refute it but instead suggests a balance—giving the other side credit for being right when they're not, and merely negotiating a point in the middle which does nothing for actually solving the problem suggested by the first and is entirely dependent upon position of negotiating strength as to which side's interest prevails.

Third it assumes the other side is being honest, that the questions, concerns, and solutions they present are tied to the reasons they offer with a reasonable expectation of achieving the stated goal. As we see that the latter part is clearly not true and the first two totally unsatisfactory, it is evident that a different understanding of the situation seems needed. In this article I'll address the third point, and in coming months the first and second.

While assured over and over again with readily available information of the combined experience of over 40 out of the 50 states that fewer, less intrusive and less detailed gun laws produces more safety and greater public well being, NY's legislators and police lobbyists insist on going the opposite direction instead, which has proven detrimental to the public interests. Firearms laws are inconvenient, annoying, confusing and thus legally perilous, and most are outright absurd.

As advocates on our side for both pure matters of Constitutional freedom and hunting/sport shooting activity assert, the net result is less purchasing and use of firearms (and the revenues generated from it), diminished home and personal security and increased crime, and less overall sense of freedom, all of which are serious losses to society for questionable if any benefit whatsoever. However many times this is pointed out, it seems not at all to bother those on the other side of the aisle, as it appears at very best a price they're willing to

pay, or at worst it's not even on their minds.

Why would they purposefully and knowingly choose bad public policy? Two Harvard economists, Edward L. Glaeser and Andrei Schleifer published a paper in the Journal of Law, Economics, and Organization that explains the situation rather well: making the wrong decisions actually pays off for politicians. In their paper "The Curley Effect: The Economics of Shaping the Electorate", Glaeser and Schleifer explain the political success of James Michael Curley. A four time mayor of Boston, who rather than having to compete for the vote across the entire political spectrum instead came up with the idea of driving opposing voters out of the city by action of public policy to make his preferred group the majority.

In Curley's case, as well as that of longtime Detroit mayor Coleman Young, punitive taxes were levied, targeting middle to upper class residents specifically intending for them to voluntarily leave, thus concentrating the poorer class voters to perpetually reelect them.

It takes the concept of gerrymandering a step further: rather than merely moving the lines to favorably divide up voters, it actually relocates the voters themselves. The destructiveness of the policies implemented to achieve it is completely disregarded; those who find the results objectionable simply leave the system, and those in power have every incentive to continue as the intended rewards to themselves are realized.

New York's gun laws make current resident gun owners want to leave and others to avoid coming here. Given the lack of correlation with real results towards any other purpose, it is clear that such is precisely their intention. New York's anti gun laws and politics are nothing other than the Curley Effect in action.

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Gun Control Legislation

By Budd Schroeder

New York is a tough state when it comes to gun laws. Whether it is in the legislature or the courts, the gun owners usually lose. Sheldon Silver is so anti-gun that he seldom allows a pro-gun bill to reach the floor of the assembly for a vote.

If one should make it, he has enough control of the Democrats in the Assembly to kill it. Most good gun bills won't make it out of the Codes Committee, so getting a fair shake on improvement in gun bills is slim to none.

Once in a while he will allow a token bill, usually connected with hunting to pass. However, any bill that "weakens" the "reasonable" gun control laws, don't see successful treatment and therein lies the problem.

People have criticized the NRA and the state gun groups for

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There has been a terrible mistake of assumption that those who are opponents of unrestricted legal firearms ownership are simply "uninformed", "misguided" and "just don't get it." Nonsense. Of course they understand. They simply cannot admit their real reasons and motives. At very least there is no plausible excuse of ignorance when information from everywhere else in the country is so readily, visibly, and instantly available.

After decades of the same, it cannot be dismissed as mere accident but deliberate experimentation to achieve specific political objectives. As long as we continue to address the issue without taking into account the "The Curley Effect" perspective, we won't make any progress towards reversing the current situation. If you're not asking the right questions, how can you expect to get the right answers?

"not getting the laws changed." The pro-gun groups have the frustration that Silver's cronies south-east of the Tappan Zee Bridge are anti-gun and go along with his desire to keep good people from having handguns for self-defense.

Until the pro-gun groups organize in the New York City area and change the liberal politicians to those who are at least open to fairness and reason, the situation won't change. Politicians classify people into three categories.

1. Those that can help me.
2. Those that can hurt me.
3. Those that don't matter.

The gun owners are in category three for Silver which puts gun owners at a huge disadvantage. We have been successful in many cases by preventing worse gun laws from being enacted. SCOPE has focused on lobbying enough legislators to vote against bad gun laws in the Senate which negates the success of the anti-gun majority in the assembly.

However, the Republican Majority in the Senate is very thin and this creates a big problem in the elections next year. We have to protect our base and also keep the few pro-gun Democrats loyal to the Second Amendment cause.

The second problem we have is in the courts. One would think that the Heller and McDonald decisions would open the door for some fairness in the issuance of pistol permits. The Second Amendment Foundation just lost a case in Westchester County regarding the carrying a handgun outside the home for self-defense.

The issuing officers in several counties within the state routinely limit the carrying of a handgun to such restrictions as "target and hunting." The judicial decision in a 60 page document said that they were allowed to do this under the "proper cause" provision in the licensing law. This comes under judicial discretion and does not specifically define what proper cause is.

The decision defined it as a condition that shows that the applicant has a greater risk and need for self protection than others in the same classification. This is pure hogwash. Several years ago a lawyer with one leg applied for a full carry permit and was denied. The

judge said that he couldn't prove that he was in more danger than any other one-legged lawyer.

The question that didn't come up in the decision was "how could any person who was a victim of a violent crime have convinced the issuing officer that he or she was going to be in danger?" It is an impossible standard and that's the way the politicians want to keep it.

It is up to the gun groups to lobby hard and often to change the gun laws to make the permit a "shall issue" requirement whereby a permit must be issued unless there is a proper reason for denial. Such reasons must be defined and listed. Most of us agree that felons, mental incompetents, drug addicts and people of poor moral character could be in the category of those who would be denied. Otherwise those of good character should be entitled to have an unrestricted permit.

Then, there is the argument that since the Second Amendment is an individual right, and permits bestow privileges, it shouldn't be necessary to have a permit. Good thought, but that is not going to happen in New York.

Therefore our focus for the coming year should be to get more involved in the electoral process to dump the anti-gun politicians and replace them with reasonable people. We should also do all we can to protect and re-elect those on our side.

We should push as hard as we can to convince legislators to introduce and pass a "shall issue" bill. This will take effort and many phone calls to the legislators' offices.

The next effort should be to raise money for a war chest to challenge the onerous provisions of the law and to appeal the Westchester decision. Justice is expensive.

The politicians must be contacted on a regular basis so we can be in their first two categories. Then, we can get the desired results and justice in New York.



Carrying On About Carrying

By: Johnathan Celso, Certified NRA Instructor

Even Doctors Have Doctors

The other day I had a doctor's appointment and when sitting in the waiting room I thought to myself, "I wonder who my doctor goes to when he's sick." I thought the same thing when sitting in the barber's chair about my barber. "I wonder who cuts my barber's hair." Of course my mind wandered to that of lawyers, and clergy leaders. Who do these people go to when they require the same service I am going to them for? I think you can see where I am going with this one. Who do firearm instructors go to when they require firearm instruction? Well the obvious answer is, "to another instructor." But sadly that just is not the case. Why is that? If even a doctor has a doctor, why wouldn't a firearms instructor have an instructor? I think the answer is found not in their abilities to teach, but in their abilities to learn.

I realize this looks like an article that only pertains to instructors but I promise it will be beneficial to all those who are considering formal training as well.

I can honestly say that in the time I have spent as an instructor, I have seen my fair share of students who come into a class just to get a certificate, or they're there because their agency made them, or they were required to attend in order to get a pistol permit. They have no interest at all in actually learning anything. Unfortunately that same type exists with those who endeavor to be an instructor. They have the mindset of "Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. Just get this certification over with so I can teach it the way I want." Or they get the certification and never teach another class again because to them it's nothing more than a medal. They renew their certification just in case they need to show it off in the near future. "Now hold on there buddy. You just happen to be talking to a certified instructor," as they fight through their wallet to pull out their renewal card proving their credentials. Now I know that sounds

a little judgmental and arrogant, but my authority doesn't come from any credentials, it comes from experience. Not experience as an instructor, but as a student. See I was a great student long before I was ever a good instructor. As a matter of fact I still am a better student than I am an instructor. I can honestly say that because I am still getting formal instruction to this day. You see the most important question a student could ask their instructor when interviewing them isn't when the last time was they taught a class; it is when the last time was they took a class.

In my first few classes as an instructor it took me a while to sort the ones who were there to learn from those who weren't. But now I can see them coming from a mile away. I remember two specific incidents that opened my mind to these kinds. The first was during one of the times I retook the NRA Personal Protection Outside the Home Course as a student. The instructor of that class (an NRA training counselor) informed me of the actions of another counselor while at a NRA development seminar in Virginia where they were implementing the newly added holster purse presentation into the curriculum. He said that this fellow counselor made the statement out loud that it was "dumb the NRA was asking women to blade their body to the target before presenting the pistol and that the NRA was too concerned with safety." He continued with, "I would never teach that non-sense." Well after the next break he involuntarily didn't return to the class. After hearing that I couldn't believe that someone had the fortitude (or foolishness) to actually say that in a NRA counselor development course! But what really made my mouth hit the floor was when a fellow student of mine, sitting right next to me in fact, responded to that story with, "he should have just keep his mouth shut and taught it that way later." In my opinion it takes more guts (or stupidity) to say that! Certified instructors (at least not self certified) do not have the right to teach what they want after getting certified. We didn't spend the massive amount of time and money to gather the vast resources to develop the course, nor to collect the information necessary to validate what is most safe and what is most proficient in the first place! We would do well

to heed to that simple truth before our pride puts us in a place of liability we didn't sign-up for.

The other incident I won't soon forget was when I was teaching the NRA Personal Protection Inside the Home Course and had two NRA certified instructors, a married couple, taking the class. At first I was excited to see fellow instructors continuing their training. But that soon dissipated when I got the sense from them they weren't really there to learn. When we broke into groups to review some things learned in the Basic Pistol class, I was blown away that these "instructors" couldn't answer some of the simple questions that the other students had no problem with. It was no wonder to me when I asked them when the last time was they taught a class they couldn't remember. I was even less amazed when I noticed the wife couldn't shoot at all and the husband did not like me helping her out. I later found out they wanted to advance their certification to that course as well but their training counselor made them take the full course first. I just couldn't believe instructors like that actually existed. And if they exist in my small geographic outreach, then they exist elsewhere too.

The NRA emphasizes in all of its courses that the student must learn and adapt to the proper "knowledge, skills, and attitude" before passing the course. So with these types of students (and yes the majority of them are men), I really spend a lot of time working on their attitude to get it up to par with their, supposed, knowledge and skills. It's easy to do this when you know what it's like to sit in their chairs. You know what it's like to be taught by someone else. You know what you have to do to get the most out of the class – because you remember doing that and you are continuing to do that. You never stopped learning. The confidence your students will gain from your seemingly supernatural understanding will be priceless. I never looked at my certification as a credential. I looked at it as a responsibility; a higher standard. My certification motivated more than ever to keep learning. It was my duty to do so. Of the over 100 instructors I know, perhaps 20 still signup (and pay) for additional courses. Even less than that

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are humble enough to take the actual courses they teach with another instructor. Even less than that can make it through the entire course without having to announce or make it known to anyone there that they are an instructor. If you can personally identify with whom I am describing, than there is no better time than now to start practicing what you ask your students to do every class – be a good student. Let me encourage you to stay with me as I cover some key points in the development of the most neglected attribute of firearm safety and proficiency – attitude.

Imagine a doctor who believes they are sick and starts diagnosing him or herself. They start reading up on their sickness in the privacy of their own home, using their own medical books, and writing their own prescriptions. They might even jump on WebMD and see what it says. Not only is that ludicrous, it is illegal in some jurisdictions. If that was your doctor and you found out about that kind of practice, would you still be comfortable with them? It is no different then when someone watches a lot of YouTube videos and/or reads a lot of articles online (eh hmm) in the privacy of their own home, picks up something they haven't learned before, and goes out with the false confidence they know what they are talking about and might even start butting in on any conversation around them involving guns because everyone could benefit from their "wisdom." Even worse, they disseminate this new found information to paying customers who entrust that they are receiving outstanding firearm instruction simply because they are an "instructor." Trust me, anyone can write an online article and post an online video just as easily as anyone can read them. It is imperative to understand that online videos and articles do not take the place of formal, personal, live, non-free, instruction. They might be great supplemental sources of information, but will never alone bring true advancement of your knowledge, skills, and attitude. They are to your improvement as textbooks are to college students – simply an aid to instruction, and an invaluable one at that.

Back to the doctor analogy, just as doctors have their own doctors, their family members each have

their own doctor too. There is a reason doctors do not diagnose their own family members. They are too emotionally involved to be objective, and too familiar with them to see the symptoms. I can only imagine what would happen if a doctor diagnosed his wife that since her last appointment, she has gained weight, her blood pressure has increased, her cholesterol levels are up, her percentage of body fat has heightened, there has been some loss of hearing, and too much stress in her life. I am sure she would rip up his prescription for treatment and write one for a divorce. No, wise doctors make their family members get their own doctor too. Well the same goes for those out there who just wish that their spouse would listen to them about how to shoot because they know what they are talking about. Look it, you just might know what you're talking about, but before you take offense to the fact that your spouse won't take any instruction from you, think about the doctor analogy. You should be excited that your spouse wants to get instruction at all. But let them have their own instructor too; even if you are an actual, certified instructor.

I recently held my first ever "women only" class for the NRA's Basic Pistol Shooting Course and it had the most positive feedback from the ladies who participated. They all shared their frustrations with their husbands and said it was a relief to them with how patient I was and understanding of their needs. I jokingly replied, "My wife never said that when I tried to teach her!" But as they say, there is truth in humor. Teaching someone how to be safe and proficient with a device that was primarily designed to inflict injury to persons, animals, and/or property without coming across too assertive, enforcing, and narrow-minded is difficult already. Doing so with someone who has a mental list of mistakes, offenses, and faults on you makes it near impossible.

Here are some simple things you can do as a student to make sure you make the most out of your experience with professional firearms training:

- Keep in mind that you are paying for this service. Get your money's worth. Interview your instructor. Purposefully call or

email him or her multiple times to see how available they are. See how personable they are on the phone or in their emails. Get an idea how comfortable you will be with them. Come prepared with questions already written down you would like answered.

- Don't isolate yourself during the class. Purposefully sit next to others so to form a "buddy" throughout the class. Even though you might not be in a lot of the group exercises together, you can talk during the breaks about your experiences.
- Get a good night's sleep and bring plenty of quiet snacks and simple drinks to enjoy during the class. It will help keep you focused.
- Take notes. You only remember half of what you see and half of what you hear, but you will remember three quarters of what you write down. Also, you will be able to put it in your own words to help you when the class is all over with.

Take note how much your instructor is willing to demonstrate in front of you. It is not good enough to just lecture or regurgitate what they know; they need to be able to show you. I understand a basketball coach in his 50's can't throw as good as his star player in his early 20's; but he better be willing to throw anyway. Avoid those kinds of instructors at all costs. They fear making a mistake in front of their students more than anything else and that is usually a good sign they are like the self-diagnosing doctor. Your instructor should be able to use any publicly made mistakes as tools for teaching.

Remember to respect your instructor the way you would want to be respected if you were charged with leading the class.

And last but not least: enjoy yourself!

That is all for now. Be safe out there.

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