

POINT BLANK

**STRAIGHT TALK
ABOUT WHAT YOU
CAN DO TO
PRESERVE YOUR
RIGHT TO KEEP AND
BEAR ARMS**



**June
2013**

Volume XXXVIII No. 6

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CITIZENS COMMITTEE FOR THE RIGHT TO KEEP AND BEAR ARMS

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CCRKBA DEFENDS JOURNALISTS' 1A RIGHTS

News agencies have not been particularly supportive of Second Amendment rights or organizations that defend the amendment, but CCRKBA Chairman Alan Gottlieb noted in a statement, "The Citizens Committee is not an organization that cherry picks from the Bill of Rights. Unlike the Obama administration, we revere all the individual rights protected by the Constitution, while they seem intent on ignoring its very existence."

As the scandal unfolded, one journalist dubbed it "Reportergate" and it also appeared that the Justice Department had looked at Fox News' William La Jeunesse, who was involved early on in the Fast and Furious investigation and has broken several stories related to that case. La Jeunesse and another Fox reporter, Mike Levine, were both mentioned in the Inspector General's report on the attempt by Dennis Burke, former U.S. Attorney for Arizona, to discredit Fast and Furious whistle-blower John Dodson with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Rosen, meanwhile, had uncovered and reported embarrassing facts while covering the State Department.

"It is the role of the press to be a watchdog on government, not the other way around," Gottlieb said.

He said Rosen and La Jeunesse "not only did nothing wrong, they did their jobs. In La Jeunesse's case, he has been instrumental in exposing the outrage known as Fast and Furious to the American people."

Fast and Furious was the scandalous Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives gun trafficking operation that authorized at least 2,000 AK-type rifles to be purchased by known criminal suspects over the course of several months. It was terminated immediately after a gun associated with the operation was recovered at the scene of a gunfight in 2010 in the Arizona desert that resulted in the death of Border Patrol Agent Brian Terry.

"We find this deplorable and despicable," Gottlieb bristled, "and a clear sign that the Obama administration is not simply out of touch, it is out of control. It is time for Congress to put a check on the Executive branch and rein these people in, and it is also time for Attorney General Eric Holder to go."

"It should not surprise anyone that the First Amendment is every bit as important to us as the Second Amendment," he observed.

He also said revelations in Reportergate and in the Internal Revenue Service scandal further erode the public's trust.

"In light of these scandals," Gottlieb concluded, "it is clear why gun owners are being joined by growing legions of other citizens in their distrust of government."

WA COMPUTER HACK SHOWS FRAILTY OF RECORD KEEPING

A recent computer hacking incident in Washington state raised the radar of the Citizens' Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms, which cited the computer invasion as a reason why they asked for a key concession from lawmakers during negotiations about background check legislation in the state's legislature earlier this year.

The news that databases belonging to the Washington State court administrator's office were hacked back in February, putting the personal information of up to a million people at risk, angered CCRKBA. The organization said it showed why gun owners are opposed to a background check registry and wanted the state's pistol registry to be scrapped.

"This is the kind of vulnerability and privacy invasion that law-abiding, responsible firearms owners fear," said CCRKBA Chairman Alan Gottlieb. "If hackers can break into the state court system, they can just as easily break into records kept on gun owners at the Department of Licensing, where the handgun registry is maintained. This could be a gold mine for gun thieves.

"This is why," he continued, "we insisted that the state pistol registry be abolished and that no records be retained on background checks when we agreed to discuss background check legislation earlier this year. The other side wouldn't budge. They want gun owner privacy to be at risk."

Several news outlets, including Reuters and the Associated Press,

reported that up to 160,000 Social Security numbers and a million drivers' license numbers, of people who were involved in court cases, may have been compromised. According to one report, there are at least 100 people who the state has confirmed had their social security numbers affected.

Gottlieb indicated that records retention is something anti-gunners are seeking in every background check bill, and suggested this data breach could become part of the debate if a proposed initiative on the subject makes the ballot in the Evergreen State.

"Now the gun control lobby is threatening an initiative campaign to push their agenda," Gottlieb observed. "If it mirrors what they tried to accomplish in Olympia earlier this year, you're likely to see gun owners and other privacy advocates joining forces to oppose them.

"It's appalling that this happened," he concluded, "but it provides a stark lesson to those who would disregard the privacy of up to two million of their fellow citizens by demanding that records be kept on people who merely exercise a civil right protected by both the state and federal constitutions. Either you support privacy, or you support criminals. There's no middle ground."

Gun owner privacy became a serious issue earlier in the legislative session when it was discovered that a proposed "assault weapons ban" bill had a provision that would have allowed sheriffs' deputies to conduct unscheduled,

annual warrantless searches of the homes of gun owners. These searches ostensibly would be conducted to confirm that an owner of a pre-owned semi-auto was storing it properly.

Even liberal civil rights advocates were opposed to the legislation, and its sponsors had to acknowledge that they had not read the bill, and that the measure was the product of a "cut and paste" from a model bill proposed by anti-gunners.



POINT BLANK

*"Straight talk about what you can do to
preserve your right to keep and bear arms."*

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POINT BLANK is published monthly by Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms, Liberty Park, 12500 N.E. Tenth Place, Bellevue, Washington 98005 or email information@ccrkba.org

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TWO NEW STUDIES CAST DOUBTS ON GUN CONTROL

Two new studies call into question some of the arguments for more gun control were highlighted by the Citizens' Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms.

A new study from the Bureau of Justice Statistics proves that more firearms in the hands of private citizens do not increase the number of murders committed. A separate study from the Pew Research Center shows widespread ignorance of this fact and, according to CCRKBA, indicates the public has been misled.

CCRKBA Chairman Alan Gottlieb talked about the two studies recently.

"The BJS data covers 1993 to 2011 and suggests that for almost 20 years, the gun prohibition lobby has been consistently wrong about private gun ownership and its correlation to crime," he said. "The Pew report suggests that the public has been essentially hoodwinked into believing otherwise."

An AP story about the Pew Research study indicated that public perception about firearms-related violent crime could be influenced by "intense publicity generated by recent mass shootings." Gottlieb suggested that the two new reports could be a game-changer in the overall debate.

"The release of these reports blows holes in the gun prohibition agenda," he stated. "If violent crime had gone upward, gun grabbers would exploit the fact as proof that more guns in private hands lead to more violent crime."

"However," Gottlieb added, "if the gun rights community argued that the BJS data proves increased gun ownership leads to lower crime rates, the dominant liberal media

would savage the notion. Of course, this is the same anti-gun press that has sensationalized crimes while remaining silent about the actual crime data."

Gottlieb made note of the findings in the studies.

"The BJS data shows that gun-related homicides declined by 39 percent from 1993 to 2011, and the Pew Research Center found that gun-related homicides fell from 7 per 100,000 in 1993 to 3.6 per 100,000 in 2010, a decline of 49 percent," he noted. "The declining percentages go in the same direction. Firearms-related homicides have plummeted dramatically while more Americans

bought more guns, including millions of semi-automatic modern sporting rifles. More people are licensed to carry in more states, and crime is down."

CCRKBA's chair said that the release of these numbers should cause anti-gunners to take a second look at their arguments.

"It is time for the gun control crowd to acknowledge they have been consistently and undeniably wrong," Gottlieb remarked, "and admit that their agenda has never been about crime, but about public disarmament. They don't want to prevent gun crime, they want to prevent gun ownership."

MORE CCRKBA ATTENTION TO FAST & FURIOUS

The Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms continues to call attention to Operation Fast and Furious that helped flood Mexico with guns used in criminal activities in that country.

CCRKBA suggested that President Barack Obama disingenuously told an audience in Mexico that he will "continue to do everything in my power to pass common-sense reforms that keep guns out of the hands of criminals and dangerous people."

While the president was correct that many of those guns came from the U.S., CCRKBA chairman Alan Gottlieb suggested Obama look in the mirror.

"The Obama administration should accept full responsibility for illegally flooding Mexico with guns that are

now being used by drug cartel," Gottlieb said. "But he has deliberately told his audience half a story about how many of those guns made it into their country."

"If he were really interested in keeping guns out of the wrong hands, he would instruct the Justice Department to enforce existing laws."

"The measures being proposed by the president will not prevent a single crime in Mexico and he knows it," he said. "The president would have Mexico believe that the reason for their crime is our gun laws and the Second Amendment. It's another blame game where Mr. Obama points fingers at everyone for the horrid handling of a disastrous gun trafficking effort in which firearms retailers followed the law and his own people didn't."

FORMER D.C. PROSECUTOR SLAMS GUN LAW PROPOSALS

A former District of Columbia prosecutor suggested in the pages of the *Washington Times* that a wave of gun control measures proposed by congressional Democrats trying to exploit the Sandy Hook tragedy would not pass constitutional muster.

Former prosecutor Jeffrey Scott Shapiro, writing an opinion piece about state efforts to pass nullification laws, observed, "For once, I'm inclined to side with the states on this matter — at least in spirit, since I know many of the federal laws being proposed by the Democratic Party are unconstitutional."

Shapiro wrote that the "Democrats' continued attempts to pass federal laws that defy the Supreme Court have compelled the states to pass nullification laws."

"The entire point of the *Heller* and *McDonald* cases," he said, alluding to the two Supreme Court rulings that affirmed the Second Amendment protects an individual civil right, "were to secure the Second Amendment as a guaranteed right to keep and bear firearms that are in 'common use.' But since the tragic Sandy Hook shootings in Connecticut, the Democrats have done everything they can to ban firearms that are in common use. Gun-control advocates have waged a diabolical misinformation campaign, mislabeling AR-15s as 'assault weapons,' a term designed to mislead the public into thinking they're actually machine guns or automatic 'assault rifles,' when, in

fact, they only fire one shot at a time, no different than a handgun."

Shapiro's remarks came just days before 54 of Colorado's county sheriffs joined in a legal action to overturn that state's new anti-gun laws.

Though not a party to the lawsuit, CCRKBA is monitoring it closely. Chairman Alan Gottlieb noted that when that many elected law enforcement officials raise alarms about an issue, it gets the public's attention.

In his opinion piece, Shapiro acknowledged that federal law trumps state statute, "but technically they are right that any attempt by the federal government to disregard the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling in *Heller* or *MacDonald* is unconstitutional

CCRKBA LAUDS ALABAMA VETO OVERRIDE

Lawmakers in Alabama overrode Gov. Robert Bentley's veto of a controversial measure that will allow teachers in Franklin County schools to carry firearms to their campus if they have concealed carry permits.

"It takes time for police to respond to any emergency, but history has demonstrated, at Pearl, Mississippi and the Appalachian Law School in Virginia, that quick reaction by armed citizens can interrupt shootings and stop suspects," said CCRKBA Chairman Alan Gottlieb.

Two students at the law school retrieved guns from their cars to stop a killer, and the vice principal at Pearl High School took the suspected shooter at that incident into custody.

In Alabama, the bipartisan override effort came a before the Legislature

adjourned in mid-May. According to WAFF news, the measure will help in Franklin County, where schools are not always able to have a resource officer.

State Rep. Johnny Mack Morrow, a Colbert Democrat, pushed the measure with support from both parties. He told a reporter that partisan politics has no place when school safety is at stake.

"When (children) hear about Sandy Hook and Dale County," Morrow said, "they visualize the same thing happening in Franklin County. This will put a degree of safety. This will give assurance in their minds that someone is protecting them."

The action came after Gov. Bentley had earlier vetoed two earlier versions of the measure.

What happened in Alabama is a far cry from what occurred at a Wichita, Kansas elementary school where a teacher was arrested for carrying a gun on the school property and charged with a concealed carry violation and placed on administrative leave, according to the *Wichita Eagle*.

There is a curious angle to the story, however. The newspaper noted that earlier this year, the Kansas Legislature passed a measure that does allow school districts to designate an employee to carry a gun at school. The idea behind both pieces of legislation is the same: Providing schools with the ability to immediately respond to an emergency while police are being summoned.

CCRKBA BLASTS SENATE NIX OF COBURN BILL

The U.S. Senate voted down a proposal in May by Oklahoma Republican Tom Coburn to expand gun rights on some federal lands, and the Citizens' Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms was not at all pleased by the news.

The proposal passed 56-43, but needed 60 votes for passage. The proposal would have allowed gun owners to carry firearms on property owned by the Army Corps of Engineers in states where concealed carry is already the law. CCRKBA suggested Senate anti-gunners who voted no on this proposal be held accountable by voters, and questioned a double standard.

"Democrats set that threshold," noted CCRKBA Chairman Alan Gottlieb. "It's okay when an anti-

gun minority thwarts the will of the people, but when pro gun rights senators do it, they scream bloody murder."

Current regulations allow for hunting with firearms on Corps land, but other federal property, such as national forests and national parks, allow firearms to be carried on a wider basis. Gottlieb praised Sen. Coburn, who serves on CCRKBA's national advisory council.

"Senator Coburn was trying to do the right thing," Gottlieb said. "The Second Amendment certainly should apply equally on all of these lands."

In many cases, these Corps lands are fairly wild places, with game animals and the predators that are always on the prowl. One of the primary reasons that Congress

adopted legislation about four years ago to allow the carrying of loaded firearms in national parks was as a defense against wild animal attack.

Gottlieb criticized the anti-gun senators. He noted the support from both parties for the proposal, which was an amendment to a bill concerning water resources.

"The fact that 11 Democrats and one independent supported Coburn's measure shows that it has bipartisan support," Gottlieb said, then added, "Sen. Coburn pushed through the earlier amendment allowing firearms in national parks, and this effort was a natural progression to open up more lands to legally-armed citizens. Boxer and her allies have once again demonstrated an unreasonable fear of their fellow citizens."

CITIZEN ACTION PROJECT

On April 2, 2013 the United Nations General Assembly voted 154 to 3, with 23 abstentions to pass the long-awaited Arms Trade Treaty.

ATT supporters claim the treaty will merely regulate the international trade in military equipment such as ships, aircraft, armored vehicles, land mines, etc. But if you read further into the treaty, you will find it includes "small arms and light weapons" -- commonly used rifles and handguns.

Supporters also say that the treaty only affects international commerce in such arms, not domestic use. But a closer reading reveals that in order to maintain control over the movement of these items, internal national controls are mandated. National control systems such as registration, purchase and transfer controls, etc, will theoretically prevent "rogue" shipments of arms.

The UN Arms Trade Treaty will be offered for formal signature on June 3rd.

One of the safeguards written into our Constitution is the principle that all treaties must be ratified by a 2/3 vote of the U.S. Senate. A Senate vote for ratification could come at any time after the treaty is signed by the President, but most likely will be delayed until the President and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid think they have the 67 votes needed to ratify.

Now is the time to contact your U.S. Senators by letter, e-mail or telephone and demand they vote "NO" on any treaty restricting the fundamental Constitutional rights of any American citizen. Contact information for your Senators may be found at www.senate.gov or at www.ccrkba.org using the link at "Contact your Senator" in the left margin.

SHEPHERD PROMOTES ACTIVISM IN NATIONAL TOUR

In early May, veteran outdoor writer and media professional Jim Shepherd launched a "road trip" tour to promote what he calls the "My Time to Stand" campaign, aimed at building activism and involvement at the grassroots level.

Shepherd, editor and publisher of The Outdoor Wire Digital Network and partner in 357 Media – the company that produces Guns & Gear, the television show hosted by Tom and Ryan Gresham – is not simply a proponent of the Second Amendment, he is a devotee. When Point Blank contacted him recently, he was at the Bianchi Cup as a participant; the all-too-rare media professional who "walks the walk" as well as "talks the talk." When this guy talks about guns, you know he's handled them, shot them and owned a few.

He joked about his poor performance at Bianchi, but then noted that others were having the same experience, which suggests that his gun hand is a little sharper than he lets on, and that he doesn't take it too seriously when he is enjoying an activity without winning.

Shepherd's "MyTime2Stand.com" effort is going to travel all over the country between now and the second week of November, when he will end up at the Smith & Wesson Academy for the first-ever "back-up gun championships." In the meantime, he will be at the Gun Rights Policy Conference in Houston, which is co-hosted by the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms and the Second Amendment Foundation.



Jim Shepherd holds one of the MYTIMETOSTAND t-shirts.

He will also be showing up at gun-related events in Washington, Oregon, Arkansas, Kentucky, Iowa, Indiana "and a couple of others I don't remember right now."

A Kentucky native, he has worked for CNN, was the executive producer of the PBS Nightly Business Report and went to New York as the news director of the Financial News Network before moving to Birmingham, Ala., in 1990. He worked for the Golf Radio Network, and he has also owned two television production companies and studios in Atlanta, Dallas, Colorado Springs, Stamford and Los Angeles.

But this guy's heart has never been far from the outdoors, nor any distance at all from the Second Amendment, and he recognizes now that gun rights is part of the American fabric even when it is disguised as

hunting, competition or recreational shooting.

Shepherd's road trip effort will be high-profile, with a specially-painted Jeep and small trailer bearing the red, white and blue stars and stripes of the American flag. With him, it's a very personal endeavor, as he believes that more people need to be involved in the system, they need to stand for what is right and now is the time to do that.

Married for 34 years to his wife, Leigh, they have two daughters, Lauren and Erica.

Shepherd not only operates the weekday-published Outdoor Wire, he also has the Fishing Wire, Tactical Wire, and Birding, Shooting, Archery and Dealer wires.

"We have nearly 500,000 individual subscribers across the services, and deliver more than 3,000,000 copies per week," he says.

This summer-long odyssey that will stretch into mid-autumn, touching several states and hopefully tens of thousands of people is already getting attention. That Jeep and trailer are pretty hard to ignore as they cruise along the highways and city streets.

He will not be constantly on the road, of course, but the schedule will put him in front of a lot of people, and perhaps earn some media attention.

A true "gentleman of the old school," Shepherd's pro-gun digital news services are considered daily "must" reading by sportsmen and activists all over the map. For his contribution to public awareness and the promotion of responsible firearms ownership, sportsmanship and safe shooting, he earns recognition as the Defender of the Month.



QUICK SHOTS

The group which fights for gun rights at the state level in Massachusetts is seeing a spike in membership.

The Associated Press reported that officials with the Gun Owners Action League of Massachusetts recently announced that since the beginning of this year, around 3,000 new members have signed up, bumping their total membership rolls to over 16,000.

GOAL in Massachusetts is the primary state-level organization in Massachusetts for gun rights activists.



Louisiana state lawmakers are in the midst of debating four pro-gun bills, and a recent vote suggests all could be on their way to the governor's desk.

The New Orleans Times-Picayune reported that a state Senate committee passed all four proposals during a meeting May 7. The bills include ones that would protect Louisiana gun owners from enforcement of any new federal gun-control laws and prevent news publication of state concealed-carry permit holders' personal information.

The other two bills, reports the paper, would make it possible for state concealed carry permits to become good for life, and allow police to carry guns on school campuses while off-duty.



Gun owners in one Arizona county now have greater freedom in where they can carry their firearms.

The Las Vegas Review-Journal reported that commissioners in Mohave County, in the northwestern corner of the state and which includes the city of Kingman, passed a measure May 8 that allows for, in most circumstances, people to carry guns in public facilities.

Among those public buildings where guns will be allowed are libraries, and the county's library head told the paper she feels those facilities should remain gun-free. A county commissioner, though, disputed that, according to the *Review-Journal*.



A gun registration scheme in North Carolina could be on the way out if one Democrat has his way.

WRAL-TV reported May 14 that a bill proposed by State Senator Mike Woodard, of Durham, was passed by a state Senate committee; the bill would repeal a law, put in place over 75 years ago, that requires residents of Durham County to register their guns at the local courthouse.

The law, which the TV station reported came about as a result of violent incidents in establishments known as "liquor houses", is the only such law of its kind in the state.



Missouri lawmakers have sent the state's governor a bill that would increase the privacy of gun owner records in the state.

The Associated Press reported May 15 that legislators passed the measure, which bars the state's Department of Revenue from digitizing paper documents, such as state concealed weapons permits, into the state's computer system. The documents had been made digital by scanning them in.

The new law, according to the AP, if signed would also stop any state agency from sharing the state's concealed weapons permit holders lists with the federal government.

The AP reported that the law came partly in response to a lawsuit filed by a state resident alleging the state procedures were an invasion of privacy.



In Kansas, state senators have approved a bill that stops the state from using its dollars to support anti-gun efforts.

The Topeka Capital-Journal reported the bill passed overwhelmingly May 17. The bill, which now goes to the state's House, is, according to the paper, one of a few pro-gun bills moving through the Kansas legislature. Among the bills which have already passed includes one that allows for concealed carry, except in limited circumstances, in public buildings.



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The full roster of GRPC 2013 speakers has not been set. Past speakers include Alan Gottlieb, Joseph Tartaro, Eugene Volokh, Wayne LaPierre, Michael Reagan, Larry Elder, Bob Barr, John Fund, John Lott, Dave Kopel, Sandy Froman, Massad Ayoob, Tom Gresham, Alan Gura, G. Gordon Liddy, Larry Pratt, Alan Korwin, Emily Miller and many others. Check our websites – www.ccrkba.org or www.saf.org for updates.

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